

THE SPUR

Vol. VII

No. 2



THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. VII, No. 2.

Summer, 1945.

HEADMASTER'S NOTES.

The events of two terms are covered by this number of *The Spur*. The Christmas Term was, for the most part, uneventful, as we were engaged in settling down to our normal routine after the dislocation of the summer. Yet the Christmas Carol Concert, brilliantly organised by Mr. Loveday with the assistance of Mr. Smith and Mr. Warner, was more exuberant and original than ever. The Spring Term has been notable for our first production of a Shakespearian play—on this occasion *The Tempest*—since 1942. Mr. Smith is to be congratulated on an achievement of outstanding distinction. His conception of the play is the most interesting one I have yet encountered.

The news that John Robbins had been killed in action in Burma came as a great shock to his many friends here. It seems so short a time ago that he was still in England. He was, I believe, the first Old Boy to visit me here, and I am proud of the privilege of having come to know him so well. Anthony Uff, who has been killed in action in Western Europe, volunteered for the Army while still under military age and had seen considerable service. The parents of both these Old Boys are assured of our sympathy and pride, as are the parents of Brian Prangnell, a boy of very great promise and an exceptionally loyal member of the School who died in tragic circumstances on July 26th. We had expected much from him, and our sense of loss is very great. We share in the sorrow of his parents and of his brother.

J. F. W. Green has been elected to a Styring Exhibition in Mathematics at The Queen's College, Oxford. R. A. A. Newman has headed the list of competitors at Faraday House by winning the Faraday Scholarship. A Bursary at Keble College, Oxford, for work in Science of Open Exhibition standard has been awarded to A. S. Gardiner.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Horne on the birth of a daughter.

The first week in January brought the grievous news that the Second Master, Mr. R. W. Gibb, had been appointed Head of the Geography Department at Blundell's School, Tiverton. The meaning of his departure to the School, the Staff and myself is beyond words. He has served the School longer than any other man and has set a standard of conduct which must at all costs be maintained. Everyone who has been in any way connected with the School has learned much from his peerless example. Our good wishes go with him together with our very warm congratulations on his marriage which took place on Easter Tuesday. He will be sadly missed. His duties as Second Master will be carried out for the time being by Mr. Hanson, Mr. Milton and Mr. Raynham.

Mr. Milton's most welcome return has been signalled by the formation of a vigorous Sixth Form Society which has already held many interesting meetings. We have also been joined by Mr. C. W. E.

Peckett, late Scholar of King's College, Cambridge, who comes to us from Beckenham County School, after serving as an officer in the Royal Artillery, and by Mr. V. Edwards, a Cambridge Scholar and athlete who obtained his "Blue" before the last war. Next term will see the return of Mr. Cobb which will mean that one of the founding members of the Staff is still with us. Mr. Gibb's place as Geography Master will be taken by Mr. Patrick O'Driscoll of Trinity College, Dublin, who has been working for the Admiralty throughout the war.

Twenty-nine boys joined the School in December and now compose the new form, "Middle Three." They have come here at a later age than is usual but seem to have settled down very quickly. I am most grateful to Mr. Scott of Bushey Central School for providing additional accommodation on a most generous scale for our greatly increased numbers.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to the lecturers who have come to us during the past two terms. It was a particular pleasure to have two successive talks from Mr. C. A. Ronald, H.M.I., to whom the School already owes much. He opened his mind to his audience and showed us how to use ours—just as Miss Dilys Powell later showed us how to use our eyes. We have seldom had such stimulating advice.

A Cup for Cross Country Running has been most generously presented by Alderman S. H. Marshall, Chairman of the Surrey County Council Education Committee, to whom we are deeply grateful. The first inter-House race will take place early in May. Through the keenness of Mr. Lett a Junior Cross Country team has already been selected and has run twice against a team from Wallington County School. I hope that a high standard of performance will in time be established.

SCHOOL OFFICERS, CHRISTMAS TERM, 1944

Head of School : J. F. Green.
Second Boy : D. A. R. Reid.
 M. G. Brown, E. Jepson, P. R. Mason, B. A. Ruff, C. Thompson,
 R. A. J. Wood, F. Potton.
Prefect of Hall : A. G. Hopkins.
Prefect of Library : B. A. Ruff.
Secretary of Games Committee : M. G. Brown.

SCHOOL OFFICERS, EASTER TERM, 1945

Head of School : J. F. Green.
Second Boy : A. G. Hopkins.
 M. G. Brown, E. Jepson, P. R. Mason, B. A. Ruff, C. Thompson,
 R. A. J. Wood, F. Potton, V. R. White.
Prefect of Hall : M. G. Brown.
Prefect of Library : B. A. Ruff.
Secretary of Games Committee : M. G. Brown.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Killed

Sgt.-Observer M. H. C. Ashdown, R.A.F.
 Sgt.-Air Gunner J. A. G. Billingham, R.A.F.
 Flying Officer A. V. I. Cook, R.A.F.
 Flight Lieut. R. Barnes, R.A.F., D.F.C.
 Sgmn. V. G. Sayer, R.C.S.
 Lt. J. W. Robbins, R.A.
 Lt. A. Uff, R.A.C.

Missing

Sgt.-Pilot J. A. Smith, R.A.F.
 Pilot Officer S. G. Palk, R.A.F.
 Sub-Lieut. J. Fisher, R.N.V.R.
 Pilot Officer R. Jones, R.A.F.
 Sgt. F. Spinks, R.A.F.
 W. Bailey, R.A.F.

Prisoner of War

Pilot Officer J. D. L. Moore, R.A.F.
 Sgt.-Pilot R. G. Franklin, R.A.F.

OBITUARY

John Robbins

One often hears of people being described as "good"; but how seldom does one ever meet someone who really lives up to the word. John Robbins was one who did. He was about the only person I have ever met who seemed naturally incapable of doing a wrong or mean thing. I did not know him very well when he was at the School; but when he left he came to work at Film Centre, and while he was there I came to know him very well. He was the most promising recruit to documentary films we had seen for a long time. The work he did, especially on "The Harvest Shall Come," was first class; and when he was called up we said (as we thought) "au revoir" with regret, and looked forward to his returning to carry on what he had so well begun. **We were sure he had a fine career before him.** John believed passionately in the use of films for the betterment of human behaviour and of social conditions and was determined to carry his ideals into practice. Although he was modest and diffident to a fault, there nevertheless glowed through his quietness a steady light of which one was always aware. **He was, as I said before, truly good.** It is unthinkable that he is dead; but perhaps that heavy word should never be applied to men like him, for certain it is that none of those many who met and knew him during his life will ever forget him, but will remember with gratitude how by his example they learnt, each according to his ability, a little more of the Good Life.

BASIL WRIGHT.

Anthony Uff

Tony Uff joined the School when it was still very young. He was adventurous, debonair: his ingenuity often got him into "scrapes" at school, and his smile sometimes (I had better not say, often) got him out of them. He took chances, others missed them. He faced life gaily, and I have no doubt he faced death gaily too; for he believed in what he was doing. We shall remember him, and what we owe to him. He never counted the cost, nor must we.

THOMAS W. POWIS COBB.

Brian Prangnell

The death of Brian Prangnell in his thirteenth year came as a great shock to all who knew him. He was only in his second year at this school, but he had in that time secured for himself the liking and respect of his companions and of his teachers, who were already looking forward to his occupying a valuable position in our community. His outstanding characteristic was one upon which such hopes are always founded—namely, a strong sense of loyalty to any group to which he belonged or had belonged. For example, to him it was a problem whether to join the scout troop at Raynes Park or to remain in that of

his previous school, Blakesley House. He chose the latter not because he felt Raynes Park inferior, but because of his loyalty to his first friends and teachers.

His capacity for devotion and friendship extended to persons as well as to organisations; it was also characteristic of him that his love of animals was not a vague fondness but included their care and the trouble which this involves. He was always keen to succeed; not to be better than others, but to reach the high standard which he set himself in his school subjects as well as in his many interests such as scouting, games, drawing and carpentry.

