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# THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

Vol. XIII      No. II

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MAY, 1965

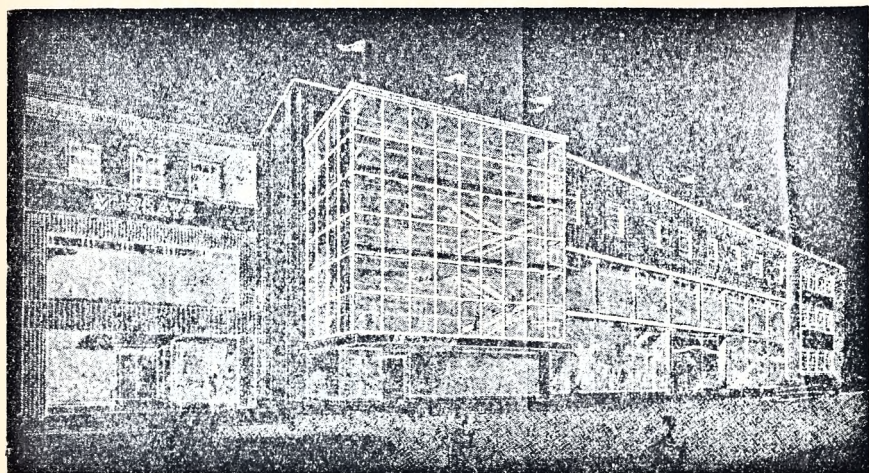
*The hollyhocks lean  
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*Bashō.*

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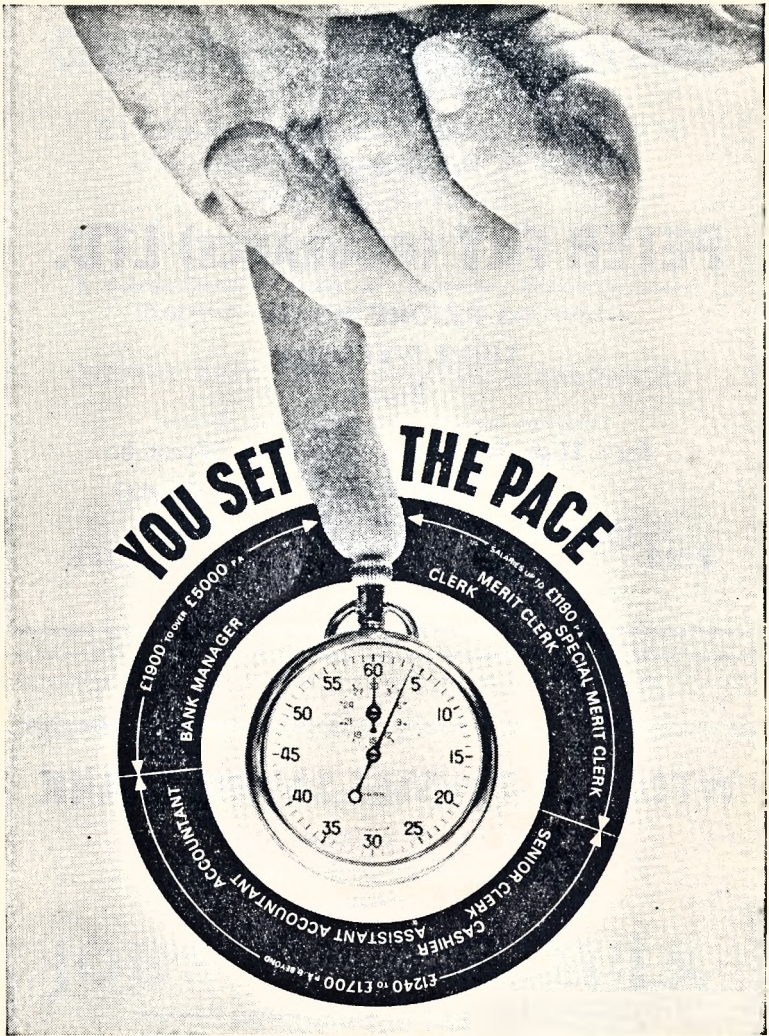
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# THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

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

C. J. DAY *edited this edition*

C. R. SABINE, J. R. KNIGHT, M. V. L. TURNER *assisted*

I. J. GRAYSON *arranged all the advertising*

W. J. G. PIDGEON *designed the cover and drew the cartoons*

## A H E A D

*The Wycombiensian is a friendly sort of monster. It has failed to amuse many generations of readers now, having been remarkably quiescent for some time. This edition sets out to rouse its potentialities.*

*The School has always shown an unflagging uninterest in its magazine. Our main aim has been to encourage interest: to get people to contribute more of their news and criticisms, views and jests, to editions in the future. And so there have been innovations. It is intended to hold competitions for cover designs which Mr. Eaton will manage. And there are plenty of cartoonists in the School. This edition is also much larger, a mega-magazine: most notable is the amount of poetry. This, and the greater range and scope of the articles, should coax greater support in September.*

The editors have many acknowledgements to make, especially to :

Mrs. Mewse, who put herself out greatly (and at no notice at all) to type a stencil ;

Mr. Merrylees, who finally allowed himself to be persuaded (against his better judgement) to give us his poem ;

Mr. Eaton, who gave much time to superintending the cover ;

P. S. Everitt, M. J. Dalley, M. Vickers, A. J. Frankland, C. W. Russell, S. A. Giles-Morris, M. Newman, K. J. V. Butler, S. R. K. Wilson, for their contributions which we were unable to print.

## TERM NOTES

(for the Autumn and Spring Terms)

A Memorial Service for the late Headmaster was held on the 18th September ; and for Sir Winston Churchill on 29th January.

We welcome this term Mr. R. K. Maynard, B.Sc., from the University of Adelaide.

We congratulate Mr. F. E. J. Hawkins on his marriage to Miss Lois Clark ; also Mr. I. M. Merrylees on his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Brown.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Cooper on the birth of a daughter, Margaret Rachel ; and also Mr. and Mrs. B. Leighton Jones on the birth of a daughter, Nicola Louise.

The Prefects' Dance was held on 14th December, and the Easter Dance on 12th April.

There was a Mock Election on the 9th October.

The Carol Service was held on 17th December.

Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* was performed on 9th-12th December.

The Swimming Pool has at last been completed, but is apparently leaking.

There has been a burgeoning of Junior Societies in these terms : the Junior Classical, Geographical, History and Natural History societies were formed.

*Julius Caesar* was performed on 8th-10th April.

There was a small explosion which blew a hole in the wall of the Canteen and caused a fire ; but this was not too serious.

The number of boys at the School this term is 1120.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MR. E. R. TUCKER

On the afternoon of 18th September, 1964, the School, together with the Governors and friends, met to pay tribute to the memory of the late Headmaster. The service was conducted by the Chaplain, the Rev. A. J. Skipp, and the lesson was read by the Chairman of the Governors, Alderman R. P. Clarke. The address was given by Mr. Howard Ensor, Principal of Newland Park Training College.

Mr. Ensor said :

“It is fitting that today we should be here in this great Hall with its proud title—which stands in such monumental witness to the work of the great Headmaster in whose memory we are now assembled.

“For if as the wise throughout the ages have taught us, the manly and proper tribute to those whom we admire and love is to see strength and improvement for ourselves, and comfort for their families, in acknowledging with gratitude their virtues and achievements, then it is here in the great school to which he devoted his talents and energies that we shall find the most striking evidence of the qualities that made Ronald Tucker so outstanding among us.

“It is not long since we said our farewells to him within the sacred walls of the church he loved and served, and on that solemn occasion, with our hearts full of personal sorrow for the man we loved and admired, we sought inspiration and strength from the faith and ideals for which he lived and worked. For this man was a Christian, and he would have expected and wished his Faith to be our inspiration then as it was to him throughout his splendid and useful life among us.

“At such a time the human heart needs more than human strength. It seeks comfort for those closest to him by family affection and personal friendship ; courage and understanding for all of us, friend or stranger, faced by this last inevitable challenge which comes so suddenly and so painfully into all our lives. It is then that the Faith of our fathers, which in the sophisticated hubbub of everyday life we so often forget and with the superficial rationalism of modern thought we so often despise, blazes up within us and warms the fainting spirit, as it alone can do. This is one of the great religious truths of all ages.

“And if as we all know it was in his Faith as a Christian that this remarkable man whom we admired so much found the source of his strength, our tribute to him should be not only one of gratitude for what he had the gifts, the inspiration, the will—in a word the power—to achieve, but an honest and devout recognition of the source from which he derived those gifts and that

power. For the recognition that the hand of God was with him in his work is the one tribute he would have valued, and the only one that gives any depth of meaning to our presence at this service.

“The success and achievements of this great Grammar School over which for 31 years Ronald Tucker ruled with so much humanity and wisdom are well known not only to this congregation but throughout the country. It was a source of great pride and satisfaction to all of us in this county when the recent celebrations of the School’s fourth centenary gave such convincing proof of how successfully it had been transformed into one of the great day Grammar Schools of this country, a school confident in its traditions, sure of its educational purpose and with a prestige and national reputation for scholarship that few other schools could equal. It is right that we should acknowledge now the greatness of the man whose strength of personality, ability and purpose brought about this transformation. He was indeed one of the outstanding Headmasters of the post-war period, and his vision and genius as a schoolmaster have bequeathed to this borough one of the most valuable and priceless of possessions, a great school of such standard and reputation as to bring the highest educational distinctions of the country within reach of its sons. Let us not imagine that this has been an accident of increased size or the result of administrative reforms. If it were so it would happen more often. Such achievements stem only from the character and force of exceptional men ; and very few men have done for their towns what Ronald Tucker was able to do for High Wycombe—to convert a small local endowed school into a nationally famous Grammar School. Paton did it for Manchester Grammar School and Carey Gilson at King Edward’s, Birmingham. That he proved to be a man of their calibre—that he was so eminently the right man in the right place during the past thirty-one years—is a blessing for which we should all be profoundly grateful and in which we should recognise a guiding hand that transcends the planning and the hopes of mortal men.

“It is you who were his colleagues and pupils who can speak with the greatest authority and knowledge of the qualities that made Ronald Tucker such a successful schoolmaster. But to his many friends he seemed richly endowed with gifts that a good Headmaster needs. The warmth and charm of his personality were a constant delight to us. We were all aware of his great capacity for sympathy and of his concern for the well-being of others. It was impossible to be with him for any time at all without feeling his devotion to his school, his concern for his boys and colleagues, and his interest and pride in their achievements.

“He had, too, other qualities perhaps less frequently found. He carried his scholarship and high intellectual powers with a rare humility and modesty. He had a remarkable perception of academic excellence, but he never lacked sympathy or interest in the less gifted. And there was about him a goodness of character and a simplicity of faith which are not always found in men of such acute intelligence. Above all, he always had time for people who needed him.

“One recalls these characteristics which endeared him to us as a friend because they are so obviously relevant to his success in his school. But there is no need to attempt an analysis of his great and simple character and it would be presumptuous for one person to catalogue the qualities and virtues of a man who has left in so many hearts their own imperishable impressions of him. He lives in the lives of each of us through what he meant to us ; and his influence upon generations of boys, his impact on young and eager pupils, gives to him an immortality in countless homes throughout this land, and indeed across the world.

“To exert this influence upon the mind of the rising generation is at once the privilege, the reward and the unique immortality of the great teacher. No one here will doubt that Ronald Tucker has deserved and will enjoy that reward—and no one could hope to measure or describe the infinite variety and richness of the impressions he has left.

“We do not wish, any one of us, today to search for conventional platitudes as a tribute to this man. His work and his life speak for him. When Pericles spoke in honour of the Athenian dead he devoted the greater part of the greatest of all funeral orations to a description of the Athenian way of life, for this was the greatest tribute he could pay to the men who by their lives had made Athens great and by their sacrifice had preserved it. So too the best tribute to Ronald Tucker is the great school which he did so much to create. This was his Athens and this should be his Memorial.

“It is the mark of a successful Headmaster that he gathers round him colleagues of great ability whose standards and ideals are as high as his own. Upon them and upon the whole School there now rests the responsibility of continuing the great achievements of recent years, and it is a measure of the general admiration for the work of Ronald Tucker, and of the confidence felt in his headmastership that no one in this county or in the wider sphere of higher education throughout the country doubts for one moment that this School will continue to flourish, and that it will not only maintain but surpass its proud record of educational successes.

“The representation of the School on the Headmasters’ Conference is in itself an indication of the prestige it now enjoys among the great schools of this country.

“But you in the School are too wise and too experienced to imagine that this will continue automatically. It will demand a determination that the best traditions and the highest standards shall remain as they are now the foundation of your success—and must depend on a proper understanding of those human qualities on which educational excellence is based.

“There is in the tribute by the Roman historian Tacitus to Agricola a passage of great strength and beauty—one of the best passages in the Latin language—which calls his posterity to imitate the virtues rather than to grieve the loss of Agricola, and to guarantee his immortality by cultivating in themselves the manners and qualities they admired in him.

“This will be indeed the surest way for you to preserve the reputation and excellence of your School and the finest memorial you can give your Headmaster.

“But we all know that it would be quite misleading to speak of him as if his work as a Headmaster had been his only interest. He was in every sense a complete person. He was a good citizen and he was a good family man. He was a sociable man—he loved entertaining and he enjoyed being entertained.

“We think of him as a magistrate, as a good committee man, as a good chairman. We think of him as a lay reader and recall the joy of listening to his native Welsh eloquence. We think especially of our friend Ronald with his family—we remember the energetic and devoted wife who supported him so magnificently and made the Headmaster’s house a place of constant and delightful hospitality—treasured memories for so many of us of pleasant hours we spent beneath their roof when the girls were growing up ; and the warm united personalities of that typically happy, British family added so generously to the happiness of our own lives. A complete life, a good life, a life of great usefulness and of great influence ; in every sense a truly successful life.

“Let us give thanks to God that we can remember Ronald Tucker with so much gratitude and admiration in our hearts, with so much sincerity in our praise of him, with so much confidence in the value and permanence of his life’s work.

“Let us be thankful that these memories can continue to enrich our lives as he did himself.

“Let us turn from the weakness of grief for a parting which we can never hope to understand and hold fast to the strength of the imperishables which nothing can take from us.

“And let us take courage from the faith of this Christian which gave him the wisdom and strength to do great things—and who knew when he had accomplished them he would find eternal life.”

## APPOINTMENT OF HEADMASTER

We are pleased to report that Mr. Malcolm P. Smith, M.A. (Cantab.), has been appointed as Headmaster of the School, and will take up his duties in September, 1965. He is at present Headmaster of the Liverpool Institute High School.

Mr. Smith was educated at Manchester Grammar School and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was a Scholar in Modern Languages. He gained a Double First in French and German in the Modern and Mediaeval Languages Tripos.

After three years in the Administrative Civil Service he taught first at King Edward VI Grammar School, Aston, Birmingham, and then at Felsted School before returning to Manchester Grammar School as a master. He became Headmaster of Woking Grammar School in 1951, and took up his present post at Liverpool in 1961.

We look forward very much to welcoming him to High Wycombe.

**W. S. C.**

“As a man he was not so much liked as loved.” Thus Lady Violet Bonham Carter described Sir Winston after his death. And at a time when the nation was showing how well it had loved him, this school too held a service in his memory.

Many of us, born after the critical days of the war, never knew the experience of his leadership. But one and all knew the wider legend and saw for themselves the kindling vitality of character. Eleven hundred boys gathered to pay tribute to the man who, as Home Secretary, had obstinately refused to prohibit roller-skating in the streets of London.

The Memorial Service for Sir Winston Churchill was held in the Queen's Hall on Friday, the day before his official funeral. It was quite unlike any other occasion. The Hall was packed and tensely quiet. The simplicity of the service and the depth of feeling shown made a lasting impression on everybody present. Three hymns were sung, all known to be favourites of Sir Winston, and the Headmaster said these words :

*“We are assembled here this afternoon to do honour and pay tribute to a man who by his courage and inspiration saved this country in her hour of peril : a man who has written his name in the books of history, and writ it large ; a man who is now dead, but whose name will live forever in our hearts.”*

All stood for a minute in silence. And then the final hymn.

## OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE AWARDS

Open Awards were gained by the following boys at the Oxford and Cambridge Scholarship Examinations held in December :

- A. J. BRADLEY, Open Exhibition in English, Magdalen College, Oxford.  
M. CARRITT, Open Freeston Scholarship in Physics, University College, Oxford.  
J. E. HAVARD, Open Exhibition in Modern Studies, Pembroke College, Oxford.  
R. C. JONES, Open Choral Scholarship, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.  
R. M. JONES, Open Exhibition in English, Jesus College, Oxford.  
M. J. MOBBS, Open Exhibition in Modern Languages, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.  
P. M. WOOD, Open Scholarship in Natural Sciences, Peterhouse, Cambridge.

The following have gained places at Oxford and Cambridge :

- C. J. G. ALLEN, in English, to read Law at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford.  
A. D. HOMER, to read Mathematics at St. John's College, Cambridge.  
W. H. N. LAWS, to read Modern Languages at St. John's College, Cambridge.  
M. J. O'HANLON, to read Natural Sciences at Magdalen College, Oxford.  
N. W. SAUNDERS, to read Modern Languages at St. John's College, Cambridge.  
C. H. SWORN, to read Natural Sciences at Churchill College, Cambridge.  
G. S. TOMKINSON, to read Natural Sciences at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.  
M. R. D. YORKE, to read Modern Languages at Downing College, Cambridge.

The following boys gained university places on their "A" Level results last summer and went up in the autumn :

- R. P. Ayres (Spanish at Exeter University), P. R. G. Clark (French and German at Keele University), R. A. Fewtrell (Economics and Sociology at Leeds University), R. M. Cowan (History and Economics at Leeds University), S. C. R. Goulborn (Commerce with Law at Leeds University), M. Harris (Commerce at Birmingham College of Commerce), T. S. Ward (Economics, Swansea), A. Dobson (Enfield College of Technology), H. G. Hardman (Economics at the City of London College), M. K. Jenner (Social Administration at Nottingham University), P. R. J. Lane (Combined Studies at Leeds University), M. T. Maiden (French and German, King's College, London), T. R. Porter (Business Studies, City of London College), L. J. Pryce (Commerce, Liverpool University), J. G. Scouse (English, Leeds University), M. R. Snodin (Fine Art, University of Newcastle), E. A. Thomson (European Studies, University of East Anglia), D. R. G. Weeks (Economics and Geography, University of Newcastle), D. C. D. Young (Business Studies, Enfield College of Technology), D. J. Rees (English and Drama, Birmingham University), C. J. Arch (Chemistry, Hull University), N. F. Avery (Engineering, Leicester University), M. T. Brooks (Architecture, University College, London), E. M. Capron (Materials Science and Technology, Bradford Institute of Technology), R. T. Carwardine (Science, Newcastle University), P. D. Chadwick (Classics, University College, London), T. C. P. Challis (Chemistry and Geology, Hull University), H. D. Coltman (Electrical Engineering, University College of North Wales), R. L. Davies (Engineering, Bristol University), R. W. Gravestock (Engineering, Manchester University), R. M. E. Ham (Electrical Engineering, Cardiff University), R. L. Harrison (Classics, Durham University), D. G. Horley (Engineering, Birmingham University), M. J. Malec (Medicine, St. Mary's Hospital Medical School), T. St. G. Lyster (Economics, Leeds University), K. R. Marshall (Civil Engineering, University College, London), F. R. Moisey (Agriculture, Leeds University), I. J. Morris (Manchester College of Science and Technology), T. R. Pring (Commerce and Social Science, Birmingham University), R. J. Seymour (Chemistry, Essex), C. C. Shapter (Chemistry, Sussex), I. A. Sifton (Engin-



earing, Bristol), C. K. Williams (Chemistry, Manchester College of Science and Technology), A. H. Dixon (Engineering, Leicester University), D. A. Heeley (Art and Design, Leicester College of Art), P. R. McDowell, Engineering, Birmingham), P. Merrington (Mechanical Engineering, Bristol), S. C. Charlton (Physics and Chemistry, Leeds), A. V. King, Mathematics, Nottingham), M. J. Mercer-Dedman (Civil Engineering, Imperial College, London), G. M. Smyth (Architecture, School of Architecture, London), J. B. Williamson (Art, Royal College of Art, London).

