

THE SPUR

Vol. VIII

No. 3



THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.

"To each his need, from each his power"

SCHOOL OFFICERS, SPRING TERM, 1948

Head of the School : D. Thompson.

Prefects : D. Thompson, N. Godwin, D. W. Tanner, G. W. Thomas,
D. M. Cheate, D. G. Lines, P. A. Blight, N. G. Colvin, K. Grant,
S. Priestman, D. P. White, J. A. A. Evans.

Prefect of Hall : N. Godwin.

Captain of Hockey : D. Thompson.

Secretary of the Games Committee : D. Thompson.

Prefect of the Library : D. G. Lines.

Sub-Prefects : J. Ashley, B. D. Cunningham, N. S. Gardiner, F. Kirby,
F. Hodges, D. H. Bacon, J. R. Hopkins, M. Cameron, G. Clayton,
J. Wells, L. Ayling, M. Welby,

" THE SPUR " COMMITTEE

Editors : William Walsh, J. R. Hopkins, D. P. White.

Committee : N. Godwin, J. A. A. Evans, D. M. Cheate, D. W. Tanner.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge the receipt of the following with many thanks :—
The Aldenhamian, The Ashtedean, The Fettesian, The Bristol Grammar
School Chronicle, The Bryanston Saga, The Radleian, The Wellingtonian,
The Becchamian, The Dolphin, The Palmerian, The Nonsuch
County School Magazine, The Abbotsholmian and The Kingstonian,
with apologies for any inadvertent omissions.

Vol. VIII, No. 3.

Spring, 1948.

EDITORIAL

All Gaul, said Cæsar, is divided into three parts. So is the editorship of *The Spur*. There are, however, only two types of editorials; one is a recording, with greater or less embellishment, of the principal events of the term, and the other is a statement of the aims of *The Spur* and an exhortation to people to write articles for it. This editorial will perforce be of the former kind, but we would like to appeal to members of the Middle and Junior Schools to send in articles or stories. After all, it is *the* School Magazine, and not that of a clique in the Sixth Form.

This issue of *The Spur* is slightly different in form from its predecessors; the amount of space occupied by reports of Societies and the like, is decidedly smaller. This does not indicate either a change in policy of *The Spur* or a slow decline in the cultural life of the School. The fact is, the shortness of the term coupled with a whirl of cross-country running, examinations and play rehearsals has compelled a temporary limitation of societies to one or two meetings.

Two important events are scheduled for the last few weeks of term. **The House Play Competition wants no description here.** Suffice it to say that there is the usual feverish activity of producers and, to a less degree, of the cast; there is similar speculation as to the adjudicator, and, without revealing any secrets, there are the plays chosen with a view to impress this adjudicator. Needless to say, each House's play is far superior to the others. The other major event of the term is the production on March 5th of Mozart's opera "*Così fan tutte*"; this is another landmark in the history of the School. It is the first time that a full-scale opera will have been performed on the School stage, and we are extremely grateful to the City Opera Club for coming down and giving this performance.

Whether for School Certificate or an Open Scholarship, Work with a capital W is still the principal purpose of a school. In this connection, the award of an Open Scholarship was an outstanding event which came, unfortunately, after the end of the Christmas term. On the result of the December examination, D. W. Tanner was elected to an Open Scholarship in Science at University College, Oxford.

We welcomed this term one new member to the Staff, Mr. Vyse, who is teaching French. We hope his stay will be a happy and pleasant one. Perhaps one of the happiest features of this term is that no members of the Staff are leaving at the end of it.

HOUSE NOTES

Cobb's

Captain : D. Thompson.

Vice-Captain : D. W. Tanner.

School Prefects : D. Thompson, D. W. Tanner, D. G. Lines
D. P. White.

Sub-Prefects : F. Hodges, F. B. Kirby, J. R. Hopkins,
D. H. Bacon.

At the time of writing, no Senior House Hockey matches have been played, while the Colts have been successful in their only encounter, against Halliwell's, winning by two goals to nil.

In the Cross-Country Run, on the other hand, the House was not so successful, finishing fourth very close behind the joint holders of second place; we can, however, console ourselves with the fact that besides the Seniors, Bagley and Knowles, who were in the first six home, another four fourth-formers, Boorman, Jonas, Gray and Rowley, ran amongst the first thirty. I am sure the whole House will join me in congratulating these, and especially Matravers, of Newsom's, for his really superb performance, covering the five gruelling miles in only 28 minutes.

If the House has not been very successful in sport it has, indeed, excelled in other provinces. Our hearty congratulations are due to David Tanner for his most brilliant achievement in securing an Open Scholarship at University College, Oxford, to D. P. White on attaining to prefectship, together with J. R. Hopkins and D. H. Bacon on their appointment as Sub-Prefects—and to the numerous members of the House who helped so greatly towards the success of the last School play.

D.T.

Gibb's

Captain : N. Godwin.

Vice-Captain : S. Priestman.

Sub-Prefects : B. D. Cunningham, M. Cameron,
G. Clayton.

Our sincere congratulations are due to S. Priestman, M. Cameron and G. Clayton on their appointment as Prefect and Sub-Prefects respectively.

Rugger : Captain—M. Cameron.

The House XV is to be highly commended on attaining a most satisfactory result in the Inter-House Rugger Competition. We tied for second place after losing to Milton's 19—21 and beating Newsom's 3—0. The team played very well under the indefatigable leadership of M. Cameron.

Champney is to be congratulated on receiving his rugger colours.

Hockey : Captain—M. Cameron.

At the time of writing we have played one match, that against Newsom's. We beat them 4—3 after a hard fought game. We are looking forward to meeting Cobb's in the semi-final.

Cross-Country Running : Captain—Charman, J.

The efforts exerted by the House Cross-Country Running team in practices were duly rewarded in the Inter-House run when the team was placed second together with Newsom's. The whole team are to be congratulated on its splendid performance, and especially Holden (2nd) and Charman (7th).

N. Godwin will again produce our House Play, for which we have selected Eugene O'Neill's one-act epic of the sea—"In the Zone."

N.G.

Halliwell's

Captain : D. M. Cheatle.

Vice-Captain and Captain of Cross-Country : G. W. Thomas.

Prefects : D. M. Cheatle, G. W. Thomas, J. A. A. Evans.

Sub-Prefects : J. Ashley, J. Wells, N. Gardiner.

To balance its defeat at hockey, Halliwell's gained a clear victory in the Cross-Country run, where the House had a lead of nearly 100 points over its nearest rivals. This is the fourth year in succession that we have gained the cup, in fact we have retained it ever since the competition was started. It is a cup we are specially proud to gain, since it involves the participation and co-operation of the House as a whole.

Later this term, in the House Play Competition, J. C. Powell is producing "Marco's Millions," by Eugene O'Neill. We wish him and the cast every success.

We offer our congratulations to J. A. A. Evans on being appointed a School Prefect, and also to J. Wells on being appointed a Sub-Prefect. J. Wells is to be further congratulated on his appointment as Secretary of the School Rugger and Captain of the House Hockey team. Congratulations also to G. W. Thomas, who has been appointed Captain of Athletics.

D.M.C.

Milton's

Captain : K. Grant.

Vice-Captain : L. Ayling.

We finished the end of last term on a sad note, as Osmint, who had been House Captain for two years, left us to do his National Service. We all wish him good luck in his new life, and hope to see him when he comes home on leave.

But the term did not end so badly as it might seem; Pegrum led the Rugger XV to victory in the last two matches of the season, making us second, equal with Gibb's and Newsom's. The game against Gibb's was exciting, as at half-time we looked like losing, but thanks to Pegrum's leadership, the score was 21—19 in our favour at the end. On the last day of term we played Cobb's and defeated them 8—3.

To return to this term, we started the hockey season well, winning our first match, against Halliwell's 2—0. So far there have been no other matches played. The Colt XI also did very well, winning against Gibb's 3—0. The other sporting event of the term was the Cross-Country run. Here, I am sorry to say, we lost very badly. But Ayling must be thanked for all the work he put into training the team, and also congratulated on coming in fifth out of the whole School.

Ayling is also to be congratulated on becoming a Sub-Prefect, and Tutt on becoming Surrey Junior Boxing Champion of his weight.

At the end of this term the House Play Competition is held. In recent years we have not done so well, but this time I think we should do much better. We hope to produce the "Poetasters of Ispahan," an Eastern play by Clifford Bax. K. Lintott is producing it, and we wish him and all the cast good luck.

