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THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

Vol. XIV No. I

MAY, 1966

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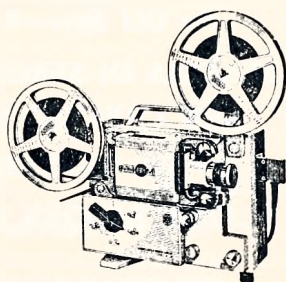
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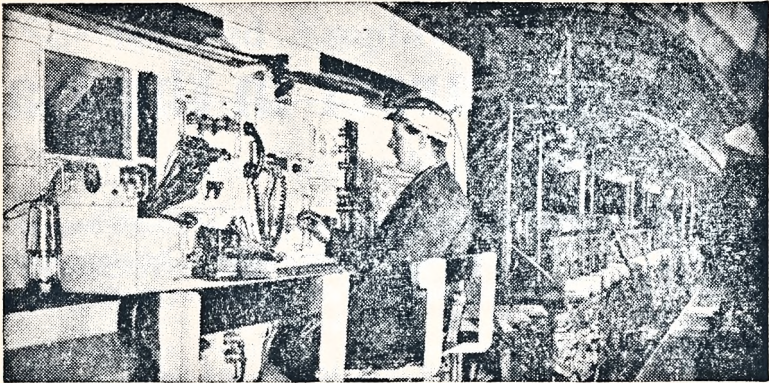
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"THE NONSENSE WHICH WAS KNOCKED OUT OF THEM AT SCHOOL
IS ALL PUT GENTLY BACK AT OXFORD" MAX BEERBOHM



SCHOOL FIRST XV, 1965 - 6

Back row, l. to r.—P. L. REDICAN, J. KILLINGLEY, D. M. JONES, S. C. B. TINTON, C. FEWTRELL, G. DAVIES

Front row, seated—J. W. HUME, D. J. GATLAND, P. D. L. BROWN, P. D. SMITH, A'TURMEZEI, P. A. BEASLEY, A. P. D. HOGG

Seated on ground—P. FOUNTAIN, D. W. LEWIS

THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

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

This edition was edited by DAVID SNODIN whose co-editors were ROGER GASH and DAVID LEWIS ; JOHN HUME was in charge of sport, ANDREW BISSETT responsible for the photographs, and DAVID MILLS for the cover and cartoons.

We are indebted to all those who helped in any way with the production of the magazine, and those who contributed to the unusually great flood of articles and opinion, due in no small way to the excellent publicity of MARTIN WARD. All unpublished articles are not necessarily unpublishable, and will certainly be retained for possible inclusion in the next magazine.

EDITORIAL

Nowadays, one dares not use the word 'apathy'—it has been flogged to death already. As a result, it is ignored. People acknowledge but are annoyed by constant references to its existence, at the same time making no effort to solve something which is very definitely and very dangerously present, in society as a whole as well as in school—perhaps it would be safer to call it indifference, nonchalance, deliberate lack of contribution. And where the answer? In respect for, and therefore the eventual reform of, the individual in society.

Where better to start our reform of society than at school? School, after all, is what one of its more eloquent poets has referred to as 'society's bacterial breeding-ground'. We are not a mirror of society—we are growing up to form a society ourselves. In a school such as ours, therefore, it is vital that we do not accept apathy as inevitable, but as something which is fatal, and as something which must be, and can be, cured.

Naturally, a school, for the sake of its name and its internal administration, must run efficiently—but need it be so efficient as to ignore the existence of the individual completely, to make him a mere—to use a well-worn cliché—'cog in a well-oiled machine'? The blame must eventually fall on methods of discipline. Authoritarian discipline favours the efficiency of administration and shows very little concern for the individual.

Liberal discipline, however, would, as things stand at present, cause an incurable internal collapse. Where, then, does one draw the line?

Although discipline may be the cause, its immediate reform would not be the answer. Direct disciplinary reform would do more harm than good. The solution is to be found in reform of the attitude of the individual himself, and change of disciplinary methods would be the inevitable result of the changed attitude.

Something must be done to make each one of the thousand that frequent this place feel that he counts. He must be a cog, but a cog unlike any other cog, with a definite purpose, a definite function in a machine which is out to produce something which is definite and perfect. He must be certain in the knowledge that he is irreplaceable—if he were to fall out the whole machine would collapse and could only be remedied by his return.

How to set about this? By encouraging creation, through the visual arts, the use of the hands as well as the brain, the desire to give as well as to take. He would thus be educated into a new awareness, a realization of his own skill and the beauty of co-operation.

Discipline only comes next. By giving him the opportunity to contribute, we would make him realize the value of society as well as the value of his own contribution, and he would not wish to break any bounds. To break them, he would understand, would be to break the creative machine.

This is not idealistic. The school, despite its large numbers, is small enough for such a reform. One cannot help feeling, when one hears crystallizing rumours of the production of a vast pageant next year involving some two hundred pupils, that a step is about to be taken in the right direction.

MR. TUCKER'S PORTRAIT

By a fortunate accident, the day appointed for the unveiling of the picture of Mr. Tucker fell on Sunday, March 20th, the day immediately preceding the late Headmaster's birthday. British Summer Time was not yet in operation here, as the hands of the clock moved towards ten, but the gates were hospitably open, and the guests steered in the direction of the Queen's Hall.

Inside, the reversed chairs, the colourful floral decorations, and the polished floor completely altered the veneered orthodoxy of the assembly hall, while the adapted cricket flag concealed the portrait, and the chapel furnishings lent an authoritative

touch to the scene ; the only depressing feature was the rows of empty chairs at the back. The ceremony was simple and impressive. The Chairman read from the Epistle to the Thesalonians :

“But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them that fall asleep” and, as if to reassure us, the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Brigadier Sir Henry Floyd, stepped forward, and after a short panegyric, in which he commented upon the infectious enthusiasm of Mr. Tucker, he pulled the cord ; the covering fell away, disclosing this permanent memorial. The final hymn, “Now thank we all our God”, recalled a happier occasion two years ago, when the New Buildings were declared open. Now, inevitably, our gratitude was replaced by regret. Then the Chaplain pronounced the Blessing, and the people streamed out, either to a reception in the Staff Room, or to their Sunday lunch.

The Queen’s Hall has been restored to normal ; but beneath the picture of Mr. Arnison now exchanges a quizzical glance with the new arrival. Since the portrait shows Mr. Tucker as a younger man, it is not perhaps the Headmaster that most of us remember.

ROGER GASH.

SCHOOL NEWS

We take this, the first opportunity, to extend a very sincere welcome to the Headmaster.

We congratulate D. G. Lambert, Esq., on his appointment as H.M. Inspector of Schools in Cheshire and Lancashire.

G. R. J. Jones, Esq., and T. J. Newling, Esq., both left the fold at Christmas. We welcome their successors, J. R. Learmonth—whose Scottish brogue has replaced Mr. Jones’s Welsh hwyl,—and D. Smith, Esq., who has already established himself by producing the convincing scenery for ‘The Devil’s Disciple’.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Bassett on the birth of their daughter, Anna, and Mr. and Mrs. R. C. File on that of their son, Simon, and J. C. S. Weeks, Esq., on his marriage to Miss Anne Robinson. “May the ‘Weeks’ go on to months and the months to years of every happiness together”.

The Queen’s Hall has been fully tenanted recently. It housed the Opera, and the annual Carol Service at the end of the Autumn term, the unveiling of the portrait of Mr. Tucker in March, a concert given by Joyce Grenfell—under the auspices of the High Wycombe Arts’ Festival, a less conventional ‘Conflict’ presentation, ‘The Devil’s Disciple’, a concert of lute and guitar, exclusive to the second forms, and a conjunctive

performance of '1066—and All That', with the High School, and copious election incitations.

The new paper-back bookshop,—a pioneer venture, was opened amidst a blaze of publicity and gay covers in January.

In October, the hands of the school clock were indecorously bandaged, and when the fountains were scoured out by the Head Boy and a zestful company a store of 'blushful Hippocrene' and an elegant stiletto-heeled evening shoe were recovered.

The 1st XV treated an elderly Staff XV with quiet solicitude and did rather better by distinguishing themselves in their vanquishment of Northampton Grammar School.

THE SCHOOL BOOKSHOP

This term has seen the establishment of a project that we have been thinking of for some time: a school paperback bookshop. And with the co-operation of publishers and a bookseller it has become possible to make it a reality. We are stocking about 1,500 titles, especially of those books which will be of use and interest to the senior school—though the juniors are not being neglected.

The books are housed in cases under the main stairs leading to the Queen's Hall, where there is plenty of circulation space; and the shop is open daily throughout the lunch-hour. We hope in this way to stimulate reading, thus extending the work of the library, and also to encourage boys to form the most important habit of buying books for themselves and building up their own collections.

We opened with a special additional display including all the Penguins in print—rarely to be found together. The first term of our new venture has been most successful, and about £180 worth of books has been bought. Mr. Bassett is in charge of the shop, and several other masters assist him in the running of it.

A.C.H.

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES, 1965-66

OPEN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS :

- A. D. Bissett, Open Minor Scholarship in Natural Sciences, Wadham College, Oxford.
- R. W. Bush, Open Scholarship in History, Jesus College, Oxford.
- S. I. Chorley, Open Scholarship in Classics, University College, Oxford.

- G. F. Cutler, Open Scholarship in English, Worcester College, Oxford.
- D. R. S. Hedgeland, Open Scholarship in Engineering, Selwyn College, Cambridge.
- P. L. Sears, Open Scholarship in Natural Sciences, Jesus College, Cambridge.
- K. N. Simons, Open Scholarship in Classics, Exeter College, Oxford.
- K. Stenning, Open Minor Scholarship in Natural Sciences, Trinity College, Oxford.
- M. V. L. Turner, Open Douglas Jerrold Scholarship in English, Christ Church, Oxford.
- I. D. Hentall, Open Scholarship in Zoology, Leicester University.

PLACES AT OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE, for 1966 :

- M. G. Baker, Selwyn College, Cambridge.
- D. J. Browning, Christ's College, Cambridge.
- C. M. Hood, St. John's College, Cambridge.
- W. Pitchford, St. Catharine's College, Cambridge.
- P. F. Simpson, Oriel College, Oxford.
- C. J. Smith, University College, Oxford.
- E. J. Stonham, University College, Oxford.
- R. G. Thomas, Hertford College, Oxford.

AND 1967 :

- A. P. Potts, Jesus College, Oxford.

UNIVERSITY PLACES, ETC., taken up in October, 1965 :

- J. A. Atkins, Northampton College of Advanced Technology, Chemical Engineering.
- J. R. Bacon, Leeds University, Physics and Chemistry.
- J. S. Bentley, Durham University, Geography.
- A. G. Brill, Birmingham University, Law.
- T. G. Carthy, Salford Royal College of Advanced Technology, Electronics.
- L. W. Cheriton, Hull University, Chemistry.
- I. G. Collins, Warwick University, English.
- R. K. D. Cook, Aberdeen University, Mechanical Engineering.
- P. G. Davis, Oxford College of Technology, Architecture.
- D. G. Essen, Bristol University, Mechanical Engineering.

- G. D. Ferguson, Hull University, History.
- P. R. Gibbons, Swansea University, Industrial Engineering.
- A. D. Green, Manchester College of Science and Technology, Chemistry.
- P. G. Hames, Leeds University, History.
- M. W. Hampton, Northampton College London, Mechanical Engineering.
- J. C. Hills, Bristol College of Advanced Technology, (University of Bath), Building Technology.
- J. Joice, Leeds University, Economics.
- M. H. Kefford, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.
- M. K. Jones, Royal Holloway College, London, Science.
- J. R. Knight, Exeter University, Combined Sciences.
- A. J. Knox, Edinburgh University, Electrical Engineering.
- S. E. Kurrein, Manchester College of Technology, Coventry, Business Studies.
- P. Langston, Keele University, French and German.
- B. M. Luscombe, Liverpool University, Zoology.
- N. D. Melsom, Lancaster University, Physics and Chemistry.
- G. P. Millward, Manchester University, Physics.
- A. E. Morris, Oxford College of Technology, Architecture.
- R. H. Mullick, Birmingham University, Electrical Engineering.
- M. J. Perfect, Aberdeen University, General Honours Degree.
- G. Poole, Battersea College of Advanced Technology (University of Surrey), Russian.
- P. N. Rawkins, Leeds University, Economics and Social Studies.
- S. J. Russell, Manchester College of Science and Technology, Science.
- A. H. Schmidt, Bournemouth College of Commerce.
- A. J. Tilling, Sheffield University, Economics and Social Studies.
- D. A. Wakefield, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.
- S. C. Williams, University College of South Wales, Maths and Physics.
- R. F. Greenwood, Leed University, Chemistry.
- W. J. G. Pidgeon, University of Kent, Humanities.
- M. Vickers, Kent University, Modern Languages (1966).
- D. R. Andrew, Sheffield University, Engineering.
- A. J. Hanebeck, Vienna University.

CHAPEL NOTES

Most people already know that the School Chapel was furnished and equipped largely through the generosity of Old Boys. On February 13th there was proof of their continued interest when the Old Wycombiensian Lodge, No. 6754, presented gifts to mark the School's quatercentenary. Their gifts, a handsome silver alms dish, a prayer desk and kneeler, were received by the Headmaster at a service in the Chapel.

The presentation was made by the Master of the Lodge, Mr. A. Hann. Lessons during the service, which was well attended by Masons and their wives, were read by Messrs. E. Baskin and M. M. Davies. The Chaplain is most grateful for this latest benefaction and would also like to record his thanks to Lt. Col. S. E. Hands who helped so much to arrange the presentation.

On March 17th twenty boys, their names are listed below, were presented to the Bishop of Buckingham for Confirmation in the School Chapel. The following day the annual School Communion was celebrated by the Chaplain assisted once again by the Reverend John Simpson. As usual the latter service was well attended by staff and boys.

A.J.S.

LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION :

W. H. Barksfield, C. J. Barnard, R. S. Bell, J. Chalmers, N. J. Culverhouse, C. D. J. Edwards, P. R. Grafton, V. R. Gubbins, G. C. Lunn, J. S. McBride, B. A. Marsden, M. K. Miller, G. R. Parkins, M. P. Runnacles, G. K. Smith, J. E. D. Thain, S. E. Wall, K. Welch, G. J. Wostenhulme, C. J. Young.

IOLANTHE

As soon as I was asked to write the report on the School's production of 'Iolanthe', I did the obvious thing in running to the back files of the 'Wycombiensian' to find how others had tackled the business in the past. The first thing I realized was that the critic has to be self-conscious : thus I have adopted the first person immediately in the knowledge that I am doing **THE RIGHT THING**. I suppose this self-consciousness is only proper. The opera critic is a member of the school, he sees the production grow from its inception, he hears the notices about practices, he is affected by the growing air of excitement as the opening day approaches : just as a member of a family is concerned with what another member is doing, so he is very much concerned for the success of the School's largest co-operative venture of the year. For the opera demands the united

efforts not only of the cast (who are seen and applauded), not only of the electricians, stagehands, musicians, and box office staff (whose names are glanced at during the interval) but also of a host of people who never receive any real credit for the small but important parts they play in making the show a success—people who look after coats, who sell programmes, who supply tea, who make up the cast. One count at Christmas put the number involved as high as 150 : nothing else in the year approaches the magnitude of this venture. Thus the critic cannot speak from the traditional lofty, detached and disinterested position : he is one of the school, speaking of the school, and he gets a little embarrassed by it. Hence the self-consciousness.

But the position is yet more difficult. His report appears in the magazine five months after the performance. It is not as if he is informing a potential audience whether or not they should make the effort to come and see the show. The last strains have long died away and the vestiges of "5 and 9" disappeared from behind the ears of the chorus months ago. The greater proportion of readers, who have the interests of the school at heart, came to see the show : the few who did not, have missed it, nor are they likely to be enthralled by a potted 5-line version of the plot here. Similarly those who saw "Iolanthe" have their own memories of the principals, and those who did not are not going to be absorbed by a long discussion of how people they have never heard of played parts which mean nothing to them. So who pays attention to detailed individual criticisms ? Only the principals themselves who read this report with trepidation to see what is recorded for ever in the annals of the school. They need not worry for I am mentioning no names. I heard them rehearse for hours, I saw them leaving the school week after week as the clock came up to 6 p.m., I watched them cramped with nerves behind the curtains and I admired as they went on the stage—I admired them all, especially those small boys, walking out there alone and singing in front of that audience. I could not have done it at their age, of this I am sure. Furthermore I am not prepared to discuss their individual abilities, especially at a distance of five months. Nor am I prepared to do what I think is worse—to list everybody and say that they were "splendid" in ten or fifteen different ways.

Thus having spent a long time in refusing to do what is expected, let me make a few positive criticisms of "Iolanthe". While I thoroughly enjoyed it, one or two points did come to my notice and I am sure that, if acted upon, they would lead to an even better production in the future.

The first point concerns the fairies' feet (and any fairy reading this will jump at the pun). In the past, people have

said the the junior (female) chorus have looked a little odd wearing plimsolls. This was certainly true but I doubt if it warranted the drastic measure of sending them on barefoot. The stagehands did their best : they swept the stage and the wings ceaselessly, but the number of nails, screws and drawing pins recovered by the fairies during the four performances was incredible. What was also incredible was the splendid way in which they suffered these injuries without any bitterness, and even ran some sort of a competition on it. "Please sir, Molesworth in the chorus can't go on 'cos they're still getting something out of his toe". My heart bled in sympathy. We cannot do this again : it is either back to plimsolls or we shall have to get them dancing pumps. Then and only then will the fairy chorus look really happy and trip round happily . . .

. . . and "trip" is the word. The musical and dramatic aspects of Gilbert and Sullivan can be covered from within the school : the dancing which is demanded cannot. This was not bad in "Iolanthe" but it could have been better. We have not got dancing masters on the staff—the days of the weekly lessons with the High School are regrettably past—and we would probably make it much easier for ourselves if we were to contact a proper teacher for those important sequences. This used to happen years ago : there may well be difficulties in arranging this of which I know nothing but I do think it would help.

Another thing which ought to receive more attention is the seating in the Hall. At the moment, this tends to be forgotten : the chairs are spaced out an inch or two, and someone checks that there are 30 in a row. To start with, have you ever sat in A1 or A30 ? You are so close to the stage and so far to one side that you see only half the play. The Dramatic Society attacked this problem at Easter by cutting down the number of seats in the first 3 rows by 6, 4 and 2, but it would only seem fair to take off a few more. Our audience must be able to see and it is a little off-putting for the actors to see A30 desperately asking his neighbour if he knows what is going on just out of sight. Moreover it is also disconcerting playing to a small house. Our Queen's Hall holds upwards of 800 people : on the less popular earlier nights of the production, the actors are conscious of rows of empty chairs at the back and the audience has some strange feeling of agoraphobia. Would it not be possible to cut down our auditorium by procuring some sort of screening ? The audience would thus feel a little more cosy and the actors would get the sense of playing to a packed house, which always brings out the best in them. It should be noted, too, that this is a problem which must be dealt with before the tickets are printed and not the day before the first audience arrives.

Having written the words "High School" above, I am reminded of one old chestnut which appears from time to time in these pages—"Why don't we get some girls for the female parts"? It is noticeable in passing that this is not heard so much from the cast as from those who are not connected with the production, and others who are well-intentioned but who do not appreciate what the opera represents and what difficulties are involved in staging it.

At the moment, the school opera is entirely the school's work: it is a product of the Royal Grammar School and no one else. Through the opera, a large number of very young boys gain stage experience in taking the parts of fairies, daughters, maidens, etc. For most it is the first time they have ever been part of a big co-operative effort. They give up hours of their time, and they learn the satisfaction to be had in belonging to a voluntary group working to a definite end. They realize that they have to depend on others, and others on them if the show is to be a success. They take part in the most important public event in the school calendar, from which they would be debarred until their voices broke were girls to be brought in. Above all, they thoroughly enjoy the whole proceeding as anyone who has looked into their dressing room knows, and they add a great deal to the audience's amusement by the very fact that they *are* small boys and they are so convincing, and even angelic, as small girls.

But whether you accept this or not, the difficulties of organizing and rehearsing a mixed cast are almost insurmountable. As it is, much practice is done in lunch hours: with girls in the cast this would be impossible. After-school rehearsals would have to start half-an-hour late too. Transport and communication would add further difficulties. We can change rehearsals by giving out a notice in Prayers: it would be far more difficult to get notices through to the other side of Wycombe. There is no need for me to continue: the difficulties increase the more you think about them. Mr. Dawes and Mr. Newling spent hours of their own time organizing and rehearsing "Iolanthe": this would have to be doubled if a joint effort was put on, and we arrive at a point where there are just not enough hours in the day.

So I have had my say though I am sure that some people will never be convinced until they actually try to run a play on this basis. I know I shall not change the view of one critic who was prepared to see a boy take Lady Macbeth's part—because it was written for a boy presumably—but not to see a boy take a female Gilbert and Sullivan lead—despite the evidence of his own ears and eyes. I enjoy the opera as it is and, as I heard an old lady say in the audience, "Christmas wouldn't be the same without it".

A.J.M.

SHAW AND MISOGYNY

After no little anxiety your critic reached his seat just before the curtain rose on one of the most ambitious projects the Dramatic Society has yet attempted. Ambitious certainly, and a fine school play also. Unfortunately, as an artistic success, it was crippled before it started by the notions which underly all school plays. But to this I will return.

The biggest problem facing the Shavian actor is amply illustrated by a brief study of the leading character : Richard Dudgeon. Very simply, the problem is that, as a person, the Devil's Disciple-Dudgeon does not exist. By his own admission and from the scathing comments of the cast, we gather that he is a profligate, loose-living wretch. He is also quite obviously the hero, the only character worthy of our admiration and respect. And like 'John Tanner', 'Captain Brassbound' and a dozen others, he will be enobled in his true calling just in time for the final curtain.

