

THE SPUR

Vol. V

No. 3



THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL

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

Vol. V. No. 3.

July, 1942.

HEADMASTER'S NOTES

In the debate on the Education Estimates in the House of Commons on June 16th the names of schools of ancient foundation were hurled about, as the controversy about their future flared up, and the first skirmishing of a big conflict opened. It has, however, fallen to the lot of few State-maintained Secondary Schools to be mentioned in laudatory terms in parliamentary debate. Speaking of the superior qualities, opportunities and virtues which are claimed for the public schools, Mr. Kenneth Lindsay, Member of Parliament for Kilmarnock, and formerly Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, said :

"What is this thing that people keep on talking about which happens at public schools and not at Raynes Park County School, one of the finest in the country, and many others?—(*Hansard's Parliamentary Debates*, Vol. 380, No. 76.)

We are grateful to Mr. Lindsay for the good opinion he has of us, and regard his expression of that opinion in the House of Commons as a signal tribute to the work and achievement of a school still only seven years old.

We welcome to the Staff Mr. K. H. Horne, Dr. Z. Lubienski and Mr. C. R. B. Joyce. Mr. Horne is a graduate of London University, and Dr. Lubienski holds the degree of Ph.D. from three European universities. Mr. Horne comes to us from Monkton Combe, Dr. Lubienski from Bedales and Mr. Joyce from Bryanston. Next term Mr. Robert Loveday, M.Sc., comes to us from Ecclesfield Grammar School, where he has been in charge of Mathematics for the last eleven years. He will teach the course in Statistics which is going into the syllabus of the new Sixth, and will be in charge of the School's singing. We hope all four of these gentlemen will be happy with us. We count ourselves fortunate to have obtained their services.

It is anticipated that we shall have over 70 boys doing two years' work for Higher Certificate in the Sixth Form in September. We have now added a third course of study in the Sixth, which, having a more practical bias, will hope to attract those boys who, while having no scholarship or university ambitions, yet very properly want to stay for two years after they have obtained the School Certificate. The syllabus of these boys will consist of Economics, Statistics, Geography, with subsidiary courses in German and Architecture.

Mr. Polack is the first serving member of the Common Room to proceed overseas. Mr. Doolan has been given a commission on the education side of the R.A.F. Mr. Grubb has been guarding our coasts. It was good to see them at School on leave the other day. Mr. Newsom has just undergone an operation for appendicitis, and, after being very ill, is now well on the way to recovery.

Mr. Polack is in Madagascar, having taken part in the attack on Diego Suarez. He had a couple of exciting days, "bullets whizzing about our heads."

Mr. Coventry is to be congratulated on the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Cambridge University. It was perhaps this recognition of erudition which led many boys in the General Knowledge Paper to answer the question, "Who is known as 'The Great Cham of Literature,'" with Dr. Coventry's name.

The war has done us a good turn in bringing to the School's cricket the coaching of Mr. Alan Ratcliffe. A Master at Rydal, he is now doing A.R.P. work in the district. Playing for Cambridge at Lords in 1931, he had the distinction of making for the first time in a Varsity match a score of over 200 runs. It is satisfactory to notice that his score was surpassed the next day by an Oxford man! His teaching is as distinguished as his playing, and the boys have profited greatly. It was a welcome sight one May afternoon to see Mr. Milton and Mr. Newsom bowling while Mr. Radcliffe coached in the nets, a trinity of zeal possible in war but improbable in peace.

The rock garden has never been as beautiful as this year. For weeks passers-by found it worth their while to stop and look. Even dogs were reported as coming in by one gate and out by the other for a brief gaze. The Heath Garden has been as successful. Fired by such fruition of his schemes, Mr. Cobb is contemplating extensive autumn developments.

He is meanwhile contenting himself with creating a sunken garden in the quadrangle. It looks now like recent devastation from enemy action, but it will grow to beauty as surely as the rest of Mr. Cobb's big ideas, even though during the war it will be dedicated to the cultivation of the homely tomato. We thank him and his wife, and the senior boys who have helped, for all their work.

The Knight of the Burning Pestle, the Junior School Play, triumphantly broke new ground, and was up to the standard of anything the School has achieved in acting. Evidence of patience in making so young a cast express so much resourceful business was everywhere. The team-work of the boys on the stage was paralleled by that put in by Mr. Smith, who produced; Mr. Moore, who supervised the making of the sets; Mr. Haslam, who designed them; and Mrs. Jackson, who controlled costumes and dressing-rooms, giving the same confidence to juniors as she has for years now to older players.

We are grateful for help and co-operation from many of our neighbours. Mr. Eric Dudley, Headmaster of Blakesley House, has let Art Classes come to sketch in the grounds of his school. Mr. Scott, Headmaster of the Bushey Central School, has most generously loaned to us a laboratory. Without this kind asylum we should find it altogether impossible to accommodate our numbers in science. Messrs. Bradbury and Wilkinson have given the A.T.C. invaluable help in allowing us to use their Rifle Range. The Wimbledon School of Art have helped with our Pottery. We are grateful, too, to the John Innes Horticultural Institute for receiving a party of gardeners. These ties with the community around us are of first-class importance. Schools cannot lead independent lives *in vacuo*. A value which has come from the war is the linking up of education with the life of the nation. That is why we welcome the Harvest Camps in Wiltshire in the holidays. An active association with the national life during the war may well prove good training for shouldering responsibilities when peace comes.

Some members of "The Partisans" have had the interesting experience of appearing in a Ministry of Information film on what young people are thinking to-day. A script was made out of a record of their two hours' discussion. Doubt was at first expressed in film circles whether a film could be made out of ideas haggled at round a table. The result should be interesting.

Alan Day and Nicholas Molchanoff are to be congratulated on being elected to Scholarships in Oriental Languages. Seventy-four such scholarships were given to boys with suitable qualifications in Higher Certificate, and upon interview and record. There were 800 applications. Day and Molchanoff are boarders at Dulwich College, and learn Turkish during the day at the London School of Oriental Languages.

Mr. T. S. Eliot was detained longer in Sweden, on his lecture tour for the British Council, than he anticipated. Characteristically he preferred to postpone his lecture here than give something which he had not thoroughly thought out. This will occasion no surprise to those who remember the war-time charter for education which he gave here in the autumn of 1939. He will lecture on "Culture and Education" on September 22nd to the old boys and will later give readings of his own poetry to a larger audience.

Mr. Robert Graves has set the subject for the Headmaster's Prize Essay this year, and will judge the work sent in. The subject is: "John Milton, man and writer; what *you* think about him." Mr. Graves has just finished a novel on Milton's life with his first wife, who left him a month after they were married for a summer holiday, and stayed away three years. It is no small honour to have our work judged by a writer of the distinction of the author of the "I Claudius" books.

Mr. H. C. Dent, Editor of *The Times Educational Supplement*, addressed the Staff on "Leadership" on March 20th. On March 25th the Rev. Eric Loveday, Vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, told the School of the work of his church and parish, to the furtherance of which the term's charity collection of £10 0s.4d. was given. Captain Desjardins, on June 21st and June 24th, gave interesting accounts of the Free French Movement, its ideals and importance in the general scheme of the war. The friendly African bloc might well prove invaluable in keeping open communications with Egypt. A welcome visitor to the Camera Club was Mr. Eric Bramall, of Bryanston School, who showed us photographs of his own taking of the greatest beauty.

The Scout Fête was the usual cheery function. It draws support every year from all ages, because parents bring along all the younger members of the family. The amount of help given is prodigious. The object for which the annual

profits are accumulating is the purchase of a permanent camping site somewhere in the wooded part of the county, where the Troop can build their own cabin Headquarters, and which they can use throughout the year. As soon as a suitable plot and a suitable market coincide, an option will be taken on the land whether or not the full figure has been by then attained. Such an aim makes every effort worth while.

SCHOOL OFFICERS

SUMMER TERM, 1942

Head of the School: B. W. Meade.

Prefects:

B. W. Meade, K. S. Daniels, R. F. Pegg, M. G. Bedford,
F. J. W. Holwill, S. C. Honeker, M. F. Saxby, A. Thompson,
G. P. Billingham, E. A. Wells.

Prefect of Hall: R. F. Pegg.

Prefect of Library: S. C. Honeker.

Captain of Cricket: K. S. Daniels.

Secretary of Cricket: G. P. Billingham.

Secretary of Games Committee: A. Thompson.

LECTURES

"*Sagittarius*" of the "*New Statesman*," 13th March.

Satire must be an appeal to reason. It was no accident that the golden age of English satire was also the golden age of reason. It must have an element of humour about it. Its most frequent subject was an attack on tradition. The British tradition of courage and fair-mindedness was excellent, but only as long as the tradition did not assume that the sum of those qualities added up to invincibility. A country which had a tradition of invincibility would find it difficult to devise a successful strategy. "A joke worth laughing at has an idea behind it—usually a subversive idea" (Orwell), and satire usually attacked and laughed at authority. From being a Whig paper, *Punch* had become a last defence of snobbery. Gilbert would have been a great satirist if he had been serious. Mr. Shaw's *Geneva* contained some of the best contemporary satire. The speech of Sir Orpheus Midlander was an example: "We have found that we can get on in England without thinking. You see, thinking is very little use, unless you know the facts. And we never do know the political facts until 20 years after. Sometimes a 150."

