

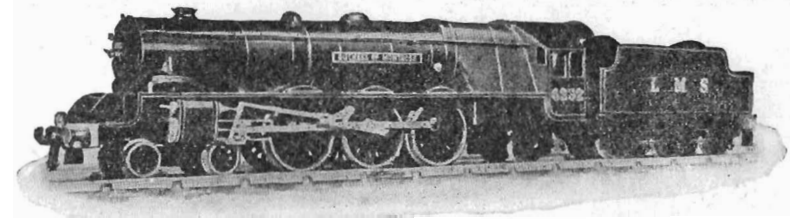
# THE SPUR

Vol. III

No. 3



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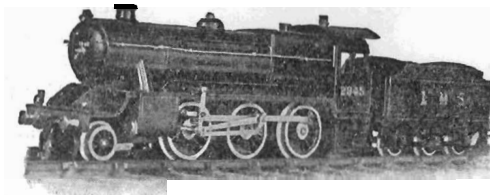
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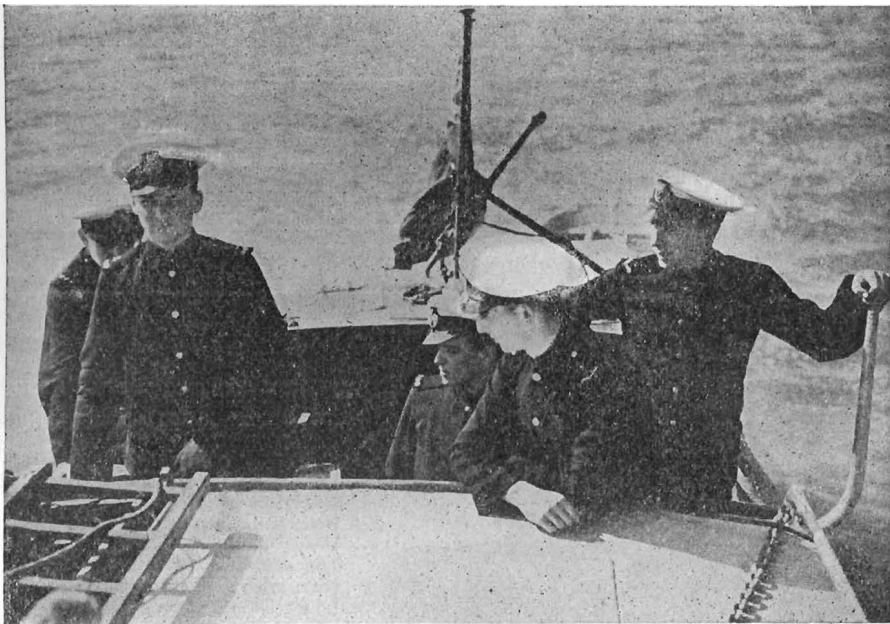
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# THE SPUR

*"To each his need, from each his power"*

VOL. III. No. 3.

DECEMBER, 1939.

## EDITORIAL

This is the first *War Spur*. It is, of course, different. Gone are the accounts of Lectures and Visits; plans for possible expansion have had to be dropped.

Yet there is plenty here of interest. The Bryanston Exchange Visit was a peace-time innovation of great promise for the future. "Delving to Victory" and the composite contribution on Tutorials, are records of great interest, although they concern things brought about by unhappy circumstances. Our first full-dress School Certificate Results provide an achievement of which we may be proud. Of the three entirely original contributions for which we have been able to find room, "On Reading" contains a message for the inhabitants of a new blacked-out civilization.

And so *The Spur* and the School it serves are not dead. Adjustment has been successfully brought about; adjustment to conditions that are new in their present form, but which are only transitory. Society is not static. War's changes are often in the shape of makeshift; but there is never any return to "pre-war" conditions. This war, with its unpleasantness and inconvenience for all, and misery for many, is but the approach to the Great Chamber of Opportunity when Peace brings the time for re-construction, happiness and progress.

## HEADMASTER'S NOTES

Now that it has happened we realize how long the fear of war has pressed hard upon our consciousness. Although its course has so far contradicted every prophecy, the view of last July holds good. Come what may, education must go on. In the post-war world young men will stand in greater need than ever of minds developed to maximum capacity. To take the first post that is offered is short-sighted policy. Education always pays in the end, and remains the surest insurance policy in an uncertain world. An education rooted in free

enquiry has no place in Nazi policy: it has in England's. It is therefore one of the traditions of this country which we are fighting to preserve. It is our responsibility to see that here in this place we do our utmost to see that our normal life is as little interrupted as possible.

\* \* \* \*

This term has seen a new time-table as each shelter was completed. Before we break-up our seventh will be finished. **Should raids come they will shelter us.** It is my earnest hope that parents and boys will regard such disasters as interruptions to education, as irrelevant as they are unfortunate. In the film, Mr. Chips asks a boy to volunteer to go on construing Cæsar's Gallic War while the turmoil of bombardment raged outside. He gave a timely example. It was not the least service of an inspiring film. The calling of schoolmaster has had in the past scant justice in fiction.

\* \* \* \*

Cancellations and postponements there had to be. If expense had not prohibited the blacking-out of the Hall we should have proceeded with the School Play. When a Wimbledon bookshop confesses to thinking of us as "The Shakespearean School," it is the greater pity to let hostilities break a valuable tradition. A play will therefore go into rehearsal after Christmas, which it is hoped to produce in the open air next summer. The House Play Competition will be held early next term, as arranged.

\* \* \* \*

"Major Barbara" has to be postponed. But that valuable nucleus of parents who have come to look to the School for entertainment must not be neglected just when numbers were increasing. Readings in the Library will therefore start again next term. Please brave the black-out and come along. Dates will coincide with the period of full moon.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. Baker, who was to have joined the Staff this term, has been called up. We look forward to welcoming him as soon as hostilities effect his release. The fact that four of the School's Old Boys—Crouch, Fielding, Whiteley, Winder—are in uniform should remind us that we can no longer excuse our shortcomings on the ground that we are a "new School." Indeed the sooner we forget our age the better. Youth and age are both deceptive guides to educational values.

