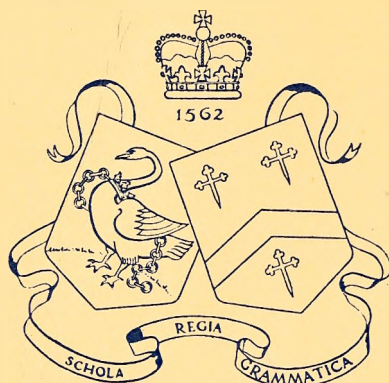


THE WYCOMBIENSIAN



Vol. XIII No. 5

MAY, 1962



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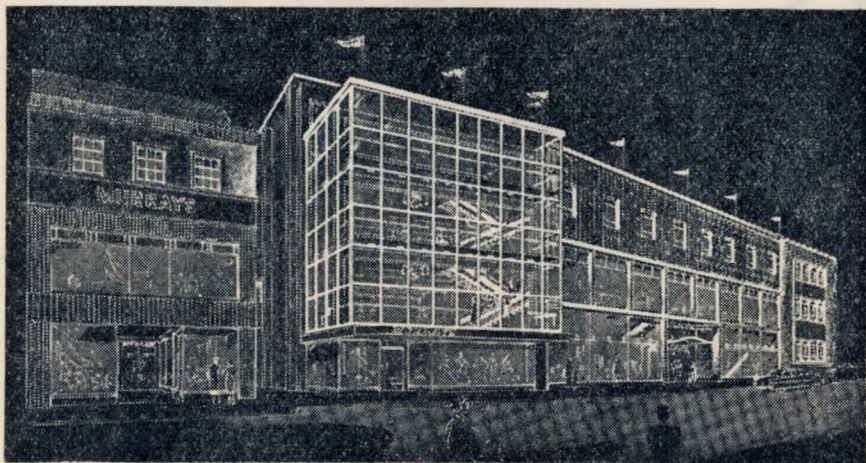
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THE PRESENTATION OF MEMBERS OF THE STAFF

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THE QUEEN INSPECTS A SCIENCE LABORATORY

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THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD ROOM

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THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

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

Editor : I. A. BLYTH

Sub-Editors : P. D. BOWEN (School News)
R. L. SMYTH (Advertisements)
D. K. STRATFORD (Sport)
C. SWAIN (Society News)

Photographic Editor : R. WATSON

EDITORIAL

This year is, undoubtedly, a truly outstanding one for the School : outstanding, not only because of its academic achievements, its usual claim to fame, although these have been very good indeed, but because it is the Quater-centenary Year. An extraordinary amount of attention has been paid to this : but it is no ordinary achievement. Few schools in the country can boast a record comparable to ours, in age, in scholarship or in sheer numbers, and tribute must be paid to the Headmaster, who has been, without a shadow of doubt, the mainstay of the School for nearly thirty years : it is due to him that the School now stands in its lofty position among the country's best.

When it was first announced that the Queen was going to pay a visit to the R.G.S. in April, there was a considerable pause before it became obvious that as much time as in the summer would have to be devoted to preparations for this important event. Among other things, this issue of *The Wycombiensian* at once was elevated to the rank of Souvenir Edition, to commemorate the Queen's visit. Indeed, the report on the occasion, with the photographic record, form the centre of the Magazine, the backbone of it, with the more ordinary contributions making up the rest of the skeleton. None the less, this is not to deride or in any way devaluate the routine contributions. When the present editors were first approached about this issue, colossal emphasis was laid on the importance of covering the Queen's visit adequately. Matters such as House or Society reports were brushed aside, almost ignored. However, it has been borne in upon us, with increasing violence that these

apparently minor details are the framework by which the Magazine must stand or fall.

Arising out of this, it has been the fashion in recent years for Editors to bewail a lack of articles, to complain of apathy in the School, to accuse House Captains of negligence. The present Editor is at a loss to know whether he is very lucky or whether his predecessors have had a less efficient committee, but this issue has never lacked support in any way ; in particular, articles of one kind and another have poured in. It is pleasing to announce also a more lively attitude in House reports and articles ; a tendency to break away from the corsetry of prevailing tradition. Previous editors have been voted, by public consent, dull as ditch-water, and we hope that we are not pitching our sights too high when we say that we hope, not to have produced a revolutionary group, but to have collected real inspiration, enthusiasm and humour. We have included some literary efforts which the Editor himself does not profess to understand, and, in direct opposition, other contributions which are easily comprehensible by everyone. It is certain that poetry has flourished. The last editor, indeed, complained bitterly of a lack of what he called "this most satisfying means of creative expression". We can only say that this is not so now.

Finally, unstinted praise must be given to the Sub-Editors of this issue who have worked unceasingly in its production. We have produced, we hope, a magazine which fulfils our ambitions, but, in any case, whatever faults can be found by the unbiased reader, we would wish, with the "rude mechanicals :

"If we offend, it is with our good will,
That you should think, we come not to offend
But with good will . . .
Our true intent is all for your delight,
To show our simple skill."

STAFF NEWS

We are glad to welcome the following members of Staff who joined us within the last school year :—

M. W. G. Coldham, Esq., M.A., B.Sc. (Oxon).

G. Kroes, Esq., M.A. (Stellenbosch).

And the Student Masters :—

Mr. Cooke.

Mr. Dougan.

Mr. Garrod.

We hope that their stay with us will be profitable and enjoyable.

It is with great regret that we have to bid farewell to Mons. A. P. Bur, who is leaving us this Easter to take up a new post at Carisbrooke Grammar School in the Isle of Wight. His stay with us has been a very pleasant one and we hope that he will take with him happy memories of a school which is deeply indebted to him for his enthusiasm, success, and lively interest in all activities.

At Christmas, we lost another master, D. T. Nightingale, Esq., who, as Senior Physical Training Master, and enthusiastic coach and games organiser, has played a very significant part in building up the standard of sport within the School to its present high standard. We hope that his stay at Scarborough College School will be as enjoyable and successful as it was here.

We extend our sincere good wishes for the future to both of them.

SCHOOL NEWS

Most prominent by far of our School events this year has been the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to the School on Friday, 6th April. Blue skies and sunshine added to the grandeur of an occasion which will live long in the memories of all those who were there. The Queen spent half an hour here in all, with most of her visit devoted to examining the various exhibits and experiments arranged for her benefit in the new Science block. On leaving, she unveiled a commemorative plaque in the new buildings at the front of the School.

These have been a source of great interest for all those who have followed the details of their construction, a feature of particular interest being the extensive use of pre-stressed concrete. Their completion is eagerly awaited, to absorb some of the 1,092 boys now compressed within our aging walls. Despite overcrowding, however, we still appreciate our congenial status, sufficiently at least, to donate a total of £61 5s. 10½d. in the Christmas Term, and £62 5s. 3½ last term. VIM2 and VSA set a fine example not followed, even in spirit, by certain third forms. The total since the scheme began in February 1959 has now passed the £500 mark.

The biennial Student Christian Movement meeting was held at High Wycombe High School on March 29th. The frankness and experience of the speakers made the day's lectures and discussions very rewarding.

In the less secure environment of Paris, the ruthless and indiscriminate activities of the O.A.S. and their "plastiques", have forced the organizers to cancel this Easter's Paris Cultural Holiday, held annually at the Sorbonne University. These holidays have proved invaluable in the past, not only in providing general experience abroad, but also for improving the standard of

French of those who attend. The emergency did not prevent, however, a group of French actors coming to the Piccadilly Theatre to perform five French plays, one of which, "L'invitation au Chateau", by Jean Anouilh, was seen by a group of sixth-formers, who are grateful to Mons. A. P. Bur for arranging the visit, and to Mr. G. Kroes for bridging the Wycombe-Piccadilly gap.

On a more domestic plane, the School Dramatic Society put on three performances, starting on March 16th, of "The Government Inspector", by Nikolai Gogol. Our congratulations go out to all those concerned with the production which proved to be both capable and entertaining. A more detailed account appears elsewhere in the magazine.

Early in December, a party of some hundred boys, organized by D. T. Nightingale, Esq., paid a visit to Twickenham to see the Varsity Rugby match. Cambridge, deservedly it appears, defeated by 9 points to 3 an Oxford side which nevertheless showed some signs of ability. On a more domestic plane again, the School XV defeated a game Staff team by six points to nil, but lost a week later to a fortunate side raised by Arthur Ralley. The score does not reflect accurately the talent revealed by the School XV, showing once more the promise which had been noticed in the match against Abingdon on November 18th, when in the closing minutes, victory was secured for the R.G.S. team, with the expiration of time seeing the score at 12 points for to 11 against.

Altogether, the year has been one of considerable activity and success in all fields, not only academic, but sporting and social also, and here is a brief resumé of those quater-centenary arrangements which are yet to come :—

Friday and Saturday, May 18th and 19th	Performance of "St Nicolas", by Benjamin Britten, given by the School's Musical Society.
Saturday, July 21st	Commemoration Service in the Parish Church. Preacher, The Most Rev. Archbishop Lord Fisher of Lambeth.
Monday, July 23rd	Annual Speech Day and Service. Special Guest—Lord James of Rusholme, late High Master of Manchester Grammar School, now Vice-Chancellor of the University of York.

The Editor has been asked by the few sixth-form girls from the Lady Verney High School who have come up to Science on Thursdays, to convey their sincere thanks to the Headmaster and to all those who have made the facilities of the Science block available to them.

GREY BOOKS

We are hoping to get together some complete sets of the School Lists, and for this purpose we should like to know whether there are any in existence earlier than 1910³. If so, we should greatly appreciate two copies of them. We should also like copies of the following years : 1912² (two copies needed) ; 1913² (one) ; 1914³ (one) ; 1916¹ (two) ; 1922³ (two) ; and 1928¹ (one).

If any Old Boys have copies of these numbers that they would be willing to spare for this purpose, would they please send them to Mr. A. C. Hills, at the School ?

OPEN AWARDS 1961-62

On behalf of the whole School, we offer our warmest congratulations to the following, who achieved Open Awards to Oxford or Cambridge this year :—

- I. A. Blyth, Open Exhibition in English, to Lincoln College, Oxford.
- P. D. Bowen, Woodward Scholarship in History, to Wadham College, Oxford.
- C. H. Farmer, Open Scholarship in Classics, to University College, Oxford.
- P. J. A. Findlay, Open Exhibition in Modern Languages, to Jesus College, Cambridge.
- R. E. M. Hedges, Open Exhibition in Natural Sciences, to St. Catherine's College, Cambridge.
- J. B. Hume, Open Exhibition in History, to Magdalen College, Oxford.
- R. V. Scruton, Open Scholarship in Natural Sciences, to Jesus College, Cambridge.
- M. D. Simons, Open Exhibition in English, to Jesus College, Oxford.
- R. L. Smyth, Open Major Scholarship in English, to Wadham College, Oxford.

“YOU CAN BEGIN NOW”

It was raining steadily when we arrived in Oxford, and the atmosphere was cold and damp. The colleges stood sombre, unoccupied, their black bulk merging indistinguishably with the dull winter sky. One or two characterless people gazed in colourless shop windows. It was Sunday evening at its worst. Inside the Lodge, the porter, large and bespectacled, and wearing a threadbare jacket which in its prime had obviously adorned a less corpulent form, scans his circumlocutionary information, and selects a room number and a staircase. One stumbles up dark stairs, and opens creaking doors ; lights go on, and one has arrived.

In a corner of the room, a gas fire conjures up thoughts of warmth and comfort. A mighty flash accompanied by other repercussions serves as a reminder that this is one's first encounter with such an appliance. Questions of personal safety, triumphing as always over those of comfort, ensure that greater caution accompanies later efforts. As the hours drag past, one or two more lights illuminate the silent quad, and the proximity of 7 o'clock and dinner goes far to brighten the prevailing atmosphere of solitude. When the candidates have assembled, the Dons enter, like a third-rate provincial acting troupe, and after a lengthy Latin grace, the meal begins ; so does the conversation, rambling, pointless, and nervous. The Modern Poets, Zen, Communism ; all nature of topics are raised and executed with a precision and deftness only possible amongst those who have a smattering of everything and a knowledge of nothing.

Relaxing in the Junior Common Room after dinner, one has one's first chance to analyse the opposition. In the most comfortable chairs, and making a present to the rest of the company of their unwanted conversation sit the Eton set.

“I've been making a study of Zen Buddhism lately,” one of them begins.

“Have you indeed.”

“Yes, one must admit there is realism in it though, as I am sure you would be the first to agree.”

“Oh yes, indubitably.”

Like his fellow brethren, he wears a sports jacket, twill trousers, and a cravat, adorned perhaps by carnation or waistcoat. For them, this is a common operation, and one which contains no cause for anxiety and which makes no sallies upon their confidence. They talk of the Stock Exchange, and fast cars. History, it seems, becomes a dead letter out of school hours. Their main asset is a profession of family connections with the college, all of which ensure them at least a place . . . they think.

On an undoubtedly inferior level to these, there are those who are senior prefects in some not so spectacular public school. For these, the uniform is different, the accent being on scruffiness. Trousers are rarely pressed, having acquired in their travels a considerable number of strains and rents, and testimonies to many a "midnight feast". A thick blue overcoat with the majority of its multi-coloured buttons missing is an essential addition in cold weather. Shoes likewise, bear the appearance of relics of Passchendaele or the Somme, having been deprived the care and attention specified by the makers. Polish, it seems, is purely another word for social refinement. Next in the social hierarchy come the "professionals". From first to last, suede shoes, corduroy trousers and a large sweater are their distinctive features. Their technique is to give the impression that they are old hands at the entrance scholarship game, well known by the colleges, and well on their way to success. They make a habit, too, of leaving the examination room well before the expiration of time, so as not to be caught in the crush, they say . . .

Last, and certainly least (before the examination starts), is the Grammar School boy. A well-dressed exterior conceals a timid individual, totally lacking in confidence. He entertains no doubts as to the immensity of the task before him, as he looks around at the other candidates, with Miltonic passages flashing upon that inward eye, which under these conditions is far from being the bliss of solitude.

"Horror and doubt distract his troubled thoughts."

On the morning of the examination, one is awakened early by the bells on the clock tower. A deep peal followed by resounding echoes mark the passage of time. 1, 2, 3, 4, but what was that? A high-pitched tinkle mimics the college clock, as a smaller timepiece takes the score to thirteen, at which point nine others strike up their assorted tunes, the purpose of which can only be to perplex the attentive. A quick knock, and the scout enters.

"Good morning, sir, 7.45, sir."

(It is always wise to disregard Scout's statements concerning the time, for they are rarely accurate, being governed less by truth than tradition.)

"Oh, and by the way, sir, don't touch the fire, it needs seing to."

"You're joking, of course."

The morning brings with it its store of anxieties. At Examinations Schools, a rook-like individual rushes to the centre of the quad and shouts, "You can begin now," and promptly disappears, having performed with commendable dexterity his onerous task of examination supervision. On first looking at the

paper, Miltonic echoes once more provide the key to one's thoughts.

“O Hell, what do mine eyes with grief behold.”

Hour follows hour, until several days later, freedom takes the place of anxiety, and only the results are now awaited. One reconsiders the Headmaster's words before we went to Oxford. “Don't take any notice,” one remembers him saying, “of the pompous cads who will come out of the exam before it is over, saying how easy it all was, and what idiots the Dons must be.” He must know surely, but there are exceptions . . . or there might be.

On the black day when the results are made known, one scans the list for the names which one felt must be there. They do not appear. It is noticed with pleasure that the majority of awards go to Grammar School boys, those other timid, unconfident people, who had thought their chances so slender. One concludes, justifiably, with a simple formula, now verified, that “the impression which other candidates wish to make upon one, is inversely proportional to the impression they make upon the examiners.”

————— P. D. BOWEN, VIIm3.

THE ROYAL VISIT

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited this school on April 6th, 1962, on the 400th anniversary of its foundation by Queen Elizabeth I.

An inscription on a plaque, inherently terse and cold, is sufficiently descriptive for those who were present at the occasion it commemorates. Their memories, if less permanent and well-defined than engraved marble, are perhaps more valuable than the significance of the act commemorated. Certainly the visit of Elizabeth II to our school is materially less important than the granting of a charter by Elizabeth I ; but it is of great symbolic value, and, moreover, it will be a day that all those concerned will remember.

Anything man-created which lasts 400 years, building, charter, institution (school or monarchy) arouses our deep-seated sense of history. The great age of the School, the appositeness of an Elizabeth visiting us on our anniversary, and the reputation the School has achieved, symbolised by the great honour paid us by the visit of the ruling monarch, appealed to our more profound feelings. Masters, Old Boys, boys, and parents who feel gratitude towards and affection for the School, were greatly impressed. The cynics, who had mildly derided the elaborateness of the preparations, the time and energy devoted to minor details, and even the importance of the occasion, themselves recognised the

privilege it was, the credit due to the smooth-running of the organization, and were captivated by the charm of the Queen. Everybody felt a genuine pride in the School.

More superficially we delighted in the break from routine, which seemed to bring the end of a long term one week nearer, the extra-tidiness of the School, the glamour of visiting police, Naval, Air Force and Army officers ; and, of course, the pageantry of the day itself.

The weather was fine, an interval in a dull, cloudy period. Hats, dresses and uniforms appeared bright and colourful, and later the Queen's vivid dress was shown to advantage. When boys and guests arrived, they were segregated according to their tickets : parents (green), Old Boys (white), special guests (red), presentees and relatives (blue). Pupils scattered to their form-rooms "for inspection of clothing, hair, etc., and for issuing souvenir programmes". From 9.30 to 10.30 was a period when acquaintances met, sometimes after a period of years, and exchanged news. School heroes of yesteryear with their girl-friends, those who were still at University, others who had entered jobs straight away, masters who had left—all were there. How interesting it was to see them, how little changed.

"Now sits expectation in the air," as Shakespeare says in one of his more horrible personifications. The Combined Cadet Force was in position, the large contingent of sailors and marines had manoeuvred into place, the police held back the crowd and directed traffic. Everybody was ready : 10.36, the time she was due to arrive, came ; nothing happened. From the School the crowd was watched for signs of cheering, and the C.C.F. for signs of action. The C.C.F. came to attention ; there was a movement in the crowd and a police car appeared and went past ; a few minutes later four shining black limousines turned into Hamilton Road. Had the Queen gone the wrong way ? No, for out of the cars piled the press-men. Five minutes later, the C.C.F. again presented arms, and the crowd rustled : preceded by motor-cycle outriders, a car bearing the royal standard drew up, followed by many other cars. The Queen had arrived.

The Lord Lieutenant of the County, Sir Henry Floyd, presented to Her Majesty the Chairman of the Bucks Education Committee, Viscount Curzon ; the Chief Education Officer for Bucks, Mr. F. J. North ; the Chairman of the Governors, Alderman R. P. Clarke ; the Headmaster and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Tucker ; the head boy, David Stratford ; and the Deputy Lieutenants of Bucks : the Earl of Buckinghamshire, the Lord Carrington, First Lord of the Admiralty, and Lt.-Col. H. H. Boehm. As she spoke to one or two of those lining the route, the Old Boys saw the Queen clearly, dressed in a cherry-red,

black fur-lined coat, over a black dress, with a silk-petalled hat, also in cherry.

Inside, the Hall became hushed. As soon as she appeared to the senior boys and special guests, she was greeted with enthusiastic, yet slightly self-conscious, applause, which those in the rear courtyard recognised as conclusive evidence of her presence. In the Hall were presented to her : the Vice-Chairman of the Governors, Mr. P. C. Raffety ; the past Chairman, Alderman G. H. Baker ; Miss M. Towerton ; Mr. G. W. Arnison, who was Headmaster 1905-1933 ; and Mr. D. E. Cooke, the retired Chief Education Officer, who did so much for the School over the years. Of the staff, those presented were Mr. S. Morgan, second Master ; Mr. P. L. Jones, who has been a master at the School since 1916, forty-six years ; Mr. W. J. Clark, and Mr. W. B. Watmough, a representative of the younger staff. While the Queen visited the Science Buildings, the Madrigal Choir, conducted by Mr. J. S. Dawes, entertained those remaining in the Hall.