H. D. Liem, Central News Agency of China, 19th March.

China had survived fighting alone against Japan for over four years because the reasons for fighting had been clearly enunciated from the beginning by the Government, and because in their civilisation and culture, 5,000 years old, they recognised an ancestor which in crisis would always reassert **itself**. **Japan had bought time with space; she had let go** points indefensible, to mobilise behind and harass the enemy with guerillas. Japan had become the mailed fist, China the glue. Japan was the fly on the fly-paper—stay there, stick firm and die, or get away with broken legs. Japan had therefore made a diversion, Malaya. China's problems were immense. There were sixty million refugees to be organised in Industrial Co-operatives. When Nanking was sacked, 20,000 Chinese soldiers were persuaded by missionaries to disarm. The Japanese mowed them down with machine-guns. "When we told you these things were happening, no notice was taken." Although China had 4½ million killed and wounded, students were kept out of the Army, because "we Chinese put learning above everything." Chinese put the classes in the order of importance: (i) scholar, (ii) farmer; (iii) worker, (iv) millionaire, (v) soldier. In China a great man returning to his native town would call, first, on his relatives, but, second, on his "teacher-father, and on the Mayor not at all." The soldiers needed to-day would return to studies. The Japanese had destroyed the colleges and schools. But they had been rebuilt in the interior, students walking 4-600 miles to get to them, and teaching as they went. Thus China would emerge from the war greater and stronger as an educated democracy than she was when in 1937 she entered it.

Professor V. H. Mottram, 26th March.

"**The Outlook of a Scientist.**" Science had "caught on" because acquisitive society saw in it a means to power, and because men acclaimed it as giving a finality of authority lacking elsewhere. Contemporary civilisation was based on the application of science to everyday life—and death. Where the classics led to authoritarianism, science could live only in an atmosphere of free enquiry. The scientist must always question his own assumptions. Science was searching after a general rule which would subsume the results of observation. But science had limitations. "It leaves us entirely unsatisfied in the soul. It is a good servant, but a bad master. It is difficult for the scientist to resist the materialistic conception that force and energy alone matter. Science can tell us nothing about art, music, or religion.

You can't get at metaphysical truth through science. Is there another way of getting at truth?" There was a line of country which when explored might alter all our conceptions—the intimations of something which was beyond what we saw, heard and tasted, which was independent of the sensory apparatus, and which Wordsworth had known about in his Ode. It was an experience which often came to people of sixteen or seventeen. It was experience at the upper reach of human power which was not yet relatable to the rest of knowledge. "Materialism fell away for ever from me after one of those intimations, or mystic experiences. There is a whole world outside science."

Professor H. C. Barnard, 30th March.

The old Geography, which consisted of learning facts, had had its origin in the needs of sailors negotiating a coast line without compasses. Facts were still important, but modern regional geography insisted on thinking behind the facts. Possibly that was why an M.P. in 1879, in the House of Commons, had said: "Geography, sir, is ruinous in its effects. Reading, writing and arithmetic are comparatively safe, but geography invariably leads to revolution." Geography had to look back to the cause on one side, and forward to the results on the other. Professor Barnard advocated regional surveys of the district around the school, and showed with diagrams the value and interest of such work undertaken by boys. Geographers were interested not only with the earth, but with man upon the earth. Thus it was possible to account for movements of population by making surveys of their different requirements from their districts at different periods of history.

Beatrice King, 5th May.

In 1897, sixty million Russian peasants were living below starvation level. In 1914, only 28 per cent. could **read and write**. Only 5 per cent. owned boots, and those were more often worn around the neck to church on Sunday than on the feet. The Soviet problem had been to produce goods which we took for granted for 140 million people. Private ownership of big things was abolished, and ownership of the country passed to the people. That meant that it became worth while to do hard work. When more goods were produced, they were cheaper, because prices were controlled. Production was planned, and since 1932 there had been no unemployment in the U.S.S.R. University students were told six months before graduation what job would need them. Because it was wasteful to let people learn jobs after they took them, people were given a two-year course

before entering industry. Inefficiency meant loss of post, and there were safeguards against incompetence. When a new law was introduced, it was issued in draft form to the country and discussed. Despite imperfections, the U.S.S.R. had proved that good work was not dependent on self-interest, had abolished unemployment and given economic security, and had revealed the untapped potentialities in all human kind.

Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of Southwark, Ascension Day, 1942.

St. Luke told of the "great joy" that the disciples had at Ascensiontide. There were four reasons for that: (i) a natural and unselfish joy that their Friend and Master was returning to His home; (ii) a conviction that He would be still closer to them in mind. It was in spirit that He rose to God, and their spirit rose with Him. He would be with them always in a spiritual world which defied space; (iii) a consolation that there would be someone they knew on the throne of Heaven. They remembered Him, and said: "God is like that." Jesus put a face on God; (iv) the sense they had that by sharing their life, Christ had sanctified everyday experience. Of every trivial duty, even cleaning shoes, they could remember that He had shared it with them, and it became charged with a new value. In our greatest act of worship we recognised the significance of common things, when we took the bread which renews physical strength, lifted it for God's blessing, and shared it among ourselves, the sign and the instrument of God's strengthening of our deeper life.

Lionel Gamlin, 27th May.

"London calling Europe." Sixty news bulletins went out every day in twenty-four different languages. The justification for the broadcast in English to Germany at 3.30 lay in its guarantee of absolute authenticity. No German listening would feel the contempt which we had when we heard Lord Haw-Haw, and thought of him as a renegade Englishman. Those who understood English were likely to be the better educated and more influential Germans, who could act on what they heard. Secret Service reports, letters from people who escaped, showed that they did listen. The public thought of the announcer as all important. He was the last link in a chain, "a mere stodge." The engineers, who, by switching over transmitters all over England every fifteen minutes in twenty seconds, made possible the waging of unceasing political warfare, got less credit than they deserved. Radio would be greatly developed after the war, and would play a vital part in reconstruction. Broadcasting would give opportunity for good careers.

Basil Wright, 3rd June.

"Are we fighting for democracy?" If by democracy was meant the world between the wars, it was to be hoped not. As a people we had failed to exercise our rights and to carry out our responsibilities. At the last General Election 30 per cent. did not vote, and we had got the governments indifference deserved. It was our bounden duty to study the revolution in which the world was, to find out which facets were distorting mirrors, and which were doors opening on the truth. International capital was becoming increasingly inefficient, while retaining its enormous power. There was a danger that its death throes would kill us. World trade had become a playground for monopoly organisations whose interests conflicted with those of the ordinary people. Wheat was destroyed at one end of the world, and ships to carry it where it was wanted were laid up in estuaries. International agreements limited production to keep prices up. Had it not been for Malayan interests, England would have had its own synthetic rubber plant in 1939. The scorched earth policy was not used at Penang, where wireless station and rice supplies for eighteen months were left intact for the Japanese, to avoid upsetting commercial interests. Independent thought for the future, taking nothing on trust; respect for tradition; recognition that we were in the middle of a world revolution; and responsibility for our own country and to people all over the world, including those against whom we were fighting, those were the qualities needed. "We are fighting for a democracy which has never yet existed, but which it is our duty and our privilege to create at whatever cost."

Canon C. E. Raven, D.D., Master of Christ's College, Cambridge, 22nd June.

A superb lantern lecture about the sea birds around the coasts of these islands. It was a moot point whether the lecturer's photographs or his language describing the habits of the birds accounted the more for the vividness of the picture he gave. We saw the cormorant, standing over its young, digesting the fish until it was in a sufficiently pulpy condition to give to the four babies. We saw them taking to the trees in Holland, which lacks their native rocks. We heard of the gannet, with its six-foot spread of wing, plunging into the water after the prey which it has seen under the water from a great height. We saw the eggs which the little tern lays beside carefully selected pebbles of the same size as her eggs. The colour pigment is put on only just before the egg

is laid, and changes after exposure. We heard of the kittiwake gulls who cross from the Isle of Man to the Newfoundland fisheries; of the guillemots who live for nine months of the year out of sight of land, and who yet rediscover the same ledge of the same rock (how do they steer?) on their return; of the quite fearless and incredibly comic puffins ("You know, God must have made them for a joke."); of the fulmar petrel, who can come racing in from the sea, but is yet able to turn at right angles in full flight without tilting.

*Canon C. E. Raven, D.D., Master of Christ's College, Cambridge
22nd June.*

There are two major tasks for the present generation of young people to consider and which they will finally have to deal with. They both arise from events that happened eighty years ago, from two "battles" that are often ignored when they are not completely unknown. The first battle took place in 1852 and was the lock-out of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, as a consequence of which Trade Unionism was given an unfortunate twist, and became synonymous with Class War, and a promising experiment in Guild Socialism was nipped in the bud. The first task is to put right the wrongs consequent upon this battle, to recreate the social order, to establish the necessity for the partnership of the present protagonists for the future common good in a new order of society. This will need a real religious drive as nothing less can deal with vested interests.

The second battle took place in 1859 in the University of Oxford and was brought about by the publication of Charles Darwin's *Origin of the Species*. This book, written by an amateur scientist who was championed by Thomas Huxley, was criticised and attacked by Bishop (Soapy Sam) Wilberforce—briefed by Owen—and although Huxley "wiped the floor with the bishop's gaiters," no victory could be won by either side. There was division and distortion. Religion became identified with antiquated and obscurantist ideas, and Science with weights and measures; Truth was split in two. The consequences of that war are responsible more than anything else for our present discontents. The greatest need for Education, and therefore the greatest hope for the future, is to recapture the wholeness of truth. That is the second task. What life means, what life is worth, and therefore how it ought to be lived.

The first task is a practical one, the social problem; the second task is an intellectual one, the bringing together of the varying ways of thinking.

ART CLUB

Dr. Sandison's lecture on "17th Century Prints and Engravings."