\* \* \* \*

The School offers its congratulations to Professor Hughes-Parry, a member of the Governing Body, on his appointment to the onerous and responsible office of Chairman of the Academic Council of the University of London.

\* \* \* \*

The Charity Collection this term is on behalf of the Lord Mayor Treloar's Home for Cripples at Alton, in Hampshire. At a time when deserving appeals are made on all sides, the choice is appropriate, because the Home has received our own Paul Wilson, who holds a special place in the School's affection.

\* \* \* \*

The exchange visit of the party of boys from Bryanston during the week in July was a fitting climax both to the School's most successful term and to the last in the happy conditions of peace. The Headmaster of Bryanston wrote: "We liked your boys very much, and I hope our boys will behave equally well." He need have no fears: they did. Their spontaneous charm and independence was example and tonic. The only difficulty arose when one of their number expressed his intention of going to wait at the "What O" Café and hitch-hiking home. Such an adventurous spirit our own boys could well emulate. The first supper in Hall: young, friendly faces everywhere; Masters and wives, and boys from two schools, intermingling with ease and happiness; the range of music from the piano, from the "Blue Danube" to Beethoven; and the setting sun, will linger in the memory.

\* \* \* \*

The Carol Service with which the School has wished its boys and parents a happy Christmas has had to go for this year. The loss is grave, but the wish remains.

\* \* \* \*

We all extend our sympathy to Mr. Milton in the accident which his eye suffered when a tennis ball accidentally struck it the Gym. Those of us who know the rigours of voluntary gym. are only thankful that the sight of the eye is not permanently impaired. The damage done, however, has necessitated lying in a darkened bedroom and a month's absence, both unwelcome to one of Mr. Milton's mercurial energy. We thank Mr. Sanders, of Jesus College, Oxford, who has ably deputized for him.

\* \* \* \*

The fact that schoolmasters over the age of twenty-five are still scheduled as "reserved occupation," and therefore



ineligible for enlistment in H.M. Forces, gives ground for hope that there will be yet awhile little disturbance of Staff. We welcome Mr. L. T. Jackson, who will be taking Mr. Baker's place temporarily. He is a classical man from Trinity Hall, Cambridge. \* \* \* \*

The School's past and present Art Masters were well represented in a most interesting exhibition at the Leicester Galleries of pictures of the uniformly small dimension of 8½ ins. by 6 ins. Claude Rogers's "Sunset Sky" was an example of the landscape work to which he is now seriously devoting himself in Norfolk. Mr. Shephard's two portraits were arresting, and showed him far less afraid of colour than his "Regent's Square" or his recent exhibition. His "House Painting" was a good idea, lending itself well to this restricted medium. Boys' painting over four years has shown the advantage the School has from instruction by men who are themselves painting when not teaching, and whose reputations are well established in circles where art is understood.

#### SCHOOL OFFICERS, CHRISTMAS, 1939

*Head of the School:* A. Hinton.

*School Prefects:*

K. O. Richards, A. de Potier, W. J. Stephens, S. T. Launder,  
D. G. Austin, B. W. Meade.

*Captain of Rugby:* K. O. Richards.

*Secretary of Rugby:* S. T. Launder.

We very much regret the omission of E. J. Nagle's name from the list of last term's School Prefects, and ask him to accept our apologies.

#### SCHOOL CERTIFICATE, 1939

The following boys were awarded a General School Certificate as a result of their work in the examination in June:—

Bailey W. A., Barsham R. A., Gibbs H. T., Grubb J. H., Hill P. S. (M.), Jepson E. B., Jordan J. P. R. (M.), Launder S. T., Mansbridge H. (M.), Mason K. A. (M.), Nagle E. J., Prangnell H. A. (M.), Smith L. A. (M.), Stephens W. J., Woodward T. S., Ambrose B., Day A. (M.), Franks R. D. (M.), Gates D. F., Hitchon J. O., Plummer F. G., Robbins J. W. (M.), Scoble G. J., Smith J. A., Steele F. E. (M.), Vaughan D. G. (M.), Cockman P. S., Daniel E. D., Daniels K. S. (M.), Gray A. C., Hutchin E. G., Meade B. W. (M.),

Nagle A., Purser B. L., Revill P. J. (M.), Wells E. A., Townson D.

The suffix M. denotes exemption from Matriculation should the candidate wish to enter London University.

#### PRIZE-GIVING

A private distribution of Prizes took place in Hall on the afternoon of December 14th, when the School welcomed as its distinguished visitor Mr. T. S. Eliot.

##### *School Prizes*

Headmaster's Essay Prize: Forrest.

Mr. Gibb's Geography Prize: Wells *proxime accessit*, Ambrose.

Science Prize: Prangnell.

General Knowledge Prizes: Senior, Hinton; Junior, Andrews.

Scripture Recitation Prizes: Bell, Holwill, Gardiner, Mason.

Prize for the best work done in the First Year Sixth: Hinton.

Prize for the best performance in School Certificate: Meade.

##### *Subject Prizes*

*English:* Hitchon J. O., Townson, Bell, Petit, Simeone, Reid N. W.

*French:* Launder, Vaughan D. G., Marchant, Honeker, Gray, Brodrick, Lawrence E. C.

*Mathematics:* Daniels, Bartlett G., Lawrence L. E., Sleigh, Thompson A., Ruff, Chamberlain.

*Science:* Meade, Revill, Sorrell, Saxby, Holwill, Green J. F., Quartermain.

*History:* Austin, Robbins, Cattell, Vaughan P. W., Smith D. F.

*Latin:* Hinton, Franks, Andrews, Overell B. G., Baker C. W.

*German:* Poulter, Holmes, Carter H. C., Bannister.

*Geography:* Scoble, Carr, Bond A. E., Williams K. S., Tuthill.

*Art:* Brookes, Rignell, Walton.

*Woodwork:* Lowe, Smith B. L., Smith W., Cathrow.

## EXCHANGE VISIT WITH BRYANSTON

Below we print accounts by those who took part in this **most successful experiment of last term**. They speak for themselves in what they tell of the profit and enjoyment derived from the scheme. May happier days come soon in which the experiment can be repeated.