In the Science block, Mr. A. C. Hills showed Her Majesty the original charter of the School, in Latin, which is perfectly legible after four hundred years. Her Majesty was very interested in the delightful sketch of the first Elizabeth in the initial of the charter, which is beautifully reproduced in the souvenir programme. The Queen signed a special copy of the School Lists (or the Grey Book) and accepted another. The Open and State Scholars were spoken to by the Queen, who asked them questions about the universities they were going to and the subjects they were studying. She then entered the Duke of Edinburgh's Award section, where a comprehensive display of hobbies was laid out. Butterflies, camping equipment, models of boats and cranes, and maps attracted Her Majesty's attention. On the First Floor Her Majesty spent ten minutes examining four laboratories where standard scientific apparatus was spread in (for a non-scientist) bewildering profusion. Most striking was a Van de Graffe high voltage generator.

The Queen left the building followed by the masters in processional form. On the way through the cheering crowd she stopped to talk to Michael Abii and R. Watanangura ; Mrs. Hunt, the chief cook ; Mr. Lawrence, the Scout-master ; and P. Taylor and G. Boireau, the two senior Scouts.

At a final ceremony Her Majesty spoke to the architects and builders of the new part of the School, unveiled a plaque (the inscription of which has been quoted above). As she left past the side of the School, the head boy called for three cheers, which reverberated across the valley and from the front of the School. The visit was over.

People began to drift away, talking enthusiastically of their impressions and how genuinely they had appreciated the beauty, the youth and charm of the Queen, and the interest she had shown in everything around her. Some went to examine the plaque, others to look around the Science block : the occasion became a School Open Day.

We do not know what were Her Majesty's thoughts, but perhaps she felt like this :

“Where I have come, great clerks have purposed
To greet me with premeditated welcomes ;
Where I have seen them shiver and look pale,
Make periods in the midst of sentences,
Throttle their practised accent in their fears,
And, in conclusion, dumbly have broke off,
Not paying me a welcome. Trust me, sweet,
Out of this silence yet I picked a welcome.”

Some days after her visit, the School was very proud to receive this letter from the Queen's private secretary, expressing her appreciation of the warmth of her reception. It will, no doubt, join the Grey Book signed by the Queen, as one of the School's most treasured possessions.

WINDSOR CASTLE

7th April, 1962

Dear Headmaster,

This is just to let you know how much The Queen enjoyed her visit to the Royal Grammar School and how greatly she was heartened by the splendid welcome which she received from your staff and boys.

Her Majesty has seen a good deal of educational establishments lately, both new and old, and she was delighted to find that at High Wycombe you are successfully combining the traditions of four hundred years with the teaching methods of today.

She sends her warmest congratulations to the School on what they have achieved, and her best wishes for the years to come.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) M. S. ADEANE,
(Private Secretary to the Queen).

“THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR”

As well as providing the opportunity of discovering future Oliviers, a school play enables many people to act for the first and perhaps the last time in their lives, an experience which cannot but be valuable for them. Both functions would be better fulfilled by the production of more plays in the year on a rather less elaborate scale : we do not expect professional standards in a school production.

During the ten or so weeks of rehearsals the rest of the School looked on with interest and almost envy. As the opening night came closer, more and more activity was to be seen : electricians were involved with festoons of wire, multi-coloured lamps and high-altitude spotlights, their new switchboard of dials, levers and numbers ; the stage-hands were making, painting, changing scenery, arranging props, or organizing their cat's cradle of ropes ; all these engaged the passer-by's interest at break-times, after school, and even between lessons. Admiring self-conscious intruders ventured on to the stage to share the feeling of the whole enterprise, perhaps to recite in their imagination : “To be, or not to be, that is the question” . . . and after school, every day, the rehearsals continued. They continued on Saturdays, at half-term, even, in the final week, until ten o'clock at night.

It was not until the penultimate full rehearsal that costumes arrived, gorgeous and exotic, spotless : unfamiliar greens, purples, shimmering blacks and greys ; hats furry, woolly, or of embroidered cloth ; the national dress of the servants, the robes of the merchants, the finery of the functionaries, the varied wardrobe of the ladies, and, finally, the imperial uniform of Czarist officers, all providing a surface panache which was enjoyed to the full by the actors.

The choice of play was almost perfect, although more than moderately ambitious. If many of the allusions were lost to a modern, non-Russian audience, the subject was easily recognizable : a small, corrupt, provincial town, which has been thrown into a panic by news of an inspector's arrival, with its reaction to the supposed inspector when he arrives.

Among the terrified officials, R. M. Layton, as the Postmaster, and M. R. Horrex as the Judge, found opportunities in these assertive characters for enthusiastic acting, and S. Snodin as the Schoolmaster certainly looked and sounded the part. Horrex was the most amusing actor of the evening, using his well-known fog-horn voice beautifully in an effortless comic performance. The two clowns, Peter Ivanovitch Dobchinsky and Peter Ivanovitch Bobchinsky, R. Laskey and P. Uppard respectively,

sustained without a pause their twittering idiocy and semi-slapstick throughout the play. Uppard's eavesdropping and Laskey's "lithp" were very effective.

These characters revolve around the Mayor, fussily hypocritical, self-important, over-acted magnificently by Mr. Watmough. The part is the lynch-pin of the play, and in a part where experience is the main element of character, too-evident youthfulness might have damaged the play's impact. This departure from normal practice, having a master in the cast, was justified, from the acting point of view at least. Mr. Watmough's voice was eminently clear, and his performance must have been the result of much work and thought, and, above all, confidence upon the stage.

I. Grayson managed very well indeed the coquetry of the Mayor's wife. D. Snodin, and the other female characters, were watched with that amusement which always is felt in seeing a boy take a female part.

The main character was, of course, Hlestakov, played by S. Merrington. This part is so difficult that Gogol himself, at his first performance, said that the leading part had completely missed the point. Merrington succeeded almost to perfection in conveying the idea of the "innocent liar", an engaging nonentity who could with his superficial elegance easily impress a provincial town. It was a performance that held us transfixed and after his departure the play seemed to lack something. The scene in which he describes his imaginary life in St. Petersburg, drinking furiously, frightening the officials until they were visibly trembling, and finally collapsing, was magnificent. Other excellent scenes which demanded a variety of acting were his first appearance, in the inn; when he fleeces the officials; and when he is courting the wife and daughter. In fact, the whole performance was delightful.

Finally, in the minor parts, D. R. Walker, in a "dialect part", conveyed loutishness with gusto. In one scene, he and M. Snodin, another servant (who was hilarious even to look at), held the stage by their manoeuvres with a heavy trunk, an interesting example of lively stage-craft.

Ultimately, all credit or discredit returns on to the producer who must be responsible for the whole play. Mr. Newling had to think of everything, assisted in stage management by R. Watson, who spent loving care on every detail of the set, and in other fields by Mr. Watmough. But, above all, he was responsible for the details of stage-craft in fusing the individual performances to result in uncommonly good ensemble playing, which marks the whole production as an important achievement in the tenuous tradition of the R.G.S. plays.

R. L. SMYTH.

THE GONDOLIERS

The Operatic Society decided to stage in the Christmas Term another Gilbert and Sullivan opera. This time it was "The Gondoliers", last produced by the Society in 1948. Mr. Dawes' production was clean and lively, though movement of the large chorus was hindered by the lack of space on the stage and they only really got moving in the cachucha.

When a producer's choice is limited not only by acting ability but also by the fact that he can only have those able to sing or willing to try, the problem of choosing a large cast—about sixty—is no easy one, but this difficulty was hardly noticeable in the performances. If the Duchess' and Casilda's movements were not completely feminine in style, the clear and pure-toned voices of Elmidoro and Vernon, always in pitch, amply made up for it. They were especially good in ensemble, such as "I stole the prince". And although Bird is no great singer, he played Luiz, Casilda's secret love and the actual King of Barataria, with vigour and humour.

Hankey, as the Duke, combined both qualities very well. Not only did he sing clearly and pleasantly, but he was so at home on the stage that he was confident enough to vary his stage business each night according to the reactions of the audience—much to their delight. Cole also was really excellent as Gianetta, but it was Tessa who was the high point of the whole production. Her first words made the audience sit up after the rather listless opening chorus, and from then on in acting, musicianship and diction Roberts never let them down. He revealed the main flaw in the chorus—the diction. It was a lack of crisp consonants added to initial nervousness that made the opening Chorus one of the few dull moments.

Visually the opera was attractive. The costumes added splendour, especially to the ponderous Don Alhambra, the Grand Inquisitor, played in a pompous manner by Lovegrove. A sense of space and the freshness of the intense Venetian sunlight was beautifully captured in the set for Act One, and it contrasted well with the heavier, more cramped architecture of the interior of the Palace in Act Two. Lighting and make-up were used to good effect.

It was in the second Act that the two best moments occurred and the two gondoliers were in both. Extremely well done was the Gavotte, "I am a courtier grave and serious", in which Marco and Guiseppi are taught by the Duke (watched and aided by his Duchess and Casilda) how to move and act in regal style, and the funniest scene of all was the one in which Scouse and Mayo as the gondoliers were joined by Roberts and Cole in the quartet

“In a contemplative fashion”. The speed of the quarrelling and the timing of the pauses made for excellent comedy.

The important thing about a venture of this type is that it involves many boys in a common artistic aim. Fifteen boys and old boys were playing in the orchestra. Many talents were co-ordinated by Mr. Dawes in an achievement of which he and they can all feel justly proud.

C.P.B.

THE JOURNEY

To tell the truth, it hurt. Wounding stabs of pain welled through me as each shining barb sped with a fascinating accuracy to quiver in the depths of my flesh. Slowly a sluggish, sticky liquid oozed from bleeding wounds, and wound its way down the pale translucent stem to the inert ground. To my horror, each petal was being shed, one by one, in deliberate torture. The ground lay beneath an increasing flurry of soft petals, cool, pink and crimson. And still they floated down, in silence ; restlessly they sought the pattern that we all knew must be the inevitable result of such pitiless disintegration. A hot, languid summer's day, and all was focussed on this intensity of feeling, as it slowly unwound to disappear. Force converts to pattern. It obsessed me, and I stared uncomprehendingly through mists of blood and pain, as the last flowerlet fluttered softly to take its place. Signs of magic. Surely the mysterious pentagram resided here, and here again, strange rhythms and meanings lie, channelled out on the ground. . . . The end had now come, and I had seen the event in its full significance. A feeling of extreme loneliness overtook me, and guided me towards the empty horizon. Shorn of innocence, I had been cast out from life, and henceforth could only hope to hold it tenderly, as a soap-bubble, and watch the play of colour in its mysterious envelope.

The sound of the crashing surf of the sea attracted me, and I trudged wearily through day and night, watching my worn feet staggering beneath the burden of hope and doubt I needed for the journey. By the craggy rocks sat an old man, neither dead nor alive. “Tell me, Teiresias, for what I am searching ?” For reply the old man smiled, and, with a sigh, picked up a smooth black pebble, and flung it, curling, into the lapping waters of the lake.

Shining steels rails. They glittered icily and hummed with the continual buzz of people who passed along them. They seldom spoke, but gazed at each other, or the narrow horizon around, with happy, dulled faces. The temptation to join was overpowering. The ground slid under my feet, and the cold bars loomed nearer and nearer. Suddenly, in the plane before me, the vision of endless, rigid, parallel. . . . I leapt off in desperation and rolled, biting the soft turf between my teeth.

About me the air was calm, the birds sang in my ear. I lay, inert, on the ground, and my eyes closed themselves from the peace outside. When they opened, the spiky points of green grass were twisting and writhing and the strange patterns which I had felt so long before were once more forming before me. On hands and knees I scrambled feverishly through the soil, earth and dust were flung up around and I penetrated through the thick layers of opaque mud. Soon I reached a bare passage. Smooth-walled, completely square, and glowing with a strange light. It seemed that the corridor, clean and bare, slid along under my feet. On each side were small rooms. Each was bare and bright, in each were silent men, moving and tending clean and shining machines. They could not see each other and did not notice me. A heavy silence filled the vault, and I quickened my pace along the smooth, hard floor. Soon the end was reached. The corridor was closed with a huge wooden door painted with black and white diagonal stripes. It opened before me, the rusty hinges squealing under the massive weight. Below me, the booming of the ever-swirling sea, coloured blood-red in the evening sun. I seemed to float down the cliff, quite slowly and gently, and watched the jagged rocks pass upward, covered with the white stains of innumerable birds. Stunted bushes rose slowly up, and threw purplish shadows across the cracked, old rock. I looked down, and saw the white, creamy surf, preparing to engulf me.

Notes :

This is a story of human experience, and the imagery needs some explanation. The most important ideas are in the first paragraph, where the extent to which the narrator takes part in the event is never clearly defined. The relation between action and pattern is again important and compels the man's search (for, for example, Truth or Knowledge). The initial event is any deeply moving experience of personal involvement, *e.g.* a tragic death, or falling in love. Teiresias (who is "lifted" from "The Waste Land") represents the serenity of one who is completely disinterested. He *had* to answer in that way. The voyager then seeks relief in the rails of human society, of motor cars travelling in the same direction, on the same side of the road, at the same speed. However, he is aware of the hopelessness of this way of life, and manages to break away from it. Finally, the passageway represents an insight into the basic difficulty in people understanding each other. The voyager can see how men live in silent, self-contained worlds, but cannot even so communicate with them. After all this, the catharsis is reached by surrendering himself to the vastness of the world, here, the sea.

R. E. M. HEDGES, VIIs3.

A SECOND-FORMER'S THOUGHTS ON R.G.S. TABLE MANNERS

Table manners are things which I do not possess. Most two-bugs know what table manners are, but do not put them into practice. Personally, I know nothing about not putting pepper into a table-prefect's water. Table manners have their good points and their bad points, to my way of thinking. One good point is saying, "You can have the cabbage first", because the other person says, "No, you," and then he does. Table manners are essential if you go to the Lord Mayor's banquet. At a banquet, you must not pick up the soup, and tip it down (don't think I use this method).

A fact which I have never heard stated and which is yet essential at a banquet is to be able to control your belching. If you belched at a banquet you would be unhesitatingly kicked out.

The cooks at school never give us a real chance to use our forks at the proper time. For food that needs a fork (I'm talking about a fork for pudding), they do not put one out ; and when you don't need a fork, vice versa. One thing at school in which the prefects are at fault is in letting people leave the table while others are still eating. This should not be allowed, because it is not etiquette (proof that I have at least one table manner).

When the clearer returns with the dinner, all the biggest boys get the best potatoes and leave the half-baked ones for the weaker boys. The rule with the gravy is first come, first served, and the prefect himself usually gets ten big drops, or 15 at the most. About five out of nine on one table like gravy, and still there is not enough for the last two. In conclusion, I may say that, if there is no prefect, there is chaos. SECOND-FORMER.

(This essay was inflicted as a punishment, and was submitted to the magazine because of its originality in style and conscious or unconscious humour.—ED.)

THE FOUR HORSEMEN

Above the rolling, once fertile plains,
Now raped, bleeding, bare,
Foaming furies, tossing manes,
Bite at their tear-stained air.
Hell's four horsemen ride on high
On four wild stallions against a wilder sky.
Envy, hate and lust and pride
The mystics knew of old ;
But not the reason for their ride
Till Darwin cracked the code,
And only the dying, the damned and dead,
Can clearly see each war-lord's head.

G. W. BOIREAU, VIIm3.

IT'S TRAD, DAD

In the early fifties there were a few musicians in Britain who formed the vanguard of what is known today as "Trad". Some of the more important names were Humphrey Lyttleton, Wally Fawkes, Sandy Brown and Cy Laurie. The music they played was good, even by American standards, whereas the music known today as "trad jazz" (I include the word jazz in inverted commas) is no more than a poor parody of the American Revival bands. The early British bands took their inspiration from the music of King Oliver and Louis Armstrong, and marked traces of Johnny Dodds could be detected in most of the clarinet playing.

About 1951, Chris Barber was leading an Oliver-styled band using two cornets. In 1953, he organized a band with Monty Sunshine and Lonnie Donegan ready for Ken Colyer to take over when he returned from his pilgrimage to New Orleans; from this band grew the Barber band we know today, with Pat Halcox replacing Colyer on the cornet when the latter became dissatisfied and left.

Colyer was forever seeking after a band that would play in the purist New Orleans tradition, and to this aim he formed a band with an aspiring clarinet-player named Bernard Bilk, who was later to acquire dubious fame under the sobriquet of "Acker".

Meanwhile, the Barber band prospered; Barber and Donegan between them set off the skiffle craze which eventually led to the latter's departure for the greener fields of the pop world. In the shadow of Barber's growing fame, more bands were coming to light: Acker Bilk was leading a band with Bob Wallis on trumpet, and Terry Lightfoot was just beginning to achieve recognition.

So the evolution continued: most of the former traditionalists wisely turned to mainstream music, so that, even though they might not have made much money, they could at least have the satisfaction of a clear conscience through not having churned out so much trash. The field was then open to the lesser bands, demand for the music increased, clubs opened all over the country, amateur musicians were turning professional before becoming really proficient on their instruments.

The public became less and less discerning as more fans changed from "Rock" to "Trad", and consequently bands of a lower standard received quite undeserved fame. What we hear today is not true jazz: its origins are in the right place, but it has been distorted. The banjo cult has arisen; this is fatal, since it is very hard to make a band swing with one of these ridiculous music hall instruments and "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing". Oh for the day of enlightenment when the traddies discover Jelly Roll Morton, King Oliver and the Hot Five once more.

A. J. DAVIS and E. A. SPEIGHT, VI3.

ROUND THE LIZARD BEFORE THE MAST

For a week last summer, making a break with the traditional summer training, a crew of twelve members of the Naval Section, under the command of Lieutenant Nightingale with Lieutenant Benson as No. 1, manned a motor fishing vessel on a cruise along the Cornish and Devon coast. Two amiable Cornish-speaking engineers also came on board to look after the diesels.

We went aboard on a Friday evening at R.N. Barracks, Plymouth, and bedding, etc., having been issued, settled in. In accordance with long-standing naval custom, the C.O. was given a coffin-sized cabin just aft of the wheelhouse, the slightly more salubrious after mess-deck was taken by No. 1 and the four senior cadets, while the hands occupied the gorgeous, light, spacious, airy forward hold. The other accommodation consisted of a bridge over the wheelhouse, a do-it-yourself heads, a similar sized galley with diminutive coal stove, the engine-room and the engineer's cabin.

The following morning, having taken on provisions, we puttered gently along the coast to Fowey. On entering Fowey harbour, the busy knot of signallers on the bridge, who had flashed up every coast-guard station en route in vain, set about getting in touch with the Harbour Master. No answering wink, however, came from the conspicuous white house on the front which was the object of their attentions. This was found later to be a fish cafe. Abandoning communication, the crew prepared to moor to a buoy. The C.O. detailed an intrepid Leading Seaman to leap off the bows on to the buoy and accept a line. This he did; the vessel, however, continued in its course—conserving momentum in blind adherence to Newton. This contretemps was turned adroitly into a seamanlike manoeuvre by the execution of a rapid circle and the assumption of blasé expressions by the officers.

Both officers were then rowed ashore by the duty P.O. to see the Harbour Master, who was found to have knocked off and gone home for the week-end. On their return, shore leave was granted for two of the three watches and, as mufti was sanctioned by the C.O., eight snappily-dressed hands were soon rowed ashore; apparently to make some kind of ornithological survey.

The following morning, moorings were dropped and a pleasant uneventful cruise along the coast to Falmouth was made; there we secured to a quay—"Throw a fender over the stern," shouted the C.O. from the wheelhouse. A nearby idiot did so. It sank.

We did not sail the next day, but noon saw the arrival of Mr. Pattinson in his cruiser. He promptly started shooting cine

film—a proceeding regarded with mixed feelings by the crew, who were variously engaged in washing, carving joint (the C.O.), paddling off upstream for a quiet drag, collecting mussels and trying to lift Maurice's suedes to go ashore in.