The uninitiated, who knew little or nothing of the distinction between a wood-cut and a line-engraving, or a line-engraving and an etching, welcomed Dr. Sandison's lucid exposition of these terms. He impressed upon his audience the essential characteristics of each method, that they might distinguish for themselves between those different ideas which are lumped together under the vague heading of "prints." The woodcut may be identified by its many blank spaces; and the line-engraving by a stiffness, which is the inevitable result of the engraver's tool being thrust across the copper block. The etching which is designed in the free-hand manner is noted for its freedom of line and gradation of shading. The mezzotint has no definite lines, and varies from darkness to light. Dr. Sandison had brought along with him a few of his large collection of prints, and used these to test his audience on the facts which he had given them. They saw Rembrandt's "Prodigal Son," Holler's Cat (a good cat, as the artist has written beneath his work), and a topographical engraving by the latter. There followed engravings of James I and Prince Henry, Milton, Donne, John Evelyn, Charles II, Laud, Bacon, and Francis Bug of Mildenhall; the infamous Doctor Lopez was depicted "compounding to poison the Queen." Among several examples of seventeenth-century printing was "A closet for Ladies and Gentlemen, on the art of preserving, conserving and candying, with the means how to make divers kinds of syrups, and all kinds of banqueting." Finally they were shown a copy of the mezzotint of the Great Executioner, by Prince Rupert, a master of his craft.

Dr. Sandison imparted to his audience something of his own enthusiasm for a hobby which is intensely absorbing and by no means expensive.

THE PARTISANS

Secretary: M. F. Saxby.

Members: Mr. Rex Warner, B. W. Meade, K. S. Daniels, S. C. Honeker, M. F. Saxby, Crumley P. H., Carr J. A., Forrest K., Vaughan P., Overell A.

Only two meetings of the Partisans have been held since Easter, at the time of writing, but two remain to be recorded from last term. J. Carr opened the first of these discussions with a lengthy, well-worded introduction concerning the causes of war, with reference to Communism as a possible

solution to the World's problem of preventing its recurrence. He divided his exposition into three main sections, the first dealing with political causes of war, the second, psychological, and the third, economic. He stressed the importance of the economic causes, and dealt with the psychological causes at no great length.

The other meeting of last term was opened by B. Meade, who read for us H. G. Wells' ten points, *The Rights of Man*. He elaborated on some of the points, indicating places where we had so far failed miserably. The general criticism was, that Wells' points did not consider enough the relation of the individual to the State, and in consequence suffered from vagueness. Although no general conclusion was reached, each member gained something, if only the crystallisation of his own views.

The first meeting of this, the summer, term was opened by S. C. Honeker, and his subject was T. S. Eliot. He plunged into a well-informed and extremely interesting exposition, which dealt with the life of Eliot, including in it many fragmentary recitations from some of the poet's typical pieces of work. The scientists among us settled deeply into their chairs and drank in the atmosphere of desolation and squalor created by Honeker's admirable recitation. The ensuing discussion was almost entirely confined to the artist members, and a certain Mr. Nieter. Historical analogy was quoted, and intellectual snobbery was scattered broadcast.

Mr. Nieter, mentioned above, proved to be a film director, and as the result of his visit, five of the more adventurous and progressive among us sacrificed a long week-end to be subjected to the nervous strain and brilliant illumination of the film studio, where we represented five-twelfths of a cross-section through the youth of the country in a discussion about the war and the peace and so on. The remainder of the cross-section was represented by seven other odd youths. Mr. Warner made his début in the film world by acting as chairman for the discussion. Apparently our three days' effort is to appear as ten minutes' worth of screen time (M. of I.).

Six hours later, the six potential stars, Mr. Rex Warner, B. Meade, P. Crumley (screen name B. Crumlin), J. Carr, R. Forrest and M. Saxby, were once again in the Headmaster's study, taking part in a discussion with the rest of the society. This discussion was opened by an outside visitor, Dr. A. Sandison, who laid magnificently before us "The Outlook of a Doctor." The discussion was vigorous, and Dr. Sandison coolly exploded, diverted, or occasionally granted most of the stock, some of the Shavian and all of the original lines of attack.

The society is to meet twice more this term.



By courtesy of the "Wimbledon Boro' News."

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL PLAY: "KNIGHT OF THE BURNING PESTLE."

JUNIOR SCHOOL PLAY, 1942.

"THE KNIGHT OF THE BURNING PESTLE"

Cast:

<i>Prologue</i>	...	...	...	J. Warner
<i>A Citizen</i>	...	...	...	L. C. Manifold
<i>His Wife</i>	...	...	...	P. Uff
<i>Ralph (his Apprentice)</i>	...	...	...	E. T. Styles
<i>Boys</i>	...	...	...	J. Ashley, B. A. Newman

<i>Venturewell (a Merchant)</i>	...	...	H. S. Peake
<i>Humphrey</i>	...	...	R. D. S. Cockman
<i>Merrythought</i>	...	...	R. H. Robinson
<i>Jasper</i>	} his Sons {	...	B. T. Schrecker
<i>Michael</i>		...	R. A. Schoen
<i>Tim</i>		...	D. H. Upcott
<i>George</i>	} Apprentices }	...	D. Bacon
<i>Host</i>		...	K. A. Ellmore
<i>Tapster</i>	...	...	D. G. Atfield
<i>Barber</i>	...	...	R. A. J. Wood
<i>Luce (daughter of Venturewell)</i>	...	...	C. R. E. Parker
<i>Mistress Merrythought</i>	...	...	E. E. Lovelock
<i>Pompiona</i>	...	...	R. A. Schoen
<i>Gallants watching the Play</i>	...	...	R. A. J. Wood, D. Thompson, F. L. Allsopp

In this play Beaumont and Fletcher may be said to be parodying not only the foibles of the general run of playwrights and audiences of their age, but also themselves. For they too, whether from choice or from the necessities imposed by the Elizabethan box-office, wrote a number of plays which come under the heading of "heroic romance," a genre of which "one of the most striking qualities . . . is its lofty improbability." One sometimes wonders when they had their tongues most firmly in their cheeks—during the writing of *Philaster*, or *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*? Be that as it may, *The Knight* is one of the most glorious pieces of fun in English literature, and it is still very up-to-date in its sense of parody and burlesque, as anyone may realise who has seen Mr. James Hadley Chase's *Get a Load of This* at the London Hippodrome. The trouble is that we have no Beaumont and Fletcher to-day who might, if they were living, instil into our current revue sketches something of that pungent boisterousness which they all too often lack.

This play is of course an obvious choice for a first attempt at a Junior School Play, not only because it was written for performance by boy actors, but also because its mood, already referred to, and the extreme looseness of its plot, allow for unnoticeable cuts and also provide every sort of smoke-

screen for breakdowns on the part of the actors or the stage management.

It was with some such ideas in mind that I came to the first performance of the Junior School Play, prepared in fact for an enjoyable sort of romp or charade based on what Beaumont and Fletcher wrote.

But, having seen the Raynes Park Shakespeare productions, I ought to have realised that we were going to see something very much better than that.

As it was, no sooner had the Citizen and his Wife made their apocalyptic invasion of the apron stage, no sooner had Ralph thrown the stage audience into appalling panic and confusion by the convulsive eloquence of his Hotspurian declamation, than it became clear that this was to be no charade, but a first-class production of the play itself.

And so it proved. The producer excelled himself in the invention of gags and stage business which added to, instead of smothering, the value of the play. The stage groupings and settings were admirably conceived; I especially liked the delicious tableau of the Grocer's Shop (Act I, Sc. III) and the exotic foliage of Waltham Forest, through whose intricacies Ralph so skilfully manœuvred his impressive and fiery steed.

I have nothing but praise for the actors, who could teach many professionals a lesson in naturalness of diction and attention to the sense of the words being spoken. Moreover, everyone on the stage was really taking part in the show all the time, particularly the Citizen's Wife, who really ran away with the acting honours all the way through. This is, of course, the key part of the play, since it is the Wife's highly feminine whims which cause so many extraordinary alterations to the plot. I was only sorry that too many of her best remarks were drowned in laughter, but this I think was chiefly the fault of the producer, who was perhaps over-anxious to keep up top speed at all costs.

The Citizen himself provided just the right mixture of down-to-earth heartiness and proud consciousness of his high status as a grocer. I was glad to note that he never knuckled under to the constant barrage of pellets and peas fired at him by the young gallants on the other side of the stage.

What I liked about Ralph (apart from his prodigious memory of none-too-easy lines) was his imperturbability. Here is a humble apprentice catapulted into the play by his Master and Mistress, who are sitting watching him on the same stage. That in itself would be difficult enough—but think of his unpopularity with the stage management! The Speaker of the Prologue (another very good performance

by the way) obviously regards both him and his sponsors with the most acute distaste. But in spite of all this he goes ahead manfully. So did the actor in question, and when he came to his famous death speech—

“When I was mortal, this my costive corse

Did lap up figs and raisins in the Strand . . .”

he splendidly overpassed the vigour of his opening declamation.

His two squires, much to my personal delight, had much in common with Laurel and Hardy. Tim's face was not a whit less expressive than the one, and the physical and mental disabilities of the other were brilliantly portrayed by George. I wonder how many people noticed the latter's ingenious and exceedingly comic by-play in the Pompiona episode? An extra bag-full of marks to the producer for this.

Pompiona herself was doubled with Michael, and the actor seized this opportunity to forget his unsympathetic part as Michael by investing Pompiona with all the exotic glories (to say nothing of the accent) of Dietrich herself. This episode, by the way, was produced exactly right, with all the evidences of a scene hastily thrown together by an exasperated stage manager.