Dudgeon is all this and more as Shaw says in his preface. But throughout the text there is not the remotest hint of Dudgeon feeling any of these things. This is an early play, and certain human emotions are hinted at, for instance, his relationship with Essie, but by and large, Dudgeon is much more a peg for Shavian philosophising—specifically knocking Puritanism and the Army. But if a character has no dramatic life, how can he be made interesting? It is a matter for some debate whether the best course is to endow him with human characteristics through the powers of the actor, or to take the text at face value, and make the play live simply on the strength of his argument and wit. Artistically, the second course, I feel, is preferable. Snodin chose this course, often giving barbed and bitter irony as brutal invective. However, making an audience listen to straight conversation is the acid test of the best professionals. Snodin's peculiar talent is a fine oratorical voice, and he used this to its best advantage, pointing the thunder with touches of caricature. I would have preferred a less flamboyant Richard, but this was a performance thoughtfully fitted to Snodin's abilities, and splendidly executed.

This problem of whether to aim for character or caricature is pointed again by the other star turns of the evening, Heron and Lewis. Heron gave a fine performance as a neurotic half-mad major, using every weapon at his command ; jerky movement, quivering lips and slightly hysterical tone. And it was embarrassing. For the character created was simply not in keeping with the one in the text. Swindon is incompetent, yes, stupid, certainly, but an incipient lunatic, he is not.

Lewis, on the other hand ; elegant, graceful, (the ballet dancer in him), intelligent, contemptuous, played Burgoyne as a

straight satirical sketch. Burgoyne was never recognizably human, but as a peg for Shavian satire, he was devastating. Lewis's approach was clearly more accurate.

Huggins, as the Reverend Anthony Anderson, was competent but missed some of Anderson's qualities as a man of action. Koefoed-Nielsen, brilliantly cast as the village idiot, was superlatively stupid all evening.

Finally, I come to the women. Boy actresses are perfect for Shakespeare ; the somewhat sheepish tripping of the chorus in 'Iolanthe' added to a general air of light comedy. But playing large and difficult parts in Shaw, they will just not do. The small boys concerned did admirable jobs—indeed, they seemed to me the most essentially feminine creatures to tread the stage since that sad day when masculinity took David Snodin by surprise.

Authority says that these productions are done by the school for the school, and do not need outside assistance, which sounds dangerously like "it's only the school, so let's not bother about standards". There are much more realistic practical difficulties—casting, rehearsal time, and so on—but surely these could be overcome. The vast increase in artistic standards and the greater enjoyment of both cast and audience which would certainly ensue from joint productions surely make co-operation with the High School at least worth considering.

But to end on such a protracted critical scream would be unfair. Within their limits the small boys, Wood, Crowther and Norfolk, were splendid. The vast amount of work put in by Mr. MacTavish, and his multitude of nameless helpers, was consummated by a fine evening's entertainment.

GEORGE CUTLER

people who moan
like me
are perhaps the people
who are the worst
because they know
and do nothing
but the people who are blind
are the obstacle
for they could see
but they hide away
from reality
enjoy such a life
and stand in the way
of those who know
life is not to be enjoyed
as it is



The approach of half-term was celebrated by the holding of the House Music Competition on the afternoon of Thursday February 17th. This revival after a lapse of more than five years was greeted with much interest and enthusiasm. Two reasons were responsible for its not being held during these years—one the impossibility of the whole school attending in the old hall and secondly the rehearsal time required for the musical activities held during the year. The change in date of the High Wycombe Schools' Music Festival from the Summer Term to the Spring Term went a good way to solving the second difficulty and the Queen's Hall more than solved the first in providing an excellent setting for such a function.

We were delighted to welcome as Adjudicator Mr. Frederic Jackson, a distinguished member of the staff of the Royal Academy of Music and Chorus Master of the London Philharmonic Choir. He has visited us on several occasions, and this time, as always, gave most valuable comments and criticisms.

Each of the six Houses provided one Choral item and one Instrumental item, and while there was great variety in the choice of items and in the way they were performed, a good standard was achieved by all. The programme is given below with the marks obtained. The maximum for the Choirs was 60 and for the Instrumental item 40. The winners were Youens, victors in a very closely fought contest.

FRASER HOUSE (82 points)

Choir. April is in my mistress's face. Thomas Morley. (45 points). (*Conductor* : P. Roberts).

Instrumental. Piano Solo. Nocturne in C minor. Chopin. Paul Roberts. (37 points).

DISRAELI HOUSE (74 points)

Choir. Marching through Georgia. (40 points).

(*Conductor : A. Bisset*).

Instrumental. Flute and Piano. Andante in C major.
Mozart. David Wood and Richard Hickox. (34 points).

ARNISON HOUSE (72 points)

Choir. The Lincolnshire Poacher. arranged George Dyson.
(39 points). (*Conductor : P. Watts*).

Instrumental. Clarinet and Piano. Adagio from Clarinet
Concerto. Mozart. Peter Watts and Richard Simons.
(33 points).

YOUENS HOUSE (89 points)

Choir. Since first I saw your face. Thomas Ford. (52 points).

(*Conductor : G. T. Huggins*).

Instrumental. Composition by John Slater scored for piano,
oboe, xylophone, cymbal and bass drum. Philip Thornton,
Malcolm Goldring, John Slater. (37 points).

TUCKER HOUSE (87 points)

Choir. Adieu, sweet Amaryllis. John Wilbye. (54 points).

(*Conductor : R. S. Hickox*).

Instrumental. Piano Solo. First movement of Italian
Concerto. Bach. Michael Cole. (33 points).

QUEEN'S HOUSE (76 points)

Choir. The Seekers. George Dyson. (46 points).

(*Conductor : P. P. Simons*).

Instrumental. Slow movement of Trumpet Concerto. Haydn.
Stephen Jenner and Philip Engel. (30 points).

Congratulations must be extended to all who did so much to arouse interest and encourage boys to take part, to the Singers and Players and, not least, to the conductors of the Choirs.

J.S.D.

CONFLICT

A myth has been created, like so many myths, round something about which the majority know very little. A conference was held last term in the backwoods of Bletchley entitled 'Conflict'. Twenty very fortunate sixth formers were huddled in the dark evenings with twenty High School girls, and were solving the problems of the world. They returned, happy with their answers, but not wishing to impart them to the rest of the school. So things like 'projection', 'sublimation of the ego', 'social Darwinism' and 'collective unconscious' remained merely as names,

symbols of intellectual snobbery with no purpose. Marx and Jung did not rise from dusty text-book pages, and Buddha stayed in the Far East.

The aim of this article is to shatter the unhealthy myth by explaining, as far as is possible, what exactly 'Conflict' was, and by sharing its conclusions with those who were not fortunate enough to experience the exhilaration of a slow but definite discovery.

'Conflict' last term involved a series of evening seminars held in extremely comfortable surroundings, and a culminating weekend conference at Bletchley Park Training College towards the end of November. The combination of High School and Grammar School was one of three 'Student Projects in World Affairs' receiving grants from an American foundation called 'Leadership and World Society' to experiment with the teaching of world affairs. Aims were perhaps best explained in the words of Mr. David Bridges, to whom the whole thing owes its vital birth, in an article for the educational journal, 'The New Era' :

"We begin with the following, we hope fairly unexceptionable, premises :

1. That it is increasingly important that responsible young people should have the knowledge and understanding of world affairs, since this is a field upon which they will be called increasingly to make judgements and to exert their influence ;
2. That this area of study is rich in material stimulating to the imagination and challenging to the intellect—and merits on these grounds too, the attention of teachers and students ;
3. That international affairs is moreover a field with which university examiners increasingly expect applicants to be familiar, one in which more and more universities are setting up degree courses—and consequently (even from the most cynical point of view) one that senior students should find it profitable to study.

In addition, though rather less confidently and rather more controversially, we based what we were doing on one further view of the way in which this field of study might be approached :

4. That while the teaching of world affairs (or to state it in more child-centred terms, 'education for international understanding') like any other field, required firm foundations in a sound grasp of the facts ; and while such knowledge was useless if those in possession of it were not also equipped to to deploy it in discussion, argument or polemics or for the the purposes of making their own judgements upon it ;

nevertheless, the intellect was not the only medium through which an understanding of other-national and supranational qualities might be approached”.

Mr. Bridges then goes on to explain how ‘man’s experience’ lies ‘in his senses, his intuition and his body, as well as his mind’ and how therefore understanding must be approached through other means as well as through academic dialecticism. This explains the parallel concentration on drama as a means of experience (the final result is reviewed by Stephen Tinton below). The aim of the preparatory seminars was to prevent shyness and a lack of background knowledge so typical of conferences in which the pupils see each other for the first time. The result was the most successful and uninhibited conference that anybody from this school had ever known.

Our conclusions? One cannot, unfortunately mend the world in a day, though many of us, returning to the reality of school from the intellectual dream-world of Bletchley Park, felt that we should very much like to. Our study involved conflict as a whole. The seminars included a symposium on ‘the struggle to command the world’s resources’, Lecture/Discussions on ‘the role of power in international conflict’, ‘the social anthropology of conflict in the world today’ and a symposium ‘Round the world survey of conflict hotspots’. The weekend of the conference saw sessions beginning with ‘Man at war with himself’ and passing through ‘Social . . .’ ‘Race . . .’ and ‘East/West . . .’ ‘Conflict’ to ‘Resolution through Law’ and ‘Resolution through Education’.

Where did all this get us? Strangely enough, a parallel ran through most of the lectures. Only one session, ‘Man at War with Himself’ was originally intended as a discussion of internal conflict, but it seemed that every form of conflict was the result of, to quote Mr. Bridges again: ‘projections of the individual’s internal dilemma’. This is what projection means. It is a psychological term which is the damning cause of all conflict in the world today. Having discovered this, we realized that, through psychology and education, harmful conflict was not inevitable, and a solution of the problem involved reform of the individual as opposed to reform on an international scale. How to set about this reform? The Sunday of the conference was devoted to resolution. We tended to reject the Machiavellian viewpoint of a lawyer, I suspect because it was Sunday morning and nobody wishes to reform the world on a Sunday morning, and were all the more willing to accept the answer put forward by an educationalist in the afternoon. By giving the individual a vital part to play in society, a feeling that he has something to contribute in his own particular field, at the same time giving him a broader knowledge of, to quote one of our speakers, ‘the

whole contemporary canvas', conflict can be transformed into 'fruitful diversity'. The concluding words of that cold but unbelievably optimistic Sunday afternoon were eloquently given by Mr. Bridges :

'Fruitful diversity is desirable ; sameness is impossible. There is not just one conflict out of which emerges one solution or one society, but a vast diversity of conflicts acting and interacting against each other all the time, producing all the time new syntheses which will interact and react against each other, producing in their turn new syntheses which will interact and so on. This is the process of growth, this is the process of development in a person, in society, in the world. Therefore, it is not a question of two and one ; it is many and many resulting in constant reproduction. This is desirable ; this will be the case ; it is impractical to make this anything but the case, but we must try and manage this process as fruitfully, as profitably, as possible'.

We have therefore not become as idealistic as Marx, and have no visions of a perfect society in which no conflict exists. But neither are we pessimists (although the drama may well have given this impression). We see the world as a exciting area of constant differences which, through the education of the individual, may be exploited to make it a far far happier place. And the educational process started with the dialectic harmony of the conference itself.

DAVID SNODIN.

FOOTNOTE :

'Conflict' has, indeed, continued, and grown. A second conference was held this term, involving a study of 'The New Nations', at the Grammar School itself. It included many more pupils, but it was an obvious anti-climax after the almost too successful nature of the last one. But hopes are bright for the future—the American foundation ('Leadership and World Society') has provided us with a grant of £350 to cover the activities of the next year.

CONFLICT DRAMA

On Sunday March 27th the dramatic side of the conference was performed in the Queen's Hall to an invited audience. We sat for an hour and a half sometimes in darkness, sometimes in light, listening to a mixture of poetry and prose readings and watching many startling dance 'improvisations'.

The purpose of the drama was twofold : to put into dramatic form the substance of the conference (which, this term, involved a study of the problems of the new emergent nations) and, by doing this, perhaps to reach some sort of 'emotional solution' to the problems of conflict.

Throughout the performance one could sense the enjoyment of the performers ; this was, I think, due more to the producer, Tim Newling, than to the actual material used. Both the material and the presentation implied an outlook of unjustified pessimism. One saw only the dark side of the problems, and very few positive solutions were put forward. The diversity of the material (from Shakespeare to Snodin and Koefoed-Nielsen) requires deep concentration and even then was open to misinterpretation. Take for example a scene in which a crowd of people were excitedly waiting for the arrival of 'God' and then being disappointed at his failure to come because of his 'slight cough'. I was not alone in thinking that a solution through God had been offered and been rejected as useless (touches of Samuel Beckett?). I learnt later, however, that this was the wrong interpretation, and that the 'God' was meant to be the father-figure, the dictator, in an emerging nation (aimed mainly, I hear, at Nkrumah).

Despite this, the drama was well directed and acted. It was entitled an 'improvisation' but only in a few places did it show any signs of a lack of rehearsal. The dancing in particular, directed by Margaret Wooster, revealed a maturity one did not expect. The drama was produced in two distinct halves (the first was a repeat of last term's production, involving 'conflict' as a whole, the second this term's, presenting 'the new nations'), yet seen as a whole they gave an impression of continuity. It flowed from darkness to light, from tranquillity to aggressiveness and from man's internal conflict to spiritual hopelessness.

The quality of the production was its freshness and originality and one can only hope that this is only the start of a venture which will grow into something really worthwhile. Only through further investigation can we answer the question posed at the end of the drama :

'God or Man ?
Man or God ?
Is there a choice ?
There must be a choice.
Whose ?
Yours ?'

STEPHEN TINTON.

ALPINE AMBLE 1965

On Tuesday, 15th of August 1965, a party of eighteen boys from the lower Sixth and upper Fifth with two masters, Mr. Fry and Mr. Millican, carrying rucksacks but otherwise comparatively respectably dressed, left London for Basel by way of Dover and Ostend. After a somewhat sleepless night, we arrived in Basel, breakfasted and went on to Berne, seeing the city, apparently smaller than High Wycombe, its clock, cathedral and bearpit. In the afternoon, Thun was reached and a steamer took us along the lake for our first taste of walking up hill and down dale, the latter proving to be more difficult. The next day we walked from Adelboden by the 8,000 ft. high Bonderkrinde to Kandersteg, where a stay was made for a few days. On the first of these we went in rain to the trout farm at Blausee, following it with a bathe in the pool at Kandersteg where we went in as schuler. On the second we succeeded in getting a view of the Matterhorn from the Gemmi Pass, when, for a brief moment, the cloud cleared over Zermatt. On the third, Sunday, some went to the Swiss church, where the Chaplain of Lampeter took a service in English and a small baroque organ was in need of an organist, after which the swimming-pool was again visited in the afternoon, but we no longer went in as schuler. Kandersteg also saw the beginning of what became the evening routine—a visit to a cafe with a television set where one could relax in front of the box for a programme of news, cartoons and advertisements for detergents.

After this warm-up period, we set out to cross the Hohturli Pass in one day,—an expedition which we had been told was beyond our capability. The rain of the previous week had fallen as snow on the nearly 10,000 feet pass, but during the week-end a path had been opened and it was through this, in 18 inches of snow, that we reached the summit and the Blumlisalp Hut for a welcome cup of coffee. On the way down we had trouble with the soft snow which started to fall down the mountainside as we placed our feet on it. But Griesal was reached by six o'clock for a night in a small hotel, a pleasant contrast to the Youth Hostels we had used up to then. The day had been fine, but it was the last for several days. On Tuesday, we crossed, in rain, the Sefinfurgge to Murren and on Wednesday descended to the valley for the Trummelbach Falls and a lunch of spaghetti Bolognese. It rained again in the afternoon—the hostel that night was very poor—and it rained again the next day, so we entrained for Kleine Scheidegg and thence for the Jungfrauoch. When we arrived there, a blizzard had been blowing for three days and this stopped us from going out on the Jungfrau. Instead we explored the labyrinth of tunnels and ended up in the hotel for a huge dinner. Next morning, we awoke to cries that the

train could not get through, so we whiled away the time by looking at the 'Ice Palace'. After exhausting ourselves on the ice (at 11,333 feet not much activity is possible), we returned to the railway which was by then unblocked, and went down to Kleine Scheidegg, where the sun was shining brightly, making photography popular.

There was still snow about as we walked down, past the north face of the Eiger to Grindelwald, where we stayed in a hostel which might just as well have been in a tourist resort it was so full of English parties. The next day was fine and free, so use was made of a well-warmed swimming-pool, but, on the last day, as we crossed the Grosse Scheidegg, it rained with that seeping rain which gets through everything supposedly waterproof. We at last arrived at the hostel where we were going to have dinner, a wet bedraggled lot. We came out much-refreshed, and set out in dry clothes for the station, Lucerne, Basel and Brussels. After breakfast, we eventually got a tram which took us to the exhibition and the Atomium, got another tram which got us back to the Nord station in time for a very rapid walk through the city with its sights to the Midi station. We had 'done' Brussels. Thence Ostend, Dover and London, where we arrived tired, but older and wiser after a most enjoyable holiday.

L.W.F.

BIOLOGICAL TRIP TO THE HIGHLANDS

While the South-East were enjoying the so-called sun last August, a group of stalwart biologists ventured into the even wetter wilds of the North-West Highlands. For the expedition the party, headed by Mr. E. R. B. Little, hired a Volkswagen motor-caravan for a rather extortionate sum, and managed to borrow a large tent. After grossly overloading the van with microscopes, plant presses, reference books and so on, we covered the six hundred mile journey in about twenty-two hours—not bad in a highly underpowered van with a maximum of only about fifty-five miles per hour downhill. The time included an hour stopped with the engine suffering from a lack of fuel, and various emergency stops for acute car-sickness experienced by one of the party.

Having arrived, we pitched our tent on a supposedly well-drained site roughly a mile from Loch Kishorn. We soon developed a daily routine—'Sir' kicking us out of bed at 9 a.m., or as soon as the hordes of biting midges had gone. Mr. Little cooked bacon and eggs, which in his opinion exempted him from any further chores, and then we made the nine-mile trip

into Locharron, where there was a Post-Office and a store. The latter stocked plenty of preventatives of liver-fluke and foot-rot as well as the spam and baked-beans on which we lived.

After going to the village, the various excursions to places of biological interest were made—one of which involved going to the top of the impressive "Pass of the Cattle", along the highest road in Britain. Only if it was really pouring rather than just raining did we stay in the camp, and on one such occasion a helpful fellow from the Nature Conservancy pointed out we were on a nature reserve, and told us to move. We went a hundred yards down the road past a sign telling us not to tamper with the vegetation of the area.

On the expeditions, each member of the party studied a certain group of animals or plants. Thus one person investigated the flowering plants of the area, while the other members of the party specialised in the fungi, lichens, mosses and centipedes of the district, collecting and studying specimens. The area was especially interesting as the vegetation was of two distinct types—that on limestone and that on sandstone. Interesting comparisons were made between the two types of flora.

During the evenings specimens were identified, records written up, and so on, each person making large increases in their personal collections. Several species were found that had not been previously recorded from the district.

After about nine o'clock the doors and the windows of the van had to be tightly shut, to keep out the hordes of midges that returned around that time, no doubt attracted by the powerful Tilley lamp we had borrowed. Large quantities of insect repellent were used with little effect. Mr. Little provided entertainment with loud renderings of 'Flanders and Swann' songs.

The journey home was uneventful, although the van was even more heavily loaded with boxes of specimens stacked everywhere. The whole trip was enjoyable and also very educational, providing us with experience of a completely different flora to that of Buckinghamshire.

P. H. PITKIN

J. R. WOODS

THE NEW MACHINE IN THE CHEMISTRY LABORATORY

A new piece of apparatus in the Science Department normally attracts the attention of the curious, and this term the sight of white coated young men peering intently at a new machine has produced a crop of queries from all levels in the school. We already feel sure that we have a ready-made set piece for

next term's Speech Day Exhibition for, the machine has a built-in fascinator, a mechanical pen moving over a rotating drum of graph paper.

Question : What is it ?

Answer : An infra-red spectrophotometer — spectrometer for short.

Question : Did it really cost £5,000 ?

Answer : No, it did not cost us anything. A new spectrometer of this type would cost about £1,500 but this is a reconditioned model.

Question : Who gave it to you ?

Answer : Messrs. Perkin, Elmer Limited, a firm which specialises in the manufacture of analytical instruments.

Question : What is that red glow on the righthand side of the instrument ?

Answer : That is the source of the infra-red radiation. The beam produced is passed through the liquid sample in the cell and then to the monochrometer which splits the emerging radiation into component wavelengths. In effect, the machine 'looks at' each wavelength in turn and if a particular wavelength has been absorbed by the liquid, a peak is recorded on the graph paper.

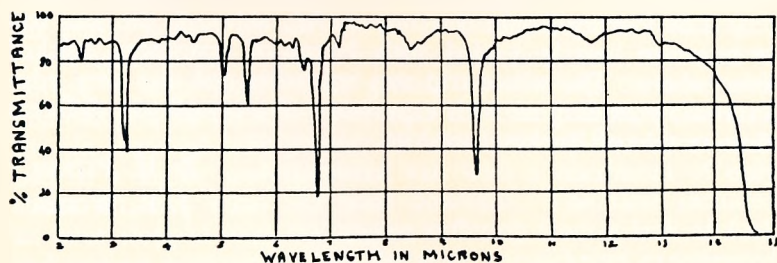
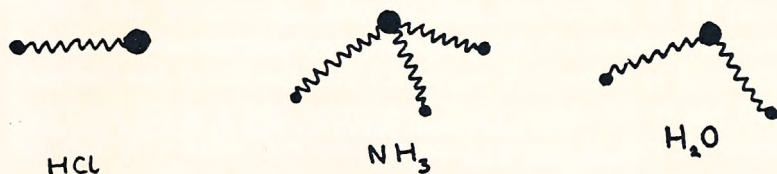


FIG. 1 BENZENE

Each sample will produce a different combination of peaks and thus the pattern produced can be regarded as a 'fingerprint' of the substance concerned. This is very very useful for the identification of substances by comparison with known spectra.

Question : Why should one substance give a different absorption spectrum from another ?