During that night the wind rose considerably and the run to Penzance the next day was made in a choppy sea, with a good-sized swell from the Atlantic once the Lizard had been rounded. The evening was spent in Penzance Basin, as was the next day—the long haul back round the Lizard, Eddystone and Start Point being made as a night passage. This trip was the finest of the cruise, with a very lively sea producing rolls of 20–25 degrees to either side, but the visibility clearing to become excellent—most of the crew being up to watch the sunrise and the later entry of the beautiful Dart estuary. A very tricky mooring was neatly accomplished and the rest of the day spent in lounging and sailing dinghies from the Naval College.

During the next day, which was the last, we made a slow, rough passage back round Start Point against wind and tide. The arrival back at Plymouth revived several ailing hands and the vessel was frantically cleaned yet again to be handed back at Devonport. We went ashore that night to catch the midnight train very pleased with ourselves and the cruise, idly quoting each other the immortal words of Benjamin Hall Kennedy, D.D.—“*Navigare delectat.*”

RETIRED COXSWAIN.

INTO THE ANT-HEAP

Walter Schmidt became conscious of another day. He got up and stretched at the window of his flat. He saw as usual the huge advertisement on the wall of the next block; he watched the irregular flashing lights spelling out their apparently innocuous message: “Doughnuts and Coke.” As a trained symbolic psychologist he knew the subconscious desires suggested by it, and he hated it.

Being one of the few psychologists who would not co-operate with “them”: the men who kept the nation's consumption increasing, to keep away that Damocleian sword of capitalism, the slump, he knew they would try very hard at his annual psychiatric session: last year he had succeeded in feigning hypnosis; but would he manage it this year?

He looked at the teeming millions in the streets far below; they looked like ants. Socially and mentally they were ants; he might be one tomorrow, and it frightened him. He had been dreading tomorrow, that fearful day, ever since his last session;

and he had made a bad slip since, by trying to bring a colleague around to his way of thinking. He was sure that had been reported. "They" would see the danger of a man with his own soul, making his own thoughts, doing and especially buying what he wanted, even voting rationally after consideration instead of irrationally because one of the candidates was a suitable father-figure for his subconscious.

He arrived at the psychiatrist's establishment and was soon lying on the couch. First he underwent a normal psychiatric investigation which, due to his training, was easily faked. This training also showed him that the psychiatrist knew he was faking.

So came the ordeal of hypnosis. Schmidt felt himself relax ; he tensed, but slowly his muscles sagged, his brain began to fog. He concentrated on some irrelevant thought, but inexorably his mind came back to the psychiatrist and he rushed towards unconsciousness. His last fleeting thoughts were fear of losing his greatest gift : freedom of mind and freedom of choice : even this faded into simple hate of the psychiatrist and then . . . blackness.

He came round, said goodbye to the psychiatrist, and left. On his way home he bought a coke.

C. L. DAY, VI3.

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BRITISH POLITICS

In this modern age some knowledge of the workings of an anachronism called parliament is essential. Laid out below, is a short guide to some of the more interesting facts of party politics and the personalities of this noble and sacred constitutional institution.

1. Conservative, or Tory—one who tends to conserve.
To conserve—to preserve in sugar. Thus it follows that a Tory is one who sweetens you up with syrupy words but preserves his inertia.
2. Socialist—one who advocates Public Ownership and Control ; also known as a Public Inconvenience.
3. Liberal (formerly and aptly Whig)—a cover-up for something no longer present.
4. Macmillan—the Tory Bookmaker.
5. Gaitskell—an unstable man who often trips over his left Foot.
6. Marples—has a Car-nation in his care but whose garden is full of nettles (stings the motorist).
7. Eccles—a stale cake for teachers.

8. Butler—Home Secretary ; not to be confused with—
9. Home—Secretary, Foreign.

If you know that, if you have the gift of talking in circles, have a yen for the sweet life, why not become a politician? £1,700 p.a. and the chance of world fame. (N.B. This offer is only open to people named Macmillan.)

Issued by H.M. Stationery Office, 1962.

J. N. FOWLER, VI3.

SNOW

Fleck by fleck it falls,
Silent and white ;
Timeless in space it falls, in
Tomb of the night.

Finite in a void, man looks,
Searching for light,
Yet only the snow comes down
Silent, but bright.

G. W. BOIREAU, VIM3.

THE TWO EUROPEES

When I arrived here, a little less than two years ago, I noticed that people talked of the Continent as if Britain did not belong to it. Naturally, I took more interest in this other Europe and decided to spend my holidays in Germany, going through Belgium and getting as far as Switzerland. I went, and got lost, not because the people were unfriendly but, strange as it may seem, because they were too friendly. Sometimes I was faced with a barrage of questions, all well intentioned, but since I cannot speak any other foreign language but English, I had to rely on signs, and these were hardly effective.

In Brussels I was mistaken for a Congolese, but when I explained that I was Nigerian, I was given a friendlier reception, thanks to the Nigerian contingent in the Congo. In Germany I was generally taken for an American. Since they mostly see American soldiers, it is not difficult to understand why. Sometimes I tried to speak with an American accent and, although I generally failed, I did sometimes pass for an American until I explained that I was African. Most people on the Continent are very poorly informed on Africa, and both in Germany and

Switzerland, people were often surprised that I spoke English. One cannot, of course, generalize, as the outlook of the French and Belgians who had or have colonies would differ from that of others.

Incidentally, whenever I was asked whether I was enjoying my stay on the Continent, I always answered, "Yes, I like it very much in England because . . ." "No, no," they would interrupt, "I mean here in Germany, Belgium or Switzerland." "And is not Britain in the Continent?" I would ask. "Yes, but that is a different matter," was the answer I received. This reminds me of what I was told by a German boy when I said I was an Egyptian. "No!" he exclaimed. "You cannot be. You are 'black'. You must be African." "And is not Egypt in Africa?" I asked. "Yes, I know," he answered, "but . . ." It is easy to understand that Egypt belongs to the Arab world as well as to Africa. But why are there two Europes in one continent?

MICHAEL ABII, VIIm2.

URGENT !

At the age of eighteen, a person may be at University, still at school, at college, in the Forces, apprenticed or in a dead-end job. Whatever his activity, he is almost certain to be educated, to have some knowledge of the world around him. Education has trained him to think, to use his brain, to act for himself. He is considered an adult ; physically and mentally. He is responsible for his actions. The laws of the land apply equally to him as to any adult. He is old enough to hang, to go to prison, to fight and die for his country, to drink. Already he is old enough to marry, to drive motor vehicles, to fly aircraft. If working, he has to pay taxes and insurance. It takes, however, another three years to gain recognition of his manhood. Until his twenty-first birthday he gets the worst of both worlds. He is still in his parents' control and has no right to decide his own future, to shape the future of the nation, to empower men of his own choice to lead and govern the country. He is a non-voting shareholder of the country, useful but not important. He is responsible for his own actions, but unable to express, in a positive, democratic, manner his support or disapproval of plans made by others for his future. Is it not time he had equal rights with other adult members of the community? He is either adult or he is not. Psychologists and doctors agree that at eighteen a man is adult both mentally and physically. It is time a stop was put to this intolerable situation. It is time the youth of today—the leaders of tomorrow—had their moral right to independence granted. It is time we had the vote.

J. N. FOWLER, VIIs3.

SUOMENMAA, OR THE FINNISH HOMELAND

“Finland? That’s one of those iron-curtain countries, isn’t it?” This comment came from a bank-clerk who found he had no quotation on Finnmarks. Perhaps the note of interrogation provides a glimmer of hope. Fortunately he had not classed Finland irrevocably as a Soviet satellite, for four million Finns fervently wish to remain independent. Nevertheless, that clerk expressed a widespread attitude of indifference towards a distant, but important part of Europe. I, too, had little more knowledge than the following : capital, Helsinki (remembered because of the 1952 Olympics ; size, quite big ; neighbours, well . . . Russia . . . ; features, lakes, forests, Lapps, and Sibelius.

Last summer I was fortunate enough to visit Finland, to find out more, and what an interesting and individual nation it is. For centuries under Swedish domination, and now suffering from the unhealthy proximity of the Soviet Union, the resilient Finns have resisted attempts to efface their national identity, and have on many occasions shown violent patriotism against Swede and Russian. In every village churchyard (Lutheran) there is a special well-kept part for the war dead, who are brought to their own parish, and buried with every detail of time and place indicated. The Finns show a patriotism which the British find embarrassing to avow.

Finland is called “The land of a thousand lakes”. In fact there are 60,000, almost invariably beautiful, set amongst pine-woods, rocky slopes, and countryside of great impressiveness. Yet building is under way everywhere, despite the huge war debt exacted by the Russians. Viewed from a distance of ten kilometres, the capital looks like a garden city. Helsinki emerges from the coast, up to the hills, rising from amongst the craggy, elemental terrain of Tapio, the mythological god of Nature, its natural beauty scarcely impaired. This is typical of Finnish planning.

The countryside yields plenteous crops and food. Finland is not, however, only an agricultural producer. A large store in Vaasa had 75% home goods, and there is ever-increasing industrial activity. Imports are still large. Russia demands a certain quota of them, but it is not excessive. There is trade with China and Eastern Europe. Skodas and Moshvitches are common, yet so, too, are Bedfords and Hillmans, Volkswagens and Opels. If Finland could get British goods on time and at competitive prices, it would prefer to buy British. Their sympathies are with the West and especially with Britain.

The people are as delightful as is their country. They are vigorous, but not brash or abrupt. The refugees from Karelia have merged into the national life and contribute greatly in ideas

and lively new designs for buildings and ornamentation. Compared to the Swedes, the Finns are easy-going. Even their language is soft, flowing and musical, contrasted with the guttural, jerky, monosyllabic Swedish. The Finn has gained the advantages of modern industrial society, but has not lost a natural ease, informality, sincerity, and a buoyant optimism (even the few teddy-boys seem to be only feigning a show of toughness). Indeed in August Helsinki is almost deserted, as everyone moves out of town for a month to a summer cottage and the notorious sauna.

One of the main streets in Helsinki is called Aleksanterinkatu, named after Alexander II of Russia, showing the influence of their near neighbour. Symbolically, the other important street is Mannerheimintie, after the national hero of Finland's fight for freedom. Handicapped by geography and the barrier of a neutral Sweden, she nevertheless looks to the West. By learning about it, and showing an interest in this country, both we and they would benefit. The Finns would draw closer to a country with which they have a natural affinity; we would discover an exhilarating country and an exciting people.

C. SWAIN, VIM3.

THE VISION OF HANIF

The juddering gates of Eden stand silent by the sea;
The angel with the flaming sword stands blazing there beside.
The golden gates of Paradise are ever shut to me,
And my soul goes singing southward with the ever-ebbing sea.

The timeless Lords of Life and Death shut fast the gates behind.
Their servants grasp my body that my soul leaves stumbling, blind,
And helpless in the blast of life, my mindless soul goes singing
To the country to the southward where forgotten lives lie clinging.

Behind the dazzling golden gates, the bodies' souls are changed,
While all the trumpets sound again,
The whistling spirits fall like rain,
And the future lives are ranged.

The spirit fires burn up like gold,
The souls twist faintly in the hold
Of deathless torturers of old,
And the trumpets fall once more.

I. A. BLYTH, VIM4.

KLING'S CLANGER

The Martian, Kling, looked out of the porthole at the waste-lot where he had landed. His job was as a scout for the Martian Invasion Fleet to find out if Earth was prepared for an invasion. It was a dark night, so he ran little risk of being seen. Opening the airlock, he stepped out and looked around him, then he shut the airlock and sent his ship soaring back into orbit to wait for him.

Activating his anti-gravity unit, he floated off the ground and, switching on a small rocket, propelled himself forward. His green face showed apprehension as he came to the main road. A large car came round the corner and as the driver saw Kling, he braked, swerved, swung off the road and hit a lamp-post. Kling accelerated and disappeared across the road. The driver staggered away, muttering, "He was green, I'm sure, but I only had two shandies".

Meanwhile Kling had been listening at people's doors and windows, and had come to the conclusion that England at least was not ready for invasion. He was thinking of returning when he saw a large building with a heavily gold-braided guard outside. Becoming interested, he went round the side and, taking out a small stethoscope-type instrument, he placed it against the wall and the other end to his ear.

What he heard shocked him : "We know the Martians are massing for invasion because of our high-sensitivity radar scanners. I say that we must utilize our new neutron-ray now. It is capable of obliterating an aircraft or space-ship at a range of a thousand miles. We must use it!" At this there was an enormous outburst of applause, and when it quietened, another voice spoke. "All right, I see that it is agreed, then : I hereby authorize the use of the ray against the invasion fleet!" Hearing this, Kling turned blue and, packing up his stethoscope, he accelerated and shot back to the waste-lot. He fetched his star-ship out of orbit, opened the airlock, got in, shut it, and rocketed back to Mars to tell the supreme commander that their plan of invasion must be scrapped as the Earth was more advanced than Mars.

Meanwhile, back at the building a great stream of people were coming out after the last showing of G.M.G.'s new picture, "Martian Menace".

————— D. M. STONE, VA.

ON THE SPANISH TRIP or IBERIAN REFLECTIONS

Spain is a country of contrasts. The scenery has a wild and rugged grandeur all its own ; the sun beats down from a steely sky to make the jagged rocks that bristle from the earth fling off

a shimmering glare to burn the eyes, yet the hard lines of the hills are softened by conifers, incredibly and freshly green, growing from the rock, stones and desiccated dust that serves for soil. This same soil, however, must grow food and drink for Spain's people.

Outside, and often inside the cities, there is appalling poverty and squalor. Here "peasant" is not an off-beat term of abuse for squares. We saw tiny allotments that serve for farms, single wooden ploughs, pulled by single tired horses, turning furrows of baked, red dust to plant tired-looking vines in. I felt guilty speeding along the new roads in our roomy chromium super-coach, with money in my pockets intended for spending on enjoying myself.

Not all of Spain was like that ; Barcelona, stretching down a long slope to the sea, was modern and attractive, but there, too, lay contrasts. Our map showed that Barcelona boasted two beaches bearing the picturesque and original names of North Beach and South Beach. Now the Mediterranean is famous for its bathing, and Barcelona is on the Mediterranean, and accordingly we set out *en masse* for the South Beach and a bather's paradise. After a ride in one of the city's excellent tube trains, we faced a long walk down a broad Arienda whose only metalling consisted of lumps of scrap and empty beer cans, doubtless shaken off the passing antediluvian lorries by the potholes, or thrown out of the numerous furtive cafes exhaling sinister eastern music and still more sinister eastern smells.

Soon this road was joined by a "river" of dubious colour, but obvious (to the nose) origin ; clearly the main outlet for Barcelona's sanitation system. Soon we, the now narrow road, and this limpid brook passed through the main goods yard to the sea, stained over a huge area by the effluence. Various women were standing on the stretch of mud that served as the South Beach washing their clothes, while odd urchins fished for rubbish in the "stream". We retired disillusioned, disappointed, and disheartened, to the embarrassing laughter of the railway workers whose station we had lost ourselves in.

Most of the city was modern, but the old "Gothic" quarter dated back to the Moorish occupation. The streets were narrow, the sky was all but hidden by the lines of washing, and the souvenir shops were numerous. Only in the caballeros was one safe from the souvenir-mongers. Everything from underwear to guitars was decorated with or desecrated by gaudy pictures of bullfights or Flamenco dancers. Anything cheap was obvious rubbish and anything good was impossibly dear.

As for the bullfights, my immediate reaction was to exult with the crowd, swept up in their passionate enthusiasms, but

reflection brought home the feelings of revulsion and disgust at the slaughter itself and at myself for enjoying it. We were seated high in the arena so that it required an effort of will to grasp the reality behind the remote antics of the tiny figures below. But such thoughts troubled us very little as we enjoyed ourselves for the week. The trip was a great success.

————— C. J. T. ROGERS, VIC2.

FOLK SONG

Old man, why do you watch
The gambols of the sea ?
The cold wind of memory
Stings sharper here, where the waves dance.
Time moves no slower on seashores,
The sea allows no flight from chance.

Old man, a wintered life
Looks from your spraydamp eyes ;
Behind your furrowed wrinkles
A stale remembrance hides
From the waves that cry
The years over the shingle.

But does the water's tingle
Cause this glitter in your eye ?
Or is it from within, a single
Spark of joy which age provides,
The semblance of the happiness of others
Which shakes the tomb where youth resides ?

————— R. V. SCRUTON.

CANDID CAMERA

In the ancient days of the 1960's, there was an amusement programme on a primitive electric vision apparatus called television. This programme was called "Candid Camera". The idea was to rig up various ridiculous situations and film people's reactions. . . .

David Jacobson was walking along a road in Manchester, when he saw at the road-side a machine resembling a spacecraft. There were three strangely-dressed men in the road by it. At first he was afraid, and then out of the corner of his eye he spotted a T.V. camera. Smiling to himself, he walked on.

The men stopped him, and asked him to help them, as their space-ship had broken down. Once inside it, they shut the door. He thought to himself, "They've spent a lot of money on a set like this." One of the men sat down at a control panel and pulled some levers. There was a roaring noise and the thing shook. "What is all this ?" he asked, but the men just smiled. He began to panic, then remembered it was only a television stunt. He looked out of the porthole and thought : "Remarkable what they can do on television."

An hour or so later he noticed that the men had fallen asleep, so he rose and crept across to the airlock. It opened easily : he stepped in, shut the door, and opened the outer door. As he fell through a black airless void, he realised it was not a stunt.

D. M. STONE, 5A.

A VISIT TO THE BLUEBELL RAILWAY

Last April, I visited the Bluebell Railway, an independent railway $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, in Sussex, run by the Bluebell Railway Preservation Society. In the waiting-room, there was a large number of photographs and postcards of the Bluebell line. After looking at these, we went out on to the platform, part of which, surrounded by railings, formed the signal-box. Eventually, an engine came down the line from Horsted Keynes, coupled to a single blue coach. On the platform was a large pile of cushions and these were taken aboard the coach for us, the first passengers of the season.

Along parts of the banks, on the way to Horsted Keynes, was a great carpet of primroses, glowing in the sun. In the fields were flocks of sheep, which bolted as the train passed—probably the first the lambs had seen. The first station was Freshfield. There was no waiting-room or booking-office, only a platform so small that only three compartments were available to passengers. At Horsted Keynes, the next stop, the platform is made entirely of sleepers : by it stood another blue coach. Various compartments were being used as signal-box, waiting-room, and booking-office, while the guard's compartment was used as a refreshment and souvenir stall.

Bluebell now left the station pushing the empty coach. As there are no points at Horsted Keynes, the engine had to push it back to Sheffield Park, and bring the empty coach back, since they are not allowed to push coaches with passengers. It was just leaving when a man raced out of the "signal-box" waving the engine to a halt. The driver had forgotten the staff, without which he was not allowed on the line.

A train from Hayward's Heath now pulled in at the British Railway's station, 100 yards to the north. Along the stretch of line between the two, which is blocked by a pile of sleepers, came the passengers. By now our train had returned. It was lunch-time when we reached Sheffield Park ; during lunch, "Bluebell" shunted the coach into a siding and brought out four reddish-brown coaches. Back at the station, after lunch, I noticed a B.B.C. Television Unit car. The B.B.C. had come to film the special ceremony due to take place that afternoon. "Bluebell,"

recoupled to the blue coach, was standing just outside the station. "Primrose", another engine of the same class, had also arrived.

There is a museum on the "up" platform, where I now went. The main showcase contains Kitmaster models of steam engines, with some models of Southern Region locomotives, all very well constructed and painted. There were also pictures of old engines and historic occasions on the "Bluebell" line. Meanwhile, a number of people had collected out on the platform, among them some ladies in Victorian dress. Coupled to the engines, namely an ex-L.B.S.C.R. Stroudley 0-6-0 and a South Eastern and Chatham Wainwright 0-6-0, were several gaily-painted coaches, including a Chesham set.

Captain Manisty opened the ceremony and was followed by Bishop Warde, ex-Bishop of Lewes. After a short speech, he christened "Primrose" with a bottle of champagne, declaring the line officially open. At this point, "Primrose" and "Stepney" had to take on more water for the benefit of the B.B.C. camera men. As they coupled on to the Chesham set, "Bluebell" arrived back from Horsted Keynes, and having shunted its coach into a siding, joined the back of the train. At 2.48 exactly, Bishop Warde climbed to "Stepney's" footplate and started the train. As it disappeared from sight, we returned to have one final look at the museum before going home from a very enjoyable day's outing.