N.B. This list may still not be complete : the Editor would like to hear of any additions or corrections.

## CHAPEL NOTES

We were pleased to welcome the newly-appointed Bishop of Buckingham, the Right Reverend Christopher Pepys, when he came to us on 25th March for the annual Confirmation service. This year there were sixteen candidates ; their names are listed below. In his address to the candidates, the Bishop reminded them that they were being confirmed on the Feast of the Annunciation, and urged them to follow the example of the Blessed Virgin in accepting the task which God had given them to fulfil. The service was well attended by parents and friends of the candidates.

The following day, 26th March, the annual School Communion was held in the chapel, and the newly-confirmed, together with members of the staff and boys, made their Communion. The celebrant was the Chaplain, who was assisted, as in previous years, by the Reverend John Simpson, whom we are always so pleased to see with us again.

A.J.S.

## CONFIRMATION

The following candidates for Confirmation were presented to the Right Reverend Christopher Pepys, Bishop of Buckingham, in the school chapel on Thursday, the 25th March, 1965 :

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| M. J. Brown        | D. A. Job       |
| C. M. Conolly      | G. R. Martin    |
| T. G. Cowell       | T. T. McCormick |
| J. S. Culley       | A. B. Newitt    |
| C. M. Dainty       | K. V. Pickering |
| M. E. Dutch        | J. H. M. Powell |
| I. J. Fox          | T. R. Toms      |
| R. H. W. Helliwell | J. R. Wheel     |

## SOCIAL SERVICE

The school at large seems to know very little about its social service : Thursday afternoon activities are shrouded in an air of mystery. This report is probably the only official manifestation that the service even exists, and yet about forty boys now belong to it and work regularly during the C.C.F. periods on Thursday afternoons. Organisation is minimal and very diffuse ; consequently, it is difficult to report on its activities. These consist in the main of two parts. The bulk of the boys have a regular address at which they do odd jobs such as cleaning windows, chopping wood, gardening, shopping and minor decorating. The remainder are employed on a door-to-door survey which is run in collaboration with the Wycombe Citizens' Advice Bureau. This survey aims at finding needy old people and putting them in touch with a source of help. Sometimes this is our service, but more often it is the Advice Bureau.

Apart from this routine work several old people's homes have been decorated in the period after summer exams, and a certain amount of firewood delivery has been done.

I think most of the members would agree that the service provides an interesting afternoon which leaves plenty of room for initiative as well as a contrast to school.

K. STENNING.

## BENEVOLENT FUND

Although last term's £94 was not a record for the Autumn Term, it reflected creditably on the school in general. I would like to point out, however, that some forms in the school have contributed very much less than others, contributions varying from six pounds to fifteen shillings. Special credit is due to 5a, 4x and 2e for their generosity.

One of the charities to which we have contributed is the Kay King-Hall Memorial Fund for African Students, and at present the school is sponsoring the education of an African Student, Isaac Phiri, who has written the school a charming letter of thanks. This letter was posted on the school notice-board, and it is hoped that the school will be able to establish a more permanent contact with him.

I am confident of a good collection this term. Forms in general have been very generous and prefects extremely conscientious.

The amount collected for the Easter Term was £92.

M. G. BAKER.

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## BRAIN DRAIN

If I join the Drain  
And take my Brain  
To the U.S.A.  
I'd hear them say :  
"They sure can pick 'em  
"At Wycombe."

My Science and Arts  
In those far-off parts  
Would make the Alumni  
So glad they had come by  
A lad who could trick 'em  
From Wycombe.

On second thoughts,  
The astronauts  
And White House men and those who run  
The U.N. and the Pentagon  
Lead such dull lives  
(They don't play Fives !)  
I won't go and lick 'em,  
I'll stay at Wycombe.

PETER JONES, IIB.

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## THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

To exchange the make-up sticks of "five" and "nine" for the critic's acid-laden quill might well appear the height of treachery ; to unmask those oneself has masked, a cruel betrayal. My task had, however, its own fascination. How curious it was, for example, to observe the chorus of Major Stanley's daughters (wards of court, incidentally, in case you were marvelling at the abundance of his progeny) substitute for the tarty vulgarity which I had gratefully abandoned in the make-up room a demure prettiness and lightness of foot on stage which would have done credit to many a *corps de ballet*. The sweetness of the choral singing of the daughters was well matched by the robust harmonies of the pirates and police who, from the rousing opening number of "Pour, oh pour the pirates' sherry" to the rhythmic "Ra-ra-ra-ra-" of the final chorus, provided a solid foundation for the individual efforts of the leading players.

Mr. Burnell was in deed as in word "the very model of a modern major general. He managed with equal dexterity the verbal gymnastics of the patter song and the musical hurdles of the frequently strained-after "Sighing softly . . ." and even made the ghastly punning around "often" and "orphan" sound mildly amusing.

With his Cambridge choral scholarship tucked in his belt, it is hardly surprising that R. C. Jones as the Pirate King treated us to some of the finest singing of the evening. This, with his confidence and panache on the stage, added up to one of the most polished performances. Among the pirates he was admirably seconded by G. T. Huggins' Samuel.

In spite of his inexperience in school productions, K. N. Simons made a very promising appearance as Frederick—an unenviable role, at once musically strenuous but dramatically uninspiring.

M. J. Holgate was a fine figure of a police sergeant. One regretted only that he did not radiate on stage just a little more of the beery ebullience he displayed behind the scenes—but that too will come with more experience. He commanded the kind of force that Inspector Barlow probably has nightmares about and which made the most of its opportunities for comedy and indeed downright farce!

The girl leads grappled manfully (if that is the right word) with parts which, especially in the case of Mabel, would have presented a challenge to more mature voices and actors. The audience appreciated their efforts and was moved, on not a few occasions, by the earnest sincerity of, in particular, Mabel's duet with Frederick.

This was a school production—and from this point of view it was as satisfying to observe the stage packed to capacity at the final curtain as it was to see the auditorium filled in the same proportion. That the triumphant grins of the performers were reflected in the smiling approval of the audience must count as an additional tribute to the work of the musical directors, Mr. J. S. Dawes and Mr. D. Watmough, the producer, Mr. T. J. Newling, and all those who assisted in this highly enjoyable presentation.

D.B.

## **"JULIUS CAESAR"**

The excellence of the performance of "Julius Caesar" in the Queen's Hall on 8th, 9th and 10th April shows how very well worth while it is to choose a major play for presentation by the school. Every member of the large cast must have found the experience most satisfying.

Mr. Newling's production was straightforward and most effective. The stage was dominated throughout by a vast and most impressive Roman eagle, and the action took place on several levels of staging, rather in the style of the Russian Constructivist Theatre. Indeed, the whole of the hall was involved in the entries and exits, particularly of the citizens. The different levels also did something to overcome the problem of seeing the actors—the stage is so low and the unraked auditorium so large. This type of setting has sufficient affinity with the Elizabethan theatre to be well suited for Shakespearean drama. An essential and significant sense of unity resulted from this mode of presentation, and a feeling of the world-wide issues involved.

This conception was admirably reflected in the acting. All the main parts were very well done, and the result was an effective dramatic balance. The casting had been upset by illness, but by Saturday night at any rate no one would have suspected this. I. J. Grayson is to be congratulated on his performance as Caesar—he took over the part only the day before. He gave the part just the right mixture of dignity and egotism. D. Snodin was outstanding as Cassius—a most polished piece of acting. J. Hume gave a personal interpretation of Brutus: most competent and consistent: though I think he sacrificed a little some of the warmth and humanity of the man. It was, however, an excellent performance. D. Lewis established his control over the crowd in a masterly way, and his acting of the part of Antony throughout the play showed a thorough understanding of the character, in the earlier and later scenes as well as in the scene that everyone knows—or at least the opening lines of one speech in it. N. Simons as Octavius admirably conveyed the qualities that were to make him the master of the Roman world. The conspirators were appropriately conspiratorial, and the battle was realistic and convincing.

The whole performance was characterised by great fidelity to the text. The producer had obviously thought deeply about it, and all the speakers without exception did their best to bring out the meaning to the full: and they all knew their lines. Everyone concerned with the play deserves the warmest congratulations for giving us one of the best performances for many years.

### **THE MAKING OF THE MOCK M.P.**

(with apologies to Antony Howard and Richard West)

*"The nation is governed by schoolboys"*

LETTER TO *The Times*

As the General Election was deferred again and again—from March to May to June, and then finally to October—there were whisperings at the school concerning a Mock Election. Finally,

at the end of September, the Twentieth Century Opinion Society put a notice into prayers to the effect that if any person wished to be considered as a candidate he should come forward.

Sabine came forward as an Independent candidate, the Liberals announced an adoption meeting, while the Labour and Conservative camps remained silent. The Liberal Party adoption meeting took place in a form-room in the main corridor during the lunch-hour : the Conservative and Labour supporters present greatly outnumbered the Liberals. The chairman of the Liberals, Haywood, could hardly be heard, and every time in his introductory speech that he mentioned the other parties, great cheers arose from the crowd. Several names for the Liberal candidature were put forward, mostly anti-Liberal. Grayson was thus selected on a tide of reaction.

The Conservatives and Socialists were determined to avoid similar adoption meetings. Baker was evolved as Conservative candidate, being well known in the school. The first suggestion of a Labour candidate was a notice which appeared one day in the main corridor, which ran : LET'S GO WITH HAMES—LABOUR! However, when questioned about it, Hames strongly denied that he was a candidate. No less did all the sixth-form Socialists. After long deliberation, the Socialists chose Walker to champion their cause. He was best known in the upper sixth forms, only a small part of the electorate.

After the names of the final candidates had been announced, the four men were to be seen each day in busy conference. It was planned that each should have three hustings in the Queen's Hall—although this figure was eventually reduced to two. To avoid an epidemic of posters, each party was allowed three. Ignorant of this ruling, however, the more militant Tory supporters chalked on brick walls and blackboards such slogans as—VOTE BAKER, TORY. The three other candidates angrily tackled him on this, but he said they were not official, and was able to deny giving his encouragement.

The first husting was on Monday, 5th October. Sabine outlined his policies to an audience of about 150. They were simple enough. He stood for the abolition of the nuclear weapon and of C.C.F. in the schools. The second policy he felt sure would gain the support of all those in C.C.F. His speech was over in about three minutes, and an audience stunned by its brevity asked very few questions.

The attendance at the Liberal meeting was larger, about 250, but banners bearing messages unkind to the Liberal suggested that the crowd was not all on the side of the speaker. A few minutes before the meeting was due to start, the Liberals discovered that a fiendish plot had been arranged : the wicked Tory

drum-major was holding a full band practice in the quad outside the Hall. The effect, however, was less bad than had been anticipated, and Grayson did manage to get a hearing between opposition jeers and strains of "Burma Rifles". His speech mainly comprised an article on Liberal policy by Jeremy Thorpe. Questions at the end tended to be fatuous, and the occasion was more like a party gathering than a political meeting of any seriousness. The strength of the opposition was such that when Grayson replied at one moment to allegations of stoutness by making allegations of the greater stoutness of the Conservative candidate, the crowd went wild, and Baker stood up to acknowledge the cheers of his supporters.

The crowd of 450 at the Conservative meeting was the largest, and also the wildest. Before the meeting began, Mr. File warned them of the consequences of mass hysteria. But when Baker stepped on to the stage with his entourage, the crowd got out of hand, and cheered and booed to such an extent that he had to wait some time before he could start. When he finally managed to do so, he found that his own supporters, being the largest and noisiest section of the audience, made it impossible to be heard without shouting. Liberalism and Socialism united at one side of the Hall to jeer, but were drowned. This led to the Head Boy interrupting the meeting and forbidding further jeers and cheers, and allowing only moderate clapping. The crowd responded defiantly. The Head Boy was accorded a slow hand-clap, and Mr. File, seeing only one course of action, walked up to the stage and declared the meeting closed. The crowd left greatly subdued.

A meeting of the candidates was hurriedly arranged, and it was decided to curtail the campaign. The Labour Party was to have one meeting, on Thursday, and polling was to take place on Friday, 9th October, instead of the 14th, as had been planned.

The Labour Party meeting was kept under very strict control, members of the audience who spoke were sent out, and Walker got a good hearing from a smaller crowd. On Thursday, also, it was noted that Sabine, Grayson and Walker were having some sort of conspiracy, the fruit of which was a large poster which appeared in the middle of the main corridor, saying briefly: **TORIES OUT: VOTE SABINE, GRAYSON, WALKER.** Beneath this was a large Ban-The-Bomb sign. It was felt that, at the last moment, two of the three left-wing candidates might stand down to let the third have a straight fight with the Conservatives and therefore be given a greater chance of winning. But in the end this never happened.

Voting took place on the stage in the Hall during break and lunch-time. The voting was brisk at break and at the beginning

of the lunch-hour, but tailed off after 1.30 p.m. There was a heavy poll of 88%. The voting procedure was well organised and went very smoothly. There can have been no opportunity for fraud.

Counting was quick: the result was known at 2.30 p.m. The figures were officially announced at 3.30 p.m., to the biggest crowd so far.

|                       |      |     |
|-----------------------|------|-----|
| BAKER, M. G. (Cons.)  | .... | 429 |
| GRAYSON, I. J. (Lib.) | .... | 128 |
| SABINE, C. R. (Ind.)  | .... | 17  |
| WALKER, D. G. (Lab.)  | .... | 146 |

Conservative majority 283.

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While standing on the stage of life,  
I fell, suddenly, into the orchestra pit of society,  
Looking round, I saw nothing—  
—But that figures.

ALAN SCHMIDT.

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## NOW WE ARE SICK

The mock-election is held only once in every four or five years—it was a pity, therefore, that this time it was more of a mockery than usual. The poll was high—88%—which shows, at least, that the school was not apathetic about the affair.

However, it is a pity that the exuberance of the supporters was not channelled to more useful purposes. The details of the election are reported elsewhere, but what is not reported is the amazing behaviour of some of the party supporters. The worst of all were, without doubt, the Tory supporters, who actually succeeded in having their own meeting disbanded by their loutish behaviour, and who obstructed the Liberal meeting by childish hiding the microphone.

The Labour and Liberal supporters ran a close second, however. (Nobody supported the Independent candidate—but he received the best hearing.) Hysterical behaviour, resembling, more than anything, a Fascist rally, was the rule at most meetings.

Is it therefore too much to ask that the next mock election be conducted on saner, and more controlled lines? The conduct of the last General Election is not an ideal model from which to start, but it was a Vicar's garden party compared with our own effort.

R. SABINE, J. GRAYSON, D. G. WALKER.



## SIXTH FORM DISILLUSION

This article is prompted partly by an excellent imitation of Pope attacking sixth-formers, but also by my own sense of disillusion with certain aspects of the school, and in particular with sixth-form life. I did not for one moment imagine that with the obstacle of O-level surmounted I could lie back in anticipation of two years of gentle cruising through the sixth form—indeed, I rather looked forward to doing the subjects I most enjoyed in a rather relaxed atmosphere. This was not to be. My rude awakening came on the first morning (I had discounted the admonitions of previously disillusioned friends as either the blether of a myope or the discouragement of a monopolist of the eighth heaven who feared the encroachment of competitors). Seventy-one of similar species were herded into a converted science laboratory—and thoughts of cosy tutorials were dispelled with the speed of an illicit cigarette.

I was soon to discover the almost tragically mundane reality of the sixth form. The kudos was no more than superficial : a different blazer ; a pseudo-college scarf (useful for hitching) ; exemption from wearing caps. The transition to a completely different system of working, whereby essays accumulate in the most terrifying way, is not aided by conditions in which work is conducted : the sets are often larger than for O-level, whilst “private study” periods, which are only too correctly termed *free* periods, are almost farcical. Conditions are so cramped that often the canteen or classrooms have to be taken over, whilst the noise level resulting from such conditions effectively precludes work. A side-effect of the cramped Library is that hoarding of books occurs which would otherwise inevitably be missing at the time they are wanted, thus creating a vicious circle.

When one turns from the disillusion of the sixth form to other aspects of the school, there is more disappointment. The school seems to be functioning at half pace : “sluggish, lethargic, apathetic” are epithets that are too correctly applied to the situation. A walk down the main corridor will confirm this diagnosis : the host of notice-boards which greet the eye are either denuded, even of a list of officials, or covered with dusty, out-dated printed matter. The societies which rejoice in the most stimulating and sonorous titles such as The Twentieth Century Opinion Society, or the Dramatic Society are often those which are most dead. Others, the minority unfortunately, such as the Chess Club, are flourishing. It is most tragic that organisations of such promise are so little supported—but the fault lies not in the body of the school itself ; enthusiasm must be generated from above, but it is unforthcoming. This lack of interest in the school is perhaps the greatest deficiency of the

sixth forms—which, incidentally, is not given much incentive—this introspective self-consciousness, and the feeling that it is always somebody else's business. This aloofness almost amounts to snobbery—the pervading impression that is a grave weakness to enthuse—it is far easier to be destructive (as I am being) than to be constructive (as I intended).

This conservatism which maintains its death-grip on the school manifests itself in a diversity of ways, besides the languishing societies. The House system is one example of an attempt to generate in a school for the public, the Public School spirit. This, in itself, is no bad thing—especially in combating apathy—but the futile way in which the House system is conducted can only lead to greater apathy. How can “House Spirit”—whose absence most House captains bewail—be generated simply by picking every sixth name on the form list? How can House officials expect a feeling of unity from a House which meets perhaps only once a term? and then merely to pressgang the weaker members into a fiendish cross-country for “the greater glory of the House”? Should members feel a warm glow of pride when they are informed that, thanks to felicitous exam results, their House has won the Raffety shield/cup/award? Often the strength of a House depends on a hard core of members who participate for the concomitant satisfaction of seeing their names in the magazine, and if a House is incomparably superior, it is often because of opportunism on the part of a housemaster snapping up a promising newcomer. The present function (?) of the House system is to provide a source of competition at an occasional sporting event, but true competition is of course destroyed by the aforementioned gambits.

