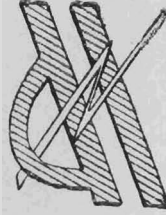


# THE SPUR

Vol. VIII

No. 5



## **"THE SPUR" COMMITTEE**

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

*Committee :* J. C. Powell, M. J. Welby, B. M. Jones, J. R. We

## **SCHOOL OFFICERS, AUTUMN TERM, 1948**

*Head of School :* D. P. White.

*Prefects :* D. P. White, S. Priestman, N. C. Colvin, J. R. Hopkins,  
C. D. Pegrum, M. J. Welby, J. R. Wells.

*Prefect of Hall :* S. Priestman.

*Sub-Prefects :* A. F. Conchie, P. Fiander, M. D. Holgate, B. M. Jones,  
I. B. S. Law, P. Phillips, A. G. Simpson, A. S. Warren, J. Wilkinson,  
W. G. Winter.

*Captain of Rugger :* J. R. Wells.

*Secretary of Rugger :* R. C. Simpson.

*Secretary of Games Committee :* S. Priestman.

*Librarian :* A. S. Warren.

# **THE SPUR**

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.

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

Vol. VIII, No. 5.

Winter, 1948.

## **EDITORIAL**

Three years ago the Head of the School posed an arithmetical problem. He posed it to the eminent scientist on the platform, in a **speech at Prize-giving**. He received no answer and so, the problem of putting some 400 hundred boys into a school designed for considerably fewer, remained unsolved. Now, a strange building is rearing its prefabricated form on the School play-ground, though at the moment it looks more like a building in the last stage of demolition than one soon to be completed. This problem of housing the School has its parallel in the need for more fields upon which to play Rugby, Cricket, Hockey.

It was once attempted to solve the problem by putting the first forms into rooms lent to us by a neighbouring headmaster. This luxury, unfortunately, has now been curtailed and the School is, once again, all together. But, though shoulders may rub a little more closely and coats and tempers be frayed in the friction of such close contact, it does at least allow the first formers to feel more than an unwanted problem pushed into the first convenient room.

But that the School has struggled through these crowded and disturbed days is a proof that here the spirit of co-operation is still strong. As it seems that our housing problem is, in some measure to be eased in the near future by the prefabricated structure soon to be completed, it seems fitting, at this time, that some attention be drawn to the one side of the School, the discomforts of over-crowding, that is not shown to parents on Open Night. That they do not know of the existence of such a problem, except from some chance remarks, and shows that the School is tackling its problem successfully and independently, with a little late but very welcome aid from the minister.

J. R. H.

## **Valete**

With the end of this term Mr. G. J. Robinson, who joined us in **September 1938**, will be leaving for a post at Bedales School. His services to the School and the gap he leaves behind him are great; he has in his time played many parts, besides that of teacher of mathematics—on the rugby field, in Cobb's House, at the swimming baths and the harvest camp, among other places; in all of them he led firmly and well, giving of his own best and expecting the same from others. His unselfish and unswerving integrity will earn him high regard at Bedales as it has here, and our affection and best wishes go with him.

## HOUSE NOTES

### Cobb's

*Captain* : D. P. White.

*Vice-Captain* : J. R. Hopkins.

*School Prefects* : D. P. White, J. R. Hopkins.

*Sub-Prefects* : A. S. Warren, A. G. Simpson.

We were very sorry at the beginning of term to learn that Mr. Cobb was away ill with bronchitis. We welcomed him back after half-term, only to learn that he must be away for a considerable time to come. When he returns, I hope that Cobb's will be well on the way to regaining the Cock House Cup; we must strive all the harder in his absence. Mr. Robinson also is leaving us at the end of the term, and I would like to thank him on behalf of the House for all the energy and enthusiasm he has given for us. He will be much missed especially in the Junior House.

Before we proceed to the more mundane matters which constitute House Notes, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to those new boys who have joined the House this year. We hope they will be happy with us and share fully in the activities of the House. Now, however, we must leave speculation on the future and consider what the House has accomplished.

#### *Cricket*

The Seniors were unsuccessful in the Cricket competition. We lost both our matches, but they did afford considerable enjoyment to participants and spectators alike. The match against Milton's was a typical House match; there were dropped catches, a hat-trick (and incidentally a six off the next ball) and the usual unorthodox clouting. By such methods we amassed 62 runs only to see Milton's pass that total with five wickets in hand. As for the match against Gibb's—suffice it to say that we lost.

The Colts, however, somewhat redeemed our position. They were a successful and well-balanced team, and they should do much to strengthen this year's Senior team.

The Juniors also showed considerable promise as cricketers, and we hope this promise will be realized in later years.

#### *Swimming*

Pooley and Bell worked hard in moulding and training our Swimming team, but, as usual, our position in qualifying points was too low to support our several individual successes.

#### *Rugger*

This is more topical and more welcome news. All Cobb's teams are at the moment unbeaten. We have actually won a Senior rugger House match. On November 17th, a memorable day, we beat Milton's 16—3. It was a hard, scrappy game. It was not a game of much constructive play, but it did show that our small team had the courage to face up to and stop the hulking brutes which the other side inevitably possesses. Much of our success was due to our Rugger Captain, J. R. Hopkins who held together our rather young and inexperienced team with his ubiquitous personality. An encouraging feature of the game was the performance of some of these younger members—Jones, Gray, Pooley and Boorman—particularly the latter's place-kicking. We look forward in confident anxiety to meeting Newsom's.

The Colts also have won their first two matches. They have beaten Gibb's and Halliwell's by substantial margins. Their match against Milton's will be a hard fight; but who will win is, of course, obvious. The Juniors drew their first match against Milton's.

These are the facts. You are now, no doubt, expecting to read the comforting platitudes which appear at the end of most House Notes.

They accomplish nothing. Instead I would ask all you "Cobbites" (if that is the word) who read these Notes, to contemplate the Honours Board in the Hall, to ponder awhile and then—let us see what we can do about it.

D. P. W.

### Gibb's

*Captain* : S. Priestman.

*Vice-Captain* : N. J. McDonald.

*Sub-Prefects* : M. D. Holgate, B. M. Jones, L. B. S. Law.

At the end of last term N. Godwin, who had been such an excellent House Captain for two years, left us to do his military service; we wish him luck, and hope he will have as much success in the Army and at Oxford as he had with us here. We also lost the valuable services of E. Bridgen, M. Cameron, G. Clayton, B. D. Cunningham, D. A. Hope, P. Lockwood and J. L. Peard, and offer them our best wishes.

We welcome into the House this term the boys who have just joined us, and trust they will be happy with us, while maintaining that spirit of sportsmanship and cheerfulness that has always marked Gibb's House.

#### *Swimming*

After a very exciting and enjoyable struggle, the House was placed third in the Swimming Competition. Although the Seniors met with little success, the Colts and Juniors did remarkably well, and will certainly do much towards winning the cup next year.

#### *Rugby*

The two Rugby matches already played by the seniors were exceptionally hard but enjoyable games. The first, against Newsom's, was decided by a conversion in the last few moments of the game, and the final result was 6—8 in our opponents' favour. The second match, against Halliwell's, was in doubt to the last minute, but we finished by winning 8—3, after some good team work by the whole side.

Unfortunately the Colts have lost all the matches they have played up to now, partly through the lamentable lack of support given by the members of the House as a whole. Let us hope that the team will fare better in its remaining match.

The Junior team, ably led by D. Pratt, has the enthusiasm but lacks the teamwork necessary in rugger; but this fault will undoubtedly be overcome with practice.

#### *Cross Country Running*

Although our Cross-country Running Captain, I. B. S. Law is organizing regular practices, the House is not giving him due support. We have a number of potential runners, and it is only by constant practice that we may hope to win the inter-House competition next term.

S. P.

### Halliwell's

*Captain* : J. R. Wells.

*Prefects* : J. R. Wells.

*Sub-Prefects* : P. Fiander, A. Conchie.

Last term, under the captaincy of John Ashley, the swimmers of our House once again carried off their own particular trophy. We started the day with a lead on qualifying points, and finished with an overwhelming majority, several of our swimmers breaking records.

At the end of the term we held our Annual House Supper, when we were again able to celebrate the winning of Cock House cup, for the fourth year in succession. Our strength now, however, has been seriously depleted, and it will mean every boy in the House pulling his

weight if we are to be able to be Cock House once again. We should here like to welcome all the new boys to the House, and hope that they will enjoy themselves, and put as much into the House as they are able.

The only Cup we compete for this term is the Rugger, and at the moment of writing it is very much in a state of flux. We beat Milton's 24—3, and only lost to Gibb's 8—3 in the last few minutes, after a hard game in which we, perhaps, had had a greater share of the ball. We have the makings of a good team, the chief faults being weight and experience, but most of the members should still be here next year. When these faults will be remedied. We badly miss Derek Marles in the three-quarter line; he broke his ankle playing for the 1st XV early in the season. Our Colts, too, are having varied success, beating Newsom's and losing to Gibb's.

Next term we look forward to some hard competition for the Hockey, Dramatics and Cross-Country Cups. Our House Play Producer of last year, John Powell, is still here, and we wish him another success.

We congratulate A. Conchie and P. Fiander on their sub-Prefectship and J. R. Wells on his promotion to Prefect and Captain of the House. We hope he may have the distinction of helping to keep it Cock House.

### Milton's

*House Captain* : G. D. Pegrum.

*Vice-Captain* : W. G. Winter.

This term we celebrated a unique occasion in the history of the House, the winning of two cups for Hockey and Cricket, the celebration taking the form of a House Supper. The Supper was a great success. Mr. Herdman toasted the House, and Keith Grant seconded it.

The occasion was marred by the knowledge that Keith Grant, our House Captain, was due to enter the R.A.F. the following week. We wish him and the many others who left the House at the end of the Summer Term, the very best of health and happiness. We miss them all very much.