When he knew that he was to undergo an operation he was not afraid or worried, in spite of the fact that he was lying in hospital during the flying bomb attack on London. In the words of the Sister, he was as cheerful as he always was normally, and joked about it. He died on the morning of July 26th, without waking from the anaesthetic. We remember him as a boy of great common-sense and ability, with a ready smile. Our sympathy goes to his family in their severe and tragic loss.

Mr. R. W. GIBB

(FROM A COLLEAGUE)

Mr. Gibb's work as House Master, as Geography teacher and as coach to the First XV is known to all the boys who have come into contact with him. Some will have met him on other counts, but they cannot know as well as the staff to what extent his position as Second Master has formed and influenced the tradition and the organisation of the School. It was this position also which determined the special relationship between Mr. Gibb and the other members of the staff.

The Second Master in a school acts as a liaison officer, or, in Mr. Gibb's own words, a buffer state between Headmaster, boys and staff. It can be imagined that the duties of such a position are as often disagreeable as pleasant, and that to carry them out successfully requires an unusual combination of tact, firmness, impartiality and above all of fairness. These qualities, to the good fortune of the School, were so well balanced in Mr. Gibb that it is difficult to say in which he was pre-eminent; his efficiency was as remarkable as his strict sense of justice. If anyone ever felt himself unfairly treated by the Second Master, then he was ignorant of, or blind to, the experience and consideration which lay behind each of his decisions. He never took sides with persons but only with those principles of justice, loyalty and social usefulness of which he was himself the exemplar and from which he could not be moved.

Those who have had any experience in the difficult task of dealing with people can judge the measure of Mr. Gibb's success by the respect and affection in which he was held by all who worked with him. All his colleagues will have benefited from their association with him and are largely indebted to him for the congenial atmosphere in which they have worked.

We are more than sorry to lose him, though confident that his spirit will remain a force in school life, and we wish him and Mrs. Gibb all happiness in the future.

Mr. R. W. GIBB

(FROM A BOY)

In bidding good-bye to someone it is usual to start with a brief record of his work. I do not intend to do this, for it seems to me unnecessary and even futile to attempt to do justice in words when everyone is already aware of the vast effort that Mr. Gibb has expended in moulding a school during its first ten years of life.

Starting here in 1937 as a very small boy, Mr. Gibb—the Second Master—was the first person with whom I came into contact. I was immediately impressed by the easy benevolence of his manner, and yet, standing there in the hall, I think that every one of us recognised the clarity, ease and above all, the latent firmness, with which he gave this introduction to a new life.

Our first geography lesson and there he was again: somebody in this seemingly huge place that we already knew. For the first time we discovered the subject interesting (despite the frequent tests) and his personal anecdotes and lantern lectures proved specially popular.

So it went on throughout our school life—and our respect grew. He was always there—someone to whom we could turn for advice, someone to answer our trivial questions: often the replies (though recognised as just) appeared unreasonably harsh—had we really got to think for ourselves? We began to realise that the Second Master was not there to lead us but to point the way.

On approaching the top of the School all these experiences were amplified: we found that Mr. Gibb was in charge of the First and Second rugby fifteen. How we forwards loathed those training periods in the early days of the season: sometimes we openly expressed our thoughts—"the man must be a slave driver." On looking backwards, however, it always became obvious that such violent exercises were the key to our later successes on the field (besides, the joke was always reversed when the time came for him to referee our first match of the season). The amount of work that he put into developing school rugby was almost unbelievable; we found it easy to recognise his proud boast that he had missed only one game since the School first began to play.

Now he is leaving us and naturally this is the present subject of conversation throughout the School. To end I will quote a remark that I overheard from a junior—a remark, I think, that reflects the thoughts of all of us—"Mr. Gibb is strict, but then that is his job: after all he is Second Master. You get a square deal from him and he is an interesting teacher. Jolly good chap."

HOUSE NOTES

Cobb's

Captain: A. G. Hopkins.

Vice-Captain: C. Thompson.

School Prefects: B. A. Ruff, E. M. Jepson.

Rugger

In the first round of the new knock-out system we played Milton's and won. We then played Gibb's in the semi-final. Unfortunately they were without their rugger captain and so we had quite a comfortable win. Against a strong Halliwell's team, and after a typical "Cobb's v. Halliwell's" House-match, we were beaten by one try.

Hockey

In the knock-out contest we were drawn to play against Halliwell's. In our first game against them we drew 2-2 after a game which was of a higher standard than the usual house match. In the replay we lost to Halliwell's 1-3. Two of their goals and our one were scored in about two minutes and the rest of the time was spent in muddling in each other's goal-mouth, without result.

Athletics

Our Captain of athletics, E. M. Jepson, and our able secretary, K. Hill, have made us all conscious of the importance of qualifying and we are now second in points for the cup.

Gibb's

CHRISTMAS TERM, 1944

House Captain : D. A. R. Reid.

Before mentioning any House activities, a tribute must be paid to G. P. Billingham, School and House Captain last year. He led the House during a very difficult period, and his inspiration is reflected in the winning of the Cock House Cup for the second year running. He has been greatly missed, especially on the Rugger field. We wish him all good fortune, and hope to see him frequently in the future.

The winning of the Cock House Cup resulted from our winning the Rugger, Hockey, and Athletics Cups. The Cricket and Swimming Competitions had to be abandoned.

EASTER TERM, 1945

House Captain : V. R. White.

At the end of this term we lose our Housemaster, Mr. Gibb who, from the beginning of the School has very ably occupied the position of Second Master. His enthusiasm for teaching, firm control, and energy of purpose, have left an abiding impression on us all, but especially on those of Gibb's House. His personal qualities have also gained him a warm place in our affections. Long after he has left us we shall remember him for his friendliness and faithfulness. We wish him every success in the new sphere of usefulness he is about to enter upon.

We lost, at the end of last term, our very capable House Captain, David Reid. He has joined the Navy and with him go our best wishes.

Rugger

Captain : D. A. R. Reid.

This last season the Rugger Competition was run on a "knock-out" basis. In our first and last match we lost by fifteen points to nil. The team, handicapped by the absence of the Captain through injury, was ably lead by V. R. White. The game was hard fought, and the play of several younger members of the team was encouraging.

Hockey

Our first match was against Milton's whom we beat by seven goals to nil. The second match against Newsom's was lost by four goals to one, mainly because we had to play with ten men. The members of the House must realise that two or three good players alone do not constitute a team.

This term we welcome into our House, Drane, Cameron, Champney, Charman and Deacon.

D. A. R. R. and V. R. W.

Halliwell's

House Captain : J. F. Green.

Vice-Captain : M. G. Brown.

School Prefects : P. R. Mason, R. A. J. Wood.

This year we have been less unfortunate than most houses in losing only a very few seniors. K. Clack has left to study engineering at London University and we wish him the best of luck in his future career : he was a 1st XV colour and a very strong member of the House. We also say good-bye to K. Prior who is also at London, starting on the long course of becoming a doctor.

Our chances in the field of sport have been very high but unfortunately they were marred by the untimely close of the Summer term : we had looked forward with confidence to the Swimming Competition.

Rugger

We have been the lucky possessors of one of the strongest House teams that the school has yet produced. It was probably this knowledge, highly seasoned with over-confidence, that led to a very mediocre performance in our first match against Newsom's. Sufficient to say that we won. Our final House-match against Cobb's followed the traditional lines—shirts were ripped, tempers were frayed and players often lost in the welter of bodies, mist and mud. We won 3—0 and with this victory secured the Rugger Trophy. Of the team Cotterill, especially, is to be congratulated—he was the only person to score.

Hockey

We met Cobb's in the first round of the Competition and drew 2—2. A re-play followed and in this we proved easy victors with a score of three goals against one.

Milton's

House Captain : R. Bradley.