Enough has been said, and more left unsaid, on the subject of The Pool—especially by the original subscribers who will never use it, and do not even have the satisfaction of knowing their money was wisely spent—and therefore I will not use it as the epitome of lethargy. (This will probably be censored, anyway.) I rather chose the school magazine to reflect the present atmosphere—such is its function, besides that of prestige propaganda for other schools and a biannual contact with old boys. It promises this time to be new and exciting—visually if not in substance—but all previous magazines have contained exactly the same hotchpotch of sports, society and other reports, with the alteration of a few names. This is mainly due to sheer laziness on the part of about eleven hundred boys, all with something to contribute—even if only the money to buy it.

Perhaps the greatest insult to the intelligence of the school was the result of the Mock Election. By considerable prostitution of any political ideology one candidate managed to collect an hysterical band of ignorant disciples, with a battery of unintel-

ligent barracking, who gadded about like a herd of Gadarene swine or rather pseudo-Hoggs, thus undeniably demonstrating that to be conservative is, by definition, to be politically naive.

The school stands in the balance. The redesigned school magazine *could* mark a new era, heralding in a new Headmaster, or it *could* be an oasis in a desert of APATHY.

DAVID LEWIS.

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### THE WORMS TURN

With four O-levels to his credit now,  
The latest hopeful makes his sixth-form bow ;  
With a new blazer asserts his novel place,  
With his father's razor nicks his beardless face,  
Sports an umbrella, affects some spongy shoes  
And thus provided begins to air his views.  
Uniform, he claims, insults his self-respect—  
Whose collar is with grease and dandruff deck'd !  
Whose fashionable shoes still have muddy heels,  
Whose suede waistcoat relates his sloven meals,  
Whose untrimm'd hair's dictated by "a trend"—  
Should he, proud spirit, under School Rules bend ?  
To show his independence, he comes to classes late,  
To show his sense of humour, sniggers with his mate ;  
Lolls about the lib'ry, creeps about the quad,  
Chatters in Assembly to show there is no God ;  
Corps and games despises, self appointed wise,  
Finds them so much tougher than convenient lies ;  
Impatient of his elders, contemptuous of the rules,  
He tells his doting parents all the staff are fools.  
Go, freakish creature, grow up if you can,  
Your idiotic masters still hope you'll make a man.

I.M.M.

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### DRAMA IN SCHOOL

Schoolbooks are not everything. Sitting on uncomfortable chairs behind carved desks and cramming our brains with knowledge, spilling it forth on to an examination paper and then forgetting it, may get us into a University, and perhaps even obtain a degree for us, but that, surely is only half the battle. Does knowledge of geographical, physical, chemical and historical facts help us much when we have finished our University career and are, at long last, after twenty years of "preparation for life", setting out into life itself? Fluency in a foreign language will

only help us if our job entails mixing with people who speak that language. Mathematics we shall use every day, but only, surely, to add up our accounts and check our bills. Some say that mathematics and other subjects such as history help to develop our thinking powers. But always there is an emphasis on the brain ; we must be clever, for, if what we are constantly being told is correct, we are the future leaders of the world.

Does leading the world require only an exceptional brain ? There are other things in life—other things that we must learn, outside the limits of the classroom and the textbook, in order to understand and appreciate life to the full. And these lessons only creative art can teach. One of the many forms of art which the curriculum of this school includes only in its interpretative aspect, and makes no allowance for the creative aspect, is drama.

It would be tedious for the reader if this article were to be filled out with a long and unnecessary homily full of the many reasons why drama should be included in the school curriculum. But it must be made clear that a full appreciation of life can only be reached by the development of one's powers of observation, by lessons learnt through co-operating with others, through making decisions, through interpreting truth as others see it, and through realising truth as one's self sees it. All these, and many more, lessons are taught through drama.

There are some signs of drama, it is true. There is a Dramatic Society. But all it does is to arrange trips to plays—usually productions lacking all dramatic quality—and makes very little effort to further the cause of drama in school. There have been hopes of reform occasionally—a trip was arranged last year to a “schools' day” at the Oxford Playhouse ; make-up classes were suggested (at one of the society's rare meetings) and a group of boarders are now reasonably proficient in that art. But these were flames which flickered and died out all too quickly. What can a society do to bring drama into our lives ? A society is concerned with extra-mural activities, not with the curriculum, which is where drama should be found.

There is the “school play”—a term which I use reluctantly, for it usually brings to mind thoughts of a production with no dramatic quality or purpose, save that of “showing the school” to a bored audience of parents, relations, girl-friends, members of staff and governors, who have only really come for a chat. Our own productions do possess some dramatic quality, and the audience also shows some signs of enthusiasm and even appreciation, once they are here, though it takes a great deal of effort to make them come. But ten weeks are not filled up with rehearsal for the sake of improving or encouraging dramatic talent in the school, for the cast is a small clique of boys who went to an audition a few years before, and have stuck with the Dramatic Society ever since, taking on the large parts every year, and

working through the weeks of rehearsals with the glory of the night and the praise they will receive first and foremost in their minds.

So what is life? Nothing—nothing but school books, and we are back to where we started.

I do not consider myself capable of making many constructive suggestions as to how one can introduce drama into the curriculum of this school, and how one can tackle it once it is there, for that can be done by those who know far more than I do about drama and education. But if drama, in the forms of improvisation, of mime, and of appreciation of other people's productions, was to be introduced, perhaps only lightly touched upon, we could at least leave school knowing more about life than we could ever learn from textbooks.

DAVID SNODIN.

### “OUR COURSE WILL SEEM TOO BLOODY, CAIUS CASSIUS”

*Julius Caesar*, Act II.

The Queen's Hall was a scene of feverish activity. With the opening night 27 hours away nothing, it seemed, was ready. Because of a last-minute change in casting, several boys sat in odd corners rapidly memorising new parts. The great Roman Eagle hung askew while stage hands hauled it into position. More stage hands were plastering large quantities of paint on the scenery. Snatches of conversation drifted around, drowned by the roar of a Roman crowd dressed in blazers and flannels; occasionally the clattering of typewriters from the editorial office (an organ loft) of this magazine.

“Hold it . . . up a bit . . . that's it . . . The evil that men do lives after them . . . got the hammer? . . . you don't call that finished, do you? . . . So are they all, all honourable men . . . dim that red, it's far too bright . . . Rome wasn't built in a day, so I don't see why this should be . . . Mind the scenery, it's it's—yes, well, it'll come off with paint thinners . . . and Brutus is an honourable man . . .”

And so it goes on—it will be ready, of course, but not without strife on both sides. I just wish they'd told me the ladder had gone, that's all.

RODNEY SABINE.

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*Balnea, vina, venus corrumpunt corpora nostra,  
Sed vitam faciunt, balnea, vina, venus.*

MARTIAL DYLAN.

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## HIEMAL IDYLL

Heavy clouds had slowly been building up over the city for several days and everyone was expecting a snowstorm.

“Was that a speck of snow I felt?” someone said. His companion thought not, but within half an hour snowflakes were falling like feathers from a celestial mattress, gently covering the noisy smoky city in an ephemeral white blanket. Blue sparks leapt from the rails as cold heavy engines crept over them as if to prove that mere snowflakes could not stop these mighty monsters. But the frozen snow proved too firm for these gargantuan and soon they too were, with the silvery magic, transformed from metallic, utilitarian machines to harmless crystalline dragons.

Meanwhile the streets, now covered in a thick layer of snow, were deserted. The cars, abandoned by their weary owners, were identifiable merely as symmetrical lumps in the snow.

The telegraph wires hung dangerously low like ethereal skipping-ropes. Occasionally a door opened and a huddled figure trotted off into the veil of snow. Apart from these sporadic reminders of civilisation, the city now appeared as lifeless and unwanted as the wastes of the Arctic. The city park was now a large fairy cavern, the crystal icicles glittering in the evening air as the street lights flickered on and stood like benevolent sentinels in the bitter evening. Suddenly a pile of snow plummeted to the ground, revealing a network of sparkling frosted twigs open to the sky.

A rustling was heard and a small cat pranced through the snow like a circus horse. Someone could be heard calling. The cat tried to gallop but landed on its chin. It mewed frantically and soon its owner trudged through the snow and, muttering kind words to his pet, carried it indoors to the warm fireside, the armchairs, and the smell of wet raincoats. Soon the door was shut and the silence of the bitter night was in control again. One by one the friendly street lamps were switched out and only icy, frozen stillness was left.

NIMROD PING.

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*Auro quid melius? Iaspis. Quid iaspide? Sensus.  
Quid sensu? Ratio. Quid ratione? Deus.*

MARTIAL DYLAN.

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# THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORTNIGHT

August 1964

The fortnight has, since its inception six years ago, when His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh graciously gave his patronage, concentrated on bringing together young scientists of all nationalities in the belief that mutual understanding and respect will grow out of the common meeting ground of science. The Science Fortnight, sponsored by the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and organised by the Worldfriends International Service for Youth, was attended last year by over 500 students from 21 countries.

The programme for the 1964 Fortnight included addresses by Sir John Cockcroft, Sir Christopher Hinton and Sir Cyril Hinshelwood ; visits to research establishments as well as to industry to see science in its applied form ; visits of a non-scientific nature to various parts of England known for their historic interest, and also a social programme of dances and inter-hostel activities.

Accommodation for most of the 500 students was in the Halls of Residence of London University, whilst some overseas participants stayed at the homes of other students living in London. The lectures and demonstrations, given by several well-known scientists, took place in the lecture theatre of the Institute of Electrical Engineers in Savoy Place.

On the afternoon of the opening day of the fortnight, three new powered artificial hands, developed in Britain, Russia and Yugoslavia, were given their first public demonstration. The hand developed by the Yugoslav Dr. R. Tomovic is made in the form of a human hand, and makes use of pressure sensitive transducers in the palm, which initiates a grasping movement, and in the finger tips, which triggers off a pinching movement. The pressure applied in either movement is controlled by flexing a muscle. The Russian and British hands both respond to electrodes on the amputee's upper arm. It can only pinch, and uses hooks, but a British amputee brought a round of applause from the audience by opening a new packet of cigarettes and lighting up ! It was, however, rather disturbing to find that in this field of prosthetics development was being carried out in three different centres, with little if any collaboration.

Other lectures included "Colour Matching by Computer", a lecture by Dr. Otto Russe, of Vienna, on the replacement of diseased and defective bones and joints, and one on Profound

Hypothermia. This lecture by Mr. David Shaw told of the latest developments in cooling of the human body during operations. Mr. Shaw described an operation in which a patient's heart was stopped for two hours twenty-two minutes, during which time his body was cooled and an artificial oxygenator took over the operation of the heart. We were shown one of these pumps, and Mr. Shaw went on to forecast the day when a patient could be held in a supercooled state for three weeks whilst new organs were grafted on the body. There followed a coloured film of an actual heart operation during which five people fainted, four males and one female !

What, one wonders, will be the lasting memories of the Fortnight : will it be the chaos on the platform of Charing Cross Underground Station when all the 500 students waited for over forty minutes for a missing special ; the awful lesson of the city of Coventry when it played host to the International gathering for a day ; the rugger-club type community singing in the hostels ? Or will it be the people ? The real lesson was one of international understanding. The all-important quotation is from a South African girl, who, at the closing ceremony, described it as :

“A very valuable lesson in human relations.”

ANDREW BISSET.

## THE GREAT DETECTIVE

The Great Detective sat back in his chair reading a copy of *The Wycobiensian*. His feet, clad in the latest style of chewed-toe chisels, rested on his desk. Suddenly he heard a ringing in his ears. The Great Detective picked up the phone and listened in his best voice.

“Come quickly, oh Great Detective, there has been a serious crime committed,” said the voice from the telephone.

The Great Detective answered in the words of the immortal Bard (he's not really immortal, as he's dead) from Henry IV, Part 1, Scene 2—“Yes”.

The Great Detective admired the genuine snakeskin overcoat hanging on the coat stand and put it on. The Great Detective hadn't gone more than a few yards (Scotland Yards, of course) when he realised how much easier it would have been for him if he had taken the coat off the coat-stand first. The Great Detective corrected the fault and went through the door (yes, unfortunately he did go *through* the door, but little things like this don't matter to a Great Detective. He never did like the



door anyway). He jumped into his chauffeur-driven zinc-coated, plastic, genuine, Aristocratic, British Limousine and "Rolled" away, humming to himself in a contented "Royce".

After three hours of London traffic jams, and two hours of an irritating argument with a London policeman, the Great Detective arrived at the scene of the crime. He was let into the house by a maid after convincing her that he was not a Fairy Snowman and was explained the facts of the crime. A safe had been stolen! The diamond necklaces, gold rings, banknotes and secret government papers had not been stolen but they had lost a very nice safe. The Great Detective searched around with his long fingers and large magnifying glass and found eleven fingerprints, three foot-prints, an old sardine tin, a chicken feather, but unfortunately no traces of hair. "A-ah," thought the Great Detective, "all we need to find is an eleven-fingered, three-footed, bald, Portuguese fishing company millionaire who has a farm as a hobby. Oh dear," sighed the Great Detective, "there must be hundreds of people like that." Then the Great Detective saw a real clue. A piece of paper with an address on it. The Great Detective jumped into his car and went to the address—11 Downing Street, Downing, Downing, Don. The Great Detective arrived at the house and was quick to realise that it was his own house. He went into the living-room and took off his coat. He then admired the missing safe on his living-room table which he had stolen just the day before. Well, a man has to make a living somehow, hasn't he?

ROLAND DENNING, 3X.

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## A PSYCHOLOGICAL CASE

The Royal Grammar School needs a doctor.

A passing stranger, on seeing it from the road,

Will remark,

"That large, modern building, what is it?"

The frontage is smart and clean-cut and well-proportioned,

It is expertly planned and built.

The impressive hall is new, youthful and pleasant.

The school is schizophrenic.

NIMROD PING.

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## TWO POEMS FROM SAPPHO

### TO A RIVAL

You never were touched  
In the Muses' garden, never fingered the buds.  
At your dying, not a gap left behind ;  
And in Death's vault also  
You will move on trembling wings,  
One of the hooded dead.

### ARIGNOTA

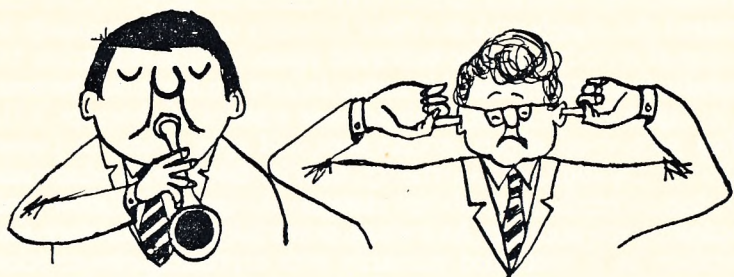
Before, we would live all as one . . .  
her veneration of you, Arignota, the spell of your dancing !  
But that sun has long set into dark  
And she is the moon that follows up the night,  
and the Lydian stars are quick to fade beside her.  
Roses fold and the antherisk,  
Dew creeps into the air, while the waxen light  
Spreads round the dark corn and over the long sea.  
But she goes to and fro there,  
This old nettle in her breast.

MARTIN TURNER.

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Lonely bedroom poised above happyhomelife  
Insular  
In the hurt and black depression of  
Justpubic youth, despairing of ever making  
The "rears its ugly head" thing.  
Blushes like crusty red velvet pushing  
Up inside his skin when he feels or  
Thinks he thinks that They are laughing and  
Sneering  
At what he is, or what he is destroying himself to be.  
Ideal image of Longhair, the ethereal something  
He sees but never makes, not having the courage  
To achieve anything in the tremblinghand  
Event of his making that.  
"Let me grow up fast—be equal not patronised"  
—but knowing equal to be neurosis, hurt and bitterness  
Your very ungrownness lets you be torn,  
Scratched, derided and despised but compulsive  
Perversity makes you crawl  
On to the goal that you will despise, on to  
The rejection of the now ohsodesirable  
Happyhomelife  
Looking up from the darkness of the IN void  
Achievement—  
In negation.

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## jazz appreciation society

### CONTEMPORARY JAZZ

In the past six years jazz has been revolutionised. You will have heard little or nothing of this unless you have managed to dig out all the records or the information yourself. This is because jazz has been largely excluded from the main national channels of communication and completely ignored by musical educationalists. The B.B.C. in its paternal way allows a small amount of time to jazz (at very off-peak hours), but this is largely controlled by people like Benny Green and Steve Race (a T.V. "personality"), who still think Monk is "way out". Musical educationalists, however, ignore jazz completely, either because they are merely following the system followed by past generations, or because they are unable to appreciate the music of non-white cultures, even if this particular culture is the only great native culture America has produced. The difference between classical music and jazz is, as LeRoy Jones says, "In the West, only the artifact can be beautiful, mere expression cannot be thought to be", so that you will find people saying that Annie Ross cannot sing, her voice is too "impure", which "is analogous to a non-Westerner disparaging Beethoven's Ninth Symphony because it wasn't improvised." Jazz is a highly personalised music; the musician will play a piece differently each time he plays it, not because he cannot play it the same, but because his musical tradition is opposed to the whole European tradition of regularity of pitch, time, timbre and vibrato. The sort of attitude which regards jazz as classical music's poor relation is still very prevalent, otherwise I would not have had to write this introduction to my subject proper.

The most significant problem in jazz has been the growing over-dependence of the jazzman on the chord. In the past, chords helped the jazzman to shape the melody, but this resulted in predictable and boring improvisations, even with such skilled musicians as John Coltrane (soprano and tenor saxes) and Sonny Rollins (tenor sax). The most successful answer to this was

presented by Ornette Coleman (alto and tenor saxes). Coleman ignored the chords and sacrificed harmony almost completely in favour of melody—he also omits the piano because it restricts his melodic freedom. Since his music follows no harmonic pattern, it is impossible to listen to his solos as a series of choruses. He often uses vocal effects, coarse tone and split notes, in purest African tradition. His writing too is filled with dissonant leaping intervals and abrupt tempo changes. On slow and medium-pace numbers he swings powerfully, but on very fast numbers he is concerned primarily with expressing raw emotion after the fashion of the painter, Jackson Pollock. This effect can be very exhilarating and even terrifying on such tracks as Kaleidoscope, Folk Tale, Change of the Century, and Cross Breeding. On the latter he blows a ferocious tenor solo, in the course of which he achieves a frightening tension climaxed by fierce warbles leading into an oriental piece, which in turn is followed by a striking trumpet solo from Don Cherry, succeeded by tense exchanges from tenor and trumpet. It is in such works that the new wave proves itself.

Coltrane and Rollins have been called the “new generation’s private assassins” of chordal jazz. Coltrane is “fanatically chordal” in that he turns each chord inside out several times, but this inhibits his work and he has often used oriental styles to free himself, but this too has its disadvantages. He has frequently been recorded and his firm, tough tone is quite familiar to many. Another tenorist with a tough powerful tone is Rollins who, like altoist Jackie McLean, has retired to the woodshed to take account of the work of Coleman, to come out with a strengthened technique which has enabled him to play the new music. Pianist Cecil Taylor’s name is often linked with that of Coleman. Despite the limitations of his chosen instrument, Taylor has broken his own way through to non-chordal, atonal jazz.