At half term we were very sorry to lose Martin. Although he had not been with us for more than a year, he had become a very useful and willing member of the House, as well as of the School.

During the last two terms we have lost a great number of senior boys; it is now up to the fifth and fourth forms to put more energy into House activities to make up for the loss.

Next term athletic qualifying starts, and I hope this year there will be no excuses given when the time comes. As it has been said before and proved, the only way to win the Athletics Cup is to get as many qualifying points as possible before the sports, so it is up to all the members of the House. As for swimming, which also starts next term—once we won the Swimming Cup, so why shouldn't we this year?

Newsom's

Captain : P. A. Blight.
Vice-Captain : M. J. Welby.
Prefects : P. A. Blight, N. G. Colvin.
Sub-Prefect : M. J. Welby.

This term we have been very glad to welcome Mr. Cholmondeley as an assistant House Master, and hope that he will remain with us for a long time. Another appointment is that of Welby to the position of House Vice-Captain. He deserves our congratulations in this and in becoming a Sub-Prefect. So, too, does Colvin in his position as a Prefect. We were very pleased to hear last term that Phillips and Simpson had been awarded their 1st XV colours. The remaining two games of the Senior House Rugby Competition were played at the end of last term, and we were very disappointed by the course of play. We came within a hair's breadth of victory, but our luck failed, and we hope for better next time. The score against Halliwell's was 7 points to their 8, and Gibb's scored 3 to our nil. We were finally placed third.

The Cross-Country run which took place at half-term was an encouraging event. After being placed 4th and 5th too often, it was a creditable achievement to all who ran that Newsom's finished 2nd with 254 points. The outstanding performance was that of Matravets, who finished the new course in 28 minutes, one minute ahead of any other competitor. Others who ran well were Simpson, who finished 8th, Phillips (13th), Colvin (14th), Reynolds (15th) and Welby (19th). Unfortunately the tail end was too far behind to allow us to defeat Halliwell's.

There has been one Senior House Hockey match this term, which we lost by 3—4 to Gibb's after a very even game. May this be the only setback. The team is captained by Pike. The Colts Hockey XI have practiced enthusiastically, and when House matches begin we hope to make up through team spirit what we lack in individual skill. The long-awaited Junior House Rugby match against Halliwell's to a good game, and, we hope, a successful one. In an enjoyable and high-scoring match with Cobb's, we were victorious by 22 points to 14. We must now start thinking about Athletics, in which early training, if not overdone, will be invaluable. Next term also we want to develop a junior cricket team which will provide a solid base for House teams in succeeding years. We have the material, and, despite the lack of playing space, we must make the most of every facility which is available.

March 24th will see the battle set for the House Play Competition. We wish the large cast of 22 and the producer Jackson the best of luck in their performance of Beatrice Mayor's "Thirty Minutes in a Street."

P.A.B.

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

CAST

Solinus, Duke of Ephesus ...
 Aegeon, as merchant of Syracuse } Twin brothers, and sons
 Antipholus of Ephesus, }
 Antipholus of Syracuse, } to Aegeon and Emilia
 Dromio of Ephesus, }
 Dromio of Syracuse, } to the two Antipholuses ...
 Balhazur, a merchant of Ephesus ...
 Angelo, a goldsmith, also of Ephesus ...
 A Merchant, friend to Antipholus of Syracuse ...
 Another Merchant, to whom Angelo is in debt ...
 Doctor Pinch, a schoolmaster ...
 Officer attached to the Duke ...
 Gaoler and Executioner, ...
 Soldiers, ...
 Trumpeter, ...
 M. S. Leak ...
 R. E. Ayres ...
 R. J. Wells ...
 R. S. Betts ...
 J. H. Goodger ...
 L. W. Bunch ...
 M. W. Hamilton ...
 A Courtesan ...
 Other Parts :—J. Arnold, J. Baldwin, K. R. Buckingham, J. R. Child, C. Christmas, J. R. Daday, M. W. Dick, A. V. Forster, A. Harding, P. J. Fogado, T. E. Wolkemburg, I. R. Wilson.

The costumes by Margaret Henderson and K. Lintoft, and executed by Margaret Henderson with the help of parents and friends of the School.
 The set designed by Kenneth Downing Williams and Dan Shannon, and made in the School Craft and Art rooms.
 Lighting and music production by K. Grant and H. C. Burford.
 Stage Manager : F. L. Hodges.
 Stage Staff : D. Charles, A. Knowles, D. Lewis, A. Ridgeway.
 D. Pratt, P. Cheney.
 Prompter and Producer's Assistant : J. C. Powell.
 Front of House Management : Harvey Hallam.
 Box Office : D. Thompson, G. Osmin.
 Wigs by Spaans.
 Production by Peter Smith.

"The Comedy of Errors" is a salutary play for those who are in danger of forgetting that Shakespeare was, after all, merely human and capable therefore of thoroughly poor work and wretchedly dull writing. The play is a machine-made farce, and, if written by another, would be judged to betray the extreme rigidity of the unimaginative : it has that division into nicely balanced halves where the degree of neatness is in inverse proportion to its closeness to life ; and here the design is as neat and dull as a plastic cup. The pieces of the play fit together with a click, an unknown mother, a lost father, two pairs of twins duly complementing each other, two obviously contrasting women, and the king-pin Duke. Whenever there is an intrusion of Shakespearean nervous life, then there is a sense of incongruity and a painful effect of

sorethumbness. Two striking examples were Æmelia's impassioned defence of the sanctuary of the convent, and Ægeon's moving plea before Duke Solinus. These speeches moved one from the world of precise diagrams into the clumsy, emotional world of experience. In themselves they were fine, but they had no place in this play. The whole was inferior to the part.

These abrupt and perhaps too severe strictures are not an auspicious preparation for what is to follow, a notice of the School production of "The Comedy of Errors" last term. But the reader will be deceived if he expects this to be a launching point or even an excuse for an unkind dismissal of the play. **Quite the contrary!** The general opinion, in which the writer shares, was that this was one of the most successful of all School productions for many years. As entertainment the play was a ripe success. There are several reasons why this should be so. Neither the producer nor the actors had to cope with a subtlety of expression and feeling or an overwhelming force of passion, things beyond the range of the most talented boys. Nor (in spite of the rather frightening note on the programme) was there anything complex to grasp in the structure or plot of the play, which presumably spared the audience the tedium of intellectual effort. All the conditions were present for a glad romp, an harum-scarum rickety throw-about in which audience and players could combine in irresponsible mirth. But perhaps the strongest reason for its success is the curious way in which human beings respond to difficulties and impediments. It was such a desperately bad play that the producer was challenged to pour in great draughts of his own imagination, talent and humour, which he did with enormous gusto. Indeed, the comment was made that the play was a triumph until the certain irreducible quantities of Shakespeare appeared, but this is too extreme. It was above all a producer's play, and we cannot thank Mr. Peter Smith too highly or congratulate him sufficiently on the abundance of his comic invention, his capacity for creating situation and interest out of thin air and half a dozen lines, and the smoothness and professional efficiency of his direction. What might have dragged, bounded; what might have sagged, vibrated; what might have been merely ridiculous we delighted to acknowledge as gorgeously amusing.

We have pointed out two moments of great beauty in the play, the speech by Ægeon (D. M. Cheatle) and that by the Abbess Æmelia (R. E. Ayres), both of which were delivered with fire and genuine feeling. Ayres has a melodious speaking voice, and appears to grasp intuitively the real inwardness of Shakesperian verse. D. M. Cheatle spoke his lines resonantly, with force, decision and conviction, an admirable cameo, spoilt only by its irrelevance to the mood and level of the play as a whole. There was another memorable moment of great beauty (nothing to do with Shakespeare this time) at the beginning of the play, when dawn germinated and the glittering Mediterranean scene delicately unfolded. An urchin awoke on the steps of the convent, the fruitsellers appeared, the merchants opened their shops, the housewives circulated and the town turned from remote, moonlit tranquillity to the busy energy of day. This was a wonderful opening; it satisfied, as does something really felt and expressively realised. D. N. Lincs as Solinus the Duke, moved and spoke gracefully, and conveyed an air of dignified authority, but there was noticeable occasionally some slight embarrassment at the inanities over which he was expected to preside. The women, with the exception of Nell (L. W. Bunch), an eccentric and voracious kitchen-maid, were not convincing, though this, it must be admitted is not the general view. Luciana (R. S. Betts) naturally enough, seemed to be a little girl rather than a young woman, and Adriana (R. J. Wells), though reaching at moments a febrile pitch of

feminine excitement, grasped his character only at intervals. M. W. Hamilton had an impossibly difficult part as the Courtesan with which he coped (perhaps, unfortunately) manfully; he was less the Serpent of Old Nile than the eel of the Serpentine. The Antipholuses (J. R. Hopkins and J. R. Wells) both gave full and rounded studies, Hopkins perhaps with more emotion than the part warranted, and Wells with less. There were some charming small parts. J. W. Crichton was exquisitely comic as Doctor Pinch the asinine schoolmaster, B. S. Jackson was deft as the prattling, fussy merchant, and there was a variety of imps, urchins, shopkeepers and citizens who built up a gay and authentic background. The two Dromios, monstrous in primary colours and immense noses, ruled the stage and the audience. Each gave a vivid, energetic performance, but in Dromio of Syracuse (D. M. Spiers) the spirit of fun bubbled more freely and naturally than in his brother of Ephesus (D. H. Bacon).