Rugger

The only game we played last term was against Cobb's at whose hands we suffered a severe but not ignominious defeat. Inferior weight in our scrum and our usual failure to produce exceptional athletes were our chief defects, but interest shown by the House, and our Colts, make prospects hopeful.

Hockey

It was our misfortune to be knocked out in the first round of the House matches. The match itself deserves hardly more than mention, but the team maintained its vigour throughout a losing game, showing the Milton's can still make up in enthusiasm what we lack in experience.

Cross-Country Running

The part played by a number of the junior members of the House in the cross-country practices this term is encouraging. Some enthusiasts have run regularly and this activity may well become very popular under the stimulus of the House Competition next term, when it is hoped a much larger number may be encouraged to participate.

Athletics

Our qualifying points are not flattering in view of the large number in the House who are competent to qualify. We are bottom—a position which, it is hoped, will be reformed next term.

School Play

In addition to one or two minor parts, we were able to contribute one prominent member of the cast. Haythornthwaite as Stephano, played a difficult part vigorously, and convincingly.

We were very happy to have Mr. Milton come back to us last term. His influence will be felt more and more, and he has already greatly helped the musical activities in the House.

We take this opportunity to welcome also all the new members of the House. It has been pleasant to see many Old Boys of the House this term including Miller, Meade, Overell, Forward, Honeker, Liddle, Edwards, Schrecker, and Roberts, to all of whom we send our very best wishes.

Newsom's

House Captain : F. Pctton.

Vice-Captain : A. Bartram.

Although no resounding triumphs have been secured the efforts of the House have not been entirely unsuccessful. Worthy of individual mention are our House-captain who is to be congratulated on being

appointed captain of School hockey and cricket, and Welby who distinguished himself in the School play.

Rugger

By a gallant, if suicidal, gesture we offered to accept as our first opponents the strong team which Halliwell's put on the field and which was destined to secure the rugger cup. Despite the disparity of forces the score was only 3—0 in favour of our opponents at half-time; and although we were less fortunate in the second half, their final score might have been higher than 18—0, had not the team, especially the full-back, played very well. As the competition was run on a knock-out basis this year, our House rugger activities were terminated by this defeat against odds.

Athletics

Qualifying has been in operation this term and hitherto the position especially in the long jump and weight putting events, is not highly satisfactory. The failure to secure a larger number of points is in some part due to the fact that members of the House have not always attempted to qualify, but if a real effort is made in the remaining events our position can be considerably improved before the sports.

Hockey

By a 4—1 victory over Gibb's we were assured of a place in the finals. Three of our goals were scored through opportunism by Hodkin in the initial ten minutes. Though late in the first half a goal was scored against us, we continued to have most of the play and secured our fourth goal, again through Hodkin about half-way through the second half. The play was rather scrappy but the score reflects our comparative superiority. After a Marathonian struggle the final against Halliwell's resulted in a draw which no amount of extra time could alter.

We were pleased to welcome as visitors this term N. T. Poulter, N. G. Broderick and R. Ward, all formerly distinguished members of Newsom's. N. T. Poulter left at the end of the Summer Term, 1944, after three years as House-captain, and unfortunately we have not enough space to give the full appreciation that he deserves. Those who knew him will remember chiefly his cricket, his actor-producer roles in the House plays, and his passion for jazz. We wish him the best of luck in the Intelligence Corps. The House learnt with deep regret of the death in action in Burma of Lieutenant John Walter Robbins who was Captain of the House in 1941.

RUGBY

It was unfortunate that last season with quite our strongest and most attractive fixture list we should have the weakest XV that we have had for many years, and the results were disastrous and depressing. A solitary victory against a scratch Old Boys' side and a draw against Kings College School were the only variations from a long list of defeats, some with scores reaching astronomical size.

As usual the forwards gave as good as they got and frequently had the measure of their opponents, but behind the scrummage things rarely got moving at all. The forwards would establish more than a sizeable bridgehead only to see their backs starved and impotent and bang would go another attacking movement. In other words the backs were starved by the halves (and the fault lay with the inner half) and like importunate sparrows they were forced to pick up any crumbs that were left lying about. And even when crumbs were found, the backs pecked timidly without any thrust or daring. It is easy, of course, to criticise a line of three-quarters (or anyone for that matter) in defence and particularly easy when it is up against stronger and faster opponents, but our defence was always sticky and often downright bad. Failure to position and failure to tackle at the psychological moment let the other side through time and again.

And then there was that difficulty (which was never solved) of finding a full back to replace the powerful and solid Michael Brown, and we were always playing with a last line of defence that was never too sure.

It must not be imagined, however, that every match was a gloomy procession to our own goal line. There were moments and matches which were as stirring and exciting as any in a good season. Particularly good was the match against Harrow 2nd XV in which we were leading our opponents right up to ten minutes from no-side. But the last ten minutes just beat us and we could not stem the tide.

Success in School Games is apt to run in cycles and we can normally look forward to something much better next year, and, I hope, even better still the year after. It was just unfortunate for the Captain, John Green, that he should have held office in a lean year. He himself is as good a player as the School has ever had and a captain of altogether outstanding brilliance. To him above all must be given the credit that seldom did the team lose its morale or fail to do what it could. No depression or defeatism as the result of a bad year must tinge next season.

Handing over the Rugger to my successor I should like to wish him every possible success. I have had the privilege of running Big Side since the School started and it has always been my first love. I have seen successful years and unsuccessful ones, and the fact that this one has been one of the leanest in no way lessens my optimism for the future.

R. W. G.

XV

The following was the final composition of the team:—

* J. F. Green (<i>Captain</i>) (<i>Forward</i>)	A. H. Bartram (<i>Forward</i>)
* A. G. Hopkins (<i>Secretary</i>) (<i>Forward</i>)	C. N. White (<i>Forward</i>)
* D. A. R. Reid (<i>Three-quarter</i>)	F. Polton (<i>Scrum half</i>)
* B. A. Ruff (<i>Three-quarter</i>)	J. C. Taylor (<i>Fly half</i>)
* P. R. Mason (<i>Forward</i>)	V. White (<i>Three-quarter</i>)
* G. Green (<i>Forward</i>)	R. A. Doyle (<i>Three-quarter</i>)
R. A. J. Wood (<i>Forward</i>)	D. Thompson (<i>Full Back</i>)

* Colours

Opponents			Result				For		Against	
Mitcham	...	...	Lost	...	0	...	...	3	...	3
K.C.S.	...	...	Drew	...	3	...	...	3	...	3
Harrow II	...	...	Lost	...	10	...	...	15	...	15
O. Rutlishian "A"	...	...	Lost	...	14	...	...	24	...	24
Tiffins	...	...	Lost	...	0	...	...	34	...	34
Wallington	...	...	Lost	...	3	...	...	31	...	31
Beckenham	...	...	Lost	...	0	...	...	36	...	36
Rutlish	...	...	Lost	...	0	...	...	52	...	52
Old Boys	...	...	Won	...	9	...	...	8	...	8

HOCKEY RESULTS, 1945

1st XI

v. Caterham School	...	Won 6-2
v. St. George's College	...	Won 3-2
v. Beckenham C. S.	...	Lost 1-3
v. Caterham School	...	Drew 1-1
v. London Hospital	...	Drew 2-2
v. St. George's College	...	Lost 2-5
v. Old Boys...	...	Won 7-1

PRIZEGIVING, DECEMBER, 1944

The prizes were distributed by Alderman Marshall at an informal prizegiving under the good-humoured chairmanship of Mr. Glasscock the Chairman of the Board of Governors. The Headmaster and

Alderman Marshall both referred to the School's part in the future of education. The Headmaster exhorted us to make that future worthy of those of our generation who had served and did for their country, and Alderman Marshall emphasized that when parents, government and teaching staff have done their best, the greatest power still lies in the pupil, "the individual who counts"; and that true discipline must come not from without but from within.