Eric Dolphy, the greatest exponent of the bass clarinet in jazz and a fine alto saxist, usually played with orthodox jazzmen, where his violent style was made to seem a little contrived. On the last record he made before his early death last year he received his finest recorded backing from Bobby Hutcherson (vibes), who at times acts as a second percussionist to Anthony Williams (drums). These latter have evolved a new style rhythm section in which they form a rhythmic network which brilliantly complements Dolphy’s “scorching, plunging world”. Dolphy’s tone was purer than Coleman’s or Coltrane’s, yet his work ranks with theirs in intensity.

Together with these musicians are several other reputedly fine musicians—Sonny Murray (drums), Albert Aylor (tenor sax), and, in Europe, Joe Harriott (alto sax), whose work I have not heard.

I hope you have learnt a little about the new movements in modern jazz, but there is no substitute for listening to the music. I'll conclude with a passage from LeRoy Jones : "The implications of this music are extraordinarily profound, and the music itself, deeply and wildly exciting. Music and musician have been brought face to face, without the strict and often grim hindrances of over-used Western musical concepts ; it is only the overall musical intelligence of the musician which is responsible for shaping the music. It is, for many musicians, a terrifying freedom."

MICHAEL HAMES,  
*Hon. Secretary, Jazz Appreciation Society.*

## RESPECTED SIR

CANONSBURY MANSIONS,  
GERRARDS CROSS,  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

Dear Lord Sainsbury,

While admiring your recent stand on the issue of trading stamps, I would like to take this opportunity of making certain recommendations as to the running of your own organisation, in particular the new supermarket in Sludge, the large town in the southern part of this county.

On entering this establishment I was confronted by a gentleman who insisted on presenting me with a large wire basket, for which I had no possible use. Hoping that this basket would not prove expensive, I placed it on the metal trolley provided for the carriage of groceries.

I have several complaints regarding this machine. Road-holding was, on the whole, poor. There were no brakes and the steering was heavy. Furthermore, the metal framing was spaced in such a way that, while it is possible for one to insert one's index finger between the framework, it is difficult, not to say impossible, to remove it, and I fear that the vehicle suffered considerable damage as a result of my efforts to extricate my fingers, all of which eventually became entangled.

I would also suggest that bumpers be fitted to these trolleys, which are the same height as the shelves containing the groceries, especially in light of an unfortunate experience I had on the Canned Foods/Cereals crossroads. I was turning right from Cereals into Canned Meat when a similar vehicle to mine, piloted by a lady in a blue coat, cut across my bows, as it were, causing me to pull up rather sharply. I was immediately rammed in the

rear by another trolley, and as a result I involuntarily leapt forward, pushing the trolley away from me. Unfortunately I pushed rather hard, and the trolley struck the shelves, disorganising a rather large section of your Canned Fruit Display.

After making a few more purchases, I made my way to the Cash registers at the exit to the shop. While admiring the swiftness of the young lady in typing out the prices of all my goods, I feel she was a little swift in assessing the total amount. While my bill was, in fact, added up correctly, I am sure this degree of accuracy cannot be consistently maintained.

My last adventure stems, I fear, from a lack of understanding of modern technology. The exit doors of your shop are automatically controlled by the presence, or lack of presence of a person or persons on the mat situated in front of the door. Unaware of this, I leant firmly on the door just as the mechanism was activated. The door swung open, and I fell forward on to the pavement. As I picked myself up, I noticed that part of my shopping had fallen to the ground, and was lying on the mat. I turned round and picked it up but, alas, this caused the deactivation of the mechanism, and the door firmly shut, knocking me back into the shop.

Considerably alarmed by the erratic activities of the door, I warily approached it. It swung open and I leapt through the doorway and landed on the exact spot where I had left the main part of my shopping. Several people seemed rather alarmed at the sight of me leaping through a doorway and landing on a basketful of groceries, but being of an independent nature, I collected my shopping together and returned home by omnibus.

My impression of your shop is that it is, on the whole, well and efficiently run. However, I trust you will note the lapses in organisation noted here.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

EDWARD FORTESCUE (*Maj., ret.d.*)

P.S. The wire basket is doing yeoman service protecting some plants from aerial attack by birds.

C. R. SABINE, VIB.

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*Lingua brevis, brevitare levis, levitate movetur,  
Mobilitate loquax, garrulitate nocens.*

MARTIAL DYLAN.

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## NEMESIS

Amorphous enigmatic wasteland.  
Black monolithic structures pervading  
Over those legendary green hills,  
Once ubiquitous in a proud land.  
People are unseen  
Amongst the tangled incoherent masses  
Of telegraph wires, cables, tall posts  
And unintelligible signs.  
Unheard above the din of machines  
Rushing to and fro,  
The crash and screech of human judgement.  
It seems never to end,  
Leaving the mind confused and lost,  
Fearfully small,  
Dwarfed by tall, crushing hotels and office blocks,  
Leaving the sky to break up the eternal  
Feeling of ignominy . . .  
Cruel choking atmosphere.

PETER WILSON.

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## THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Legend, miracle or scientific fact? Around these three themes has ranged the still unsettled controversy of the explanation of the "star in the east" seen by the Wise Men at the time of the birth of Christ. Throughout the centuries the scanty record of the Star of Bethlehem has been food for sceptics, confirmation for believing in miracles, and a stimulation to research for these with scientific leanings. Some regard the story of the star as a product of vivid imagination, prompted by religious enthusiasm; this is the feeling of the sceptics. Others attribute it to the supernatural, thus placing it out of reach of scientific description. To those of us who feel that there is a credible explanation to the event there are several possibilities available.

Naturally, Venus has been suggested as being the star that the Wise Men saw, as it is one of the most prominent objects in the sky, brighter than any other except the sun and moon. This planet would provide a sign of outstanding beauty and brilliance. Since it shines very brightly in the morning eastern sky at regular intervals of just over a year and a half, its appearance could have coincided with the birth of Christ. However, it seems to me that the Wise Men, being familiar with the apparent movements

of the heavenly bodies, would not regard so well-known and regular a visitor as Venus to be the sign they sought. Something more unusual is required.

What about comets and meteors? Well, the latter may be dismissed at once, since they are only seen for a few fleeting seconds racing through the earth's atmosphere as an incandescent mass. A comet is a good possibility, since it can be a prominent object in the sky for a few weeks, and one could have started the Wise Men off on their quest. It has, in fact, been discovered that in 4 B.C., the year in which King Herod died, which is often quoted as being the exact year of Christ's birth, Chinese astronomers observed a comet bright enough to be seen in daylight. This comet appeared in the constellation Capricornus and remained visible for 70 days!

One other astronomical phenomenon could hold more promise than any other to explain the star. At unpredictable moments a new star may appear in the sky, flaring up in a few days to a brilliancy that makes it quite prominent. Many of these temporary stars or "novae" never attain exceptional brightness, but several times a century there is usually one that becomes bright enough to change the appearance of the constellation in which it occurs. Very occasionally—once in every several centuries, there occurs a gigantic outburst of a star which astronomers call a "supernova", which may outshine Venus at its brightest. We have records of such phenomena occurring in 1054, 1575 and 1604, the one in 1572 being so bright that it could be seen at noontime.

Although records at the time of Christ's birth contain no clues as to the occurrence of a nova or supernova, we must remember that the recording of scientific happenings was a chance affair in those days and that records, when made, risked serious distortion and loss over the centuries. To me it seems quite possible that the Wise Men's star was a nova, or even a supernova, but others may prefer one of the alternative speculations as to the cause of this historic event.

BRIAN RUSSELL.

## RU G'BI

The circle in the centre of the village had a large rectangle described upon it, at either end of which had been erected a tall H-shaped structure. As the sun rose further overhead, the noise of chanting from the great hut grew louder, and when the shadows of the great H's showed it to be noon, the young men danced out to the accompaniment of drums and primitive wind instruments on to the rectangle completely surrounded by the other members of the village. At one movement from the sage who led the



procession, the youths separated, and took up their positions, fifteen in each half of the rectangle. It is suggested that this number is a symbol of ultimate perfection : five—the number of human perfection (five fingers, toes, senses)—applied to each of their three gods (or aspects of the deity, as in Hinduism : Brahma the creator, Shiva the preserver, and Kali the destroyer).

An inflated oval bag of leather was placed in the centre of the circle, and at a signal from the sage the young men charged upon it. Hereafter the object seemed to be for each side to touch the bag down beyond the H at the opposite end of the field. This action represents an overcoming of the infantile Oedipus Complex (the egg-shape symbolising the mother), whereafter follows a short homosexual phase—the youths embrace each other as they go back to resume their original positions. The action is repeated several times, after which the ritual is brought to an end by ceremonial washing (for purification) and anointing one another with aromatic oils.

The Swiss-born composer Honegger has written a “mouvement symphonique” called *Rugby* (an obvious Gallicisation of the name) which seems to have been inspired by the rite. Readers of an enquiring mind should compare it with Riisaager’s ballet, *Quasi-loony*.

ANDREW POTTS.

## MAKING A FILM

By far the most serious difficulty with making a film is money. A film costs about £1½ a minute. A great deal of expensive apparatus is needed, and it was only after these difficulties had been overcome that the R.G.S. film group got under way. We were very lucky because Mr. Morgan offered us £20 as a grant for making the film, and £10 for buying equipment, whilst the County Visual Aids Organiser, Mr. Ligertwood, lent us lights, tripod and a camera.

We first needed to write a script. The group met to decide on a plot, which took two hours to think up, and then the actual shooting script was written. The plot was very complicated—in fact, far too complicated, and so it was necessary in the end to put an explanatory comment on tape, making it more comprehensible.

Next came the auditions. Here we were surprised by the high standard of the acting, for although there were only five major parts to be filled, we found at least ten people who could fill them admirably. At last all the arrangements had been made

for filming, and so one Saturday morning everyone arrived and the filming was ready to begin.

The first morning's work went like a dream. It was planned to get in about fourteen shots. In fact we finished twenty. The production team worked with great success and the actors were superb. But there was one shot which stuck firmly in my memory : it was a complicated shot, a sequence in which Paul Roberts had to work his way along a row of coats looking in all the pockets until he reached the camera. Here he turns and sees some boys behind him. This shot presented many difficulties. The row of coats, the boys, as well as Paul himself, had to be lit with only four photo-floods. One person had to alter the exposure, another the focusing, whilst a third operated the camera. Rehearsal followed rehearsal until everything was perfect, and then the shot number was filmed. I shouted "Take !" and it started. The whole sequence lasts only three-quarters of a minute, but it seemed interminable. Sweat poured off our brows, and I shouted the distances as he came nearer, but it was Paul himself who bore most of the strain. The heat of the photo-floods was terrific and his timing had to be perfect. When he had advanced within two feet of the camera the focusing ring was turned out fully. The aperture opened further, and he placed his feet carefully on the chalk marks. The boys shouted and he turned. The focusing ring was twisted back the exact amount, and the aperture was closed. The most difficult "cut" was over.

The next few weeks were not so smooth. Each person had his own opinions, and the number of shots fell to ten per day, but the standard was high and we kept on. Many varied difficulties presented themselves, one of the biggest being continuity. People would arrive in different clothes and this had to be checked. Some shots needed more arranging than the ten straightforward ones. Ringing bells had to be filmed, which involved mending our broken bells. Lighting had to be accomplished with a faulty socket. We also had to photograph running feet and we had difficulty in getting camera and feet on the same level. We supplied our own bad weather with buckets of water.

Eventually we finished and had our film developed. The first attempt had gone through the camera too slowly, giving a speeded-up effect when projected, which was comic. So there had to be retakes. Editing was finished quickly as well as titling. A sound-track was then recorded on tape to be played with the film explaining the actions. When at last everything was finished, the R.G.S. film group had won its spurs.

ANDREW SMYTH.

(When is this film coming on general release ?—ED.)

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pass on by  
old sailor friend  
see by and by  
the greensea end  
alone to wend  
alone be free  
pass by friend  
the old greensea

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### **“WHO’S FOR AUSTRIA NEXT CHRISTMAS?”**

On Sunday, 27th December, a school party with two masters set out for a skiing holiday in Austria. The following comments were recorded from three people who had not been on a school trip abroad before.

“We were a bit tired and everything after a party the night before. We piled on a bus to cross London.”

“The fun started on the boat. I don’t remember much after that. We got off the boat at midday. Next time I woke up there was snow everywhere. It was Austria.”

“Yes. There was no snow in France. We talked and sang until one in the morning on a train direct to Innsbruck. Saw all the chalets on the mountain-sides lit up. Next thing we knew was the steward waking us up in the morning.”

“The food on the train was mostly all right, but do you remember that supper we had? It was sickening. Both ways.”

From Innsbruck to the hotel at Sistrans. There was a sheer drop at one side of the road . . .

“. . . and a chap heaving on the windscreen-pillar of his Mercedes, trying to get it back on the road! We shot past in our coach, all cheering and yelling.”

“Sistrans was in the Tyrol near Igls, where the Olympic ski-jumping was held. Innsbruck could be seen from the hotel, about four miles away.”

“We were fitted out with skis that afternoon, and the following day, Tuesday, we had the first lessons. Those who had skied before, about half the party, were separated from the beginners. We spent the first day balancing on the skis and stamping the snow down.”

“We went out on the slopes around nine-thirty in the morning. Lessons were two hours long in the morning and afternoon. There was an Austrian called Georg in charge of us—had a tremendous sense of humour.”

“People were always falling over for the first few days at least.”

“We were taught how to stop—‘the snowplough’—in the first lesson.”

“Then how to cross slopes. We spent the lessons on various different slopes.”

“From the first day we used to ski back to the door of the hotel, which was conveniently at the foot of the slopes.”

“About the third day we learnt some turns, the stem, and another one later on. Some people got the hang of them. I was one who didn’t.”

“Yes, instead of putting your foot out and down you kept the skis together and twisted round from the hips—tricky.”

“We learnt about travelling over rough ground, and a couple of times we went skiing parallel to a stream.”

Not every day was spent on the slopes ; for example, there was a trip to Innsbruck one afternoon to see some ski-jumping.

“It was quite a big match—Germany v. Austria, I think.”

“The weather was cold, and snowing.”

“There was some spectacular crashes—ambulances were standing by. After each crash people stamped the snow down again and sprinkled yew twigs on it to make it slippery.”

“The stadium was steeply tiered with very slippery steps. One fellow tumbled and slid, sitting, right down to the bottom.”

In the evenings the party split up. One group usually went across the road to the Gasthof Post cafe, collected the girls, walked around for a while, then went later in the evening to the ‘milch-bar’, which also sold rum, wine and schnapps. The hotel itself had a juke-box and some of the party stayed there for the first few evenings.

“There was a ‘Tyrolean evening’ on the third night. Some members of a girls’ school, who were sitting round drinking wine, got removed by their mistresses.”

“On New Year’s Eve we toddled up to people in the street to say the customary greeting in German.”

“It was great in the hotel at midnight. People singing and fireworks going off.”

WICKENS  
SIMONS  
HOMER

*talked to*

JEREMY KNIGHT.

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now is not all  
pick up again  
twinkling jaycall  
gossamer pain

the sunplumed wing  
be proud to know  
unravelling  
blest whereago

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### DEATH OF A FORMER MASTER

The following is an extract from *The Wycombiensian*, vol. 3 (page 191), number VIII, for March 1916 :

#### Staff :

*Mr. T. S. Eliot left last term for the Preparatory School at Highgate, where we wish him every success. We welcome this term Mr. P. L. Jones, B.A. (Wales).*

T. S. Eliot, who died on January 4th, was not the school's only connection with high culture: the school also claims Edmund Waller ("Go, lovely rose"),—who is buried in Beaconsfield parish church—as a distinguished old boy.

In late September of 1915, Ezra Pound discovered Eliot, an American studying philosophy at Merton College, Oxford, whose verse revealed that he had "modernized himself *on his own*."

A writer has to construct his shell, like the caddis worm, from the debris of the past; in 1915 it was clear to Eliot that a clean break with the immediate past was essential. The years at the beginning of this century were among the leanest years of English poetry. Romance had run into the sand with the decadence, the *fin-de-siècle* perfume and squandered vocabulary of love, of the late Victorians. And then :

*For I have known them all already, known them all—  
Have known the evenings, mornings, afternoons,  
I have measured out my life with coffee spoons.*

It is difficult now to imagine the impact of T. S. Eliot on the *avant-garde* at that time, or to recognise for the first time again

the new, sane, melancholy, light-hearted, and fastidious voice. Poetry had been brought out of the hot-house. The polite resignation of Prufrock showed for the first time that nothing need be faked, and that the distilled tones of conversation can be used in poetry with disquieting intimacy.

*Shall I say, I have gone at dusk through narrow streets  
And watched the smoke that rises from the pipes  
Of lonely men in shirt-sleeves leaning out of windows?*

The buoyant, quizzical tones, the youthfulness, the acute realisation of impressions—

*I should find  
Some way incomparably light and deft,  
Some way we both should understand,  
Simple and faithless as a smile and shake of the hand.*

—the newness of the experience and sudden surprise at the intimacy are unforgettable. (No doubt A. E. Housman cut himself when shaving.)

Meeting him, on an August afternoon two and a half years ago, was to feel rebuked in his presence. He did not dress for genius: he was sombre but genial, being an elderly publisher, and sat, wedged at a desk in his tiny office, in which there was hardly room to move, with a discreet air of satisfaction. The appropriate features, fine and classical, the dry crumbling voice, the bronchial cough, and the unexpected gale of laughter which would follow a simple joke each made their impression.

Westminster Abbey was packed full for the Memorial Service, with literary celebrities everywhere. Ezra Pound had flown over from his home outside Venice, and his profile—Joseph Conrad superimposed on Cardinal Richelieu—later adorned the Sunday papers. Sir Alec Guinness, whose eminence was first revealed by *The Cocktail Party*, read, in the intense stillness, some of the poems. Perhaps the great moment of the service was Stravinsky's short anthem—slender, piercing, architectonic—to words from *Little Gidding*.

This "heresiarch", as Lord Alfred Douglas called Eliot, has become more familiar now, after a period of fifty years, as the Pontiff, the figure in the stained-glass window. Bales of criticism have been written about his poetry, plays and essays, but the sensibility of youth, the tender penetrations, remain. He will be most missed by those who were lucky enough to discover him in their teens.

MARTIN TURNER.

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## ILLUSION

A Rainbow is a personal thing,  
Never "our" Rainbow, but "my" Rainbow.  
A coloured arc—nebulous and vague.  
Always changing (like a hag-ridden railway traveller)  
So that no one can see it quite as you do.  
I cannot point "our" Rainbow—it doesn't exist—  
I can point out "my" Rainbow—but  
Never, never "ours"—for you can't see mine.  
But wait a moment—I can see no one else's  
(They cannot see mine, but *I* know it's there)—  
So how do I know that their Rainbows are  
Not figments of jealous imagination.  
Why, yes, that's it !—I alone can see  
The only rainbow in the world, as I gaze across the . . .  
. . . Oh, but it *was* there—you must have seen it.

ALAN SCHMIDT.