Answer : A molecule behaves in a similar fashion to a collection of balls and springs representing the atoms and chemical bonds respectively :



If such a model is struck a blow it will perform a complicated movement which is the total result of a few simple movements simultaneously observed. These simple movements are called fundamental vibrations and in a real molecule each characteristic vibration is stimulated by light of a particular wavelength only. Thus if the radiation emerging from a sample is analysed, certain wavelengths will be missing since absorption has taken place in order to enable the molecule to vibrate. The missing wavelengths are represented by peaks in the spectrum. Different molecules, having different methods of vibration, will produce different infra-red spectra.

Question : What happens if the sample is impure ?

Answer : Extra peaks appear in the spectrum. Quite often the impurity can be identified from the extra peaks.

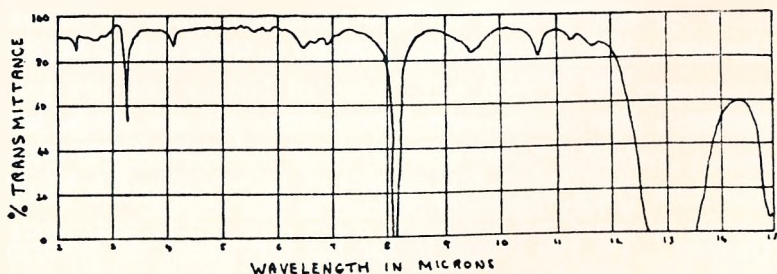


FIG. 2 CHLOROFORM

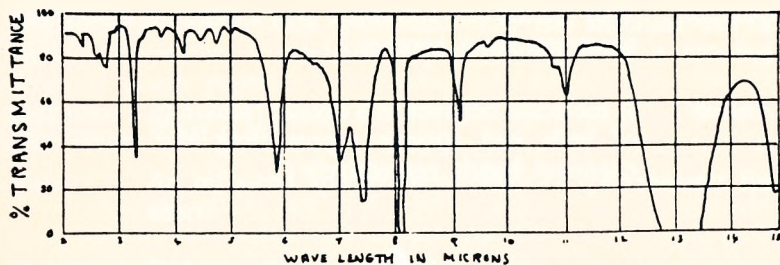


FIG. 3 IMPURE CHLOROFORM

The additional peaks are due to acetone impurity (compare with Fig. 2).

Question : Can the machine be used to study newly discovered compounds ?

Answer : Yes. Organic compounds are made up of sub-groups, e.g., cyanide (CN), methyl (CH₃), hydroxide (OH) called functional groups. Such groups absorb in particular regions of the spectrum and thus the presence or absence of such peaks is a useful indication of the structure of the unknown compound.

Question : Could the instrument be used to determine the concentration of a particular substance ?

Answer : The height of any particular peak is related to the concentration of the substance responsible. Thus, measurement of peak heights may be used to establish concentrations.

Question : Any other uses ?

Answer : Infra-red spectra are useful for studying the geometry of molecules ; that is the measurement of the lengths of chemical bonds and the angles between them, but the mathematics involved is often very complicated. Suitable instruments are much more expensive than ours.

Question : Will every school possess a spectrometer in the near future ?

Answer : Not in the near future, they cost too much, but they are used extensively in industrial laboratories, universities and colleges of technology. We are in a very fortunate position in this respect.

Question : Do you intend to use the instrument for research work ?

Answer : If we have a few good ideas !

M.R.M.

SCHOOL RAVE

Take 720 people, provide each with 12 fl. oz. of Coke, place in a gymnasium and supply 150 decibels for 4½ hours and the result, if you are lucky, is £117.4.9d. profit, seven grey hairs and a broken fire alarm glass. Countless hours of planning and fretting finally came to fruition on the cold night of December 20th. The gymnasium, after diligent application of 67 man hours of work resembled what would result if a medieval torture chamber and the Wood End Christmas Production of Macbeth had been left in a field overnight. Stray people flit to and fro, the cast of a ballet representing work, where in fact no work was done. Then the first couple arrived. Their money was greedily taken and dropped into the box, and their hands eagerly stamped. These two must claim the doubtful privilege of their being the only people to have been personally escorted through the corridor to the hall. Very soon, as if someone had pushed a magic button, droves of youngsters appeared, warbling and clattering about at the doorway. The tide increased to a flood, and countless worried friends peered through the thick blue atmosphere to make sure they were talking to someone they knew. The disc jockey, chained down behind the stage burred a deep bass muttering over the speakers, which only he himself could have distinguished, in the true professional style, and began his evening's work. John Mayall's group, or what could be discerned of them beneath their fur trappings and assorted hirsute growths, then arrived, and they provided great entertainment for the major part of the evening, with short breaks to replenish their energy. Then, as quickly as it had started, it was all over, everyone left, and the lights were switched on. The sighs of despair that were uttered by those helpers still awake, on being confronted with the mess to clear up, would make the lamenting of Palamon and Arcite sound like that of a dog who had mislaid its bone. The floor of the gymnasium, during the evening, had been liberally sprinkled with a half inch layer of dust, assorted items of crepe paper, streamers, posters, Fling bottles and Coke tins. The handful of weary souls went about their chores with much grumbling but happy at the fact that almost double the previous dance's profit had been made, and 720 had enjoyed a good evening's entertainment.

NIMROD PING.

REFORM OR REVOLUTION



It is, I think, quite obvious to all in the school that the prefectorial system as such does not work as effectively as it should. I feel that if the powers that be wish to create and maintain an ordered and disciplined school society, they must either reform the prefectorial system or abolish it altogether.

The reform of the system would be far easier to effect than 'revolution', as most of the school accepts, albeit somewhat begrudgingly, the prefectorial system as an inevitable factor of school life, but whether it is a long term solution is extremely doubtful.

Reform could be accomplished: firstly, by improving the method of nomination of prefects, that is, by doing away with the present archaic system open to unfair prejudice, and replacing it with a committee of form-masters chaired by the headmaster; secondly, by drawing a necessary line of demarcation between prefects and school, giving the prefects an identity of their own—this may be achieved by giving the prefects a room of their own, now! Another help would be the election of a master responsible for the prefects—this would enable the number of prefects to be halved, resulting in increased efficiency; thirdly, by setting out punishments clearly to be understood by all. This does not mean, however, that I advocate a return to corporal punishment—far from it. To those prefects to whom it has become indispensable I can only say that they have failed as prefects, for a prefect's job, in my opinion, is one of supervision and not maintaining discipline in the school; finally, there must be a far closer association between form masters and their form prefects to effect a firm yet humane discipline throughout the school.

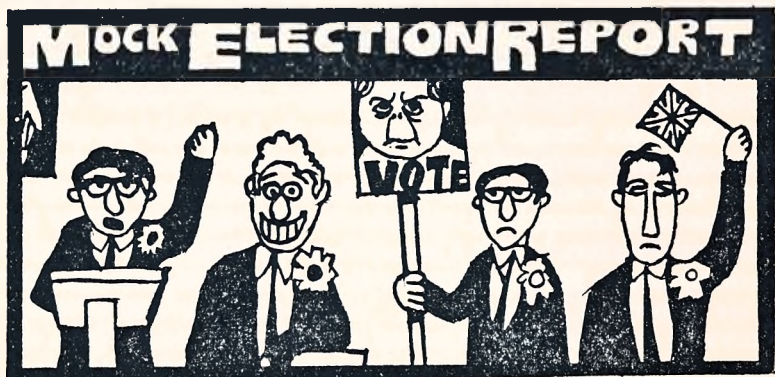
The prefects themselves have much to answer for in this criticism. It is time they realized that duty rotas are not superfluous wall decorations; it is time they rid themselves of this complacent attitude; it is time they ceased to regard the prefect's

lot as a soft option ; in short, it is time the prefects of this school understood the responsibility involved if they wish to retain the honour of this office. A prefectship is an honour, but unfortunately in this school the sheen tarnishes all too quickly, and the prefects only have themselves to blame.

So much for reform ; what of 'revolution', and by revolution I mean a complete abolition of the system ? The revolution I have in mind is the formation of a well-tryed method called a 'School Council', with representation at all levels from the first year upwards. The Council would be responsible for all those jobs and offices that the prefects so often ignore at the moment. A democratic institution such as this would instil a measure of self-discipline throughout the school—surely this is infinitely more valuable to the individual in his education than a system of discipline imposed from above by remote, impersonal prefects.

These are the alternatives. They are set out to make people decide, to encourage ideas of how to improve the system or how to replace it, in short, to make them think about what they want.

W. PITCHFORD.



Election chairman to candidate : 'Don't address hecklers ; they don't exist officially'.

There was a fear among many people that this mock election was going to be, like its immediate predecessor, a 'mockery'. It was feared that the Conservatives would maintain their large majority, thereby consolidating the traditionally conservative nature of the school. The final result went some way—especially as regards the sixth-form—to confute this tradition.

This time, as last time, there were four candidates, Richard Hill (Conservative), Barry Hills (United Left), John Morton

(Liberal), and Jonathan Bush (Independent). Lunch-time meetings were arranged in the Queen's Hall, one for each candidate, and the interest shown here was remarkable. Every meeting was attended by over half the school, the final Conservative one drawing in a crowd of over 650 boys.

First to speak was the Independent candidate, Bush. He was very sincere (and thus apolitical), jingoistic, and amusing, yet somewhat idealistic. Probably the most cheery of the candidates to speak, he based his campaign on varying topics. He wanted to cut down the Territorial Army and the army generally, 'except the guards and the marines. Someone's got to guard Buckingham Palace'. He also called for British nuclear weapons, and, of course, complete independence from America. With no 'thirteen years' or 'seventeen months' to justify he attacked 'jumped-up socialism' and 'weak, insipid Toryism' on general matters only, and not after every few words, although free enterprise in steel, no comprehensive school, and unconditional talks with Smith, betrayed his close affinity to the political Right. He advocated a curbing of immigration ('we don't want the country overrun by Chinese') and when he was asked, in good faith, how and where he was going to control immigration, he replied: '... at the airports, on the beaches...'. Probably the most amusing policy was his idea of an armed police force to take the place of the army in 'any South-East Asian War'. Finance? It looked as if, in a country under Bush, everything would be financed through nationalised football-pools.

With his broad Bucks accent, his magnetic personality (throughout the speech he was brandishing a piece of wood), and, strangely enough, his undoubted sincerity, he proved to be the most compulsive speaker. Yet he was marred by his obvious idealism. The Queen, 'our gracious lady', figured prominently in his new plans for Britain, and his generalizations were sometimes quite absurd: 'ninety-nine per cent of shop-stewards are Commies'. General evasion of questions from the floor was very common (not only at the Independent meeting), but Bush's most direct answer caused amused uproar:

'How would your proposed nationalised trade union work?'
'Hitler made it work...'

The meeting was closed shortly afterwards.

The Liberal speaker, John Morton, was, unfortunately, the worst speaker of the campaign, and he seemed to have no great understanding of his party's policy, nor any sincere belief in what he did understand. He gave a great deal of factual evidence and a comprehensive coverage of policy, yet two incidents (one at the beginning and one at the end) stole the show. Firstly, whilst the Liberal committee entered, a fair haired second-

former planted himself on a seat in the centre of the stage ; he was hastily removed. At the end of the speech, Morton handed over to a brusque, confident colleague who forcefully stated that any Liberals who voted United Left were not true Liberals, and from his short speech, it became quite clear that he would have made a far better candidate.

The candidate's policies were a mixture of *laissez-faire* and decentralization (Gladstonian Liberalism on the one hand and a policy of intervention on the other). All in all, he was a little pessimistic, and very much dependent on the material he had in front of him, as shown by the poor display he put up when trying to answer questions. The final question provided the only real piece of forceful speaking (from a member of 6c1, which was, by the way, a form in which the Liberals made a clean sweep), when, in reply to the question : 'Will the televising of parliamentary proceedings make politics more like show business' ? he said : 'Maybe. But the British people want to know how, why and when for themselves ; they do not want to hear it from a little dictator with a pipe'. The meeting was closed.

Only on Thursday did the campaign become more serious and more heated, when Barry Hills spoke for the United Left Party. It was then also that three words crept into the campaign, which by Monday had had more than their fair share of use, namely 'fascist', 'smear' and 'rubbish'. During both the Conservative and United Left meetings, many bigoted sixth formers decided to use these words ad nauseam after every pause in the speaking, no matter what had been said. It tended to prove that even sixth formers remained politically ignorant and annoyingly childish. Nevertheless, this, and a slight fiasco on Monday, were the only bad points of the election, which was generally well conducted.

Barry Hills' speech seemed, at one and the same time, negative and realistic. The great amount of his time was spent on a vicious attack on the Conservative Party, on their assurance of 'a promised land, flowing with milk and money' and their policies which 'go in one year and out the other'. His attacks were centred mainly on plutocracy, tradition and conservatism, and his most concerted attack (that the Conservative Party had had no programme for the last seventeen months) seemed somewhat hypocritical. The reason for this was that most of his arguments were negative, and there were only a few topics with which he dealt positively (the Independents asked the inevitable question : 'When is Hills going to give us some left wing policy, and stop slinging mud at the other parties' ?).

Yet as the campaign progressed, Hills seemed to improve immensely, and it seemed a pity that there were only a few people present to hear him make a fine eve-of-the-poll speech on Monday after school. One very good point in his campaign was that he refused to promise any panacea to relieve Britain of her bad economic situation, and advocated all the time 'improvement' and 'time' to carry out policies which cannot be effected in the short-term. Also in the Monday meeting, he stated concisely what the United Left stood for, and he did it well. He complained of a traditional Tory feeling inherent in many boys and adults ('Mummy and Daddy vote Conservative') and said that the United Left Party was a party of political left-wingers who had a genuine belief in the impossibility of Toryism as a political creed. The general impression he made was mixed. Had he been declaiming 'a lot of negative twaddle' or a 'piece of pungent radical truism'? However, the meeting was good on the whole, although Hills did not cut as good an initial figure as Bush had done and as Hill was to do. It was marred (or perhaps made more exciting) by the suspending of a 'mock' noose over the stage before he spoke and it was ended by another question and answer on television in Parliament. Hills (politically a Liberal) quoted Jo Grimond when he said that that if there had been television straight after the election, seventeen months earlier, 'there would have been no Tory government for a hundred years'.

The final meeting, that of the Conservatives, was attended by nearly two thirds of the school, and was perhaps the rowdiest meeting. The Germans have a word 'roboten' which means 'to work hard', and this rather conveys the impression given by Richard Hill. Probably the most fluent speaker of the four he showed that he had undoubtedly worked hard at this campaign, and knew his arguments backwards. Yet the second nuance of this word implies 'robot-like' and such were Hill's replies to the important questions posed. He was so familiar with the major issues of the campaign that when, on Monday, a question was posed on his attitude to hanging and corporal punishment, he spent much time flicking through the pages of the Campaign Guide to find an answer on a subject which remains personal and not universal.

Nevertheless he had to face the largest, and last, meeting, and came through well despite persistent heckling and some telling questions which were never answered directly. At least he made out a ten-point plan of campaign, gave these ten points and then left quite some time for questions. This was a thoughtful speech, a little shaky on facts and figures sometimes, yet forceful. A much closer result seemed inevitable.

The speeches undoubtedly constituted the main talking point before the poll on Tuesday March 29th, apart from a rain-sodden rally on the field, a final eve-of-the-poll meeting and a hoard of various posters singing the praises of the respective candidates. There can be no doubt that the campaign generated a great deal of serious interest throughout the school, and by Tuesday it was clear that the Conservatives were not going to run away with the vast majority they had obtained at the last election. The candidates remained throughout controlled and friendly towards their fellow rivals, although the same cannot be said for some of their supporters, who persisted in their unfair bigotry.

Polling was brisk and secrecy was maintained for the most part by semi-private booths. The inclusion of the second and third forms in the voting (which greatly favoured Hill, who took 143 votes to Hills' 57) made for a larger electorate and, in the end, 954 boys voted (87.5%) which shows that there was no lack of interest in the election. The boxes were opened at 3.25 p.m. and the result announced from a central window in the Queen's Hall to a large crowd in the quadrangle at five past four.

HILL, RICHARD (Conservative)	452
HILLS, BARRY (United Left)	267
MORTON, JOHN (Liberal)	129
BUSH, JONATHAN (Independent)	106

What was significant was that Hill polled only 47.5% of the vote, whereas last time Baker polled 59.6% for the Tories. Bush received his support mainly from the middle and upper school, whereas Morton received 42.7% of his votes from the second and third forms. Probably the most revealing fact was that in the sixth form Hill had a majority of only 16 over Hills, and that in the Upper Sixth Hill polled 59 votes, while Hills polled 54. Morton, in the Upper Sixth, with 11 votes, received only half of Bush's 22. Bush lost his 5/- deposit by not polling more than 12½% ; Morton just scraped over the deadline.

This, perhaps, was why the campaign was so enjoyable. Never was it inevitable that the Tories would win with a sweeping majority (mainly because of the attractive existence of a vote-collecting Independent candidate). All in all, with interest centred mainly on the sixth-form vote, it may be regarded as a moral victory for the newly-created United Left Party.

JON CLARK.

MOCK ELECTION

The masses assembled, for want of some mirth,
To see the election's ridiculous birth ;
Then a figure rose on the pavilion's roof,
Quiet, embarrassed and rather aloof.
The flustered candidate was trying to say
How his enemy lied the previous day ;
Above the voice of the heckling crowd
Besieging the hut in a restless cloud,
The speaker's face turned suddenly whiter
As he quickly decided he wasn't a fighter.
Then grappling hands took hold of his feet,
And he quickly began to lose his seat
As from the roof he started to slide
And wished he supported the opposite side ;
Till he fell to the ground with a deafening thud
And his bright new rosette was all covered with mud.
Slowly and surely he opened his eyes
And saw two great elephantine thighs.
Their owner hoisted him up to his head,
'Vote for me, mate', the captor said.
Our meek friend thought how he should vote
And delicately started to brush down his coat—
'You'll get my vote, I swear', said he,
'I like your ideas . . . and you're bigger than me'.

R. A. DENNING, 4X.

' FACTION '

'The Emperor's New Clothes' is a fairy story about two weavers who deceived a kingdom into thinking that the King was gorgeously arrayed in their material, when, in fact, he was walking naked before them. They succeeded because, knowing that nobody likes to be revealed as ignorant, they informed the people that those who could not see the material were either unfit for office or extremely simple. Andersen was saying that men will always make fools of themselves when they abandon their own judgement and blindly follow fashionable ideas. This seems particularly true of modern art : we have the smart colour supplements trying to convince us that a reproduction of a 'Brillo' box is great art because one has to pay an exorbitant price for it. In most cases, credulity rebels and rejects what is false, but we are never quite sure.

'Faction', an anthology of poetry written by boys of this school and edited by Martin Turner, succeeds in breaking away

from the confines which an attempt to be too 'modern' imposes. This anthology represents the spectrum of school poetry, revealing a surprising incisiveness of thought. More than this, it is a sharp rebuff to those who imagine that reading poetry, let alone writing it, is the sign of an enfeebled mind, for the subject matter has a genuineness and immediacy. This immediacy is often a secret of their success for the freshness of personal experience reveals its merit in the poems. Often, when these poets stray outside personal experience, feeling compelled to write on larger issues and widen their bounds, their success is diminished by the fact that second-hand material, reporting what they can only have read or heard has a tired and well-worn impression, dully familiar in association with other poems. This is not to suggest that a poet should confine himself to what he knows is within his capabilities: his achievement will be measured in terms of his aim. Martin Turner, more than any of the poets represented, had this combination of breadth of vision and maturity of expression. He is able to evoke a precise image by the exactness of word or phrase. This economy of words makes his poetry forceful and fresh with an almost classical simplicity of expression, so that the idea is never lost. A fine example is his poem on the loneliness of an independent stand:

“Every man, once in his life,
must go out into the wilderness alone.
Shirt-sleeves are no protection
from the sun, nor arcing ravens.
Naked he must be and wonderfully
govern his strategic resolutions.
This fear he fears is not to be found
ever again, never destroyed by love
But love it is drives him, once in his life,
out into the wilderness alone”.

The whole tone of the poem is governed by the word 'wonderfully' in line 5, which gives a note of excitement and exploration, without which the poem would have an air of emptiness and separation in it. Similarly, the compass of the poem is greatly increased by the expression 'arcing ravens' which adds a feeling of expanse, reinforcing the initial image of 'wilderness'.

Diametrically opposed to this are Pickering's poems, in which the imagery is confused and unrestrained. This undoubtedly conveys the impression of underlying emotion, but so often the mind is seized with a plethora of uncontrolled alliteration. This Romantic indulgence reaches a climax in 'At a Year's Turning', a poem about artistic creation, where each image is new and independent, but without a dominant idea that would

unify them. The poet himself frequently confesses in his work his preoccupation with expression and the sensuous delight he obviously derives from it :

“On the tide of a year’s turning
I hear the clicking tongue of time
 In the burning
 waves of wheat.
On this hill a flannelled nun
Relaxes on the axis of a
 celestial sun
 And a vacuum heat.
Sought by a scanning sun I walk
On the raw edge of truth,
 a wellspring of images
 Peter-panning the page ;
And in my dreams, pillowed on a paper bed,
The first syllabic leaves are shed
 In the spring of an age”.

Immediately, the reader is confused, perhaps deliberately, by the juxtaposition of the familiar image ‘the tide of a year’s turning’, with ‘the burning waves of wheat’, which are normally associated with two very different seasons. Having a restricted field of experience, the poet discusses what he is most familiar with : ‘a wellspring of images Peter-panning the page’. Here the mind is first struck by the alliteration of the ‘p’s’ and then with the appropriateness of the metaphor, since like the poet’s images, Peter Pan never achieved maturity. The thought attains full expression in the second stanza of the poem, where the dilemma of whether

“To sacrifice or save this stack
Of rhyme, fountainhead
 On the stilts
 Of a time’s turning
Shall make my truth to talk
 On the hill
Or lament in the hunk
 Of spentout song . . . ”

is expressed. In this poem, and in others, can be seen the influence of Dylan Thomas : the use of two nouns instead of noun and adjective and an almost lyrical way of regarding nature as in an eternal childhood, but the other Dylan stridently asserts his raucous presence in 'A Riddle' :

“she paints the night black
she holds the mountains back
she is the hand of fate
she is the calendar of no true date
she is the driver who hammers through trees
she pushes thru flowers to light
she closes their petals at night
her breath is the wind an’
she spermed the seed of man
she is the one the limit send
she is a friend
she is an enemy
who is she” ?