Now to turn to more immediate concerns. We have this year played two Rugger matches against Halliwell's and Cobb's, at whose hands we suffered severe defeats. The main reasons for these failures were the inferior weight of our pack and the fact that we have very few members in the senior part of the House from whom to pick a team.

Our Colts have brighter prospects. Led by Wade they won their first game against Halliwell's, and we wish them every success in their future games. Of our Junior team we also have high hopes and wish them better luck than last season.

This year the Cross-country team has several good runners, and under the leadership of Hobbs have been training hard for the run next term—good running, team!

Finally, I would like to welcome the new members to Milton's, and hope that they will be imbued with the tradition of the House and the House spirit. May they work and play to the glory of Milton's.

G. D. P.

### Newsom's

*House Captain* : M. J. Welby.

*Vice-Captain* : N. G. Colvin.

*Sub-Prefect* : P. Phillips.

We have now more sixth-formers than for many years, a fact which may account for our increasing confidence and good fortune. Last summer Welby obtained a County Major Scholarship, and Blight a "County" and an Exhibition for Imperial College, where he is now

studying. Members of the House did well in their School Certificate Examinations, and we were well represented among the fortunate ones at Prize giving.

*Swimming*. Captain : N. G. Colvin.

As far as the House Competition was concerned we entered into a grim duel with Milton's to avoid the ignominy of last place. We were finally victorious thanks largely to the hard work put in by Colvin in a House with practically no fishlike characteristics; except for the Colts whose relay team managed to create a new record.

*Cricket*. Captain : W. F. Pike.

As if full of vengeance Miltons promptly defeated us in the final for the cricket cup. Our team seemed so lethargic and off form that even the efforts of Pike and Wickett, who was found, too late, to be a good bowler, could do nothing. The score seems too indecent to relate. We will remember, however, that in three of the four last seasons Newsom's have been in the final and we hope to keep up this tradition this year.

*Rugger*. Captain : M. J. Welby.

We feel that all Houses ought to congratulate Gibb's on being the first to beat Halliwell's for many years. This position might well have fallen to us but for the luck of the draw, especially as we had already beaten Gibb's in a very dour match. Welby has been unable to lead the team up to the time of writing due to injury while playing for the 1st XV. Meanwhile the team is very ably led in the different departments by Colvin, Phillips and Simpson. Simpson is Secretary of School Rugger. In all six of the team have played for the School 1st XV, and we should do well in the remaining matches.

The Colts were less fortunate. They lost to Cobb's and Halliwell's and beat Gibb's. But they are young and small and should do well next year.

The Junior XV have begun very well by winning their match against Gibb's. We are in the unusual position of having more players than we can use at present in House games. Some of the new players show promise, and we have as a result a fair prospect of useful Colt and Junior teams next year.

## HARVEST CAMP, 1948

It was early in the Spring Term, when the American Loan was all but exhausted, our National Reserves were dwindling alarmingly, and Marshall Aid was still uncertain, that many of us felt the urge to do something practical and positive to help the nation in its struggle towards economic recovery. With bigger acreages of food-crops and with the repatriation of German prisoners, we were assured that help with the harvest would be urgently needed, and we laid our plans accordingly. From the start it was made clear that the prime object of the camp was to provide as much assistance with the harvest as possible, and at every stage in planning and organisation, decisions were taken with this object in mind. We offered sweat, toil and blisters and little reward other than the satisfaction of doing a worthwhile job for the common good.

Remembering the shortcomings of a previous camp in Surrey, we looked for a genuinely agricultural area, without market gardens, and for a site as far from towns and cinemas as possible. With the assistance of the Herefordshire A.F.C., a site was found in the village of Eardisley in the centre of a triangle of rich low-lying land, the flood plain of the River Wye where it turns eastwards after skirting the Black Mountains. The camp site itself had all the too familiar signs of its wartime use for military purposes. It was a waste land of thistles, barbed wire and rusty ammunition boxes; an unhealed sore on the face of the fresh green

rolling countryside. But we soon learnt to look beyond the thistles and derelict sheds to the golden-brown hills of the Welsh border, to the green wooded Herefordshire hills, and to the dark impassive scarp of the Black Mountains.

Our arrival could hardly have been more timely. Although a good deal of corn had been cut and stooked, three weeks of August rain had prevented any hauling, and the farmers were seriously worried rather than merely despondent. The rapid succession of rain belts interspersed with high winds, racing clouds, and cheering sunshine, which greeted the advance party, suddenly and unexpectedly gave way to a week of real harvest weather. On Wednesday evening a few farmers here and there decided to "snatch a load or two" whilst the drying wind lasted; by Friday everyone was hard at it, and a strange quiet descended on the camp by day. Boys were out working, mainly in twos and threes on some twenty farms in the district. Many were too far away to return for lunch and departed in the morning with food for the day; some were close enough at hand to look in for a cup of tea at five o'clock. On many farms work went on till darkness fell, and the response to the call to work on in spite of aching limbs and blistered hands was noble indeed. That probably more than any other single fact was responsible for the change of heart of the farmers who to begin with were doubtful, to say the least, of the ability of lads from the city to pull their weight. It was not only the workers who deserved praise for their dogged refusal to admit defeat. The kitchen staff, working with a single unco-operative coal range and an inadequate supply of pots and pans, kept the evening meal always available from half-past seven till ten o'clock, provided cocoa for the Juniors at nine, cooked porridge for the morning's breakfast and prepared tomorrow's lunch all at the same time. Only those who helped in the kitchen can fully appreciate the incredible energy, resource and forbearance of Miss Woodhouse and Mrs. Henderson who worked through the long day in the sweltering heat of a stove often red-hot, with a never-ending stream of interruptions, then through the evening's noise and bustle of workers returning tired, hungry and excited by the day's experience, and on often into the small hours of the morning, cooking dumplings, flapjacks, pasties, parkin and innumerable other delicacies which no camper had any right to expect.

The Juniors, enlisted to help with kitchen duties, played their part well, though they steadfastly clung to their prerogative of grumbling and devised many ways of easing the labour of their menial tasks. With two half-days free out of every three, they had more opportunity than most to explore the neighbourhood and many interesting things they found. They walked for miles up the disused railway track, scavenged amongst the Nissen huts, climbed the Church tower and explored an old mill, caught tiddlers in the brook and fish in the Almeley fish-ponds, and left English soil, many for the first time in their lives. They followed the Wye to Hay and Glasbury, and rode over the hill to Kington and enjoyed the glorious four miles of down-hill on the return journey. When the fine weather broke towards the end of the second week, many of the seniors too were able to follow their own inclinations and to discover the many interesting churches and castles and the delightful "black and white" half-timbered houses.

Almost every day we looked longingly at the sombre mass of the Black Mountains, sometimes soft, hazy and distant, sometimes startlingly clear and seeming to be just across the Wye, but always aloof and yet challenging. On the last Sunday, some thirty-five accepted the challenge, climbed the steep slopes of y Dâs, and rambled for miles, opinions differ how many, marvelling at the magnificent views, revelling in the clear refreshing streams and becoming imbued with the remote grandeur of the ridges. The memory of that day will surely remain with all.

That the camp achieved its main object cannot be doubted. From many farmers came words of gratitude for our assistance and invitations for another year. But, for many, there were other achievements too. They learnt by intimate personal contact throughout long working days, to know and respect the character and way of life of the countryman. They learnt to appreciate his skill, rarely apparent to the casual bystander, his sense of humour, and his devotion to his job and the interests of the land. For many the countryside is no longer the space between the towns, but a place of real and almost personal interest.

To close with no reference to camp finances might be misleading. For the first few days they were an ever present source of worry, and it was not until towards the end of our stay that we felt confident of solvency. But though it was pleasant to have a substantial sum to share amongst the workers at our Harvest Supper, we regarded this as the least important indication of the camp's success.

G. J. R.

## EMIL AND THE DETECTIVES

It is just two years since a review of a Junior School Play appeared in *THE SPUR*. On the last occasion Mr. J. B. Grubb wrote about a production, "bubbling with vitality" of "the loveliest pastoral in the world." In those two phrases we have the essence of a problem—how very worthwhile were the efforts of fifty boys and four members of the Staff in that beautiful production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," but how questionable was the value of the efforts put in by something nearer *ninety* boys and *five* members of the Staff involved in this year's play, "Emil and the Detectives." The play was just not worthy of all the talent the School is capable of bringing to light at such a time.

Nevertheless, despite this preliminary reservation, and despite Mr. Grubb's inevitable question, "will all the endeavour and dislocation of normality be justified in the event?" we were given this year, as he was two years ago, "an evening of almost unmixed delight."

With "Emil," as with "The Comedy of Errors," Peter Smith, though this time with the assistance of Harvey Hallam, once again proved himself able to turn a poor play into superb "theatre." The production was full of the life, enthusiasm and good spirits that seem to flow naturally from Mr. Smith when he has what appears to be a depressingly unmanageable mob of boys under his skillful hand. In "Emil" we saw yet again the producer's consummate mastery in the handling of crowds—his gang of detectives ebbed and flowed over the stage with delightful assurance. Our view of Little Tuesday at the telephone displayed a happy and effective use of the Stage-manager's nightmare—amber light; while the final scene was sheer joy from start to finish.

The faults, though few, were irritating—largely because most were easily avoidable. The school gramophone still seems to evince the alarming consumptive noises noted by Mr. Grubb; the speaker at the opening of the play had not mastered the technique of speaking into a microphone and when his words were audible they merely grated unpleasantly on our ears; the dream sequence was noisy and unconvincing—and why the villain was allowed such a lapse of diction as "go *ter* sleep" was beyond our comprehension. The train noises, too, showed a lack of care, being for the most part too loud in the wrong places. But these errors take second place when we recall the conspicuous creations of Mr. Shannon and his staff, which brought to the stage a real breath of the Brighton line and New Square.