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## VISITOR

Mr. Harris was very excited : he was going to have a visitor. Not something for a person to be so excited about, perhaps, but as this one happened to be buying a shop, and as Mr. Harris was selling one, he had every reason to be on edge. His sixty-sixth birthday was in sight, and he had decided to sell the shop and buy a house in the country. He liked gardening. Even had a small garden at the back of the shop.

A bell rang. That would be him now! Mr. Harris straightened his tie in front of a mirror, collected himself, and walked towards the door.

"Ah, good afternoon, Mr. Harris. I'm . . ."

"Yes, will you just step this way please?"

The man took off his bowler and stepped inside. He was a slight man with a small moustache, and neatly dressed. He held a small attaché case in his hand which he put down against the wall. Mr. Harris continued to talk.

"Well, now, this is the shop. We have this, the upstairs, and a small garden behind. Would you like to see the garden? This way then." Mr. Harris led the way, talking all the time. He wondered if the new owner would keep up the garden.

"The upstairs floor has two bedrooms, a hall and a bathroom. There is a lot of cupboard space, and—Oh yes!—most important—some sort of central heating, though it isn't in good condition, you know." They came back.

For the first time the man spoke.

"Now, Mr. Harris, your shop . . ."

"Ah, yes, the shop. Well, we are the only general stores round this area for quite a way, so many people come here."

"How do you do yourself, Mr. Harris?"

"Well, you understand, we have our special customers, junkies, you know, who hang around these parts a lot, and I've a friend in Chelsea who is in a position to supply me with heroin cheaper than most."

"Anything else?"

"Oh yes. There's the cigarette and sweet machines."

"They all bring in their bit?"

"They all bring in their bit."

"Mr. Harris, I'm from the Excise Office. You don't seem to understand. Did you not get our letter?"

The 'phone rang. An anxious prospective buyer was buzzing away at the other end. Mr. Harris, who was in sight of his sixty-sixth birthday, did not hear. At that moment, nothing could reach him.

CHRISTOPHER DAINTY, 4SB.

## SHORT STORY

The mist rolled interminably across the fens ; the landscape faded slowly in the murk. I stumbled on, and the mud lay in thick cakes around the welts of my shoes. I came upon a stile in the gathering gloom, and, resting awhile, to my surprise a faint noise reached my ears, increasing every second. In the distance, a crackle came, and then a blaze of lights, running in two parallel lines to my left. The mist thinned for a moment and I glimpsed, silhouetted against a flashing light, the outlines of aircraft.

Soon the air was filled with the stench from the starting cartridges. The shape rumbled forward, its jets shrieking. Behind it another followed, and then another. The shrieking deepened to a full-throated roar, and the plane moved sufficiently



near for me to see it. A squat cigar-shaped object bulged ominously from its belly. It rumbled forward between the twin paths of light, and, like some grim game of follow-my-leader, the others followed in quick succession. A smell of burning rubber filled my nostrils.

While the first three faded in the distance the fourth sat at the end of the runway, its engines gently idling. It waited like an obedient dog, and then gathered speed. By this time, the mist had almost completely evaporated. The plane raced down the runway, and lifted into the air, almost reluctantly, fluttering for a while, and then slowly, like a huge injured bird, turned over and sank back to earth.

Millions of sparks flew in all directions ; like fireflies, they alighted on hedge and wall alike. A horrible rending noise followed, then a gigantic explosion.

This ghastly funeral pyre remained alight for a matter of ten minutes or more. I don't know. I stood strangely fascinated by this grim spectacle. Then suddenly all was quiet, save for the wind blowing softly over the charred wreckage.

JULIAN WHEEL, 5A.

## WINTER SPORT

The wind hummed a muted song in the telegraph wires above the hedgerow. A pigeon beats his way low, along the line of the plough. A human figure steps out from the hedge. Bagh ! down it comes, twisting, turning, tumbling, smashing into the muddy earth. A tangled heap of nothing that was homing to roost.

The clouds hug the skyline, dark, menacing, full of rain. A squall of rain and sleet slashes through the hedge. A pheasant stirs. Then screeches its way up the line of scrub ; two, three, four follow with quick wing beats, gliding their heavy bodies, then flying fast, gliding, flying their way away into the dusk.

A pigeon swings low into the hedge to follow it up to the wood. The man stands up. "That's it. Swing with it, lead it into the shoulder. Now!" The pigeon lifts, then folds and crashes into a bush. It flutters, twitches, and lies still. A trickle of blood appears in the corner of its beak. The man puts the pigeon in his bag, wipes the blood off his hand and walks out of the hedge. As he disappears down the redge a hare gets up. It bounds easily over the sticky plough, over the brow of the hill. Now only the rain falls and the wind blows in the dark world.

GRAHAM KING, 5UG.

## UPLYME BOARDING HOUSE REPORT

*Lorsque l'enfant parait, le cercle de famille  
Applaudit à grands cris.*

(VICTOR HUGO)

We take the first opportunity of welcoming our new House-master, Mr. F. N. Cooper, and his wife and family, and congratulating them on the birth, on 10th March, of their third child, Margaret Rachel.

The writing of a boarding-house report is not as easy as some may think. The author must note the honours of athletes (first team colours were awarded to Hume and Beasley for rugby, and to Gorski for cross-country), the parts played in school productions (Lewis, D., is Antony in *Julius Caesar*, I am Caesar, and Hume is Brutus, and other members are taking various parts) and the progress of school work (thought to be doing well).

For those interested in sport, particularly those involved, one must mention that we beat School House at football 5—0 and lost in the return match 2—1, after—I am told—a much-disputed penalty. No one would play us at rugby, which proves something, I suppose.

We are grateful that we now have our own television set and record player. We are told that we will soon be getting curtains, carpets, and new leather chairs for the common-room, though if we have to wait as long for them as we have been waiting for a consignment of eight waste-paper baskets, I believe we can look forward hopefully to 1968.

Several exercises have been arranged for Sunday afternoons and enjoyed by all those who have taken part, having brought themselves to leave the "box". Theatre trips were arranged to *The Canterbury Tales* and *The Alchemist* at Oxford.

News in brief: a canoe is being built around behind the study, an electric drill goes most of the time, and those who failed in exams are no longer embarrassed for an excuse; one member is continually amused by a box of Meccano kindly given to the boarding-house by some kind-hearted person who believed in our constructional abilities; a new chocolate machine has been installed in the common-room; at the Christmas party—for the first time—we had a film: Spike Milligan in "Invasion Quarter"; there is a mouse in the common-room; also, a disturbing absence of cigarette ends: where are they being put now? And will the owner of car number 860 GMK kindly remove it from the Uplyme car park?

*Thus things proceed in their circle.* (MACHIABELLI)

JAMES GRAYSON.

## BOARDERS' FILM CLUB

To provide some entertainment for those boarders who found nothing to do on Sunday nights after Chapel, it was decided to show some sponsored films. The limited success of these inspired us to form a Film Club in which we would show full-length feature films. For a modest subscription the boarders are now shown a film every fortnight and we have been lucky enough to obtain such good films as "1984", "Animal Farm", "To Kill a Mocking Bird", "The Phantom of the Opera", "Carve Her Name with Pride", and "Hot Enough for June".

Next term we look forward to a full programme, including "Charade", and, we hope, "The Guns of Navarone". Thanks are due to all who help at these films, whether they put the chairs out at the beginning or work the projector, and especially to Mr. Cooper, without whose expert guidance the Club could not have succeeded.

JAMES GRAYSON.

## SCHOOL HOUSE REPORT

The house has once again played a great part in the life of the school, and provided many members both for sporting and other activities. We had several boys in the production of "The Pirates of Penzance" at Christmas, and the cast of "Julius Caesar", put on at the end of last term, consisted largely of boarders, especially in the major parts. David Snodin here deserves mention for his performance of Cassius.

At the end of the Spring term, the head boy, Allan Wickens, left us, and we have two new prefects, David Snodin and Robert Hill. We wish them luck in this none too easy task. Since the last magazine the house itself has undergone several changes, owing to the extra space provided now that the Headmaster is to live away from the school. There is also the new common-room outside which is now open and must, along with the other changes, make life considerably more pleasant than it was before.

On the sporting side we have had members of many of the school rugby teams. A. Frankland played regularly for the 2nd XV, while P. Colley and Thorne were in the 3rd team. Below the senior teams there was also great support and many of the juniors and middles represented the school in one team or another. The Basketball team, under Frankland's captaincy, was almost entirely boarders, the majority from this house, while the prefects can also boast members of the rowing, hockey and badminton teams.

Exams are now near, too near in fact, in which the whole house will shortly be involved. It only remains to wish everyone the best of luck in them, especially those taking G.C.E., at either "A" or "O" level, the former perhaps will need it most.

Finally we have been pleased to have Mr. T. Newling join us as House Tutor. We hope his stay will be a long and happy one.

A. R. NOTTINGHAM.

## TYLER'S WOOD HOUSE REPORT

It was with mixed feelings that we saw the departure of our illustrious Head Boy of four terms, Richard Jones. M.R.D. Yorke, another of our prefects, also left, and is to go up to Cambridge in the autumn. D. M. Rea left to become a day boy again, after successfully organising several inter-boarding-house football matches.

Even boarding-houses are subject to change, and the arrival of a 21-inch television set has been a great source of weekend entertainment.

The house has been swept by the usual perennial diseases, but all patients have now recovered. Had it not been for modern medicine, however, George, our gardener, tells us he would have "gone the other way".

Finally we would like to offer our sincere congratulations to Mr. I. M. Merrylees, who is leaving us at the end of this term to get married. During his seven terms as House Tutor he has contributed greatly to the welfare of the boys. We thank him again and hope that he and his wife will be very happy in the future.

ANDREW WANDS.

## "A PLAGUE ON ALL YOUR SIX HOUSES"

At the end of the Easter Term, the state of the houses is such that only seven points separate the first four. Disraeli are leading with 67 pts., Queens 63 pts., while Arnison and Fraser both have 60 pts. Tucker have 50 pts., Youens 44 pts. The results for each sport are as follows :—

|                   |            | 1 | 2      | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------------------|------------|---|--------|---|---|---|---|
| Rugby ...         | ... A & F= | — | D      | Q | T | Y |   |
| Badminton ...     | ... Q      | D | A & T= | — | Y | F |   |
| Basketball ...    | ... A      | F | D      | Y | Q | T |   |
| Cross-country ... | ... F      | D | Q      | A | Y | T |   |
| Chess ...         | ... Y      | Q | T & D= | — | A | F |   |
| Hockey ...        | ... F      | T | Y      | D | Q | A |   |
| Shooting ...      | ... T      | Q | A & D= | — | Y | F |   |

## C.C.F. NOTES

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### R.A.F. SECTION

It is pleasant to be able to report that Pilot Officer K. D. Millican has joined the officer strength of this unit. He is warmly welcomed and we hope his association with the unit will be long and enjoyable.

The list of cadets who have won Flying Scholarships is continued with the award of a Flying Scholarship to Cpl. R. J. Calcutt. He will be trained at the Oxford Aero Club at Kidlington during the Easter vacation.

As a result of examinations held in December, 1964, and March, 1965, 18 cadets have attained the Advanced Training Standard and 14 cadets have passed the Proficiency Examination.

Cadets continue to take advantage of the opportunities offered by 613 Gliding School at R.A.F. Halton. In 1964, 17 cadets were trained to the Proficiency Standard and now wear the distinguishing wings on their uniforms to mark this achievement. The three cadets selected to attend the Advanced Course in Gliding attained the Advanced Standard with two of these reaching the Soaring Standard. During this year, cadets will be attending continuous courses in gliding at Easter, Whitsuntide and in August and September. We confidently expect that some of these will be further selected to attend the Advanced Course later.

The Easter camp was held at a Transport Command Station, R.A.F. Colerne, in Wiltshire, in the week commencing 21st April.

E.M.

### ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

This term various attempts have been made to liven up C.C.F. activities, for example the introduction of a revised syllabus placing far more emphasis on practical work. An interesting film, "Hands to Flying Stations", was shown by a Fleet Air Arm pilot, followed by a lecture dealing with the problems of the Royal Navy in places such as Borneo. The afternoon was completed by a second lecture on naval air training, although most of the audience would probably have preferred to hear more about the pilot's experience in Borneo. However, both film and lectures will prove useful supplements to teaching by the section's own N.C.O.'s.

The introduction of map-reading to the basic syllabus has given the section scope for some unnautical behaviour, and despite the temperamental nature of the Army lorry, and the inexperience of its driver, two highly successful exercises were conducted for the New Entries.

The section now has the use of Raven's Ait, an S.C.C. boating station on the Thames. A small party of cadets spent a very instructive day there in October, and it is hoped to make fuller use of this establishment in the near future.

Finally the section extends its warmest congratulations to L/S Pattison who has, in the face of severe competition, been awarded a reserved cadetship at the Britannia Naval College, Dartmouth. Congratulations are also due to P.O. Carthy and P.O. Oliver on passing their Advanced Proficiency Exams, and to L/S Tinton and L/S Pattison on passing their Proficiency Exams.

D. A. WAKEFIELD, Cox'n.

## CORPS OF DRUMS REPORT

The enthusiasm both on the part of the N.C.O.'s and the corps members themselves is at a peak not attained for many years. The drum section has reached a satisfactory standard but this is regrettably lacking in the bugle section at the moment.

Our apparent high level of performance has not gone unnoticed, for we have had several requests to appear publicly : for the Scouts at Gerrards Cross, the Bourne End Carnival, at Maidenhead, and in High Wycombe.

This year's band is, in the main, unhindered by exams., on account of the majority of members belonging to the fifth form. With this in mind, we hope for a good performance and good results at the General Inspection and Speech Day.

ANDREW WANDS.

## ARMY SECTION

The activities of the past two terms have been concerned with individual training. Two examinations in the Army Proficiency Examination were held, one at the end of each term, and a satisfactory number passed on each occasion and qualified for the N.C.O.'s cadre class, designed specifically to equip potential N.C.O.'s for responsibility as junior leaders.

The Easter camp was an admirable sequel to the Winter training programme and provided an opportunity to put theory

into practice at all levels of leadership. Five officers and twenty-five cadets with Sgt. Harrison in charge of catering travelled in the newly acquired transport to 89 Weekend Training Centre near Leek. The party was joined by two former Cadet R.S.M.'s of the C.C.F., Officer Cadets R. N. C. Harrison and M. H. Anderson, now at Sandhurst, who brought with them the latest teaching in tactics to pass on to their former colleagues.

The week was spent in a series of exercises of graduated interest and complexity, commencing with simple section movements and finishing with a realistic occupation of position linked with patrol activities, attack and ambush from a bivouac area involving mess-tin cooking. Each exercise involved a large number of cadets in appreciations, and briefing of others ; they were followed by excellent "de-briefing" conferences where all were quick to criticise each other and enumerate the mistakes they had made themselves.

### **1966 Alpine Expedition**

Much interest was aroused by the official announcement at the end of the Easter camp that approval had been obtained for the 1966 training project to take place in the French Alps on the route followed by Hannibal, with his armies, during his march on Rome in 218 B.C.

It is too early to give many details of this expedition, but it is hoped that the cost will be within the reach of all, and that, after the expedition, the opportunity will be taken to visit some of the famous cities of Italy, and to relax for a few days for swimming off the French Riviera. Qualifications for this will be announced shortly, but all three sections of the C.C.F. will be eligible and a cross-section of all age groups may be selected if other qualifications are adequate.

D.P.

### **THE CHALLENGE HIKE**

On the night of Saturday, 3rd April, teams of boys from the C.C.F. and the Wycombe District Senior Scouts met at the school to take part in an incident course set around the Chilterns near Saunderton. The exercise started at 7 p.m. and the boys set out in groups of three to the various checkpoints.

The route lay through Hughenden Park, Naphill Common and Bradenham. "Incidents" included crawling along a rope stretched over a muddy stream, "rescuing" an injured parachutist from a tree, and lighting a fire with the aid of a piece of wire wool and a battery.

The course continued to Slough Mill, where the school C.C.F. signallers were working. After completing a map-reading test the teams were sent to the next checkpoint. By this time it

was about midnight and as there was no moon, navigation was rather difficult. At least one team became lost and had to fight its way through a dense wood. Eventually the teams reached their rendezvous points, where they had to erect a tent without the aid of poles, and from there went on to the Scouts' Camp, where, after two more "incidents", the course finished at 4.30 a.m.

In all, seven teams completed the course, and despite aching feet after the 20-mile walk, the whole manoeuvre was enjoyed by all who took part.

J. WEISS.

*"Subscribe to our Society . . ."*

CHARLES DICKENS.



science society

The Society and House reports have long been a source of frustration to the past editors of this magazine. They take up valuable space and are usually dull and uninteresting. This year's contributions were no exception. It was therefore decided to abolish the Society report as such, but in order that society activities should not go unrecorded, a single report of all the societies would be printed. The editors have tried to be fair in allotting space in proportion to activity, and the societies are intentionally in no set order.

One of the more recently formed societies is the **Geographical Society**. Its programme of lunch-hour films and slide lectures has received encouraging support, reflecting the



general increase in Geography in the school. Membership has exceeded the hundred mark, and the society has generally made itself felt, if only be taking over the largest notice-board in the school. A talk by Dr. Peter Coppock, Lecturer in Geography at London University, on "The relationship of London to the Chiltern Hills", was well attended, and further lectures are planned. Next term also, a geological and survey section will be set up.

The two talks given by the **History Society** were well attended, but the society is still getting under way, and there is no room for complacency. The talks were "Mussolini: The Man and his time", by the former Secretary, J. E. Havard, and "The Decembrists; the beginning and end of Russian Freedom", by Mr. Ralph Austin, of the University of Maryland.

This term saw the start of the **Junior History Society** under the chairmanship of J. R. Hill of 2E. This society meets on Wednesdays in the lunch hour, and has so far been well supported. Talks have been given by M. J. Hemming and B. C. Kneller, both of 2E, on "Sir Winston Churchill" and film strips on "Windsor Castle" and "The Tower of London". The Chairman himself has given two amazingly erudite talks on "Heraldry" and "Medieval Brasses", while another keen medievalist, S. M. R. Hill of 3X, gave a talk on "Medieval Armour".

and so he said to me

$$" a = Wg - \frac{10nsx}{y} \cdot \frac{ye \text{ Cos } wt}{8L} "$$



The membership of the **Mathematics Society** is steadily increasing. A trip to the Northampton College of Advanced Technology, Islington, was arranged, and the party were shown a Pegasus and analogue computers. Mrs. Wood and Mr. Duffield both gave talks on Modern Mathematics, and two films were shown. Two further trips are planned—to the British Tele-

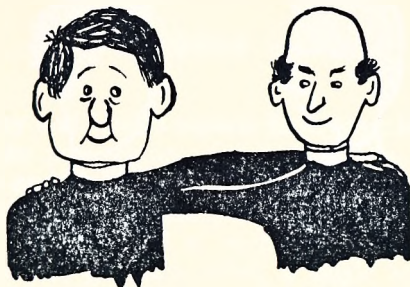
communications Research Open Day, and to the Oxford University Engineering laboratory, and further films and talks will be arranged.

The **Economics Society** showed three films, and arranged a talk by a Treasury official, Mr. Wiggins, on the activities of the Treasury, which was both interesting and well attended. Some trips are planned for next term.