Another point to receive attention from both speakers was the value of the evacuation experiments, and it was suggested that day schools should have "country residences" to which parties of pupils and teachers could be sent to live for periods up to a term, thus gaining the benefits of living together afforded by a boarding school, while retaining the essential nature of the day school.

Alderman Marshall announced the presentation of a cross-country cup to the School, a timely encouragement for our latest-founded athletic activity.

As guests, the School extended a hearty welcome to the Mayor and Mayoress of Mitcham, the Mayor and Mayoress of Malden, the Chairman of the Merton and Morden U.D.C., and Mrs. Franklin.

THE CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Tuesday and Wednesday, 19th and 20th December, 1944.

The Second Christmas Carol Concert brought home to us the effort which had gone into the making of the first—an effort of thought and work which somehow succeeded in creating a tradition with the very first performance. This sense of tradition depended on our memory of having been presented with a programme that was excellently conceived and thoroughly enjoyable; this year we hoped for something as good (the public demand, in fact, made a repeat performance necessary), and our hopes were satisfied. We hoped for the same musical enjoyment and had it; we hoped for the joviality of Dr. Optimiam and he appeared; we hoped for an equally entertaining and appropriate selection of readings, and heard one; we hardly dared hope for another Mummings' play, but Father Christytnas and his crew made their entrance, and even remembered to forget their lines at the right moments.

Mr. Loveday has laid a great responsibility upon the School. It is now imperative that we are provided annually with singers and readers, with orchestral players and soloists, with accompanists, actors capable of good Sussex accents, and, above all, a bold drummer for brighten the Hall. Their labours and rehearsals will be amply repaid, both by the pleasure of contributing to a well-designed artistic production and by the obvious appreciation of the audience.

We print below the full programme of the Concert. Other Schools, please copy.

PART I - - - THE PROPHECY

Orchestra	...	Overture	...	Handel
Reading	...	Isaiah, XL verses 1-8	...	
Clarinets Solo	...	"Prepare Ye Zion"	...	Bach
(an arrangement of the aria from "The Christmas Overture")	...		...
Reading	...	Micah V, verses 2-4	...	
Part II - - - THE NATIVITY				
Chorale with Bartitone	...	"A Little Babe He Comes"	...	Bach
Recitative	...		...
Reading	...	...	...
Audience and Choir	...	"While Shepherds Watched"	...	
	...	Luke II, verses 1-7	...	
	...	("Christmas Overture")	...	
	

Reading	...	"Behold a simple tender babe"	...	Robert Southwell
Junior Choir	...	"Once in Royal David's City"	...	Robert Herrick
Reading	...	"Herrick's Carol"	...	Robert Herrick
Bartitone Recitative	...	"O Little Town of Bethlehem"	...	Walford Davies
Reading	...	"Hymn on the Morning of Christ's Nativity"	...	Milton
Junior Choir	...	"Hark the Herald Angels"	...	
Full Choir	...	"Puer Nobis"	...	
Part III "THEN HEROD WAS EXCEEDING WROTH"				
Matthew II, 16				
Two Scenes from the Coventry Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors (15th Century) Introducing the Carols				
"We Three Kings of Orient" J. H. Hopkins (1857)				
"The Coventry Carol" (16th Century)				
Reading	...	Matthew II, 13	...	
Part IV - - - THE FESTIVITY (Scherzo)				
Bartitone Solo	...	"The Boar's Head Carol"	...	
with Chorus	...		...
Readings	...	"Dr. Optimian on Christmas"	...	Thomas Love Peacock
...	...	"Make we Merry" (c. 1500)	...	
Baritone Chorus	...	"Gloucester Wassail"	...	
Reading	...	"Ceremonies for Christmas"	...	Robert Herrick
Junior Choir	...	"Patapan" Old Burgundian Carol	...	Robert Herrick
Reading	...	"Christmas Merymaking"	...	Sir Walter Scott
Baritone Chorus	...	"Somerset Wassail"	...	
The Mummer's Play	...		...
Reading	...	"Even Tavern-Musick"	...	Sir Thomas Browne
Part V - - - FINALE				
Audience and Choir	...	"It came upon the midnight clear"	...	Milton
Reading	...	"At a Solemn Music"	...	
Treble Solo	...	"I know that my Redeemer liveth"	...	Handel
Trumpet Solo	...	"Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father"	...	Matthew XIII, 43
...	...	"And everlasting joy shall be upon their head, and sorrow and mourning shall flee away"	...	Isaiah LI, 2
Reading	...	Revelation XX, verses 1-7	...	
Audience and Choir	...	"O come, all ye faithful"	...	

THE TEMPEST

This is a difficult play. For all the simplicity of the plot, and the unity of time and place, it presents to the spectator, the producer and the actor, great problems of character, and of the relation of one character to another. These problems reside in Prospero, Ariel, and Caliban, that strange trio which at first glance look like three simple and convenient symbols, but soon bewilder us by the problems they raise in our minds—problems which I will not discuss here, rather referring you to the first half of W. H. Auden's new book, "For the Time Being."

For my job is to assess the value of the Raynes Park production of this extraordinary play, and I may as well say right away that I was astonished at the skill, both dramatic and technical, with which it was presented. (Admirably done), but saw only Prospero, like Jehovah of old, directing the storm, to the ingeniously contrived masque, so brusquely broken up by Prospero and his tools of thunder and lightning, the production moved with a sureness of purpose which would have done credit to larger and better equipped stages.

The producer turned to very good account the limitations of the School stage, placing the cave at the side of the apron, and matching it opposite with some stylised rocks which provided a perfect entrance for Ariel. The lighting was very effective, and a special round of applause should go to the team who dealt so skilfully and punctually with all Prospero's demands for light and darkness, thunder and lightning.

While not pretending that the actors were all perfect, it is, I think, true to say that the standard matched, and at times overpassed, that of the previous Raynes Park productions. Prospero was stately and powerful, and, save for an occasional tendency to drop his voice, put across the curious human-inhuman quality of the part very well. The cockney Trinculo and Irish Stephano were splendid, and I shall long remember the verve with which the latter announced that he did begin to have bloody thoughts. Caliban was probably the best single acting performance of the evening. He got right inside the part and was completely convincing—quite apart from his guessingly successful make-up. The young lovers did well with those difficult because undeveloped characters; and the rest of the shipwrecked party did very well, notably Sebastian and Gonzalo.

To conclude, there is Ariel. To actor, and more especially to producer, the deep gratitude of at least one member of the audience for not presenting him as a kind of ethereal Puck. Here, in looks and carriage, we had the true immortal—a spirit cold and remote because human feeling and frailty are not in him, to Prospero a dignified but icy slave, to the others a visitation of fate, and not a pert mischief-maker. This was all admirable, and other producers should note it. Indeed, it was perhaps this reading of the part which made the play easier to understand than I have ever found it before, although, in the final resort, it still remains, as perhaps its author meant it, an uneasy and partial lifting of the veil from the entrance to that deep cavern—not yet explored—of the human heart.

BASIL WRIGHT,

CAST

Prospero, the right Duke of Milan	R. A. J. Wood
Miranda, daughter of Prospero	M. J. Welby
Ariel, an airy spirit	J. C. Powell
Caliban, a savage and deformed slave	H. D. E. Parker
Ferdinand, son to the King of Naples	R. H. Robinson
Trinculo, a Jester	A. G. Hopkins
Stephano, a drunken old Counsellor	S. R. Aston
Gonzalo, an honest old Counsellor	J. C. H. Haythornthwaite
Alonso, King of Naples	H. S. Peake
Sebastian, his brother	N. S. Bedford
Antonio, the usurping Duke of Milan	M. G. Brown
and brother to Prospero	B. A. Ruff
Adrian	D. Grindrod
Francisco	J. Warner
Boatswain	J. H. Jochimsen
Master of the Ship	J. F. Ellingham

LECTURES

Isis	R. J. E. Chapman
Ceres	B. H. Horsley
Goddesses	R. W. Styles, R. M. Strong, J. R. Wells,
Shapes	R. W. Phillips, K. O. Gunn, A. J. Forward
Nymphs and Shepherds	G. Grindrod, A. W. Tucker, B. M. Jones,
Production	J. Ashley, K. E. Hill
	Peter Smith

November 24th, 1944.—Col. Penny, "Maps and Map-making."