Nature also provided much inspiration for Snodin and Koefoerd-Nielson, despite the latter’s brief association with the ‘Protest’ poem, which has a legitimate and important place in the selection, although its form and mode of expression tend to be formulated and hackneyed and from ‘a concrete jungle . . . and barbed wire adverts’, the poet sees himself :

“with fire in my pen and ice in my belly
laughter in my nib and tears in my ink
joy in my mind and splinters in my soul
life in my meaning and death in my words”.

The tendency is always towards hyperbole : it is always far easier to express oneself by exaggeration, to see ‘millions’ of people with ‘tons’ of money buying ‘fantastic’ ‘fabulous’ and meaningless records. If poetry is intended to communicate an exact impression of the poet’s to his audience, such phrases are useless, their original association has been lost and exaggeration is an acknowledgement of the fact that the poet feels inadequate to convey any precise thoughts or perceptions. The use of imagery successfully surmounts this difficulty and Andrew

Potts uses it well in his poem about the preoccupation of man 'with ants and their industry' ignoring the beauty in their lives, symbolised by the precariously perched edelweiss :

“Up on the mountain the edelweiss sleeps.
Men say below : “The flowers of the earth
Are withered ; we do not remember their beauty”.
Do not remember, and will not seek to find.
The crags do not scurry with ants and their industry ;
Carousels do not fill the night with light and gaiety—
Their music is outmoded, their machinery is broken.
Man’s simpler pleasures are not really simple ;
His aims are low, and ever being lowered.
There is no edelweiss because
We do not look for it.

Associations of ‘innocence’ with ‘nature’ are continued in the poetry of David Snodin, who reveals in the concluding poem of the selection a slow and quiet beauty, asserting permanent values :

“There was a place I went to
Where the glittering leaves enclosed a circle
In which the moss was a green carpet
And the withered tree-trunk an altar
And the blue sky a sinless roof
And all around the greens and silvery browns
Of the leaves on the white trunks
Beyond the black nothingness of the forest
Receding into chaos and vague confusion
But here absolute and blissful peace
And the birds sang overhead”.

Chris Koefoed-Nielsen has a more voluptuous attitude towards nature and particularly towards the sun, whose ambiguous role is the subject of two poems. The second of these catches a sensuous moment of experience and expresses it in a typically Laurentian way.

Enfold me in your fiery bosom,
Give me suck of your blazing nipple
Hold me to your golden heart”.

The last three lines mark a more savage love than the languid one previously developed, and show the ephemeral quality of such pleasure, every drop of which must be extracted at the time for fear it will not come again.

In the case of both poets, however, this 'nature' poetry is but one facet : equally important is that sort which Matthew Arnold termed 'criticism of life'. Snodin concentrates on aspects of the school and his sensitivity rewards the reader with the ability to view a familiar situation from the point of view of the opposition : a confrontation between master, 'power man', and blank faces. The series of brief impressions with which the situation is unrolled builds up a composite picture more immediately, probably more accurately and certainly more effective than a prose narrative : This method contrasts with the directness with which Nielsen delivers his poem on thought. Here the narrative makes his point very much in the style of Blake's 'Poison Tree', with the pointed concluding two lines :

“Pity man to whom thought is given
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The arrangement of the poems deserves some commendation, for poems of greatly differing nature are placed along side each other for contrast and occasionally interspersed with light reliefs as in this poem of Nigel Leek's :

HALF A SQUIRE, HALF A TRADESMAN,
 HALF A WISE MAN, HALF A FOOL,
 HALF A SCOUNDREL ;
 ---BUT THERE'S HOPE
 THAT ONE DAY HE MAY BE A WHOLE.

In this connection the poems of Nimrod Ping bring one firmly back to earth before the 'viewless wings of poesy' altogether threaten to remove immediate relevance. The incisiveness of his poetry is most refreshing partly because it is so concrete and partly because of the swiftness with which the point is made. The development of this form of argumentative poetry can be demonstrated by a rather apt little poem on 'person and modern youth' :

“ ‘Blodoy’ declared the person
 Well declared I thought.
 ‘your character is bent’.
 My character is me
 I don’t bend at myself,
 So it’s not my character
 You don’t agree with.
 ‘It’s you attitude, your
 Appearance, your movement’.
 He said omniferently.
 Well, if you can’t lay
 Your finger on what
 I’m sending that upsets you
 Maybe it’s your reception”.

This poem does not plead that ‘Person’ should try to change his attitude and see both sides of the case, it demands it. This poem ‘lays its finger’ on the root of many troubles and it is perhaps a not inappropriate point at which to conclude. In this necessarily long article I have tried to bring what has so far been a minority interest to the light. I can only hope that this poem of Ping’s will encourage a more tolerant attitude in our society, not only towards poetry but in all other aspects.

My apologies to Mark Lowe, whose Latin poetry, although undoubtedly excellent, I feel inadequate to comment on.

DAVID LEWIS.

BUS RIDE IN SPRING

It was on a day of promise ;
 on a bus
 in a crush
 of shoes of brushed pigskin
 pinstripe cloth
 tin of broth
 aching feet
 crushed pleat
 condensation on the windows
 murmured talk, an asparagus stalk in a basket
 crowded bus
 subtle fuss
 shopping dropping, people stopping
 distant buzzing, conductors coming
 bus-stops looming, bluebells blooming
 in the wet woods through the misty windows
 and now the birds are back and in
 the fields the young sun kisses
 all she finds.

J. M. BROWNRIGG, 5USB.

THE HOUR-AT-ZERO

Solitary on the sands
I saw a flashback across the wave,
 vague images, the fossil of a poem
 lapping the tom thumb truth.
Prepared for a sudden heat I turned.

My fivefold senses raging came, found
A climax in this work, this spinning sound
Of snowflake passion.
I have the sea to speak, the sand to teach,
Am subject stormed by the tide of time's shaping hand
Like the rounded stones at the sea's swinging hem.
I must make each stone shower up another
In a similar fashion.

From the footprint sand to the tattered froth
Each image spat colour up in his brother,
And around a blurred spectrum of selected colour
A king-size climax grew out of the tom thumb truth ;
It combed my saying with a mermaid touch,
Working silently on the solitary sands,
 circled by the sea
 and the curving horn of beach.
A skeleton song was vague and zero split,
 a faint melodic memory breaking the wave,
 an echo of silent speech
Which had stirred my spirit out of slumber.
Flashes swung back and forth
 silhouetting any angry shape.

My fury spent, my zero sent,
I drowned the image across the wave ;
 then a frost crawled up my eye
 severed the giant to a beanstalk sigh :
And after the lion's roar, a purring comes.

M. J. PICKERING.

AN INCIDENT AT THE STATION

The old man rested by his electric fire contemplating every train as it receded into the distance. That was until about 4 o'clock when he was rudely interrupted by a crowd of non-descript school children. Gradually the stream grew larger, slowly eroding the sweet shop and leaving an alluvium of wrappings which were soon to be blown away by the ebbing wind. I stood there gazing at the medley of assorted seaweed products, wondering to which advertisement I would yield. Eventually I gave it up as a bad job and walked slowly along the platform munching a gooey toffee. I remembered something suddenly and lagged behind the others until they had mounted the single wooden step into the carriage. I hurried down the platform muttering 'Third from the end', and there she was.

Her eyes were busy admiring the floor until the sound of the door slamming moved her head with a jerk. She murmured an obligatory remark before throwing her head back to return any stray hairs to their set places. She smiled pleasantly and then started to talk. Her eyes flickered occasionally as some passing 'James Bond' went by, but they always returned to me.

The train started with a jolt, loosening a few tumbling auburn locks which were again casually thrown back into position. Her eyes looked up to see if any more hairs obstructed her view, then she rested her arms and listened to the steady note of the train. Sometimes a comment from me attracted her gaze as it wandered slowly from any fallen match to any passing telegraph pole. Soon she stretched comfortably and with glittering eyes reclined into the seat listening intently to the strange conversations coming from the next compartment.

Far too soon the train stopped and I mumbled a goodbye before opening the door on a parent gazing patiently at her hideous child which was stuffing itself with an indigestible sweet. As the train hissed on its way brushing the passengers through the exit, I saw her again, and with a gentle wave I walked on.

R. M. Wood, 4X.

DREAM

Clack on the flagstones
Hope in the heart-beat
Come come
To cure the disease
Of waiting
Heels on the footpath
Rise from the hearth-rug

Of misery
Come come
To cure the disease
Of waiting
Up on the doorstep
Hand on the button
Push and the ring-sound
Quick to the answer
At last she has come
To cure the disease
Of waiting
Laugh in the sunlight
Empty the blue-sky
Happy the heart-beat
Face like a cool-sun
She is here
Here
To cure the disease
Of waiting
Panicky questions
How did you get here
How was the journey
Tubes are crowded
In the rush-hour
Should have come early
Do take your coat off
Warm inside
Badly raining
But it's warm now
Yesterday was dreadful
Do take your coat off
Warm inside
My mother
Dying to meet you
Do come in
Do take your coat off
Do do do do do
Clouds in the grey sky
Rain falls heavy
Wet and gone

DAVID SNODIN.



Summoned by Bells
(five to eight in the boarding-house)

The dead hand scribbles boot-laces
the body follows morning contortions
unaware.

Sleep-haunted faces
—dead-pan abortions—
considering their lair.

The lazy bell tolls hollowly
the dirges tiredly dissolve upstairs
improving
sleep-speed slowly.

Then, rounding in ears,
—second bell reproving.

CHRISTIAN KOEFOED-NIELSEN.

STORM

A low wooden shack commanded the horizon and a sweeping view of the stretching sands and breaking seas foaming the land's border. It was silent in the clear moonlight, the walls of board annoyed the wind into a soft, low, moan. A Jeep was still, parked by what was the front and only door. The soft sea-salt smell infiltrated the wooden walls and seeped through

the tiny cracks of the house, discovering itself deep in the hearts and souls of the sleeping inhabitants. The sound of the soft sea played in their ears as their dreams harlequinned their sparkling patterns. A rough, sandy track, Jeep-rutted squiggled from the shack and was lost in the bounding patterns of grassed sand-dunes.

Through the night the sea rose higher, and with time the once lapping waves grew into rolling breakers crashing on the sands with the freshening of a wind and the rising of the tide. The eastward horizon paled with dawn, but it was only a still-born travesty of a sun that arose from the cold greyness of the sea reflecting a tortured sky.

The boards of the house set up a low groaning, and the window slammed fast as the mean wind swept across the dunes, sifting sand in whistling clouds to cover the straggling grasses. The white horses of the sea multiplied and matured into pounding stallions along the coast of dawn, their sprayed manes flying wild in the howling winds as they rampaged towards the shoreline. Tangled heaps of seaweed lay shredded on the sea-margin as the stinging shore sands tore through them. The drums of hoofbeats reverberated round the dome of the sky to a wailing accompaniment of the music of the winds as they screamed across the sea and collapsed tiredly in the hinterhead.

The savage orchestration conducted by the Gods crescendoed throughout the beaten morning as a frightened fighting sun tried to pierce through the dead curtains of angry, sullen clouds. The furious noise slammed round the frail house screaming hatred at the puny force that had erected it, enraged by the stubbornness of the wooden shell to the vast ferocity of the raging winds which it frustrated.

A heaving twisted sea was racked by the overpowering gales and the long dormant forces aroused below its surface. It seemed as though a massive once sleeping monster was heaving mighty shoulders from murky depths in its awakening angrily from an undersea nap of centuries, and flexing its gargantuan muscles.

The tiny ticking of a clock, drowned in the supernal anger, caught the near ear of a frail man protected from the furies by his thinly framed house. Its cheap mass-produced face and bold hands indicated the one unceasing universal force, often ignored, lost, and wistfully glanced at, beating, beating, never beaten. It was 11.30 a.m.

CHRISTIAN KOEFOED-NIELSEN.

FROM 'THE CHARACTERS OF NEBULUS'

His broad smooth shoulders caught the light.
—They always do ;
But no-one knows his long-lived hope, except me, his friend.
In leaves he sails, warm brawn,
Through wooden dales of woe and deer
To me, my friend, where dog is leading off his master
In crofts of rusty tinsel leaves,
And splashing through the orange sun,
He meets his friend and his broad shoulders seem to melt
As the warmth of the sun traces them through the wood
at last.

—

“Who are they” ? he italicised the final word.
He looked and he looked but it remained no clearer.
For the portion he needed was not there.
True, he dabbles in minor philosophy
But, swinging along in the rain
Clicking and clacking the streets at day
His cases banging by his knees
He lives not for such powers as these.
Constitutional technographers and
Economic jungles.
Here he lives, creeping next-door in
Crinkly crumple shoes, and brushing his
Puppies like I brush my hair.
Twirling his broolly and catching the air
He went home, to a land I couldn't live in
Of ticking cups of tea and 'Crossroads'
Of curtains that don't match
Where freshened flans and oily peaches,
Perfect furniture,
Where vased runners, curtain rails
And British Constitution. Where
God is good and lawns are right.
No, no mister gamp, you can't
Partake in lands like mine
I can't co-like the time of sands
When pure your-liked folk is one-man bands
No, no bridge can cross
Ideology's wash.
But a nice respect
Is what I like to detect
When I look at what you do
You do it, I couldn't, and you do such differences so well.

NIMROD PING.

NOWHERE MAN

I awoke to peace and nothing. I was thinking once more, and I had time for it—eternity if necessary. There was no light but it was not dark. I could not see—I could not feel or taste or smell but there was nothing here but me and other people and I could see them and myself with all-seeing eyes. I could think with a superior brain for I was nowhere once more with another lifetime of knowledge to think about.

My thought was broken by another person coming into my sphere of consciousness. He was sad and lonely, and I realized that I was too. He thought nothing of me except the recognition of my presence. In nowhere no-one can help you, only you can make anything of your knowledge. He stayed for a while, less lonely for my presence, but then he moved on, just as lonely, worried and unhappy.

The realization of his loneliness increased my own and so I wandered at random, trying to find what I had not found in thought. A slight feeling of warmth told me that I was coming into a sphere of consciousness. The man had not even noticed me. Thinking of him I was surprised to see that he was happy. This aroused my interest and shook me from my melancholy mood. Thinking of him again I saw that his happiness was a fool's happiness. He thought that he had found his ultimate life. He shut out the reality of nowhere and imagined a world of himself, a God and a multitude of angels ; a paradise. The unhappiness and the nagging questions of nowhere had been too much for him and he had hidden himself in a dream from the real world of 'after-life'. Maybe someday he would be capable of living with nowhere but for now he could not even go to somewhere, to become alive again. Because of these thoughts I realized that I had had many lives and been in nowhere many times and that I had never known this before. Excitement caught me as I saw how I had started as a raw being and through life, death, nowhere and an instinctive going back to life had grown mentally until I was ready now to remember it all and make something of it. In seeing this I could see what life was. In life, with ability greatly reduced and the knowledge that somewhere inside me was something better, a subconscious, I had blundered, gaining knowledge. Life was the gaining of knowledge ; in nowhere that knowledge was sorted and used. I saw that in nowhere there were many like the man that lived in the dream. They were not able to go on. There were others even lower who in life saw only materialism and so in nowhere saw nothing and ran back to life.

There must be others ; this could not be the lot of the human race. Thinking this I met a happy crowd who like me were conscious. This made me happy but a nagging doubt

drew me away from the crowd for thought. Was this all man could reach? How had man reached this far? How could he go further?

How man had got this far was obvious—through the cycle of life and nowhere: so presumably man could go further by this as well. All one had to do was say 'Take me'—the words one had said many times before. Then what life really meant hit me and I was afraid. For a lifetime you were locked in a physical world. The mind hardly thinking, unable to think more. Imprisoned for a lifetime. I knew now why I had met a crowd. Sending oneself back to life when you are less alive in nowhere is easy but when you reach reasoning the same power which stops you killing yourself in life stops you coming back to life. The crowd had not conquered this instinct, and the crowd was almost dead. I made my decision, the search for knowledge was all important and when you can stay in nowhere eternally a century is not long. With much fear and fighting myself I thought the fateful words 'Take me'.

Nothing was being replaced by darkness but before it came congratulations came to me from somewhere which was not even nowhere. I caught a glimpse of something far superior to me. Nothing was replaced by darkness and this gave way to something, somewhere, somewhen; and light shone into a new pair of eyes.

T. LONGHURST, 5USB.

DEITY

Cigarette destiny is lost through eternity
the red glow of youth burns through,
and dies.

The Genetic ash remains.
The breath of God is needed,—the Deity
required incarnate in mere mortality.

In the burning, smoke floats high—
deeds of man dissolving in the sky
empty and open.

Thin as mist they vanish fast
in the galactic sea.

The light of glowing cigarette-life
ignites others.

When destiny is lit there is nothing more to say.
A cigarette burns until it dies.

The breath of God is needed,—the Deity
required incarnate in mere mortality.

CHRISTIAN KOEFOED-NIELSEN.

LIFE IN PROSPECTIVE

slowly waiting for time t elapse is Big Mary, carefully grooming her vulture, called Personality, as Poor Sam who has no hope for tomorrow, lies & waits & dreams of his lost life spent with Big Mary, who sits watching with eagle eye, not understanding the ways of the world, or the ways of Poor Sam, or in other words, the ways of her own mixed up mind / Son Peter laughs a sick laugh as he thinks of Sam and Mary, just sitting alone, but Peter is far off with Skinny Sal, regretting the day he met her, but at the same time blessing the time he left home, listening to her droning on about this & that & the other, in voice riddled with foreign monotonous / no-one remembers Sick Josh Cringe, who's dying & trying so hard to recollect his dim & distant past which is receding so fast as to leave him reeling in a daze, remembering his sins & the girls he should have married & didn't & who are now dead, not of a broken heart, but of undying shame, & now he understands what it means to have the gates of heaven firmly barred / as i think of Josh my thoughts are interrupted, as a voice issues from the record player singing 'ain't going down to the well no more', reminding me of my idol Huddy Ledbetter who was reprieved from his hanging by his singing, but nothing could save him from dying / then out there in the haze of fish & chip fat smoke emerges mr. nameless wearing a pink Carnaby Street shirt in combination with green polka dot underwear. he has a name but has forgotten it : 'hey mr. nameless are you a tramp' ? : 'yes i am a tramp, but so are you, so are the politicians, but you & me are honest tramps, now leave me alone, it is unhip to talk, wait til it comes into fashion' / Mr. nameless dissolves into the acid of his own exclusive moralisations, & i hear a sound & breathing down my back is mr. hypocrisy, my enemy. 'go away hypocrisy' i scream desperately, but he stays, speaking low & smooth & convincingly, but still lying for all he is worth : sure i like blacks as long as none live near me, no of course they are not better than me, or me better than them, but they are vastly inferior to me' / i pull out a sharp knife and attempt to stab him, but it is pointless, as the blade snaps, and mr. Hypocrisy marches off corrupting the world, & Big Mary listens & tell Sam who must agree, & is forced into joining the Klu Klux Klan, & Peter listens, & fawns down as always, but Skinny is not able to understand, as she is made of a rubber / tin alloy / hatred pulls the strings controlling the puppets minds, so why blame them ?

B. M. PHILLIPS, VI S2.



Societies come, and societies go. Some merely flicker and fade. Some, after lying dormant for so long, rise from their temporary graves.

If no mention is made here of any particular society, it either means that it is enjoying that period of living death when all it can grace us with is a dusty empty notice-board, or it may equally mean that the secretary is ill, non-existent, or just plain lazy.

Four new societies, to our knowledge, have been formed since the end of the last school year. They are 'Forum', 'The Folk and Modern Poetry Society', 'The Go Association' and the newest baby of them all, 'The Esperanto Club'.

What sort of society is 'Forum'? It had better explain that itself :

'FORUM', the sixth form society, represents an effort to combat the creeping paralysis that seems to affect most societies. It owes its genesis to the enthusiasm of Mr. File with several other masters, and the initial interest of the great majority of the sixth form. A semi-democratic committee was established after a very public meeting, the idea being to have someone from each form and year in the sixth form on the committee so that they could act as representatives and express the interests they represented. Although this has not worked in practice, we have succeeded in establishing, before the intrusion of 'mock', a fortnightly minimum of meetings of one sort or another. Since the original idea was the dissemination of knowledge as well as pure entertainment, our first gathering was to hear a series of short talks and a discussion on 'The Population Explosion'. Parallel with this we ran a twice-weekly short-talk session in the lunch-hour, which may sound like a Sally-Ann soup canteen, but in fact was a great source of amusement as well as encouraging public speaking. Among the most memorable of talks was a dissertation by Potts on Pudding-stones.

Hard on the heels of our first venture was a most interesting talk by the local planning officer followed by a philosopher friend of the author who did the most diverting things with his chalk. Probably one of the highlights of the term was the visit of Mrs. Verdun (she's had tea with Ho Chi Minh) Perl, a most distinguished lady associated with international peace movements, frequently speaking beside Canon Collins, and who gave us a stimulating account of her visit to North Vietnam.

To combat the general feeling of lethargy that pervades a Friday afternoon, we experimented with a meeting on a Thursday to hear Mr. Tim Newling give a highly informed talk on "The Artist in Society". Since Thursdays appear also to provide difficulties in the form of C.C.F. or 'other activities' we decided to hold an open discussion on 'The Monarchy' during a lunch hour, but found that it aroused even more controversy than one on Comprehensive Schools and time ran out long before interest did.

Debates found favour last term, the first one being with the High School in their sixth form common room, a facility we greatly miss, on the subject of 'A Woman's Place is in the Home'. I cannot remember how the voting went but recall that some very spurious economics and statistics were bandied about together with some notions about working women and bridge parties that might appear strangely removed from reality.

After the announcement of the general election Mr. Weeks crested the resurgence of interest in politics by organizing a debate on 'This House is Determined to Return a Labour Government'. Unfortunately the speakers for the motion had to battle against an innate conservatism present in almost every school and they combated in vain against good speeches from the opposition.

The Mock Election, run under the auspices of 'Forum' speaks for itself.

Martin Ward deserves some thanks for the excellence of his posters and notice-board headings which, one feels, paid the penalty exacted from excellence and covetous hands were laid on them. This is about the only way I can compensate for his disenchantment and encourage him to execute some more'. (D. W. Lewis).