One of the most active school societies is the **Music Society**. Throughout the last two terms the society has met without fail every Thursday, with record recitals ranging from Bach to Bartok. A music recognition contest was held, and a piano recital was given by Paul Roberts and Michael Cole. Fifteen members went to hear a performance of Verdi's "Requiem" in Eton College Hall, of especial interest, as rehearsals are now under way for the school's own performance at the end of this term. The society notice-board always contains details of local concerts, and reduced-price tickets are occasionally available. Finally, a madrigal group is being formed to take part in a concert at the end of the Summer Term.

The set-piece of the **Twentieth Century Opinion Society**, that is, the Mock Election, is fully reported elsewhere. However, two debates also took place that are worthy of note. The first was at Wycombe Abbey, the motion being "The wind of change is blowing too hard". It wasn't, but only by a small majority. The second was with the High School on "Immigration". These projects are ambitious, but thin on the ground, one feels.

The **Modern Languages Society** showed a French or German film once a fortnight. Support for this society is poor : a full-length film is planned, and perhaps this will revive interest in what should be an active organisation.



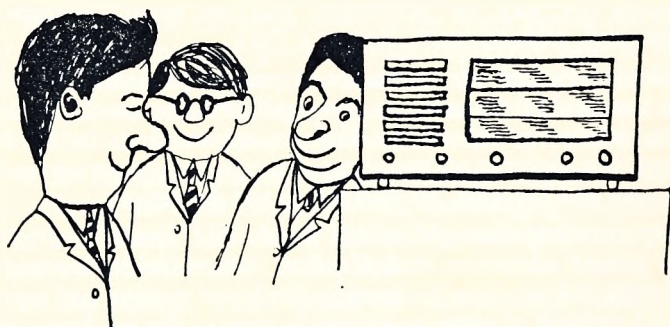
### christian fellowship

One very active society is the **Christian Fellowship**. Apart from their regular meetings, there have been several

lectures on various world religions, organised by the Rev. A. S. Clements, of the Baptist Missionary Society. The speakers all had first-hand knowledge of their subject-matter ; Miss F. A. Brooks, who spoke on Buddhism, had taught in Ceylon, where Buddhism is the State Religion, for several years, while the Rev. H. W. Carter, who spoke on Islam, was the Regional Secretary for Southern Asia. Most of the talks were illustrated by slides, which added interest to the subject. Attendance was always encouraging, and it is hoped that the boys who attended have gained a deeper insight into the lives of others.

The rising membership of the **Stamp Society**, now well over a hundred, shows that philately is still as absorbing a hobby as it ever was. Meetings are held twice a week, and two trips were run, one to the Stanley Gibbons Centenary Exhibition at the Festival Hall, and the other to "Stampex" at the Central Hall, Westminster. Their own exhibition is planned for Speech Day.

The **Camera Club** scheme for developing and printing at reduced rates has only just broken even financially despite even lower rates to attract more customers. This is a pity, for the standard of work is as good as any, and it would be a pity if this service were to be closed. A trip is planned for next term.



are you sitting comfortably then I'll begin

The **Radio Club** has not sent us a report, but this society does deserve mention. It is one of the few societies to possess a clubroom, and possesses, amongst other things, an oscilloscope.

The most active society in the school, the **Model Railway Club**, has passed from the pioneering stage of reviving a defunct undertaking to a period of consolidation and improvement. They now have a master-in-charge and an active committee. Modellers are always welcome who are prepared to work on the layout,

which is becoming more and more advanced but which still requires many man-hours for completion. During the term the branch terminus has been completely relaid to accommodate some hand-made buildings donated by one of the members. Some redecorating has been done and a start made on a signalling system which prevents collisions and reduces the amount of shouting originally required to run trains.

A successful trip was run at half-term to the Nottingham and Derby area to visit railway installations there. Two slide shows have been given, one from J. Critchley's collection, the other loaned by the Festiniog Railway Society. In the summer groups will be going to assist in the restoration of the Festiniog Railway in North Wales, and the Dart Valley Railway in Totnes, Devon.

## ZOO TIME

One of the rare occasions on which a group from the Biology Department descended from the "realms above" was the visit by six F.R.G.S.Z.S. (Fellows of the Royal Grammar School Zoological Society) to the Regent's Park Zoological Gardens.

The "Management" was persuaded to transport four of the Fellows in luxury, while the unfortunate remainder were forced to travel in a small, unidentifiable, brightly-coloured, vehicle (?), seemingly by way of Willesden, Harrow Road, Wormwood Scrubs, and, miraculously, Regent's Park.

Having rushed the turnstiles (a painful procedure, and not worth the trouble) we made an *Apis mellifera*-line for the Monkey House, where several of the Fellows appeared to be in their element, but, fighting off members of the public intent on feeding them nuts and bananas, we escaped to the Aquarium.

By crawling through on his hands and knees, one of the group gained admission at half-price. Once inside, we saw an interesting and at times fascinating display of marine and aquatic life, and partook of some on-course betting at the sea-horse tank. We then headed for the Reptile House, and from there proceeded to the Small Mammal House, where the Zoo is still trying to breed Palm Squirrels, unlike our department, who are the first and only people to have succeeded in this respect in this country.

It being two hours past opening time, the Management decided it was time for lunch, and headed for an exclusive restaurant with his former tutor. Being rather impoverished, we settled for sandwiches beside the Gibbon cage, followed by liquid refreshment of an unspecified nature.

After lunch we saw the now-famous "Goldie" and his mate "Mrs. Goldie", the feeding of the penguins, the new Cattle Sheds, where one fellow had his headgear removed by a camel; we were

impressed, some favourably, by the new Birdcage and the then uncompleted Elephant House. At four o'clock, after a short delay, we headed home. Since then the Department has maintained its position as the highest form in the school, both structurally and academically.

B. M. LUSCOMBE, J. L. NEWMAN, C. R. SABINE, A. T. WOODS.

## RUGBY

### 1st XV

Played 20, Won 11, Lost 9, Points For 230, Against 184.

The First XV has had a moderately successful season, winning eleven out of the twenty matches played. The side was constantly changing, owing to injuries, consequently the cohesion and drive which are necessary to produce a good all-round XV was lacking.

The forwards often lost the vigour and fire to match opposing packs, whilst the backs often failed to find the ability to penetrate the opposing defence. When they did manage to break through, too often passes would go astray or be "put down".

When the side did settle down in the latter part of the season they did produce some good football, especially against Balliol College and R.A.F. Apprentices Halton. In the latter game they produced some excellent rugby which swung from one end of the field to the other, resulting in some good tries by both sides.

S. R. Thomas captained the side from the middle of the back row. He led his team extremely well, encouraging his pack both in word and deed. His work in the line-out always ensured an adequate share of the ball in this sphere.

In the scrums, P. Lavender and D. Andrew proved to a tower of strength "up front". They helped a succession of hookers to gain experience and obtain a fair share of the ball. D. Fayle started hooking at the beginning of the season, but after only two games broke his arm. J. Rivers took his place and, although not a specialist hooker, gradually improved, until he too was injured. D. O'Hanlon then filled the breach until he left at Christmas.

G. Cutler and I. Collins acquitted themselves well in the second row. S. Breed and A. L. Turmezei played extremely well as wing forwards, proving their worth by their ability to "link up" in attack and cover well in defence.

At half-back, P. Brown proved to be a good all-round scrum half, fulfilling the promise he showed last season. His ability to

give a good service and defend well was always heartening to both forwards and backs.

At fly-half, Gooderham and Beasley shared the season. Gooderham started off the season, but unfortunately a head injury put him out of the game for some time and he never quite regained his old form. Beasley, who took his place, gradually improved as the season progressed, and towards the latter part played some very fine matches.

In the centre, D. Smith and M. Kefford started well, but when D. Smith was injured Mr. Kefford was left to lead a rather inexperienced three-quarter line. It is mainly due to his leadership that the new players were able to settle down so quickly. Douglas, who started off the season on the wing, moved into the centre and played well, especially in defence. On the wings Russell and Hume proved to be strong runners with the ball. Mitchenall played most of the season at full-back and once he had gained confidence proved to be a very reliable player.

In all, twenty-four players were required to fulfil the fixture list and many who gained first team experience will be available next year. I hope they have benefited by their experience and will provide the nucleus of next year's side.

## **2nd XV**

Played 15, Won 5, Drawn 2, Lost 8, Pts. For 157 Against 127

The 2nd XV had a moderate season. The reason for this was the large number of boys who had to substitute for injured 1st XV players. For instance, P. A. Beasley moved into the 1st XV and although he was eventually replaced by N. J. Gooderham, the lack of cohesion and drive of the backs was very noticeable.

Many boys had the opportunity of playing for the 2nd XV. Their experience this season will be of great value next year.

## **3rd XV**

Played 11, Won 7, Lost 4, Points For 115, Points Against 54.

Despite the inevitable lack of a settled XV, the team has played some remarkably good rugby. This was mainly due to the ability of the boys playing to adapt themselves to the needs of the team, and put the team first, themselves second. Thus, although last year's team was devoid of any outstanding talent, it was equally devoid of the fumbling disunity which has sometimes marred the 3rd XV in the past. Most noticeable was the

buoyant enthusiasm of all who played for the team, and those who remain should provide the backbone of a sound 2nd XV next season.

Once Hampton had curbed his instinct to kick the ball, some strong running and good movements by the backs usually resulted. In defence the covering was an obvious weakness, although Davies at full-back frequently saved the team much hard work with his long kicks. Of the forwards, Bibby, when he was not required by the 2nd XV, hooked consistently well, and the shove provided by Birch, Andrews, Cooper and Lippiatt ensured success in most of the set-scrums. In the loose scrums, however, play was not so accomplished, and despite many attempts a satisfactory line-out system was never evolved.

The following have played regularly for the 3rd XV :—

Melsom, Colley (P.), Hampton, Wills, Darvill, Andrews, Birch, Lippiatt, Wakefield (Capt.), Bibby, Cooper, Lewis, McCormick, Thorne, Bufton and Stansall.

D. A. WAKEFIELD.

### Junior Colts XV

The team enjoyed a fair amount of victories this season, combined with crushing defeats from Watford G.S. and Sir William Borlase School.

The backs were not given much chance to display their skill, but were ably led by their captain, Gamester. Woodford and Brown in particular played well all season, as did Barratt, Gerrish, Stevens and Worley.

The forwards, led by Pattinson and McKibben, were always strong in the scrum, but a bit weak in the line-outs ; Haynes, Hoath and Beasley worked well together, assisted by Gamble, Gostlow, Broadway, Wood and Smith. The team lacked tackling experience, a notable exception being Jackson, the full-back, who always tackled well.

The best matches of the season were against Warrenfield, which was won with the last kick of the match, and Henley, which was rather one-sided (76—3), Woodford and Gamester scoring 10 tries between them.

Our thanks are due to Mr. J. R. Williams, for taking so much interest in the team.

I. R. H. PATTINSON.

## Under 13 XV

The Under 13's season has proved enjoyable, if not successful. The team tended to rely on one or two individuals to score all the tries and do all the tackling—this reluctance to tackle and run straight and hard for the line lost games which could easily have been won.

The forwards played with life and vigour, but they must learn the value of possession in the "loose", which is so important to the three-quarters. Tomlinson was, perhaps, the hardest worker in the pack and he was well supported by Beasley, particularly in the line-out. The front row (Gunning, Chamberlain, Leslie and Woodbridge all played) generally held their own and did well in the scrum. The back row of Biggs, Berry and Davies was more effective in attack rather than in defence, and Davies' three tries against Watford showed great potential ability. Miles and Thorne formed a very mature pair of half-backs but must learn to vary their play to suit conditions. Parkins was an able deputy at scrum-half, and Pickering, Anderson and Ellingham were all strong-running wings. Smith and Woodhouse could develop into very useful centres if they learn to strengthen their defence and passing. Brownrigg proved to be a reliable full-back, with Jarman a capable substitute.

If these boys can maintain their keenness and enthusiasm for the game they should all develop into potential 1st XV players.

B.W.P.

## Under 12 XV

If enthusiasm alone could have secured victory no team could have stopped this under-12 side. From start to finish they played and practised with eagerness and enjoyment which were a pleasure to behold. At times this enthusiasm produced storming attacks by the forwards and furious running by the backs, but often, too, these young players found it impossible to pass, pick up or even hang on to the ball in the excitement of the moment, with the result that opportunities were lost and tries, which ought to have come in abundance from the attacking position which the team occupied for most of the play, were few and far between.

With such an inexperienced team mistakes were inevitable. Nevertheless, though these are early days for talent-spotting in a sport which most of these boys were playing for the first time, there are very encouraging signs for the future in the form of players with considerable natural ability for the game. Stevenson has an admirable sense of position at full-back, a cool mind under pressure and a good kick; Gatland (at present playing fly-half, though he looks more likely to be a centre later) is an intelligent runner with a fluent pass; Hogg (centre), a persistent and



effective tackler ; Spencer (wing) looks to be one of the fastest runners with the ball and might score a lot of tries when he learns where to run ; Cannell and Carthy (wing forwards) are superb spoilers after the loose ball and cover as much ground as the rest of the pack put together ; Wadams (hooker) won many a useful heel, and with Taylor and Howlands, was ever industrious in the loose mauls.

The pack has still a lot to learn about loose play in particular and the backs have still to move the ball in such a way as to make the most of their speed and thrust. All in all, however, there is a lot of potential here as well as enthusiasm, and I look forward to following this group's progress up the school.

D.B.

## CROSS-COUNTRY

Once again the cross-country team has had a very successful season. Before Christmas we were beaten by only one school team. After Christmas most matches were cancelled and so the team was not as fit as usual for the Ranelagh Schools Cup when we finished a disappointing thirteenth. First team colours were awarded to J. R. Knight, M. F. Morrison and A. S. Gorski. The Colts team look promising and the prospects for next year look extremely good.

We should like to thank Mr. Williams and Mr. Sheppard for their support and help.

## ROWING

Since the last report the Boat Club membership has increased to 25, that is to say 25 people who guarantee to come down to Marlow Rowing Club on Wednesdays and Sundays regardless of weather. This year it was decided to have a boat ready for the Reading Head of the River Races, and as a result twelve members had to start training in November. A circuit was arranged for land training, and by February crews were rowing up to twelve miles in a single outing. At school, weight training and cross-country runs were organised.

On 13th March the great day came and the eight rowed the agonising three and a half miles with 152 other crews. They started 141st and finished 115th. Although satisfied with the result, declared the following Sunday, they are still wondering why they row. Even so, three fours are to be entered for regattas.

Once again thanks are due to A. J. MacTavish, Esq., J. Berthaut, Esq. and J. E. Dormer, who is a member of Marlow Rowing Club and who coaches the 1st two fours.

P. J. PESCOD.

## BADMINTON

We started the season with three of last year's colours as the nucleus of our team, and before Christmas enjoyed some close games with the High Wycombe clubs, who were generally better than we were. Our best match of the season was against Langley Grammar School, when we secured a well-earned victory against one of the strongest school teams in Bucks.

This term has seen the departure of our vice-captain, Graham Tomkinson, but this has been compensated for by the unearthing of some hidden talent in the boarding-houses. Another good victory was against Egham B.C. in the first match of this term.

We must once again thank Mr. R. A. P. Wilson for arranging our fixtures and organising the matches so efficiently.

S. E. KURREIN.

## CHESS

The Chess team, while weakened by the loss of M. J. Mobbs (who played in nearly 100 school matches), has had an exceptionally good season. In spite of frequent absences, the team has been defeated only once—by one of the strongest school teams in the country—and has won the Wycombe Chess League, which includes teams from the Wycombe Chess Club, as well as several firms in the district.

The results to date are :—

|          |     | P  | W  | D | L | Points |         |
|----------|-----|----|----|---|---|--------|---------|
|          |     |    |    |   |   | for    | against |
| 1st team | ... | 18 | 13 | 4 | 1 | 81½    | 31½     |
| 2nd team | ... | 6  | 5  | 1 | 0 | 25½    | 8½      |

Members have also distinguished themselves individually, in particular M. J. Myant, who came second in last year's Marlow Chess Congress, and has become joint Under 14 champion for Great Britain. M. R. Myant and R. B. Mildon have both played regularly for Buckinghamshire, and several other members have played occasionally. The inter-house Chess Competition has been completed, and the final result is :—

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| 1st Youens | 3rd = Disraeli |
| 2nd Queens | 5th Arnison    |
| 3rd Tucker | 6th Fraser     |

## XXVth HIGH WYCOMBE GRAMMAR SCHOOL SCOUT GROUP

Meetings have been held regularly in the gym under the auspices of Mr. L. Lawrence, the Senior Scoutmaster. The team consists of seven members, and has taken part in several exercises and "Wide Games", notably the Scout *v.* C.C.F. exercise reported elsewhere. Four Seniors have gained their Venturer badges.

The District Senior Troop, run by the District Commissioner, Mr. Joslyn, has been very helpful to the XXVth, who seldom get a chance to meet other troops. Five meetings have been held so far, and have been very successful. The school Junior Troop has been a great success since Mr. K. D. Millican became Scoutmaster, four patrols being formed. Mr. Coldham has become an A.S.M., as has M. Dalley.

M. DALLEY.

### E. R. TUCKER MEMORIAL FUND APPEAL

(First List : up to 20th May, 1965)

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## THE OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

In September, 1964, soon after the death of Mr. Tucker, the committee of the Old Boys' Club had decided against holding a Dinner in 1965. The Annual General Meeting was therefore held in the Masters' Common Room of the Royal Grammar School at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 26th March, 1965. This was attended by 25 Old Boys and the Chair was taken by Mr. S. Morgan, the Acting-Headmaster of the School.

After the minutes of the last A.G.M. had been read, confirmed and signed, the Hon. Secretary reported that, in addition to the Bankers' Orders received each January, 62 Old Boys had paid either £5 5s. 0d., £1 1s. 0d. or 10/- membership fee in 1964, compared with 83 in 1963 and 116 in 1962. The Hon. Auditor said that the financial position of the Club was quite sound.

The President was able to inform the meeting that donations to the E. R. Tucker Memorial Fund were coming in steadily. The Hon. Secretary stated that about 3,000 Old Boys had been sent an appeal, but he feared that many of the addresses used were now of little use. The meeting expressed interest in the establishment of a permanent Trust Fund to which contributions could be covenanted and G. E. Green (1940-46), a solicitor in Beaconsfield, promised to give this idea his attention. Mr. Morgan reported that if sufficient money were donated to enable a 6th Form Club to be built, the Old Boys would no doubt be allowed to use it on one evening a week. A lively discussion of the possibilities for new life and enthusiasm among Old Boys followed on this information. L. B. Barnes, the retiring Chairman, thought that an Old Boys' Sports and Social Club might well start with sessions in the new swimming pool and others suggested that it could be widened to include tennis, fives, shooting and badminton. The President regretted that the tremendous pressure on the limited number of cricket pitches made the use of school facilities in this sport impossible.