### BRYANSTON AT RAYNES PARK

Crash! A cyclist ricochets off the back of a green M.G. and lands in the middle of the carriage-way. That is my first **memory of Raynes Park**. Five of us with two of our hosts crushed into this car, and Mr. Cobb took us to our new H.Q. We were struck by the modern aspect of the place. A short tour of inspection then took place, and our first impression was substantiated. We saw the quadrangle, which is the focal point of any good school story, and which we at Bryanston lack. Then came our first interview with the Headmaster.

We had heard and talked to Mr. Garrett while he was paying one of his visits to Bryanston, but then he was not the Headmaster of the School we were at. This interview was, therefore, preceded by that empty feeling at the pit of the stomach, and the sweating of the palms of the hands, which I always get before an encounter with the powers that be. However, any fears I had were quite unjustified, and we were put at our ease immediately by the atmosphere of welcome and comradeship which pervaded his modern and artistic study and radiated from himself. He handed us our programme sheets, and his next words fell on deaf ears as we scanned them. He did not linger on the subjects outlined on the sheets, but spoke about the probable differences which we might find. This time I think that it was his fears which were unfounded. He told us whom we were staying with, and their interests. He must have been very well-informed about us, for we all had several interests in common with our respective hosts. When he had finished offering us the use of his library he took us into the Hall for supper with our hosts and some of the Masters.

Food and drink served their usual purpose of loosening the tongue. Like the walrus and the carpenter, we talked of many things. Both boys and Staff received us in a way which it would be quite useless to try and put into words. We met those who had been down to Bryanston, and, with them as go-betweens, we were soon chatting with our new friends in the best of spirits. I do not know if it was specially in our

honour, but we had that sweet of sweets, strawberries and cream. After this meal Mr. Beecroft gave us the pleasure of seeing and hearing a master-pianist in action. He also reminded us very forcibly of our own Mr. Bramall. When this talented performance was over we wended our various ways. I went home with Mr. Milton, and would like to take this opportunity of thanking both him and Mrs. Milton for their very generous hospitality.

Our first encounter with the scholastic side of Raynes Park was an examination. It was a severe test on our general knowledge, but we all survived with greater or lesser degrees of success. It was a nice change to have the Masters coming to you instead of having to go to them. They probably think differently. I found that the work was of a more stereotyped nature than at Bryanston, but unless the Dalton Plan is used it is impossible to cover a great range of subjects without having Staff and room unlimited. The work done seemed to me to be of a very high standard, though as I was working with the Sixth Form I was probably among the pick of the School's brains. No offence meant to those who are working their way up there! I am sure that your parents must be very satisfied with the results that they see on Open Night.

I thought that this was a very sound idea, and was much impressed by the exhibits and demonstrations in the Physics and Chemistry Laboratories. Some of the things done were almost unbelievable to a layman. Two of our number distinguished themselves by being slung out of the Physics Lab. for attempting to short-circuit the roundabout. The author claims complete innocence of the incident! In the Hall I saw a very fine selection of useful articles made by the woodworkers. In there I was also buttonholed and begged to buy a book for the Library. Do not ask me what it was, as I do not remember. Outside the Scouts were gallantly building their West Wall. Nearby I saw lizards in the sanctuary of their vivarium.

I have purposely not dealt with the tours which were so kindly arranged for us, as most of you will have heard about them from your members who accompanied us. I was very interested in the Film Studios, being a photographer myself. The B.B.C. made me marvel at the ingenuity of Man. Carter's Seed and the Fish and Meat Pastes factories gave us a glance at mass production. Northcliffe House overawed me. The visit to "Rhonda Roundabout" gave us well-balanced entertainment. I have only roughly sketched these things, as this article is about Raynes Park, and not the hospitality of our hosts, which was overwhelming.



Owing to the fact that the boys at Raynes Park live at home, it is difficult to run hobby societies such as we have at Bryanston. I think that this is a pity, as boys with developing minds should be able to get together for quiet evenings of discussion about points which are interesting, or perhaps worrying them. This, however, cannot be helped, and you make up for it in your other spheres which you are doing so well in.

My general impression of the School was one of satisfaction. I had seen a group of men and boys who were doing their share in making the old order give place to the new. Change should not be too violent or sudden, and Raynes Park is seeing that the new individualism in education is being spread.

G. P. Mack.

(With suggestion from T. A. Wimbush and D. G. Leven).

#### RAYNES PARK AT BRYANSTON

The first three things to strike us were a mansion miraculously adapted to house a population of over 300, a uniform which gave us a surprising sense of freedom and friendliness, and the immediate feeling we had from all the boys that barriers were down because we did not need to sniff round each other like suspicious dogs. This was the more surprising because the boys seemed so much more commanding than ours, particularly in having servants to wait upon them. In our School we are trained to do our own dinner service, clear our own tables, and wait on each other. They seemed to have more air of authority than we ever get. This is probably because boarding schools aim to produce leaders, **who are supposed to use authority properly.** We all thought Pioneering a splendid idea, particularly as it meant that everybody learned the fun of manual labour. It was good to think that any building and road-making that had to be done was done by the boys. This manual work is encouraged by the hobbies which the whole School seems to have. We made a pot each, and even that experience was enough to make us understand all that our own education was losing by having no facilities for such work. Few boys can produce a sculpture as moving as "The Refugees," but most boys would gain from some such means of expressing what they have in them.

We were all impressed with the ease and familiarity of Masters and boys in class-rooms as well as outside. This led to far greater interest and liveliness in work. It was shown in a reading of "Saint Joan," and even in a German class.

Boys seemed to know, and to want to know, more about political ideas than we do, and with them we felt tongue-tied.

We envied the wisdom of the Rest Period with good music to listen to after lunch every day, although it took us some time to get over our surprise at boys' bodies immobile as stone in window recesses and curling round the legs of a piano. And obviously freedom of choice of games and activities leads to higher standard of performance as well as greater happiness.