A Folk and Modern Poetry Society was inevitable. Its secretary sent us this self-critical report :

'A FOLK AND MODERN POETRY SOCIETY was formed at the beginning of this year, due, doubtless, to the great upsurge of interest in folk-music of all kinds and this interest was reflected in our membership total of approximately eighty.

Records are played, to no set time-table, in lunch-hours, featuring such performers as Tom Paxton, Leadbelly, Woody Guthrie and others. 'Live' concerts featured Norman Stansall (late of this school) and three High School Girls.

There seems to have been a reluctance on the part of people to read poetry, be it their own or that of other poets. There is room here for improvement. More 'Live' concerts would also be well received, and these are in the offing'. (C.C.K-Nielsen).

The Secretary of the GO ASSOCIATION (J. S. Robinson) explains that his society has nothing to do with travel. "Go" is the national game of Japan, invented in China over four thousand years ago. According to legend it was devised by a Chinese Emperor to improve the mind of his half-witted son. Draw your own conclusions from that'. It is a game which was introduced to the school by a handful of sixthformers, and which has, through the Association, spread rapidly. Well, there are fads and fads . . .

The ESPERANTO CLUB has a membership of over a hundred already, and consequently it has had to be split into two sections, a Senior and a Junior. They defend themselves as follows :

'It is very pleasing that so many wish to learn Esperanto ; they will find it very easy to learn, and very useful in the future. It is a world-wide language, despite the fact that it was made up from European languages. The club would like, later, to find pen-friends for its members in some of the hundred countries which have recognized Esperanto, and in which many have a command of the language. These pen-friends will be found from distant countries, and not from our European neighbours, of whose languages most boys have a knowledge'.

The secretary then offers us this as a challenge :

'Esperanto estas tre interesa kaj tre facila internacia lingvo. Vi povas kompreni Esperanton preskas sen lerni. Post kelkaj semajnoj vi povas facile paroli kun viaj amikoj kaj vi povas skribi al Esperantistoj en multaj landoj, ekzemple Polando, Nederlando, Danujo, Jugoslavujo, Japanujo kaj Cinujo'.
(J. J. Roberts).

This brings us on to the first of the old favourites, the MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY. The Secretary (P. S. Everitt) complains that 'support . . . has sadly dwindled during the last few years, and few signs of a revival in our fortunes have been shown this year'. They have, however, shown a short film (with a French bias) every two weeks, and a full length

comedy film starring Fernandel entitled 'L'Auberge Rouge'. They are also closely associated with The Esperanto Club, and a talk given by Mr. G. L. Smith under their auspices introduced the international language to the school. Their report finishes with a plea : 'If a little more interest were shown by the sixth-form, our activities would certainly be improved upon'.

To ancient languages, and the CLASSICAL SOCIETY. The Secretary (B. J. B. Fox) boasts 'an altogether unremarkable, but nevertheless enjoyable, media via'. Events have included a talk by Mr. Forrest from Wadham College entitled 'The Fall of the Aristocracy', efforts to see both the 'Hecuba' by Euripides to be put on by the National Greek Theatre and 'Iphigenia in Tauris' by Euripides performed by students of King's College, London, which were 'balked by early runs on the respective box-offices', and a visit by about five masters and a dozen boys to the High School to hear a talk given by Mr. Warren of Corpus Christi, Oxford, on the 'Thalassocracy of Crete'. The Secretary then continues :

'More on the home front, I should congratulate M. J. Lowe who followed up his success in the Reading competition at (unavoidable pun) Reading last year, when he was placed first in the Latin section, by being placed second in both the Latin and Greek sections this year, which is equally valuable in terms of libra, sestertii and denarii, to descend to the mundane, but not, according to Lowe, in terms of prestige. In this context we hope to hold our own customary Latin Reading competition at the end of this term'.

The CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY (Secretary : J. P. Slater) has been quietly active. It has been holding alternate Bible study and general interest meetings every Tuesday lunch-hour. The Bible study this term has been the second letter of Paul to Timothy. The General Interest meetings have included two tapes, two soundstrips, and a speaker. The soundstrips were 'Mid Century Martyrs' and a Scripture Union soundstrip 'Stop the World, I want to get on'. The series of talks on 'My Faith and My Job', started last term by the Headmaster, was continued this term with a talk by Mr. H. D. W. Powell, F.R.C.S., 'Both speakers', according to the Secretary, 'mentioned and resolved any apparent conflict of priorities between faith and job, and spoke of the help the Christian Faith gives in dealing with people'. There has also been an increased attendance at the prayer meetings, held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the chapel for a quarter of an hour before school.

In the autumn term, the MUSIC SOCIETY (Secretary : R. S. Hickox) was extremely active, with regular recorded and live recitals—of which the highlight was a recital of songs by

Mr. D. Flinders and Mr. C. Bassett, and a recorded series of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos. There was also a trip to Beaconsfield to see a film version of the opera 'Don Giovanni'. As far as this term is concerned, the society's activities have been reduced, because of rehearsals for the school choir, house choirs and Schools' Festival Choir and orchestra. There has been a trip this term, however, to hear the Windsor and Eton Choral Society sing Vaughan Williams' Sea Symphony which the school choir is performing in July.

The DRAMATIC SOCIETY secretary explains that the society is *not* non-existent, although the idea of paid membership has been abolished, owing to the realization that the resulting society funds would not go very far towards the payment of triple-figure productions (this term's production is reviewed elsewhere).

The HISTORY SOCIETY, although nothing has come from the secretary, makes its presence known with an ever-full noticeboard of facts and opinion.

The SCIENCE SOCIETY has arranged trips to the Research Laboratories of Rank Hovis McDougall and the Motor Show, and at the end of this term to the Physics Exhibition at the Alexandra Palace and to Gommers, the furniture manufacturers. The Secretary hopes for lectures and films next term.

The Secretary of the MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY justifies his film selection (five films in all, although seven should have been shown) as follows: 'Our emphasis has been gradually moving towards the subjects of mechanics and engineering as well as the more conventional forms of mathematics: we decided that engineering came under the subject of mathematics just as much as under science. Most of the films were on engineering topics. A trip was also held, last term, to Elliott Computers at Borehamwood. The secretary then goes on to complain of 'unauthorised persons' removing interesting cuttings from the noticeboard, of which were included a set of articles and photographs of the Ferrybridge power station gale disaster, in which two cooling towers collapsed. He says, and quite rightly, that 'it makes one want to give up bothering to try and keep the noticeboard occupied'. The Society expects more films next term, and will be holding an exhibition on Speech Day. Prizes will probably be awarded for the best and most interesting models of mathematical or engineering interest.

The AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY (Secretary: A. Telford) boasts the largest membership in the school. It has, apparently, over 200 members. They have shown films every week, and have arranged trips to the Science museum and to R.A.F. Farnborough.

CLASSICAL SOCIETIES

The winners of the Latin Reading competitions were as follows :

Senior : 1st—A. G. T. Rogers
 2nd—S. J. Owen

Middle : 1st—D. E. McColl (5x)
 2nd—J. E. Woolley (5x)

Special Prize for reading poetry :

J. E. Woolley

Junior : 1st—S. E. Jones (3x)
 2nd { T. C. Browne (2E)
 Equal { C. Cannell (3x)

Last, but not least, comes THE CAMERA CLUB. The Secretary claims that 'the basic reason for the club's existence is to encourage people to do their own photographic processing : something which only a minority of members are doing at present'. Apart from this, the Headmaster has shown some very interesting slides, there have been two filmstrip lectures, and a talk by Mr. Groom, from Hughes the chemists, on Choosing a Camera. Two trips have also been held, one to the Kodak Film and Paper Manufacturing Division at Harrow, and the other to the Camera and Apparatus Division of the same company at Stevenage.

It is a pity that no society can be certain of continued success and support. The formation of 'Forum' is an encouraging step towards a solution of this problem, but even that is slowly disappearing into the inevitable whirlpool of examinations.

C.C.F. NOTES

Since the last issue of the magazine membership of the C.C.F. has become voluntary. Boys were given a few weeks to make up their minds but were then expected to stand by their decision for the remainder of the year.

Those who did not join the mad rush in search of soft options have reason to feel proud of their loyalties as undoubtedly the 'esprit de corps' of those remaining is higher than it has ever been and their loyalty in opting for a disciplined body calling for personal sacrifice and effort speaks for itself.

Aim of the C.C.F.

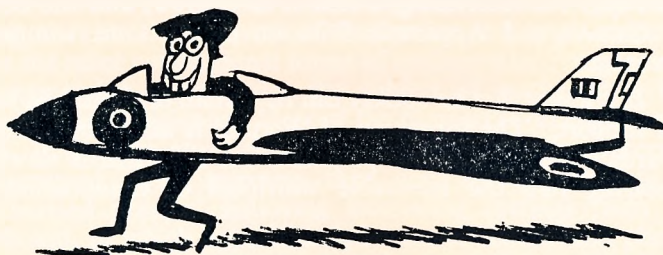
The broad function of the C.C.F. within the School is to provide the framework of a disciplined organisation within which and through which there may be developed within boys qualities of endurance, resourcefulness, self-reliance, leadership and responsibility and a sense of public service, in the belief that these things are of profound consequence to the stamina and stability of the nation in Civil as well as in Service life, in peace, as well as in war.

Those who elect not to join the C.C.F. will find nothing of comparable aim, those who serve in it will reap the reward of inestimable qualities not fully appreciated perhaps until some years later.

Alpine Expedition

Plans are now well ahead for the C.C.F. expedition to cross the Alps by the legendary route attributed to Hannibal. The party is due to leave at the end of July taking three days to reach base camp at Guillestre where preparations and reconnaissance will be made before the start of the expedition. The crossing into Italy will be made via the Col de la Traverseltre at a height of over 9,000 feet. The party will then relax in the Mediterranean sunshine for a week visiting famous cities in Italy and France before returning in the middle of August.

R.P.



R.A.F. SECTION

Though the unit is considerably reduced in numerical strength (82 cadets) the distinctions gained by cadets continue to be as notable as ever. Sgt. R. Calcutt and Sgt. A. Telford have already held Private Pilot's Licences for some time and Cpl. G. A. Monaghan, having been awarded a Flying Scholarship, is to train for his Licence during the Easter vacation at Denham.

Sgt. A. Telford has had the distinction of being selected as one of the cadets in the International Cadet Exchange Scheme

which, every August, arranges for a small but representative party of cadets from the U.K. to be the guests of similar organisations in various parts of the world. The U.S.A. and Canada are included in the places which some of those fortunate enough to be selected for this scheme will visit.

The Easter camp, this year, was held at R.A.F. Cottesmore. Flying, as usual, was in dual-controlled Chipmunk aircraft and all cadets were airborne. Included in the training programme was a night exercise which involved tramping about six miles to a rendezvous point followed by a night out of doors in improvised tents. All cadets did very well on this survival exercise which, in spite of some rain, was thoroughly enjoyed.

Four cadets were selected to attend an Easter camp in Germany, this year. They spent an enjoyable week at R.A.F. Laabruich, making the journey by air.

Gliding training provided at 613 Gliding School, Halton, continues to be popular. There are ten cadets in the unit who have already gained the Gliding Proficiency badge. There are three cadets attending weekend training and three cadets are to attend an Easter Continuous Gliding Course. It is hoped that five cadets will be trained during the popular Whit week Course and several additional cadets may be trained in August. These figures provide an impressive total and reflect the attractiveness of the sport and also our indebtedness to 613 Gliding School.

E.M.

ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

The Naval Section, now on a more voluntary basis, began the year with 60 cadets, A. J. Oliver succeeding D. A. Wakefield as Cox'n and J. S. Reid succeeding E. J. Stonham as Deputy Cox'n.

In December we welcomed our Liaison Officer from H.M.S. Dryad, Lt. T. Forward, R.N., who conducted the Advanced Proficiency examination and presented certificates to previously successful candidates.

In January a party of cadets visited the Boat Show and in February, 15 cadets visited H.M.S. Tartar, Tribal Class Frigate, when she was in the Pool of London. We were grateful for a visit from the Schools' Liaison Officer, Lt. Cdr. P. Heraud, R.N., who introduced a film showing the Navy's versatility and achievements.

Work for the Able Seaman's rating, Proficiency and Advanced Proficiency has continued: 10 cadets have passed Proficiency and 3, Advanced Proficiency. In this we have been greatly helped by visits from C.P.O. F. H. B. Kettle, B.E.M. and P.O. B. Hutcheson, to whom we are very grateful.

A. J. OLIVER, *Cox'n*.

ARMY SECTION

Because of the arduous training expedition into the French Alps this Summer, Annual Camp was brought forward to Easter. Four Officers and Mr. Poll with inevitably 'Bill' and 'Walter' with fifty three cadets made up the party.

A new site was chosen—No. 121 Week End Training Centre at Browndown Camp near Gosport, and in view of the unusual Easter weather it proved to be a very wise choice. Undoubtedly this was the most comfortable camp within living memory, gas-fired central heating and all "modern cons" being provided.

The weather to some extent sabotaged the training programme but all experienced a map reading exercise in the New Forest, which provide a good test of compass work, fieldcraft to platoon level, and initiative tests as group activities providing a challenge to ingenuity, agility and team spirit.

The weather placed limitations on .303 shooting, visibility being rarely adequate to ensure the safety of shipping in Southampton water vulnerable to an accidental shot fired over the top of the ranges.

The evenings spent on the .22 range were, however, an agreeable substitute and the introduction to "falling plate" brought back memories of past glories, and the team knock-out Competition stimulated great interest and plenty of excitement and provided a surprise for the boys in that the officers team consisting of Lieut. Col. R. Pattinson, Capt. M. M. Davies, Capt. F. N. Cooper and Lieut. A. J. MacTavish won a very good final from Cpl. C. M. Gwynn and Cadets—R. M. Cooper, R. Hongskula and P. N. Ross.

CORPS OF DRUMS

This term, a unique situation has arisen. Many of the cadets in the Band took the Proficiency examination early in the year, and they now divide their time among A Company, Cadre and us. This has involved difficulties in organising practices during C.C.F., but thanks to the co-operation of Mr. MacTavish, we are managing quite well.

Section practices go on as usual. The drummers, under L/Cpl. Capell are working well, and we hope for some good finished products. Of last year's buglers, only two, Jenner and Hedges, remain, and to them has fallen the task of training new buglers, and hard application should see this section ready for

our public appearances. Fortunately, a full company of flautists has returned, and with the addition of a further member, form a highly competent team under Goldring. A full Band Practice every Friday keeps us working as a team.

We have been invited to play at Bourne End Carnival again, and we hope that the services of our piper, Holgate, will be available then, as his performance proved extremely popular last year. General Inspection and Speech Day will also be high-lights in the Band's year.

Finally, I should like to thank two masters, Mr. Dawes and Mr. Burnell, for their help ; Mr. Dawes for his kindness in lending us his orchestral side-drum, an invaluable asset to the leading drummer ; Mr. Burnell for the interest he has shown in the Band, especially in the fife section, and for all his help and advice.

I. C. MAUN

SCHOOL HOUSE

This year the House has appeared to sustain a more relaxed atmosphere, and the relationships between the members of the House have been of a far easier nature. This cannot be attributed to a slackening of discipline, and it is to be hoped instead that, now that the House has become more senior, it is also becoming more sensible.

So far this year has been one of change. We started without two of our old prefects. Settingington has retired to the wilds of the West Midlands to pursue his studies but Frankland still haunts the House mentally and physically, although he is of the body of day-boys. We wish him the best of luck with his golf.

As a new prefect, we thus acquired M. J. Bevan who soon proved himself wholly reliable despite his quiet and subdued reputation, and in the true Welsh spirit he can show a remarkable turn of hostility. Thus established, we settled down for a restful period until Christmas. As usual we contributed lavishly to the rugby teams but I waive the mention of numerous names, and it suffices to say that we had no regular player in the 1st XV. Let us hope that this will be remedied. The school basketball team was almost entirely provided by School House, under the able captaincy of P. Colley.

At Christmas the wind of change again blew through the house and we said fond farewells to Mr. Newling, and welcomed in his place Mr. Millican. At this stage, no-one really knew what the result of the change would be. The study, however, continued to retain its five inmates, living uneasily in their semi-heaven, semi-hell, and forestalling envy.

Looking ahead, we again have changes everywhere. At the end of the term, Mr. Millican departs for Uplyme, and the cook-caterer for a new post. It is, however, no doubt, with a feeling of relief that many members of the House read of the retirement of two of its most experienced and long-standing officers, A. R. Nottingham, and J. N. McLoughlin, who retire after eight delightful years' connection with the establishment. We also say goodbye to R. Falconer.

Finally, I wish all examination candidates the best of luck, and offer sincere thanks to the Rev. A. J. Skipp and Mr. Millican for their keen support and unfailing interest in the House ; may it continue on its peaceful way under the guidance of a new house-tutor and head-boy.

A. R. NOTTINGHAM.

UPLYME

Attempts have been made in recent House reports to relieve the boredom of the inevitable 'we welcome . . . ' and 'regret the loss of . . . '. On finding myself, (the only prefect not taking English at 'A' level), faced with the task, I decided to play it safe, and those who intend to get full value from their 'Wycombiansian', must digest a mainly factual Uplyme House report.

The comforts and resources have grown steadily this year such that the previously stark common-room has now been softened with tasteful chairs, curtains, and a carpet, to supplement the three channel television. The wall is even embellished with a parochial mural and the prefects' study, resplendent in its new coat of paint, is now fit to entertain anyone. Gone are the days when a healthy boarder could while away his hours at the gaming-boards,—billiards and table-tennis are now played almost continuously. Also, we have been supplied with an aging Standard Vanguard, which is used as the basis for most instructive car maintenance lectures.

During the past two terms, Mr. Cooper has kindly made the house available as a venue for several of the 'Conflict' meetings. Indeed, the cramped conditions in the dining-room were probably the initial cause of the success of the project.

Uplyme was represented by two players in the annual Boarders *v.* Day Boys soccer fixture. Despite skill and enthusiasm, the boarders were narrowly defeated (in extra time?) by 5 goals to nil. Uplyme F.C., a very game side, if somewhat limited in talent, went down 4-2 to a lucky School House team. To complete this round-up of sporting achievement, I have been waiting for the Uplyme *v.* School House rugby match, so that

I could restore the reader's confidence in us by detailing an impressive score. In a very keen match, we were content to amble, certain that victory was ours for the taking. Our confidence told, and we did as well as England did against Scotland for the Calcutta Cup. However, we have not confined ourselves to the glories of the turf. Members of the House have found themselves in the opera, the play, and even in the choir of the Parish Church.

I'm sure that Uplyme will do well in the exams.

C. FEWTRELL.

TYLERS WOOD

During the last two terms, the House has seen quite a number of changes, both with regard to the occupants and the amenities provided for us. During the Summer Holidays, the common-room was re-floored, and at Christmas, tubular steel chairs were installed, thus making the whole place more hospitable than before, and providing a greater incentive to treat it as a home from home.

A fair amount of resentment was caused by the arrival of left-handed locker-units, which are more akin to polling booths than work surfaces, but they are gradually becoming accepted.

Our inter-house activities have been non-existent this year on account of the predominance of second formers in the House, but if they stay for the next four or five years, they ought to mature into a formidable team.

The kitchen has been renovated and redecorated ; the old pantry was demolished and smart white cupboards have taken its place. A new oven, as yet non-functional, has been installed, and a sink-unit, presumably to be fitted at Easter, has been gracing the garden for the past month.

A stray tabby, appearing three days after our return from Christmas, has defied all our attempts to expel it. Advertisements remain unanswered, the vicar could not help, and neither did a door-to-door appeal. We have, however, found a home for it now, which we are assured is a good one, and it will be departing hence at Easter.

The garden is very much more beautiful, now that Mr. Ginn has taken over from several temporary gardeners, who filled in after the departure of the celebrated George. He has been busy building rockeries, pruning, and generally preparing for the Spring. The House has shown a keener interest in school activities this year than in the past. Five of our number took part in 'Iolanthe', and six in 'The Devil's Disciple'. There are now only three prefects in the study, since R. D. Hudson

left us after four years to be a day-boy. Academically, there is little to report, though most people enjoyed some degree of success in the mock exams. Prospects for the summer, therefore, seem fairly bright.

In the twilight of these long evenings, there can be seen a very inexperienced shirt-sleeved trainee golfer house-tutor practising his shots under the expert guidance of the house-master's younger son, and we wish him all the best in the coming season.

A. J. H. WANDS.

ARNISON

A characteristic of Arnison's efforts in the last two terms has been the energy put into various competitions by a devoted few senior members, and this is a contributory factor in accounting for the rather mediocre display by the House in certain competitions.

In the Cross-Country, the extra few miles had a disastrous effect on our teams. In the senior competition, the rugby captain was the first Arnison member to pass the post, and it is rumoured that he ran round the Junior Course. This would explain also why he looked so fatigued. Many members of the House had the misfortune to contract some disabling disease which prevented them from running on the Wednesday, but which, miraculously, had disappeared by school on Thursday.

In the Music Competition, the House was allocated the rousing song "The Lincolnshire Poacher", variations of which are known by nearly every member of the House. There were many lusty practices in which various individuals showed themselves capable of singing a fine, if perhaps slightly off-key solo. The practices were well attended, but on the day of the competition many of the choir found themselves unable to face a critical audience, and only a hard core of Arnison choristers actually sang. It was ironical that the judge's criticism concerned the lack of enthusiasm in the singing. A determined effort by the instrumentalists did not prevent Arnison from coming last.

In the basketball, Arnison picked a skilful team, not anticipating the forceful methods of annihilation adopted by our opponents. One unusually gifted member of the team let his methods of self-congratulation get the better of his basketball sense; whilst he was performing antics worthy of a contortionist, the other teams took advantage of the temporarily weakened defence to score their points. In spite of this, the combined teams came third.

Arnison's real strength lay in the Shooting and the Rugby. A very accomplished team won the former with ease, and the youthful nature of the team points to a recurrence of this success. In the seven-a-side Rugby, a very powerful senior side overwhelmed their opponents. This result, combined with those of the junior age groups, gave Arnison the rugby championship.