A small sub-committee of the Old Boys' Committee was formed to investigate the new possibilities. G. E. Green (1940-46) is the Hon. Secretary, together with J. P. Lord (1934-38) and W. A. C. Knowles (1951-58). They have power to co-opt other helpers. Any Old Boy who is a member of the Club will be welcome at the swimming pool (probably on Friday evenings), but all who are interested are asked in the first instance to contact G. E. Green, 6 Burke's Parade, Beaconsfield (telephone Beac. 5363) during business hours. J. P. Lord has been asked to give thought to the possibility of holding a Dance in the new Queen's Hall.



The President was able to inform the meeting that arrangements for the painting of the late Headmaster's portrait were well in hand and that help and advice were being given by Mr. G. A. Grant (1918-57), M. J. Eaton (1942-48) and A. E. Branch (1919-23).

J. K. Prior (1934-40), a Governor of the School and member of the Old Boys' Committee, reported that, acting on behalf of the Committee, he had booked the Connaught Rooms in London for the Annual Dinner in 1966. The Annual Dinner would be held there on Saturday, 26th March, 1966, and the Guest of Honour would be the new Headmaster, Mr. Malcolm P. Smith.

The officers for 1965-66 were re-elected *en bloc* with one exception. F. E. J. Hawkins (1948-56), now married and living in Reading, wished to resign. J. H. Andrew (1954-61) was elected to the Committee in his place.

The officers of the Club for 1965-66 are :—

*The President* : S. Morgan, Esq.

*The Chairman* : G. C. Rayner (1937-45).

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

*Committee* : L. B. Barnes (1924-30), G. E. Green (1940-46),  
S. E. Hands (1915-20), J. H. Andrew (1954-61), J. P.  
Lord (1934-38), G. W. Ray (1917-23), The Rev. A. J.  
Skipp (1929-37), N. H. Theed (1912-19), R. W.  
Bartlett (1900-07), J. K. Prior (1934-40), G. C. Rayner  
(1937-45), D. J. Hann (1924-29), W. A. C. Knowles  
(1951-58).

At the conclusion of the meeting the President stated that Mr. Arnison's 90th birthday was on the following Sunday, 28th March, and a greetings telegram expressing the affection of all members of the Club would be delivered on that morning.

### Births

BANHAM, R. J. (1940-45). On September 3rd, 1964, at the Shrubbery Maternity Home, High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Banham, a daughter, Nicola Jane.

DAWES, J. A. (1954-57). On September 17th, 1964, in Bourne End, to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Dawes, a daughter, Nichola Joy.

PAINE, A. J. (1953-59). On August 15th, 1964, in Stevenage, to Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Paine, a daughter, Karen Jean.

SAINSBURY, D. G. (1943-49). On March 13th, 1963, to Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Sainsbury, a daughter, Karen.

YOUENS, H. E. (1940-45). On April 21st, 1964, in Kempsey, Worcester, to the Rev. and Mrs. H. E. Youens, a son, Edward John, a brother for Rachel.

## Marriages

- DRAYTON—JONES. On October 3rd, 1964, at Holy Trinity Church, Penn Street, Amersham, T. V. Drayton (1952-57) to Miss Angela Mary Jones.
- HARVEY—WRIGHT. On August 8th, 1964, at St. Mary's Church, Balham, A. Harvey (1950-56) to Miss Pauline Wright.
- HAWKINS—CLARK. On March 17th, 1965, at St. John the Baptist's Church, Little Marlow, F. E. J. Hawkins (1948-55) to Miss Lois Diane Clark.
- HODGE—MARTIN. Conducted by the Rev. A. J. Skipp (1929-37) at High Wycombe Parish Church, W. F. Hodge (1952-56) to Miss Gillian Martin.
- KROHN—SILD. On January 9th, 1965, in London, N. S. Krohn (1954-57) to Miss Elisabeth Sild, of Vienna.
- PACKMAN—DAVIS. On April 3rd, 1965, at St. John's Church, Buckhurst Hill, G. R. Packman (1953-60) to Miss Susan Christina Davis.
- PAINE—MUIR. On July 25th, 1964, at Burford Parish Church, R. W. Paine (1953-59) to Miss Janet Muir.
- ROGERS—DAVIES. On March 6th, 1965, at St. Mary's Church, Lymm, R. J. Rogers (1954-59) to Miss Christina Davies.
- SLATTER—JENSEN. On August 8th, 1964, at Fryendal Kirke, Morkov, Denmark, D. M. Slatter (1954-58) to Miss Ingrid Kjar Jensen.
- THORNE—STENHOUSE. On December 19th, 1964, at St. Andrew's Church, Alfriston, Sussex, R. W. Thorne (1951-57) to Miss Anthea Geraldine Stenhouse.

## Deaths

### Masters

The REV. STANLEY AUSTIN (1907-09). On February 14th, 1965, in hospital, aged 82 years.

The Rev. Stanley Austin, M.A., retired from teaching to take up 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 retired some years ago as Rector of Withersfield, Suffolk. The obituary notice in *The Times* was seen by Mr. Arnison's daughter and Mr. Arnison comments that Mr. Austin was a very real character during his short time at the school.

MR. J. A. McQUEEN (1919-46). On March 27th, 1965, at Amersham Hospital, aged 82 years.

Mr. James Albert McQueen, who lived in Coningsby Road, High Wycombe, came to teach French at the R.G.S. in 1919, after service in the Royal Artillery. He had taught on the Continent for many years before the Great War and was very well known as a footballer. He was a very good goalkeeper and captained the Marseilles football team which won the French league championship at that time. He had been brought up at the Royal Caledonian School orphanage after his father, a London policeman, had been tragically killed. He will be kindly remembered by very many Old Boys. He leaves five sons (all Old Boys) and two daughters.

### Old Boys

C. H. FARMER (1954-62). On September 7th, 1964, in a climbing accident in Switzerland, aged 20 years.

Colin Harvey Farmer, of "Silver Birches", Peters Lane, Whiteleaf, Princes Risborough, was an Open Scholar in classics at University College, Oxford, where he had already spent two years. He captained the school tennis team in 1962 when it reached the semi-final round of the Public Schools' Tournament and he was afterwards a member of his college team. He combined great strength of character with a quiet and gentle manner. His younger brother, P. B. FARMER (1957-63), Open Scholar in Natural Sciences, is in his first year at Lincoln College, Oxford.

J. GARDNER (1936-39). On January 31st, 1965, suddenly at Aylesbury, aged 41 years.

John Gardner had been active in the Old Boys' Rugby Club in the late 1940's and was also a member of the Old Boys' Masonic Lodge.

F. J. RICH (1919-24). On August 23rd, 1964, at Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury, aged 53 years.

A host of local voluntary causes have lost a quiet helpful friend in Jack Rich, who was taken ill at his home, "Little Stockwell" Moor Common, Lane End, and died a few days later in hospital. He came to High Wycombe in 1914 from Sussex when his father became associated with the firm of G. J. Young and Company, rope and twine manufacturers. Until recently he had been a member of the National Association of Rope and Twine Manufacturers and for several years was Vice-President. He served on the local committee of the Wycombe and South Bucks Savings Bank. He was closely concerned with the opening of the Shrubbery Road Maternity Home. He was a member of

the B.P. Guild of Old Scouts and was a past chairman of the High Wycombe and District Boy Scouts' Association. He was a vice-chairman of the High Wycombe Street Improvement Committee, an active member of the High Wycombe and District Chamber of Commerce and in 1951-52 was president of the High Wycombe Rotary Club.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Doris Rich, a High Wycombe Borough magistrate, three daughters and a son.

W. A. THOMAS (1902-10), recently at 42 Bancroft Avenue, The Bishop's Avenue, London, N.2, aged 73 years.

Lt.-Col. William Arthur Thomas was a student at the School when Mr. Arnison arrived. He went from the R.G.S. to St. Paul's Training College for Teachers in Cheltenham. From there he accepted a post in Barotseland, Northern Rhodesia, where he taught in and actually built some of the Barotse National Schools for native Africans run by the British Government. His years in Barotseland learning first and then teaching the Africans their own native Bantu tongues were very happy ones and then he returned to serve throughout the first world war as a Lieutenant.

Between the wars he made himself well known as "Thomas of Fleet Street", and then at the age of 50 he went again into the Army when war broke out and served in France, Madagascar, Burma, Ceylon and Malaya. He finished as Assistant Director of Public Relations to Earl Mountbatten, the Supreme Allied Commander S.E. Asia.

A Memorial Service was held at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on March 11th, 1965, and the Admiral of the Fleet, Earl Mountbatten of Burma, was represented by Vice-Admiral Sir Ronald Brockman.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. D. Thomas, who very kindly sent us an outline of his life of service. Mrs. Thomas writes very affectionately of Mr. Arnison, who on the occasion of the Queen's visit in 1962, spoke to her and her husband. Although he hadn't seen her husband in the intervening 50-odd years, he looked at him with one straight look and said: "Ah! Thomas W.A. I remember you."

E. L. WEBB (1920-25). On February 16th, 1965, at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, aged 55 years.

Eric Leonard Webb, of "Dashwood House", Old Dashwood Hill, Studley Green, was a well-known Wycombe solicitor and a popular personality in public life and in sporting circles. He was a prominent member of the High Wycombe Borough Council from 1949 until 1962. He got the greatest pleasure out of serving on the Parks Committee, of which he was chairman for

some years. Here he fulfilled his major interest in improving sporting facilities for the young. In particular he steered through the Council the project to build a swimming pool on the Rye and this is an apt monument to his public life in the town. He was twice Deputy-Mayor—he could also have occupied the office of Mayor but declined because of the demands it would have made on his domestic life. On leaving the R.G.S. he was articled to the firm of Messrs. Winter-Taylor and Woodward in Castle Street, High Wycombe, and became a partner in 1943. At his death he was senior active partner after nearly 40 years with the firm.

He had been chairman of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club since 1956 and was a life-long supporter of the Club. He was also a life-long philatelist and a very good gardener, and was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelist Society and a member of the Royal Horticultural Society. He was a founder member of the Round Table of High Wycombe and was for many years one of the Forty Guarantors who provide a Christmas feast for the older people of the town. During the war he served in the R.A.F.

For his funeral the Parish Church was packed by a congregation representative of every aspect of the life of the borough. High Wycombe paid tribute to one of its leading citizens in a manner rare in its history.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Beth Webb, and a married daughter, Mrs. Susan Lee.

### Staff

MR. G. W. ARNISON (1905–33) was 90 years of age on March 28th, 1965, and received shoals of greetings from Old Boys and friends on the day. His eyesight is very poor owing to a cataract in one eye and the other eye has never been much good. The size of the *Bucks Free Press* and the small print make it a closed book to him. He used to comb through it every week for news of Old Boys—now his daughter, Mrs. Ardron, has to do it for him. He sends every good wish for success and happiness to the new Headmaster, Mr. Malcolm P. Smith.

MR. W. J. BARTLE (1901–35) wrote a letter from Reepham, in Norfolk, when he sent in his Memorial Appeal donation. He was in reminiscent mood and went back to January, 1901, when he joined the staff. The School had about 60 pupils, some 15 of them being boarders. He well remembers Mr. Arnison coming as Headmaster after the sudden death of Mr. Peachell. When he retired at the age of 60, he felt worn out as far as teaching was concerned, but for the last 30 years he's had pretty good health and is still quite active.

The REV. A. M. BERRY (1914-33) reports that he is still alive and nearly 92. He can hobble from room to room with the aid of a stick, but he's not been outside the door for months. He cannot now read for more than ten minutes at a time and spends most of his time watching the fire burn. He'd like to see some nice weather come along so that he might walk a few yards down the road.

MR. ALAN DAVIES (1955-56) has completed his research work at Birmingham University and is going to Edinburgh University to lecture on Applied Linguistics. He now has three children.

MR. A. S. HETT (1943-64) is teaching in a preparatory school in Oxford and his address is 59 Holywell Street, Oxford.

MR. A. L. NICHOLAS (1953-58) left us to teach in a Comprehensive School in Coventry and is now moving on to be Senior Lecturer in Modern Languages at the James Graham Teachers' Training College in Leeds. MR. D. J. SAUNDERS, who teaches at the R.G.S. at the moment, has been appointed to take over from Mr. Nicholas when he leaves at Whitsun.

DR. J. N. OLIVER (1933-36) was in charge of Physical Education at the R.G.S. before leaving to lecture at Loughborough Physical Training College. Since the war he has specialised in remedial treatment for handicapped children and his treatise on this subject gained him a Ph.D. He is by way of being an authority and has travelled widely in America.

DR. L. A. WILES (1931-35) received the O.B.E. in the New Years Honours List. He was Senior Chemistry Master at the R.G.S. and was a keen member of the Wycombe Cricket Club. He is now on the academic staff of the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham and lives at Fir Corner, Frilford Heath, Berkshire. Dr. Wiles is a magistrate at Faringdon and Chairman of the Juvenile Court.

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### old boys' notes

E. L. BARRETT (1954-60) has been posted to a R.A.S.C. unit in Cyprus, where he will spend about nine months.

V. A. BENNETT (1919-23) was over here recently from America and staying with his friend J. W. K. TAYLOR (1918-24). He was delighted to inform us that his two sons had each presented him a granddaughter.

J. B. BIRCH (1945-50), after taking a degree in English, became a schoolmaster. In 1959 he went to Adams Grammar School in Newport, Salop, but is now moving to Pocklington School in Yorkshire to take charge of his subject there. The late Headmaster was a Housemaster at this school before coming to High Wycombe in 1933.

D. A. BOURKE (1935-40) saw the notice of Mr. Tucker's death in the *Daily Telegraph* and wrote to the School from his home in Bromley, Kent. He has joined the Old Boys' Club and hopes to make contact with old friends at club functions in the future.

J. C. BOWMAN (1955-61) visited Mr. Tucker two days before he died and writes that July 24th, 1964, will always be a date for him to remember—the "Boss's" death and the Passing-Out Parade from the R.A.F. Technical College at Henlow of C. R. S. WOOD (1954-59) and himself. He and Wood are now Pilot Officers and are continuing the electrical engineering course until Easter, 1966. The rush of cadet life is behind them and they have a great deal of freedom again—rather like moving from the 5 Uppers to the 6th Form!

He spent four weeks last August travelling to North Cape, the northernmost part of Europe. With a pal on the pillion he went on his motor-bike through Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway to a town 150 miles north of the Arctic Circle. From here he took a ship to the island that contains North Cape and then went by 'bus to the Cape. It was a round trip of 5,500 miles and he managed 3,000 by road. What Bowman did not know was that the Acting Headmaster received a letter from the Commandant at Henlow reporting on him and Wood after their completion of the course. Apparently Bowman gained the Royal New Zealand Air Force Trophy which is awarded annually to the senior cadet who has shown the greatest originality in conception, planning, leadership and determination in carrying out vacation activities of an adventurous nature. Wood was awarded two trophies—one for General Service training and the other for being the outstanding sportsman of his entry.

The name of the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe must ring a pleasing bell at Henlow.

P. J. CAPELL (1956-62) is now in his second year at Bristol University, following an Honours Physics course. He reports that A. J. OLIVER (1956-62), M. J. C. WEBB (1956-62) and W. R. H. ANDREWS (1959-62) are holding their own there. He has re-met F. M. COURTNEY (1956-60), who left the R.G.S. after his "O" Levels. Capell had an interesting holiday last summer in Germany and Greece. In Athens he ran into A. J. TUFFS (1955-61), who is studying at an Architectural College in London.

P. R. G. CLARK (1957-64) is at Keele University doing French and German, but before going up he spent the summer as a "valet de chambre" in a French hotel. He was a bed-maker, mop-pusher and lavatory-cleaner. He is following in his brother's footsteps with a vengeance!

M. F. CRESWELL (1959-63) writes from 17 Boyce Street, Blenheim, Marlborough, New Zealand. He is very happily settled there and working as a cadet in the Public Service department of the Social Security. He thinks New Zealand a wonderful country. Blenheim has an Olympic swimming pool, a race-course, several parks and a few creeks and rivers. Fishing is extra good and most evenings he bikes about five miles to the mouth of the Wairau river and catches trout and kawhai (Australian salmon) with lures. An average kawhai weighs about five pounds and fights like a shark. The Marlborough Sounds are about 20 miles away—one of the beauty spots of New Zealand—but swimming isn't all that popular as there are sometimes sharks around. Creswell has joined the Marlborough Cycle Club and has bought a new racing bike. He has started training



and the track season begins in October—everyone enters the competitions just for the fun of it—even old people do training there and run in the marathons. I reckon Creswell is going to make some Old Boys (and some Old Masters too) very envious.

M. A. CROWTHER (1947–52) writes from an address in Afghanistan—c/o Afghan Insurance Company, Box 329, Kabul. When Crowther left Cambridge he joined the Guardian Assurance Company and worked in London for four years. He was then posted to Cape Town and later to Johannesburg. He was sent to Afghanistan by his company to found a local assurance company in Kabul. The idea of insurance is new to many Afghans and they have very unusual ideas on the benefits it should provide! He can now speak a little Persian and has made many friends among the local community. He would be pleased to see any Old Boy passing by.

His brother, P. P. CROWTHER (1947–53) is with British Petroleum and completed two years in Sweden before returning to London a year ago. The third brother, D. N. CROWTHER (1948–56) is in Nova Scotia working for an electronics firm.

R. G. CUBBAGE (1925–30), head of the engineering firm of Messrs. J. W. Cubbage and Sons Ltd., has just been elected the new president of the Rotary Club in High Wycombe. The retiring president introduced him as a man who had a colossal ability to fight back and overcome disabilities. The Hon. Secretary notes that in the School Grey Books of 1929–30, R. G. Cubbage was marked as absent, which helps one to appreciate what was said about him.

C. M. J. EDWARDS (1945–53) was home on holiday recently and called in. He is very happy in Canada and travels as chemical sales representative of McArthur Chemicals, Toronto. He is Hon. Secretary of the Ontario Rugby Referees' Society. He has heard from A. J. GORDON (1949–50), who is manager of the British Rope Plant in the Philippines.

J. J. ELLERTON (1957–62) is following an honours course in Physics and Mathematics at New College, Toronto University and distinguishing himself on the running track. He hopes to make the next Olympics and from some newspaper cuttings, it looks as if he may well do that. The *Globe and Mail* reports that Jim Ellerton broke Bruce Kidd's University of Toronto record for the mile and a half, covering the distance in 6 minutes 59 seconds.

M. R. EMMETT (1954-60). We published some misleading information about Emmett in the May, 1964, magazine and wish to correct it. When R. B. SMITH (1955-62) saw him at R.A.F. Topcliffe, he was going on a flight to Malta with the University of London Air Squadron, an R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve unit in which he held the rank of Pilot Officer at that time. In June last Emmett graduated from Imperial College with an upper second in Aeronautical Engineering. He is now employed by B.E.A. as a pilot and he frequently sees a number of Old Boys, including D. J. M. RENDALL (1954-59), who is flying a V.C.10 for B.O.A.C. Other Old Boys who graduated with him were J. O. SMITH (1953-60), R. P. C. FARRELL (1954-60) and D. N. HUBBLE (1954-60).

M. R. FERGUSON (1956-63) spent three months at Mainz University before going up to Oxford last October and enjoyed German student life immensely. He filled up the month of August acting as a "moniteur" in a French "colonie de vacances", 1,500 metres up in the Alps. He acted well in the German play put on by the Oxford University German Club last February.