On the question of day or boarding schools we all decided we preferred the greater freedom of the day school, because it leaves us with the initiative of planning our own time in the evenings and week-ends. If however we had to go to a boarding school we should be very fortunate to find ourselves at Bryanston.

We are all very grateful to the Headmaster of Bryanston for having us in his School; to Mr. G. V. Morris for filling our time to such profit; and to our guides and everyone at Bryanston who made us happy and at home.

G. M. Cattell, G. J. Fisher, A. Day,  
J. Robbins, K. Daniels, L. A. Smith.

(Reprinted by permission of the Editor of the *Bryanston Saga*.)

#### TUTORIALS

We asked some parents, some boys and some Masters to give us their impressions of the Tutorial System which reigned for a time at the beginning of the term. This is what we got, more or less as it came in, though some spelling has been altered and one or two names have been cut out.

*From a Parent*

Dear Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

When the Tutorial System was first mooted, it being impossible to open the School, we thought the idea was a splendid one and our boys were thrilled with the prospect of seeing how the great lived, being thoroughly bored by this time with the long enforced absence from School.

It was interesting to hear their impressions. The elder was greatly interested in the bachelor flat shared by two of the Masters, and his ambition at present is that he and his bosom friend should do the same in later life.

The younger, when reprimanded about the state of the room in which he had been doing his homework—untidy,

books thrown on the floor, etc.—retorted, “Well, you ought to see Mr.———’s room.” No names, no detention, but sufficient to say that he was one of the bachelor members of the Staff.

I should like to say that the system reflected great credit on the Staff of the School.

#### *From a Boy*

The chief impression I have after the Tutorials is one of **rush and bustle**. From house to house, road to road we had to dash, often over wet roads, with the greatest possible speed, yet at the same time losing neither our books nor our way. The houses were quite often some way apart, and to the writer, who did not know the terrain of Raynes Park, the roads were long and very hard to find, and he frequently was forced to amble aimlessly round Wimbledon looking for the right road to take, or misled by a “short cut” that wasn’t! All in all, however, we usually managed to arrive at our destination safely, though not always punctually, which could not be helped, because of the aforesaid distance between houses. However, the writer’s group was once greeted by the surprising remark, “Du bist sehr spät” (“You are very late!”), spoken, however, in a welcoming voice.

Two interesting personal points were to be observed during the Tutorials. In the lodgings, or, to quote the board outside, “The Residential Hotel,” of the Editor of *The Spur*, cards could be seen daily exhorting him NOT to use the fireplace as an ashtray. These, or so we were told, were popped under the fire in each case. Who won this battle of wits, or whether it still rages, only the Editor can tell!

The other occurrence was the regular bombarding with apples of a certain Master’s last group on Friday by his host’s children, who are also members of this School. This happened when the group, during a “free” period, sat diligently in the adjoining park, polishing up or, in some cases, doing their homework. By the time the apples landed they were so squashed that they were fit neither for edible nor retaliatory purposes, and the group was left a defenceless butt to its invisible enemies. This, though a pleasant little custom in itself, was rather an impediment to learning.

On the whole, however, the Tutorials were good fun and we learnt quite a lot in them, but I think it will be agreed it is better fun as we are now, and we learn just as much.

#### *From a Master*

The domestic difficulties of a temporarily bachelor household were lessened rather than increased by the Tutorials system. After all, what was the use of dusting or tidying the sitting-room when over a hundred boys walked in and out of it every week? It was easier, pleasanter and more practical to do nothing whatsoever about it and steel oneself to face the wrath that would surely come in the shape of a returning wife.

Meanwhile, faced by wave upon wave of boys who apparently had nothing better to do than work, one recalled one’s University days and struck attitudes reminiscent of one’s Tutors—an agreeable pastime which was, of course, quite lost on the eager pupils. The result of it all was some delightful hours of unlaborious study and, from the brighter spirits at least, a lot of original work.

#### *From a Boy*

I think that the Tutorial system was a very good idea to fill up the time while the air raid shelters were being built.

We had most of the important subjects, and being in small groups, we found it easier to learn. Naturally it was not possible to have the usual number of periods, but this was compensated for by the fact that we had more intimate association with our Masters. I found it very nice to learn lessons on comfortable chairs and settees.

One disadvantage was riding up Denmark Hill and Thornton Hill in heavy downpours of rain. Fortunately our Masters allowed us to dry our coats and trousers.

Not only did we have plenty of leisure time, but the times of lessons allowed us to rise at a later hour than usual.

I think it was very good of the Masters to let us use their homes for lessons.

#### *From a Parent*

I am glad that the Editor has asked us to write about the days of the Tutorial system, for they are pleasant to recall. I am a heretic about the School day, not liking the long childless blank it leaves in the home day; but I did well in the golden age of the Tutorials. My house was filled with a succession of boys whose gentle voices, soft tread and considerate manners made them delightful visitors. The youngest members of the family raced for the honour of opening the door to them, though sometimes the winner was so shy that he hastily shut the door again and hid. The grandparents could not believe that those boys—later known as those nice boys—were really there. An atmosphere of

learning and scholarship pervaded the sitting-room. The boys, born in an age of speed, had the new experience of learning at leisure, and I believe that the knowledge acquired against the background of tranquility and not immediately jostled in the mind by the arrival of another lesson, will be a lasting possession—a curiously unexpected gift to the children of a country at war.

### DELVING TO VICTORY

*(Some fragments about the present state of affairs)*

#### I

In nineteen hundred and thirty-nine,  
Since Blimp hung hovering over the East,  
Our work became disjointed  
(Some were disappointed),  
And we've very carefully had to toe the line,  
And from the Joseph Hood Memorial  
To our bless'd next Tutorial  
We have to lug our gas masks all the time.

*Refrain:*

O, it's Westward Ho! for Worcester Park, in wind and  
driving rain;  
North again to Worple Road and back to West Barnes  
Lane.

#### II

New every morning are the schemes  
Of which the County Council dreams.  
They raise our hopes and calm our fears  
With all their gladsome panaceas.

#### III

We will build you shelters safe from bombers' might,  
From Prayer-time in the morning till black-out at night.  
We will build them strongly, with seats along each side,  
Where fifty stalwart youngsters can safely go and hide.