We most warmly congratulate Mrs Henderson and her helpers who designed and created the superb, glowing costumes, Mr. Shannon and his helpers who made the eye-enchancing sets, Mr. Hallam who conducted the management of the finances and everyone of the many engaged in this immense, rewarding activity. So much energy, so much goodwill, so much talent trumpet out the vigorous life and bounding health of the School.

W.W.

Note.—Our readers will be interested in the finances of the play, and we have obtained the Headmaster's permission to append his note on this.

"Last term's 'Comedy of Errors' cost £74 6s. 0d. and brought in £136 9s. 0d., showing a profit of £62 13s. 0d. on the production. In the whole year, after paying house-play expenses, etc., and leaving the usual balance of £70 0s. 0d. with which to produce our next play, the stage was able to contribute £29 13s. 0d. to General School Fund for the benefit of games, etc., for the whole of the School.

It must not be assumed that this sum is the only profit, much of the expenses were not dead loss, but on costumes, gear (for example, the ladder), which are permanent additions to our possessions and of use for future plays.

And, as I have said already, the play would be eminently worth while if we made no profit at all."

SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

This short, and in many ways depressing term, has proved so far an awkward period for the Sixth Form Society. The Trial Examinations have been a very tempting counter-attraction, and though we have done our best to prevent it,

"Now the New Year reviving old Desires

The thoughtful soul to solitude retires."

At least, the souls of the Second Year Sixth have retired. Nevertheless, the first half of this term contained one very successful meeting. Namely, the "ever-popular" Personal Choice Evening. There was a good attendance, though whether the motive was a desire to inflict ingenious forms of punishment on one's neighbours, or a genuine interest in other people's tastes, I know not. Invitations to this meeting were sent to Wimbledon County Girls' School and to Wimbledon High School. Both responded very well, and there were, in all, thirty visitors, of which not a few made contributions to the evening's entertainment in the form of records and readings. The contributions from the School were both of a humorous and a serious nature, and there

were some interesting revelations of taste and opinion. A fair degree of tolerance was maintained though I played the unfortunate role of a "buffer-state," maintaining a semblance of peace between two schools of "music."

Two more original contributions which we welcomed were solo pieces on the accordeon and the piano. We hope that this will not be the last time such contributions are made, as they provide a pleasant change. Extracts from Nathaniel Gubbins and Wyndham Lewis were in evidence again, and Modern Poems, from T. S. Eliot and other writers, received attention. An extract from Edward Lear's "Nonsense Poems" provided a flash of sanity in the mêlée of records of modern "Music." The evening lasted about two hours, and was on the whole very successful.

This personal choice evening was the only meeting of the first half-term, but it is hoped that during the second half a play reading and at least one debate will be held. The former is in the nature of an experiment, and Wimbledon High School will be invited to participate in the reading. Whether it will be a success or not depends, as do all the meetings, on the members themselves. I think, that, at present, the Society, though not a dominating force, is filling a need felt by the Sixth Form.

D.W.T.

PARTISANS

President : The Headmaster.

Secretary : D. M. Cheatle.

Members now at School : Mr. W. Walsh, Mr. E. A. C. Balshaw, D. M. Cheatle, J. A. Evans, N. Godwin, D. W. Tanner.

Due to the illness of the members only one meeting of the Society was held this term. But at that meeting Mr. Balshaw read a paper on Plato which amply compensated for the lack of other meetings, for it, like Plato himself in Raphael's picture, pointed the way to higher things. Plato, in his youth, was a poet of some ability, but realizing its limitations for philosophic discussion, he made prose his vehicle, but a prose infused with the feeling of poetry. For he believed that feeling, transcending reason was the nearest one could approach to reality. This occasioned his use of myth which appeals from clear scientific thought to the deeper, inarticulate feelings of the race.

But Mr. Balshaw devoted the greater part of his paper to a discussion of the Republic and the Laws. The self-sufficient insular society which Plato envisaged was divided into three classes—the Philosophers, the Military and the Labourers. The education of the first two classes was specialised, and suitable to the function of administering and guarding the State. His complete change from his early position is shown by his refusal to admit any poetry except that of a didactic or propagandist nature—"there is a quarrel of long-standing between philosophy and poetry." In the "Laws" the idealism of the "Republic" is lost, he describes a state that it is possible to obtain; the communism of the "Republic" has been abandoned, and he has found it necessary to advocate the Nocturnal Council as Inquisition. His prose has by now become almost unreadable, and the philosophy now rested with the cynics. But even at the height of his power his philosophy merely gave to a dying system the trappings of immortality and at all times he was greater as a writer of prose than as a philosopher.

In spite of the concentration by Mr. Balshaw on the political and artistic aspects of Plato, the discussion centered round Plato's moral

ideas—his ideas of marriage and "Platonic love"—and then more widely over the relation between art and the nature of government.

The Headmaster has offered to present a paper to the meeting of the Society that will be held in the last week of this term.

D.M.C.

GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

Last term we held a meeting which came too late to be included in the last issue of *The Spur*. At this meeting Mr. E. A. C. Balshaw was persuaded to air his views on a geographical rather than classical subject, and as a result we had one of our most enjoyable lectures. His subject was East Africa, and by the aid of a then intact epidiascope, he recounted his personal experiences in Kenya, Uganda and the Belgian Congo. His story was humorously interspersed with anecdotes about elephants, customs duties and holiday resorts in East Africa. Besides the humorous element, he contributed much wealth to our ever widening knowledge of the world, and for this we are extremely grateful to Mr. Balshaw.

The activities of the Geographical Society this term, can unfortunately, be stated very briefly, the fact being that the extreme shortness of the term, and the presence of trial exams, have allowed us to hold only one meeting. At this meeting Mr. J. H. Hallam gave a lucid, and learned paper on New Guinea; illustrating pure geographical facts with stories of his own stay there. His paper showed the extreme difficulties with which the Allied Forces had to cope, when driving the Japanese from New Guinea. The vast sago swamps of the hinterland; the thick undergrowth, and lack of communications; the primitive living conditions of the natives, were all presented very vividly to us by Mr. Hallam's talk, which was illustrated by maps and photographs.

The paper shortage and the mishaps of the Editor have hindered the publication of Vol. I, No. 3, of *The Spur Geographer*, but we hope that this will in time be published, with new and refreshing articles. We bade farewell to our conscientious secretary, D. J. Rippengal, this term, and we sorely miss his inspiration and hard work. His secretarial duties have been handed over to D. Tribe, who, we hope, will continue the office with the vigour of his predecessor.

D.G.L.

CHESS CLUB

We are now firmly established, and the Biology Laboratory is the scene of much hard thinking on Fridays. There is plenty of talent among the Juniors, although the standard of play among Seniors is still rather low. In our first match against Wandsworth County School, we lost by 6 games to 2. Thompson and Betts are to be congratulated on winning their games. When practice games are played to stricter standards, and pieces are not tentatively moved and then replaced, above all when more tournament games have been played under match conditions, our team will be able to hold their own.

THE GRAMOPHONE CLUB

It seems that this term's more progressive policy will be very fruitful. We have acquired a corner of the School notice board where the week's programme can be displayed, and this publicity appears to have been instrumental in attracting more people to our meetings.

We welcome these new members, especially those from the Fifth Form, as, until now, the Gramophone Club seems to have been regarded as a purely Sixth Form activity, which it is not.