D. M. WOOD, IVx.

" . . . TILL YOU BE DEAD"

Death in the morning on the stroke of eight.
Choking in the hood, enveloping the face ;
A man's soul swinging, waiting, at Paradise's edge,
Or stiffening in rigor at the gates of Hell.

Blue in the morning, neck circled by the cord,
Bloated and swollen, lying in decay :
Sprays of yew and cypress round about his shroud,
And an earth-stained skull above the scaffold's door.

Corruption framed in the coffin walls :
Lying forgotten until Judgment-day.

IMMERITO.

THE SCOUT CHALLENGE

(The Editor holds no responsibility for the strong Scout bias in this article.)

The boarding house Senior Scout Troop, somewhat amused by the preliminary qualifications of a C.C.F. "Arduous Training Camp", wondered how the Army Section would fare in a competition organized upon a scouting basis. It was also thought that such a competition might make the School aware of the Scout Troop's existence.

In order to be fair, subjects which were specifically scouting were omitted, so that initiative, an ability to read a map, a knowledge of first-aid and an apparently irrational desire to spend the best part of a Saturday night strolling round Naphill Common, were the sole requisites. The weather was clear, if cold. Pairs set off at intervals of ten minutes and first had to deal with a first-aid incident. A motor-cyclist had a broken wrist and fractured jaw. The most common error was to offer him an imaginary cup of tea. There were, in all, five check points, indicated by map reference.

W. D. Warde was stationed on Naphill Common by a rope bridge which had to be crossed. If this sounds easy, the reader would perhaps like to try crossing a commando bridge when the ropes have been deliberately and unequally slackened.

Next, P. A. Taylor was leaning on a gate behind a pub with a quiz, once again, a test of initiative ; for example, "How many hands has Big Ben?" which is, of course, the bell and not the clockcase.

Underneath a railway bridge, three Rovers issued pairs with a steel file, a large chunk of flint and a brillo pad. "Light a fire using this equipment, in ten minutes" : only one pair succeeded. Apparently, one is expected to stretch the brillo pad until the steel wire is very fine, and to strike the file with the flint and not vice-versa. The usefulness of such a technical skill in society is dubious, but it is said to be character-building. Definitely an acquired taste !

Mr. F. N. Cooper was situated in a chalk railway cutting. Over the steep side a rope was suspended, and, in true scouting tradition, it was intentionally too short. In most cases, common sense was abandoned and the contestants tried to rush up the rope, which was on the steepest part, instead of walking back to where the slope was less and the soil firmer.

Throughout the competition, time was the essential factor, and marks were deducted for arriving at a check point either early or late. The time taken over the rope-work was also recorded. Each pair was given an egg which had to be hard-

boiled on arrival at the camp-site. Two pairs went to public houses, one to his girl-friend's house, and a fourth cooked his in a thermos flask of coffee that he was carrying.

The competition was won, by a narrow margin, by the Scouts, though several of the C.C.F. pairs either were Scouts or had once been in the movement. We would like to thank all those who helped, and we look forward to the return competition. We also feel obliged to extend our heartfelt thanks to Sgt. Harrison who so willingly and spontaneously gave of his best groundsheets.

G. W. BOIREAU, VIIm3.

JUSTICE

If you come, then I will kill you,
Stab you quickly, hear you screaming,
Laugh to see you dying, slowly,
Stand and hear your cries and moaning,
Love to see you lying, groaning,
Still and white and cold as granite.
Through the darkness comes an echo ;
Who it was I could not see.
Quickly jumping o'er the threshold,
Running faster from the cavern,
Jumping over rut and hollow,
To the woods, in case they follow,
Hiding 'neath the copse and beech tree,
O'er the field and o'er the meadow,
O'er the stream, and to the township,
Where the houses added safety.
Turning round, I saw two policemen.
"That's he," said one. "Arrest him quickly."
I tripped, and fell into the gutter ;
Before I knew it they had got me.
Handcuffs then were forced upon me,
I was quickly made a prisoner.
Pleading, begging for my counsel,
"I want Sherard to defend me !"
I was taken to the court room,
To my pleas the judge did listen :
"The evidence is circumstantial,
You must acquit him," said the jury.
By the time the day was ended,
I was free to kill once more.

D. S. LEVIN, IIc.

C.C.F. NOTES

NAVAL SECTION

Since the last report the training in H.M.S. *Bossington*, Britannia Royal Naval College and the M.F.V. has taken place and we are already looking forward to the training programme that has been arranged for this year. *Bossington's* training did not involve the pleasure of a continental trip, but her stay in Shoreham and the short voyage along to Portsmouth from there were nautically just as interesting; those cadets who were fortunate enough to be in her hoped they might enjoy her hospitality again this summer. Dartmouth provided the usual excellent training under conditions that the Navy cannot match anywhere else, and we are fortunate in again having a further period of training allocated there. The M.F.V. trip has been dealt with in a separate article in this magazine.

The last two terms' training has proceeded fairly smoothly, the only interruption being practice-parades for the Queen's visit. Four cadets have passed their advanced proficiency examination and another twenty their proficiency. Next term, Vice-Admiral Sir Royston Wright, K.C.B., D.S.C., Second Sea Lord, will be the Inspecting Officer at this year's General Inspection on May 31st.

The programme for training this year is varied and interesting. At Easter, 14 cadets will attend a general course in H.M.S. *Dryad*, while another 10 will make a Channel cruise in H.M.M.L. 2420, starting from Portsmouth and ending at Plymouth, with calls at Poole, Guernsey, Jersey and Dartmouth. During the summer, apart from the week in Dartmouth already mentioned, there will be a week at sea with the Dartmouth Training Squadron, a week with the Second Training Squadron in H.M.S. *Keppel*, and a week at Mellon Charles, the Boom Defence Depot in Scotland.

At Christmas Lt. Nightingale left us to take up an appointment at Scarborough College, where he will be running the Naval Section, and we hope to meet him from time to time when training arrangements allow. We wish him every success in his new post. Lt. Benson has succeeded him in charge of the Section.

J.B.

ARMY SECTION

The activities of the term were naturally overshadowed by the preparations for the visit of the Queen. Early intimation that a formal Guard of Honour would not be allowed came as a great disappointment to those concerned with its preparation. However, the solution of a route-lining party from all three sections with the Army Section presenting arms seems to have satisfied

everyone and may now safely be recorded as an "Informal Guard of Honour". Unfortunately it was not inspected by the Queen but it was inspected by many of the official visitors and pronounced as performing in a manner worthy of the occasion.

The Corps of Drums, under Drum-Major Shackell, added to the enjoyment of the occasion and all can enjoy the unique distinction of playing for Her Majesty during her visit.

It is perhaps appropriate to record that a small select group of cadets from the Army Section are spending the first week of the Easter holiday in searching out routes and camping sites for later expeditions of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme over the Devonshire Moors, which will be the venue for the 1962 Summer Camp.

R.P.

R.A.F. SECTION

Cadet A. G. Bailey, who recently was awarded a Flying Scholarship, is to start his training on April 7th at Thruston Aerodrome with the Wiltshire School of Flying. He hopes to become qualified for his Civilian Pilot's Licence in the course of the Easter vacation.

In the term now ending, preparations for Proficiency and Advanced Training Examinations have proceeded with vigour in spite of many interruptions. In the March examinations, 37 cadets took the Proficiency Examination and 18 cadets took the Advanced Training Examination. It is expected that when these results are added to the 12 successful at the proficiency stage and the 10 at the advanced training stage in December, the totals for the year will be impressive.

Opportunities for gliding have arisen in recent months. A number of cadets have successfully completed Gliding Proficiency courses by week-end attendance at No. 613 Gliding School at R.A.F. Halton. At the present time three cadets are attending the school at week-ends and two cadets are about to take a one-week continuous course in gliding in the Easter vacation. Several cadets who have already reached Gliding Proficiency hope to be selected for an Advanced Gliding Course to be held in August.

Chipmunk flying with the Air Experience Flight at White Waltham was enjoyed by a number of cadets on a Sunday in November. This "week-end" flying was repeated on Sunday, April 1st, and arrangements have been made for a further visit to White Waltham in May.

A party of 25 cadets will be at R.A.F. Station, Bassingbourn, near Royston, for the period of the Easter Camp, from April 11th to the 18th. This Bomber Command Station will provide many interesting and useful activities.

E.M.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Few people have perhaps realised the existence of facilities for qualifying for the award until the publicity afforded by the Royal visit.

Two of the faithful original entrants received their reward when the Queen inspected the exhibition of Pursuits in the Science Laboratory on April 6th. They were J. C. Bowman, the first Gold Award winner through the School group (now a cadet at Henlow), and R. I. Patterson, who has not yet completed the gold standard but whose models of naval vessels drew complimentary remarks from Her Majesty and honourable mention on the Television presentation of the visit.

The operation of the scheme is through the C.C.F., which assists particularly in organising and supervising the Expedition : a very popular section of the award.

A great stimulus was also given to the Group on January 26th by the visit of Sir John Hunt, Director of the Award Scheme. He showed considerable interest in the various hobbies displayed ; Bingham's moths and butterflies attracting much interest at both this exhibition and the one on April 6th.

The Group provides splendid opportunities for profitable occupation of leisure, and anyone interested should lose no delay in becoming enrolled into the scheme.

G.R.J. and R.P.

BOOTS ON DARTMOOR

Most cadets on last summer's army camp had to endure some walking. Exceptions to this rule were the Signals platoon and a worthless individual who volunteered for the cookhouse. The signallers sun-bathed a great deal, but did manage to set up a successful net, and the cookhouse fellow spent most of his time peeling potatoes. The distances covered by the rest of the cadets, satisfied, at some level, the requirements for the expedition part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Four of us, two from the Army Section, and one each from the R.A.F. and R.N. Sections, were attempting the gold course. This consists of at least 50 miles over rough country carrying all our food and equipment for four days. We were taken to the starting point at the bottom of a steep hill and left to cover seventeen miles. The very first climb nearly exhausted us, but that was only the beginning. The weather was hot, and soon the little fresh water we had with us was used up. Having seen the

remnants of several sheep and cattle, we decided it would be unwise to drink stream water.

The south of the moor is the bleakest part, and we had to cross it to reach camp for the night. Progress was slow, the slopes seemed to be unending ; no sooner was one climbed than we were confronted by another. The ground was treacherous and uneven ; in many places it was marshy and one sank into the ground up to the knees. The heather and bracken caught at our ankles so that several times we fell headlong.

Two of the party had comfortable boots, and two had fairly new ones, so that soon our feet were blistered and bleeding. Great was the relief therefore when we were able to bathe them in a stream, but it was agony to carry on again. The day passed slowly ; eyes were constantly fixed on the ground for fear of losing a footing, and no one had the strength or wish to speak. It was sunset by the time we reached camp.

The next three days followed the same pattern, and more difficult country was met with in the artillery ranges where the ground was pitted with numerous shell craters. We ate a large breakfast, little or nothing during the walk, and then a large supper. On the third day, I caught the sun, and was sick the next day, but then the expedition is supposed to be arduous.

We walked 65 miles in all, and were not sorry to reach camp at the end. Perhaps it was worth it, but next time, comfortable boots and a light load will make the journey more enjoyable.

————— C. S. GRIFFITHS, VIIm2.

SOCIETY NEWS

The Societies which are noticeably absent from the following reports are not so because of negligence on the part of the "Soc. Secs.", but because they have not performed anything of especial note, save in the case of the Dramatic Society, which has concentrated all its forces upon "The Government Inspector", which is dealt with elsewhere. ————— I. A. BLYTH.

AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

The Aeronautical Society is thriving again and the interest shown by the members in all our activities is most gratifying.

Films on every aspect of aviation are shown throughout the term and regular aircraft recognition competitions are held. The accent here is on speed of recognition of modern aircraft rather than a knowledge of rare and out-of-date types.

A most enjoyable time was had by 40 members, when, in February, they visited the Vickers-Armstrong factory at Weybridge. Among the highlights of the visit were the stratosphere chamber and the VC-10 production lines.

More films and a further trip are planned for this term.

R. M. MOORE.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

This year has been an uneventful one. So far we have followed the pattern of one speaker each fortnight. This term, however, we intend to have one meeting a week : the first week a speaker, the next a discussion on his talk with, if possible, the speaker there to defend himself. Also we hope to have a junior section based on the Scripture Union.

C. L. DAY.

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

It cannot be denied that this society has a limited appeal ; its very nature makes this inevitable. Membership, however, is at its highest now since the foundation and the society's financial position has never been better.

An energetic committee led by B. N. Buckley set itself to provide a programme more varied than usual in the Autumn Term. It opened with two members describing their experiences in Greece last summer : the feature of this was not so much Hamilton-Eddy's entertaining commentary as the excellence of Garner's slides. Three lecturettees interested another good audience a few weeks later : Rogers talked concisely and competently on Ancient Siege Weapons, Killingley explained his colour slides (taken while he was holidaying in Rome), and C. H. Farmer held forth briefly on the Olympic Games. A trip to the Oxford Playhouse was arranged, to see the Oresteian Trilogy of Aeschylus performed in translation. It was generally agreed that the production was of high calibre, despite minor mishaps peculiar to a first night : Agamemnon's chariot became entangled in the scenery ; a chorus girl fainted and was dragged off, but her feet could still be seen protruding from the wings and twitching vigorously ; finally, a "flat" nearly guillotined several members of the cast in its over-rapid descent. The term's activities were brought to a close when Mr. Robertson, of Reading University, lectured to the Classical and Modern Sixth on "Satire : the origin of a genre".

The new year saw no activity until after half-term, when the first film to be screened in the Classics Room was shown to a good audience ; the film was on "Greek Sculpture". On the following day, Mr. F. N. Cooper headed a coach party to see the Cambridge Greek Play Committee's production of Aristophanes' comedy, "The Clouds", at the Arts Theatre ; a most enjoyable excursion. P. D. Bowen, a historian, gave a masterly analysis and description of the Roman Invasions of Britain, with particular reference to that of 43 A.D. The small audience (are

there no patriots left among us ?) was always interested and asked some thoughtful questions at the end. The remaining activities this term have yet to be performed ; we hope to hear a lecture on the History of Pre-Norman Conquest Wycombe by D. R. Walker, and to hold a play-reading of Aeschylus' tragedy, the "Choephoroe". Finally, there will be the annual Reading Competition, with awards for both Greek and Latin in the Senior Section.

P. H. W. BRISTOW.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This year the society has been very active and in its meetings has covered a wide field.

The Society has been fortunate in having members who were prepared to give a talk on their favourite subjects. P. D. Bowen, the President, gave a scholarly lecture on "Some Aspects of Nineteenth Century French History", and C. N. Myant read a paper on "The Red Indians". Undoubtedly, the most popular lecture came from M. R. Horrex. His subject, one he was passionately interested in, was "Nicholas II, the Last of the Romanovs". He began his lecture to the strains of the old Russian National Anthem, which was highly entertaining to the very large audience.

The society was also fortunate in being addressed by a lecturer from High Wycombe College of Further Education, Mr. D. G. Watts. The lecture concerned "The Middle Ages", which was of particular interest to the members, because few of them have a sound knowledge of this period.

The annual "History Quiz" for the "O" Level forms was held. as usual, and aroused considerable interest amongst Upper Fifth-formers. This year, Mr. D. G. Jones instituted a new activity for the society, a History Essay competition. There were a number of entries from which the winner was eventually chosen. This was judged to be R. H. Leech for an excellent essay on "Splendid Isolation 1898-1902".

No report on the History Society would be complete without a mention of Mr. D. G. Jones. Mr. Jones is, undoubtedly, the driving force behind our activities, and is continually seeking new ones. I am sure that I shall be echoing the feeling of all the members when I sincerely thank him for all his efforts.

I. M. MACWHINNIE.

JAZZ APPRECIATION SOCIETY

The society has been well supported this year ; the weekly record concerts, held in the Main School, are attended regularly by more people than ever before, and a wide selection of records has been played, ranging from Jelly Roll Morton to John Coltrane.

It looks like being a vintage year for Jazz Club trips, with visits to the M.J.Q., Dizzy Gillespie, John Coltrane, Dave Brubeck, Coleman Hawkins (whose autograph was hastily obtained on a Dobell's record bag), Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie, Louis Armstrong and Erroll Garner.

Efforts to re-form a School jazz band seem doomed to failure once again ; the only live jazz consists of occasional jam sessions modelled on the Quintet of the Hot Club of France.

A. J. DAVIS.

MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

The Club is now the largest in the School with 250 members, nearly a quarter of the School. Films are shown every week and usually have to be repeated owing to the size of the audience. A very successful experiment has been the series of full-length entertainment films. At the time of writing, two of these have been shown and there are more to come, including "O! Mr. Porter" and the "Lady-killers"—both hilarious comedies. The profits have been given to the Benevolent Fund.

In the three years of the Club's existence, there have been eleven trips, including two by special train. The largest was on March 11th, when 330 boys and parents travelled by special train from High Wycombe to Doncaster Railway Works. Looking ahead, engagements are in hand for a visit to the "Bluebell Line" (an article on this is to be found elsewhere in the magazine) and possibly the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway. It is proposed also to run trips to Temple Mills marshalling yard and Mount Pleasant sorting office and the G.P.O. railway—both repetitions of very successful trips in the past.

P. C. R. HUDSON.

MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

For the past two terms the Society's activities have been largely confined to the showing of films. Many very enjoyable German and French films have been shown, including the interesting German newsreels which Herr Kuschel obtains regularly for us. The Society's most successful enterprise this year was without doubt the showing of the full-length "Vive! Monsieur Blaireau" on February 13th. The film was enjoyed by an extensive audience which included almost as many girls from the High School as our own boys. This success, due to a most vigorous advertising campaign, was a great help in raising the Society from the financial depths to which it had sunk at the time. Mention must also be made of the recent visit to the Piccadilly Theatre to see Anouilh's play, "L'Invitation au Chateau". The small party of boys who were privileged to see this excellent production are indebted to Mr. Kroes for his kind provision of

transport for the trip. Finally, I should like to take the opportunity here of thanking M. Bur and the assistants, Kerr Kuschel and M. Picard, for the lively interest and time they have given to our activities. If a more enthusiastic spirit were shown by members of the Society, I am sure a much more interesting programme would be possible. I should also like to say how sorry we are to see M. Bur leave us. He has been the mainspring of the Society for several years now, and has imbued everyone connected with the Society with his own enthusiasm. Our best wishes go with him.

—————
M. R. FERGUSON.

MUSIC SOCIETY

As usual, the Society has run weekly record concerts in the lunch hours—works by Bach, Berlioz, Sibelius, Mussorgsky and Stravinsky, though these have had to be curtailed, owing to the Madrigal Choir's practices for the Queen's visit. Longer works have been put on after school, but there was poor attendance for such established works as Brahms' 2nd piano concerto and such fine artists as Rudolf Serkin or the U.S.S.R. State Symphony Orchestra.

Live concerts have constituted an important part of our musical activities. Paul Drayton, celebrating his achievement of L.R.A.M., held a recital of piano works by Beethoven, Handel, Albeniz and Granados. In the other recital, Peter Uppard, to whom we wish the best of luck in his forthcoming attempt at the L.R.A.M., included works by Bach, Beethoven, Glinka and Liszt in his programme.

While such time has been taken up for rehearsing for Britten's "Saint Nicolas", which is to be performed in the summer term, a trip to Covent Garden was arranged where a party of twenty to thirty boys enjoyed a performance of Rossini's "Barber of Seville".

—————
C. SWAIN.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Since the last edition of the *Wycombiensian*, two trips have been run by the Society. The first, at the end of the summer term, was to the New Forest; the second was a trip to the museum at Tring, a branch of the British Museum (Natural History). Both trips proved to be instructional and enjoyable.