We were given a very interesting lecture by Colonel Penny who had just returned from India, which he considered an excellent country to use for a mapping base because of its size. Maps are necessary for the development, both political and commercial, of a country. When they made a survey of England a seven-mile line across Salisbury Plain was used as the base, the position of the base upon the earth's surface being determined by taking the longitude and latitude of its ends. It is also necessary to know the curvature of the earth's surface at this place. Some maps are printed in black and white, others in several colours, the latter showing the essential features of the country much more clearly. Lithography is the modern method of printing maps. Map-making in such countries as India and Burma is still very much of a pioneering job although modern air photography will be very helpful, as it has been in wartime. Unfortunately it has the disadvantage that in a photograph physical features and political boundaries cannot be seen. Colonel Penny illustrated his lecture with a series of very interesting maps. December 5th and 6th, 1944.—Mr. Ronald, "An Approach to the Arts."

Mr. Ronald began on the first day by suggesting three ways in which art could be approached, first by actual contact, second by developing critical standards with which to judge works of art and lastly by the self-creative approach. Developing the first theme Mr. Ronald dealt with the various sources of art available to all, the main one being literature, as applied to all languages. Almost as accessible is music from the concert-hall, witless or gramophone, but he made the point that much more can be got from *seeing* as well as *hearing* an orchestra. Both drama and architecture are available especially in London, which is also a centre for films, although the lecturer doubted whether, as yet, these had reached a pure art form. The fact that the cinema has taken History and Classics of Literature and ruined both shows that films are still at least immature.

Then Mr. Ronald dealt with the second idea of obtaining your own critical standards, and these criteria only come after extensive study in one particular branch of an art form. One way to do this is to read all the works of an author who particularly interests you, and another is to study one particular form in an art, such as the sonnet in poetry. As an example of this following up of an idea Mr. Ronald went on to survey prominent figures of German literature such as Goethe, Heine and Nietzsche (from the latter the Nazis took some ideas to distort for their doctrine). He also dealt with the earlier French writers, some of whose verse he read. The lecturer turned next to music. To be able to criticise this an even larger experience of it, in all its forms, is necessary and, above all,

scale policies of shipbuilding. The result is that our ally, for example, has now four times as many ships as we possess. There must, then, be a rapid expansion of our mercantile marine on a vast scale in order to avoid losing markets. As Mr. Chalkley said, "without pre-emptive in shipping we may become a second-rate, if not a third-rate nation."

March 22nd, 1945.—R. F. Haslam, "How Scientific Instruments are made."

Mr. Haslam took as his example of the scientific instrument the switch motor. This is an electric motor used by the Royal Navy and the R.A.F., which has only very recently been taken off the secret list. Before the details of manufacture and production were explained, we were given a description of the instrument and, with the aid of diagrams, shown some of its finer points.

The parts of the motor are manufactured in three main classes, Casting, Moulding and Stamping. The outer casing of the motor, which is made of an aluminium alloy, is made by casting. The molten alloy is forced under pressure into a die which is slightly larger than the final product. The casting is then artificially cooled and machined down to the correct size.

The insulating parts of the motor are made of a thermo-setting plastic, which is moulded. This method has one disadvantage, the likelihood of "blow-holes" or air-bubbles in the insulator. Several of the parts of this instrument can be stamped out. The principle used is the same as that in the small machine for punching holes in paper.

This process is economical in material and labour. The final assembly of the hundreds of parts of this instrument is in the hands of the planning department, whose business it is to see that the requisite number of parts come together at the right time and place. This department is also the connecting link between other firms producing any part of the instrument and the assembling shop.

It is surprising how the production of our big bombers can be held up just because one small firm has failed to produce its quota of a certain screw. Not a week goes by without some hitch in the assembly line, but then life would be so dull if everything went as planned.

P.R.M.

THE SIXTH FORM SOCIETY.

Chairman: Mr. Milton.
Secretary: R. Bird.

This term has seen the formation of an active Sixth Form Society, which has, so far, held six meetings, and through which members of the Society have been enabled to visit two plays—"Richard III" and "Peer Gynt," both of which are being performed at the New Theatre.

In all, forty-seven boys saw the plays. A Forum on "Schools of To-day and Tomorrow" has been held, and also a discussion on Party Politics, at which three members of the Society supported the three main political parties of the country.

On March 16th, Mr. Denys Mumbly, from the Stepney Reconstruction Group, gave an interesting talk to the Society on Town-Planning, and on the last meeting of the Society to be held this term an illustrated talk on jazz was given jointly by R. Potton, Overell B. and Howard J. The members of the Society have shown a commendable enthusiasm and all the meetings which have taken place have been well-attended.

THE PARTISANS

Secretary: M. G. Brown.
Members: Mr. Rex Warner, Mr. George Haslam, J. F. Green, B. A. Ruff, M. G. Brown, E. M. Jepson, P. R. Mason, R. A. J. Wood, Robinson R. H., Peake H. S.

to criticise the taste of other people without attempting to listen to and understand their music must be avoided. For in music, perhaps, exist the greatest dissensions and to enjoy all types is very difficult.

Finally, Mr. Ronald said, the critical approach is aimed in two directions. Firstly, at the form of a thing, that is, style, and secondly at the content or meaning, although in the greatest works of art these tend to blend because they are interdependent. But it is necessary to remember that even if it has been created without sincerity, and found satisfactory, a work of art has been created without sincerity, then it becomes mere exhibitionism and is worthless. Even so, however wide a person's knowledge or experience may be, criticism can only be truly practised by the strictly unbiased mind, unswayed by such feelings as patriotism or perverseness.

Concluding on the second day with the last of his three points, that of the creative approach, Mr. Ronald said artistic creation is not merely the result of genius, but that, as in all things, the basic technique must be learnt. Set rules, discovered by years of experience must be obeyed at first, until eventually one is able to adapt them to expressing one's own feeling in self-constructed art.

January 30th, 1945.—Raymond Mortimer, "Poetry Reading."

Mr. Raymond Mortimer gave an excellent poetry reading in the library to the sixth form; he chose the poems of widely different authors, from Pope to Housman, Browning, Arnold and Blake were most popularly received, although the "Sonnet to a Monkey" by a child of eight was a great success; in the audience's opinion it eclipsed the masterpieces of Marvell, Noyes, Brooke and Keats. An amusing end was given to the afternoon by the reading of a number of limericks.

February 15th, 1945.—Dilys Powell, "Looking at the Movies."

Miss Powell started her lecture with an amusing résumé of the "typed programme" of the early cinema. Her accounts of the "Peck's Bad Boy" comedies; the eternal triangle of the man, his wife (with wrinkles) and the other woman (without wrinkles); and the romance of the bearded tramp rescuing the seven screaming children (all under three) from the burning farmhouse, caused much amusement. She then became more serious and described the way in which the camera changed from a static recorder to a creative power. She confessed her dismay when it entered its second childhood with the appearance of talkies, but her delight in the use made of this new force by certain Russian and French directors. From this short account of the important steps in film history, Miss Powell turned to film personalities and film sequences to demonstrate what is required in a good motion picture.

March 12th, 1945.—A. P. Chalkley, "The Future of Shipping and Shipbuilding."