In a production of this sort, however, the real test of success lies with the actors. Here was a crowd of good-natured, self-assured, convincing school-boys out for a lark. They were an unqualified success. We felt that though their glorious adventure could never happen "in real life," we were, nevertheless, seeing real boys behaving like boys.

So good were they all that we are reluctant to single out individuals, but some we must. Undoubtedly the part most difficult to sustain and most difficult to play without making the child precocious and unreal was Emil, himself. I. B. Hayter quite clearly *knew* what sort of a boy he was supposed to be and his performance showed he had the ability to use his knowledge. A close second in excellence was L. G. Lovick as the tough, warm-hearted, friendly Gus. R. S. Betts as Polly his delightfully naive self, but why was he given such terrifying eye-shadows and why, oh why did the producers allow his extravagant and superfluous arm-gestures to pass them unnoticed? J. B. Farrant as the Professor; A. J. Faint as a quite excellent Little Tuesday; J. M. Davis as the cockney newsboy and D. E. M. Wade as Sergeant Street all deserve special mention, while C. I. Brown as Grundy and J. W. Crighton as the Magistrate take equal honours among the older members of the cast for their respective portrayals of decision and indecision.

We felt this year that the boys were given the opportunity for a self-expression denied to them—in Mr. Grubb's estimation—in the "Dream" two years ago. On this occasion they *lived* their parts in a real, not a theatrical sense and whatever we may have said earlier, we feel now that the whole enterprise was justified and deserved to be the rollicking success it undoubtedly was.

J. A. E.

## YOUTH CONFERENCE 1948

The Sixth Form was very pleased to welcome delegates from three of our neighbour Grammar Schools—Wimbledon County, Wimbledon High and Rutlish—to a Conference on World Problems held in the School Hall on the afternoon and evening of July 13th. The Conference took the form of three separate debates on the motions:—*This Conference believes that liberty not being the fruit of all climates is not within the reach of all peoples; This Conference believes that the nation desiring peace must prepare for war; and This Conference believes that so great is the need for a supra-national Authority that a Constituent Assembly, to which all nations would be invited to send representatives should be convened by January 1st, 1950, for the purpose of creating a permanent World Government.*

The first resolution was moved by Miss Audrey Hicks of Wimbledon High, whose main argument was based on the geographical impracticability of liberty as we know it in many regions of the world. Another delegate disagreed, believing that "economic freedoms," which he defined as freedom from exploitation, was essential to all men and women. The resolution was lost by 74 votes to 40 with eight abstentions.

Alan Watson of Rutlish, in moving the second resolution, argued that war was a possibility nations had to recognize, and it followed that an element of preparedness must manifest itself in their political outlook. The view implied in Mr. Watson's speech, that war cannot be abolished, was strongly criticized by many speakers, and the motion was lost by 91 votes to 36, with 10 abstentions.

Raynes Park's Antony Evans moved the final resolution at 7 p.m. He insisted that national sovereignty was the principal force making for suspicion and insecurity in the world and demanded a universal moral law upon which a stable world order might be built. Following him, as seconder, John Ashley emphasized the need for a recognition that so alike are the needs and aspirations of men and women everywhere, that we must work for a positive realization of the principle of *One World*. The main attack was directed, not at the idea of World Government, but at the alleged idealistic impracticability of the scheme. Supporters of the motion declared that as all other tried systems of Government had been unable to protect society against war and its attendant miseries, no-one had the right to pre-judge the

one system that offered some hope and had never been attempted. The resolution was carried by 97 votes to 11 with 12 abstentions.

The success of this Conference was due in no small measure to the help and encouragement the organisers received from the Headmaster, Mr. Raynham, Mr. Robinson and Miss Woodhouse, whose indispensable help with the clerical aspect of organisation, was so freely and unsparringly given. A special word goes to Mr. Walsh in appreciation of his wise and tactful guiding of the whole seven hours of the proceedings.

J. A. E.

*Postscript:* One other person must be mentioned particularly—Antony Evans, who nursed the venture from its inception in May, through its initial stages to maturity, with such skill and dignity and who, in addition, put on behalf of the School, the case for World Government in a speech—the deep sincerity of which was clear to friend and foe alike. Let us hope that there will be another Conference of this kind that he will be able to attend as a spectator—next year.

J. C. P.

## CRAFT NOTES

This has been a busy term. With the memories of a hectic Open Night and its craft exhibitions in the Hall, Art Room and Workshop, and that ever-fascinating demonstration of pottery in the making; we returned to yet another full programme of events.

Our Pottery work has again shown signs of improvement. More boys have begun to make pots with a fair degree of success and within the limitations of a rickety potter's wheel have produced many pleasant shapes. Glazing, too, has made strides, and apart from finding two or three new colours, we have been busy improving the base of our glazes. The kiln, of course, is always our most whimsical worker, producing diverse colour ranges (often through unaccountable causes), but apart from one disastrous failure at the beginning of term we have been singularly fortunate in our glaze results. Unpacking the glost firing never fails to fascinate the potter. After three days of expectation as the pots slowly cool from their tremendous heat, at last the clay sealing is removed from the kiln and the pots are seen glistening in the gloom. Then come anxious moments as they are taken out and examined one by one, the elation of a few and the corresponding dejection of others whose hopes for yet another miracle are unrealized. So much work can be made or marred in the kiln that only the most patient and painstaking potters can hope to achieve the true joys of success.

The Puppet Club has been busy too. Eight puppets have been made for the New Year Show (including three monstrous giants) and they look very fine in their new clothes! If you have any younger brothers or sisters be sure to bring them along to the Puppet Club Show. The most interesting development this term has been the recording of music and speech for the Club's new operetta, *The Press Gang*, written by Nancy and Alan Bush. This will be presented in the **Summer Term**. A choir of 50 boys, together with five soloists, two pianists and two infinitely patient recording engineers have worked to produce the first half of the records we shall need. The stage became our studio, and after making test records to ensure balance of the voices, we spent a whole evening making four records. Everyone sang magnificently, and the delight of hearing their own voices being played back was reward enough.

The Printers, with their new type—Eric Gill's *Perpetua*—and other new equipment, have further improved their standard. Several interesting jobs have been undertaken, and with the experience gained the long-expected new press should find many willing and capable operators.

The Stage Group has worked very well, producing a large quantity of scenery for *Henry IV, part two*. Under a capable leader they have shown what can be done when a group of people really co-operate. Congratulations to them all.

Mention must be made of two Craft visits which have been made this term. One party visited the Geffrye Museum, wherein are many fine examples of period furniture, each in its appropriate setting, together with information on the life of the times. We have also visited the *Design at Work* exhibition at the Royal Academy. This exhibition traced the methods followed by industry in this country in order to secure efficient design in a multitude of materials. Several exhibits attracted much attention, particularly the television sets, and fine models of jet aeroplane engines. We are very fortunate to be within reach of such excellent places.

In our own limited way we have further encouraged the study and appreciation of good design by holding small exhibitions of photographs, design quizzes (a most popular innovation) and by the display of selected pottery from our own wheel.

I hope that the rest of the School year will be as interesting and useful to all who make our crafts what they have become—something really worth while.

D. R. S.

## EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, 1948

### "The Three Estates" and "Hamlet"

It is a matter for sincere and hearty congratulations that this great Scottish Festival had an undoubted and genuine highlight in a Scottish production. Tyrone Guthrie, for many years associated with the Old Vic, has made a unique contribution to theatre art with his apron stage production, at the Assembly Hall, of Sir David Lindsay's satirical morality play, "Ane Satyre of the Thrie Estaites." This sixteenth century spectacle was first presented to King James V and his queen, Marie of Lorraine (parents of the ill-fated Mary, Queen of Scots) in 1540 and has not been produced since 1554.

This brilliant production not only provides the perfect answer to the age-old complaint that the Scottish theatre is non-existent, but proves that Scotland can provide entertainment that rivals the best that international talent can assemble. "The Three Estates" is a long play, and the version seen in Edinburgh this year, was by Robert Kemp, who has adapted and shortened it by something approaching two and a half hours. What has remained for nearly 400 years nothing more than a scholar's curiosity piece lives again for another generation.

"The Three Estates" is not a play in the modern sense of the word. It is an entertainment rather, and Tyrone Guthrie's production made it appeal as a drama as well as a spectacle. The setting is a permanent one, jutting out into the audience, who sit on three sides of it, and the players use, as entrances and exits, the gangways between the spectators. There are many magnificent crowd scenes, both of dignity and tumult, and a constant flow of movement which enhances the dignity and satirical rhythm of the spoken word. An invaluable contribution was made to the production by the designers, Molly MacEwen and the composer, Cedric Thorpe Davie, whose talents are joined in a triumphant panorama of costumes, heraldry and fanfares.

It is impossible to do justice to this production with mere words. The incomparable beauty will rank with such masterpieces of creative theatre art as Max Reinhardt's "The Miracle" and Gordon Craig's "Hamlet," and will remain in the memories of those who were fortunate to see it at Edinburgh this year, for ever.

No greater contrast could be provided to the "Three Estates" than Jean-Louis Barrault's production in French of "Hamlet." A more unexciting or sombrely staged play could scarcely have been conceived, and yet it was strangely stirring and thought provoking.

M. Barrault's intention in bringing "Hamlet" to Edinburgh was to let us see Shakespeare's Dane as others see him, and his reading of the title role is without doubt to be ranked with the finest of recent years. Madness and assumed madness mingle so completely that one is left in doubt as to which is which. Melancholy sits upon him but never heavily. He is an instrument of fate rather than of conscious vengeance.