Many films have been shown to the Society, including "Search for Oil", "Ireland for Sea-Angling", "Cream of Good Milk" and "Between the Tides", and all were well attended. It was decided to continue our affiliation to the Mammal Society of the British Isles, and to the Middle Thames Natural History Society, whose literature we receive regularly.

The number of animals now kept by the Biology Department continues to increase, largely by the efforts of the keener members.

Undoubtedly, a pair of mongooses are the most prized specimens, even though their scent is somewhat offensive at times. A fine Ghanaian lizard was also imported during the Christmas holidays. A constant-flow fresh-water tank has been set up recently, and it is hoped that it will be stocked with young trout in the near future.

D. J. THORNTON.

SCIENCE SOCIETY

With over two hundred members the Science Society is the School's second largest society. A great number of these have come from the Modern and Classical sections of the School, mainly to enjoy the many films that are shown. Over twenty films, ranging from motor racing to X-ray spectrography, have been shown already, and more are to come. At the time of writing a special attraction has been arranged for the end of the Easter Term, namely a free film show from the Coca Cola Company, open to everyone.

In October, a rather controversial visit to the Motor Show was enjoyed by sixty members (happily no cars were reported missing!). In January, there was a Sixth-form visit to the Vauxhall Motor Company, and in March, a further visit to "Aspro's". Although every member has not had the opportunity to go on a visit, every effort is made to give everyone a fair crack of the whip.

Lastly, mention must be made of an extremely interesting talk given by R. H. McDowell, Esq., on a most unusual but absorbing topic, seaweed.

M. J. IREMONGER.

STAMP SOCIETY

The Society has now been in existence for more than seven years, and a membership of between sixty and seventy has been sustained during the last five. It was decided at the Annual General Meeting to raise the membership fee to 1/-, in conformity with most other societies. Meetings for the sale and exchange of stamps have been held regularly at lunch-time every Monday and Friday.

On March 19th a party of two masters and twenty-seven boys enjoyed an excursion to both the Exhibition of Stamps of the Queen's Reign at the British Museum and to "Stampex" at the Central Hall, Westminster. Both exhibitions were very interesting.

It is proposed to hold a really impressive display of stamps on next Speech Day. Any sensible suggestions as to the subject of this display would be welcomed.

C. J. MYERSCOUGH.

TWENTIETH CENTURY OPINION SOCIETY

This Society is not usually one of the most active in the School, but a number of meetings have been held so far this year.

In the first Mr. D. A. Saunders, from Cambridge, and a member of the Cambridge debating team which later toured the United States, gave an interesting and expertly delivered talk on "Politics in the '60's".

Later in the term Mr. Alan Snyder, the Education Officer at the U.S.A.A.F. base, gave "Some American Opinions", wittily describing the present-day social cleavage between the Gons and Nerds (the readers of the *Guardian*, *Observer* and *New Statesman*, and on the other hand those of the *News of the World*, the *Express* and the *Readers' Digest*), and emphasising the importance of the moral aspect in education.

Another member of the staff, Mr. E. R. B. Little, of the biology department, gave a talk on "Evolution—Fact and Fiction", elucidating from the expert's point of view Darwin's theory, especially for the non-scientifically minded. After the talk, there was a lively question time.

Another outside speaker was Mr. James Johnson, an ex-M.P., now attached to the Liberian Embassy, who has a wide knowledge of African affairs. A large audience listened intently and asked searching questions on this urgent and important topic about which accurate information is comparatively sparse.

The final meeting took the form of a debate on the motion: "That this House considers Britain to be far too complacent". With P. G. Davies in the chair, the motion was proposed by C. Swain, and seconded by C. N. Myant. Britain's isolation was cited and accusations of "living in the past" were laid. R. Bradshaw backed by I. M. Macwhinnie, brought as their counter-argument advances by Britain in various fields and also recent illustrations of British initiative. Afterwards a number of sometimes embarrassing questions were fired at the platform from the floor, and a vote was taken which defeated the motion by two votes.

We hope to hold more debates in which boys can take part, and, using this one as a pilot model, build up a greater interest in proper debating and give practice at public speaking.

C. SWAIN.

THE SCHOOL AS A COMMUNITY

There is more to a school than the buildings or even the teaching of factual and academic knowledge. It must be a social entity and have a personality of its own as well. To a great extent this is the function of the house system and of the extra-academic activities, the teams, clubs and societies. This country

prides itself on its democratic government, its tradition of community feeling, when the group's interests come first and purely personal desires are relegated to second place. In helping to teach this, the house system, as touching everyone, and being the largest unit within the School, is of particular value.

It must, of course, be taken seriously, otherwise it becomes a drain on time and energy, with no real compensations. If it is recognised, however, as being an important aspect of school life, it can provide the opportunity which the majority would perhaps never have otherwise, of being part of a team ; of doing something to benefit a group beyond the individual—surely one of the most valuable bases for later life.

HOUSE CAPTAIN.

SCHOOL HOUSE

The House has displayed an even greater keenness in School activities this year than in the past. Many boarders took part in last term's production of "The Gondoliers" and this term's production of "The Government Inspector", and there was the usual large number of willing assistants behind the scenes in both productions. All the prefects, seniors, and most of the juniors will be singing in the cantata, "Saint Nicolas", next term.

The House can boast of four members in the first Basketball team, A. S. Platt, R. A. Fewtrell, R. A. Dorkings and M. J. Malec ; in the First XV, R. A. Fewtrell and C. S. Griffiths ; in the Second XV, M. J. Malec ; in the Badminton team, J. N. McLoughlin; and several juniors have played in the Under 12's and 13's Rugby teams.

B. N. Buckley left at Christmas and is going up to Cambridge in the autumn. J. Cawson is leaving at the end of this term to take up a temporary teaching post in Ghana before going up to London in 1963. A. S. Platt has secured a place at University College next autumn. S. C. Tomes, T. M. Davis and C. S. Griffiths are left struggling either to persuade a university to accept them or to do well enough at "A" Level this summer to secure the conditional offers already made to them.

S. C. TOMES.

TYLERS WOOD HOUSE

During the past two terms, the House has seen quite a number of changes, both with regard to the boys here, and the amenities provided for us. During the summer holidays, the Common Room was redecorated and new chairs provided, the whole place being far more hospitable than previously, providing a greater incentive for us to treat it as a home from home. Amongst

the improvements was a television, kindly provided for week-end entertainment by Mr. Johnson, which was greatly appreciated and very popular.

This current year has seen many changes in the personnel of the House. Two of our prefects have left : J. A. Johnson, after a stay of only a few weeks, to become a quantity surveyor ; and J. B. Hume, after gaining an Open Exhibition at Magdalen College, Oxford. There has been a number of temporary inmates at Tylers, Goodman and the brothers Fountain staying for only short periods, as did J. A. Johnson.

On the sports field, we have flourished. We have two regular members of the 1st XV and others who play for the 2nd, 3rd and junior teams. We also are honoured with three regular members of the School hockey team, one of whom being B. C. Matthews, the captain, two School badminton regulars, and an occasional member of the basketball team. Despite this preponderance of athletic talent, our fortunes have been mixed on the actual fields of play. We beat the High School twice at hockey, more through use of brute force than skill from most of the team ; and Uplyme once at soccer, aided by ultra-windy conditions. Our basketball efforts have not been so spectacular, both teams losing severely to School House, but scraping to victory over Uplyme. No other fixtures have taken place owing to the weather and lack of enthusiasm, though there is a hockey match with the Lady Verney School impending.

Academically there is little to report, though most people concerned had successes of some degree in the Autumn and G.C.E. mock exams. Prospects for the summer, therefore, seem fairly bright. On the whole, the year has been one of change and progress, the House becoming more of a home than before, deserving to be treated as such.

M. F. FORRESTER.

UPLYME HOUSE

It is felt that the stereotyped boarding-house reports exhibit a singular lack of imagination, but it is difficult to find an acceptable alternative. If, for example, one said that at the end of the Summer Term, the House was sorry to say goodbye to K. J. Rennie and R. C. Palmer, and is glad to welcome back D. G. Cawson and F. A. Jones, it is undoubtedly news, at least to the old boys, but is it true? Yet, if one remains non-committal by omitting "sorry" or "glad", readers will probably misinterpret the statement and think the worst. It should also be mentioned that S. F. Hodgson left at the end of the Christmas Term to go to a bank, and J. R. Ward became a day-boy. Apparently the latter is returning to Uplyme in September. The excessive use

of the word "leave" in euphemistic context is worthy of note : it signifies every conceivable reason for departure from expulsion to academic inertia.

One then arrives at the fascinating subject of old boys : one hears how C. R. S. Wood is enjoying life at Henlow, while R. W. Paine has left (that word again !) his brother at Leeds and taken up surveying. E. L. Barrett regularly comes over from Sandhurst to see us. He now has a '46 Riley with a hooter that only functions when the car is in reverse, and then spontaneously.

The "O" Level candidates averted disgrace rather than achieved distinction : a suitably vague assessment. However, A. J. Oxley and G. W. Boireau have university places, and we sincerely wish all of our G.C.E. examinees the very best of luck.

The chief reason for writing a boarding-house report, putting aside convention, appears to be the inane desire of human beings to see lists of names, preferably their own. So . . . the boarding houses as a whole form the spinal column of the School's sporting life, to which Uplymers have, as usual, made their unobtrusive contributions. R. W. Douglas, P. A. Beasley, J. W. Hume, D. W. Lewis and D. A. Jones, among the juniors, have played regularly for School rugby teams, the seniors being represented in that sport by R. B. Smith, G. W. Boireau and P. A. Archer. R. W. Douglas also plays basketball for the Colts, N. C. Fairley, hockey, M. S. Rothwell runs for cross-country teams, and G. W. Boireau is in the shooting team now and then.

The prefects' study has functioned as a lunch-time coffee bar for the more subversive elements of the third-year Sixth, from which, every half-term, a strange assortment of day-boys and boarders issue forth in equally bizarre clothing to spend a few days hiking in Wales. Apart from these cultural excursions, I. J. Grayson acted in the "Government Inspector", and M. R. Ward has been projecting his artistic talents on to the Common Room walls. The political cartoons which also appear on the same walls show discernment.

By a quirk of fate, School House managed to beat us at basketball and football. Our relations with Tylers Wood indicate the existence of a certain empathy, due, perhaps, to the absence of pedantry.

It was suggested that R. R. Trick should emigrate to Algeria and preach existentialism to the O.A.S. His reply, with characteristic eloquence, was "Eh, wot?"

In conclusion, the "general attitude" of the House is encouraging, as is the academic and sporting potential of its junior members. Unfortunately, the attitude towards C.C.F. could be published only if it registered approval.

G. W. BOIREAU.

ARNISON HOUSE

The first two terms of this school year have proved to be very successful for Arnison. The first competition was the Inter-house Basketball, in which we have, since the new house system was introduced, always been placed last until this year, when we finished second. Our success in this competition was due, not to any individual performance, but to an all-round effort by both junior and senior teams.

Our senior rugby team was narrowly beaten by King's House for a place in the final and was forced into fourth place by Youens. However, the junior team made up for the seniors' failings by winning their competition and thus bringing the House into first position, equal with Queen's House. D. Andrew, M. Kefford and R. Douglas played very well for the juniors, whilst C. S. Griffiths managed both teams very efficiently.

The Cross-country Championships took place on March 7th, and although we could not hold last year's position of top house, our runners did creditably to finish 2nd. C. Taylor was the individual winner of the senior championship. Sharp in 3rd position in the intermediates and Gatland in 8th position in the juniors were the first Arnison runners home in the other two races.

Once again we were able to reach the Boxing finals in an almost unbeatable position and finished winners by a 13-point margin from Disraeli. C. L. Carver must be congratulated on winning the prize for the best second form boxer. Other boxers who won their final bouts were R. F. Ireland, D. J. Gatland and K. N. Simons. The chess and shooting tournaments are still in progress, but our prospects seem quite good in both these competitions.

It must be remembered that practically every House competition can usually be won by sheer force of numbers, so if every member of the House enters for at least one competition next term, we stand an excellent chance of finishing top at the end of the school year.

T. J. COLEMAN.

DISRAELI HOUSE

So far this has been a very disappointing year for the House. The only competition in which we have had any success at all is the Boxing. We were very sorry and disappointed to lose the House Captain, J. A. Johnson, at the beginning of the year. He was captain of the School Rugby XV and would have greatly strengthened many of the House teams. In the rugby competition, despite much enthusiasm from Packman and King, we failed to win a match.

In the Cross-country competition we were without our two colours, Cocking and Fletcher ; Cocking was suffering from influenza and Fletcher had left a few weeks previously. This greatly affected the performance of the senior team, as they would both have been among the first ten home. As it was, we could do no better than fifth. The junior team did very well to come second, due greatly to a fine performance by Whitelock, who came first. Although Steptoe came second for the Colts, they could only manage fifth place.

In the Boxing competition we came second, only thirteen points behind Arnison. We had a very good entry from our younger members, who gained us many valuable points in the eliminating rounds. Hosea, Allnut, Whitelock, Reitz, Perfect, Rance and Berks all reached the final in their respective weights, with Whitelock, Perfect and Rance all winning. The entry from the seniors was rather poor, but those who did enter were very successful. Smythe, Hentall, Fox and Smith all reached the final, where only Fox failed to win.

In the Basketball competition we came fourth, although our juniors again did very well. The Badminton, Shooting and Chess competitions are still in progress, but we are not very well placed in any of these. The support from the juniors has been very encouraging, while that from the seniors, although generally reasonable, could have been much better. With good support throughout the House we may look forward to more success in the Cricket and Athletics competitions to come.

D. K. STRATFORD.

FRASER HOUSE

Fraser started off well in this year's House championships by winning the Basketball competition, the senior team remaining unbeaten, thanks mainly to the excellent form of D. Stubbs, a new boy to the School who will prove a great asset to the House this year. In the House Rugby, although having one of the strongest sides, we were beaten after a hard fight in the first round by the eventual winners, Queen's. The junior side, captained by Sweeting, did better, being beaten rather against the run of play by Arnison.

The Cross-Country Championships were monopolised by Fraser this year, winning the team event in all three age groups. In the juniors, Glynn did well to come in second, but our success must be put down to the fine effort of the whole team, so well picked and led by D. Culley. Fraser managed to come fourth in the Boxing championships. The support from the Junior School was very good this year, but as usual there was a poor

entry from the Senior School. Breed fought very well, only losing in the final to Abii, who was voted the best boxer, and Stubbs proved too strong for challengers in the 12-stone class. Shooting, Badminton and Chess are all in progress at the moment. In the Shooting team we hope that English, Boireau and Mayo will reach a good position, and in the Chess, Mobbs and Bamford are doing well.

For the Badminton competition, our hopes rest on Fewtrell, Thomas and Summerton. During the Summer Term, Fraser hope to do reasonably well in the Tennis and Cricket, and with support from the lower school, we feel that we shall be able to win the Athletics and finally the House Championships.

M. D. PRIESTLEY, M. F. FORRESTER.

KING'S HOUSE

Last year many of the House stalwarts left and the House has had to depend more on the support of juniors and middle school boys. The juniors have shown much enthusiasm and willingness to support the House, but not so, alas, the middle school.

In both Boxing and Cross-Country, King's has suffered from a complete lack of support. Far too many boys are willing to sit back and let others do the work. On the brighter side, the Senior Rugby team, under the captaincy of R. W. Harding, played very well, only losing in the final to a very strong Queen's side. Special mention must be made of the excellent kicking of John Davies. At the time of writing the Badminton and Shooting competitions are unfinished, but we should do well in both.

We can look to this term with hope. If we can get plenty of support for all the competitions we stand an excellent chance of retaining the House Championship.

J. M. BARLOW.

QUEEN'S HOUSE

Basketball	...	...	...	5th	last year	5th
Rugby	...	...	...	1st	„	5th
Cross-country	...	...	...	3rd	„	6th
Boxing	...	...	...	3rd	„	5th

In the final count last year Queen's came a poor fifth in the House Championship, partly owing to some bad luck, mostly because of lack of enthusiasm.

With two terms gone so far this year, there has been an all-round improvement and an indication that we shall not only come considerably higher than fifth but could be in the running for the House Championship.

There was a particular improvement in the rugby, where we made the jump from last to 1 =. The seniors put up a fine display throughout, with some good luck, but playing to their

strength and ably and forcefully led by House vice-captain, Don Collins who, lending vocal and physical support to the scrum, and making it a really efficient team, gave a wonderful illustration of back-seat driving at No. 8. In a tense final which began to look like a heavy defeat, 14—3 down at half-time, the team worked untiringly along the touchline, gradually levelling the scores and creeping ahead to win 19—14. There was good House spirit shown in the Junior Rugby as well. Owing to a comparatively light scrum, tactics were largely confined to last-ditch defending, and Redican and his three-quarters, dangerous when they were in possession, were given few real chances, save in the first, most vital game of the tournament, when all played hard and well. This assured the House of first position overall.

The other two activities of the term have been the Cross-Country and Boxing. Most people can enter the Cross-Country : it is such activities that best indicate what House enthusiasm exists, so it was pleasing to see that (with only a little cajoling from Rhodes) a good turn-out and, more important, a determination to beat the other Houses brought us a deserved third place—our congratulations go especially to Charlton for winning the Colts Section. This position could not have been achieved by a few good runners, but only by reasonable average and determined efforts by all.

Just as good an example came in the Boxing. More boys entered and, despite unlucky draws (either against other Queen's boxers or else in small divisions) we have done much better. It is "well done" to all those who in any round entered the ring for the House. Finals winners were M. C. Abii, Ricky Watanangura, N. P. Hampton and H. S. Jacomb. Our congratulations go to Michael Abii, who boxed an exhibition bout and retained the Senior Cup.

Other activities still under way are Chess, Badminton and Shooting, in none of which should we be at all badly placed. Unfortunately it looks as though there will be no Music competition, so we will be denied a chance to gain ground there. In that case, the remaining activities, especially Athletics, become of increasing importance, and a great challenge to the House. Athletics more than anything else perhaps depends on everyone making an effort, when points can be accumulated for gaining standards. All our effort and talent must be called upon, otherwise we will again be 6th ! The improvement in Boxing and Cross-Country shows that greater interest throughout the House, which is essential and which has taken us over these two hurdles. There remains the Athletics, and with such enthusiasm we will progress in the championship. There is a great deal of that much maligned team-spirit in Queen's House, hidden perhaps, but if we all do our best, Queen's could come first.

C. SWAIN.

YOUENS HOUSE

Unfortunately the stalwarts of this House of the last few years have departed *en masse*, and there are now few regular sports players left. However, in the Basketball our prospects looked fairly good at first, for the juniors, inspired by Solomon and Merchant won all but one of their matches. The seniors, however, promptly dashed all hopes by losing every one of their games. There being only five regular rugby players in our senior team, we were full of misgivings at the thought of playing Queen's immense team, but we entered the game with some enthusiasm, and about thirteen men, to be completely steam-rolled. However, we just managed to beat Arnison in a game made notable by the eccentric behaviour of a short character in the opposing team, and finished the competition in third position. The juniors did likewise, beating King's and Queen's, but losing to a strong Arnison side. Goodman and Russell in the backs and Collins in the forwards played very strongly, but there was little support from other members of the team.

Once again in the Cross-Country we had difficulty in procuring any teams, but those who turned out did unexpectedly well. Ellerton especially must be congratulated for finishing sixth in the seniors, in spite of collapsing half-way round the course, also Jenner, who came fourth in the Colts' race. The less said about the Boxing the better from all points of view, though Busbridge is to be congratulated for reaching the final of his weight. We have still to look forward to the Shooting, Badminton and Athletic competitions, and though it does not appear that we shall do any better, they should be quite amusing and interesting.

P. J. CLARK.

HOUSE POSITIONS TO DATE

		<i>Arnison</i>	<i>Disraeli</i>	<i>Fraser</i>	<i>King's</i>	<i>Queen's</i>	<i>Youens</i>						
Shooting	...	2	12	4	4	5	4	1	15	4	7	3	9
Boxing	...	2	12	5	4	1	15	6	1	3	9	4	7
Rugby	...	1	20	6	2	4	10	5	6	1	20	3	14
Basketball	...	2	12	4	7	1	15	3	9	5	4	6	1
Boxing	...	1	15	2	12	4	7	6	1	3	9	5	4
Chess	...	2	12	5	4	3	9	6	1	1	15	4	7
Total		1	83	5=	33	3	60	5=	33	2	64	4	42

INTER-HOUSE BOXING TOURNAMENT

The annual Inter-House Boxing Tournament was held in the School Hall on Wednesday, March 28th.