#### IV

The contractor came down like a wolf on the School,  
His chariots were laden with bricks, spade and tool.  
He raised flat-roofed shrines to the god A.R.P.,  
And left our green turf like the waves of the sea.

*Refrain:*

For they must dig down to the clay again.  
Tit-willow, tit-willow, tit-willow.

There's a breathless hush in the School to-night,  
The County's scheme—it has just come in.  
The Nation's food is the Nation's might,  
Three years to go and a war to win.

It's not for the sake of a Chamberlain joke,  
Nor yet for a Churchill blockade,  
But the Winged Lion's empty stomach spoke,  
"Dig up, dig up, and ply your spade."

#### VI

"Ye shall dig," said they, "Ye shall labour and make a  
plot.

"We'll give you seed potatoes and cabbage red.  
"What will ye more for your School, ye lousy lot?"  
"Pitch for our pitch," we said.

We flung the rusty iron out of the trench,  
Disturbed the sleepers sunk in their clayey beds;  
And all through the noonday rain, discounting the drench,  
We dug, mopping our heads.

*Refrain:*

Our garden is a loathsome thing, God wot.  
Deep ruts, mounds made, holes dug.

#### VII

O that it were April,  
Now our orchard's here.

*Refrain:*

Send us Victorias,  
Cox's and Glorias,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save our King.

## VIII

There is the foreman, all muscle and brawn,  
Whose timely death we all should mourn,  
Who ruined our paths, and pulled up our corn  
In the Biology Patch so recently born.  
Who spoilt the pond  
Of which we were fond,  
And damaged the frond  
Of the tree beyond.  
Who broke the frame  
In safety's name,  
Who kidnapped the lizards  
With shock to their gizzards,  
And erected the shelters  
That lie round the house that Jack built.

(Apologies to everybody, including Sir Henry Newbolt,  
W. S. Gilbert, R. L. S., Browning, Lord Byron, Henry Carey,  
T. E. Brown, Lord Tennyson and Lord Haugh Haugh of  
Ziesen.)

## SCHOOL LIBRARY

We thank the following Old Boys for their presentations  
to the Library:—

- R. Barnes: Zane Grey, "Last of the Plainsmen" (F.).
- L. Fielding: Edward Gibbon, "Autobiography" (890).
- A. Gurney: Sir Alan Cobham, "20,000 Miles in a Flying  
Boat" (670).
- P. Jordan: M. G. Frost, "Ask Me Another" (190).
- S. W. Heath: J. S. Fletcher, "Murder in the Pallant"  
(F.) and "Mystery Stories" (F.).
- W. A. Bailey: Beaumont and Fletcher, "Select Plays"  
(830).
- A. V. Saxby: Somerset Maugham, "Liza of Lam-  
beth" (F.).
- K. Zolmanis: Max Beerbohm, "Seven Men" (F.).
- R. Patrick: Rosaline Murray, "The Greeks" (515).
- E. B. Jepson: Arnold Bennett, "Literary Taste" (810).
- A. Gray: Lorna Lewis, "Leonardo the Inventor" (870).
- E. I. Nagle: William Kent, "London Worthies" (860).
- I. Wratten: W. M. Smart, "Astronomy" (980).
- H. A. Prangnell: J. W. Bigger, "Man against Microbe"  
(900).

## Cobb's Cricket

## HOUSE NOTES

### Cobb's v. Halliwell's

Having reached the final by beating Gibb's, we felt confi-  
dent to meet Halliwell's. Halliwell's batted first and scored  
96. At last our turn came to bat, but, alas, we only reached  
43. Our second innings, however, brought our total score to  
126. We had therefore to try to skittle them out for under  
30 for a win (which we very nearly did). We were almost  
hysterical when, after five wickets had fallen, the score was  
only 10; but luck was against us and, after a close finish,  
Halliwell's won, scoring 38 for 8 declared.

### Swimming

Our narrow defeat at last year's Gala made us more than  
ever determined to succeed this year. Everyone took qualify-  
ing seriously, and did his utmost to gain those valuable initial  
points. This combined effort had the desired result, and we  
won the Swimming Competition for the first time. The whole  
event and result was a very good effort and reflects great credit  
on our Swimming Captain, who organized our teams and  
urged us all on with help and encouragement.

*Rugby* Cobb's v. Halliwell's. Lost, 6—0.

Apart from our "warming up" period at the beginning  
of the game, our XV played very well. We had much the  
weaker team and, although we lost, everyone, whether for-  
ward or three-quarter, fought hard. Our two main faults are  
a lack of imagination in anticipating and forestalling the  
opponents' tactics, and secondly, that we don't keep our eye  
on the ball. This last accounts for much misdirected effort,  
which we cannot afford to lose.

We are glad to welcome Pegg as one of us this term.  
He has already proved himself a tenacious full-back and a  
fearless tackler.

E. B. Jepson has left us after four years as School and  
House Captain—longer, probably, than any subsequent leader  
we may have will remain—and is endeavouring to become a  
sea dog. I am sure we all hope for his success in the Navy  
exam. I know he will always follow our fortunes with par-  
ticular interest, for we were his first command.

W. A. Bailey has secured a post with Heinz & Co., and  
likes his work.

Prangnell is working in a bank.

C. H. Hill is with the Union Castle Line.

Uff is working near by at Senior's.

### Gibbs'

This year we find ourselves for the first time in the History of the House proud holders of the "Cock House Cup," a success which on the whole we deserved. Our aim now is to keep this coveted trophy longer than Halliwell's House, who have held it for the last two years.

It is perhaps difficult to think back to the bright days of last Summer Term, but I would like to say a few words about our glorious failure in the Swimming Competitions. We were third in the final list, but when it is realized that we were first with only two events to go, you can see what a hard fight we put up. I would like to congratulate Rodrigues on the magnificent way in which he led his Swimming team, and on his own personal achievements.