Mr. Chalkley's lecture was a provocative one. He surprised his air-minded listeners by taking as his main theme the argument that Britain's future depends upon shipping rather than upon aircraft. It was principally the enormous size of Britain's mercantile marine, he said, that saved her in the Great War of 1914-18 and enabled her to weather the storm of submarine activity in the early years of the present struggle. Shipping is not only of strategic importance but also leads aviation in the realms of commerce. The aeroplane can cope with fast passenger traffic and with mail but owing to the fact that air transport costs about twenty times as much per ton-mile as conveyance by sea, ships must be used to carry the bulk of the cargo. During the war years, whilst Britain has been losing ships, other countries, notably the United States, have been carrying out large-

The subjects of discussion of The Partisans for the last two terms have covered a wide range. B. A. Ruft read a paper on "The Criminal," in which he proposed four questions that might be answered: Is there such a thing as a born criminal? How are criminals to be dealt with? Are law courts fair in their treatment? And, is capital punishment justifiable? The first of these questions was discussed at great length, to such length that no time was left to treat of the others and when the time arrived to finish, almost every Partisan had accused another as being a born criminal or as having no conscience.

A superb paper on "Education" was given by George Haslam; he treated the subject very cynically. The position of a boy in school is that of a politically organised person in society; he is the "wage-slave" in the "sweat-shop," where the Headmaster is the party boss and the rest of the staff compose a substantial police force. He is usually built to an artificial code of conduct which produces a stereotyped society. Even the prefects cannot fully sympathise with the "wage-slave," since they have a vested interest in the concern.

Mr. Haslam proposed to reform the present educational system in a fortnight by sending the sons and daughters of members of parliament to the worst elementary schools in the country.

The problem of Germany after the war came up for discussion at the last meeting before Christmas. The paper was given by D. A. R. Reid and he said that the greatest problem was the re-education of the Germans, since everything else depended on this. Since 1933, German children have been inculcated with a hate for other nations and the idea that they had been born to rule the world. The Partisans decided that the only people who could carry out this re-education were those Germans who were enlightened enough not to think of Germany as the master-race.

The first paper of the Easter Term was given by R. A. J. Wood; the subject was "Christianity and the English." He traced the history of Christianity in England up to the present day and said that the importance in the life of the people has varied a great many times. It determined life in the time of Cromwell, whilst in the eighteenth century Christianity was turned out of doors to fare as best it could. In the nineteenth century the war between science and religion grew up and stress was laid on materialism. To-day religion is again becoming more and more important and a religious revival may come in the near future.

A most welcome guest speaker at the next meeting was Mr. A. W. Newson, who having lately returned from the British Embassy in Turkey spoke on the subject: "Small Nations, with special reference to Turkey." Modern Turkey appeared in 1922 under the dictatorship of Kemal Ataturk. Western ideas were introduced; industries were bought from their foreign owners and agriculture was modernised. Unfortunately the eastern peoples are not as yet mechanically minded. They take not the slightest care of their machinery and they are surprised when it breaks down. If a tap with a hammer does not put things right again they shrug their shoulders and sit down for a smoke. Schools were built in the most outlying districts and the Latin alphabet was introduced, which led to the death of those who could not learn it quickly enough.

The problem of these small states is that they are far behind other nations in their development. If given time they could catch up, but it is doubtful whether they will be able to devote all their energies to self-development amid the struggle of the larger nations for world power. The last paper of the term was a well-informed and objective account in which the daily press, given by E. Jepson. A live discussion ensued in which the Partisans hastened to make it clear that although

THE MUSIC SOCIETY

The Christmas Term was an inactive period for the Society. There was one meeting only, which consisted of a piano recital by Wilson, R. and the Secretary of the Society, Howard, J.

Wilson played:
Two part invention in C Major
Piano Sonata No. 1 in C Major—2nd Movement
Study in A♭ Major
Howard played:
Piano Sonata No. 8 in C Minor (Pathétique)
Prelude No. 13 in F♯ Major
Two Mazurkas
Normal activity was revived for the Easter Term. The first meeting was held on February 2nd when there was a recital by Mr. R. Loveday and R. Wilson. They gave an excellent performance of the Cantata No. 82 for Solo Bass Voice (The Feast of the Purification—Candlemass) by Bach. The majority of Bach's vocal music consists of Church cantatas that we find the life blood of Bach's genius. He wrote pieces, such as the "Peasant" and "Coffee" cantatas. It is in the of Church cantatas, though in this form he also wrote several secular pieces, such as the "Peasant" and "Coffee" cantatas. It is in the occasion in the ecclesiastical year. Many of them are little known, and contain a beauty one would not imagine could come from the Bach of the French Suites.

The next two meetings were devoted to Sibelius. On February 16th Mr. Haslam gave a talk on Sibelius with particular reference to his Symphony No. 3 in C Major, the records of which he presented. We were grateful to Mr. Haslam for a most interesting talk on a greatly debated composer. On March 2nd the records of Sibelius' Symphony in E flat Major were played. Sibelius' symphonies are very individual, and not too easy to grasp. Their style is very individual, and characteristic of the composer's remote northern land. He makes no concession to the cheap and tawdry tastes of the moment, his music being free of both sentimental and of artificially complex orchestration. His whole style seems to depend on a subtle mixture of the concordant and discordant elements in music, with concord triumphant in the end. Sibelius bases his large movements on the old sonata form with great success, and I feel that it would be a better thing if some modern composers founded their style on old principles instead of on synthetic experiments. The last meeting was held on March 16th and consisted of a recital for violin and piano by Mr. and Mrs. Peckett. The programme was as follows:
Sonata in F Major for Violin and Piano
Prelude, Chorale and Fugue for Piano
The Delius Sonata, a comparatively unknown work, showed the characterise his works. We are fortunate in having Mr. and Mrs. Peckett connected with the School, and hope they will give us another recital shortly.

At the beginning of the term the Society officers were elected.
Chairman: The Headmaster.
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Loveday.
Secretary: J. G. Howard.
Committee: A. S. Gardiner, C. W. Baker, K. Chamberlain, C. Thompson, R. Wilson.
 The membership of the Society is now large, but it is hoped that more members will attend the meetings than have done so recently. A large and ambitious programme is anticipated for the Summer Term.
 J. G. H.

THE JUNIOR SCIENCE CLUB

Last term was ended by a thrilling and eventful talk by Mr. Smith on Chemical Change. He performed many spectacular experiments. Then came the noisy ones. Sparks flew, high temperatures were obtained and loud explosions occurred. By the end of the afternoon everyone was excited. We all agreed that that science club had been the best ever. Even after we had left we could hear Mr. Smith safely disposing of his remaining explosives with hammer and match.
 The beginning of this term was very successfully opened by Miss Bishell with a lecture on the history of electricity. This subject was very fascinating as no apparent change could be seen. Iron filings jumped to and from a magnet, pieces of paper did likewise and currents were produced by simple, almost everyday actions.
 The next week we went to Mitcham gasworks. We were taken round by the Chief Chemist who was very interesting. We started at the reort house where the gas is made. The heat was intense, minor explosions occurred, and there was much noise as the churning machines did their work; these machines are one of the very few examples of the use of liquid as a source of power. The rest of the gasworks was explained to us and we left after an interesting afternoon.

In the fourth week Miss Whitman took the Science Club and gave a talk on Biology. She told us how biologists have saved us from terrible diseases, how animals had been saved from death and how our bodies worked. Pictures of skeletons were displayed and things pointed out to us about our own bodies which we had not known before. These and other interesting things made that afternoon well spent.
 Some weeks later we learnt that Mrs. Henderson was taking the Science Club. This time the subject was Astronomy. Many pictures were shown on the epidiascope of how certain groups of stars get their names. We learnt how planets were discovered and how far away stars were, what the surface of the sun was like, how old stars were and many other very interesting things.
 This was the last Science Club of the term and we are all looking forward eagerly to next term when great things are sure to happen.
 A.M. (A2).

JUNIOR SCHOOL FILM SHOWS

Junior School film shows have been revived this term and have been received by the new audience with as much enthusiasm as the old. A further stimulus has been given by the fact that one or two of our new Juniors have projectors at home and films which they have very kindly brought along for us to borrow. And although our aim is to show chiefly instructional films some variety has been afforded by two films about a mouse—a famous mouse—which were not concerned with Nature Study but which were greatly enjoyed.