A record number of 240 boys entered the competition, this being due to the inclusion of Form II boys for the first time. Thus a large number of preliminary bouts took place before the finals and the standard of boxing varied greatly as the numbers would suggest. The introduction of the Form II competition was a great success, as the boys showed unbounded enthusiasm and courage.

C. L. Carver (Arnison) boxed very competently to win the Form II prize, presented by N. H. Theed, Esq., a Governor of the School.

A. J. Glynn (Fraser) boxed extremely well to win the Junior Boxing Cup, when he beat T. T. McCormick (Fraser) in a spirited final.

In the senior section M. C. Abii (Queen's) was awarded the Senior Boxing Cup for the second time after a very polished display against S. Breed (Fraser). The standard of boxing in this section was excellent, and the bouts D. R. Ferguson (King's) versus A. P. R. Coates (King's) and G. M. Smyth (Disraeli) versus B. S. Busbridge (Youens) are worthy of note.

RESULTS

Form II

Under	9st.	8lbs.	R. F. Ireland (A)	beat	V. Ham (Q)
"	8st.	8lbs.	R. V. Huggins (F)	"	K. J. McIntosh (K)
"	7st.	12lbs.	H. S. Jacomb (Q)	"	B. R. A. Debnam (A)
"	7st.	3lbs.	P. J. Mayles (K)	"	R. D. Spear (F)
"	6st.	7lbs.	P. L. Hudson (Y)	walk over	J. M. Reitz (D) absent
"	6st.	11lb.	S. M. Perfect (D)	"	P. T. Falconer (K)
"	5st.	9lbs.	D. Rance (D)	"	A. B. Newitt (Y)
"	5st.	2lbs.	C. L. Carver (A)	"	P. M. Berks (D)

Form III

Under	9st.	6lbs.	D. G. Green (F)	beat	I. R. Firth (Q)
"	8st.	13lbs.	J. F. Killingley (Y)	"	R. J. Hosea (D)
"	8st.	0lbs.	D. J. Gatland (A)	"	J. N. Gilson (A)
"	7st.	7lbs.	J. P. Coley (F)	"	S. Allnut (D)
"	6st.	10lbs.	A. J. Glynn (F)	"	T. T. McCormick (F)
"	5st.	8lbs.	I. R. Whitelock (D)	"	D. H. Whitwham (Y)

Seniors

Under	12st.	13lbs.	D. A. Priestley (F)	beat	R. E. Hickman (K)
"	12st.	3lbs.	D. J. Stubbs (F)	"	D. J. Stokes (K)
"	11st.	5lbs.	P. J. Clark (Y)	"	C. C. Riley (K)
"	10st.	10lbs.	M. C. Abii (Q)	"	S. Breed (F)
"	10st.	3lbs.	J. W. Hume (A)	"	P. A. Fountain (Y)
"	9st.	11lbs.	D. R. Ferguson (K)	"	A. P. R. Coates (K)
"	9st.	2lbs.	G. M. Smyth (D)	"	B. S. Busbridge (Y)
"	8st.	6lbs.	N. P. Hampton (Q)	"	K. Stenning (A)

Seniors—continued

Under	8st. 0lbs.	R. Watanangura (Q)	beat	P. R. Clark (Y)
„	7st. 13lbs.	D. Marshall (F)	„	A. G. Redding (A)
„	7st. 8lbs.	I. O. Hentall (D)	„	T. J. Wakefield (Q)
„	7st. 0lbs.	C. Smith (D)	„	I. J. Fox (D)
„	6st. 13lbs.	K. N. Simmons (A)	„	W. J. Seymour (A)
„	5st. 12lbs.	B. A. Oliver (Y)	„	R. F. Darvill (Y)

1st	Arnison	4th	Fraser
2nd	Disraeli	5th	Youens
3rd	Queen's	6th	King's

The House positions at the end of the tournament were closer than they had been for some years, only thirteen points separating the first and second.

INTER-HOUSE CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Inter-House Cross-Country Championships were held on March 7th. The weather was dry and sunny, but a wind of considerable force blew across the school field, making the expectation of record-breaking runs out of the question.

The winner of the Junior event was I. R. Whitelock (Disraeli), who won by a narrow margin from A. J. Glynn (Fraser), with P. S. Everett (Queen's) third. Winner's time : 13 mins. 52 secs.

The Colts section was won by S. C. Charlton (Queen's) in a time of 18 mins. 20 secs., followed by R. P. Steptoe (Disraeli) and D. J. Sharp (Arnison).

The Senior Champion was C. B. Taylor (Arnison), with M. D. Priestley (Fraser) second and T. J. Coleman (Arnison) third. Winner's time : 17 mins. 59 secs.

RESULTS

	<i>Seniors</i>		<i>Colts</i>	<i>Juniors</i>
1st	... Fraser	} 2nd =	Fraser	Fraser
2nd	... Youens		Arnison	Disraeli
3rd	... Arnison		Queen's	Arnison
4th	... Queen's		Youens	Queen's
5th	... Disraeli		Disraeli	Youens
6th	... King's		King's	King's

OVERALL RESULT

1st	Fraser	4th	Youens
2nd	Arnison	5th	Disraeli
3rd	Queen's	6th	King's

INTER-HOUSE RUGBY

Inter-House Rugby this year was perhaps more keenly contested than for many years past. As a whole, the contest produced some excellent rugby, especially in the Junior section, where the final between Arnison and Queen's was very exciting, with the ball being thrown about with much skill.

The Seniors did not produce any spectacular rugby, but the forwards of Queen's House played extremely well together to form the basis for all their House victories.

RESULTS

	<i>Seniors</i>	<i>Juniors</i>	<i>Overall result</i>
1st	Queen's	Arnison	} 1st =
2nd	King's	Fraser	
3rd	Youens	Youens	
4th	Arnison	Queen's	
5th	Fraser	Disraeli	
6th	Disraeli	King's	

RESULTS

1st	Fraser	4th	Disraeli
2nd	Arnison	5th	Queen's
3rd	King's	6th	Youens

INTER-HOUSE BASKETBALL

The Inter-House Basketball Competition took place during the Christmas Term. All the games were keenly contested. The Fraser team in the Senior section contained many School team players, and at times produced excellent basketball.

The final result was very close, with Fraser only a few points in front of Arnison.

RUGBY

1st XV

Played 23, Won 6, Lost 14, Drew 3, Points for 115, against 234

As is obvious from the results, we have not, this year, had a very successful season. The team was founded at the start of the season on our old colours, one of whom J. A. Johnson, the captain, left half-way through the first term. The captaincy was

then taken over by R. W. Harding, under whom we began to flourish. We were further disturbed by the fact that Mr. Nightingale, who has inspired the R.G.S. 1st XV for four years, left to take up another appointment at Scarborough College at Christmas.

A few games stand out, for both good and bad reasons. In the first fixture of the season against Windsor G.S. we were vanquished for the first time in many years, as a result of bad tackling in the three-quarters, and inexperience in the forwards. Our other local rivals, Sir William Borlase's School, Marlow, surprised us with a remarkably strong team which showed up our faults immensely (0—9 in fact!). St. Benedict's beat us once again, and we lost to our new opponents, Hitchin Grammar School.

We could go on for another page on our defeats, but we will now turn to the more cheerful aspect of the season. Our first victory was against City of Oxford School, whom we beat 28—0. After another spell of defeats we began to win. The match against Abingdon School was probably the best of the season and for the first time the team co-ordinated smoothly and vigorously, victory being gained in the dying seconds. Further wins were accomplished against Luton G.S. and Leighton Park School, an old boys' match being very narrowly lost after an excellent first-half from our point of view.

During the Easter Term we turned our attentions to club and college sides, with one school match against Northampton G.S. which we narrowly lost. We beat Saracens Schools XV, but lost both our matches against Oxford Colleges, both of whom were very strong and outplayed us in all departments of the game.

The team was always at its best when the ball was being passed around, for there was no really outstanding talent in the side. Most of our points were scored by Fewtrell at fly-half and Forrester on the right wing. Fewtrell shone in attack, making excellent breaks, and kicked well all the season. Forrester with his powerful runs down the right wing was always a menace to the other side, though his defence was somewhat suspect. Both centres, C. J. Packman and R. W. Harding, were hard tackling and occasionally made some good breaks. Though not very fast, Seale G. M. was elusive. D. G. Horley at full-back played well all season and should be a great asset to the team in later years, especially when he learns to catch the ball before it bounces. C. S. Griffiths was reliable at scrum-half, his defensive play being outstanding. The front row of the scrum, consisting of D. W. Collins, M. J. Mason and R. E. Hickman, was able to withstand the roughest treatment, Mason hooking well, and D. W. Collins, who leads the scrum, setting a good example in the loose scrums. The second row, C. F. Pass and I. M. Macwhinnie, worked hard

but were slow in following up the ball. The infant of the team, M. Harris at lock, though inexperienced, played well in defence, and R. G. Saunders, the blind side wing-forward, was always up with the play. The ginger-haired vice-captain, P. J. C. Clark, playing at open-side wing-forward, tackled extremely well and stemmed many attacks before they became dangerous, and also combined very well in attack.

Several others played for the team, Whitwham I. R. W., who played at scrum-half, being most worthy of mention.

1st XV

S	Sept. 23	Windsor G.S.	...	...	A	Lost	3—11
S	„ 30	St. Bartholomew's G.S.	...	...	H	Drawn	0—0
S	Oct. 7	Marylebone G.S.	...	...	A	Lost	0—3
W	„ 11	Watford G.S.	...	...	H	Drawn	6—6
S	„ 14	St. Benedict's School	...	...	H	Lost	0—18
S	„ 21	City of Oxford School	...	...	H	Won	28—0
S	„ 28	Sir William Borlase's School	...	...	H	Lost	0—8
W	Nov. 8	Tiffin School	...	...	H	Lost	3—21
S	„ 11	Watford G.S.	...	...	A	Lost	3—21
S	„ 18	Abingdon School	...	...	H	Won	12—11
W	„ 22	Emanuel School	...	...	H	Lost	3—5
S	„ 25	Luton G.S.	...	...	H	Won	10—3
S	Dec. 2	Leighton Park School	...	...	A	Won	3—0
W	„ 6	Staff Match	...	...	H	Won	6—0
S	„ 9	Hitchin G.S.	...	...	A	Lost	3—12
W	„ 13	A. W. Ralley's XV	...	...	H	Lost	0—8
S	Jan. 24	Metropolitan Police Cadets	...	...	H	Lost	0—3
S	„ 27	Saracens' Schools XV	...	...	H	Won	8—6
S	Feb. 3	Balliol College, Oxford	...	...	A	Lost	6—21
S	„ 24	Northampton G.S.	...	...	H	Lost	5—8
W	„ 28	County XV	...	...	H	Cancelled	
S	Mar. 3	Jesus College, Oxford	...	...	A	Lost	0—30
S	„ 10	R.A.F. Halton Apprentices	...	...	H	Drawn	10—10
W	„ 21	P. D. Fry's XV	...	...	H	Lost	6—29

2nd XV

Played 19, Won 10, Drawn 1, Lost 8, Points for 208, against 154

The 2nd XV this year had a highly successful season. Apart from a bad period in October, when the team was disorganised by changes in the 1st XV, it maintained an almost consistent winning sequence.

Though in most cases the side was smaller than its opponents, it relied for its success on the teamwork of a very powerful scrum which was usually master of the tight and energetic in the loose. The front row, in particular, of C. G. Rogers, S. W. Bunce and J. A. Davies, was outstanding. Nevertheless, the

backbone of the forward unit lay in the unceasingly hard-working second row of R. T. Summerton, who had several good games for the 1st XV, and R. H. E. Ham. The marked improvement of the latter should make him a future candidate for the 1st XV. The back row of C. P. Brown, who seems to have found his best position at wing-forward, R. Fountain and J. M. Davies, was very efficient in covering and annulling enemy attacks.

In spite of the harassing reorganisation in October the back division played consistently as a unit. The experienced I. R. W. Whitwham and the deceptive M. P. A. Solomon, who had an incredible eye for openings, at half-back, combined with two hard-running centres in M. J. Malec and A. N. Brandes, provided a penetrating attack. Consequently the speedy wingers, R. M. Layton, the captain of the side, and D. R. Ferguson, were given frequent scoring opportunities which they endeavoured to take. Finally, D. G. Orchard developed into a most reliable full-back. Of the others who played, I. A. Sifton proved an excellent place kicker.

Although the team recorded notable victories over Windsor G.S., City of Oxford and Abingdon School, perhaps the final victory over Northampton G.S. and the hard-earned draw with Hitchin Grammar School were the most satisfying.

The following were regular members of the team :—

Old Colours : Brown C.P., Fone S., Layton R. M., Rogers C. G., and Whitwham I. R. W.

New Colours : Brandes A. N., Bunce S. W., Davies J. A., Davies J. M., Fountain R., Ham R. H. E., Malec M. J., Orchard D. G., Solomon M. P. A., and Summerton R. T.

Others who played : Ferguson, Jarvis, Newman and Sifton.

2nd XV

S	Sept. 23	Windsor G.S.	...	...	H	Won	22— 6
S	" 30	St. Bartholomew's G.S.	...	...	A	Won	5— 3
S	Oct. 7	Marylebone G.S.	...	...	A	Lost	3—12
W	" 11	Watford G.S.	...	...	A	Lost	10—12
S	" 14	St. Benedict's School	...	...	H	Lost	3—12
S	" 21	City of Oxford School	...	...	H	Won	31— 3
S	" 28	Henley G.S.	...	...	H	Lost	0—22
W	Nov. 1	Slough G.S.	...	...	H	Won	32— 0
W	" 8	Tiffin School	...	...	A	Lost	6—22
S	" 11	Watford G.S.	...	...	H	Lost	3— 6
S	" 18	Abingdon School	...	...	H	Won	24— 6
W	" 22	Emanuel School	...	...	H	Won	14— 6
S	" 25	Luton G.S.	...	...	H	Won	14— 0
S	Dec. 2	Leighton Park School	...	...	H	Won	11— 0
S	" 9	Hitchin G.S.	...	...	A	Drawn	3— 3
S	Jan. 27	Thame G.S.	...	...	H	Won	8— 5
S	Feb. 3	Southfield G.S.	...	...	A	Lost	5—24
S	" 10	Rickmansworth G.S.	...	...	H	Lost	3— 6
S	" 24	Northampton G.S.	...	...	H	Won	11— 6

3rd XV

Played 12, Won 7, Lost 5, Points for 144, against 87

Initially, the 3rd XV showed great promise this year, but, with the loss of Davies, Solomon and Jarvis to the 2nd XV, co-ordination in the three-quarter line and superiority of weight and height of opposing scrum marred what might otherwise have been a memorable season. The three-quarters, while showing promise as individuals, often found themselves on their own when confronted with the opposing full-back, a fault due, in part, to the inevitable abduction by the 2nd XV of various players as the need arose. The standard of hooking, for which Blythen and Owen must be given credit, compensated in most matches for the scrum's deficiency in weight, and the experience of those who played last year often gave the team a valuable advantage.

The forwards continued to play with courage and the tackling all round improved greatly by the end of the season. M. J. Jeskins, who replaced D. G. Orchard at full-back halfway through the season, developed his own effective style of "kama-kazi" tackling, and the team's confidence in the accuracy and strength of R. Forward's place-kicking was rewarded. P. R. J. Lane consistently evaded his opponents, and Thomas, with more experience, would partner him very well at fly-half.

Over all, the 3rd XV have won their fixtures this year by team spirit, determination and fitness rather than by strategy or brute strength.

4th XV

Played 4, Won 1, Drawn 1, Lost 2

As will be seen from the results, the 4th XV did not have a very successful season; this was partly due to players being moved up as replacements for injuries in other School teams. However, it is hoped that next year the team will be stronger, as only a few of the rugby players will be leaving this summer.

J. H. Andrew captained the side for three matches, but had to be replaced owing to injury, R. B. Smith moving down from the 3rd's as captain for the last match. Outstanding players were M. Jeskins, who did very well as full-back, and later moved up as full-back for the 3rd's; R. Watanangura, who scored several times, and D. Grace, who made several very fine runs through the opposing sides.

COLTS

A XV : Played 11, Won 10, Lost 1, Points for 227, against 31

B XV : Played 4, Won 1, Lost 2, Drawn 1, Points for 25, against 35

As shown by their results, the team had a most successful season, although they did not always produce the class of rugby of which they were capable. All members of the team played their part. The forwards, ably led by M. J. O'Hanlon, often gained the ball from both tight and loose, and the backs, prompted by C. R. Sweeting and M. H. Kefford, ran fast and straight. N. J. Gooderham supplied the finishing touch with his excellent kicking.

An encouraging aspect of the season was the fine spirit and determination of the "B" team against strong opposition.

JUNIOR COLTS XV

Played 11, Won 5, Drawn 2, Lost 4, Points for 139, against 78

An enthusiastic and individually skilful Junior Colts side had an erratic season this year. Two heavy defeats were matched by three convincing victories. Once again we reached the final of the competition in Uxbridge, only to lose by three points after extra time.

The main strength of the team was a heavy pack in which Lavender, Tinton, Gostlow, Rivers and Fewtrell were outstanding. The chief weaknesses were at scrum-half, until Brown was moved there from wing-forward, and at full-back. Far too often territory won with difficulty by the forwards was lost by kicks which failed to gain touch. Of the backs, Hume proved a dangerous attacking player, and Hampton and Hentall were unshakable in defence. The half-backs, Beasley and Brown, showed great promise at the end of the season.

The whole side played with vigour and keenness, and it was often a pleasure to see their fearless tackling and falling.

The following played : J. M. Rivers (captain), A. Barratt, P. A. Beasley, P. D. L. Brown, M. F. Creswell, J. Dixon, C. Fewtrell, D. A. Gostlow, N. P. Hampton, I. D. Hentall, R. D. Hudson, J. W. Hume, P. R. Lavender, W. W. Lewis, M. F. Quin, R. P. Robson, G. C. B. Tinton.

UNDER 13 XV

Played 10, Won 5, Lost 4, Drawn 1

This team had a promise which was never quite fulfilled. A good pack of forwards, who worked very well together, was produced before the end of the season, but a satisfactory com-

bination among the backs was never achieved. The forwards were compelled to shoulder much of the work, and well they did it as a rule, though they still have to learn the value of a quick heel in the loose, when their good work has disorganised the opposition's defence. There were among the backs some promising players, but there was too much reliance on individual effort and not enough team work. There was also on two occasions a very serious weakness in defence. However, this team should undoubtedly improve as its members become more mature, and if they maintain the keenness which was never lacking.

UNDER 12 XV

Played 2, Won 1, Lost 1

The team played very well against Vyner's School, Ickenham, in its first match and won by a very convincing margin. The second match, against Windsor County School, was by no means up to the same standard. The reason for this was that nearly a new side had to be chosen, owing to the absence of so many boys with influenza, and this side deserved to lose simply because it refused to tackle.

C. Smith captained the side and he improved during the season. His kicking was excellent. C. J. Castles, at full-back, proved a first-rate player and is noted throughout the 2nd Forms for his fearless tackling.

The side augurs very well for next year ; its keenness and enthusiasm should provide some good matches.

I.H.C.W.

CROSS-COUNTRY

The 1st Cross-Country team has completed a very successful season, losing only one inter-school match, and only three matches in all. As was expected, the team, with four old colours returning, was very strong this year.

During the first term of the season, I. K. Cocking and P. R. Fletcher were our most successful runners, but after Christmas, D. S. Culley and C. Taylor did very well, Taylor finishing 19th in the Southern Counties Championship : Culley came 10th in the Ranelagh Schools race. Unfortunately, in the Southern Counties and Bucks Championships, we were unable to field our strongest team in the Youths' race, as three of our colours were too old.