Our meetings this term, have been devoted to "personal choices" by some of our members. The most notable works to be played were Walton's brutal and barbaric "Belshazzar's Feast" and Mahler's "Song of the Earth."

Plans for the rest of the term include a performance of the first act of "Turandot," and some programmes on Bach and Mozart.

D.T.B.

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

President : E. A. C. Balshaw, Esq.

Vice-President : The Headmaster.

Secretary : N. Godwin.

Members : Mr. E. A. C. Balshaw, Mr. A. Cholmondeley, N. Godwin, D. Thompson, D. P. White, S. Priestman, W. G. Winter, A. Warren, D. M. Cheatle.

At an inaugural meeting it was decided to form a Classical Society with the following regulations:

- that (a) The President may be either a Master or a member of the School;
- (b) The Secretary shall be a member of the School;
- (c) The Vice-President shall be the Headmaster.
- (d) There shall not be more than two nor less than one meeting a term.

At the first meeting, held at Mr. Balshaw's house, on December 3rd, 1947, Mr. A. Cholmondeley read a paper on "The Physics of Stoicism." His treatment of so complex a subject was masterly. The origin of Stoicism, the reader stressed, was to be found in the dissatisfaction of the Roman with his old national religion and his desire for a more palpable creed.

C. R. E. Parker is to read a paper on "Virgil and Milton" at the next meeting of the Society to be held on Wednesday, March 17th.

N. G.

MODEL PARLIAMENT

Towards the end of the Christmas Term it was decided at a meeting open to all seniors, to hold an election. This was intended to arouse the interest of more of the school in our Model Parliament, and give all, the superior feeling of having a vote, a condition afforded only to those above 21 in the outside world. At the election all seniors from the 4th forms upwards were accepted as members of Parliament and the vote was to decide the government for this present term. There were three candidates, socialist, liberal and conservative when just before nomination day a universalist candidate appeared from the 5th form. The universalists, who apparently had a strong following, based their policy on a compromise. Every other candidate was alarmed, to say the least, at this new party. There were hurried meetings for all the contestants and heckling was rife from all sides. The election day came and many waited anxiously for the result, including the candidates, J. A. Evans, socialist, J. R. Hopkins, liberal, A. S. Warren, conservative and J. Hoare, universalist. The result was a victory for the left, the socialist candidate gaining a majority of 11,

with 71, from the conservative, who polled 60. The liberal candidate gained 53 and the universalist, accompanied by his eclectic policy, a startling but edifying 14. We must thank Mr. Walsh and Mr. Lyle who so ably acted for us as chairmen at the party meetings.

At the beginning of this term a strong socialist government took office, and the first Thursday dinnertime meeting was spent on the King's speech. Here the policy, aims and immediate business of the government was laid out and criticised by the opposition. The government was then weakened by the resignation of the Prime Minister. This office was taken over by D. M. Cheatle who was absent through illness before the next meeting began. Under the acting Premiership of F. L. Hodges, after the question time, a new scheme for Industrial insurance was debated. It must be noted that Hodges, in this unrelished position, showed great skill in not answering, but by-passing the questions flung at him by the opposition, A. S. Warren and M. Welby, with a ready wit and great perseverance. The following two weeks were occupied with the supplementary budget. An excellent proposal was presented by S. Smith, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to introduce a system of Discriminating Taxation. The tax was to be levied, not on the total income, but inversely on the economic importance of the wage-earner. Thus those people in the gambling industry would be taxed at a very high rate, while those in the mining and agricultural industries would lose little of their earnings in tax. Other occupations would vary on a graded scale. Incidentally, for the benefit of the members of the staff in the House, waiting with bated breath, the Chancellor announced that schoolmasters were regarded as having quite a considerable economic importance, much to their relief. Unfortunately S. Smith was not able to be present to defend his proposals and these were defeated in committee.

Then for two weeks, owing to half term and examinations, the government was allowed a breathing space and time to regather some of its members. D. M. Cheatle, whose fluctuating politics always cause excitement in the House, returned to conduct a very successful Wednesday evening meeting on February 25th. Visitors from Wimbledon County, Wimbledon High, and Tiffin Schools came and swelled the back benches on either side. A comment overhead after the meeting deplored the lack of speeches from the back benches but praised the adhesion, of those who did speak, to the debate, and the absence of a purely personal effort or view. We must endorse this opinion and say that the standard of the debate was high with some veritable peaks.

After a stormy question time, the House launched itself, under the usual guidance of the Speaker, Mr. Robinson, into a bill, to be styled the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, when passed. In section one, the House of Lords was to be reformed so that it would represent a second chamber not having its previous powers. The hereditary privilege was to disappear and membership was restricted to those with certain stringent qualifications. Section two dealt with the changes which would affect the Commons more closely. There was to be a system of proportional representation, the University vote was to be retained and an innovation, clergy of all denominations could be returned to the House. An amendment was rejected by 27 to 22 votes and the government passed the Bill with 28 votes against 25.

We must mention the detailed work of the committee which has the responsibility of planning the meetings and on Wednesday evening many thanks were due to Mrs. Hodges and Mrs. Lines, who provided the refreshments . . . refreshments, we add, so necessary for parched politicians.

G. C. W.

WESTMINSTER VISIT

Lord Samuel said not long ago that the House of Lords is the only institution whose work is facilitated by absenteeism but this impression is false in the case of the House of Commons. At least, such was the view of five fortunate members of the upper school who were enabled to visit the Lower House in February. At no time during their stay were there more than about fifty members present and the picture thus presented was rather drab and disappointing.

Nevertheless the Hon. Members are well-cared for. We had to show our passes some five or six times before we actually entered the gallery. Earlier, in the lobby, we had seen the Speaker's procession pass into the House but that, in itself, lacked the ceremony we had expected and was all over in a couple of minutes.

Despite the measure of disappointment, however, it was a valuable and interesting experience and we learnt various points of procedure of which we shall make good use in our own Model Parliament. It was interesting also to hear well-known "personalities" making the speeches we usually read in the daily papers. On the day we went these personalities in all parts of the house seemed very friendly and co-operative, apologizing whenever a partisan note was introduced. To hear Mr. Boyd-Carpenter blandly agreeing with the government created an impression of the feeling of the House that was hardly accurate.

Comparatively speaking and all things being equal (I say this in all seriousness) a good meeting of our Model Parliament would not be totally eclipsed by a sitting of the Westminster House such as we witnessed—a sobering thought for those who tend to look down upon our methods of studying current affairs and the British system of government.

Although we are very grateful to Mr. Robinson and Mr. A. M. F. Palmer for arranging this visit (and our appreciation is implicit in the fact that we were present for the whole day's sitting) all of us incline to agree with the member of staff who remarked, recently, that it is possibly safer to retain one's illusions about the Mother of Parliaments.

J. A. E.

MOOD IN BROWN

Shade without form or colour ;
Sown in infertility with pointless birds ;
Void canvas,
Visiected soul of the world,
Pinned by the static writhing of blunted trees.

Tyrannical space,
Leaning on the drab rooftops,
Draping over the vacant scene,
Supressing life and vigour.

A vague emotion stirs,
Speaking of days that might have been ;
Turns a dead leaf in the gutter to invert contemplation,
And Passes.
The overwrought nerve of Fate is taut to snap ;
Suppressed tension, hidden emotion ;
And a car spouses down the wet road.

They are waiting,
Formless vultures congregate on the allotment,
" You really must go over there to-night Bert !
" We're quite behind. Mr. Jones has got his potatoes in."
The veil has worn very thin.
We are too near Reality to comprehend Truth.

The inevitable approaches,
The irretrievable passes,
Ordered from—When ?
Predestinate to—now ?
" That's Mr. Skinner and his new dog. Nice man."

Pleurococcus grows on the damp side of a tree.
Reality sprouts here
Dividing and divided,
Layer upon layer,
Sub-supplemental,
Apparent Infinity.
Clear it with a beer bottle,
Push it in and leave a jagged revelation of
—Another reality.
Take a drug and invert eternity.
Or do you.
" Anyway it's pleasant, and wot's the 'arm ? "
Humanity is tipling with Omega, for unsubstantial reality.
D. W. T.