We hope to continue our run of success into next term. There is enough athletic talent in the House for us to do well on Sports Day, and no doubt the enthusiasm of Mr. Gray and Mr. Bridges will not go unrewarded.

J. W. HUME.

DISRAELI

With over half of the inter-house competitions completed, Disraeli are once again in a very strong position. This is thanks to a good effort throughout the House, and not to a group of seniors, on whom everything depends, as is the case in some houses. It is pleasant to be able to record that the officials have had no difficulty in finding teams, and no strong-arm methods have been necessary. If this effort continues through next term, then perhaps Disraeli will win the championship, which has for so long eluded the House.

It is quite impossible to name all those who have helped the House so far this year, but it must, instead, suffice to thank all those who played in the Rugby, Basketball, Badminton and Chess teams, and especially all who ran in the Cross-Country. Here I must mention Rainbow, who was second in the Seniors, and J. Muckley and P. Muckley who were both first in their age-groups, Colts and Juniors respectively ;—not forgetting, however, all those further down the list.

It is hoped that, with the reintroduction of the Music Competition more House-spirit can now be drawn from those who are less interested in sport, and perhaps this will lead to more competitions of the same kind. In conclusion, I should like to thank Mr. Perfect and Mr. Duffield for their continued work for the house, and their interest in the competitors.

A. R. NOTTINGHAM.

FRASER

This year the House finds itself in an unenviable transitional period. No longer is it able to rely on the brilliance and individual skill of the few over the apathy of the many. The change to a combined effort from all, has not been an easy one for a House

accustomed to doing well in inter-house competitions. Consequently, the last two terms have not been the most successful in the history of the House.

In the Basketball, despite competent Senior and Junior teams who managed to win four times and lose three, we came only fourth. We gained respectable positions in the Shooting, Music and Badminton. In the Cross-Country, however, after a solid win last year, we were beaten into last place by a rather baffling piece of organisation, which resulted in two of our teams being disqualified. In the rugby tournament, the seniors came second again, and the third form team won their section outright but the other teams made dismal contributions, and our final position was only fifth.

Good results in the athletics, tennis and cricket should ensure us a respectable position this year and provide us with a basis for a major offensive at the House Championship next year.

C. FEWTRILL.

QUEENS

At last Queens seem to be in a position to win the House competition, as we are leading after five events, and if we do reasonably well in the remaining events we should carry it off.

In the Basketball, we improved on last year's fifth place to attain third. The seniors had, perhaps, the best team of any, but played very badly to lose to Fraser. They made up for this by massacring an unbeaten Disraeli. The juniors, though lacking in skill, gave some unexpectedly spirited performances. In the Cross-Country we did exceptionally well to gain second place in the over-all result. It was well supported by all, and we must congratulate Everitt and Newman for their efficiency in organising the three teams and for their personal success in the senior race. In the Badminton some magnificent play by McLoughlin gained us first position. He had to play deciding singles in the first and second rounds,—beating Wilson splendidly, in the latter. The whole team played well in an easy final against Disraeli. This is the third time in four years that we have won the Badminton. Rather surprisingly, we came second in the Rugby, mainly due to the great interest shown by everyone, and to Mr. Parry-Jones's invaluable help. The fourth form team must be commended on winning their section of the competition. In the Shooting, a good all-round team, led by Firth, achieved second place.

In the Music Competition, which had been reinstated this year, Simons and Engel worked very hard to turn out a com-

petent choir. Engel's maturity and skill will doubtless help us to do well in future years.

It only remains for me to say that the hardest part is yet to come and we must have a hundred per cent effort in the athletics and cricket, which have never been our strongest points. We lack individual talent here, but providing that the members show the spirit and the determination to 'have a go', as they have up to now, we'll stay up with the leaders. Indeed, it is this very spirit that has carried us to the top at the moment, that and the help of Mr. MacTavish and Mr. Parry-Jones, —without which we could not function at all.

P. L. REDICAN.

TUCKER

With the absence of any outstanding individual, the House has had to rely on team effort. Best illustration of this was the Cross-Country Competition, where the House achieved an overall third position, although winning the senior event. There were fine individual runs by Pritchett and Royffe in the seniors ; Hudson and Burrows in the colts, and Johnson and Pugsley in the juniors. But some praise must go to the work of the committee in ensuring that three full teams competed, thus avoiding disqualification. In the Basketball Competition, it was proved once again that honest endeavours are no substitute for skill, although I am told that some of our play was highly entertaining. Some improvement on last year's performance in the Rugby Competition was shown, but in the Badminton and Shooting events we only managed to secure fifth position. However, I feel that there is some improvement in the morale of the House, particularly in the junior forms, although various persons still disgrace themselves by their apathy and refusal to take part in any of the House Competitions.

C. EAST.

YOUENS

Altruism dictates that one house must inevitably come last, and at the moment, Youens are filling this unenviable position ; no so much through the lack of athletic talent, but more as a consequence of the lack of interest within the school. Due prominence is hereby given to our performance-in-excelsis in the Music Competition, but this distinction in more relaxed conditions cannot conceal or atone for our other shortcomings. In Rugby, Basketball and Badminton, all that can be said is that if the efforts applied were matched by the results, success would

have been assured. The Cross-Country result was an even greater disappointment : even though we attained the lofty position of fifth, we could hardly raise a team, owing to lack of support. Once again, our Shooting team saved us from real gloom, by coming fourth in their event. I feel it is a criticism of the House system that all that can be written for these biannual reports is concerned with competition. Is there no way house spirit can be fostered in a school of this size ?

“Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away,
For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone”.

(Song of Solomon ; 11 : 10).

S. C. B. TINTON.

RUGBY

1st XV

Six old colours returned this season. P. D. Smith (captain), P. R. Lavender, P. D. L. Brown, A. L. Turmezei, P. A. Beasley and J. W. Hume. Therefore, with J. M. Rivers, G. F. Cutler and A. P. D. Hogg, who also had 1st XV experience, we had the nucleus of a fine side.

Our first match against Windsor G.S. showed our promise and marked the debut of Graham Davies, who appeared to be always confident and reliable ; yet after breaking his collar-bone after Christmas, never seemed to return to his old form. Our strength this year lay in our threequarters, and our ability to exploit opportunities. Brown and Beasley combined well together in their second season as half backs. Beasley was potentially dangerous in attack and Brown, always robust and courageous, was again a very dependable scrum-half, although he should have been blessed with a quicker heel on occasions.

The team's ability to score tries is apparent when one realises that we scored 63 this season, almost twenty more than last. Of these, almost half were scored by the centres, Smith and Gatland. Gatland, in his first year in the side, proved to be a valuable player and his speed and agility were used to great effect. Hume, on the wing, was a great asset to the side, and developed into a very fine player, using his speed and power to score many worthy tries. P. L. Redican, on the left wing, although lacking in speed, was enthusiastic and his play improved through the season, especially in the wet weather, where his reliable touch-kicking saved some tricky situations. Hard first-time tackling and a sound defensive wall was, indeed, a feature of our play.

Our culmination in threequarter play came against City of Oxford, where we scored eleven tries, and won 45-3. This

attacking flair lasted, and we beat Borlase 20-0, and we lost only one of the next dozen matches. Our greatest achievement was the victory over Northampton G.S., our biggest rivals, and against whom we never seem quite able to pull off a win. Our forwards played magnificently; they faced a heavy and skilful Northampton pack, which they contained both in the loose and the tight. Among our other wins, we deprived Luton G.S. of their unbeaten record, and in defiance of the abysmal conditions, we scored a try by throwing the ball out to the wing with nonchalant aplomb.

The lack of the quick ball from the tight scrums proved an increasing disadvantage, and Lavender never really settled down in the No. 8 position. This caused a lack of co-ordination at the base of the scrum. Quicker release of the ball might have made all the difference against Tiffin and St. Benedict's, where our superiority in the backs was marked.

After Christmas the pack seemed to lose much of its previous impetus. Cutler's absence upset the previous harmony of the pack; he had played well, and had received his colours after being outstanding in the first few games. D. M. Jones, his substitute, for all his inexperience proved enormously useful in the line-outs where his height was an appreciable advantage. In the front row, Rivers was the only veteran player, and his quick reflexes, and generally determined and solid performance at the front of the line-out was a feature of his play. Killingley and Hartwright, although fairly small, compensated for size by their all-round rugby ability. Killingley should be an excellent forward next season.

1st XV

Turmezei, at open side, was one of the old timers in the team, but didn't let old-age soften his spirit, and was a fearsome hazard to opposing fly-halves, and his willingness to follow up the loose ball and turn defence into attack was once more used to full advantage. Lavender, though a converted prop, was indispensable, and near the line was a most potent weapon and difficult to detain. Hogg developed into a very able second row player, and proved intelligent and effective in the scrums and line-outs. The blind-side position was a recurrent problem throughout the season. Fewtrell and Fountain started off as the wing forwards, but Fountain was displaced when Turmezei returned, and when Fewtrell, a very persistent and energetic member broke his hand, he was replaced by Tinton, who gradually matured and deservedly won his place towards the close of the season. In general then, the pack although unusually small

united well and with a slightly more mobile back-row, could have formed a still more formidable alliance.

This has been a first class season for the 1st XV, and it is a great pity that the attractive rugby produced in the first term, should have declined in the second. Two of the most enjoyable matches were against Old Boys and the Staff. The Old Boys had a strong and interesting side, including the old combination of Fewtrell, Kefford and Douglas, but we artfully contained Fewtrell's exploitations and won 9-0. It is hard to explain our crumbling at the end of the season, as most of the defeats should never have occurred. There was a long pause after Christmas, when five games were cancelled, and some of our triumphal determination disappeared. Mr. Rex Jones left at Christmas, and perhaps the Welsh vitalisation that went with him may explain our decay. In any case, we wish him all the best in his new post, and I am sure that he will long be remembered by all those that have known and played under him. For this last season, we, at any rate, owe much to his guidance.

RECORD :

<i>v.</i> Windsor G.S.	Won	11- 0	Away
<i>v.</i> St. Bartholomew's	Won	24- 0	Home
<i>v.</i> St. Marylebone G.S.	Won	11- 0	Away
<i>v.</i> Watford G.S.	Draw	6- 6	Home
<i>v.</i> St. Benedict's	Lost	11-14	Home
<i>v.</i> City of Oxford	Won	45- 3	Home
<i>v.</i> Sir William Borlase School	Won	20- 0	Home
<i>v.</i> Tiffin	Lost	0- 8	Home
<i>v.</i> Abingdon	Won	22- 5	Home
<i>v.</i> Emanuel	Won	13- 8	Home
<i>v.</i> Luton G.S.	Won	6- 5	Home
<i>v.</i> Leighton Park	Won	6- 0	Away
<i>v.</i> Hitchin G.S.	Won	11- 3	Away
<i>v.</i> Staff	Won	16- 0	Home
<i>v.</i> Northampton G.S.	Won	8- 0	Home
<i>v.</i> S.R. Thomas's XV	Won	9- 0	Home
<i>v.</i> R.A.F. Halton	Won	11- 3	Home
<i>v.</i> St. Nicholas G.S.	Lost	6-11	Home
<i>v.</i> Metropolitan Police Cadets	Lost	6-11	Home
<i>v.</i> St. Albans G.S.	Lost	0- 5	Away
<i>v.</i> Jesus College	Won	9- 3	Home

Played 21 : Won 15 : Drawn 2 : Lost 5 : Points For, 246 :
Points Against, 91.

P. D. SMITH.

2nd XV

A moderately successful season, certainly not the best within memory, but one in which a team, frequently injury-hit, did far better than expected. At the beginning of the year, there were fears that a general lack of experience and a light-weight pack would prove too great a handicap, but as the season progressed, this did not prove the case and the team's enthusiasm and skill more than outweighed these disadvantages.

The front row of Debnam, Bibby and Crees proved a successful combination, and their intelligent play gave the side possession in the tight against much heavier sides. The second row was more of a problem, for no sooner had the solid partnership of Jones and Lewis established itself, than it was broken up. Lewis suffered a cartilage injury that put him out for the rest of the season and Jones was moved up to the 1st XV to replace Cutler, who left at Christmas. Davis and Gooch, their replacements, however, gave sterling service for the remainder of the season. For wing forwards, the team was fortunate in that the school this year had a surplus of wing-forwards, all of whom could lay a claim to first team places in any other season. In this respect, S. C. B. Tinton, C. Fewtrell and P. Fountain did a tremendous job at various times, while at No. 8 Thorne had a very good season, and is an obvious challenger for a 1st XV place next season. At scrum-half, we were lucky in that B. J. B. Fox returned to give valuable service throughout the year, and his experience was an undoubted asset in the harder matches. P. Colley was our regular stand-off half, and right from the start, his kicking proved extremely shrewd and his ability to run with the ball improved as the season wore on. The centres, N. Hampton and W. Pitchford, did well throughout the season, and even better when their passing 'clicked'. The wingers, T. McCormick and J. Colley, were consistently good, —a real incentive to pass down the line. Mitchenall saved us many a time at full-back and his link-up with the three-quarters in attack often proved decisive.

For all this, the team was not without its faults, for at times half-hearted tackling by the three-quarters and non-existent covering by the forwards, was painfully evident, and goes a long way to explain how the team managed to lose five matches.

Undoubtedly, our finest match was against Southfield 1st XV, a good rugged side containing a former international schoolboy No. 8. While the forwards really excelled themselves in holding and then slowly mastering the heavier Southfield pack, the three-quarters proved ever ready to snap up the half-chances ; a combination which proved effective enough to give us a narrow but exciting victory, 8-3.

In all, twenty-seven boys played for the 2nd XV in various matches, and those whom I should like to single out for their support to the team are Huggins and Darville, who will surely find a permanent place in next year's team.

Our results were : Played 20, Won 12, Drawn 3, Lost 5.

W. PITCHFORD.

3rd XV

After a good start to the season, being unlucky to lose to St. Bartholomew's, Newbury, in torrential rain, the team ran into a bad spell. However, the form that had always been evident returned, and the team won their last six matches convincingly.

The team-work and enthusiasm, especially among the forwards was very good and contributed to many of our victories. The forwards work in the loose was outstanding at times, but often came to nil, when the ball was held at the vital moment. The backs were good too, but suffered from lack of co-ordination at times.

Looking back on the season, the team enjoyed playing open rugby and have gained much valuable experience.

Representatives of the team were :

Wills (captain), McIntosh, Darville, Laxen, Holmes, Castles, Bevan, Gooch, Thompson, Perfect, Jacomb, Thain, Lippiat, Wren, Whitelock and Hannant.

Our results were :

Played 12 : Won 7 : Lost 5 : Points For 149 : Points Against 81.

K. E. WILLS.

4th XV

As in previous years, a few games were arranged for a 4th XV side. This year, however, people were not forced to play, because an odd collection of footballers, rugby players and rowers volunteered.

Without being given much chance, we plunged into our first game (after explaining the basic rules to several players) and came out as victors, 40-3.

Fielding a weaker side against Tiffins, we were beaten 3-11, but on the final match against Emmanuel, we won a very good game 24-8.

People worth noting were Clark, who played well at scrum-half giving admirable service to the three-quarters ; Fowler who scored four tries, and had not played until this year ; Culley who gave a very amusing display of skills at full-back and Holgate, who led the scrum well and who was very difficult to stop in full flight.

I think the team all enjoyed themselves very much.

A. R. DAINES.

Colts

The team did not have as much success this season, as in previous years. There were several reasons for this failure, the main one being the lack of support for the team. I am sure that the team could have won some of the matches it lost, if it had been well supported. Another reason was that the team lacked spirit and determination. Apart from a few ferocious bursts by Haynes, who was well backed up by Beasley, Wood and Smith, the forwards were timid. Heath did some good hooking throughout the season and it helped the team to a grand victory over our arch-rivals St. Benedict's. Good three-quarter movements by Wilcox, Brown and Hongskula nearly upset the unbeaten two-year old record of Borlase School. Another factor was a number of injuries to many regular first team players, who had to miss matches, when the result might have been reversed. The team would like to thank Mr. Goodenough for not losing interest. He tried really hard to find the team spirit that was missing. I hope that the players will have benefited by this year's rugby and that future results will indicate it.

S. F. GAMESTER.

Junior Colts

The Junior Colts side had ten matches fixed for the Autumn Term, of which three were cancelled : one against Watford G.S. on account of the half term holiday, and two December fixtures—against Vyners School and Southfield School—owing to bad weather.

The season started at home with a defeat by Windsor G.S., followed by a win against St. Marylebone. The first away match

against St. Benedict's produced a notable solo effort by the captain, who ran half the length of the field to open the scoring, but in the next match, against Stoneham School, a defeat by a cock-a-hoop side prevented any unhealthy degree of over confidence at a crucial stage of the term's rugby. The quality of the play had greatly improved by the end of October and an impressive display was put up against Borlase. The score included one model try from a movement begun on the opponents' twenty-five : the ball was swung out in a succession of well-timed passes for the left centre to beat his man on the outside and touch down. However, although the team looked set and seemed to be working well together, the only other two matches were both lost. On November 13th, the expedition to Abingdon offered a number of lessons. Over-awed by the surroundings and softened by the journey and reception, the team were taken by surprise, and with little quarter given, were nine points down in as many minutes. The team did well to fight back with sufficient courage to share the honours for the rest of the game. The final match against Luton G.S. was played in poor conditions. Rain and a cold biting wind made handling difficult. The team excelled itself in leading a heavier team by three points to nil at half time, but Luton fought back, and with the advantage of the slope, scored a deserved try, and the conversion determined the game, which proved to be the keenest and most closely contested of the season.

Total points : For 77, Against 81, Won 3, Lost 4.

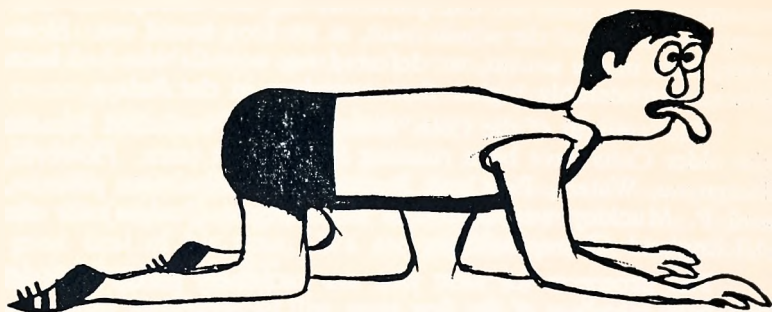
G.L.C.

Under 12 Rugby

As is usual in this age group very good progress has been made during the year. There is much talent available and with a few years' maturity behind them many of this team's players should form a strong back-bone for the more senior teams of the future. Philips captained the side from stand-off half, where he proved to be a lively, elusive runner with the ball. And he received plenty of support from such three-quarters as Birch, Floyd and Rutt ; steady service from scrum-half Lowe gave these plenty of opportunity. Outstanding amongst the forwards were Long, Saunders and Tipney in the back row ; the rest of the forwards, though overflowing with enthusiasm too often tried to play as individuals instead of as a unit.

For the record, the team had an unbeaten season—but they also failed to win a match. The few games the weather allowed—resulted in draws.

A.P.J.



CROSS - COUNTRY

Once again the School cross-country team has met with considerable success this season, and come up against few disappointments. However, this success was obtained after a large amount of strenuous training, and as usual it was left to the devoted few to lead the way. Although there was only one old colour returning, a few boys had run for the first or second teams the previous season ; but new faces and fresh talent appeared and helped to form the backbone of the first team. As expected, the team was very young this year ; indeed, even half way through the season, the average age was under seventeen, partly because four of the runners were still Colts. But this in no way hindered the determination of the team members.

Of those who had previous experience in the first team M. F. Morrison and A. J. Rainbow, the vice captain, have always put all their energy into their running, and have been ably backed up by P. S. Everitt. Indeed, good packing contributed to the success of the School team, for the new talent, J. W. Muckley, P. D. Knight and A. Newman have all run consistently : Muckley, in particular, ran extremely well towards the end of the season.

The fixture list extended well into the Spring Term, and before Christmas, the team suffered only two defeats in inter-school matches. However, serious training was then interrupted by the Christmas holidays, the snow, and finally Mock ; consequently, the team was unfit for its first race in two months, when a disappointing result marked the visit to Dr. Taylor's School. Moreover, earnest training for the Bucks Schools' Championships ended in an anti-climax, because of the thirteen boys due to run, six, including the captain, had 'flu on the day of the event. However, Muckley ran well and represented Bucks in the All-England Schools' Championships (Intermediates) where he finished a creditable 150th out of some 350 runners.

Our positions in the Relays were disappointing ; for whereas a set of average times for each leg can produce a good overall

result, a slow time for one particular leg can disrupt the concentrated effort of the whole team, as we soon found out. However, later in the season, we defeated two schools who had been placed considerably higher than ourselves in the Relays.

The strength of the Colts' team has been weakened because the older Colts have been running for the first team. However, Burgoyne, Waters, Ping and Burrows have all shown promise, and P. Muckley was chosen as first reserve (Juniors) for the All-England Championships.

The prospects for next year are extremely good, when all but three members of the first team will be returning, including three colours. Finally, we should like to thank Mr. Williams for his encouragement and advice throughout the season, and the interest of other masters.

Old colours : M. F. Morrison.

New colours : A. J. Rainbow, J. W. Muckley, P. D. Knight, A. Newman, P. S. Everitt.

Regular first team members in addition to the colours : Brown, Carver, Power, Hudson.

Results : First Team : Won 10, Lost 3. Second Team : Won 0, Lost 2. Colts : Won 1, Lost 2.

M. F. MORRISON.

ROWING

At the beginning of the Autumn Term the difficult decision had to be made as to how many new members the Rowing Club could take. At the present time, the numbers are restricted by the limited number of boats at our disposal, but it is hoped that in the near future, the club will receive an eight of its own.

To achieve success in rowing, training must start a long time before the regatta season. In this respect, Mr. Blyth has been a great asset to the club, enabling regular circuit training to take place. The R.G.S. Boat Club has now become an established feature of the rowing activities on the Thames at Marlow, and is now seen on the water two or three days a week.

Already, the first eight has rowed in two races this year; Reading Head of the River and the Schools Head of the River. This last race was rowed on part of the University Boat Race course and the eight finished well placed even after a collision, when an oar was broken.