My space is up, and the rest of the cast must be included in general praise of the production as a whole. But stay—I can't leave out Merrythought. This bibulous old rascal who seldom stops singing is a very difficult part for a boy to play; yet very well played it was, songs and all, in a make-up which included not only a halo of white hair and whiskers, but also a nose whose rubescence is certainly going to be a challenge to whoever, in *Henry IV*, plays Bardolph, himself so aptly dubbed by Falstaff “The Knight of the Burning Lamp.”

BASIL WRIGHT.

THE SPUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

“How many things by season season'd are
To their right praise and true perfection !”

So far, the Society has read *Androcles and the Lion*, *The Tempest*, *The World of Light* and *Socrates*. Summer is a time for building. We collect the materials, we test the foundations—but our vision has not yet become reality. In spite of the dogmatism of Shaw, the hollow optimism of Aldous Huxley, and the ancient cramps of Shakespeare, we have seen something in each, of men struggling to perfection. And this despite age, cynicism or pride. But in *Socrates* we saw the man of mature wisdom moving from one infinity to another through an impotent world.

The summer season is for pleasure, too. It may be that we have valued all four for their gift, not of philosophy, but of entertainment.

It is impossible adequately to praise or even thank Mr. Francis James and Miss Alice Darch for their inspiring readings in *Hamlet*. We hope to have them with us again.

SONG RECITAL

NICHOLAS HARRISON

Wednesday, June 10th.

ARIA. Revenge, Timotheus cries (Dryden)	Handel
Talisman (Goethe)	Schumann
Mein Garten (von Fallersleben)	Schumann
Wohin (Muller) Schöne Mullerin cycle	Schubert
Erkönig (Goethe)	Schubert
Toujours	Fauré
Il neige	Bemberg
The Vagabond	Vaughan-Williams
Bright is the ring of words	
Roadside Fire	Stanford
Fairy Lough	
Windy Night	
Diaphenia	Denis Browne
Sigh no more, Ladies	Aikin
The Jolly Shepherd	Warlock
Damask Roses	Quilter
Love's Philosophy (Shelley) }	

RAMBLING REFLECTIONS ON RABBITS

Do you remember the song that was popular at the pantomime a few years ago:

*"We're nice people, with nice manners,
But we've got no money at all.
We've nice habits—we keep rabbits,
But we've got no money at all" ?*

Now, just putting on one side the fact that lines two and four describe a state of affairs sadly true of the Raynes Park County School Rabbit Club, isn't it refreshing to find that someone has put on record the fact that keeping rabbits is a nice habit? and isn't it gratifying to think that the School includes it amongst its many and varied activities? Of course like most people we find it impossible to keep our habits on a high plane of nicety all the while and at Easter we suffered a severe set-back which nearly led to the collapse of the Club. It is at such times that one has misgivings about the strict truthfulness of the song.

In a text-book used by the Senior Biology Class the following sentence has often been brought to my notice: "As another example (of the increase in population of a given

species) we may instance the rabbit, of which the progeny of a single pair would number fourteen million in three years." Alas! what a misleading statement from an otherwise trustworthy book. Worked out by mathematicians according to a Geometrical Progression it may be true on paper, but how many unavoidable and avoidable conditions it ignores! Details such as cold weather at the time of breeding, too much attention on the part of the owner, too little attention (though this is rare), unnatural instincts on the part of the does, and above all too great a curiosity shown by too many people. Instead of having a larger rabbit population at the beginning of this term all these factors upset the Geometrical Progression and we increased our numbers only by ten. However, by decreasing the number of the members to a maximum of twelve by adopting the slogan "Curiosity killed the rabbit," and by putting the hutches out of bounds to everyone else, we have achieved better results at our second attempt at breeding and the *lapin en casserole* promises to appear early next term after all.

It should be mentioned that at the beginning of the Easter term we became officially the "Raynes Park County School Rabbit Club." The chief advantage of this is that we are able to purchase a ration of bran, and the chief disadvantage is that we have to have our accounts audited once a year (see lines two and four above). But we hope that even this aspect of the Club's work will be improved one day and that we may even find it necessary to appoint a Treasurer.

A word of appreciation should be given to those twelve boys who at present run the Club. They spend a great deal of time cleaning hutches and gathering food, and although they may not always carry out their work with that adroitness and quietness that seem to be the essential characteristics of a true rabbit farmer, yet they do work hard and it is sincerely hoped that they will be rewarded with enormous success.

D.E.W.

CAMERA CLUB

The members of the Camera Club, now nearly fifty strong, have enjoyed the most successful session in the club's history. Rambles form a new feature in this term's programme, good gatherings have been privileged to photograph some of the best beauty spots in Surrey, including Hampton Court, Leatherhead, Mickleham, the Druids' Grove, Guildford, Compton and the Hog's Back. Films are a problem, but fortunately we possess a fair stock for the School camera, and members have taken turns at making exposures on outings.

Lectures have been continued into this term: we have heard Mr. Haslam lecturing on subject composition and Mr.

Eric Bramall, A.R.P.S., of Bryanston School, on portraiture; both lecturers brought pictures to emphasise their remarks. A slight modification of the subscriptions has been effected, and in view of this the secretaries have found it practicable to introduce a photographic library. Individual work by members goes on every evening in the dark-room, and altogether we are becoming more experienced in the use of the camera, developing tank and enlarger.

K. DOBSON, *Secretary*.

PUPPET SHOW

On May 5th the Puppet Club entertained a select audience in the Hall.

First came a story of Robin Hood: the Wedding of *Alan-a-Dale*. It was pleasant to hear the old ballad read, though the stage dialogue was interrupted by rather lengthy passages of narrative. Indeed, some juniors murmured against this instance of *genres mêlés*, obviously associating ballads only with English lessons. We shall remember that one puppet sustained a very gallant attack upon the Bishop's robes, and that the doddering Bridegroom, cramped into resplendent armour, flapped his hands much as the prison chaplain does in the hanging scene that rewards one (or used to) for placing a penny in a slot.

A short variety show followed, composed of little scenes that individual boys had contrived, designing and constructing their own puppets. There was a charming tap-dance for two, managed entirely by one boy; the attempts of a circus clown to dive through a hoop of remarkably tough paper had something of the pathos of DUMBO. The highlight of the show was the performance of Chopin's *Polonaise in A* by a stiff, old-fashioned, white-haired gentleman at the 'grand piano appassionata.' Illusion captivated us, as we watched his hands poise themselves before crashing out the great chords, as we admired his nodding head and the life-like vibrations of his bony frame.

The audience complimented the artistes with one criticism—that the show was not nearly long enough.

19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT TROOP

From the Troop Log (omitting formal meetings each week):

Apr. 15-18 Easter Camp at Horsley.
29 Pathfinding and tracking on Wimbledon Common.

- May 8 Troop Representatives' Meeting in the Den.
- 9 Visit to London Imperial Headquarters, with a visit to Lord Somers, Chief Scout, and Hadyn Dimmock, editor of the *Scout*. Tour around the West End.
- 13 Parents' Social Evening in the Common Room.
- 16 Stamp Club meets and prepares for the Fête. Parents' Committee Meeting.
- 17 Owls cycle to Ripley and towards the Guildford area, bathing and wide activities before returning in the evening. Seagulls cycle all day to Westerham and district in Kent.
- 27 Pathfinding activities in Raynes Park.
- Whitsun Otters camp at Horsley.
- May 30 Fête Committee Meeting.
- June 6 London Visit.
- 13 Annual Summer Fête establishes records in numbers, teas service, sideshows and final proceeds. Reservation Camp.
- 19 Troop bathing parade at Cheam Baths.
- 19-20 Reservation Camps.
- 21 Cycling-all-day party to Maidenhead district. S.M. hunts for camping sites south of the Hog's Back, Peper Harow and Waverley Abbey.
- 26 Camp Fire.

From the Scribe's Notebook

The Spring Term Patrol Competition was won by the Eagles (210), closely followed by the Owls (205). Up to the moment, the Seagulls are leading the Summer Term Contest with 254 points, with a tail (or a tale?) in the Kingfishers with only 37.

The following Proficiency Badges have been passed and awarded:

- AMBULANCE.—Nunns, Ivins.
- CYCLIST.—Kentish, Pead, Newman.
- HANDYMAN.—Collins, Kentish, Strapp, Pead.
- ELECTRICIAN.—Newman, Collins, Ivins, Kentish, Pead, Strapp.
- FIREMAN.—Ivins, Kentish, Pead.
- MISSIONER.—Kentish.
- READER.—Nunns, Strapp.
- NATIONAL SERVICE.—Pead.
- ARTIST.—Strapp.

We have new members and recruits in Cheatele, Brice, Price, Bullen, Standish, Philips, Godwin, Newman, Plumridge, Brigden. The present numbers are higher than present staffing and Patrols can manage; in the near future there will be much scope for potential leaders. There has been a welcome increase in the work of preparing for badges and in the consequent awards. Tenderfoot scouts still take far too long over Second Class work; the summer is the time to do the outdoor activity tests.

This year, arrangements are being made to hold a summer camp somewhere in Surrey or Hampshire in order to avoid the excessive expenditure on rail fares, and the time and energy spent in travelling long distances. Two possible sites, at Waverley Abbey and at Peper Harow, provide such admirable sites in the loveliest of Surrey's countryside that even in peace-time it seems absurd to travel farther each year. After a series of camps, Marazion in Cornwall, Padstow, and Whiddon Down in Devon, the lesser-known parts of the home counties still offer beauty and adventure.

To Mr. Milton we owe much for the kindly way he has placed the woods at Horsley at our disposal and for the hospitality we have received on each of the many camps held there during the autumn and this early summer.