NEMESIS

The fear of casting back an eye
Over the ground recently covered
To the forgotten distance
Increase speed
I must increase speed
But what is the good of increasing speed ?
We shall increase speed
So too shall our shadow
So shall the universe and all the darkness
Whatever our velocity we shall be caught
Caught and caught up with, caught and caught up in.
We shall feel the darkness approach
Can we elude its hold
No, for the sands of time are falling fast
And the wind is growing stronger
The wind is dead against us
Our greatest efforts are as nothing
All around us are alien forces
Bringing restraint, fatigue and panic.
Frustrated panic at imminent doom
In an uninhabited space
With that clump of grey trees to the right
And in front the menacing mist of the moors
Increase speed, increase speed, increase, increase speed
Where ?
There is no direction by which to seek escape
There is no road out of this country
There were many roads in but they have vanished,
Find a formula for that

Drag out of your tomes the answer
To that problem.
In a few seconds—or is it too late
For the sands of time are falling fast
And the wind is growing stronger
And the shadows are enlarging.

PAUL PRINGLE.

DEATHBED

Sunset reddens the window-panes
And the fading light creeps from the room
Rapidly when unobserved
But crouching furtively before the open eye.
Shadows swim across a cracked mirror
Reflecting themselves on the death-bed.
Life like light
Flows like a whirling dust storm
Through the gaping hungry glass.
The infection of death
Has been broken over the room,
Morbid room.
The stuffy black fur of an expectant mourner,
The lace handkerchief held to a betraying eye.
Tears are drawn from taps but
Regards are never traitors.
The coarsest dead flowers with their dry leaves.
The door slightly ajar
Crumples up the colourless threadbare rug.
The watered eyes of the dying man
Visit the corners of the room ;
He glances at the dimming mirror
And sees through the dull dazzle
The advancing reflection of death
He cries but makes no sound.
Heard in another world ?
Fear, anger, relief or impatience ?
His visitors know that the end has come,
They cluster about the frail bed
Like enormous perching carrion.
Death pushes through the row of thick-coated backs
To press out the last drying pool of life.
Now the room has emptied
And the shadows cast down from the window
Drift over the bedclothes
And their cold occupant
Whose sculptor has departed.

PAUL PRINGLE.

THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

The death of any great man must give all thinking men a jolt
but the death of Gandhi has produced a tremor that will not subside
for a long time, even though by the time this appears in print the
initial shock and horror at this assassination will, to a large extent,
have faded. The loudly-made resolutions to live up to the Mahatma's

high ideals will, like all resolutions, have lost their enthusiasm and
sincerity. That is the great tragedy. The majority of men are only
concerned with their immediate day-to-day existence. They feel
themselves in a world of inexplicable and intransigent forces, unable to
understand and incapable of trying. But there has been no man like
Mr. Gandhi for centuries and there will probably be none other like
him for generations. It is therefore vital that more than a passing
thought be given to his life and death and to the implications and
significance of both and it is, above all, the younger generation that
must apply itself to this problem. It is *terribly* relevant to their future
lives.

What, then, can we learn from the life and philosophy of "Bapu" ?
For what does he stand ? In a word for the principle of *Ahimsa* ; the
belief that a desired end may be obtained by passive resistance and
non-violence and of the two he gave first place to the principle of non-
violence. Above all, however, he believed in peace by co-operation
that war is not inevitable ; that it is created by man's inherent selfish-
ness which by effort of will can be conquered.

It is this fundamental idea of the possibility of avoiding war that
should concern the younger generation. At the moment there is a
great section of the community which believes the third World War
is only a matter of time. That is nonsense. The modern trend is,
possibly, towards war but though foolish things have been and are
being said and done, as yet no irrevocable act has been committed.
The desire for peace and the will to realize that desire could still exercise
the guiding influence. If young people decide as a body that the
world in which they have to live, the world in which they can and
should exercise their powers is not going to be torn by conflict and
strife a great step forward will have been made.

Unfortunately as the workers of the nation and the world were
not, in the past, organized for their common good, similarly the youth
of today is not organized to play its part and it is upon them that much
will depend. The extension of Youth Organizations to include people
of all nations is a vital preliminary ; as is an extension of Youth
Conferences attended by delegates of all nations. Only by the estab-
lishing of ties, cultural, sacred, athletic and mutually co-operative can
the seeds of the idea that international violence is not necessary, be
sown. By this method racial, religious and political differences could
be reconciled or, at least, subordinated to the common good.

Preliminary steps are taken in schools to inculcate the idea of
international responsibility by the discussion, debate and study of
World Problems but very little progress seems to be made. A belief
in the need for conscription and a standing army seems to grow not
diminish. The attitude to other nations who do not share our political
beliefs and system grows ever more intolerant. Intelligent young
people are helping, rather than hindering, the manufacture of war
clouds. There is a dangerous trend back to the pre-war nationalist
pre-occupation. Nothing matters so long as Englishmen can continue
to rebuild their fools' paradise, shattered so abruptly, but with little
effect, by one world catastrophe.

All this is not hypothetical. The dangerous tendencies are in-
disputable facts ; the relevance of the problem to young people is
proved by the failures of the past and by common sense. Above all,
it must be appreciated that if peace is to be preserved it can only be
as a result of creating conditions in which men no longer desire to go
to war and that consideration of the cause for which Gandhi died can
never be excessive.

J. A. E.

ON EXAMINATIONS

"Stretched on the rack of a too easy chair, and heard thy everlasting yawn confess The pains and penalties of idleness."

Evidently he had just finished some examination or other. He was in a vantage position to view with clarity not only idleness, but also examinations. They have their pains and penalties too, but, like a receding storm assume a roseate hue in retrospect. The remarkable feature of examinations is not the result but the moods and feelings immediately preceding and following them. The poor deluded student enjoys a comparatively calm but false sense of security in the few weeks of preparation. Thinking only of the present he presses onward wondering whether the preparation is worse than the examination or not and finally concludes a draw. The pre-examination period is the best proof I know that time is relative. At least so I persuade myself, for with amazing rapidity the examinations jump from next month to next week, like Alice moving from square to square. Personally, I advocate a short period of enforced idleness a day or so before the examination. This practise has a fair degree of laxity about it and some advocate enforced idleness for a month or so before the examination. "It's no good cramming, you know," they confidently affirm. I wish I had their confidence.

An enterprising experiment would be to provide candidates entering the examination room with lethal weapons. For myself a few rounds would be sufficient. The examinations not being available I would debate whether to see to the other candidates or myself. For prior to examinations I delve into the depths of depression and do not even find solace in executing masterpieces of caricature of the examinees around the margins of my paper. For a whole half an hour or so I am completely absorbed in my question paper. Then my attention wanders. How clever they all look! And how much they've written! This merely adds to my depression. Nevertheless the first paper is finished at last and I crawl home to revise for the following papers. And, try as I may, I cannot help opening books at appropriate pages and discovering even another mistake. As day after day goes by a fine suffused glow creeps through me. "No worst, there is none. Fetched past pitch of grief." Ah, but you haven't seen the maths papers yet.

Then there is the post-examination lull when one feels one has nothing to do, but ought to be doing something. This period starts with a gay swing of abandon but routine slowly asserts its sway. Then just when all is forgotten, a postcard arrives. Ah, well!

D. W. T.

THE GAME OF CHESS

"Not all the water in the rough, rude sea

Can wash the balm off an anointed King,"

nevertheless, in a plish, other-worldly atmosphere among reverend grey-beards, kings may fall to the merest pawn of the kingdom; a Bishop may leave off his ecclesiastical robes and do battle with some doughty knight; the Queen may lay siege to a castle. And the origin of these nation-shattering events may be any gentleman's club and the kingdom, over which the warriors advance and retreat, are chess-boards. Truly the chess-men are:

"as flies to wanton boys,"

who may kill them for their sport.

When the game is in progress there is none of the rancorous good-humour of the gambling den, where life-savings pass from hand to hand. Here a dour silence prevails, as reputations wrestle for supremacy over the chequered battle-field. Where the mere exchange of money is concerned man may laugh at its loss, since more can be made on the morrow. But where the loss is to be reputation, then long consideration and deep thought is necessary. When a reputation may be lost by moving King Knight to King Bishop three, then the long pause before decision is justified.

In the world that moves outside the club, assassination of kings and their entourage is left in the hands of young, impetuous men—but here plot and counter-plot is made, the fate of two kings hang in the balance, and the hands that control the swing of the arm are old. This is no sudden pistol shot from a dark doorway, no mysterious knife with no origin—this is the carefully laid and warily carried out strategy of experience and age. Life has worked its full course with them, and they know the inevitability of the final end. They will wait and plan, change and rechange until at last their object is achieved and the King lies at the feet of their army. The constitution has been overthrown, and a new world replaces the old as another army prepares to battle.