Films shown this term were:—
 Seed Dispersal by Wind.
 Fish from the Sea.
 Washing Time at the Zoo.
 The London Pigeon.
 The Romance of Life.
 Locomotion.
 Pluto's Bath Tub.
 Playful Pluto.

19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

During the Christmas holidays, the Group arranged visits of general interest. One of these was to the printing works of the Evening Standard when the last night edition was being "made up" and finally printed. There were two visits to the Nine Elms Works of the Gas, Light and Coke Company. The Chemist in charge went out of his way to explain the chemistry of gas making clearly and to show the party into every important section of the works. Another visit was made to Park Royal, the works of Waterlow and Sons, where the weekly Radio Times and the Listener are printed. The party saw the preparation of the Radio Times throughout to the final stage of pouring out from the massive presses for immediate dispatch. In each of the visits, the hospitality and kindly welcome, and the desire to demonstrate clearly was most marked.
 In the Easter holidays visits have been arranged to the Union Cold Storage Works at Blackfriars and to the Central Telegraph Office of the G.P.O. It may be possible next term for senior scouts to visit a local telephone exchange.

During the Easter Term, Troop meetings have continued in spite of interruptions and other activities. Second Class Badge work has improved and a drive has begun for work on the First Class Badge. Senior scouts have been told quite clearly that Bushman's Thong is the target. Mr. Thomas ("Jinks") has conducted the Saturday evening meetings in pathfinding, mapping, pioneering (and some say, cooking) activities on Wimbledon Common. Mr. Mason ("Pluto") has instructed in signalling and first aid for patrol groups. Some P.L.'s and Choughs were invited to take part in the Thinking Day Service held by the Wimbledon Guides in their own chapel. The Service was followed by a general meeting in the Lair, with refreshments and camp fire songs. There have been two discussion meetings for Senior Scouts and the Rangers. "Living together while young is the real way to train for citizenship," proved a topic for detailed and very lively discussion on the second occasion. The field day on Sunday, 18th March was very well attended and we were able to welcome the 18th Wimbledon and 9th Wallington Troops. Wide games involved a knowledge of Tenderfoot, Second and First Class badge work, and Services for the Group and while the seniors and juniors have attended, a large fund of physical energy. There have been monthly Church part in the "Tempest," "Osmint," as the scribe, has done great work in keeping the Group Log up to date. The first volume is now full and is available to any parents for reading: the second volume of even greater dimensions is already in use. At the last meeting of the Term, six recruits were invested and it will be difficult to expand any more under present conditions. The silver medal for "Good Scouting" was handed by the Curlews to the Owls, winners of the patrol competition for the term.
 At the request of a small group of parents and also of the Choughs, a message of congratulation and good wishes was sent to the Chief

Scout on his election to office. In a letter to the S.M., Lord Rowallan said, "May I thank both the Senior Scout and the Parents' Section for their messages. It has been a tremendous encouragement to me to know that I can count on your loyalty in the great task that lies ahead. The brotherhood of Scouting is very real and I shall look forward some day to meeting you all and telling you personally how grateful I am for your good wishes."

During the Easter holidays there will be five separate camps for patrol groups and next term, all juniors will be expected to attend training camps on the reservation.

Through the International Department at I.H.Q. we have been registered for linking up with a troop in Holland. Quite soon now we shall know in what ways we can help our fellow scouts in Holland and we look forward to the day when exchange visits between members of our two Groups will be possible.

On Saturday, June 2nd, the Group will hold its annual summer Garden Party. Many parents have already been working hard preparing and we shall welcome any additional help in kind or in service for this 9th annual event. It is hoped to include earlier attractions again in the Conjuror's Show, the ponies, and the auction sale. While expenses, we shall continue to make donations to the International Relief Service Fund and also to the local appeal for providing headquarters for Wimbledon Groups in the post war planning scheme. In order to finance the first 19th Contingent to go abroad, probably in the jamboree in France next year. The second is the founding of a Scout Scholarship by which the Group will assist materially the parents of any active member of the Group who wishes to take up a full time course at a training college or university on leaving school.

Our sincere congratulations go to P.L. Newnan (Curlews) on being awarded the Faraday Exhibition.

THE RINGS

In 1377, the last year of the reign of Edward III, a sick man raised himself onto his elbow and looked out of a small window in Sheen manor house. The last of his friends had left him in the morning and now the sun was going down in the West just as it had for so many years. Long purple shadows were growing larger and there was nothing to mar the song of a lark, who was lost somewhere up in the blue, save down in the village where hardworking men, brozzed by the sun and drenched by sweat, were coming back from the hay-making, singing their songs. Occasionally their song reached the straining ears of the sick man. The wrinkled hands closed over the sagging bed linen which had slipped down when the July sun was at its hottest. The singing grew fainter and the shadows lengthened until all was still and only a patch of gold shone on the walls.

Exhausted by his exertions the emaciated form sank back on the crumpled pillows, panting. When he had been young he took battles in his stride, now the slightest movement defeated him. His friends who had once hung on his arms had gone off to the rising star. The gold on the walls was getting smaller and fading as the breathing grew more regular and sleep overcame sad thoughts.

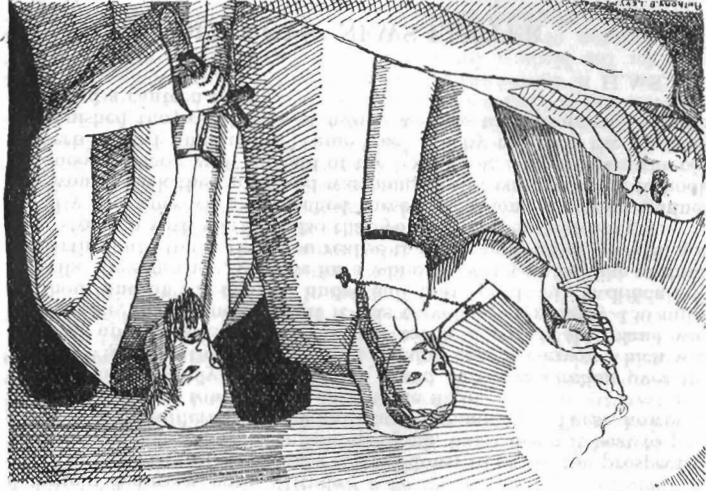
He was awoken in the blackness of night, when the moon had not risen, by a black form, holding a candle. His eyes caught but the blur of a flame and the knowledge of a beautiful face near his, and he could feel a pure hand feeling his brow and smoothing his straggling beard. It was Alice, his love, who had nursed him through the long months of wanting strength. He could not speak, but he whispered her name. Alice did not listen, she knew he was dying and now he had little more

which he could give her she did not hesitate to leave him. She spoke quickly of her intention. The words sounded strange to him, he did not understand them, he did not try to understand. Alice saw that he did not listen and it was not in her nature to waste time. Quickly she relieved him of his rings. He was hardly conscious of her actions and the priest was away, none would know and he would be dead by the morning. She was terribly afraid of corpses and yet sorry for the man who had loved her; she put the candle on the table and rushed out of the room. By then the dying man could not move and the candle threw strange lights on the mask-like face.

When the moon rose and peeped through the window the candle had diminished but the body remained as before. Slowly the light traversed the floor, then mounted the bed and shone onto the closed eyes. A cool night breeze fanned the temples and slowly consciousness returned. The eye-lids fluttered and the stones in the vaulted ceiling once more could be distinguished. He also heard the sound of praying. Slowly he turned his head and saw the priest at his side. The holy man arose and asked the dying if he could hear; on being answered he asked if any sins were unconfessed. For a minute the sick man whispered aimlessly, as fast as he began his mind wandered, his two hands clasped each other and he felt that something was missing.