The Annual Summer Fête

Once again we braved the difficulties of war-time, of rationing, of licences, and of shortage of time and commodities, to prevent a break in the succession of summer fêtes. But we not only held another fête; we broke all records! There were the usual sideshows and stalls, many new exhibitions of ingenuity and fun; Katinka quietly told the future of the anxious, the rifle range called for steadiness of hand and eye; ices and minerals cooled the heated, revolving darts cooled the rash; energy was thrown into the crazy kitchen while nerves were tested by electric bells; cover the coin or roll a penny, fill the bucket or kick the ball, back the winner or race with mice, smash the "axis" or put on the green, were calls as irresistible as seeing the "cherry coloured cat" or paying respects to "the little man."

The Ministry of Information provided a well-balanced programme of films, a restful and instructive digression from the fun fair without. Mr. Francis White entertained in an hour of conjuring surprises. Teas were served, and it is amazing to put on record that in serving over five hundred teas every item of food served was given freely by parents and friends. Equal generosity was seen in the gifts for the white elephant stall, the general and plants stall, and in the cake and box of chocolates for the raffles, the philatelic corner

and in the bran tub. Then, of course, there was that host of willing and energetic helpers who manned the stalls and served the teas, and another equally important band who came on Sunday and, armed with brooms and boxes, restored the building and grounds to their normal state with amazing thoroughness. In Mr. Newsom's regrettable absence, Mr. Nunns took the platform as an auctioneer of no mean gifts. The show was a fitting climax to an energetic and happy day; there was not a dull moment as the hammer fell with equal enthusiasm on plants and plates, on sherry and waistcoats, on cats and mice.

Our Treasurer had a busy day. The gross takings, from which expenses have to be met, amounted to no less than the surprising and gratifying amount of £80.

Each year from the proceeds of the Fête we have sent a donation to charity of national importance: this year it will go to the London Scout Home, a memorial to Baden-Powell, to be erected after the War. Each year the fund has paid the camping fees for three or four chosen boys. Equipment has to be bought to replace wear and tear, or to widen our sphere of work. In these times, the very gear we want is also required for the Services and is very costly. This, too, has been provided from the Fête funds. But we have quite deliberately set aside each year a balance to be reserved for our real major objective—our own permanent camp site somewhere down in Surrey. For several years we have visualised an isolated wooded plot of land, well away from any built-up area, but reasonably accessible from School, for week-end camps, where we can develop a site, build a cabin, house our gear, and to which members of the Troop can go at all times of the year. There they may sleep and work and play; there they may live a full life, healthy and useful. Now that this reserve has grown larger, we are bold enough to make the project known. The ideal spot has to be found, the time for a good market chosen, and the funds raised to a level to make the project possible. The magnificent response by parents and friends to our Fête this year has brought our objective within sight already.

NATIONAL SAVINGS GROUP

The most important event in the Spring term was the Merton and Morden Warships Week in March. With the total aim of all the Schools at £5,000 we set our own target at £300 for the week. It seemed an ambitious figure but by Thursday our aim was achieved, and the final total on Saturday was £549 1s.6d. The School is to be congratulated on its splendid response which put us at the head of the list.

During the week it fell to the lot of the Group Secretary to purchase and distribute over 3,000 sixpenny stamps, 270 half-crown stamps, and fill in 156 certificates. Form collectors had a busy time, and their arithmetical powers were well tested! But all troubles were soon smoothed over and every one worked with a will and contributed to the excellent result.

HOUSE NOTES

Cobb's

House Captain: R. F. Pegg.
Vice-Captain: M. G. Bedford.
School Prefect: A. Thompson.

Hockey

Captain: A. Thompson.

Over-confidence and the sticky ground combined to cause us at half-time in the match against Halliwell's to be losing by two goals to one. However, we recovered in the second half, and though our defence was sorely tried, we finished with the narrow victory of 3—2.

Against Gibb's we again had a very close and enjoyable game, and succeeded in winning by the only goal scored.

Thus this year we have won the Hockey Cup for the first time. We congratulate the team on their well-earned victory.

They played well together and have shown how valuable the team spirit is to the House.

Cricket

Captain: A. Thompson.

We have only played one match so far and have once more reached the final of the knock-out competition. Our opponents, Halliwell's, chose to bat first on a good wicket. They started well and Daniels was soon piling up runs in a dangerous way, until he was smartly caught at point by Thompson C. Our fielding played no mean part in the victory. After Daniels left, however, the remaining 7 wickets fell for 4 runs, and we were left with 48 to beat. Ruff, after taking 8 wickets for 23 runs, gave us a flying start and we quickly passed their total with 5 wickets in hand. Scores: Halliwell's 48 (Daniels 27; Ruff 8 for 23); Cobb's 58 for 5; Thompson C. 17 not out, Ruff 17).

Swimming

Captain: M. G. Bedford.

The competition for highest qualifying points is not sufficiently advanced for an accurate assessment of the final result, but a review of the situation is very encouraging.

We are lucky in having more than our share of senior swimmers, and a very promising junior team, led by Hender, whose performance in the Sports is eagerly awaited. Altogether, we may say that last year's result must and will be greatly improved upon, and our swimming reputation restored.

In order to celebrate our double victory in rugger and hockey, we held a House Supper. The Captains of the other Houses were our guests for the evening. Clark, with great ingenuity, devised a treasure-hunt, which worked off much energy, and in some cases a surfeit of treacle and ginger pop. The prize of a slab of chocolate given by Pegg and a silver coin was divided between the two successful hunters, Ruff and Hender. Rounders in a drizzle failed to damp our spirits.

Valete

R. F. PEGG, our House Captain, is leaving this term. He was School Prefect for two years, Captain of the School Rugger XV in their unbeaten record season, played for the School Hockey XI, and Flight-Sergeant in the A.T.C. He obtained Higher Certificate and came within appreciable distance of an Exhibition in Mathematics at Cambridge, whither he will go up in October—to Christ's College. To him is due in large part our recent successes under his vigorous leadership. His foresight, promptitude and decision have stood us in good stead and augur well for his future career, in which we wish him all the best—we hope to see him here often in those long vacations.

MARCHANT has been here since the School's foundation, and is an original member of the House, and has been two years in the Science VI.

PENGILLY A. H. is another original member of the School and House and has been two years in the Science VI and a cadet in the A.T.C. He won his School Hockey and Rugger colours and played for the 2nd XI at Cricket.

GRIGGS leaves to continue draughtsmanship and hopes to join the R.A.F. as soon as may be.

To all these we extend our best wishes and hopes for their future.

Gibb's

Captain: F. J. W. Holwill.

Vice-Captain: G. P. Billingham.

Captain of Cricket: G. P. Billingham.

After our first House hockey match against Halliwell's, in which none of our team was in their best form, we were

forced to meet Cobb's without our best player and captain, G. P. Billingham. He was unfortunately taken ill with an attack of scarlet fever which prevented him from playing in any of the succeeding House matches. We are pleased to say that he has now completely recovered and is leading our cricket team to what we hope will be triumph; nevertheless, his absence from the hockey team was a great handicap. In our match against Cobb's every member of the team played an excellent game, and throughout the first half we did all the attacking, except for one chance break-through in which Cobb's managed to score. Twice we came within an ace of scoring, but both times by sheer bad luck we failed. The second half was a much more equal game and neither side succeeded in scoring. Thus by unfortunate chance we lost the game by 1—0. Little can be said of our other two matches, against Milton's and Newsom's; they were both played in what was virtually a quagmire and neither side had an opportunity of playing their best game. We managed to win both matches by a narrow margin, and so were placed third.

Four days after playing our first House cricket match against Newsom's we still do not know whether we won, lost or drew. Due to a regrettable occurrence, we had no score-book, and so were forced to rely on our opponents' scorer, who, however, was not able to make his figures tally, and by adding the runs one way we were credited with 32 against Newsom's 31, and by adding them another way we had 25 runs against Newsom's 32. Whatever may be the final ruling on the game, it was undoubtedly the most exciting one played between our two Houses. We batted first and were all out for what was almost certainly 32 runs. Newsom's went in and, when they still had four wickets to fall, they needed only seven runs to win. Our fielders did brilliant work to keep down the runs and to get the remaining batsmen out, and with one wicket to fall Newsom's had reached what was believed to be 32 runs. Then a full-toss ball from White took the remaining wicket. The game was thought to be a draw, but, as has been said above, after checking over the score, it was impossible to decide which side had really won and we now anxiously await the decision of the Games Committee. [The Committee ruled that the game be replayed.]

Halliwell's

Captain : K. S. Daniels.

Vice-Captain : Bell J. A.

If success is to be measured solely by the number of cups won, then this has not been a successful year. Not that we have not achieved anything in the sporting and dramatic

fields, ill luck more than bad play caused us to be placed fourth in rugger; a too ambitious choice in the House Play was the making of our downfall in the competition; hockey was more successful and we nearly gained first place, finally positioned second; and in cricket we tied third. But material trophies are not real measures of the success of a House. Cups are won by the few, not the many—four members of the first eleven do more to achieving this end than does the enthusiasm of the whole House. This enthusiasm, however, is what is wanted. Eagerness and a will to help on the part of everyone are the qualities desired for a united House. Individuality will shine through, but the House as a whole must also have a character of its own. The House then becomes like a coloured printed picture composed of different dots, each of a different colour possessing its own individual characteristics, while producing as a whole a pattern that is different from any one dot and yet contains it. To a certain degree we have achieved this. There are still a few who limit their House activities to an attendance on Thursday morning, but they are only a few. Next year the latent or developing capabilities of those boys now in the Junior or Middle part of the House will have developed, and I think we can look forward with not undue confidence towards the next year.