Crews have been selected and this summer two fours and an eight are entering nine regattas. The highlight of the season will be the Public Schools Race at Marlow Regatta, where the first four came second last year.

The club has organised two very successful social evenings at Marlow Rowing Club, at the latter, refreshments were generously provided by a group of parents. As a result of this last evening, the club is now in the pleasant position of being well on the way to providing a large proportion of the money for an eight.

We must again thank Mr. J. E. Dormer who has coached the first eight throughout the winter and has given the club a great deal of his time. We are grateful too, for the interest shown by the 4th XV.

R. P. HELYAR

SHOOTING

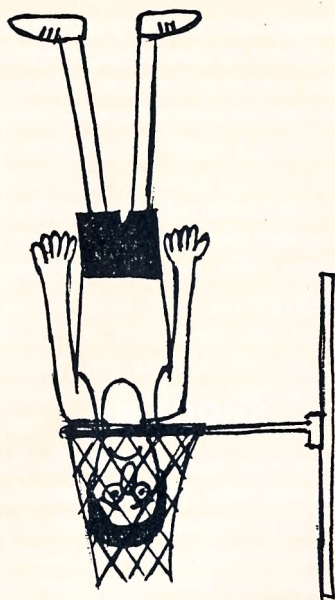
The summer shooting ended with the Ashburton and associated competitions at Bisley. Having won the Oxford schools' trophy, the team had high hopes of gaining a creditable position in the Ashburton, but personal holidays interfered and so, once again, we failed to reach the seemingly unobtainable 500 points. However, Seymour won a second Schools Hundred badge, and Hedgeland and Seymour won small prizes in the Wellington (200 yards) competition.

Since we had regrettably lost three valuable members last year, including the captain, M. P. Hyde, W. J. Seymour and D. R. Hedgeland were elected captain and vice captain. First team colours have been awarded to Fox and second team colours to Killingley and Firth.

During the year, several postal matches have been shot, and we have won most of them. The team also shot a shoulder to shoulder match with Watford G.S., and won it handsomely. Once again the Rifle Club has been formed to offer encouragement to Junior members of the school. At the time of writing the annual Club trophy competitions are in progress. The Rifle Club plays a very important part in school shooting because it ensures a constant supply of good shots to complement the school teams.

The climax of the term's shooting has, of course, been the Country Life competition, which we hoped, perhaps to win, having been runners up last year. Unfortunately, in spite of some fine individual efforts, the final score was disappointing. The second team results were also disappointing; though valuable experience was gained by possible future members of the 1st VIII. Finally, we must thank Mr. Cooper and Mr. Burnell who, with occasional assistance from Sgt. Harrison, have given up so much of their time to shooting. Without their help and encouragement, shooting would not be possible.

W. J. SEYMOUR.



BASKETBALL

Matches Played—15 : Won 13, Lost 2.

Basketball has taken on a new lease of life this year, and consequently, the team has enjoyed an extremely successful season. Although several established players returned to school, the majority of the squad were relatively unskilful and inexperienced. However, by half-term, a vast amount of coaching and practice had transformed the team into a cohesive and skilful unit, capable of fluid and attractive basketball.

The first test, against Royal Masonic School, Bushey, was a constructive fast-moving game, which the school won comfortably and this initial success helped team confidence immeasurably. Rickmansworth G.S. included several internationals and South of England players to beat the R.G.S. Ironically, our defeat was due to the team's inability to sink free shots. The highlight of the season was certainly the match against Dr. Challoner's G.S. This encounter lived up to all its expectations, and with the aid of tremendous vocal support from the spectators, we emerged victorious for the first time.

The team successes were due mainly to team-work and cohesion. N. M. Thorne, a skilful, versatile forward, was the leading point scorer (203 points). He was ably supported by J. N. McLoughlin and D. M. Jones. P. L. Redican was an efficient player and improved very considerably, during the

early season practices. He proved an important link in attack. Other forwards who deserve mention are A. J. Frankland, Wren and Whitelock.

In defence, the team was soundly supported by P. M. Colley, the captain, P. G. Harford, and the recently promoted M. J. Bevan. Our thanks must be conveyed to Mr. Williams, whose expert coaching and great enthusiasm has been one of the main factors of our success, and to Herr Bärthl, who has so willingly officiated on many occasions.

Thanks must also be given to A. R. Nottingham, who scored regularly throughout the season and to our supporters, who although a little disturbing to our visitors, were a great source of inspiration to us in our home matches. Their support has contributed in no small way to the team's unbeaten home record.

In conclusion, we must congratulate the following players on gaining county vests : P. M. Colley, P. G. Harford, N. M. Thorne, P. L. Redican, D. M. Jones, M. J. Bevan and J. N. McLoughlin.

Junior Basketball

The team has played several matches, and contains many promising players. Wood and Beasley, D. have already gained county honours. The squad includes : Wood (captain), Beasley, D., Brown, P. R., Beasley, P., Woodford, Miles and Lishman.

P. M. COLLEY.

BADMINTON

The season began very slowly for us, and we were somewhat discouraged by the result of our first match, against Watford G.S. This year's team is completely different from that of last year, and it is only recently that it has shown signs of cohesion. Proof of this may be seen in our success over Borlase, and our two narrow defeats by Wycombe College.

We have been let down rather badly on several occasions by teams that have said they would be willing to play, and then have not turned up, or have written to cancel the fixture. At present, it looks as if next year's team will be a strong one, with five of the present team returning in the Autumn. Once again we are indebted to Mr. Wilson for his support and encouragement throughout the season, and regret very much that he is leaving us at the end of the season.

A. J. H. WANDS.

CHESS

The Chess Club is just finishing one of its most successful years. We became the first Junior team to enter the County Championship, in which we have beaten High Wycombe (4-2),—last year's winners, and Gerrards Cross ($4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$),—last year's runners up. Once again we have been eliminated from the Sunday Times Tournament for Schools; this year we were beaten in the semi-finals of our zone, by Forest G.S. ($2\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$) after a very close match. In the Junior Championship, we are almost certain to emerge victors, since we have won all our games to date. We have won the Wycombe League again, with an unbroken record, and our second team may well take second place.

Individually, our team members have had a very profitable year. Myant became the first junior to qualify for the Final Section of the Bucks Individual Championship, where he got half points. In the summer holidays, he came fourth in the British Under 18 Championship, and was also awarded the County Association's Improvement Prize for 1964-65. Mildon won the Southern Counties Under Sixteen Championship and has qualified with Myant for this year's final of the Bucks Individual Championship. Chorley came second in the Junior Section at Marlow, and Kenyon came first in two adult tournaments, one at Bognor Regis, and the other at Marlow.

The following have played regularly for the school and the County team :

Myant, Mildon, Chorley, Bradford, Kenyon and Thornton.

Match Record :

Played 21, Won 16, Drawn 2, Lost 3, Points For, 93, Points Against, 37.

R. J. MILDON.

OLD BOYS' NOTES

(OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB)

The Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. was held in the Masters' Common Room of the Royal Grammar School on March 18th 1966. The chair was taken by the President, Mr. S. Morgan.

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 from older Old Boys each January, 80 Old Boys had paid either £5 5 Od., £1 1 Od., or 10/- membership fee in 1965, compared with 65 in 1964. The Hon. Secretary hoped that some of the Old Boys whose Bankers' Order was for 5/- (the annual subscription many years ago) would note that the cost of sending them two magazines a year now amounted to 7/-. The Hon. Auditor had drawn up a balance sheet which showed that the financial position of the Club was sound.

W. A. C. Knowles (1951-58) representing the Old Boys' Cricket Club reported that a full fixture list of away matches had been drawn up for the 1966 season and appealed for more active playing members. The Cricket Club was to hold its Annual Dinner in Amersham on March 19th.

The President informed the meeting that with all expenses paid, the E. R. Tucker Memorial Fund had now reached £3,000. This was inadequate to provide a building as a Sixth Form Club and the Memorial Committee would be meeting soon to discuss possible other plans for its use.

Mr. Morgan was happy to be able to report that the Governors had granted permission to the Old Boys' Club to use the cricket pavilion on Friday evenings during the summer. Old Boys and their wives or girl friends could have use of the facilities for changing and preparing simple refreshments, and could play tennis, or swim in the new pool. The small sub-committee created last year hopes that this news will stimulate interest. G. E. Green (1940-46) is the Hon. Secretary together with J. P. Lord (1934-38) and W. A. C. Knowles (1951-58). All Old Boys will be welcome but in the first instance they are asked to contact either G. E. Green, Solicitor, 6 Burke's Parade, Beaconsfield or J. P. Lord, 10 Keep Hill Drive, High Wycombe.

The election of officers followed and the President Mr. Morgan, vacated the chair. He explained why he felt he should resign from the position of President and give way to the new Headmaster, Mr. Malcolm Smith. Mr. Smith had shown him-

self to be a man bristling with ideas for stimulating new life and with the Old Boys' Club suffering somewhat from the apathy of the times and at a crossroads in its existence, he was quite sure that now was the time to ask the new Headmaster to be President. Mr. Morgan's resignation was accepted reluctantly but Mr. Malcolm Smith was elected with enthusiasm. The Club then showed its affection and thanks by electing Mr. Morgan a Vice-President.

The officers for 1966-67 were re-elected en bloc. They are :—

The President : MALCOLM P. SMITH, Esq.

The Chairman : G. C. RAYNER, Esq.

Vice-Presidents :

THE REV. A. M. BERRY, COL. L. L. C. REYNOLDS, MESSRS. W. J. BARTLE, G. A. GRANT, P. L. JONES, S. MORGAN.

Committee :

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)	L. B. BARNES (1924-30)
G. E. GREEN (1940-46)	S. E. HANDS (1915-20)
J. H. ANDREW (1954-62)	G. W. RAY (1917-23)
J. P. LORD (1934-38)	

Hon. Secretary : M. M. DAVIES, Esq.

Hon. Auditor : A. E. FRANKLIN-HOLE, Esq.

The Annual Dinner 1966

The Annual Dinner was held on Saturday, March 26th 1966 at the Connaught Rooms in London, when 110 Old Boys gathered to extend a welcome to their Guest of Honour, the new Headmaster, Mr. Malcolm P. Smith. Alderman R. P. Clarke, the chairman of the School governors, in proposing Mr. Smith's health stated that the task of choosing a new headmaster had not been difficult. The testimonial of Lord James, former High Master of Manchester Grammar School and now Chancellor of York University would have been quite sufficient in itself. He was sure that Mr. Malcolm Smith was a worthy successor to those two wonderful Headmasters, Mr. Arnison and Mr. Tucker, who between them had reigned for 59 years, and he was equally sure that supported by Mrs. Smith, the Headmaster would give invaluable service to the School and the Town.

In his reply Mr. Smith paid tribute to the preceding Headmasters and said their records of service and achievement would be difficult to emulate and he asked Old Boys to appreciate the

difficulties facing any new Headmaster on taking up such a post. Mr. Smith said he had come to a very fine school which was not yet doomed under the spread of the comprehensive system and he looked forward to working with the many friendly keen colleagues he had got to know already. There were, however, weaknesses and general apathy and lack of loyalty was what struck him most. The "drive" in the School came from a minority ; enthusiasm did not spread very far ; he wanted every boy to be involved in some aspect of School life, he wanted verve to permeate the whole School and to inculcate this sense of involvement and loyalty to the School would be one of his main tasks.

He hoped that educational dogma would not be allowed to damage the roots of the School and he felt that the Education Authority would surely preserve what was best. If the Sixth form element were preserved, the rest would probably be all right.

The Rev. A. J. Skipp (1929-37) proposed the toast of the School and Club and right merrily he did so. He welcomed Mr. Malcolm Smith as a worthy follower of two great Headmasters and felt that with the eye of one fresh to the School he would dispassionately cut out the dead wood and preserve the good. He announced that the Old Boys' Club had elected Mr. Smith its new President at the A.G.M. and that both School and Club looked forward with optimism to the future.

Mr. Skipp then directed his attention to Mr. Sam Morgan. He paid tribute to a man who came to the School in 1930 and who last year was an admirable Acting-Headmaster. The Chaplain's rapier thrusts were greeted with enthusiasm by the Old Boys present but it was abundantly clear that behind the laughter, there was only affection and respect for "Sam".

Replying to the toast, Mr. Morgan wished Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Smith every happiness together in their new life in High Wycombe. He paid warm tribute to Mr. Tucker and thanked his colleagues for making it possible for him to carry on until Mr. Smith arrived. He appealed for younger Old Boys to join the Club and he extended to them an invitation to attend the pavilion on Friday evenings throughout the summer term and take advantage of the tennis courts and swimming pool. He wanted Gordon Rayner, Chairman of the Club, to come and talk to leavers towards the end of the summer term and encourage them to join.

Mr. Morgan then turned his attention more directly to the School, which had ceased to be a public school on the death of Mr. Tucker. The School had achieved this status when Mr. Tucker had been elected to the Headmasters' Conference. Mr. Morgan, however, had very strong hopes that the link might

be renewed through the new Headmaster in the not too distant future. The School had about 1,100 pupils on its registers and this vast number imposed considerable difficulties upon all. Last year 190 pupils sat for their "O" Level examination and 170 went on to take "A" Level. 10 Open Scholarships were gained during the year. In his concluding remarks Mr. Morgan said he was proud of what the School was doing for its boys, but he was very conscious of the fact that young people today were growing up in a climate which tended to destroy their sense of values. False standards were being paraded before them constantly and he had every sympathy for their difficulties.

The formal side concluded here and the rest of the evening was spent in the renewing of acquaintanceships which is such an important side of the Annual Dinner.

Births

BECKFORD, J. W. (1949-56). On October 30th 1965 at Amersham Maternity Unit, to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Beckford, a daughter, Katharine Elizabeth.

DAWES, J. A. (1954-57). On October 7th 1965 at Amersham General Hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Dawes, a daughter, Alison, a sister for Nicola.

FILE, R. C. (1945-51). On December 10th 1965 at St. Joseph's Beaconsfield, to Mr. and Mrs. R. C. File, a son, Simon William.

HART, R. J. M. (1948-54). On July 27th 1965 at Amersham General Hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. R. J. M. Hart, a daughter.

JEANS, P. W. E. (1947-52). On January 13th 1966, to Mr. and Mrs. P. W. E. Jeans, a daughter, Helen Veronica, a sister for William.

PAINE, R. W. (1953-58). On October 4th 1965 at Burford, to Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Paine, a son, David Charles.

SIMMONS, D. F. (1950-56). On October 2nd 1965 at the Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow, to Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Simmons, a son, Philip John, a brother for Mark.

SLATTER, D. M. (1954-58). On June 23rd 1965 at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Slatter, a son, Jan Peter Myrton.

TORRENS-BURTON, B. A. (1954-60). On September 27th 1965 at Sheffield, to Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Torrens-Burton, a son.

Marriages

- DAVIES – HOLDER. On August 21st 1965 at Great St. Mary's Church, Cambridge, D. P. Davies (1953–61) to Miss Betty Joan Holder.
- FOWLER – PALMER. On September 11th 1965 at the Parish Church, High Wycombe, A. M. Fowler (1951–59) to Miss Jennifer Margaret Palmer.
- GARLAND – FORD. On August 7th 1965 at St. Michael and All Angels, Bishopston, Bristol, J. R. Garland (1952–59) to Miss Margaret Ford.
- GEE – WALLEY. On January 1st 1966 at Waverton, Chester, C. J. Gee (1952–59) to Miss Nanette Elizabeth Walley.
- HORLEY – NICHOLLS. On December 4th 1965 at West Wycombe on the Hill, G. H. Horley (1952–58) to Miss Janice Nicholls.
- PATTINSON – HEGLEY. On July 24th 1965 at Hazlemere Parish Church, High Wycombe, M. R. Pattinson (1953–60) to Miss Elizabeth Anne Hegley.
- QUIRKE – HARPER. On August 7th 1965 at the Church of St. Teresa, Beaconsfield, R. F. J. Quirke (1953–60) to Miss Valerie Harper.
- ROLFE – COX. On March 26th 1966 at Oakridge Road Baptist Chapel, High Wycombe, B. M. Rolfe (1955–61) to Miss Beryl Catherine Cox.
- SAUNDERS – TYRRILL. On March 23rd 1966 at Union Baptist Chapel, High Wycombe, R. H. Saunders (1956–60) to Miss Margaret Tyrill.

Deaths

- A. RICHARDS (1907–12). In August 1965, at his home, 50 Old Road East, Gravesend, Kent, aged 73 years. "Dick" Richards was the first Old Boy to return as a master to the School. In 1912 he went to London University and took an Honours Degree in English and French. He then joined the army, was commissioned in the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry and saw service on the Salonika front. In September 1920 he came from Ashville College, Harrogate to teach English at the R.G.S. In April 1921 he married Miss K. F. Peck. In 1924 he was appointed Senior English

Master at Gravesend County School for Boys and soon became Deputy Headmaster. He retired in 1958. He corresponded with Mr. P. L. Jones until shortly before his death and in his last letter he commented on the good old days in Penn. He leaves a widow, three children and eight grandchildren.

- R. B. SMITH (1955-62). On February 2nd 1966 in a flying accident in Scotland, aged 22 years.

Flying Officer Roland Beresford Smith was killed when the Canberra jet, of which he was navigator, crashed in the Scaraben area of Caithness. When R. B. Smith left School in 1962 to join the R.A.F. he was Head Boy of "Uplyme" Boarding House. He was a quiet unassuming boy with considerable charm of manner.

- S. T. THEED (1914-21). On March 22nd 1966 at his home, 74 St. John's Wood Court, London, N.W.8., aged 62 years. "Jack" Theed was captain of Cricket, captain of Soccer, an under-officer in the O.T.C. and Head Prefect when he left school in 1921 to join Elders and Fyffes Ltd. In turn he became Accountant, Secretary, Director and finally Managing Director of the firm. He played hockey and cricket for High Wycombe and Bucks. He represented Bucks on the Club Cricket Conference Executive Council, he was later a vice-chairman, then in 1956 President and finally Life Vice-President.

He was a keen amateur actor and was Chairman of High Wycombe Operatic and Dramatic Society for a time.

He leaves a widow Mrs. Betty Theed and a daughter Angela.

Staff

- MR. W. J. BARTLE (1901-35) has celebrated his ninetieth birthday since the last edition of the magazine. He was visited at his delightful home, "The Limes", Reepham, Norfolk on the eve of his birthday by J. K. Prior (1934-40) now a Governor of the School. They had a long chat and Mr. Bartle still remembers very many of his former pupils by name after 30 years of retirement. His roguish sense of humour was apparently much in evidence.

He wrote to Mr. P. L. Jones when he read about his cracked hip and gave news of himself. He is well but has decided to give up Council work. He is a poultry keeper and does all the work himself. He still drives but not after dark.

THE REV. A. M. BERRY (1914-33) wrote commiserating with Mr. P. L. Jones. Mr. Berry was 93 in February. He gets out occasionally when one of the boys takes him for a run in the car. He wrote to the Hon. Secretary saying that he didn't feel up to coming to the Annual Dinner but he wished all a good evening.

MR. ANDRE BUR (1955-62) is now settled at Carisbroke School on the Isle of Wight and is very busy. He is an Associate Member of the Nuffield Foundation Preparatory Course for primary school teachers who intend to specialise in French and he travels much between the schools. The teaching is purely aural and visual—no writing—and much use is made of tape recorders, projectors and flannel graphs. In this work he has come in contact with MR. D. C. F. EDGINTON (1956-59) who is now an Assistant Education Officer based in Winchester and concerned with Primary School French. Mr. Edginton is prospering and now smokes a cigar a day.

MR. ALAN DAVIES (1955-56) who is now at the University of Edinburgh, recently had an article in the *Chatto and Windus Quarterly* "The Use of English". It dealt with his problems in teaching English up to Cambridge Higher School Certificate standard to African boys in Kenya.

MR. G. R. JONES (1959-65) has settled down happily at Birkenhead School and his wife has just presented him with a son.

MR. D. A. SAUNDERS (1961-64) writes from 48 Yarningale Road, Coventry. He has settled down in his Comprehensive School and enjoys teaching his small 6th Form instead of the monster 6th Forms at the R.G.S. They cope with the 1,200 pupils rather well there. Separate House Blocks, each with about 120 children under a Housemaster, stop the children from feeling lost in the crowd—but the results for the staff are not quite so satisfactory. Ten houses mean ten staff-rooms with 3 or 4 people to each, which makes it impossible to meet all the colleagues one would want to.

MR. T. C. WALTERS (1955-59) has joined the staff of Borough Road Training College, London, as Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Biology. He now has four children and lives in Heston. He has joined MR. D. W. BROADBRIDGE (1957-59) who is lecturer in English. M. D. PRIESTLEY (1955-63) is a student there specialising in Physical Education and thoroughly enjoying life (including a trip to America recently).



OLD BOYS NOTES

In a service held in the School Chapel on Sunday February 13th 1966, A. J. HANN (1919-26) the Master-Elect of the Old Wycombiensians' Masonic Lodge, presented to the Chapel on behalf of the Lodge, a silver salver, kneeler and stool. The REV A. J. SKIPPER (1929-37) conducted the service, the Headmaster Mr. Malcolm Smith read the prayers, E. G. BASKIN (1921-25) and Mr. M. M. Davies read the lessons.

The following Old Boys and their ladies were also present :—

S. E. HANDS (1915-20), G. B. PHILPOT (1940-46), P. C. BEVIS (1919-26), G. F. HORLEY (1920-28), A. J. H. SMITH (1921-26), F. W. SMITH (1918-21), L. J. RUSSELL (1926-31), J. N. D. BAILEY (1932-38), J. P. LORD (1934-38), O. E. HARRIS (1933-39), G. W. ROGERS (1938-42).

R. C. ASHBY (1950-54). We offer Clive Ashby our congratulations on his well deserved Rugby International Caps. He played for England against Ireland and France in the International Series this year. He now joins J. E. WOODWARD (1944-48) and R. E. SYRETT (1942-47) of whom we are so proud. F. E. J. HAWKINS (1948-56), Captain of the Wasps XV has been on the fringe of a England cap for some time and we shall keep on hoping for him. "Freddy" left Woodward and Stalder at Christmas to do industrial

market research for a firm manufacturing mobile cranes and hoists. The job could be very rewarding and as he writes—"rather a far cry from selling jock-straps and teaching 5UR Geography".