N. C. FAIRLEY (1957-63) completes his course at Welbeck College this summer and moves to Sandhurst later in the year.

P. R. FLETCHER (1960-63) left the R.G.S. in February, 1962, to join the Meteorological Office. He is slowly climbing to the top of his particular tree and last July was posted to weather ships to take charge of a Radio Sonde team. He is now on O.W.S. *Weather Adviser* at the Ocean Weather Ship base, Great Harbour, Greenock, Scotland, and enjoys the ward-room life. J. H. PHILPOTT (1954-60) is following in Fletcher's footsteps as a weather man and reports that Fletcher is now Acting Met. Officer in charge of a weather ship. Apparently he appeared in a "Look at Life" film on weather ships, but Philpott doubts whether he'll make Hollywood on that showing. Philpott says that C. A. FAIR (1955-62) is in the weather racket too; he has just completed a course on computers and is now waiting for a computer to use.

J. N. FOWLER (1954-62) was one of about 3,000 British students to fly to the United States last summer. Through Rotary a job was arranged for him and he also made a V.I.P. tour of Rotary Clubs in Mississippi and Alabama. He worked for two months in the Engineering Department of a local authority in New York State, about 200 miles from the city. At this level of government Jim Fowler was impressed by the lack of red tape.

His holiday in the South was spent in the homes of Rotarians in such places as Jackson, Laurel, New Orleans and Biloxi, and he spent a few hours passing through Nashville, Memphis, Chatanooga and Washington D.C. He spoke to many clubs and was given a wonderful welcome everywhere. The colour problem impressed itself upon him, but he doesn't consider the average Southerner to be as bad as our newspapers paint him. The majority of the Southerners realise that the negro must be given equal rights, but they do not want a sudden transference of privilege and power.

C. J. GEE (1952-58) has passed his Final Examinations in Accountancy.

A. F. GILES (1949-55), after completing his B.Sc. degree in Engineering, went to work for Broom and Wades. He left them in 1963 to take a commission in the R.A.F. After attending courses at R.A.F. Jurby and Henlow, he was posted to R.A.F. Lyneham last year and is now responsible for work on Britannias, Comet 2's and Comet 4's. Being involved in long-range transport, he often gets the opportunity to go down route, calling in such places as Kenya, Hong Kong and Singapore. He hasn't discovered any Old Boys yet but feels there must be many around.

D. J. GREEN (1933-38) has been posted to R.A.F. Seletar, Singapore. Wing Commander Green is in command of No. 34 (Beverley Squadron).

J. M. GREEN (1932-37) writes to put us in the family picture. He is a representative of a London wholesaler, selling to builders' merchants, and he covers Oxfordshire, Bucks and five neighbouring counties. He has been married for 21 years, has two daughters, and no complaints at all.

His elder brother, G. R. GREEN (1925-32) is living in Cheltenham and is Overseas Sales Director of a firm making Diesel pumps. His younger brother, P. J. GREEN (1936-42) is in Paris attached to S.H.A.E.F.

L. C. O. GREEN (1932-37), the Station Manager at High Wycombe, was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Borough of High Wycombe in January, 1965.

S. A. GOULBORN (1928-34) was returned to the Town Council last year at the top of the poll for the East Central Ward and is enjoying the change of asking all the questions instead of having to answer them. His son, S. C. R. GOULBORN (1957-64), is now studying for a Bachelor of Commerce degree within Law at Leeds University and he finds the Economics learned at school very useful.

This is believed to be the first time a son has followed father in gaining University entrance from the R.G.S.. In the 1930's Dad went to Reading University to read for an Arts degree. He is now a teacher in Beaconsfield.

W. O. HAINES (1912-19) has returned from a very enjoyable tour of South Africa. He went by boat to Cape Town, flew to Johannesburg, visited Victoria Falls, the Kariba Dam and Salisbury. He feels that in many ways we are unfair to the South Africans over apartheid—the English should see the position for themselves and try to understand the enormous problems.

D. J. HANN (1924-29) is a pretty go-ahead business man. To save time he flies his own plane which is based at White Waltham.

R. W. HAMMETT (1954-61) gained a good Modern Language degree at St. John's, Cambridge, and is now completing his Diploma in Education at Balliol College, Oxford. He has found Balliol an interesting combination of wealth, birth and intelligence. Hammett is interested in teaching in a Comprehensive School.

M. HARRIS (1957-64) writes from a Y.M.C.A. in Birmingham, where he is working for the big steel firm Stewarts and Lloyds as a Commercial Student Apprentice. He is doing a four-year sandwich course for a Diploma in Advanced Business Studies, which may well be raised in status to a B. Comm. in due course. He is to spend six months of each year in the Birmingham College of Commerce, followed by six months practical experience in one of Stewarts and Lloyd's offices in the area. He is paid very well while at college and his text-books are supplied free of charge. Why worry about not getting into a University?

R. N. C. HARRISON (1956-64) is now in his fifth term at Sandhurst and is soon to go into the Royal Signals. He will be learning to fly in the summer and hopes to do a tour of duty with the Army Air Corps. M. H. ANDERSON (1959-64) is in Rhine Company with Harrison and was put on a charge for stealing a tank during Rhine Day celebrations. He hopes to go to Canada for eight weeks in the summer with the Royal Engineers.

A. HARVEY (1950-57) has been training in Stoke-on-Trent as a Probationary Officer for nearly a year.

C. S. W. HARTE (1923-31), who gave the Harte Cup for competition in the R.G.S., was home on leave from Ecuador last summer and attended Speech Day. On his return to Casilla (c/o Anglo-Ecuadorian Oilfields Ltd.) he was shocked to hear of Mr. Tucker's death so soon after he'd been entertained by him. Harte was for five years on the oilfield in charge of the Materials Warehouse, but has now moved to the Sales side and is responsible for all the coastal areas and the southern part of Ecuador. He actually lives in Guayaquil, which is the largest city and the major centre of commerce and industry.

F. E. J. HAWKINS (1948-56) has had a busy year since leaving the teaching profession! He has been running a new branch of Woodward and Stalder, sports outfitters, in Reading, he has got married, he has captained the Wasps Rugby XV in a successful season, and was travelling reserve in the second English Trial last December. He has struck up a fine partnership with R. C. ASHBY (1950-54), and next year we hope international honours will come their way. Ashby played for the Barbarians during their Easter tour of Wales.

S. H. HOFFMANN (1928-36) has changed his job. He has left Shottermill Vicarage, Haslemere, Surrey, after fourteen years, to be Director of Religious Education in the Diocese of Rochester. Later on, when the Cathedral Statutes have been revised, he will become residentiary Canon of the Cathedral. His daughter Jill followed the family tradition by becoming Head Girl at Godalming County School and is now at Leicester University. His son Peter has just finished his second year of a four-year course in Hotel and Catering at Ealing Technical College.

J. H. HOLMES (1952-59), on hearing of the death of Mr. Tucker, wrote this time from 3238 Unruh Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa., 19149, U.S.A. The change of address was due to his marriage in July last to a girl he met during his last year at the R.G.S. whilst travelling to and from Slough. His best man was T. B. BLACKBURN (1952-59). He and his wife find life very good—it is far easier there to enjoy some of the comforts of modern living sooner in life—but they do expect to return to England in a couple of years. To them there is still nothing like the “Old Country”.

D. W. HUGHES (1930-35) joined the Old Boys' Club recently and gave some news of himself. He is Headmaster of a Primary School in the Loughton area of Essex.

J. C. HUGHES (1957-64) writes from Christ Church, Oxford, giving the surprising news that, despite his Welsh parentage and his A.R.C.M., he has given up Music and taken to P.P.P.—Psychology, Philosophy and Physiology. Good luck to him—I reckon he'll need it. He is disappointed that the R.G.S. Old Boys in Oxford are not as organised as those at Cambridge but hopes that a dinner can be arranged one day.

C. R. ILIFFE (1958-64) has received his appointment as a cadet at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, and hopes to be sent from there to Cambridge by the Navy. He sends his good wishes to the shooting team.

M. J. IREMONGER (1954-62) is in his final year reading Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College, London. He is sharing a flat with R. A. KEELEY (1953-61), who got a First in Chemistry and Physics at King's College and is doing research for a Ph.D. at Queen Elizabeth's College. Queen Elizabeth is a women's college (a reward for his First). Iremonger spent the summer vacation in Toronto working as a security guard, and on leave in New York he was very surprised to bump into R. A. (Sandy) CHAPMAN (1953-61).

D. M. JAGO (1948-55) is to receive his Ph.D. at Leicester University this summer and in the autumn, after five years at West Bridgford Grammar School, he will be moving to the University of Strathclyde, in Glasgow.

G. D. B. JONES (1947-54) is still excavating. Over Easter he flew out to Libya and travelled 500 miles south into the desert to work on one of Rome's southernmost outposts—a Roman colony in a Wadi miles long. There was more life around than one would expect—the oil men are busy not far away.

N. S. KROHN (1954-58) is now in London in catering management and wrote giving information about his marriage last January. R. C. HACKETT (1951-57), a fellow Uplymer, was his best man. Hackett left soon after for Australia to meet up with R. P. G. OWEN (1952-58), who is married, with a baby daughter, and working as an accountant on the Hydro-Electric project in the Snowy Mountains.

When Mr. J. A. McQueen died his five sons were able to give news of themselves.

L. J. McQUEEN (1928-32) is a schoolmaster in Reading.

V. S. McQUEEN (1934-40) is a Headmaster in Perivale.

R. L. McQUEEN (1937-41) is a farmer.

B. E. H. McQUEEN (1938-44) is a representative for a Princes Risborough furniture manufacturer and well known as a cricketer in Wycombe.

I. R. McQUEEN (1940-45) is a detective in the Metropolitan Police.

Mr. and Mrs. McQueen did a good job with their five sons and two daughters.

C. U. MOISEY (1958-60) has been awarded the Hardwick Prize for clinical medicine at Leeds University as a result of his final examination.

A. D. MOORE (1935-41). Dr. Moore, until recently at R.A.F. Halton, is now in San Antonio, Texas, as a consultant in Pathology. He has a son at the R.G.S. as a boarder. He informs us that D. W. STEVENS (1933-40), whom we had hoped to have as our Guest of Honour at the 1963 Annual Dinner, is now Professor of Music at Columbia University, New York City.

C. J. MYERSCOUGH (1957-64) wrote from Churchill College, Cambridge, soon after Sir Winston's death. Everyone there was rather depressed but they were glad he had lived long enough to see his College well established. Myerscough thinks that the new Headmaster from Liverpool sounds just the right man to save the R.G.S. from destruction. We are still trying to work that one out!

D. OXLADE (1941-46) is now resident at the Prince of Wales School, Box 30047, Nairobi. He wrote soon after hearing of Mr. Tucker's death. He remembers getting six of the best for truancy and how he is himself handing it out as Housemaster at this boarding school. His wife is acting as matron, now that their three children are at school. He met B. V. HARLEY (1939-47) out there recently. Harley was captain of Rugby at school and is now vice-president of the Harlequins side in Nairobi. Harley obtained an engineering degree at Imperial College and now works for the Materials Branch, Ministry of Works. Oxlade plays cricket for Kenya Wanderers and has a 16 handicap at golf. As they only teach in the mornings, he hopes to get that handicap down. He'd love to see any Old Boys out there.

G. R. PACKMAN (1953-60) is still profitably employed with Romford Borough Council and has passed the first part of his final accountancy examinations. He hates to admit that he hasn't played a game of Rugby since coming down from Leeds University. He has visited his brother, C. J. PACKMAN (1957-63) at Oxford to find out what life is like at a "real University". He found that his brother is faced with the prospect of no more examinations for two years. The best man at his wedding in April was R. F. J. QUIRKE (1953-61).

M. J. PAYNE (1954-61) has now left St. John's College, York, and is teaching at Alderbourne County Secondary School, Denham. He teaches Rural Science (Applied Biology) and is now "doing" careers.

P. PRESCOTT (1955-58), after nearly two years in industrial catering, joined his father's firm of insurance brokers in Banbury. After his father's death in 1963 it was tough going, but he was greatly helped by H. C. T. BRIDEN (1915-22) and now they are expanding fast. He has taken up refereeing Rugby and in the second match he controlled C. R. RAKE (1950-57) appeared on the field. Rake behaved well, particularly after the match. He attended the wedding of J. M. KING (1952-58) in St. Andrew's and visits him in Reading, where he is now in practice as a dentist. Prescott would very much like to hear from some of his contemporaries.

D. G. SAINSBURY (1943-49) has been Deputy Town Clerk of Windsor for just over two years.



J. D. SEALE (1958-61) got the itch to see the world and he and two friends, A. A. PERFECT (1954-61) and D. K. P. HAZELL (1955-60), after doing casual labour for three months to raise money, just went. They intended to go to Greece and catch a boat to Egypt, but somewhere in Austria, just before Vienna, they thumbed a lift from a coach. The driver was friendly but spoke no English and the boys assumed he was going to Vienna. After a while they realised they were not on the way to Vienna, and by means of complicated sign language discovered they were going to Baghdad! The driver remained friendly, so they stocked up with bread, grapes and water, and after two eventful weeks reached Baghdad. The Arabs there gave them hospitality every night while they sought work with the oil companies in Kuwait, but no jobs came their way. A Norwegian ship's captain was prepared to take one workaway to Singapore, so Seale left the other two with an arrangement to meet in a friend's home in Sydney. Seale was not allowed to land in Singapore by the immigration authorities and was forced to go on to Japan, where the captain refused to take him any further. During the ship's three-day stops Seale trudged around the docks of Yokohama, Tokyo and Kawasaki in freezing weather and eventually persuaded a Swedish captain to take him to Sydney. He went straight to the friend's house and found Perfect and Hazell had been waiting there for him for two weeks. They had spent nearly all their money on a flight from Kuwait to Bahrain in order to work their way on a sheep ship to Adelaide. The wanderlust of these three has not been cured yet. They hope to see more of Australia before they return home via the East Indies.

P. M. J. SHELTON (1958-63) has successfully completed one year at St. Andrew's University, coming first and gaining the class medal in Zoology. During the "Charities Campaign" his brother R. G. J. SHELTON (1953-61), a zoology medalist in 1962 and 1963, became "world champion" sausage eater, consuming  $162\frac{1}{2}$  inches of beef sausages in 40 minutes 40 seconds, breaking the previous record easily. This sausage eating hasn't prevented him working hard at the Galty Marine Laboratory on his thesis for an Honours degree in Zoology. R. G. BEAVIS (1956-62) has completed two years at St. Andrew's and enters Junior Honours Botany this term. Apparently he held a "most memorable" 21st birthday party last May; he plays Soccer for the University and has met with considerable academic success. G. M. SEALE (1958-64), who gained a Menzies Bursary in Biology, started at St. Andrew's last October.

The R.G.S. is known to St. Andrew's and Old Wycombiensians are welcome.

J. O. SMALL (1950-57) graduated from Leicester University in Geology and has since concerned himself with oil exploration, working for a firm of contractors based on England. He has just returned from the Hague, where he was working with Caltex on their North Sea operations, and he is shortly to go to Nigeria as chief of a seismic survey team for Shell-B.P.

S. J. STEVENS (1935-39) lent the History of the R.G.S. to the bursar of St. Matthew's Victory Memorial School, Christchurch, New Zealand. This prompted the bursar to write to the late Headmaster congratulating him on the achievements of the School. He also stated that S. J. Stevens was one of the most loyal Board members and that the Stevens family was a tower of strength in the community.

C. SWAIN (1954-62) is thinking hard about his final examinations now looming up at University College, London, and this is bringing home to him the scant nature of his knowledge. He is doing Philosophy! Swain met J. P. BAKER (1954-59) at University College doing post-graduate research work in bio-chemistry.

R. W. THORNE (1951-57), a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, has gained his B.Sc. in Engineering externally at London University. He was prepared for this at the naval educational base Manadon and the Queen Mother presented him with his certificate last March. He was married in December and next July will be posted to a ship. After that—the world.

I. TUBBS (1936-42) called in last term. He is a regular soldier in the R.A.S.C. at Bicester now, but was in the Oxford and Bucks. He has met on his travels A. R. HARRIS (1936-40), a Major then, in Dusseldorf, A. J. REDRUP (1946-51) in Osnabruck, and T. G. WILKS (1934-40).

G. P. WALKER (1953-60) has nearly completed his year at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, and goes to Sheffield University in October to obtain a Diploma in Librarianship. He enjoys life at the Library very much. He worked for a short time among the bookstacks, serving and carrying, but was moved to the Accessions Room, and finally to the Cataloguing Room. Cataloguing seems to be the most difficult procedure a librarian needs to know and the Bodleian has its own quite unique system.

M. G. WALKER (1945-52), who gained an Open Award in French and German and then did two years Russian during his military service, is now a translator in the War Office, but his heart is not in this. He is preparing himself for a degree in Biology (he does "A" Level this summer) and wants to teach it. Good luck to him.

W. R. WALLER (1954-60) graduated in Mechanical Sciences at St. John's College, Cambridge, in June and is now apprenticed at Rolls-Royce Ltd. (Aero Engine Division), Derby.

P. M. WILSON (1953-57) is now a schoolmaster in Dilworth School, Auckland, New Zealand. His address is 16 Marama Avenue, Epsom, Auckland, S.E.3. He was part-time editor of "Spotlight" while at school. He will be glad to know that it has taken on a new lease of life.

D. R. WITNEY (1934-42), Headmaster of King Edward VI Grammar School, Louth, suffered a slight heart attack in October, but has made a very good recovery. His cricketing days are over but he is now enjoying golf. H. W. JOHNSON (1930-36), Housemaster there, continues to revel in the work.

M. E. J. WADSWORTH (1953-60) hopes to gain a Ph.D. from his research in Social Medicine at Guy's Hospital.

P. J. YATES (1953-60), J. O. SMITH (1953-60) and M. G. SMITH (1954-61), who are distinguishing themselves in athletics, covered 4,000 miles in Europe last summer. They visited Belgium and at Herten joined up with Wycombe Phoenix Harriers as guests of the local athletic club. The whole party travelled to Morkov in Denmark to attend the wedding of D. M. SLATTER (1954-58) to a Danish girl on August 8th. After the celebration the Old Boys drove their 1938 car to Yugoslavia. In Switzerland they encountered a 6,500-foot peak and had to go up in reverse! In Opatija, in Yugoslavia, they met up with two other Old Boys and Phoenix Harriers—J. L. CURRELL (1952-59) and R. H. HEDLEY (1953-58). One of the highlights of their return journey was a visit to the pop music radio station in Luxembourg.

M. ZANDER (1946-51) is legal correspondent of the *Guardian* and was interviewed on the T.V. programme "Tonight" some time ago. He was asked to give his views on the meeting of the Bar Council to abolish restrictive practices inside the Bar. At present no barrister can be brought into a circuit from outside without paying an additional fee. Zander has strong views about this but he is in the minority.

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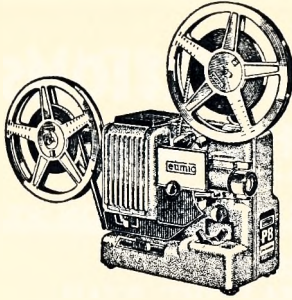
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