Two hockey results were not recorded in last term's *Spur*. We were unfortunate in losing to Cobb's, 2—3, after a score of 2—1 in our favour at half-time. Against Newsom's we gained a fairly easy victory, 6—0.

Cricket

Captain : K. S. Daniels. *Secretary* : Bell J. A.

A bye in the first round of the competition put us straight into the semi-finals, where we were drawn to play against Cobb's. We were compelled to play on the Junior wicket which was extremely hard and bumpy with a very short boundary on one side. We won the toss and chose to bat. On the whole our batting was poor and our last seven wickets fell for only four runs. Our final score was 48. I should just like to mention Smith H. A. for the plucky way he stood up to the bowling of both Thompson and Ruff. In our bowling we were just as unlucky as in our batting. Cobb's hit out from the very beginning and Ruff and Pengilly brought the score to over 30 before they were out. Then wickets fell fairly quickly, and it looked as if we might still win. But the two Thompson brothers dragged Cobb's up again and carried their score well past ours. The final scores were Halliwell's 48, Cobb's, 58 for 5 declared. Cobb's won by five wickets.

Swimming

Captain : E. A. Wells.

The Swimming Sports are yet to come but people can qualify now. We are, at the moment of writing, top in the qualifying points, but if we are to make sure of the cup we must increase our lead still further. We can only look forward to the Swimming Sports and hope for success.

Another School year will soon have sped and the time for major partings has come round again. K. S. Daniels, the fourth Captain the House has had, leaves to go to Christ's College, Cambridge, to read Mathematics. He is one of the few left in the School who have been in it since the day it began, and in the House from its beginnings—nearly seven years ago. Through all that time he has been closely connected with all House activities and, being one of the two boys in the history of the School so far to have been awarded triple colours (Hockey 1938, Cricket 1939, Rugger 1940), he has been during the two years of his captaincy the mainstay of the House teams. Not only in games is this so : he was in the first House Play—*Rococo*—given in the Easter term of 1936 before the stage had the apron built, and he finally produced two of the House productions. For all the work he has put into House activities he has our thanks, and takes with him our sincere good wishes for his future.

E. A. Wells is another of the few who started with the School and is the only other who has been in the House since it was started. We shall always remember his burly form, red hair and, if our memory holds good, usually bloody nose, as characteristics of House rugger matches.

Others who are going are: Smith A. H., who came into the School in the VI Form, and who has only been two years with us. Fabian A., always one of the quieter members of the House. Sleigh F. J., a tough indefatigable rugger player and a keen hockey half whom neither captain nor spectators could keep in place, and Sorrell R. H. All these have become in recent years the stuff of which an established body is made and we wish them well in whatever they do and wherever they go, trusting we shall see them from time to time.

H.F.H.

Milton's

Captain : B. W. Meade.

Vice-Captain : S. C. Honeker.

Hockey

Our team was not good enough to win the Hockey Cup this year, and, in fact, we were beaten in all our four matches. Newsom's beat us by one goal after a very hard-fought game,

and Gibb's, after a still better and harder game on a bad pitch, beat us by three goals to two. However, B. W. Meade must be congratulated on his attempts to make up a good and united team, and we hope that they will lead to better hockey in the House next year.

Cricket

It was rather unfortunate that we were drawn to play against Newsom's in the first round, but nevertheless we had no cause to be disheartened at the end of their innings, because, much to our surprise, we had succeeded in dismissing our opponents with only 64 runs to their credit. Read, our captain, is to be congratulated on his bowling and positioning of the field. Faulkner appears to have been a dark horse, for he succeeded in taking two wickets, and bowled well throughout all his overs. Reuter and Newcombe must be mentioned for their good fielding, the former at point, and the latter in the out-field, where he held a hard catch, and from where he took the last wicket by a brilliant throw-in which went straight to the stumps.

When we went in to bat it was an even chance which team would win, and indeed we saw no reason why we should not beat Newsom's. But our confidence proved to be our undoing, for when the tenth wicket fell our score was only 32 runs, Read and Rogers having done practically all the scoring.

At the time of writing members of the House, under the leadership of the swimming captain, M. F. Saxby, are practising very hard for the coming Swimming Sports. Having been defeated in the cricket, we must put up a good show in these sports, and to do this it is imperative that we obtain the maximum number of qualifying points.

At the end of last term a House Supper was held for the double purpose of celebrating our fourth victory in gaining the Dramatic Cup and of bidding farewell to our House Master, who was likely to leave at any moment. After the House Captain had presented Mr. Milton with our farewell gift to him, we welcomed Mr. Beecroft as House Master during Mr. Milton's absence.

But, much to our surprise, when we came back for this term, we discovered that Mr. Milton had not left, and had even had the audacity to return to School as our House Master, and, moreover, he is still with us. But we are all very pleased that he is still at School, and only hope that he will continue to remain with us.

As usual, our House is well represented in this year's School Play, in which the following are taking part: Honeker, Forward, Schrecker, Withers, Green, Higgins and Williams.

It seems likely that we are to lose Meade, Honeker, Rogers, Withers, Stapleton, Reuter and Smith D. F. at the end of this term, and possibly Forward and Higgins as well. The list itself will show what a serious gap these boys will leave at the top of the House, and we shall have to rely very heavily on others who have not yet tasted responsibility. Meade and Honeker, in particular, have our best thanks for their services, and for the glory that we have enjoyed vicariously through their outstanding work as prefects. We shall miss them enormously.

Newsom's

Captain: Poulter N. T.

Vice-Captain: Cattell G. M.

We are a peculiar House, and know it; so much out of the ordinary, one might add amid the sneers of the four "other" Houses, that on several occasions in the past our House notes have been something more than a lifeless chronicle of rugby and hockey matches, inaccurately and partially described, including embarrassing references to members of the team, who themselves are unaware of having done anything worthy of record.

Quotations to prove these remarks might belie our undoubted goodwill in certain quarters where the House's outstanding reputation is not only recognised, but also deplored; so we'll let the matter drop.

Nevertheless that does not excuse us from giving some account of our activities since the last *Spur* was published. In the space of three months we have played three hockey matches, with a team varying from eight to ten men, won our first cricket House match, and been the innocent cause of a Games Committee meeting. The less said about hockey in a summer term, or any other term for that matter, the better; but we did manage to beat Milton's, and the two defeats, against Gibb's and Halliwell's, can be blamed on the weather and bad luck, the team itself, of course, being irreproachable.

Cricket, however, is in a different class, and consequently deserves more attention. For the fourth time in succession Newsom's was drawn in the preliminary round of the knock-out competition, which might be unfair if we were concerned in a race for the Cock House Cup, but being several points behind everybody else, we will restrain criticism. Anyway, we easily defeated Milton's, and so passed into the semi-final, where the fun started. To Gibb's total of 32, we replied with 30 for nine, according to the score-board, and the last batsman, having added two more runs, relaxed and promptly

came out. But since a tie seemed an unsatisfactory result to some, the score-book was examined, only to disclose a hopeless muddle. Fortunately the Games Committee decided that the match should be replayed.

Beyond cricket, alas, we have little to hope for in the future. Yet to end on a note of indifferent gloom is, perhaps, a fault, so let us take consolation from wishing good luck to all who leave the House at the end of this term, and congratulating Mr. Newsom on his recovery from a very serious illness.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NOTES

Probably without knowing what he was letting himself in for the Headmaster asked for opinions about the *Spur*. The most pregnant criticism was that, although some 130 boys in the Junior School read the *Spur*, its pages contained no record of their activities and therefore I am blossoming forth with a page dedicated to purely Junior School activities. For it is a fact that we have a life of our own and without us as a workshop for apprentices, the Middle School, far less the Senior School, could never exist at all.

As an expression of, and stimulus to, our individual life nothing has been more important than the Junior School Play. No one has yet analysed why a body of people united in common dramatic endeavour achieve a unity of purpose and a common denominator of self-sacrifice as great as any Rugby XV or Cricket XI. But it is true. Therefore the actors, the stage hands, the scene shifters, the stage manager and prompter and—if he could have been presumed to have had feelings—the very wooden horse himself, all contributed to the end of enriching the lives of everybody who came to laugh at and with the play. The fact that the total expenses of production were less than £5 and that we were able to contribute, from our two performances, more than £30 to the General School Fund—which hardly knows where to turn for an honest penny—was due to the generosity and labour of such friends of the School as Mrs. Ridley and to the adequacy of the School wardrobe. The dramatic success was largely due to the happy choice of play. We shall hope to find such another and we are exploring the whole field of Elizabethan drama to find a worthy successor to the delightful fooling of Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher, but it cannot be an easy job. Even so it is certain that the Junior School Play has come to stay as a fixture in the School life, although in 1943 it will probably be found more expedient to make the production in the Summer, as opposed to the Easter term.

Games have flourished in that nearly 100 boys play cricket and several very promising cricketers are developing. Our fixtures are not frequent owing to the difficulty of obtaining Junior School matches, but four games have been fixed with King's College Junior School, whose beautiful ground and swimming bath we have already gratefully enjoyed once this term. On this occasion, although we lost both games, they were closely fought and our hosts' teams got a good run for their money, the scores being 103 against 110 for 7 wickets in the 1st XI game and 53 against 63, both sides all out, in the 2nd XI. Two of our stalwarts, C. R. E. Parker (who captains the 1st XI) and D. M. Croft, both of A2, have played for the Colts and have, in some measure, repaid for those boys of under 14 in the Middle School who have helped out with our own XI's. V. C. Hodkin of A4 promises well and may also find himself playing for the Colts whilst still in the Junior School. Inter-Club games and Club nets are another developing feature of worth.