Among these grey-haired, gentle conspirators we find Niemczowitsch, Alekhine, Kisesritzki, Philidor and Cara-Kahn. Where is there to be found a more thoroughly suspicious collection of names. It must be said that the malignant foreign influence pervades the game. The cool, sadistic foreigner finds great pleasure in the spectacle of a king debased. Many even make a point of giving the final move, which check-mates, to a pawn, thus to complete the ignominy of the defeat. No where outside the British domain can be heard those noble words of self-sacrifice and generosity, "your Queen's in danger, old man."

The Britisher takes the less malignant of the conspiratorial plots, modifies and replans until they may be considered "cricket," and then, proceeds to the study of the Romance languages, so also should Chess prepare the youth's mind for the life to come, where every sudden desire will not be satisfied as easily or as quickly as its conception. To watch, wait and, if necessary, alter plans in order to gain the end eventually, is the lesson of Chess. The ability to stand aside and let the opponent take the leading role so that you may profit by his mistakes, in the consummation of your end, is the lesson of Chess. The habit of beginning again arises, one object is achieved, never to stagnate, gloating over past victories, but to set out after new ones, this is the lesson of Chess.

To the experienced the game of Chess is an unparalleled art, and like the true artist, he interprets the position of the game and plans his move. But, having done so, he is ready to discard that plan immediately with no pang of regret at time wasted, for the final result is the end after which he strives, and to attain it is the work of an artist taking the tools given to him, the openings left by his opponent, and working his result out of them. Initiative, ability to see when one policy is bad and should be ignored, in this field, he who has learnt the unwritten, as well as the written, rules of Chess at an early age will excel.

Chess may not have a part in the final form of the intellect, but it aids the initial development.

The game of Chess, the most over-worked analogy of fiction writers, proves to be a false simile—for in the final ultimate game of Chess we are the men on the board, and the players we may not see nor may we know the workings of their minds.

J. R. H.

LECTURES

Basil Wright, Esq. "Paris To-day."

Mr. Wright paid the School another welcome visit to talk, at first hand, on present-day conditions in Paris. He spoke on every conceivable aspect of French life from food, an all-engrossing and ever-growing problem, to *Hamlet* in the Gide manner. We learnt, for example, that many of the foodstuffs we in England, complain are in short supply are, in France, non-existent. There is no adult ration of milk, and a restaurant meal for which coupons have been surrendered costs up to 17s. while a "coupon-free" meal anything to £3. As in most countries, there is a sharp distinction between the life of the poor and that of the more fortunate. In the Rue Champs Elysees-Rue de Rivoli area, in which one finds most government departments and meet visiting missions and delegations, life is comparatively pleasant, if expensive. But behind the glittering facade of false gaiety is to be found grim poverty and starvation.

Mr. Wright emphasised that much of the present chaos and uncertainty is directly attributable to the ineffectualness of the post-liberation governments of Georges Bidault, Leon Blum, Paul Ramadier and Maurice Schumann. Though it is only fair to recall that each tried to do something effective—control prices, import more food or prevent strikes. Unpopular measures were taken courageously, though with little effect. A large-scale fight against the Communists of the C.G.T. was won by the more moderate men and the permanent maintaining of France by strikes avoided, but still, as Mr. Wright convinced all, the affairs of France are very unsettled.

On the brighter side our visitor spoke of Jean Louis-Bartraut's fine performance in the Gide translation of *Hamlet* amply compensating for the lack of other major cultural interests. Mr. Wright deplored the large number of poor quality French films showing in Paris cinemas to-day. But the state of the nation cannot be set aside for long, and although he regretted it, Mr. Wright prophesied that by Easter the French people will have recalled General de Gaulle.

J.A.E.

G. Ellard, Esq. "Why Publishers?"

Publishing is not just a matter of an author writing a book and having it published. Although to every author his latest work is a masterpiece, only 1 in 20 of manuscripts received are published. The figures for 1945 were 6,247 new books published, 120,000 manuscripts submitted. Nowadays the terms agreed upon between author and publisher are usually on a royalty basis; the publisher agrees to pay the author a percentage on every copy sold. The more popular the book the higher is the percentage, but it seldom rises beyond 20 per cent. Inasmuch as the publisher takes the initial risk, he has the right over all copies of the book in English. This contract only ceases by agreement or 50 years after the death of the author. The publisher's job, however, does not end with the printing of the book. He has to choose a suitable binding, and, if necessary, illustrations; he has to

arrange for the advertisement of the book and finally he has to distribute it to the bookshops. In brief, a publisher is a kind of buffer-state between the author and his readers. In conclusion, Mr. Ellard sketched briefly the technical production of a book. He also gave examples of the widely differing type-faces in use. He stressed the point that the ideal type is the one that does not draw the attention of the reader to its size. After his lecture Mr. Ellard very generously presented the two books, which he had used as illustrations, to the library.

D.P.W.

Dr. Rudolf Beck. "Czechoslovakia To-Day."

This was given before the recent events in Czechoslovakia.

Dr. Beck apologised in advance for any errors in his English, and proceeded to talk for nearly an hour and a half in faultless English, showing a remarkable command of our language to which the Head-master, later, paid a tribute.

The Speaker began by giving a valuable summary of the historical background to modern Czechoslovakia, showing that the "Germanization" of the country began as early as 1620; and it became clear that, as with all European countries, much of Czechoslovakia's life to-day is directly governed by events in the past centuries and, even more important, by the temperament of its people. We learned that the geographical position of the capital, Prague (in the centre of Europe), lays it open to all sorts of influences, and as a result there exists a healthy determination to safeguard the country's independence.

Dr. Beck surprised many of us by arguing that the activities of the various minority groups before the war were unjustified, because the pre-war Czech government gave full status to these groups. And yet there can be little doubt that the demands of such men as Hejzlin were based on the valid claim that minorities far from enjoyed the same status as Czechs and Slovaks.

We received an interesting description of post-war social, political and economic conditions. Dr. Beck prophesied that within one or two years his country will have reached a high level of prosperity largely because, he said, his countrymen display a greater enthusiasm for the job of reconstruction than he had seen in this country. Students give their free time, a coalition government has carried out an extensive nationalization programme, education has been re-established, and it and cultural activities is on the upgrade.

Dr. Beck was very reticent about the Marshall Plan, and his country's strange attitude, but his talk was full of valuable and interesting information, and we are greatly indebted to him for giving us some time in his very short stay in England.

J.A.E.

Rev. C. L. Craig. "Treasure of Little Gidding."

Mr. Craig's lecture was on a subject to which he has devoted much of his spare time in the last few years; the discovery in a Southampton bookshop of a Little Gidding concordance, and the final proving that it was the original volume from which the copies were made. The hamlet of Little Gidding in Huntingdonshire was the centre of the seventeenth century religious community of Nicholas Ferrar. This community is chiefly remembered to-day for their harmonies or concordances, that is a welding together of verses from all four gospels. For many years it was thought that the original concordance had been destroyed in the sack of Little Gidding by the Cromwellians; it is now certain, however, that the copy, now in Harvard University, was the

original one. Mr. Craig then went on to demonstrate how the internal and external evidence was built up which established the identity of the concordance. This volume, which Mr. Craig's friend bought for 17s. 6d., was purchased in 1940 by Harvard University for something over £600. For those interested, there is in the School Library an offprint from the Harvard Library Bulletin of Mr. Craig's article on this subject, which he very kindly sent along to the School.

D.P.W.

Brother T. Carroll. "Ceylon."

Brother Carroll prefaced his lecture by saying that he himself had lived out there for nineteen years, and he much prefers that country to the British Isles. His talk dealt with geographical facts about Ceylon, and interspersed with this were a variety of incidents, some humorous, some more grim.

Ceylon is about the size of Scotland, and a country of great beauty. It was successively owned by the Portuguese, Dutch and British colonisers, but now has complete dominion status. There is a population of 6 millions, 4 million of whom are Cingalese. Many of the rest came from India when labour was needed on the tea estates. These are the Tamils and the hard workers. The religion is Buddhist, but is not practised fervently, and the varying numbers of other religions sects are tolerated. There is no communal strife in the island, and in this respect and that of its prosperity, there is no comparison between Ceylon and India. Natives run the country practically to the exclusion of the white men now. All doctors and lawyers are trained out there, and the University standard compares favourably with that of London. There are still some 200 European teachers, and there are several colleges as well as advanced schools. All education is free from cradle to university. The revenue comes from tea, rubber and coconut, and from these exports new standards never known before are being reached in education and living generally.