The production, as a whole, has little to commend it. Little or no attempt has been made even to suggest the decayed grandeur of the Court of Denmark in either the décor, costumes or music, composed by Honegger. What this version has brought us is a "Hamlet" not dominated by Hamlet. It is no vehicle for a star performer but a balanced whole. Indeed, the André Gide version is almost dominated by the King, a mediæval French tyrant who might almost have been expected to slay Polonius outright.

One final word. As fine as M. Gide's prose translation may be it can never give us Shakespeare's play. For Shakespeare deprived of his finest quality, the beauty of his language, is not Shakespeare.

J. C. P.

## VERSE

### Elegy

FOR JANUARY, 1948.

The rose trees are bare, their petals  
Gone to make a shroud,  
Only the thorns remain  
Still and patient to the death.  
Many milk white petals  
Carpet the burnt ground  
By the edge of the holy river,  
But millions cannot cover four  
Four lethal stains. . . .  
Smooth the charred earth with petals and stone  
And gather, gather, gather

What you have sown

Ashes and blossom,  
No absolution or holy water,  
All depart too quickly.  
Expiation is harder than expiration  
Ashes and blossom  
Absolve us from the pollution  
Of four darkening stains.  
Deliver us from the trembling hand  
As well as the trigger;  
Fire will not erase these stains,  
Marks of unlimited boundary  
Will alone  
And gather, gather, gather

What you have sown

The fire is dying out,  
Are the flaking ashes,  
Climax or finale  
Death or Life.

P. P.

## Night and Morning

### I

I see the three  
Men held to be wise  
By our standards if such gauges  
Mean anything at all,  
Are they closer or are we all  
As far away in the slime  
Of this level ever-rising morass?  
Do their minds reach higher  
Towards that remarkable star  
Do they see as we ought  
The complicated fashioning thereon?  
Does everything begin with the star  
Or does it all end in the hard earth  
The cold earth?

### II

I see the manger  
The occupants I see too but differently  
Scissors cut like allegories  
What could be stranger  
It seems real but it is unique  
Certainly, and the scene of one moment  
We wish for its survival  
It is strange but it is no freak  
Natural in the highest degree natural  
Like the star  
That shone imminently  
Last night  
From afar.

P. P.

## TWO POEMS FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

### The Kingfisher

The kingfisher is a beautiful bird,  
With his glorious rainbow colours;  
His brilliant feathers glow and flash  
In the bright sunlight.  
He perches on a stone in a shallow pool,  
Watching the gleaming fish;  
Then, quick as a flash, he darts at his prey,  
And returns with a speckled trout.  
His silken feathers glitter and shine,  
As the water glistens on them,  
Then he opens his wings, and flying downstream,  
Glowes gorgeously across the day.

D. N. Salter (36).

### Twilight on the Bure

A yacht becalmed at eventide,  
Rocks between banks of waving reeds,  
Green waving rushes for mile on mile  
Along the silent river bank.  
Clear the still and silent river  
Mirrors complete the yacht's white sails,  
A heron flaps slowly overhead,  
Majestically a swan sails by.

On the bank sit patient anglers,  
Casting their net, and rod and line,  
Watching the crimson sun fading  
And drawing the bright sun after it.

JOHN ARNOLD (3b).

## SOCIETIES

### THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

At the first meeting of the Society this term new officers were elected and plans were discussed for future meetings. After this discussion there was a private showing of "The Proud City." This film gave a general idea of the need for replanning London and of the County of London Plan which was designed to meet this need. It showed the general outline of the plan and gave in detail the methods used with regard to one area. An interesting discussion followed and the main impression received was the vastness and enormity of the difficulties involved in rebuilding.

On Saturday, October 2nd, a party of the Society's members visited the "Australia and You" Exhibition in London. The primary object of this exhibition was to attract immigrants to Australia where labour is very scarce. Two films were shown; the first described the flora and fauna of the country and the second showed the industrial and agricultural achievements. There were a large number of maps and photographs as well as many samples of Australian products. The exhibition was rather disappointing owing to its smallness, but it fulfilled its main purpose adequately.

The second meeting of the term was devoted to a lecture by J. M. Hoare. With the aid of some excellent photographs he described the history of the Matterhorn. Up to the late nineteenth century the mountain was respected by the Swiss who believed that the rushing noise of falling snow was caused by some evil spirit. A fascinating and even thrilling account was given of the numerous ascents made by Edward Whymper and others.

At the last meeting which can be recorded in this account, the Society welcomed Mr. French who gave a spirited, witty and illuminating talk on Stockholm. This city is the Venice of the North, for it is built on several islands which are connected by many fine bridges. The Swedes are proud of the many fine road-crossings, which have been constructed in the middle of the city to take traffic upon which no speed limit is imposed. The meeting concluded with an interesting discussion on the effects of the last war on Sweden and the failure of the government to carry out a long-term policy of industrial expansion.

The Society looks forward to a visit to the Royal Ordnance Survey Office at the end of this term. A warm welcome awaits new members who are prepared to devote some of their time to the Society in order to ensure that its meetings will be both valuable and enjoyable.

A. J. F.

### ARTS SOCIETY

*President*: The Headmaster.

*Chairman*: Mr. Rudgley.

*Secretary*: J. C. Powell.

This term has seen the birth of yet another society. It was felt that there was room in the School for an association designed, as our rules put it, "to encourage the practice, enjoyment and discussion of the arts in the widest sense, to include the usual arts, architecture, literature, music, drama and the film." Membership is limited to twenty from the Upper School and those interested are invited to approach the Secretary. A general invitation is cordially extended to all members of the Staff and to Old Boys.



By the end of term we shall have had five meetings. Visits have been paid to the Pre-Raphaelite Centenary Exhibition at the Tate and to "Dr. Faustus" at the New Theatre, each followed by a brief exchange of opinions and impressions at a subsequent gathering. The Pre-Raphaelites have been a source of controversy for many years now. I think their chief value lies in their protest against the disastrous results of the segregation of life from art. They sought to make painting a vital and true expression of life, showing itself in a chair as well as in a tree or a building. The exhibition of some thirty or more examples of their work was admirably chosen. The brilliant colours were a revelation and the minute attention to detail astonishing.

It is a pity that the same could not be said of the Old Vic production of Marlowe's "Doctor Faustus." Although interesting in many respects the play failed to satisfy. The chief fault lay in the "Fausts" of Sir Cedric Hardwicke, who appeared to have no idea whatsoever as to the character he was portraying, and in John Burrell's pedestrian production which gave but the very slightest hint of the poetic grandeur of the fire and brimstone qualities of the work. Nevertheless the play was very much enjoyed, if only for Robert Eddison's superbly melancolic Mephistopholis.

Preparations are now in hand for an end-of-term Theatre Exhibition and plans for next term will include, it is hoped, visits to Shepperton Film Studios and to an opera at Covent Garden. J. C. P.

## THE GRAMOPHONE CLUB

This term's meetings have been enlivened by a further influx of new members, many of whom we hope will make future contribution to our meetings. Attendances have often exceeded twenty and, on occasion, thirty, imposing a strain on the capacity of the Headmaster's Study where our meetings continue to be held. While we do not measure success by a count of heads, this support is gratifying and an encouraging sign for our future.

The programmes this term have been occupied by the playing of the new records acquired for the School collection, and by a series of four meetings devoted to a consideration of Film Music followed by a further series on music in the Theatre.

Many admirable, and a few alarming examples of Film Music were played in these programmes which were expertly introduced by John Hopkins, and we note with a certain gratification that most of the better examples came from British films. The Americans seem to show little imitative or originality in their music for the film, though, because of its more lavish orchestration, it is often more immediately attractive than the film music of Walton, Vaughan Williams and other British composers. But the examples heard out of their context, had to be judged largely on their musical merits alone, and no decision could be reached on the value of music in films. The theory that film music should be of the highest standard, and yet so unobtrusive in the film that it should pass unnoticed, poses problems to which we could offer no solution. Does the music really perform any justifiable function in the films? Is it, after all, worth while to engage a front-rank composer to write such music?

We have now embarked on the programmes on Theatre Music, which, under the guidance of John Powell, promise to be as entertaining, and as stimulating, as the previous series.

## 565 SQUADRON A.T.C.

Training has continued steadily on Friday evenings, with an appreciable influx of recruits to make drill instruction more realistic. More advanced cadets have been delving into the complexities of meteorology and the .303 Browning machine-gun; three of them

took the Proficiency examination in November, but the results have yet to be published. Next year this important examination will be held monthly, thus simplifying the organization of training. Just after half-term, F/Lt. Walton, a jet fighter-pilot stationed in Germany, gave an absorbing talk on high-speed flying and the future.

The Berlin air-lift has apparently resulted in a re-organization of A.T.C. flying arrangements which benefits small squadrons, whilst cancelling the much-coveted flights abroad in Transport Command aircraft. On two occasions this term small but enthusiastic parties of cadets have flown in Ansons from Kenley; fog and slight engine trouble made the second trip the more interesting of the two. We hope to be airborne again on the last week-end of term.

F/Lt. G. M. Wilson, who has been connected with the Squadron since its formation in 1941, left us in the spring to move to Falmouth. In recognition of his untiring service and enthusiasm, past and present members of the Squadron have presented him with a silver cigarette box.

W. C.

## THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

*President:* Mr. A. Chomondaley.  
*Vice-President:* The Headmaster.  
*Secretary:* A. S. Warren.

The present members of the Classical Sixth, although few in number, still share with their fellow classicists who have now left the classrooms of this school, the greater knowledge of things classical as imparted by the more erudite members of the society. At the completion of our first year as a society, a meeting was held to elect new officers for the year 1948-9. The retiring president (Mr. E. A. C. Balsehaw) then read a paper which described in a very lucid way the bright and dull elements of Ancient Novels, and the meeting was, as usual, followed by a more informal discussion on the subject between all the members. At our next meeting the Headmaster will read a paper on "Roman Jewry."