M. K. Jenner, D. J. Stubbs and J. Ellerton have all run regularly for the first team, and since all three will be running

next year, the prospects are very good. The School team, consisting of T. J. Coleman, I. K. Cocking, D. S. Culley, C. Taylor, J. Ellerton and P. R. Fletcher, finished 3rd in the Ranelagh Harriers' School race, which was an improvement of one place on our last year's position.

The Colts and Junior Colts have both had successful seasons, both teams winning most of their matches.

We must express our thanks and appreciation to Mr. T. V. Sheppard for his perpetual interest and encouragement throughout the season.

The following have run regularly for the 1st team : *T. J. Coleman (captain), *I. K. Cocking, *D. S. Culley, *P. R. Fletcher, *C. Taylor, *J. Ellerton, *D. R. Walker, M. K. Jenner, B. Cronin and D. J. Stubbs.

(* Colours)

RESULTS

Army Apprentices, Arborfield	...	...	...	...	Won
Vale of Aylesbury	...	...	...	...	Lost
Bishopshalt School	...	...	...	...	Won
Newland Park College	...	...	...	...	Won
Abingdon School	...	...	...	...	Won
Harrow County School	...	...	...	...	Lost
William Ellis School	...	...	...	...	Won
Army Apprentices, Arborfield	...	...	...	...	Won
R.G.S., Guildford, Relay	...	...	...	...	6th
R.A.F. Apprentices, Halton	...	...	...	...	Won
Nautical College, Pangbourne	...	...	...	No result	
Keble College, Oxford	...	...	...	...	Won
Exeter College, Oxford	...	...	...	...	Won
Wycombe Phoenix Harriers	...	...	...	...	Lost
Watford G.S.	...	...	...	...	Won
Ranelagh Schools Cup	...	...	...	...	3rd

T. J. COLEMAN.

HOCKEY

Played 18, Won 7, Drawn 2, Lost 9, Goals for 54, against 43

This season has seen our first really strong fixture list and we are now spared playing the same few schools three or four times each. In eight of our matches we have faced new opposition, gained three victories, lost four times and drawn once ; considering our results generally, our successes have been resounding and our defeats narrow—with one possible exception !

Team-work has perhaps reached its peak this year : only three or four positions were "vacant", and, although these caused some initial difficulty, they had been satisfactorily filled by the end of the season. The attack has scored over twenty more goals than last season, and the defence conceded less, on the averages. E. H. Janes in goal has been rather more generous to the enemy than usual, but he has been reliable and agile. Jones has played

some very good games at right-back, and promises well, although he is rather uncertain on soft pitches ; his partner, Cockerham, has shown that efficiency may come from stick-work as well as energy and much of his work has defied description. Vice-captain J. N. Fowler has shown tremendous energy at centre-half and never has had an off-day ; his tackles were tenacious and clearances hard and usually accurate. S. Richardson began well and played several outstanding games at centre-half, but on moving to right-half did not seem settled ; his play has been cool and steady always. The automatic choice for left-half has been M. Baxter, probably the most consistent member of the side ; he has linked well with his winger and inside forward. Our right-wing position has never been secure ; C. D. Henry filled it when not at right-half, but probably Shackell was the most regular choice : his bustling energy and enthusiasm was a constant threat to the opposition. L. Macready seemed to play in most positions, although down as inside-right ; the most accomplished member of the team, and a tireless worker, he has been invaluable. P. G. Ayres has proved a tough centre-forward, and unsettled many opposing defences by his robust style ; this, combined with his opportunism, has brought him eleven goals.

B. C. Matthews has had another excellent season as captain at inside-left : apart from his flair for scoring goals, his leadership has been a major factor in the side's performances. His criticisms have been valid and keenness infectious ; we are fortunate to have had such a very good captain. Finally, a word of thanks to Mr. M. J. Eaton for organising us so efficiently, and for his advice and encouragement.

P.H.W.B.

Goals : B. C. Matthews 18, P. G. Ayres 11, P. H. W. Bristow 8, L. Macready 6, J. N. Fowler 4.

				<i>Venue</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Oct.	Slough Grammar School	...	...	A	L	2—4
	Newlands Park College	...	...	H	W	7—1
	Slough Technical School	...	...	A	W	7—0
Nov.	Slough Grammar School	...	...	A	W	6—2
	R.A.F. Halton Apprentices	...	...	A	W	4—2
Dec.	Old Boys	...	...	A	D	2—2
Jan.	King Alfred's School, Wantage	...	...	A	L	1—3
	Aylesbury Grammar School	...	...	A	L	2—3
	Slough Technical School	...	...	H	W	4—2
Feb.	Hitchin Grammar School	...	...	A	L	0—9
	Rickmansworth Grammar School	...	...	A	D	2—2
	Watford Grammar School	...	...	A	L	0—1
	Maidenhead Grammar School	...	...	A	W	4—1
	Wycombe Technical College	...	...	H	W	9—0
Mar.	Windsor Grammar School	...	...	A	L	3—4
	Watford Grammar School	...	...	H	L	0—2
	John Scriven's XI	...	...	A	L	1—2
	Wycombe 3rd XI	...	...	A	L	1—3

2nd XI

Played 1, Won 1, Lost 0, Drawn 0

On the whole it has been a satisfactory season. We can claim 100 per cent success. The team has revealed precisely what it is capable of and what glories it could aspire to if it were to play as a unit for the next four years. In that time a team spirit would emerge and players would have time to become accustomed to each other's play. However, the difficulty is that just as we are still settling down, our best players are taken from us by the rapacious First, who frequently need a stiffening of Second Eleven fighting spirit.

In the course of the season we have lost our captain, C. D. Henry, to whom we are deeply grateful for having led us so well. C. Swain, too, the mainstay of our defence, has been on the point of leaving us for good, but happily for our title prospects in 1965, seems to be firmly with us as we end the season. We are sorry to see another energetic defender desert us in the person of P. D. Bowen, whose dirty work in the goalmouth has saved the day on many occasions.

Along with our condolences to Rickmansworth Grammar School, who were worthy opponents, congratulations to Warren, who scored the goal, and Day, who missed several times, and indeed to the whole team. Smyth also ran. With the Summer Term before our next season, I hardly dare forecast what our performance will be like by then.

R. L. SMYTH.

BADMINTON CLUB

This season began exceptionally well with only one defeat before the new year. The new members, J. McLoughlin, R. Thomas and G. Seale, soon settled down to make the team reasonably well balanced. Unfortunately there was little time to practise with so many activities occupying the hall after school.

In the new year, R. A. Fewtrell, who had played well during the first part of the season, left the team and was replaced by D. Payne. We played two matches against a new club of the High Wycombe College of Further Education. Although we won 7—2 on home ground, they avenged the defeat by winning 5—4 at the College.

C. Farmer and S. Tomes played a good game against R.A.F. Benson to help the School to a 9—0 victory. Once again our heaviest defeats were at the hands of Wycombe's leading club,

Oakley. The team played well and the games were fast and enjoyable. Once again we are indebted to Mr. Johnson for his support and encouragement throughout the season.

Old colours returning : R. R. Shoosmith (captain), R. Watanangura (vice-captain), R. A. Fewtrell.

New colours were awarded to : J. McLoughlin, R. Thomas, G. Seale.

R. R. SHOOSMITH.

BASKETBALL CLUB

Played 13, Won 8, Lost 5

This has been quite a successful season with the team playing very well in several matches. This year's captain, J. Barlow, led the team well and also managed to be one of the top scorers. Perhaps the best match to watch was played at home against the Pirates. In this game D. Stubbs excelled himself and demonstrated his skill in handling and shooting. In many matches the team found the opposition rather weak and proved this by their high scoring rates. In these and the harder-fought matches R. A. Fewtrell proved himself to be an excellent shot.

Of the backs, M. J. Malec, although the smallest in the team, jumped as high as and often higher than the opposition, and in this way retrieved many a loose ball. The others in the team all played well in their various positions and all of them added to the scores throughout the season.

The Under 16 team had four games and found no real opposition in any of them. Dorkings and Malec, both of whom had regular places in the 1st team, formed a solid base upon which the team was built. The younger boys played up to this leadership and gave some convincing displays of skill. Frankland deserves special mention for his shooting.

The 2nd team and the Under 15's each had one match. The 2nd's won after a rough match and the Under 15's just lost their game in the closing minutes ; they hope to reverse the decision in a return match.

CHESS CLUB

This season the team began with only three of last year's seniors, and the early part of the record reflected the fact that we had to reconstruct our team. The later games showed that we had considerable success in that reconstruction. The great enthusiasm of last year's Second Forms made itself felt in the team, and with a team, half Sixth Form, half Third Form, the

team progressed as far as the final of the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire Zone in the *Sunday Times* National Tournament. That is further than the School has ever got before. Having eliminated Slough Technical, Banbury Grammar and then Eton, the regular senior team of A. T. Ludgate, C. Swain, M. J. Mobbs, M. R. Myant, R. J. Mildon and A. C. Bamford finally lost 2—4 to Bedford Modern.

Although we had the advantage of age handicap in those matches (in fact we never needed it), it tended in other matches to be a disadvantage in that our strength was rather dispersed when the juniors played. The total number of fixtures was 21, an all-time record. Out of these, though, the best indication of the seniors' real strength is in the second line of the result and in the ratio of points for and against.

This strength again asserted itself in what has become an annual fixture with High Wycombe Chess Club. The School's hundred per cent record was maintained with a good 4—2 win against a team of County players!

Of the School players, A. T. Ludgate and C. Swain have again played for Buckinghamshire, while Ludgate and Mobbs represented the County in the under-18 Southern Counties Tournament in London. M. K. Rhodes has also played in correspondence matches for the County.

In February the Games Committee voted to recognise the team representing the School by awarding half-colours for Chess. The first three to be awarded half-colours are A. T. Ludgate, C. Swain and M. J. Mobbs.

RESULTS

				<i>Game Points</i>					
				P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.
Seniors	...	...	21	11	2	8	81	56
Seniors	only	...	12	8	1	3	55	28	
Juniors	...	...	9	3	1	5	26½	27½

C. SWAIN.

THE ROWING CLUB

The existence of this club, to the majority of people, seems only to be known through the entries in this worthy magazine. Nevertheless, granted that there are under a dozen members in it, the club is vigorous and, with three old "blues" returning, M. F. S. Bird, R. P. Bradshaw and C. B. Garner, and two new crew members, B. Andrews and "Nick", we are looking forward to the season's racing at Reading, Wallingford, Marlow and Pangbourne. Recently we became full junior members of

Marlow Rowing Club—with full privileges, including the bar—and by their generosity we now have a coach on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Last year, unaided and without a coach, we reached the final of Wallingford Regatta, so the prospects look bright for the coming season! Throughout the winter we carried on our training programme, despite wind, waves and wet feet. Now Spring is here and our only thought is in the stirring words of Vergil: “*Incumbite remis!*”

C. B. GARNER.

SHOOTING REPORT

The last two terms have marked a period of reasonable activity in shooting circles within the School. Practices have been held fairly regularly on Friday evenings, subject, of course, to those other demands which the School makes upon us. At the beginning of last term, a lorryload of boys went to try out a new open range near Oxford, which we have just been allotted by the War Office. The general report was favourable, and this means that we shall be able to have a lot of .303 practice for the Ashburton Shield competition at Bisley in July, on a range which is readily accessible.

Indoors, on our own .22 range, our time has been divided into practice for the team and practice for the younger enthusiasts in the School. The main event this term has been the *Country Life* competition which was shot off at the end of March. The considerable changes made in the team this year as a result of the number of last Summer's leavers, has meant that our position is not expected to be as commendable as last year. Also, the gymnastics of a certain electricity company cast the range into Hadesian darkness for a few vital days. The following boys represented the School: I. A. Blyth, G. W. Boireau, P. D. Bowen (captain), D. M. Davies, P. D. Hamilton-Eddy, C. R. A. G. Iliffe, R. H. Mayo and R. R. Shoosmith. C. S. Griffiths spotted for us on the landscape target.

The House .22 Shooting competition was also held in the closing weeks of this term. Houses were asked to put forward teams of five, and it was encouraging to see several younger boys amongst them. The final result was:—

						Score	Possible
1st	King's	...	...	...	...	125	150
2nd	Arnison	...	...	...	...	117	150
3rd	Youens	...	...	...	...	101	150
4th	Queen's	...	...	...	...	100	150
5th	{ Disraeli	...	...	...	...	95	150
	{ Fraser	...	...	...	...	95	150

Highest individual score went to R. R. Shoosmith, of King's, with a possible of 30 points, to whom also we extend our congratulations on being awarded his shooting colours this term. During the Summer Term, he will be replacing P. D. Bowen as captain, who is leaving school at Easter before going to University. In the near future, we hope to form a Junior XIII with its own captain, and to train them to refill the gaps which periodically appear in the ranks of the aging School Senior team.

We are deeply indebted to Mr. F. N. Cooper, who has given up so much of his spare time in the evenings to come and supervise our practices, and to Bill Harrison, who has also helped us no end.

P. D. BOWEN.

CRICKET CLUB

1962 Season

Captain : D. K. Stratford

Vice-Captain : J. M. Barlow

Old Colours Returning : R. A. Fewtrell, B. C. Matthews

Not for many years has the composition of the 1st XI been so open as it is before the start of the 1962 season. The first five bats and the wicket-keeper of the 1961 team have all left, so that batsmen of the 1961 Colts XI and those remaining from the 2nd XI have a great chance to fill at least five places. The bowling, however, is almost complete. With the captain, D. K. Stratford, and R. A. Fewtrell returning to open the bowling (they claimed over 100 wickets between them in 1961), with the vice-captain, J. M. Barlow, to back them up and with three or four players offering slow bowling, the attack should be well above normal standards. High class behind-the-wicket catching will be essential, as it was last year, as the fast bowlers will again rely upon slips, wicket-keeper and leg slips to obtain many of their wickets.

Once again the XI is touring Holland at the end of July for a fortnight's cricket. Deventer will be the hosts, as in 1959, and the Nijmegen Cricket Club has invited the team to stay a week-end at Nijmegen. An extra game against a Dutch Youth XI should provide interesting and testing opposition. A party of twelve Dutch boys is visiting High Wycombe at Easter for ten days, staying with likely members of the School XI and taking part in Easter nets at School.

The usual full fixture list, including a new fixture with the Royal Liberty School, Romford, the Quater Centenary Celebrations throughout the term and the Tour of Holland at the end should all provide to make 1962 an enjoyable season.

Finally, belated congratulations to last season's captain, J. S. Simpson, who played for the English Schools Cricket Association in four matches, two of which took place at Lords at the start of September, 1961.

H.W.J.

LAWN TENNIS CLUB, 1962

We are looking forward to another successful and in some respects more exciting season this year. We have a very full fixture list for the 1st team and eight games have also been arranged for the very young and promising 2nd team. The extra excitement during the term will come from our efforts in the Glanvill Cup, organised by the Lawn Tennis Association, as a knock-out tournament for all British Boys' Schools. We could do well in this competition because each school is represented by a team of three pairs and our strength lies in the very considerable ability of the team as a whole.

We have entered for two competitions at Wimbledon at the end of the Summer Term—the Clark Cup from July 23rd–26th (last year our pair, Keeley and Seale, lost in the final of this event) and the Public Schools' Tournament, the Youll Cup, from July 30th onwards.

This is a very full and exacting programme, but we have the range of players to meet the challenge. We have lost only R. A. Keeley from our last year's 1st team and many keen youngsters will be after his place. Colin H. Farmer is captain again and D. G. Orchard vice-captain. We are delighted to see Peter Moores fit and well again after his serious illness, and R. C. Smith and G. M. Seale will be a tower of strength.

M. E. J. Panter, J. S. Ray, A. M. Pratt, P. B. Farmer, D. M. Davies and C. East will form the basis of the 2nd team.

The great obstacle to our future progress and an infuriating insoluble problem when we play our home matches is the fact that we have only two courts, but things are beginning to move and by 1963 we should be far better provided for. M.M.D.

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

Births

GROOM, P. S. (1942–49). On September 20th, 1961, at Amersham General Hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Groom, a daughter, a sister for Stephen.

HICKMAN, H. C. (1939–46). On November 17th, 1961, at Sandhurst, to Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Hickman, a son, a brother for Julia and Ruth.

SYRETT, R. E. (1944–48). On February 1st, 1962, at home, to Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Syrett, a daughter, sister to Jane and Jacqueline.

Marriages

BENNETT—BLANCHARD. On Saturday, November 25th, 1961, at South Orange, New Jersey, V. M. Bennett (1919-22) to Mrs. Margaret Berryman Blanchard.

BRANT—OLIVER. On Thursday, August 10th, 1961, at St. Margaret's Church, Tylers Green, F. A. Brant (1941-45) to Miss Jill Oliver, of Wanston, New South Wales, Australia.

Deaths

H. BANHAM (1918-22). On November 1st, 1961, at Hazlemere, High Wycombe, aged 53 years.

On leaving the R.G.S. he joined the family bakery at Hazlemere and carried on the business with the help of his younger brother.

W. J. BIRCH (1912-18). On December 31st, 1961, at North Wembley, aged 59 years.

Known to all Old Boys as "Jimmy", W. J. Birch entered the motor car trade very soon after leaving school. He became an expert and with his headquarters at North Wembley contacted as many Old Boys as he could and was well known as an expert salesman over a very wide area, including the City of London.

F. H. COLES (1907-13). On October, 10th, 1961, at Roberts Road, High Wycombe, aged 67 years.

While at School, F. H. Coles became a School Prefect and was a Sergeant in the O.T.C. He passed the Oxford Local Senior Examination with honours and London Matriculation exemption. He entered the teaching profession and in the 1914-18 War served in the Middlesex Regiment.

R. H. DANCER (1917-23). On November 8th, 1961, in hospital in Rome, R. H. Dancer, aged 55 years.

R. H. Dancer continued his school activities, Corp. O.T.C., Capt. 1st XV, 1st XI, by playing Rugby for Thames Valley and by running for his firm, Jackson's Millboard and Fibre Company Limited, to become eventually their Sales Director. He was a member of the Wycombe Rural District Council and Chairman from 1955 to 1957, as well as Chairman of the Wycombe Rural District Accident Prevention Committee. He represented eight rural district councils on the County Fire Brigade Committee. During the war he was a sergeant in the Bucks Special Constabulary. He travelled extensively for his firm in Mexico and the United States. He died suddenly while returning home after attending his daughter's wedding in Nairobi. He left a widow, one son and two daughters.

C. A. SKULL (1891-97). On April 18th, 1962, at 25 Queen's Road, High Wycombe, aged 80.

He entered the family firm of Walter Skull and Company Limited soon after he left the Royal Grammar School and retired in 1932. For some years he was director and later Vice-President of the local Chamber of Commerce. He was appointed Hon. Manager of the High Wycombe Trustees Savings Bank in 1917, and when it was amalgamated with the Finsbury and City of London Savings Bank in 1926 he became in succession Vice-Chairman, Trustee and Chairman of the Local Committee. In the second World War he served as a charge officer at the A.R.P. Control Centre, High Wycombe. He was Secretary of the High Wycombe Parochial Church Council for 26 years and Churchwarden for 12 years. He had two sons and two daughters and several grandchildren.

P. C. SKULL (1890-93). On March 22nd, 1962, at "The Heights", Henley Road, Marlow, aged 84.

A member of an old High Wycombe family, P. C. Skull was formerly head of the firm Walter Skull and Son Limited. He was a member of the Wycombe Lodge of Freemasons, one of the founders of the Rotary Club of High Wycombe, and one of the original members of the old High Wycombe Hospital Ball.

R. J. STANNARD (1905-07). On October 11th, 1960, at his home in Frome, Somerset, aged 70 years.

R. J. Stannard was almost the last of boarders to come to the R.G.S. from the Choir School of St. Paul's. He won 1st XI Colours for both Cricket and Football and passed the Durham University Preliminary Examination (musical). He also won a two-year Scholarship at the Guildhall School of Music. He was very well known in the musical world and while an organist in Richmond taught at the Kneller Hall of Music.