Two aspects might deter any European from venturing to land on this Paradise Isle are the climate and the wild animal life. There are two monsoon periods during which torrential rain can be expected. Some idea can be conjured up when in one place on the island it has been known for 200 tons of water to fall per acre in one day. This fantastic figure, coupled with the extreme heat, makes one think twice of such a "Paradise."

Over 50 per cent. is still uncultivated jungle. In it, amongst other wild animals, are included the treacherous elephants who may turn on their "Mahouts," fast moving leopards, cheetahs and bears which are very dangerous. It is unsportsmanlike to shoot the bearded monkeys which move through the tree tops like racehorses. Because of the snakes, polongas, kraits and cobras, one must carry a torch at night as a bite is fatal. We were told the disturbing information that a krait can slither under a normal door and may be anywhere in the room. Crocodiles also feast on the natives who must bathe in the rivers at least once in two days. Apart from these seeming minor details, Ceylon is the "Pearl of the Indian Ocean" and "Garden of Eden" all in one.

During the war there was a wave of nationalism and now the country is, in all respects, in the hands of the native Cingalese and Tamils. Britain still holds the naval bases of Colombo and Trincomalee, and also have certain interests in the products of Ceylon. These are having to be relinquished, and in the near future all European interests will have disappeared.

Brother Carroll recognises the work done by Great Britain in Ceylon. The roads, railways as good as those in Europe, and the development of air transport and education are debts which cannot be

repaid in kind. The Cingalese, in their large cars and with their competent coalition government want no Europeans.

Brother Carroll expressed his love for the country, but there may be still some truth in the old phrase "seeing is believing."

G.C.W.

HOCKEY

Last season our main difficulty was weather; this season we were confronted by a thorny problem in the shape of lack of playing pitches. However, we have been able to use the Alliance, St. George's Hospital and the Southern Railway Grounds, but the peripatetic nature of our hockey has prevented adequate practice, so that results so far have been rather disappointing.

We began satisfactorily enough by drawing with Beckenham away on a wet day admirably suited to rugby. In this match the defence distinguished itself under long periods of sustained pressure, and Pike again proved what a capable goalkeeper he is. Unfortunately, the forward line was "a thing of shreds and patches," hardly making a combined movement of note throughout the game, but being content with sporadic individual bursts which availed little.

In the second match against Caterham, again on our opponents' ground, we were beaten by a capable side possessed of two fast progressive wingers, who proved too much for our wing halves. The score of three goals to one was a fair reflection of a game which made heavy demands on the defence, and once more showed weakness in the forwards, whose single goal was due to Langton's opportunism rather than skilful approach work.

In the third fixture against Kingston Technical College, the forwards came more into the picture by scoring four goals, but unfortunately, the presence of an experienced ex-army centre-forward amongst the opposition enabled them to score seven. No doubt the fact that an old boy, who had not distinguished himself in School hockey, was one of the Kingston team, gave rise to a certain amount of underestimation which contributed to our undoing.

Despite St. George's impressive record of unbroken victories, and their great win over Beckenham by eleven goals to nil, the School played really well against them, and were unfortunate to lose by a single goal resulting from a corner. Territorially the advantage lay with the visitors, but quick determined tackling in the circle prevented any noteworthy shots. Again our forwards were too easily held.

In all matches the backs and goalkeeper have played well, and Thompson at centre half has shown his usual skilful stickwork, but he must curb a tendency to move up amongst the forwards too often. The wing halves have been fairly good in defence, but too slow in following up clearances, thus leaving big gaps between the forwards and themselves. Greater variety is necessary in the play of the inside forwards. Their game is much too stereotyped and easily countered. Gibbard must learn to keep well up with the rest of the line, and the wingers must keep position and guard against getting offside too frequently. Above all, every opportunity of shooting should be quickly seized once the ball is in the circle. There is no glaring weakness in the side, and better results should accrue from more thoughtful and determined play.

W.H.H.

HOCKEY RESULTS

v. Beckenham (A)	...	Drawn	0	0	For Agst.
v. Caterham (A)	...	Lost	1	3	
v. Kingston Tech. (A)	...	Lost	4	7	
v. St. George's College (H)	...	Lost	0	1	

CROSS-COUNTRY

The Senior team, this term, is probably the best the School has ever had, but the Juniors need more practice. So far this term we have only had two fixtures. The first was against Beckenham, in which the Juniors were unfortunate in having to cancel their result due to four of the runners taking the wrong course about half a mile from home. Their position would have given us a very decisive win. The second run should have been against Ashstead, but owing to heavy snow and storms this had to be cancelled. There are still four more matches in which we can show our prowess.

The School Cross-Country Competition was run on February 12th, at 10.0 a.m. This was over a new track, starting and finishing at School, and was exactly five miles in length. Despite this extra length there were 105 runners.

The result was as follows —

1st.	Halliwel's	...	...	...	168 points.
2nd	Gibb's	...	...	...	254
4th.	Cobb's	...	...	...	265
5th.	Milton's	...	...	...	400

Matravers is to be congratulated on coming in first for Newson's with a time of 28 minutes, followed by Holden (G.) 29 minutes, Street (H.) 30 minutes, Baglay (C.) and Ayling (M.).

G.W.T.

BOXING CLUB

This is the end of the boxing season, and we have gained in experience and reputation.

Tutt, Palmer and Biggs entered for the Surrey Schools Amateur Boxing Association Championships, and all three were successful in their weights in the Surbiton Area Finals at Kingston. Going on to compete in the Surrey County Championships, Biggs was eliminated in the semi-final, Palmer in the final at Croydon, while Tutt is to be congratulated on winning the Surrey title at 10st.

One inter-School match has been held this term—against Woking County School. We were successful by six bouts to three, and several good performances were seen. Hooper boxed cleverly to win his bout with West and Davies did well in losing a good bout by a narrow margin. Colvin was a confident winner, and Miller can be congratulated on a successful debut. Tutt, Palmer and Biggs all won their bouts.

At last we are virtually in possession of our own ring, and can look forward to the wider interest in boxing throughout the School, which will result from holding house and inter-School contests in our own hall.

School Boxing Colours have now been instituted, and we congratulate Tutt, Palmer and Biggs as the first to receive them.

JUNIOR RUGGER

The rules of Rugby Football are so complex and baffling to the beginner that for most of the first term games are scrappy, and less time is spent in play than in listening to the referee explaining with increasing exasperation "why the whistle went." The R.F.U.'s booklet with this title was widely bought and read this year, and helped considerably in this preliminary stage. Paradoxically, it is often just those boys who show the earliest promise who ultimately find it most difficult to play the game well. The high-stepping three-quarter with the long stride, the bulllocking forward, and above all, the agile elusive half-back who darts and dodges between his groping opponents soon support them, knowing it is unnecessary. And so these early stars frequently become selfish individualists, whose value in a game where team effort is all important, grow steadily less. In School matches, when reputation counts for little, they are often a positive liability, frustrating the passing movements and combined rushes of their own side and getting smothered by the opponents for their pains.

This season the Junior House matches have suffered from the poor reflections of the general run of the play. Newson's have given the best exhibitions of team play, their scrummaging being particularly praiseworthy; yet Cobb's, playing with zest but very raggedly, won an easy victory on paper largely through the breakaway sprinting of Eales. Halliwel's have a sound defence, and a pair of artful dodgers with little idea of passing in Hooper and Rose, whose thrust and ingenuity have scored many tries and given their team an unbeaten record to date. The game between Newson's and Halliwel's, three postponed by the weather, promises to be a grand struggle; let us hope that the better team will justify my remarks by winning. The other outstanding game between Milton's and Gibb's will decide who shall hold the wooden spoon. On paper Gibb's appear the stronger side, but so far their play has not come up to expectations.

That against Surbiton at home was played in pouring rain, but the appalling conditions seemed to stimulate rather than discourage, and the standard of the play was exceptionally high. Both sides handled the sodden and slippery ball competently, and it frequently reached the wings. Menzies and Lewis completely justified their selection as half-backs, and Stott and McTeare in the centre frequently took the ball at a good speed. Brooke on the wing discarded his usual diffidence and used his stride and weight to good effect. On the other wing Hart's kicking was a pleasing feature. The forwards struggled dourly, and whilst it is unfair to single out any for special mention, Bevan's storming run to score the try which made the game a draw cannot be forgotten. At Bec, playing a younger team, we were overwhelmed by a heavier and faster side, but the forwards again played with great spirit and had the better of the game in the loose. The three-quarters were swamped before they could start a movement, and failed to use the defensive kick.