A. S. W.

## SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

It seemed hardly possible that the society would not suffer from the loss of so many of its most energetic members this term. But for a while all seemed peaceful. The new committee was formed, which set up a programme, and as usual the "Personal Choice" evening started this term's activities on a happy note. The full continued with an ingenious Mock Trial. It appeared to be a little unfortunate that the jury brought in a verdict of "Not guilty" after the defence had thrown in his brief, but the defendant, Mr. B. L. Shore, no doubt felt much relieved.

But the storm had to come. A debate had been arranged with the West Wimbledon Society, the result of which is probably only too well known to most members. The moral of this failure is obvious, for only two members of our society were officially to be active in the debate. In the two previous meetings more than two-thirds present took part. Members must rid themselves of this silly fear of debating. They probably have sensible things to say; and the solution does not lie in having no debates, as one member suggested. On the contrary the society should devote far more time to debates than it has before.

But the failure of the debate was not the only crisis for some members. It seems that to their horror and indignation "females" have been infiltrating into the Society's meetings. There are even fifth-columnists amongst the most senior section of the Society! "Dash it, sir, this is a man's school." It is sad to have to tell these particular members that following the success of the joint reading of

"Peer Gynt," members will have failed so far as to go to Wimbledon High School for another play reading. As Pistot says, "Si fortune me tormente, sperate me contento"—or words to that effect.

M. J. W.

### CHESS CLUB

Our membership has remained about the same as last year (we should like to see it larger), but there has been a marked improvement in the standard of play.

In our first match this term against Surbiton County School we lost by 1½-5½. The first three games awaited adjudication after two hours' play, but in the remaining four we were outclassed. Powell-Evans was judged to have won his game and Wilkinson earned a good draw. **The play as a whole showed a lack of initiative.**

Against Wandsworth County School there was a great improvement. Playing at home for the first time, much more confidence was shown, and we eventually won by five games to three. Inglis, Weightman and Powell-Evans scored quick successes, while Lawrence lost his game. The four remaining games were full of interest. Hobbs won a good game, but when Breech had had the worst of a king and pawn ending and Ferebee had been subdued after a heroic defence, the match depended on the result at the second board. Here Wilkinson played a very sound game to beat Dobrowolski and decide the match in our favour.

**The match with Bec also provided a close finish.** When the time came for adjudication, Powell-Evans, Weightman and Inglis had won their games and we needed one more win from the three games still in progress. When Hobbs had been awarded a draw and Ferebee had been declared the loser, the match again depended on the second board, and here the verdict went against Wilkinson, so that we lost by 3½-4½.

E. A. C. B.

### THE CHRISTIAN UNION

We have had one or two setbacks this term in the running of the Christian Union. The first was the loss of David Langton, who was our leader for such a short time. We miss him greatly for his energy and enthusiasm, and I feel it impossible to fill his place adequately. Another setback was the departure of half of the Union at the end of the last school year. Such a sudden ebb in our numbers must have made it seem futile to keep going, but those who turn up regularly (and I am glad to say we have a nucleus of these) can testify to the help gained from the short meeting each week.

To balance these reverses, we made a positive step forward in becoming affiliated to the Inter-School Christian Fellowship, which aims at uniting all schools which have a Christian Union. I hope much help will be gained from this new contact with others, and that more friendship will result between Raynes Park and the schools round here. I would like, also, to thank here the Headmaster for his co-operation in allowing us to join the I.S.C.F. Support from such quarters is very heartening, and is appreciated no end.

By the time this *Spur* is in print, I hope that the Rally at Wallington County School will be over. The arrangements are for Bruce A. Burbridge to speak on December 15th, and I hope many boys and girls will have attended.

In conclusion, referring back to membership, I would like to invite any students of religion, any other professing Christians, and any attenders of Bible classes to our Friday meetings. Religion is not something to cause the conversation to change; indeed, it is something which needs very much discussion, both with Christians and non-Christians. The Christian Union is for this very purpose, so come along and complete your education!

D. P.

### CORRESPONDENCE

*To the Editor of THE SPUR.*

Dear Sirs,

I believe you are publishing a letter critical of my article in last term's *SPUR*. I have not seen it; I cannot therefore reply; I can only disagree.

I am, etc.,

D. P. W.

*To the Editor of THE SPUR.*

Dear Sir,

I should like to take this opportunity of answering some of the points made in your last issue by D. P. W. in his attack on the poetry in *THE SPUR*.

About this article in general the words of the poet Spenser descriptive of the House of Pride seem particularly apt:—

"It was a goodly heape for to behold  
And spake the praises of the workman's witt  
But full great pittie that so faire a mould  
Did on so weake foundation ever sitt."

Before dealing point by point with the petty, contradictory and destructive "criticisms" of D. P. W., I should like on passing to refer to the only poem with which D. P. W. has honoured *THE SPUR*. It appeared in Vol. VII, No. 5, and was entitled "Translation from the Shepherd's Calendar."

Unfortunately for 99 per cent. of the readers of *THE SPUR* the translation was from a living language (English) into the dead and moribund Latin tongue. But in his article D. P. W., using a proletarian first person plural, states: "we are entitled to demand something comprehensible to the average reader."

Far be it from me to pour scorn upon the standard of classical learning surging through the arteries of Raynes Park, but I venture to suggest that no one outside that select body of intellectual drones that inevitably make up a Classical Sixth could even translate that poem, let alone comprehend its profundities.

Most of D. P. W.'s criticism is concerned with the poetry of D. W. T. As D. W. T. is obviously more capable than I am of defending his own work from these insidious attacks, I will merely say that to take five lines from the middle of a poem and ask "where is the logical progression?" is as ridiculous as to take the chapter in Tacitus' life of Agricola about the Usipi cohort and ask what the devil it has to do with the life of Agricola. It is impossible for poetry or literature to be confined to "predestinate grooves." As for the word "spoures," it is far more intelligible to me than any of the dead language in the "Translation from the Shepherd's Calendar."

Perhaps the veritable Gobi of D. P. W.'s critical aridity is exposed when almost in one breath he says the poetry is "the symptom of an age that cannot face the realities of life," and then with an expression of horror deprecates the titles "Sterility," "Nemesis" and "Death-bed." It is indeed difficult to discover what D. P. W. does want—romantic poems about fairies at the bottom of gardens, hideously realistic poems called, say, "One Hour's Detention," or, as is most likely, a translation of Shakespeare into Latin.

D. P. W.'s remarks about the titles of the three poems mentioned above as though they were an answer to the phrase "narrow field of experience" is too puerile for words. On this sort of argument, namely, that only direct experience can be utilized by the poet, Homer, who was blind, though I doubt if he was as blind as D. P. W., could not have written about anything but darkness! Perhaps he could have translated the "Shepherd's Calendar" into Latin, though.

I am. Yours faithfully,

P. P.

To the Editor of THE SPUR.

Dear Sir,

Courtenay Liddle and myself enclose a mathematical problem for the solution of which we offer a book-token value 5s.

If you think it suitable, perhaps you would publish it in this issue of THE SPUR. We assume that answers will be from pupils of the school, and are unaided solutions.

Yours sincerely,

K. W. KNIGHT.

### Mathematical Problem

(K. W. Wright and C. J. V. LIDDLE.)

Find unequal positive integers  $x, y, z$  Such that :—  
$$x^3 + y^3 = z^4$$

Answers to :—

K. W. Wright,  
215, West Barnes Lane,  
New Malden,  
Surrey.

Prize : 5s. Book Token for the FIRST correct solution opened.  
(All solutions received will be opened on Sunday, January 9th, 1949.)

### PRIZE-GIVING, November 17th

This year's Prize-giving was one of the most successful we have had for several years. The Lord Bishop of Southwark, who distributed the prizes, was mainly responsible for this. It is a long time since we have had a speaker for this occasion who managed to hold our attention for the duration of his speech as decisively as Doctor Simpson. After he had presented the prizes he came in front of the Chairman's table and started to speak to us in a surprisingly informal manner. For the theme of his address he took the subject of "The Good School." First, he described all the things it might be, but was not. He listed various constituents which made up a large part of the existence of the school, as the boys, sport, scholarship, buildings, staff, and so on, none of which could, in themselves, be called the school. He went on to say that it was not the age of a school that determined its character, but the actual working of it. The combination of masters and pupils, work and sport, will cast the shape of the man who will eventually evolve from the boy. The school in whose working there lies this co-ordinating movement of shaping and moulding is a good school. The Bishop's speech was thus brief and was delivered happily without the usual lengthy irrelevant anecdotes that bore the schoolboy. It was direct, understandable and easy to listen to, and was entirely successful in holding the interest of all present.

In his annual report the Headmaster commented upon the School's activities during the past year. In the School Certificate examination 61 out of 78 candidates had attained the certificate and 32 exemption from matriculation. In the Higher School examination 80 per cent. of candidates had passed. These figures, the Headmaster said, were indicative of a good average standard, but that a greater effort was needed by the future candidates who wished to go on to the University. Although a University course was comparatively expensive, it would be unfortunate if standards were lowered and mediocre graduates were turned out in their hundreds. The Headmaster commented upon the various out-of-school activities. There were twenty societies of widely differing natures in the school at the moment, he said, most of which were flourishing. The Headmaster concluded with a general survey of the school year, which he made in his own lucid and witty manner.

Mr. Lowndes, the Chairman of the Board of Governors, who presided, opened the meeting with a vigorous speech and later introduced

Doctor Simpson. Mr. J. H. Hood Phillips proposed a vote of thanks to the Bishop and was seconded by Derek P. White, the Head of the School.

Among other friends of the school there were on the platform the Mayor and Mayoress of Wimbledon, the Deputy Mayor of Malden, and the Chairman of the Merton Borough Council.