Before embarking on our prospects in the coming Rugger trials, I would like to mention the deep regret which the whole House felt at the loss of E. J. Nagle, our former House Captain. He had held that office since last Easter, and we are glad to know that he is making headway in the commercial world. We hope we shall see him from time to time at School. This applies to all the Old Boys of the House, many of whom we have not seen since they left School.

And now for the coming Rugger matches. With five of the First XV in the team, I hope we may be excused for thinking that our prospects are rosy. I hope our thoughts are not premature, but the House is definitely thinking that we shall take the Cup for the third year in succession. At the time of writing we have not played any House matches, but our supporters may rest assured that whatever the result we shall play hard and keenly.

### Valete

Nagle E. J., Purser B., Parker B., Sommers, Goodman, Saunders H., Mylam.

### Salvete

Andrews, Dailley, Ellis, Healey, Cunningham, Downham, Gathercole, Saward, Smith F. G.

### Halliwell's

At the end of each year we suffer by the loss of Senior members of the House, and for a while things seem very disorganized. Fortunately up to now we have had little difficulty in filling the vacant places, but this year we have been very unfortunate. We were resigned to the departure of Seniors such as J. Grubb and P. Jordan, but it came as a severe blow when we learnt that J. Christian was leaving, for he was to be the House Captain this year. We wish all those who have left a successful and happy career.

In starting the term six to seven weeks late, we naturally found ourselves rather rushed for time to play the House Rugby matches; in spite of this we have managed to play two. In the match against Cobb's we won, 6—0. Credit is due to our forwards, who played hard throughout the second half. In the following match against Newsom's, which had been postponed owing to bad weather, we lost, 3—5. In this game our scrum showed its lack of practice by being almost unable to keep together and do what it was told. This is the basis of all Rugby scrummage work, and is usually the foundation of victory for the side.

It is disappointing still to see only a few, and the same staunch few each time, turn up to watch the House matches.

To the Juniors I would like to say, while on the subject of Rugby, that a little more thought should be given as to whether one should play Rugby or not, for Rugby is not a game to be judged by first impressions.

Early next term the House Dramatic Competition takes place. I would like all those taking part to do their best to overcome difficulties and put on a performance that will evoke universal admiration.

### Milton's

Milton's have lost their first House Rugger match against Newsom's. The superior quality of the opposing team overwhelmed the enthusiasm shown by our fifteen. We could not hold Austin and Richards, and therein lay our weakness. The forwards did not combine quite as well as they might have done, but it may be said with truth that the team played with much good-intentioned vigour. Hinton played a captain's game, and in passing we congratulate him on obtaining his School Colours, whilst the resolute tackling of Edwards and Honeker was a noteworthy feature of the game. The team should give the remaining Houses hard games, and support by the remaining members of the House in the form of cheers would be greatly appreciated. It is perhaps a pity that it was not possible to play League matches this term, for Milton's seem to make a habit of winning the Leagues. Last term, for instance, our League team won the Cricket Competition, and the XI must be congratulated on their performance.

Unfortunately this term has seen the loss of a number of our most valuable members. Among these, Mason and Saxby particularly shone in the Athletic field; Mason was Captain of House Cricket and Hockey, whilst Saxby was Rugger Captain. Cockman, who left us at the beginning of term, will be sadly missed when we defend the Dramatic Cup next term. He played, with much success, Feste in the

School production of "Twelfth Night." Wright was another athlete whose loss is a blow to the House. We wish all those who have left us the best of luck in their future careers.

Among the Juniors whom we welcome into our midst, two have already played vigorously in the House Rugger team—Kidd and Read. Schrecker, Rignell, Reuter, Higgins, Carter, Gardiner, Lee, Reeves, receive our best wishes for their success and happiness in our House.

#### STOP PRESS:

After an exceedingly hard-fought game, we beat Cobb's at Rugger by 12—3. As Cobb's was our most feared rival after Gibb's, we are now looking forward to beating Halliwell's.

#### Newsom's

Knowing nothing of the future, we must try and seek our consolation from the past; but little can be found save self-reproach and unpleasant memories. Ours is a dismal past. After the false dawn of the first House Dramatic Competition, the House sank into gloomy resignation, with poor results in Hockey, Cricket and Swimming. Attendance has been nil at all House competitions, and a general lack of enthusiasm is prevalent everywhere.

Whether it was the belief that we had reached the crux of our misfortunes, or merely that our luck had at last turned, I cannot say; but the present term has opened comparatively well. After defeating Milton's in Rugby, we proceeded more surprisingly to gain a victory over Halliwell's. Rumours are now circulating in the House that we may beat Gibb's in the next match, while some out-and-out optimists dream wildly of the Inter-House Rugby Cup. "What a piece of work is man." We just manage to defeat two Houses and a wave of unfounded optimism sweeps through the House. The majority of this fantastical false confidence comes not from the team, who are fully aware of the difficulty of their task, but from individuals who are invariably to be found in cinemas or by fire-sides while the subjects of their idle chatter are battling unsupported on the field. The remainder of the House is completely apathetic, and care nothing if we win or lose.

This state of affairs must be remedied; the House must take a greater interest in the work of its members. It is not sufficient to learn of a House victory or defeat the day *after* the match. The whole House must be present to encourage its representatives. In the coming new year House Plays are starting, and in our sadly depleted state everyone must do his utmost to help produce a successful performance.

### CRICKET HOUSE MATCHES, 1939

The Knock-Out Competition was won by Halliwell's.

#### SWIMMING SPORTS, 1939

1. Cobb's .....	148
2. Halliwell's .....	142
3. Gibb's .....	138
4. Newsom's .....	74
5. Milton's .....	44

### COCK HOUSE TROPHY, 1938-39

The Trophy was won by Gibb's.

#### TENNIS

In July most successful Singles and Doubles Tournaments were organized on the new hard courts.

In the Singles, Kelway beat Carr-Jones in the Final 6—3, 6—4.

In the Doubles Mr. James and Bell had a great struggle with Daniels and Fletcher, but eventually had to admit defeat by 4—6, 6—0, 6—3.