In the return match against Surbiton the team showed its poorest form so far. With Menzies and Brooke paying for their sins in detention and Eales and Rose were included, but Eales was given no latitude and never looked dangerous. Rose made several gallant dashes, but gained little ground, and would have done better to feed his centres more reliably. Loose marking and ineffective tackling lost us this game by six points to nil.

At full-back Jaaps has fielded and kicked well, and his tackling, though it still looks awkward, has generally been reliable. McTeare has made a thoughtful and unofficial captain, but has been a little too diffident to make a real leader. The forwards have all played manfully, being beaten for weight in each match and yet excelling in the loose. Although we have not yet won a match, and cannot rate our chances very high for the return fixture with Bec, the team has never been disgraced, and by its keenness and sportsmanship has worthily represented the School.

19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

G.J.R.

In a biting wind and with the threat of rain, a large party representing all ages in the Group set out from Epsom late in December for an all-day walk along the Pilgrim's Way. The juniors gave an excellent display of courage and endurance by maintaining with cheerful countenance the faster pace of seniors. Even in winter the open country is full of life and interest, and we added to this the joy of strenuous physical activity, of distant views across Surrey and Sussex, and the spontaneous delight of goodly companionship. Very little of the day's twenty miles was on the road as a result of wise leadership from Epsom to Reigate Hill, thence a wide sweep south and west to Dorking and back to Epsom. In January a similar party went forth on cycles towards Caterham and the Westerham district. On this occasion the head of a necessarily long line lost contact with its tail, and by lunch two separate parties evolved their own programmes for the rest of the day.

Troop meetings this term have been occupied in a light-hearted way, with signalling methods and field first-aid work. By the end of term there should be several ambulance badges in the troop, and we are grateful to Nurse Verran, of the British Red Cross Unit, for her help. The Seagulls hold the Silver Medal for good patrol work in the Autumn term, and on present showing, they look like repeating their success for this term. We are glad to see P. L. Casselton wearing his All-Round Cord award, and congratulate both Casselton and Hopkins in being awarded the First Class Badge. Proficiency Badges awarded this term include The Guide for P. L. Hood Phillips and Sec. Hopkins, the Cooking Badge for P. L. Casselton and Sec. Hopkins. Senior Scouts gave up most of their half-term holiday to redecorate the Den. It has a new coat of paint and we have determined to keep it clean and well used in future.

Seniors Phillips, MacDonald, Grindrod and Law represented the Wimbledon District in the County Cross-Country Run, and succeeded in holding Wimbledon second to Dorking first. In the County Area Boxing Contest, Clayton, Beard, Langton and Smith entered their respective classes for Wimbledon. Troop Leader MacDonald was selected to be on duty at St. James' Palace for the Exhibition of Princess Elizabeth's Wedding Gifts. He helped in administrative work and and Clayton attended one Tuesday meeting and spoke of scouting in these countries. The Group has also heard from "Mac", an honorary member of the 19th Wimbledon, who is in charge of physical training in Turkey. Greetings at Christmas and for the New Year were also received from Glad Bincham, the International Commissioner, P. Weissman, who runs the Handicapped Scouts' activities in The Hague, from Peiter Wesselman, of Utrecht, Rover van Berkel, of the 4th Damiaansgroep and Dr. Jon van Tongeren, of Haarlem University.

OLD BOYS' NOTES

Troop meetings have benefited considerably this term by the help given by Mr. A. Cholmondeley. His interest and past experience have been very welcome. We appreciate, too, the assistance of Mr. Atkin and C. W. Thomas. Three evenings for parents have been held this term, the first two as discussion groups covering the topics, state lotteries, town and country planning, capital punishment, and parental co-operation in both education and scouting. At a third meeting to which other scouting friends have been invited, there will be films on the Scout International Relief Service in occupied Europe, on "Kibblesome Camp" in kodachrome, and on wild bird life. Earlier in the term the troop saw the Headquarters film, "What the Peewits Found," an adventure story of young scouts full of wholesome fun and energy. In the immediate future, night activities on Wimbledon Common and a cycling excursion depending on observation and map reading clues have been planned. At the end of term we are all looking forward to the return of Jerks. . . . he deserves a very hearty welcome back from America into our midst, while next term, probably on Saturday, 5th June, we are planning to hold our annual garden party.

In place of the cold collection of snippets of news, fresh or stale, which usually appear under this heading, I propose to let this serve, in the first place, as a reminder to those who have been notified, and, secondly, as an announcement to any Old Boy, who, for one reason or another, may not have received intimation of the FIRST OLD BOYS' REUNION DINNER, to be held at the Berkeley Rooms, Putney, S.W., on Friday, April 16th, at 7.30 p.m. Reception will be from 6.45 p.m. Tickets are 10s. 6d., and are obtainable from The R.P.O.B. Society Secretary, The School, S.W.20. Clearly tickets can only be sent to members, whose subscriptions are paid up-to-date, so if yours has lapsed or you are not a member of the Society, please enclose your subscription (7s. 6d.) at the same time as your remittance for the Dinner (Cheques made payable to R.P.O.B. Soc.). You will be glad to hear that all former Headmasters, Housemasters, past and present, will be there, also several old friends of the School, including Basil Wright, and Mr. L. A. G. Strong. All of you will be certain, therefore, of meeting many people you know, and to exchange your views in person and red-hot. By your presence, therefore, you can ensure a really record attendance of Old Boys. You will be interested to know, no doubt, that the tickets have been beautifully printed by the Spur Printer's Guild, and the Menu Cards contributed and executed by an Old Boy. Should you dispose to contribute likewise, say, alcoholically, florally or fruitfully, please communicate with your Secretary, R. W. Phillips, The School, S.W.20.

OXFORD LETTER

St. Edmund Hall,
Oxford.
27-2-48.

Dear Editor,
I hope this letter will not be too late for *The Spur*. I have been putting it off each day, as one does in this city—what really caused Hamlet's dilly-dallying was the deeply ingrained habit of University

life. Arthur Thompson, however, whose efficiency remains a byword, has at last driven me into a corner and forced me to write.

This term saw the arrival of Norman Poulter to The Queen's College to read Italian, with German and cricket subsidiary, Alan Day to Wadham to read P.P.E., and Vernon Andrews to Exeter to read History. Alan Day and Denis Rendall are both getting married this year. Mr. Newsom visited us one week-end and presided over a gathering in Arthur Thompson's room in Balliol; his memories of Raynes Park were amusing, but we felt we had but scratched the surface of a vast mine of anecdotes. There was a party in Arthur Hopkin's room in The Queen's, when Mr. Cobb came up at half-term, for old members of Cobb's House and one or two strays. This next week-end Mr. Garrett will be in Oxford; he is giving a sherry party in the Warden's room for old members of Raynes Park and Bristol who are at Wadham; others will probably meet him later in Vernon Andrew's room. Mr. Oates is teaching at Magdalen College School and keeps an at-home evening every week, when he is not playing the 'cello in his orchestra. Nor is he the only musician in our colony; for Paul Vaughan's clarinet and Norman Poulter's trumpet may be heard, on starry nights, for miles around the Perch Inn at Binsey.

I daresay you can imagine the daily round of coffee-shops, chit-chat, and tea-parties which make the social life attractive, and the clubs and amateur dramatics which provide distraction. One has to be strong-willed to settle down to one's lonely books while all these delightful things are going on. John Green, Michael Brown and Alan Gardiner seem to be managing it at the moment, but then, they have Finals in June. I ought to say something about the joys of the academic life, which seem to appeal so much to Brian Bannister, but I feel it would be rather presumptuous.

It is pleasant to wander round and look at Oxford, for not only the dreaming spires but the active streets also are worth more than a glance. One's wanderings take one to a wide variety of dwelling-places; from Michael Saxby's room under the roof up eighty-four steps in Magdalen, to Charles Honcker's lodgings in a modern house three miles out of town; from Derrick Nightingale's flat along the Cowley Road, to Derek Cooper's picturesque Jacobean attic in Wadham. If one Forrest coxing a Jesus eight. Wherever one goes one is more likely than not to meet an old schoolfellow—although Oxford is not small enough to keep friends together, it is also not large enough to keep enemies apart.

Yours sincerely,

ALAN OVERELL.

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