J. M. H.

### PRIZE LIST 1947-1948

#### FORM PRIZES

IA, P. J. Parsons and J. M. Davis; IB, B. A. Stracy and K. A. Rawlings; IIA, R. S. Betts and D. J. Bevan; IIB, D. N. Salter and D. A. Burgess; IIIA, C. I. Brown and J. R. Weightman; IIIB, A. F. Cox and P. J. Bennellick; IVA, A. J. Hopkins and J. W. Crichton; IVB, L. E. Palmer and J. B. Bullock.

Prizes for the best performance in School Certificate : V.1, A. F. Murant, A. Melmoth, E. M. Berrow and E. Withers; V.2, A. W. Tucker and J. W. R. Sanders; V.3, R. E. Kohlbeck and W. J. F. Pike.

Prizes for the most promising work in First Year Sixth : Arts and Classics—A. J. Forward, D. T. Beardwell, and D. K. Mills; Science—M. S. Leak and B. M. Jones; Economics—D. J. Harris.

Prizes for best work in Higher Certificate : Mathematics—K. Grant; Physics—D. A. Hope; Chemistry—D. W. Tanner; History—J. R. Hopkins; Classics—D. P. White; Mathematics and Statistics—S. Smith; Economic History—M. J. Welby; Geography—F. L. Hodges.

#### GENERAL PRIZES

General Knowledge—J. A. A. Evans, T. G. Wolkenberg, and D. V. Patrick; Art—T. A. Harris and M. J. Todd; Craft—M. W. Hamilton, C. P. Tutt, and A. A. Vincent; Stage—J. R. Wells, J. C. Powell, and K. Lintott; Verse-Speaking—S. Priestman, R. E. Ayres, J. B. Farrant, J. G. Arnold, and I. B. Hayter.

"Personal Effort" prizes for good work outside school routine : J. A. A. Evans (VI Form Society, etc.), J. B. Florentine (Puppet Club), N. J. Macdonald (Scouts, Athletics, etc.), C. P. Tutt (Harvest Camp, etc.), and P. J. Casselton (Nature Study).

Norman Science Prize : P. A. Blight.

Whitman Prize for Medical Studies : J. L. Pead.

John Robbins Essay Prizes : D. T. Beardwell and J. M. Hoare.

Headmaster's Essay Prize : J. R. Hopkins.

Leaving Prize to Head of the School, 1947-48 : D. Thompson.

#### HIGHER CERTIFICATES

VI. Arts—J. Ashley, J. A. A. Evans, J. F. A. Harrington, J. R. Hopkins, and D. Tutchell; VI. Classics—*a* D. P. White, N. Godwin, W. G. Winter, and A. S. Warren; VI. Science—L. Ayling, D. H. Bacon, F. C. Bagley, P. A. Blight, H. C. Burford, G. H. Clayton, A. F. Conchie, K. Grant, D. A. Hope, F. B. Kirby, P. Lockwood, *c* J. L. Pead, and J. H. Wilkinson; VI. Economics—F. L. Hodges, M. W. Needham, *b* S. Smith, and M. J. Welby.

*a*—Distinction in Latin Verse. *b*—Distinction in Mathematics and Statistics. *c*—Distinction in Zoology.

#### TROPHIES

Rugby—Halliwell's; Cricket—Miltons; Hockey—Miltons; Swimming—Halliwell's; Athletics—Halliwell's; Cross Country—Halliwell's; Tennis—Cobbs; Boxing (no cup)—Cobbs; Dramatics—Halliwell's; Junior Shield—Halliwell's and Newsoms; Cock House—Halliwell's.

## RUGBY FOOTBALL

### 1st XV

This season has not been one of the most fortunate as far as the 1st XV is concerned. In the first few minutes of the opening match, Marles, potentially the most dangerous three-quarter, broke his ankle, while Welby sustained a thigh injury in the Beckenham game, which also put him out of the game for the season. As a result the scoring powers of the three-quarter line was gravely impaired and the search for wing three-quarters involved some disorganization in the pack as well. Under such difficulties it reflects credit on the team that they have done as well as they have.

At full-back Pegrum has had more than the average amount of work to get through and has performed brilliantly under heavy pressure, although he does always choose the right time to run with the ball.

The three-quarters have, of course, been heavily handicapped. Colvin has performed prodigies in defence, but lacks speed and thrust in attack; Holgate is the most likely scorer of the side, but his defence is by no means reliable. Simpson (A. G.) and Florentine have defended well, but their lack of experience and determination has told against them.

At half-back Mason has handled well, but lacks experience and must tighten up his defence; Priestman has not given as smooth a service from the scrum as we have had in recent years, but his defensive covering has been of enormous value.

On the whole the pack has played well and only the Wimbledon College eight really got its measure, although there have been bad patches in both its scrumming and its line-out play. The experiment with Tutt as three-quarter and the failure to find a satisfactory front row have been the main difficulties. Bell has hooked well, when given support, Simpson (R. C.) and Hopkins have provided a solid second row, while Phillips and Tutt have been the liveliest back-row forwards. The cares of captaincy, never light this season, have unfortunately prevented Wells from displaying the form we expect. Of the other forwards Street has showed the most promise.

### 2nd XV

The 2nd XV has, of course, suffered from the mishaps to the 1st XV, and rarely has been able to field the same team in successive matches. As a result of this unavoidable chopping and changing, the backs have failed to show any kind of combination, and far too many promising movements have come to nothing owing to selfish holding on to the ball and failure to pass before being tackled. In addition backs and forwards alike have defended weakly against strong-running attackers, and failed to realize the folly and futility of high tackling. Fiander, Absalom, and Walters have shown up best amongst the backs. Deacon, MacDonald and Jones have done well most often in the pack, which, though lively in the loose, has too often been beaten both in the set scrums and the lines-out.

### Colt XV

The Colt XV having lost all last year's scoring backs, seemed set for a poor season, but in fact have done rather better than expected, and have suffered only one heavy defeat.

Lavender has been the most reliable and the most finished of the backs, and has both kicked and tackled excellently. The three-quarters are collectively anything but a line, and have done their best work as individuals. Furthermore their defence has been at times lamentably weak—another case of high tackling yielding no dividends. Tralls is the most dangerous, but his lack of experience makes him commit some extraordinary faults. Norton and Budgen have also done well as individuals, but none of those tried for the remaining wing three-quarter position have established a place in the team. At

half-back Biggs is useful though somewhat slow, while Lakeman, too, is slow—at getting the ball away from the scrums.

The forwards have been the mainstay of the team, though at times they have been slow and downright unintelligent. Their work in the set scrums has been good, and in the loose they have improved, but much of their line-out play has been slovenly, while they are slow to bind around the ball and heel quickly from the loose scrums. Hopkins, Boorman, Wade and Miles have given the best performances.

P. O'D.

### RESULTS.

| 1st XV                                 | Ground | Result | For | Against |
|--|--------|--------|-----|---------|
| v. Public School Wanderers ...         | H      | Lost   | 16  | 17      |
| v. Whitgift Middle School ...          | A      | Lost   | 3   | 12      |
| v. St. Mary's College ...              | A      | Won    | 17  | 3       |
| v. Beckenham C.G.S. ...                | H      | Won    | 11  | 3       |
| v. Wimbledon College ...               | A      | Lost   | 0   | 23      |
| v. St. George's College, Weybridge ... | A      | Lost   | 10  | 16      |
| v. Wallington C.G.S. ...               | A      | Lost   | 3   | 11      |
| v. R.A.F. Chessington ...              | H      | Won    | 13  | 5       |
| v. Bec School ...                      | H      | Lost   | 0   | 3       |

### 2nd XV

|         | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | For | Against |
|---------|--------|-----|-------|------|-----|---------|
|         | 6      | 0   | 0     | 6    | 40  | 120     |
| Colt XV | 9      | 4   | 0     | 5    | 94  | 100     |

### Junior XV's

The wisdom of playing Junior matches at all in our present circumstances is sometimes questioned. With the shortage of playing space, a game every other week is all that most juniors can expect, whilst our opponents generally have two games a week. But provided that we are not merely outweighed, and provided that we have sufficient spirit not to be daunted by repeated defeats there is much to be gained from such encounters. In the first under-12 fixture with St. George's College for example we were completely outplayed by a side no bigger than our own but with three years experience. But our own forwards learnt more about packing, pushing, and loose scrummaging in that hour than they had done in half-a-dozen practices with their own equals, and in the return match they were if anything superior except in the set scrums. But, although we strengthened our three-quarter line for this game, it was still decisively beaten by a back division whose speed and accuracy of passing would do credit to a much older side. Our under-14 fixtures with Bec. School and Beckenham on the other hand, were examples of the type which can do more harm than good. We were outweighed and outsized and beaten by strength rather than skill. In the under-13 match against Halliford House School, we had a slight advantage in size and for the first time the three-quarters had a chance to show their potentialities. The game was hard fought and our opponents never relaxed their efforts, although we finally won by a comfortable margin.

G. J. R.

## BOXING CLUB

We have a good number of promising new members and last years recruits have begun to take a successful part in inter-School contests.

This term we held our first match against another school in our own hall when Surbiton County School were our visitors. Most of the contestants in both sides were novices and if the boxing was not particularly skilful it was certainly spirited and the result was a tie, both sides winning six contests. Forster, Hayter and Giles gave us a good start and after Mitchell had lost his bout, Pratt gave a good showing against a more skilful boxer in Irvine. Croft won an even contest but Todd found himself giving away too much weight against an aggressive

opponent, while Palmer just lost in one of the best performances he has given. Biggs recorded the win we have come to expect from him, but Phillips' advantage in weight was not enough to offset the greater experience of Richardson. It was a very pleasant match and the result did justice to both sides.