"There is no time to lose, try to speak distinctly, speak to the point," said the priest, who had ridden all day to administer the last sacrament before the sick man died.

"My rings, someone has stolen them," said the sick man who could remember nothing of Alice's visit, "who could take the last remaining pittance of an old man . . . ?" His voice suddenly failed him, only his lips worked. "You will not need your rings now," said the priest and he allowed the sick man to kiss his cross. The eyes closed and the death rattle died in the throat of the corpse.



The priest soon rose from his prayers and, snuffing out the candle, he went to the door, but the door opened in his face. Alice had come back. Her fear of a corpse had been conquered by her love. Perhaps, after all, he was not dying. Perhaps, dare she hope the fit had passed? The priest let her go to the bedside, a half smile on his lips. She saw

that there was only a corpse, that she could not return the rings or ask his pardon, and that he was dead to her pleas as she had been dead to his room and comfort her, but he knew how she had often robbed the old man and in his bitterness could not refrain from sarcastically remarking: "Fancy Alice Ferrers being upset over the death of Edward III," but Alice did not heed him.

B.L.

A FLIGHT IN A SUNDERLAND

The climax of the A.T.C. camp at Calshot came for six of us when we were ordered to parade outside the safety equipment office at 1400 hours in order to collect our Mae Wests. After we had been tied up in at least a dozen different places we came out looking like so many trussed fowls and feeling extremely self-conscious in our vividly bright rig-outs.

When we had struggled down to the quay we found that the launch which was to take us to the Sunderland had gone out on a trip and would not be back for five or ten minutes. Eventually we reached the plane and found time to explore it thoroughly before the launch arrived with the crew which was to take us up. However, our troubles were not over yet, for it was only after a great deal of struggling that the nose of the plane was unmoored and the dripping wet anchor chain pulled in. The pilot had to taxi quite a distance into Southampton Water before he came to the area which was kept specially cleared for the Sunderlands to take off, although once we were in position it was not many minutes before we were airborne. In what seemed to be a remarkably short time we were circling round the hangars at two to three thousand feet and finding out to our cost that the temperature definitely decreases with altitude.

The majority of us quickly settled down to enjoy the prospect of an hour and ten minutes continuous flying, but I deem it best to pass a veil over the sufferings of the unfortunate minority. These, however, were cheering up towards the end of the flight. In an incredibly short time we found ourselves circling over the Isle of Wight for the last time and passing over a convoy which was forming up beneath us. The actual touch down of the plane was remarkable, for at one moment it was travelling at roughly 130 miles per hour and at the next at under half that speed. It is difficult to describe the sensation, because for a while at least you feel like nothing on earth; but after a time you realise that not only have you still got your stomach with you but also that you feel desperately hungry. By the time we had reached these conclusions the front gunner had wound back the turret and was hanging out endeavouring to hook the mooring buoy with the end of the boat hook. Once again in the old proverb "third time lucky" came true, and by the time the mooring was finished the launch was alongside waiting to take us back to the quay and a can'teen tea.

H.A.S.

OLD BOYS' NEWS LETTER

26th March, 1945.

It is with deep regret that we must open another letter with news of casualties amongst our members. F. Spinks, mentioned in our last letter as training in the R.A.F., has since been reported missing. W. Bailey is reported missing believed killed when his aircraft hit the sea and crashed in the Indian Ocean whilst on anti-submarine patrol. John Robbins has been killed in Burma and A. Uff has been killed

whilst fighting with the B.L.A. We could write much in praise of each of these friends who have died but words are no substitute for their presence. Our very deep sympathy goes to their parents and we mourn the loss of good friends. Kenneth Miller is the first Old Boy whom we have to congratulate on the birth of his child. He has been invalided home after having received no less than three wounds in various campaigns, eventually losing an eye during the Normandy landing. There are ever increasing numbers of Old Boys in the Eastern theatre of war. Tony Nagle, in the Indian Army, has written an interesting description of the training of the native Indian soldier. M. Mansbridge is serving with the R.A.F. in India whilst in the R.A.F. in Ceylon is Gordon Baker who wrote telling us of his travels in India. K. Richards flew a tour of operations in Coastal Command from Ceylon and has now returned to the Bahamas for a rest spell. F. Howell is now with the Indian Navy whilst E. J. Grey in the Royal Navy was last heard of in the Indian Ocean. Victor Simmons is home on leave from the Army in S.E.A.C. M. Richardson is now a signaller in the Radio Control Company at Delhi.

On all the borders of the Mediterranean Old Boys have seen service. Stanley Lander has been engaged in landing supplies on the Balkan coast whilst Alan Day spent two months with the Partisans in Montenegro. N. Molchanoff is still in Turkey and busy polishing up his languages. H. Saunders has travelled from North Africa to Greece and to Italy. Training with the R.A.F. in Rhodesia is Arthur Thompson whose letters have described the Victoria Falls, the neighbouring primitive townships and the nonchalance of a first solo. Denis Barton, Ronald Hill, and P. Bridges have also been in South Africa with the R.A.F. Jack Bell is training in Canada whilst V. Andrews is in Charlottesville also training for aircrew duties. Sam Brookes has completed a tour of operations and was lately on a well-earned leave. In this country Taylor, K. Gleave and C. Liddell are serving in various roles in the R.A.F. Ronald Pegg is with the Fleet Air Arm as is Brian Smith and L. Edwards, who, after completing an engineering cadetship in Kingston, has recently joined. N. Broderick, D. Cooper and R. Ward were all contemporaries in H.M.S. Alfred whilst A. Overell is expecting to go overseas in the Navy shortly. K. Dobson has completed his training as a Coder whilst Cyril Hill is now trained as a Fighter Director. G. Scobie and R. Holgate have both served throughout France and the Low Countries; Scobie writes of the behaviour of the German citizens he has so far met in their homeland. C. Gawthorpe is with the R.A.F. in Belgium but unfortunately his last letter to me was severely censored. Norman Poulter is in the Intelligence Corps whilst J. P. Smith has recently joined a training Battalion in Scotland.

At the universities, new names include R. Jahn, reading Natural Sciences at St. John's College, Cambridge, whence came R. Simeone recently to read a paper to the Geographical Society at School E. Warren is reading Mathematics at City and Guilds, London, whilst K. Prior and R. Gillett are reading for their 2nd M.B. at Kings College, London. E. Daniel has been engaged on the improvement of acoustic aids for the Medical Research Council but does not express a very high opinion of the results so far achieved. K. Daniels has been mining near Workshop and had a narrow escape from a roof fall after starting his work underground. K. Ellmore is working as an assistant Librarian, whilst Styles is working in the laboratories of Shell Refining Company. R. Jaunet is in the accountants department at the Head Office of the National Bank. The Committee of the Society as elected at the last Annual General Meeting includes K. Wright as Treasurer, who is reading Mathematics at St. John's, Cambridge, also G. Billingham, who is reading for 1st M.B.

at Guys Hospital and playing regularly for them. Other Committee members are John Roberts who is working in the Organol laboratories but hopes soon to be reading Chemistry in London University, John Carter who is at Seale Hayne Agricultural College in Devon and Eric Wells who is studying for his M.R.C.V.S. We must, as usual, apologise for omissions and mistakes, but plead that we can only write of what we know.

One paragraph remains to be written and that perhaps the most important. Mr. R. W. Gibb has left the School. Apart from his great contribution to our education when we were at School he has been a constant mainstay of our Old Boys' Society. As Chairman of the Committee he has always encouraged, guided and aided us. The number of our members who write to him and who have visited him when they go to the School testifies to the deep regard in which we hold him. We hope that leaving the School does not mean leaving the members of which he is assured of welcome. Our best wishes go to him in his new school in Devon, and upon the occasion of his marriage.

The Committee sends its good wishes to all Old Boys and hopes that we will be seeing you at the Cricket Match and Dance on July 21st.

B. W. MEAD.

"THE SPUR" COMMITTEE

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