N. F. AVERY (1957-64) found the first year Examinations in Engineering at Leicester University too much for him and is now much happier doing a Sandwich Course with Bristol Siddeley Engines Ltd., Filton, Bristol.

R. D. BARLOW (1935-41) has been appointed a director of the big Yarrow Engineering Company in Johannesburg—a firm with ambitious ship-building plans in South Africa. Barlow went to South Africa at the end of the war after a distinguished career in the Indian Army in which he reached the rank of major and won the M.C. In High Wycombe he worked for a time with the Inland Revenue Department and his flair for financial administration won him rapid advancement in industry.

E. L. BARRETT (1954-60) has been back from Cyprus since the last magazine but returned in October for six months with the United Nations Peace Force in charge of U.N. Transport. He met I. H. TUBBS (1936-42) in the R.A.O.C. at Bicester. Tubbs looked in at school recently with his son—a replica of himself about 30 years ago. Barrett also gave news of other "Uplymers". A. J. OXLEY (1954-62) is now engaged and back with G.E.C. after completing his degree at Imperial College. G. W. BOIREAU (1954-62) married after taking his degree and is now lecturing in Social Studies at Manchester. R. J. ROGERS (1954-60) is doing well with Shell in Liverpool and R. KING (1954-59) is now selling encyclopaedias in Germany as an overseas representative of his firm.

M. S. F. BIRD (1955-63). On leaving the R.G.S. Bird went to Sheffield University but didn't settle down very well. In desperation he applied to Southampton and to his delight was accepted and allowed to continue his course without interruption. This information he thinks might be of use to other undergraduates who are unhappy about the course they are following at a particular university.

J. C. BOWMAN (1955-61) continues to show the greatest interest in the School and Club and wrote three letters. In October he wrote from R.A.F. St. Athan, Glamorgan, where he was seeing how the R.A.F. works at the Victor and Beverley Aircraft Maintenance Unit there. In August he and C. R. S. WOOD (1954-59) had had ten pleasant days in Bavaria as guests of the Luftwaffe Technical College.

In November he wrote after receiving the latest issue of the magazine. He made the following suggestions :—

- (1) May I suggest a magazine representative to be appointed in each form who would write a short form article.
- (2) How about the English masters sorting out some outstanding essays written for them by boys and publishing the best ?
- (3) Articles by Masters—how the School could be improved—the R.G.S. as a Comprehensive School !
- (4) Profiles of masters—a comparison of a 2nd Former's and a 6th Former's views.
- (5) I should like to see a form prize for the hardworking but not-so-clever boy who seldom gets any recognition for his labours.

Bowman makes these suggestions from the safety of the R.A.F. ! In March of this year he wrote saying he would not be able to attend the Dinner as he would be in Ireland on that date spending 5 days on board a submarine. He and C. R. S. Wood have now reached the end of their 4 years 8 months course and the Technical College moved from Henlow to Cranwell at Christmas. Wood was off to a radar station in Norfolk and Bowman off to Cyprus—by motorbike to Athens and ship the rest. He met W. E. SHACKELL (1952–60) at Cranwell. Shackell had come over with the Jesus College hockey team ; he has nearly completed 3 wonderful years at Cambridge after Sandhurst. M. F. FORRESTER (1958–63) a friend of Bowman's at Tylers Wood is still with the Commonwealth Relations office and is now engaged.

- J. C. BRIDEN (1949–57) is lecturing at the University of Rhodesia. In the "Times" of November 27th he was one of the signatories of a letter stating that the undersigned University teachers had nothing to do with U.D.I. The last we heard was that he was still teaching there.
- R. P. BROWNE (1953–61) spent 3 years at Queen Mary College, London, where he took a Special Honours Degree in Mathematics. He obtained colours for cricket, soccer and badminton and was captain of the College bridge team. Last year he gained a Diploma in Education at Oxford and played soccer for the Centaurs and table-tennis for the Bats. In recent months in order to help boys as keen on sport as himself, he has obtained the M.C.C., A.A.A. and F.A. coaching diplomas. He is teaching at Bushey Grammar School, Herts and will be pleased to see any friends at the School or his flat, 14 Wellington Road, Watford. He would like news of P. J. HOLTORP (1954–58)—can any Old Boy help ?

- M. J. BRYANT (1944–50) a former assistant at High Wycombe Public Library is now living with his wife and three children in South Africa. He has been appointed manager of Aerosol Research Company Ltd. in Pretoria.
- J. CAWSON (1955–62) and A. S. PLATT (1955–62) set off in a Landrover to cross Africa. The object of the expedition was to investigate the resettlement of natives after the building of the Kariba dam. They left Europe at Gibraltar and crossed the Sahara. They broke a half-shaft in the desert but repaired it themselves and reached their destination. Not bad!
- T. C. P. CHALLIS (1957–64) is in his second year at Hull University doing a Joint Honours Course in Chemistry and Geology—he is the only one doing it. Since leaving the R.G.S. he has become a licensed Radio Amateur, call sign G8ALC and hopes to be on the air soon.
- R. A. CHAPMAN (1953–61) went to Leeds University to read Ceramics and in the long vacation before his final year worked in Canada in the research laboratories of a large manufacturer of refractory brick. After this he toured the major cities and in New York was tapped on the shoulder by a team-mate in the R.G.S. 2nd XI M. J. IREMONGER (1954–62). He recovered from this and graduated in 1965. He now has a job in the Research Laboratories of G.E.C. at Wembley, where he is working on the high temperature materials to be used in M.H.D. power generation.
- D. R. COOPER (1957–65) has started at Barclays Bank in Aylesbury. He sees regularly other Old “Uplymers”, C. B. ANTILL (1955–63), P. ARCHER (1958–62) and J. N. CLARE (1955–62).
- A. H. DIXON (1958–64) whose home is now in Clifton, Bristol, writes from the University of Leicester. He was given a second chance after finding the 1st year work a bit too much for him and is now organised and finding that Engineering means something to him at last. He sings regularly and his Choral Society is putting on “The Mikado”—he declined to play Yum-Yum again. He is also the Students’ Union electrician and in charge of stage lighting and equipment.
- He has met other Old Boys. He spent a week in Paris with K. J. E. CRAYFORD (1956–64) who has now moved on to Barcelona to learn Spanish. F. M. COURTNEY (1956–61) is doing Geography at Bristol. P. J. WILSON (1954–61) is living and working in Leicester—he is Engineer in Charge of a building site in the city.
- A. DODGSON (1913–18) wrote to Mr. P. L. Jones on reading about his accident and gave news of his “retirement” from

teaching—he is busier now than ever before! He gives lectures on his recent travels and is much in demand.

- J. D. EVANS (1938–43) has been appointed Editor of “*The Northern Echo*” and Editor-in-chief of the North of England Newspaper Company Ltd., Darlington. Evans joined the “*Free Press*” when he left school and subsequently became chief reporter of the “*Maidenhead Advertiser*”. He joined the “*Northern Echo*” in 1950. Evans has found another Old Boy in the office JOHN TAYLOR (1950–55) who left the sports desk of the “*Free Press*” this year to become sports sub-editor with the “*Echo*”.
- M. M. FINEFROCK (1952–53) now a Lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve, called in at the School last term. He sends good wishes to his old form-mates and will welcome any of them at his home at Palmer Lake, Colorado, 80133, U.S.A.
- D. R. A. FRIEND (1953–56) works for “Hunting Geology and Geophysics Ltd.” at Borehamwood. All through 1964 he was engaged in the first trials and surveys with a new style of marine seismic equipment. The equipment is used in investigations into the feasibility of building the Channel Tunnel. He got married in October 1964 and has since been a home-based engineer. He gave news of C. SCHAUVERIEN (1942–46) who also works in the electronics division of his firm. Schaverien and his wife are working with a survey team seconded to “Shell” in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. They expect their first child in June.
- M. J. GIBB (1957–64) has been awarded the Tufnell Prize in science at Northern Polytechnic. This is awarded to the best B.Sc. Student in all three years of the course. He is reading for a degree in Biology.
- P. B. GILLARD (1950–52) sent with his donation to the Memorial Fund news of himself and his brother C. L. GILLARD (1950–52) who went to Newland Park Training College and is now headmaster of a Primary School in Somerset. P. B. Gillard went to study Agriculture at Reading University and is now in the agricultural teaching profession. He paid great tribute to the help Mr. Tucker had given him and his brother.
- D. A. GOSTLOW (1961–64) and T. K. GOSTLOW (1961–65) wrote from 10 Ward Street, Elizabeth Field, South Australia when they received the Memorial Fund Appeal. David is training to be a representative with a wholesale paper merchant and Terence is doing well at Elizabeth High School. The boys are keen to correspond with former classmates.

- I. J. GRAYSON (1958-65) has started at Westminster Bank and has just completed a course in Oxford.
- L. C. O. GREEN (1932-37) has been promoted British Railways Area Manager at Newport, Mon. He has been with B.R. for 24 years and has been in charge of a number of stations for 14 years. He was recently made a J.P.
- C. S. GRIFFITHS (1955-62) did make a trip to South Africa last summer. He had a wonderful time and wrote an interesting letter while sitting beside the Victoria Falls. At the time he was on a trip which took in the Kariba Dam, Lusaka, Salisbury and vast game reserves. For most of his stay he worked in and around Johannesburg and found everyone extremely kind and helpful. He finishes his studies in Politics and Economics at Swansea University College this summer.
- G. P. HANDLEY (1958-65) is doing a Sandwich Course with Rolls-Royce, Derby—6 months in Derby and 6 months at Bromsgrove College studying for his H.N.D. and I.C.W.A. He was captain of hockey at school but now plays in the Rolls-Royce 1st XV.
- A. E. J. HANEBECK (1961-65) after leaving the R.G.S. went to Vienna University to study German.
- A. J. HANN (1919-26). In the September 1965 edition of the magazine the Hon. Secretary in his ignorance (he never had a brother) wrote that A. J. Hann was the brother of D. J. HANN (1924-29). He should of course have written that D. J. was A. S. Hann's brother.
- M. HARRIS (1957-64). Harris wrote from Düsseldorf in October where his firm Stewart and Lloyds had sent him for a month's course run by the German Iron and Steel industry. His 'A' Level German paid handsome dividends apparently. He was the youngest by 8 years of the 11 representatives of various big British steel firms. Business and pleasure were well balanced and Harris was just off on a 3 day tour of the Mosel Valley and Luxemburg.
- B. H. HART (1955-60) is to be congratulated on passing his final law examinations with a First Class.
- J. M. HODDER (1952-60) has just finished a year teaching at Salford Technical High School and is now the Economics master at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Middleton, Lancashire.
- A. HODGSON (1960-65) wrote to Mr. Hett. He is now seeing the world. Last November he sailed from Tilbury on the ship "Matru" and visited Freetown, Monrovia, Lobito, Luanda, Matodi, Victoria and finally Lagos. He was then transferred to the "Kalaw" bound for the U.S.A. and Canada with a cargo of cocoa and rubber to be discharged

at Norfolk Virginia, Philadelphia, New York and Halifax. Mr. Hett was pleasantly surprised to read that Hodgson's French came in useful in some ports.

- R. G. HOLLINGWORTH (1953-60) is a Scientific Officer at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough. He recently went ski-ing in the Cairngorms with P. J. THOMPSON (1952-61) who is working on a D.Phil. in Chemistry at Oxford.
- G. H. HORLEY (1952-58) a qualified Chartered Accountant is now working for Erin Foods, Slough.
- R. C. HUNTLEY (1940-44) who became a junior golf champion in South Africa after leaving school is now a stockbroker in America and has his own programme on T.V.
- C. R. A. G. ILIFFE (1958-64). Midshipman Iliffe wrote twice from H.M.S. Eagle. In September he was near Malta on his way to the Far East having just finished a 3 months training cruise to North America. It was tough going but visits to St. Johns, Montreal, Toronto, Detroit, Quebec, Halifax and New York made up for all the hard work. His second letter was written in October off Aden during a troublous time there. He was hoping then that they would be going on to Mombasa where he was to take part in an expedition to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. Since then H.M.S. Eagle has had plenty to do around the port of Beira dissuading tankers from discharging oil there for Rhodesia. Iliffe will probably climb that mountain some other time.
- M. J. IREMONGER (1954-62) graduated in Mechanical Engineering from Imperial College, London last June. He returned in October to do research leading to a Ph.D. The nature of his research is a photoelastic study of the stresses in fibre reinforced materials. He sees a lot of J. H. ANDREW (1954-62) who is also doing a post graduate course in Mech. Eng. at Imperial College. ROGER KEELEY (1953-61), with whom he shares a flat, seems to be making good progress with his Ph.D. at Queen Elizabeth College.
- D. M. JAGO (1948-56) wrote giving his new address in Cumbernauld New Town near Glasgow. He attended the Old Boys' Dinner in London which was a good effort.
- W. H. N. LAWS (1958-65) can recommend Japanese. He finds the language hard work but fascinating. He reports that M. R. D. YORKE (1961-65) has grown a monstrous beard, R. C. JONES (1960-65) had a leading part in "The Gondoliers" and got "rave" reviews in all the local town and university papers. He has had tea with Mr. David Jones at Churchill, like most of our Old Boys up at Cambridge.

- R. J. LUNNON (1939-44). In February Lunnon became Director of the Department of Medical Photography and Illustration at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London. He went from the R.G.S. to Regent Street Polytechnic and started his career at the Institute of Ophthalmology passing the final examination in medical photography of the Institute of Incorporated Photographers. He went to the Institute of Dermatology to re-open its photographic department and was recently given the status of Lecturer. His contribution to medical photography resulted in his being awarded the Combined Royal Colleges' bronze medal for his researches into direct ultra-violet photography of the skin and he won the Lancet trophy also. In 1963 his exhibit won the gold medal of the American Academy of Dermatology.
- R. J. MATTHEWSON (1960-65) has been selected for training as a Pilot in the General Duties Branch of the R.A.F.
- D. P. MAY (1951-60) should be Dr. D. P. May by September. After completing his B.Sc. in chemistry in 1963 at Imperial College, he was awarded a research studentship to do work on photoionisation. He has been recently awarded a C.I.B.A. research fellowship (worth £1,100 a year) to enable him to continue with his work for 2 more years at the Swiss Federal University in Zurich. He is looking forward to improving his German out there.
- C. J. MYERSCOUGH (1957-64) writes from Churchill College, Cambridge, where he is making a name for himself as a mathematician. He is editor of "Eureka" the undergraduate mathematical journal and has been organising the College's contribution to the Churchill Memorial Appeal.
- T. PARKER (1959-65) has started as a Civil Servant in the Met. Office—in the footsteps of many other Old Boys.
- A. S. PECK (1955-62) hopes to graduate in Mech. Eng. in July next. He spent almost the whole of last summer with the army—2 weeks driving tanks near Aldershot, one week operating radios for the A.C.F. in Brawn and 2 weeks in Benghazi with a R.E.M.E. workshop. The previous summer he spent in Canada and the U.S.A. He has a scholarship from British Railways and will probably work for them when he completes his degree.

J. C. PETTIT (1959-65) has commenced a civil pilot's training course at the College of Air Training at Hamble. He hopes to finish the course in 2 years and become a pilot for B.F.A. or B.O.A.C.

R. J. PUDDPHATT (1955-62) is to be congratulated on obtaining the B.Sc. (Special) Degree in Chemistry with First Class Honours at University College, London.

P. E. REAR (1949-57) wrote from Leeds where he has been a Pensions Adviser for the last 5 years and finds it interesting work. He is married with 2 sons. He is still playing Soccer—for Leeds University Staff, whom he has the honour of captaining. J. C. BEDFORD-JAMES (1953-56) and family live a few doors away and he sees J. A. BARWELL (1949-57) quite frequently. He is something in Law in Manchester. Rear welcomes any Old Boy in Leeds to give him a ring and sample the Northern brew.

K. J. RENNIE (1956-61) was pleased to be able to report that after a 4 year course at the Constantine College of Technology in Middlesborough and the Agricultural Division of the I.C.I. in Billingham, he passed the finals, being awarded the Higher National Diploma in Mech. Eng. His results were such that he was able to obtain a Graduate Membership of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. At the moment he is doing a 2 year night school course in Industrial Administration which will exempt him from the final academic requirements for an Associate Membership, when he is in a position to apply. On completing his College Course he was transferred to I.C.I. Heavy Organic Chemicals Division at Willon near Middlesborough to obtain some experience in the design offices.

In his spare time he leads a full life—he is still in the T.A. and has completed 10 descents from balloon or aircraft. He is singing with the local operatic society and they put on "The Gondoliers" in February.

N. SAUNDERS (1957-64) found work at Cambridge last October a strain after his months of freedom in Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey but Chinese is proving very interesting and less difficult than he thought. The R.G.S. has two representatives now in the Oriental faculty.

P. T. SEATON (1955–60) has gained his Higher National Diploma in Metallurgy at the Lanchester College of Technology, Coventry.

P. M. J. SHELTON (1958–63) gives news of himself and his brother. R. G. T. SHELTON (1955–61) is doing research work for his Ph.D. in electro-physiology at the Galty Marine Laboratory, St. Andrews and recently became engaged to Miss Freda Carstairs, St. Andrews, Fife. P.M.J. is in his last year of lectures at St. Andrews—next year he has to write a thesis.

J. R. SHEPHERD (1944–51) has been in Nigeria for the last 8 years, six years as an agricultural superintendent, and hopes to complete 4 years as a tin mining surveyor. Then he will return to Devonshire with his wife and 3 daughters to take up residence on his farm.

P. M. M. SLATTER (1919–26) was elected Chairman of High Wycombe's first ever Arts Festival in 1965. He also produced Johann Strauss' operatta "Die Fledermaus" for the town's leading operatic society's jubilee performances as the centre-piece of the festival. Paul Slatter has produced the musical plays for this society whose chairman has been H. C. T. BRIDEN (1915–22) for many years. As the team manager for Bucks County Cricket Club, Slatter also had the distinction of taking his team to Lord's in April 1965 to play Middlesex in the Gillette Cup competition.

DENNIS W. STEVENS (1933–39). A letter with the postmark Bronx arrived for the Hon. Sec. in January. The Bronx has always fascinated him and he has pictured it as a district of New York filled with toughs and baseball fanatics. The letter actually came from a most respectable and very distinguished Old Boy who dutifully wrote in giving news of himself as requested in the last edition of the magazine. Dennis Stevens is Professor of Music at Columbia University in the City of New York and often thinks of the generous encouragement given to his musical enthusiasm at the R.G.S. especially by the late Mr. Tucker who sent him to the High School to learn harmony. He gave up composition at an early stage since most of his phrases had a feminine ending.

His principle activities now are musicology (during the academic year) and music (when he comes to Europe to conduct at festivals and make records with his musicians,

the Ambrosian Singers and the Accademia Monteverdiana). He enclosed a brief discography and offered to send any recordings the School Music Society would like. Mr. Dawes was pleased to take advantage of this generous offer.

- C. SWAIN (1954-62) is now working in the City for the B.P. Company—in the Supply and Development Department. He is concerned with the problem of the day-to-day distribution of oil products and the tanker loadings from refineries and finds it all very interesting. He plays chess and hockey for the Company team. Swain is full of confidence and has set his sights high.
- R. G. THOMAS (1957-62) passed out of Mons Officer Cadet School in October and was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Transport.
- P. G. UPPARD (1957-62) returned to the Royal Academy of Music for the Michaelmas Term not as a student, which he had been for 3 years. He had been appointed a sub-professor, a signal honour for a young man who only left the School in 1962. In addition to his new duty, Uppard will continue his piano studies and teach at the Bucks School of Music. He was commended for the Mrs. Claude Beddington Prize and was guest soloist with the London Rysiens Orchestra at the Burford Festival. He says that one of the most enjoyable pieces of playing he did this year was at the Golden Wedding celebrations of his grandparents—Alderman and Mrs. H. W. Fry, former Mayor and Mayoress of High Wycombe.
- M. VICKERS (1958-65) was very happy to report that he had been offered a place at the University of Kent in Canterbury. Last January as a change from French and German, he was working at the Garden Centre, Beaconsfield, putting mowing machines together.
- D. A. WAKEFIELD (1958-65) joined Britannia Royal Naval College in September for training as a Naval Officer.
- D. R. WALKER (1957-63) now married and living in Edinburgh has had two of his paintings accepted by the Scottish Academy. He has also had an exhibition of his works in Ireland.
- W. D. WARDE (1953-62) writes from 447, Roosevelt Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32304, U.S.A. He has taken up a teaching assistantship at the Florida State University and is teaching an elementary course in Statistics while reading for a Ph.D. degree.

- L. F. WATKINS (1908-14) retired in January and went to live in Goring-by-Sea, Sussex. In 1945 when he was demobilised from the Royal Berkshire Regiment he returned to his employers Messrs. Waring and Gillow, London and remained there until 1950. He then moved up to Liverpool to manage the branch there and lived in West Riding, Cheshire. In Liverpool he often met Old Boy J. E. KIMBER (1920-27) and once IAN FRASER (1933-36) V.C., when he came to give a lunch-time talk at the Liverpool Rotary Club. If there is any Old Boy near, Mr. and Mrs. Watkins would be glad to see him. Tel. Woking 43057.
- G. E. WATSON (1951-58) called in at School last November before flying out to Australia for a 5-6 month working stay there.
- M. E. W. WESTNEY (1940-47) gave up an Inland Revenue post in London to study for the Church at Lichfield Theological College. He was ordained at Cuddesdôn Parish Church near Oxford by the Bishop of Oxford and is now a deacon and assistant curate in Hughenden Parish assisting the Vicar, the Rev. S. A. C. Dickens.
- P. J. YATES (1953-61) graduated from University College London with C. Swain in July last. He gained an Upper Second Honours Degree in Geography. He continues to run very well but the Hon. Sec. hasn't noted any particular success in recent months.
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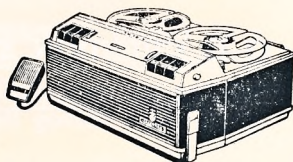
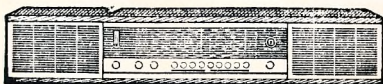
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