One of the notable features of the term has been a lecture given to the Junior School by Captain Desjardins, Legionnaire d'Honneur, a member of the Free French Forces. Captain Desjardins gave a simple and delightful account of his escape from Bordeaux—where he was working in a News Agency at the time of the French capitulation—via St. Jean de Luz to Plymouth and of his subsequent service under Général de Gaulle in Brazzaville and French Equatorial Africa. He emphasised the great importance of Free French sympathies in the French African possessions, particularly in the supply of material to our Middle East Forces, and was of the opinion that the whole of the French Colonial Empire in Africa would be openly on the side of the Allies were it not for the small minority of fascist-minded admirals and generals in high places. Other interesting points from his lecture were his description of how they had utilised the excellent aural memory of the natives who, though completely ignorant of the French language except for its alphabet, had been trained to take long and complex radio messages in morse code without understanding a word of their content; and also the fact that the Governor-General of the Free French Cameroons is a negro—a noteworthy example of lack of racial prejudice. The lecturer ended by an exhortation to his audience that they, who would be largely responsible for the continued building of the peace, should make one of their objects to make manifest the feelings of mutual sympathy and respect that exists between ourselves and the French nation. Incidentally Captain Desjardins discovered during his talk that one of his fellow-refugees on the ship in which he escaped was a boy in the audience.

Finally, if one may end these notes with an exhortation, we must not forget that the privilege of being a corporate entity in the School cannot continue without a corresponding pride and consciousness of achievement. The urging of this responsibility divulges not only on our excellent Form and Club captains—S. Priestman A4, J. A. Foster A3, J. C. Taylor A2, F. D. Cook A1; E. T. Styles A1, the Athenian captain, Allsopp A2, the Trojan captain, and G. E. Green A1, captain of the Spartans, but on the corporate pride of the whole Junior School. Let us see that we keep worthy of our own place in the *Spur*.

P.S.

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

We have now passed the four thousand mark in the number of books acquired by the School Library. The exact figure at the moment is 4,124. Of these 1,414 are fiction, 2,710 non-fiction. It must be remembered that not all of these books have survived the six years of hard usage. Withdrawals amount to 429 fiction and 102 non-fiction. Losses are 91 fiction and 68 non-fiction. Those who are inclined towards mathematics can calculate how many books there are now on the Library shelves. The librarian wishes only to point out that the rate of destruction among fiction is rather more than four times that among non-fiction.

A start has been made with the final re-classification. Books in the Arts and Crafts section were dealt with by an eager group of boys mostly from Form A2. It took a long time. The re-grouping of the next section (History) will take even longer, but it is a job which needs doing and which is enjoyable by the right sort of boy. Boys have done many odd jobs in and around the Library. Even the task of cutting the pages of a new book was accomplished with evident enjoyment. The page-cutter-in-chief is Plumridge of A2, whose labours through the eight volumes of North's *Plutarch* were a model of diligence in obscure places. Shelf tickets have been manufactured with indefatigable zeal from old index cards by Panton of A4 and Woolsey of Form III. Evans of Form V has installed himself head carpenter to the Library. He has saved more than one chair from a premature disablement and accomplished the seemingly impossible in curing a table of its instability. This is not to imply that the furniture is not holding its own with the ravages of time. Mr. Moore's designs have been proved to combine strength and grace.

The *Library Review* continued its monthly appearances. Perhaps its literary standard was not quite up to the high

level set by the previous year, but it penetrated into the United States of America and maintained its popularity among the eighty-odd boys of the School who regularly buy their copies every month.

Presentations during the year have been on a more generous scale than ever before in the history of the Library. The number of books presented at Open Night exceeded all previous records. Mr. Basil Wright gave a hundred *Everymans*. Mr. Rudolph Messel has presented many volumes which ennoble the shelves: The Nonesuch *Milton*, the Nonesuch *Blake*, the eight volumes of the Shakespeare Head, *North's Plutarch*, the Nonesuch *Ottway*, and the Nonesuch *Vanbrugh* are books which would grace the shelves of the most fastidious library. The Headmaster presented editions of Milton and Dante with the illustrations of Doré. All these are things of beauty to be handled with care and admiration. Mrs. Lawrence Wright gave us what we could never have acquired with our limited funds—a set of the *Dictionary of National Biography*. (They were clearly designed for the School Library: the 24 volumes fitted exactly into one shelf of the Reference section.) From the same source came a fine edition of George Eliot. Other benefactors of the Library have been legion: the parents of Open Night and the Old Boys who took advantage of the same occasion to make their presentations; and many others from the School Gardener to the Chairman of the Governing Body. We thank them all, Without them the School and the Library would be a poorer place.

CRICKET, 1942

One of the most important events in the history of the cricket in the School occurred when Mr. Ratcliffe, Cambridge blue and once holder of the record for the highest score in the 'Varsity matches, offered to coach the School this season. As yet it has chiefly been the 1st XI who have reaped the benefits of his abilities, but Colts and Juniors have also had their chance. The improvement in the batting of the 1st XI has been quite obvious, and the knowledge of this improvement has added confidence both to the individual members of the team and to the team as a whole. We express our sincerest gratitude to Mr. Ratcliffe for the help he has given the cricket of the School.

Additional facilities for play which the School has acquired this season are two more cricket pitches on the Alliance Sports Ground. Although these pitches are far from perfect, possessing a bad surface and one very short boundary, they serve a very useful purpose with Junior Games. It

means that three games can be played at one time, whereas last year only one could be played.

1st XI

At the moment of writing the 1st XI have played only three matches, the game against City Freeman's School being scratched. Of the matches played two have been won and one lost. As in former years the success of the team has depended on the few outstanding cricketers rather than the work of the team as a whole. Moreover, there are some younger members who are potentially good batsmen or good bowlers. It is to be hoped that they will prove our confidence in them before the end of the season.

G. P. Billingham has once again proved himself to be a brilliant bat, scoring 59, the first fifty of the season, against Epsom College. His batting was a delight to watch and he scored eight fours and one six in the process. It is pleasant to think that he will probably be here for two more seasons' cricket.

Poulter N. T. has developed into one of the best bowlers the School has yet produced. He is fast and accurate and his leg-trap, consisting of three short-legs, has dismissed many a good batsman. His batting has improved, and we continue to expect much hard hitting from him.

Wright K. W. is a splendid left-hand slow bowler who can turn the ball in either direction. His usual bowl is a leg-break which comes off the pitch with a deadly speed.

Rogers, Rendall and Ruff are all capable of making runs, and Thompson C. is developing into a good fast bowler.

The team as it stands is: K. S. Daniels, G. P. Billingham, Poulter, Wright, Rogers, Rendall, Ruff, Thompson C., B. W. Meade, Thompson A., Potton.

Much of the success of the 1st XI has been due to the inspiration of K. S. Daniel's captaincy, which has been particularly noticeable in the excellence and keenness of the fielding. His accurate and intelligent bowling and lively batting have never failed to set an example to the whole team.

Nor has his interest been confined to the 1st XI, for even the weakest junior has benefited from his enthusiastic lunch-hour coaching; and he has kept a sympathetic eye on cricket throughout the School.

Altogether, Daniels is to be congratulated on the way in which he has tackled a difficult task.

Result of matches up to date are :

v. Epsom County School. Epsom County School 46 (Daniels 4 for 10, Poulter 3 for 14); R.P.C.S. 35. Lost by 11 runs.

- v. Sutton County School. Sutton County School 35 (Poulter 7 for 17, Wright 2 for 4); R.P.C.S. 50 for 4 declared (Poulter 30). School won by 6 wickets.
- v. Epsom College 3rd XI. R.P.C.S. 155 for 8 declared (Billingham 59); Epsom College 32 (Daniels 6 for 10, Poulter 4 for 5). School won by 123 runs.

2nd XI

The 2nd XI have played five matches, of which they have won four. The results are given below:

- v. Epsom County School 2nd XI. R.P.C.S. 42; Epsom County School 39. Won by 3 runs.
- v. Sutton County School 2nd XI. R.P.C.S. 58 (Bell 32); Sutton County School 67 (White 5 for 18). Lost by 9 runs.
- v. Epsom College 4th XI. Epsom College 107; R.P.C.S. 112 for 9 declared (White 43 not out). Won by 1 wicket.
- v. Surbiton County School 2nd XI. R.P.C.S. 59; Surbiton County School 41 (White 5 for 20, Potton 4 for 11). Won by 18 runs.
- v. Epsom County School 2nd XI. R.P.C.S. 36; Epsom County School 21 (Read 6 for 7). Won by 15 runs.

Colt XI

- v. Sutton County School Colts. Sutton County School 80; R.P.C.S. 35. Lost by 45 runs.
- v. Kingston Grammar School Colts. R.P.C.S. 132 (Brebner 69); Kingston Grammar School 17 and 11 (Croft 4 for 0, Robinson 2 for 0, Langford 3 for 2, Smith 3 for 5). Won by an innings and 104 runs.
- v. St. George's College Colts. R.P.C.S. 141; St. George College 57 (Smith 4 for 20). Won by 84 runs.

DIGGING FOR VICTORY

The vegetable section of the garden this year looks very different from last year. First of all, the individual plots have disappeared and we now have rows and rows of the different vegetables in groups. Secondly, we are not quite such raw amateurs as we were last year as we have learned a lot from our earlier mistakes and still more from Buckhurst's admirable lectures during the winter.

The severe and prolonged frosts killed off nearly a thousand cabbages that were put in during the autumn, and the long spring drought prevented the parsnips from appearing **except the odd plant here and there**. But we sowed more cabbages and turned the parsnip section into fresh ground for extra lettuces.