In the return match at Surbiton most of the better boxers on both sides could not be matched and we won by 6 wins to 3. The first four bouts went as in the previous match, Forster and Mitchell both showing great improvement and then Rose and Hooper won good contests. Croft was this time a narrow loser and Pratt again found Irvine just too much for him but Davies boxing better than he has ever done won an excellent final bout.

## SWIMMING

This year a new basis for qualifying points was tried. For the timed events a graded scale was made for each age, with the possibility of scoring from one to five points for each event. For all but the very best swimmers this provided a continued incentive, and the measure of its success was the number of boys who strove throughout the summer to improve their performances.

From the start the House Competition could have but one result. Halliwell's had not only an overwhelmingly strong Senior team, but also more swimmers to qualify than any other House. They fulfilled expectations by scoring twice as many points as Cobb's, who took second place with Gibb's only a point behind. New records were made by Thomas (1 length free-style), Ashley (2 lengths breast) and Gibbard (1 length back), in the Senior Relay race by Halliwell's and the Colt Relay Race by Newsom's. The performance of the Juniors was disappointing both in speed and style, but several of the Colts improved markedly during the year. With the departure of many of the Halliwell's Seniors, next year's competition promises to be much more open.

At the Wimbledon District Schools Sports our Senior team had little serious opposition, and several of its members were subsequently picked to represent Wimbledon in the Inter-District Sports. Here we met some first-class swimmers from Croydon and Kingston, and realised that we still have much to learn.

With the shortage of pitches for main sports, many boys now swim regularly throughout the year on games afternoons, and it is probably true to say that there are more swimmers in the School than ever before. But so far there has been no general improvement of standard, nor will there be until there is much more deliberate practice and much less idle water-frolicking.

*Swimming Sports, 1948 Results on opposite page.*

## CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross-country teams have made a good start this term for what we hope will prove a successful season. Distinction was gained for the School by our Captain, B. Matravers, in finishing third from a very strong field in the South-of-the-Thames Junior Five-mile Championship. Bagley and Breach are to be congratulated on obtaining fourth and nineteenth places respectively in the Moates' Cup Race, held over a five-mile course on Farthing Downs in adverse conditions of rain and mud.

The first team fixture of the season was a three-mile race organised by Sutton and Cheam Harriers, our somewhat mediocre position of fourth being due to the indisposition of some of our better runners. Nevertheless the School ran well, Matravers finishing first in the field.

*Continued on Page 24.*

## SWIMMING SPORTS, 1948

| EVENT                              | FIRST                     | SECOND          | THIRD          | TIME   | POINTS |    |     |    |     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------|--------|----|-----|----|-----|
|                                    |                           |                 |                |        | C      | G  | H   | M  | N   |
| QUALIFYING POINTS                  |                           |                 |                |        | 43     | 36 | 54  | 28 | 28  |
| 1 Length (free) ... Colts ...      | Spiers (G)<br>Withers (N) |                 | Wolkenburg (H) | 23-0   |        | 4  | 1   |    | 4   |
| 1 Length (free) ... Seniors ...    | Thomas (H)                | Bell (C)        | Reynolds (N)   | 18-8   | 3      |    | 10* |    | 1   |
| 2 Lengths (free) ... Juniors ...   | Owen (G)                  | Charles (H)     | Eales (C)      | 66-5   | 1      | 5  | 3   |    |     |
| Plunge ... Open ...                | Ashley (H)                | Pooley (C)      | Withers (N)    | 38* 5" | 3      |    | 5   |    | 1   |
| 2 Lengths (breast) ... Colts ...   | Christmas (M)             | Wolkenburg (H)  | Wilson (C)     | 60-2   | 1      |    | 3   | 5  |     |
| 2 Lengths (breast) ... Seniors ... | Ashley (H)                | Burford (M)     | Priestman (G)  | 52-0*  |        | 1  | 10* | 3  |     |
| 1 Length (breast) ... Juniors ...  | Shephard (G)              | Cheney (H)      | Tanner (C)     | 35-1   | 1      | 5  | 3   |    |     |
| Plain Dive ... Open ...            | Ball (C)                  | Macdonald (G)   | Williams (H)   |        | 5      | 3  | 1   |    |     |
| 3 Lengths (free) ... Seniors ...   | Charles (H)               | Pooley          | James (G)      | 71-5   | 3      | 1  | 5   |    |     |
| Relay Race ... Colts ...           | Newsom's                  | Halliwell's     | Milton's       | 112-4* |        |    | 6   | 2  | 15* |
| 1 Length (back) ... Juniors ...    | Shephard (G)              | Charles (H)     | Tanner (C)     | 43-5   | 1      | 5  | 3   |    |     |
| 1 Length (back) ... Seniors ...    | Gibbard (H)               | Macdonald (G)   | Wenham (C)     | 23-3*  | 1      | 3  | 10* |    |     |
| 1 Length (back) ... Colts ...      | Laver (H)                 | Phillips P. (G) | Langton (M)    | 28-5   |        | 3  | 5   | 1  |     |
| Springboard Dive ... Open ...      | Ball (C)                  | Marles (H)      | Macdonald (G)  |        | 5      | 1  | 3   |    |     |
| Relay Race ... Juniors ...         | Halliwell's               | Gibb's          | Cobb's         | 151-7  | 2      | 6  | 10  |    |     |
| 3 Lengths (free) ... Colts ...     | Withers (N)               | Laver (H)       | Bunch (G)      | 92-8   |        | 1  | 3   |    | 5   |
| Relay Race ... Seniors ...         | Halliwell's               | Cobb's          | Milton's       | 80-0*  | 6      |    | 15* | 2  |     |
| * New School Record (5 pts. extra) |                           |                 |                |        | 75     | 74 | 150 | 41 | 54  |
| TOTAL POINTS ...                   |                           |                 |                |        |        |    |     |    |     |

The result was as follows :—

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Matravers ... ..  | 17 mins. 1 sec.   |
| J. Law ... ..     | 20 mins. 11 secs. |
| H. Deacon' ... .. | 20 mins. 19 secs. |
| Knowles ... ..    | 20 mins. 23 secs. |
| Conchie ... ..    | 22 mins. 0 secs.  |

In the triangular match between Tiffin's, Latymer Upper and ourselves, held in Richmond Park, we obtained second place in the Seniors and third in the Juniors, Matravers setting up a new course record.

The team results were as follows :—

| Seniors (3½ miles)      |                   | Juniors (2¾ miles)         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1st Maltravers ... ..   | 15 mins. 34 secs. | 11th Rowley ... ..         | 15 mins. 59 secs. |
| 4th Bagley ... ..       | 17 mins. 14 secs. | 14th Hobbs ... ..          | 16 mins. 7 sec.   |
| 11th Breach ... ..      | 18 mins. 1 sec.   | 15th H. Deacon ... ..      | 16 mins. 42 secs. |
| 14th D. K. Mills ... .. | 19 mins. 19 secs. | 16th Bennison ... ..       | 16 mins. 46 secs. |
| 16th Conchie ... ..     | 19 mins. 21 secs. | 17th Barnett ... ..        | 16 mins. 58 secs. |
| Juniors (2¾ miles)      |                   | 18th J. M. Phillips ... .. | 16 mins. 59 secs. |

Although to date we have only run as a team on two occasions, we can look forward with some degree of confidence to the future.

J. B. S. L.

## CRICKET

### Colt XI

This has been a useful, rather than a successful season. Only two matches were won of those played. As the term progressed it became plain that there was no lack of cricketing ability among the younger members of the school. Unfortunately, however, 11 competent players do not necessarily make a team, and it can be fairly said that this year's Colt XI rarely played well together.

For this there are several possible explanations. The lack of adequate practice facilities has been mentioned before and is at present unavoidable. This was undoubtedly responsible for a weakening of that confidence and unity of purpose which are so essential to the winning of matches. A team which has seldom practised as a team can scarcely be expected to show the lively aggressiveness in the field which is the surest way of subduing opposing batsmen. But individual players cannot be entirely excused from blame. It must be said that there were several whose efforts in the field were lethargic in the extreme and gave away scores of runs. Fielding can be practised privately in groups of two or three, even when proper facilities are not available, and all future Colt teams should take this valuable lesson to heart.

The batting was colourless and unenterprising. The fact of playing so many away games was no doubt partly responsible, but even so there was far too great a tendency to regard the wickets of our opponents as having some devilish quality specifically prepared for us. However, the strokes are there, confidence will increase, and we should have little to fear for the teams of the future.

The bowling at all times was good and varied and nearly every member of the team was able to take a turn with the ball. There should be no lack of effective bowlers in next year's senior elevens. Jonas and Burgess kept wicket capably, and Mason was a thoughtful and conscientious captain.

G. J. A.

## A Reading by L. A. G. Strong

Although this reading had been postponed because of Mr. Strong's illness, earlier in the term, he soon showed us that he had thoroughly recovered by his spirited reading of the first short story. This was a story from the Mangan collection, by name "Rice." A story of catastrophe in an Irish home when Mr. Mangan is loosed in the kitchen to prepare a meal. Just when it seemed that for once Mr. Strong's story was to reveal its end in its beginning an unexpected factor was introduced. It is this unexpected character that is always the life of one of these Mangan stories and the shabby little man trying to sell an encyclopædia completely fulfilled expectations. Just as he and Mr. Mangan settled down in their arm-chairs to discuss the merits of the encyclopædia and to discover the correct way to cook rice, whilst a saucepan full of rice with an inch of water boiled in the kitchen, so we settled down for the laughter that was bound to arise from this incident.

Nor were we disappointed, for the climax of the story, the volcanic eruption of the rice from the oven, laying a thick carpet of molten rice all over the kitchen floor was a worthy end to this Mangan story. But in the presentation lies the real secret of these stories' humour. The infinite range of Irish accents and their accompanying expressions of anguish and joy, give the stories a humour not latent in the actual material. Mr. Strong followed this with some poems for an anthology of modern poetry that he had prepared for the B.B.C. : Yeats, Hodgson, Davies, Lewis, Spalding—all these were represented and all were read with Mr. Strong's sensitive perception of the true mood and meaning of the verse that he reads.