### RUGBY FOOTBALL, 1939

#### MATCHES

Opponent	Result	Score	
		For	Agst.
K. C. S. Colt XV .....	Lost	0	25
Old Boys' XV .....	Won	16	0
K. C. S. Colt XV .....	Lost	3	11
St. George's 2nd XV .....	Won	30	3
Civil Service Extra "A" XV .....	Drawn	0	0
Surbiton C. S. XV .....	Lost	0	3
Harrow 4th XV .....	Lost	11	12
Wellington Colts .....	Lost	0	8

#### OTHER RESULTS

Under 15 v. K.C.S. ....	Won	13	3
Under 15 v. K.C.S. ....	Lost	0	62
Under 14½ v. St. George's College, Weybridge	Lost	0	37
Under 13 v. St. George's College, Weybridge	Lost	12	18



Three things mark this difficult season's Rugby. First, considering the conditions, the fullness of our fixture list; secondly, the youngness of our team, the average of which is barely 16 years and 3 months; and thirdly, the development of a real fighting spirit which has on at least two occasions carried us to a defeat made honourable by the smallness of our loss against odds that would previously have sent us home with our tails at the droop.

As always in the past, the chief honours lie with the forwards and with the halves. The unexpected but welcome return of Stephens to fill that big space in the middle of the back row warmed our hearts and gave us courage, more especially in action, where this season he has proved himself to be by no means the nice-mannered old gentleman that we knew in previous years. De Potier, too, is a changed being. He has led the pack with verve and fury, and his own game has improved out of all recognition. Rodrigues we knew—a strange mixture of ingenuous law-breaking combined with terrifying attacks, with defenders falling back open-mouthed before the fury of the onslaught. Billingham has never failed to be there, but too often three yards on the wrong side—a pity when one considers the amount of dash which he brings to both attack and defence. Hinton, too, has suffered from the same disease, but not to the same extent, and he has worked with superhuman energy and a lot of success. Wells, Holwill and Cook are other new members of the pack, and very sound and hard-working they have been.

Of the three-quarters, only Launder remains from last year, and Lawrence, Daniels and Nagle have come in. Of the three, Lawrence has the most penetrating power, though both Daniels and Nagle have been sturdy in defence, but they have lacked speed in attack.

Pegg, a new-comer to the School, has fallen into the full back position. Slow in movement and a very uncertain field, he yet has such a devastating tackle that he has been worth his place.

It has been a pity that the three-quarters have not been able to make full use of the work done by the halves. Austin has almost always given a prompt service from the scrum, and Richards has usually managed to take the ball going really fast, to find himself too often unsupported at the critical moment. Austin, with his jigging and wriggling and ducking, has always been a thorn in the tender side of the defence, paving the way for many more points than he has scored himself.

Richards' good captaincy has been helped by the fact that, apart from changes caused by injury, we have been able to play almost the same team throughout the season. The improvement can be judged partly by the result of the second K. C. S. match compared with the first one, and partly by the closeness of our later matches. The result of the Old Boys' match must have come as a surprise to judges of paper form. Though the Old Boys were not at full strength, they still had a useful side out, only to find themselves completely dominated by the School.

Our first Club fixture against the Civil Service Extra "A" was a thoroughly good match, played unfortunately under very wet conditions. Perhaps a pointless draw was the fairest result, but there were at least two occasions when we nearly pulled the chestnuts out of the fire.

It was unfortunate that our two best matches came in one week, that against Surbiton on the Wednesday and Harrow 4th XV on the following Saturday. The Surbiton match must have been the hardest that we have ever played. A fumble and a misfield near our own goal line let them in during the first half, and though we stormed and battered in their 25 during most of the second half, we could not quite get home.

What a match it was against Harrow on the following Saturday! Richards off with a damaged leg; Rodrigues playing in the three-quarter line because an injury to his shoulder made it impossible to push in the scrum; Lawrence away from the inside three-quarter position; Austin playing against doctor's orders. These were some of the troubles we had to face before the game even started. And when it did begin we lost Billingham with a head injury after 10 minutes' play, and were playing 14 men for the rest of the match. Just before half-time Austin broke up and was a passenger, though he stuck it out as best he could. And when the final whistle went we had lost by only one point. Tries by de Potier, Stephens and Hinton reflected the work that the forwards were getting through.

Next season, with most of this year's side back, we should be able to look forward to establishing ourselves. The journey may have taken five seasons, but next year we should have arrived.

Up to date, Colours have been awarded to S. Launder and A. Hinton.

## ON READING

By far the most universal hobby, reading sometimes obtains such a hold on a person as to be almost a vice. Thousands of great men, masters of the art of writing, have expressed their appreciation, love and homage due to books. Although unable to express myself so fluently, my appreciation is no less sincere. Books are an antidote for nearly every kind of mental poison. They enlarge the vision and the mind. Without leaving my hearth I have explored Treasure Island, the Isles of Greece, Darkest Africa, and even Utopia. I have, in company with fearless adventurers, blazed trails across every known and unknown continent. I have sailed with Magellan, courted death with Drake, and, side-by-side with Nelson, I defied the might of France and Spain. I mutinied with Christian and his men of the *Bounty*, and mutinied again off the Nore, to become two hundred and fifty years later a Lieutenant in His Majesty's Navy at the battle of Jutland. I defied the French, the Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese, and even the Saracen and infidel Turk. I have lived with Pizzaro and died with Moore, loved with Anthony and lost with Viscount Nelson. My circle of friends in fiction, too, has increased. I know such different persons as Captain Hornblower and Mr. Pickwick, Judith Paris and the precocious Eva, Long John Silver and Father Brown, Tom Sawyer and Bevis, to mention only a few of them. Friends of mine exist in the animal world, too. Many a time have I rambled by the river with Toad, Moley, Rat and Badger. Besides Pooh and Piglet, I know the White Queen, the Duchess, the baby, the White Rabbit and Tweedledum and Tweedledee. Could there be any greater incentive to read than this. I think not. Given a book, the world is yours and history lies at your feet. If you wish to feel sad we will do so together over a novel by Hardy, together we will laugh with Jerome K. Jerome, Cervantes, Dornford Yates or Dickens; wonder at the ideas of Wells and marvel at the style of Jonson and Gibbon. For a few shillings the immortal Sir Galahad, the irrepressible Sam Weller, the ill-fated Lady of Shallott, the fortunate Beggar Maid, the exuberant Denys and the taciturn and miserly Scrooge are yours for ever.