So far we have only tasted the lettuces and radishes but soon we hope to have plenty of carrots, swedes, turnips, beets, peas and beans. The newest adventure is a fairly large celery trench which we think we have prepared in the proper way.

Some of our labour has gone to Mr. Cobb this term to help him with the sunken garden he is making in the quad, and in return he has let us put tomato plants in the most sheltered spots as well as in the rose garden.

Our thanks are due again to Buckhurst, who most kindly took a small party over the John Innes Experimental Grounds at Merton one very hot Saturday afternoon. It was a most fascinating experience and a very real practical help to see things as they should look.

SURREALISM

Surrealism in pictorial art means in its simplest terms painting entirely impossible or imaginary scenes as opposed to real or possible ones. The picture by Breughel of children's games is possible but improbable—it *might* happen that so many children should be playing so many different games in the village square. But his drawing called "Big Fish eating Little Fish," in which every type of creature is seen preying upon its smaller victims, including the rich man eating the poor man, already partakes of the entirely imaginary, the surrealistic.

But this is still too simple a definition, and we must return to the history of the movement to understand better the meaning of surrealism. The impressionists were the most extreme of realists: their painting was based entirely on what could be observed with the eye, the accidental coming of one shape against another. Outlines, which do not exist in nature, being a convention of drawing with a pointed instrument, were discarded, and replaced by those small accents of light and dark which do in fact occur, and which served the purpose of drawing equally well. Cézanne criticized Manet: "He is nothing but an eye."

Cézanne's work was no less based on what he observed. He simply left out more, simplified more, and stressed the tangible solidity of objects. His rocks weigh tons. His houses have deep foundations. There is nothing fantastic or imaginary here.

Picasso, the leader of the Post Impressionists, is no less a realist. All his work is based on observation, increasingly so as he moved from his circus scenes and bull-fights to those abstract paintings which are nothing but distillations of observed shapes, colours and patterns put down in their

simplest form to make striking designs. These painters had ideas, imagination, feeling, but they were all extremists, their eyes turned upon the outer visible world.

Then Salvador Dali, a painter whose works if obtainable we hope to display upon the Picture of the Week board, started to produce his fantastic landscapes. Here strange figures, often without any features on their blank faces, wander on huge rock-strewn plains; among ruins (prophetic forecasts of the coming war?) jets of water gush from hard rocks or apparently empty cisterns; grinning faces peer out of tree shapes; and in the engravings of Max Ernst waves break in drawing-rooms and ships sail through vast gloomy halls.

These images are not new; they are derived from a familiar world—the world of dreams. It is a world where we float down staircases, where one figure is two people at the same time, where a room which is perhaps a familiar classroom is peopled by acquaintances out of the dim past. It is a world above reality, made out of twisted fragments of real life, yet having a strange significance and meaning of its own. Such is the world of surrealism, or superrealism.

The theorists of the movement claimed “Alice in Wonderland” as their model; and it was soon clear that the methods of surrealism had long been used in caricature and humorous drawing, as in those drawings by Bateman or Pont, in which the family portraits on the wall lean out of their frames and interfere with the actions and conversations of their descendants. But the new study of the psychologists had given a new impetus to the idea, and in the pictures of Dali, of Max Ernst and of Chirico a new dream world, melancholy, weird, often repulsive as dreams are repulsive, often ideally beautiful, was created.

Many cheap imitators arose to discredit the movement. The tricks of the incongruous objects was exploited, and it was enough to paint a boot with toes or a herring on a sofa to be called a surrealist. But these imitators only produced tricks, and failed to evoke the poetic and romantic moods of Chirico, which were portrayals of real dreams and experiences of universal significance, like the dream images which appear to lie dormant beneath everybody’s daily consciousness, symbols of hopes and fears which we have apparently all inherited from the past.

The two dominant emotions of the dream world are fear and hope; hope of ideal happiness, fear of what would happen if the logic of the familiar world were broken down. In *Gulliver’s Travels* and *Alice in Wonderland* we find the idea of a change in size used: how peculiar, how strange,

how terrifying or beautiful the world might appear if we were ten times larger or ten times smaller than we are!

It is an endless and fascinating subject. In conclusion it can be stated that the surrealists introduced into painting ideas which had proved fruitful in literature, and thus considerably widened the scope of their art. But probably in the future the methods of surrealism will chiefly serve the purposes of humorous drawing.

G.M.H.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Boys of the School should consider themselves extremely fortunate to be taught amid excellent reproductions of good paintings such as the School possesses. To further an interest in these, and other paintings in general, the “Picture of the Week” was conceived by Mr. Haslam and myself. For purposes of exhibition a notice board was procured in the Masters’ corridor. This has since swollen into an impressive glass-fronted cabinet which enables books containing reproductions to be opened at any specific page for exhibit.

As regards choice of artist, we have not endeavoured to work through any special schools of painting; or to place painters in chronological order week by week. But rather the artists chosen have been selected to contrast as much as possible their different mannerisms and choice of subject-matter. To this end we have shown, for example, the stern academic painting of Reynolds as compared with the loose gaiety of Renoir, or the voluptuous baroque figure painting of Rubens contrasted with the gigantic exaggeration of form which is found in the works of Michelangelo.

Among landscape painters we have shown Turner, Constable, Gainsborough and Rubens. For one week we showed some paintings by contemporary war artists. Other painters who have been represented are Dürer, Cézanne, Hogarth, Picasso and the Pre-Raphaelites.

Although the “Picture of the Week” has only been in existence just under two terms, it has already become a popular feature of the School life.

K.H.

OLD BOYS’ SOCIETY

War-time difficulties do not grow less. Francis Plummer, the Society’s second Secretary, volunteered and is now in the Army. He writes refreshingly: “The life as I find it is wonderful. There is plenty to grumble about if one wants to grumble, but, personally, I am perfectly happy and enjoying

myself immensely." Grills, Plummer's predecessor in office, is in Trinidad. "The rains have come and the island is taking on a hue of brilliant green. Hibiscus and brilliant yellow, red and blue blossoms flower all over the island." He has our sympathy in his anxiety over the fate of his brother, shot down off the French coast. The Society's sympathy goes, too, to Palk, its Treasurer, on the death of his father. W. A. Bailey is enjoying the opportunities afforded at Stratford-upon-Avon for boating and the theatre. He gets two afternoons' cricket a week. Launder has passed his seamanship examination and Captain's Board, and has been recommended for a commission. "I have had two games of rugby, both played well after you began the cricket season. I have learned the rigours of a twelve-oared cutters' race. The course was officially half-a-mile, but it seemed more like a mile, and a Devonshire mile at that. I have never known such fatigue." Edward Nagle is in the Middle East, and looking out for contemporaries. Day and Molchanoff, alternating between Dulwich and the London School of Oriental Languages, where they learn Turkish intensively, seem to make the best of both worlds. Hinton has been responsible for a production of Mr. Eliot's "Family Reunion" this term, and now after two years at Magdalen, the Army claims him. He has recently made a pilgrimage to see de Potier in Cambridge. Churcher writes happily from Durham University, where he has his own two rooms in the Castle. Sergeant-Observed John Smith was at School when on leave before starting on operational flights. Heath, stationed at Fareham, was at the Scout Fête. Fielding, Plummer, Lionel Smith and Kenneth Richards came to lunch together. Richards at the time of writing is still waiting to go overseas. Hinton and Vaughan came from Oxford to *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*, and Jepson and Lionel Smith got leave too. John Robbins, another member of the Committee, is in the R.A. J. A. Smith is having his R.A.F. University Short Course at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Eric Daniel hopes to leave the B.B.C. and to have a State Bursary in Chemistry. Whiteley has been to lunch, and Rodriques was a welcome visitor.

Alec Cook writes happily from Canada. "Riding a motor-bike or landing in an Anson at 90 m.p.h., is nothing compared to being thrown from side to side in a ramshackle but powerful lorry travelling at 70 m.p.h. over Canadian roads, which are in a terrible condition." Launder was often at school during his leave, and attended a meeting of the Partisans. David Vaughan, Mylam, James E. J. and other civilians have recently been to see us. All are welcome, even though we may not always be able to spare them the time we would wish.

There are now ninety-three members of the Old Boys' Society, of whom twenty-five have paid the subscription of ten shillings, for duration of the War, on joining the Services. The secretary-treasurer of the Society is now J. E. Fisher, 50 Monkleigh Road, Morden, who will be pleased to supply information, receive subscriptions and enrol new members.

The Old Boys' match against the School XI takes place on July 25th. All are welcome, whether playing or not.

J.G.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We acknowledge the receipt of the following with many thanks: Ashteadian, Georgian, Wellingtonian, Aldenhamian, Bryanston Saga, Taunton's School Journal, Abbotsholmian, King's College School Magazine.

"THE SPUR"

Committee : D. M. Cooper, P. H. Crumley, K. R. Forrest, A. H. Overell, P. W. Vaughan.

Editors : July, 1942. D. M. Cooper, D. L. Nightingale.

CONTENTS

Headmaster's Notes	1
School Officers	5
Lectures	5
Art Club	11
Partisans	11
<i>The Knight of the Burning Pestle</i> (Basil Wright)	13
Spur Dramatic Society	15
Song Recital	16
Rabbit Club	16
Camera Club	17
Puppet Show	18
19th Wimbledon Scout Troop	18
National Savings	21
House Notes: Cobb's, Gibb's, Halliwell's, Milton's,	22
Newsom's	22
Junior School Notes	29
School Library	31
Cricket	32
Digging for Victory	34
Surrealism	35
Picture of the Week	37
Old Boys' Society	37
Acknowledgments	39
Spur Committee	39