Staff

MR. W. J. BARTLE (1901-35) is not too pleased that because the County Council runs small buses which can take "out-patients" to and from hospital he now does about 19 journeys instead of around 120 a year. He is, however, still on the District Council and Chairman of the Estate Management Committee helping with the allocation of houses.

THE REV. A. M. BERRY (1914-33), after only five days in hospital, made a wonderful recovery from quite a serious illness at the end of May, 1961. After a month's rest he was carrying on normally but possibly was rather careful. They are still trying to complete the restoration of the church at Willen; they have spent about £2,000 and have a further £400 in hand.

THE REV. S. AUSTIN (1907-09) retired from teaching for journalism in 1909. A year later he was ordained and was at first a chaplain in the 1914-18 War, but was later commissioned in the Royal Artillery. After the War he resumed his work in the Church and held two livings in succession in East Anglia, retiring recently from Withersfield, Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. He will certainly be remembered by Old Boys of his time.

MR. F. G. BAKER (1921-23) has just retired from being headmaster of the Secondary School at Umtata Transkei, Cape Colony. A first-class athlete, he came to teach Chemistry at the R.G.S. from Bristol University and left to go to South Africa. He was a prisoner of war in both wars, captured by the Germans whilst serving as a pilot in the R.A.F. and by the Italians as a Captain with the South Africa Artillery.

OLD BOYS' NOTES

R. BABB (1949-57), after obtaining his B.A. degree in Classics at Reading University, spent a year at Leicester University to gain his Graduate Certificate in Education. He is now teaching the younger boys in Latin and the older ones in Greek at Bickley Park Preparatory School, Kent. He finds the boys friendly and the staff very pleasant, and is enjoying this first teaching post. He has become interested in Archaeology, attended a course in Durham University and has helped on a Roman villa in Maidenhead and a Roman fort in Wales. He knows that D. W. Jeskins (1950-53), after obtaining his Science degree in Manchester, is working with the A.E.L. in that city.

G. K. BALFRY (1953-60) writes to Mr. Davies that he is enjoying himself at the Dental School, Queen's College, Dundee. Paul Newitt and Richard Shelton are also there doing Social Science and Zoology respectively. In a sports store in Dundee he met Ian Woodcroft, who has turned professional and coaches skiing and water skiing. He hears from Michael Ashburner, Mick Payne, Mick Coles and Peter Eio, who is doing practical work on a Danish pig farm before entering an agricultural college.

When E. L. BARRETT (1954-60) arrived at Sandhurst he found himself in I. M. Tomes' (1951-58) platoon.

D. J. BLOXHAM (1950-56) is studying at Birkbeck College for a Maths. Honours Degree ; at the same time he is lecturing on radio at the North London Day College. He finds both a bit of a slog, but most enjoyable. He would like to meet any O.B. who is at Birkbeck and mentions that Peter Green (1945-51), who obtained a History Degree there, is in charge of the subject at Aylesbury Technical School. Bloxham was very impressed with the new Science building.

K. C. BOWELL (1948-54) writes that the last edition of the School magazine which he received in Auckland was quite an improvement. He was afraid that not being able to arrive in England before September, 1962, he would miss most of the celebrations, but he would be able to visit the old place.

J. C. BRIDEN (1949-57) sailed in September, 1961, to take up a research scholarship in Geophysics at the Australian National University, Canberra. When he wrote from there he said he was preparing for Christmas in Summer. He likes the residential college life and finds the University young, the atmosphere most stimulating and an ideal place for research.

N. F. BUXTON (1952-53) has been appointed assistant solicitor to Walsall Borough Council. He began as an articled clerk in Paddington Town Hall and is now assistant solicitor to Aylesbury Borough Council. The Fencibles Cricket Club and Amersham Cricket Club will miss him.

F. W. CALLAWAY (1913-16), after an apprenticeship in motor engineering, succeeded his father as licensee of the King's Head, Oxford Road, High Wycombe, where he has been until nearly the end of 1961. Now he will be more than pleased to welcome all O.B.'s at the White Lion, Cryers Hill, and no doubt he will find life quite as cheerful and possibly less onerous.

J. A. COLLAR (1949-55), writing to Mr. M. M. Davies, states that in spite of speaking only Gurkhali for the past two years, the teaching he had at the R.G.S. was so good that he had no trouble in passing the Army Linguist Examination in German. He was all the more grateful since the Army saw fit to give £100 to the successful candidates. He was, on the strength of this, going on leave to Japan.

A. DODGSON (1913-18) is afraid he will miss the 1962 celebrations. Retirement has not yet brought the easy times expected, but he now thoroughly enjoys, as a distinguished guest, functions at his old school. No longer the worries of missing members of the cast, lost costumes, forgotten lines and fused lights. Visits to see Mr. Arnison in Parkstone, his daughters and their families in Sweden and Canada, and one of pleasure to Spain have played havoc with his pension, but who cares? Mr. and Mrs. Dodgson are having a marvellous time.

HELENA ELLIS (1959-61) was most flattered and pleased to have been made an Honorary Member of the Old Wycombians' Club and wished to convey her gratitude to the Committee. As the "one girl with 1,000 boys", the Old Boys will be pleased to welcome her at their mixed social functions.

J. L. EVANS (1955-61) is stationed with D. Newton (1956-61) at the R.A.F. Camp, Bircham Newton, Kings Lynn. Evans is studying to be a Pay Accountant at Newton for a Supplier I. The course there lasts 20 months and both hope to pass out as Junior Technicians.

M. C. FIELDSSEN (1956-61). His mother wrote to Mr. Tucker to thank the School for enabling him while at Peter Symond's School to pass G.C.E. in seven subjects. He is going to carry on with Applied Maths, Physics and Chemistry ; he hopes to join the Old Boys' Club.

J. M. FOGGO (1917-25) came to the R.G.S. as a boarder at the age of 7½ years. After five years' apprenticeship with the G.E.C. he joined a firm of mining engineers in Newcastle-on-Tyne, but soon left to open on his own the firm of John M. Foggo Limited, specialists in equipment for the mining industry. Only a small company, it continues to prosper and to keep the family in comparative comfort. A married man of 54, Foggo has two children, a son who after doing very well at Repton is taking his B.Sc.Eng. at London University, and a daughter still at school. He is very sorry but, owing to ill-health, including a recent heart attack, he will be unable to visit the School on 6th April or to attend the Dinner.

P. D. FRY (1941-47) has been appointed Political Education Officer for the London Area. He finds the work interesting and varied.

P. A. D. GREEN (1947-51) wrote to Mr. Tucker that after getting his London Degree (Honours) out of college he is in charge of teaching History at Aylesbury Technical School.

D. J. GREEN (1934-39) is the R.A.F. Representative at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. As the one and only officer in blue, he finds life dull, occasionally mystifying and very rewarding. He expects to be there another twelve months, has made many friends, and will be only too pleased to see any O.B. who should join the R.M.A. They should ask for Sq. Ldr. D. J. Green and drop in at his office.

J. S. HADDON (1942-47) lives at 400 Station Street, Bonbeach, Victoria. He enjoys his work for the Federal Government in the Weather Bureau. In Melbourne they average every year five days of over 100°F. and none under 33°. Spring starts on September 1st, Autumn is the driest season. The basic wage is £14 9s. 0d. with a bonus of around £4. Melbourne's population is fast catching up with the 1,927,00 of Sydney. He would like news of his 1946-47 5US form-mates and encourages them to come to Australia, where there are plenty of jobs and room.

C. S. W. HARTE (1926-31) would like to hear from Peter Mitc' e'l (1928-36), c/o H.E.O., Casella 4614, Guayaguil, Ecuador.

H. C. HICKMAN (1939-46) is now working in the Aircraft Equipment Department of Ferranti Limited. He is engaged as an Electro-Mechanical Engineer on their Stable Platform (part of an Inertial Navigation Device) for use in high-speed aircraft. He lives now at 1 Beech Ride, Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey.

R. B. HUMPHRIES (1948-56) has finished his five years' apprenticeship in Rugby by passing all the examinations required by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers for exemption from their Part I and II. He has already started working for the A.I.Mech.E. In 1963 he intends to break away from engineering to become a lecturer in a Technical Teachers' Training College and has already been awarded a place at Wolverhampton. While at Rugby as "Rag" Chairman he helped to raise £1,500 for charity.

R. C. HUNTLEY (1940-45) wrote to Mr. Tucker to say that in the past ten years he has not met any O.B. either in Northern Rhodesia or Katanga.

R. P. JEMMETT (1941-45) started as a cost accountant with two of High Wycombe's furniture firms. He joined Aeropreen Limited in their development department and very soon became manager of the sales office. He has now been made Acting Sales Manager of the firm, which manufactures polyether foam.

J. R. KING (1950-58) now lives at 19 Salisbury Place, London, W.1, but only gets four weeks holiday a year from his hard work at Dundee Dental Hospital. Although he has already passed in Dental Mechanics, Dental Anatomy, Bacteriology and Pathology, he has a tough course with five academic subjects in front of him as well as practical work in children's dentistry, which includes orthodontics, which is becoming more important. He has no time for those who prefer false teeth to extensive observation work. Neither does he care much for the possible obliteration from his memory of the frontal appearance of the R.G.S. by the unrelated blocks proposed by the new additions.

D. M. KING (1935-41). When he wrote in a letter, received on April 2nd, 1962, to announce the birth of his first son, King obviously was so excited that he forgot to put down the exact date or place—it may have been April 1st!

E. S. KIRBY (1919-26) will be in England this Summer with his wife and three children. He hopes not only to attend some of the School activities but also to be able to get his son as a pupil to follow in his footsteps. Kirby is Professor of Economics

and Head of the Department of Economics and Political Science in the University of Hong Kong. He intends to be present at the Annual Dinner.

P. S. MATTHEWS (1952-56) has graduated from Leeds University with an Engineering Degree and is now working at the Bristol Aeroplane Company as a Graduate Apprentice.

A. MILLER (1957-59) has been awarded a Choral Studentship at St. John's College, Cambridge. In July, he passed his A.R.C.O. with the highest mark of the examination and was awarded the Limpus Prize.

P. D. MITCHELL (1928-36) was commissioned in the R.A.F. in 1936 and since then has flown over 4,000 hours in 60 different types of aircraft. In 1939 he was posted to Singapore and while on patrol over the South China Sea in 1941 was the first to see the Japanese invasion fleet heading for Malaya and was the first R.A.F. pilot to go into action in the Far Eastern War. He bombed for the 14th Army in Burma. At the end of the War, Mitchell was transferred to Scotland as Chief Ground Instructor with Coastal Command. Subsequently he worked for Jaguar Cars Limited and recently joined Handley Page to take charge of sales in Africa and the Middle East. He is based at the Group's Reading Division, the administrative and production centre for the Dart Herald.

D. M. NORTH (1936-42) apologises for the delay in answering the invitation to the Ceremony on 6th April. His excuse was that the invitation did not arrive until it was dropped by the R.A.F. on their ship when they were two days out from Plymouth.

D. P. O'BRIEN (1944-50) and his sister were two of the Springfield Group singing "Bambino", High Wycombe's top "pop"—they are known as Tom and Dusty Springfield.

M. R. PATTINSON (1953-60) has been elected Secretary of Cambridge University Small Bore Shooting Club and was awarded his half Blue for full-bore rifle shooting against Oxford University.

R. L. PRIESTLEY (1936-39) is now living in Tasmania, and has a daughter and two sons, after 14 years of happy marriage. He writes that he now has a thriving, though young, travel agency.

J. READ (1942-50). At their A.G.M. the Wycombiensian R.U.F.C. decided that the captain of the 1st XV, John Read, should be known as the Club Captain ; he is also the Treasurer. Since leaving the R.G.S. Read has played regularly for the Club except during his military service, when he played for the Woolwich Garrison XV, and he had a trial for the Scottish Command XV. His father, E. J. Read, was a founder-member of the O.W. Rugby Club.

E. G. ROSE (1941-48) has been appointed Secretary of the High Wycombe Furniture Manufacturers' Society in succession to another O.B., Allan Janes. In his work involving labour relations activity in furniture factories in the Southern Counties he meets quite a few O.B.'s. He is also an F.A. Referee. Rose is married and has a son and a daughter.

R. D. SMITH (1955-60) was pleased to welcome John Bowman and C. R. S. Wood to the Cadets' Mess, R.A.F. Technical College, Henlow. He wants all O.B.'s to know of the excellent opportunities in the technical branch of the R.A.F. The course is 4½ years and commissions take place after three years. Many cadets go on to the University after the first year. The Diploma in Technology is equal to an Honours Degree. When he wrote, Smith was preparing for an expedition to measure the rate of flow of glaciers in the Arctic Circle.

S. J. STEVENS (1935-40) wrote to Mr. Grant from his home address, 479 Durham Street, Christchurch, New Zealand, where he has a butchery in addition to his two shops on the Isle of Wight. He enclosed a genealogy of the Stevens family from 1800 as well as a facsimile of the signatures of the fourteen master butchers of the family at present in the business and all doing more than well. At least seven of them (the fifth generation) were at the R.G.S. at one time or the other and many are members of the Club. Stevens has made two round the world trips, one of five weeks in 1958 and the other of seven weeks in 1961. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, Sally (9) and Michael (6) are enjoying their third Spring in New Zealand.

DENIS STEVENS (1931-38), writing to Mr. Tucker, expressed his regret at not being able to be present at the Royal visit. He wrote from the Department of Music at the University of California, where he is a visiting Professor of Music. One result of his musical studies which the R.G.S. encouraged has perhaps some bearing on the Quater Centenary celebration. Stevens' edition of that anthology of keyboard music, *The Mulliner Book*, was chosen to begin the "Musica Britannica" series and presents keyboard music of the time of Elizabeth I, and the current printing is dedicated, by permission, to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Stevens, fulfilling a desire to do something for the School Chapel, enclosed a generous cheque which will swell the funds for the organ.

R. N. STONE (1938-42) has moved to 14 Ivanhoe Terrace, Chester-le-Street, County Durham, his wife's home town. Lunley Castle, the ancestral home of the Earl of Scarborough, in the town, is a hall of residence for students of Durham University. Stone is still lecturing in Physics at Sunderland Technical College.

C. G. STRATTON (1899–1902), Chairman of Princes Risborough Magistrates, has retired after 19 years' service. He was Chairman of the Bucks Branch of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Association and a member of the Committee of Oxford Prison. Tributes to his work were paid by the Earl of Buckingham, the Superintendent of the Police and by the Town Clerk of Wycombe Rural District Council.

J. S. SIMPSON (1953–61) so far has a sporting career very similar to that of A. Harvey (1950–57). Both were 1st Cricket XI captains while at the R.G.S., then played for the English Schools' Cricket Association for youngsters up to 19 years of age.

G. A. SUCKLING (1935–39) has returned to Ealing after just over four years in Trinidad as an Accountant and then Local Secretary of one of the Oil Companies on the Island. Although he, his wife and their two children enjoyed the tropical sunshine, they were very pleased to return to England and its climate. He did not meet any O.B.'s in Trinidad. Suckling, although he often goes through High Wycombe to visit his parents and his younger brother in Stokenchurch, has not had time to call at the R.G.S. He hopes to be present at the Annual Dinner. His elder brother has lived in Lewknor for the last 14½ years.

R. E. SYRETT (1944–48), after two years' absence from international rugby, won his ninth cap when he was chosen to play for England against Wales and the game against Ireland will bring the number up to ten. During the 13 seasons he has been with the Wasps, Syrett has visited France, Italy and Rumania. The latest news about him is that he has been selected to play for the Barbarians against Leicester Tigers in March. He has one ambition left—to play for the British Lions.

P. I. F. THOMAS (1956–61) left the R.G.S. to become a student apprentice with the Metal Box Company at Worcester. The work, though hard, is very interesting. He hopes to visit the old School when attending College in London.

A. H. TODD (1907–10), now retired, lives at "Lynwood", Whalley Road, Pindleton, Clitheroe, Lancs.

G. D. VERNON (1896–98), after 49 years in the position, has retired as Chairman of Davenport Vernon and Company Limited, the High Wycombe firm of motor engineers and distributors. He played a leading part in popularising motoring in the Wycombe area, and in the first world war held a commission in the Royal Engineers.

J. R. WARD (1956-61), when he wrote in October, 1961, was just finishing his service as a Police Cadet in the Police Training School, Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia. He hopes to pass out in January as an Assistant Inspector after good grounding in Arms Drill, Weapon Training (including Riot Drill), Law, First Aid and Self Defence, Driving, with sport, equitation and the usual "bull". Ward has met Brian White several times. White is on General Duties in Chingola. The copper mine runs the copper belt in all sports and social activities. Ward does not know where he will be posted, but he will be satisfied if he enjoys it as much as he enjoyed life in Banskroft, the smallest town in the Belt.

K. J. P. WESTNEY (1944-52) has an enjoyable time teaching Classics at Westminster Abbey Choir School, a school of 37 boys from 9 to 14 years of age. He also teaches at Westminster School.

T. C. WILLIAMS (1947-52). When Williams with his family came to England in November he had completed five years in West Africa. He will remain in England for about four months and has bought a house at Great Kingshill. When he returns in March, 1962, to Kenema, Sierra Leone, he is to be the manager of the local branch of B.W.A. Ltd.

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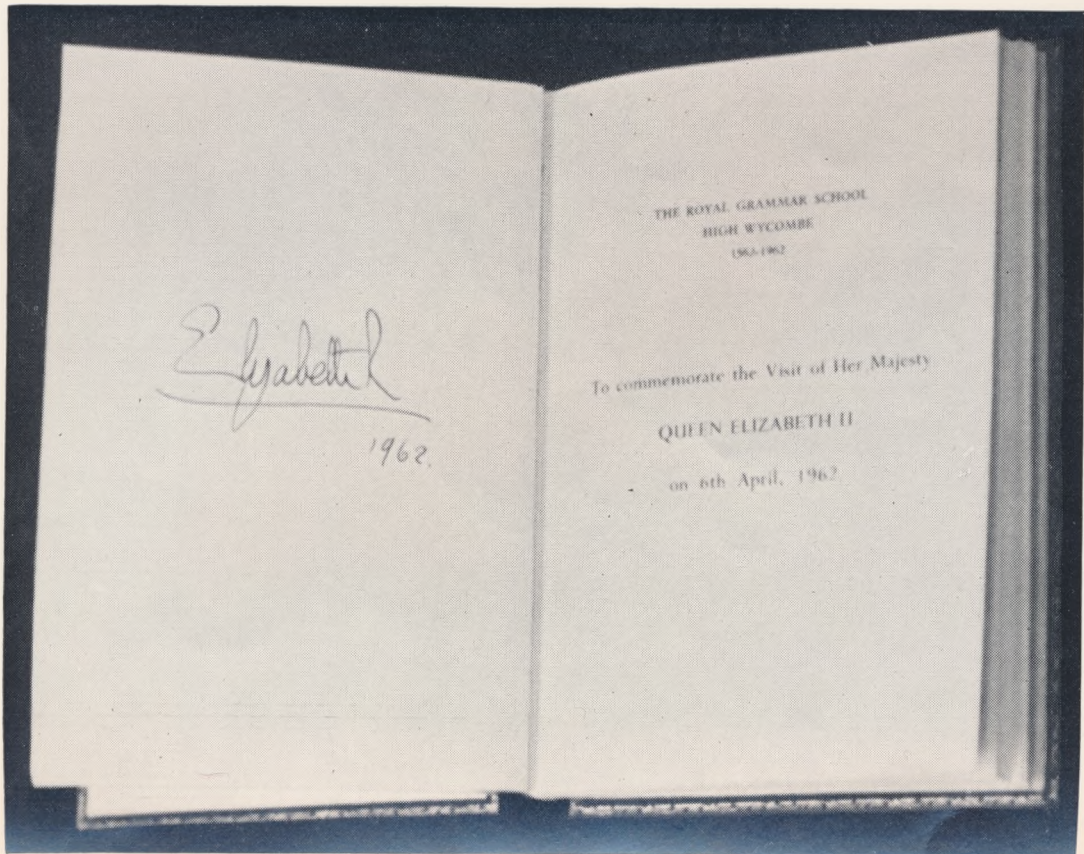


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