### "METHINKS I AM A PROPHET. . . ."

What though the field (or rather, the Biology Patch) be lost? All is not lost. In fact, there is an aspect of distinct gain to our misfortunes. No cereals sprout upon the hollowed

plot, gone is the cage where crawling reptiles lived. For the paltry period of the war (whether it be long or short, according to our insignificant human standards, 'tis but a moment in the distances of time), our Agricultural Department must be cramped and confined, limited, perhaps, to growing mustard and cress upon discarded underwear. Yet when it is all over, then their day will come. For the shelters, stark in their functionalism, need but deft touches here and there to transform them into the most gloriously rural piggeries and byres. I see in my mind our plot once more given over to its immemorial occupation. No more the thirsty entrance of the soil shall daub her lips with her own children's blood; Rugger will stop; sheep will be sheared in pens upon the field; chickens will squawk upon the tennis courts; the dustbins will become the hunting ground of pigs; ducks will glide gaily up and down the stream. Language and manners will snap persistently of soil; the School blazer will give place to smocks; the Raynes Park hounds will draw the covers in Bradbury Wilkinson's. Mead, distilled from the honey in the hives that now occupy the stationery cupboard, will be served with School dinner. County Hall will sanction requisitions for ploughs and milk floats. Bacon flitches will hang from the ceiling of the Common Room. The Prefects will be known as overseers.

In fact, why shouldn't we do it now? The excellent Sir Reginald wants us to Dig for Victory. And, after all, if there was a raid we should be quite glad to leave the shelters to the cows.

## A COUNTERBLAST TO BLACKOUT

[A fragment from an Elizabethan pamphlet discovered on the School ground by a workman digging a shelter.]

This black-out is a vile, pernicious game, in the perfection whereof this country's fold do nightly pass some several hours. What bumpings, slippings, bruising, harryings and cursings, all most bloody and most brutal, doth it engender. Nay, so dangerous and fearful are the nights no man dare stir abroad without a cudgel and a lanthorn. All, all is filthy dark. Night has become the paradise of felons, devils and lovers, whose prowlings, shriekings and bussings do make honest folk and Christians to go down on their knees for fear and trembling. O Satan, Lord of Darkness, it is thee who hath cast this hideous shroud upon the meads and cities of fair England, murdering light and making the very stars to hide for shame. Thy evil darkness driveth men indoors to sit at fires, so that they are become as timid, chattering women, and the very

paragons of meekness that I fear not to call them puling lambs and much worse. In sooth, if men be not great knitters, servers and players of virginals and other ladies' trifles, and no men before the year is cold, then am I no true Christian but a slavish heathen that would as lief kill his brother as speak God's truth. Alas, the night is now a perpetual torment, and all for a fantastical black-out that in the very darkness whereof most resembleth the Stygian shadows of the pit that is bottomless.

### PLAY READING SOCIETY

A Play-Reading Society has been formed from among members of the Sixth Form. Meetings are at present weekly. The following is this term's programme:—

"The Knight of the Burning Pestle," Beaumont and Fletcher.

"Outward Bound," Sutton Vane.

"R. U. R.," Karel Kapek.

"The Streets of London," Anon.

### RAYNES PARK SCHOOL OLD BOYS' SOCIETY

First, and most important, may I wish you all, on behalf of myself and the Committee, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and express the wish that we shall meet again before next summer.

The A. G. M. was very successful, and a large number of people attended. A very spirited debate ensued upon the Committee's suggestions for our war-time constitution. In the end the following suggestions were adopted:—Sub. to remain at 5s. Assistant Treasurer and Secretary were appointed (S. Palk and L. Smith), and the Committee increased by one (D. W. Taplin).

So far we have not run any war-time functions, but it is hoped that a dance may be run after Christmas. If and when this project is fixed you will be circularized.

By the time you read this you should have received Mr. Gibb's first news letter, and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking him for undertaking to compile this letter.

Next term we hope to have a Hockey match *versus* the School (bar shot and shell).

Well, good-bye and good luck.

Yours,

R. V. Grills, *Hon. Sec.*

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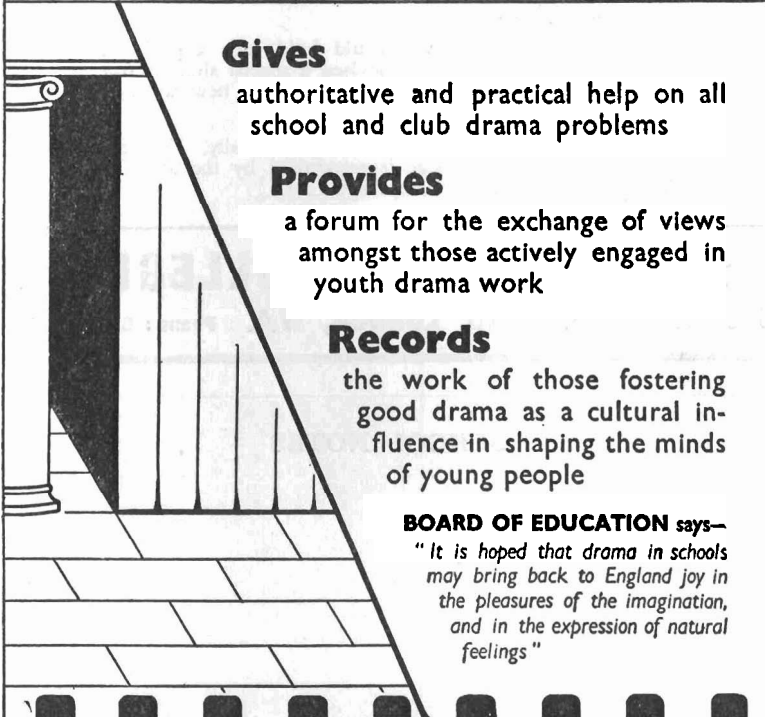
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