Yet another Mangan story appeared, a further catastrophe in the early life of Mr. Mangan that had shaped his later likes and dislikes. This story was called the "Wasp's Nest"—the pattern was in the true tradition. First we are shown Mr. Mangan, in company with the author, doing something that gives him cause to recall an adventure in his youth with especial bearing upon the present situation. If anything, the story of a wasp invasion of a house in millions, was funnier than "Rice." One figure particularly catches the attention, the description of the wasps on the tea-table as a party of trippers, on a day's holiday at the seaside ; taking excursions to the sugar-bowl, scaling the cliff-edge of the sponge, and sight-seeing on the bread and butter plate.

After this story Mr. Strong ended his reading with some few verses including two Irish ballads which were very popular. It was, as is usual, a reading of great entertainment for the School, and of exceptional ability on Mr. Strong's part.

J. R. H.

## FILMS

The following films have been shown in the School this term.

" Looking through Glass " : The manufacture of glass articles for everyday and scientific use.

" Children's Charter " : A review of education as envisaged in the 1944 Act. Several boys still in the School took part in this film.

" Proud City " : The L.C.C. plan for the rebuilding of London.

" The Plan and the People " : How the L.C.C. plan would affect the lives of a particular community in one London borough.

" Lessons from the Air " : The story of School Broadcasting.

" Birds of the Village " : English resident birds and summer visitors and how farmers and gardeners benefit by the activities of many of them.

" How the Motor Car Engine Works " : A cartoon and diagram film of the working of the four-stroke internal combustion engine.



"The Big Four": A cartoon film on the four main elements of diet—calcium, protein, iron, vitamins.

"Defeat Diphtheria": The value of diphtheria immunization.

"Power Lines": The manufacture and assembly of cables for the transmission of electric power.

"Electrical Generation": The principles of electrical generation and the construction of generators.

"Electro-magnetic Induction": The story of Faraday's discovery of the production of an electric current from a magnetic field.

"Steam Engine": The historical development from the time of Newcomen.

"Steam Turbine": The story of its development.

"Approach to Science": Science plays such an important part in the making and shaping of the modern world that we must learn all we can about it in order that we may guide the applications of scientific discovery into channels helpful, not harmful, to society.

## CHRISTMAS FOOD

One of the many, and perhaps the main thing that we think of at Christmas, is the abundant quantity of strange food which appears. There are the almost legendary and proverbial turkeys or hens which we enjoy on Christmas Day, and in these days of rationing make last until Boxing Day. What does it matter if the stuffed, tender and fat fowl has been replaced by a small, shrivelled, unstuffed, bottom half of a sheep's leg? With a great deal of imagination it tastes the same. Then of course there are the Christmas puddings, one large one for Christmas Day and myriads of smaller ones which seem to last for months. The making of these puddings seems to start weeks before they are required; during the process, each of the family stirs the rather gruesome looking mixture, and into it are put threepenny pieces which have been in the family for years for that sole purpose. How different are the constituents of a modern pudding to those recommended and set down in "Mrs. Beeton's Cookery Book," and how different from those which went into Bob's famous pudding, that gave Tiny Tim such pleasure in "A Christmas Carol."

After these two main constituents of the Christmas fare, there are the mince pies which fill in the spaces, if any, after the Christmas dinner. Then, of course, there are the nuts, rather a luxury now, but most people manage to scrape a few together, even if they are only horse chestnuts. There was a custom in which brandy was poured over the nuts and then set alight; the assembled persons around the table each taking nuts from the blazing inferno. This was called "snap-dragon," but is a thing of the past, almost mythology, when people had brandy enough to set alight as well as to take them into a certain blissfully happy state. The same procedure, with the brandy, was applied to the Christmas pudding, but that, alas, is also past.

Last of the strange and annual "Wittals" is the Christmas cake, often again minimized by lack of this, and shortage of that. I can never fathom the mysteries of those sickly looking mixtures which reside in huge bowls, ready for the oven, and afterwards appear as masterpieces of culinary skill; but ask any housewife what she can't put into her cakes; she will go on for hours. These marvellous pieces of work, are soon devoured by the—if it is possible by this time—hungry hordes, who smack their lips, wipe their moustaches and delicately and fondly pick up fallen crumbs, and then with the little remaining breath, grunt or, at the most, say "Good!"

Yes, Christmas is indeed a haven for the lost and hungry spirit. Although the fare has necessarily dwindled during the past years, Christmas time still affords a greater variety of food, and incidentally drink, but that is a subject for another day.

R. E. A.

## BEASTS: AFTER JULES RENARD

1. An alert woman in a queue, impatiently looking for something under the counter. (Hen)

2. Child: "My hair blew over my face just then." "No, you are mistaken. That was me." (Spider)

3. Holding him feels like searching in a carpet for a lost needle and expecting it to go between the finger and nail any moment. (Young spiteful cat)

4. After a time I thought Joseph must be reincarnate (Chameleon)

5. The river, "Who slipped a block of ice across my bank?" "No one, that was me." (Otter)

6. An inquisitive look from a hole near the floor. (Mouse)

7. I refused to believe my eyes when I saw a village of grey stone bearing down upon me from the veldt. (Herd of Elephants)

8. Whilst in the zoo I was horrified to see that a perambulating lighthouse had plucked the fruit and feathers from my bonnet. (Giraffe)

9. She is so proud that she has her own silver path to tread on. (Snail)

10. He is a full-stop with a tail. (Tadpole)

11. Hop, stop, hop, stop on the way home. (Frog)

12. The tree, "Who is that knocking on my door?" "It's me." (Woodpecker)

13. He bounds along over innumerable unseen obstacles. (Grasshopper)

14. My destiny appears to be high heaven, and my intention to get there as soon as possible. (Lark)

Members of Va.

## THE ROBERT MAYER CONCERTS FOR CHILDREN

Once again a small party of Juniors is enjoying a series of orchestral concerts on Saturday mornings at the Central Hall, Westminster.

The first concert, on October 16th, was given by the Cadets du Conservatoire Nationale de Musique de Paris. The Conservatoire Nationale was founded as The Royal School of Declamation and Music in the 18th Century, assumed its present title during the French Revolution, resumed its original name under Napoleon I and once more changed to its present title after the second world war. The greatest musicians of their time have studied or taught at the Conservatoire, its directors having been Cherubini, Auber, Ambroise Thomas, Dubois, Faure and Rabaud. The present director is Claude Delvincourt. Under German occupation the Conservatoire continued its work as best it could until, in 1942, the Vichy Government was forced to send all men over eighteen for labour in Germany. The Orchestra des Cadets was then formed by the director as a trick to gain exemption for his students on the grounds that they were performing work of national importance. Early in 1944, however, the Germans saw through the dodge and the Cadets went through all kinds of adventures before they were able to join the Resistance Movement.

Several of them eventually lost their lives in the fight for liberation. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Cadets were given the honour of being the first orchestra to tour defeated Germany. They were welcomed to the Central Hall by Mr. A. V. Alexander and gave a most interesting concert of French Music which included the Suite in F by Albert Roussel (1869-1936), the Symphonic Variations for Piano and Orchestra by Franck, "Fêtes" by Debussy and The Sorcerer's Apprentice by Dukas.

The second concert, on November 6th, was given by the London Symphony Orchestra under Boyd Neel who always introduces the items most aptly. He explained Beethoven's "Leonora" No. 3 Overture

so clearly that the very young listeners were able to get a very full enjoyment of it and he dealt even more cleverly with Franck's Symphonic Poem, "Le Chasseur Maudit." At this concert Dr. Thalben Ball explained the Organ to us as "the King of Instruments" and delighted us with his rendering of Vidor's Toccata in F and Handel's Concerto No. 4 in F.

At the third Concert, on December 11th, we are looking forward to Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Part II, and Carols by the Bach Choir and Orchestra under Dr. Reginald Jacques.

## THE 19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

### THE ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP

Our summer camp site at Pinhay in Devon has been described in such varying ways that we can only do justice to it by quoting a few of the many phrases used. Jerks has said of it "Wizard—like the camp-fires—just wizard." Stag thought it a site "full of possibilities that many fortnights would fail to exhaust." Tiger said it was one of very few sites he would dare repeat in a following year. A tenderfoot said of it just "smashing" while a more subtle senior called it "an up-in-the-clouds, show," and then Pip came down to earth by saying it was the first of his seven summer camps with the 19th where it was necessary to use bowls for washing!

However, directed by Tiger, jerked into being by Mr. Thomas, sound effects by Stag, fed by Pip (s) and Muscles, watered by Stoat, safety precautions by Grannie (our first and only hospital casualty), Whittanised by the Senior Scouts, action by the patrol leaders, crowd scenes by the troop (and, shall it be said, by the Guides), it was, in spite of some moisture and an annual storm, a very successful and happy camp. It was said last year that Symonds Yat was the easiest and happiest camp we have had but now there is Pinhay, surely, to take the lead.

In technical camping generally, a high standard was set and maintained. The patrol system was used most of the time and there was sound training and constructive criticism by the Senior Scouts. A Group has reached some degree of maturity when its seniors can be thus relied upon. The inter-patrol competition was a hard fight and led to good work by juniors and better leadership by patrol leaders. It was not until the last day that the final results were clear and the trophy could be handed to the deserving Woodpeckers. Harding produced a new variety of puddings and they really were very tasty and acceptable. Farrant, Napier (now to be known as "Logs"), Helliwell and Langton each passed the Cooks Proficiency Badge. The care of tents and clothing, the tidiness and usefulness of patrol gadgets and corners, and the use of tools all showed an improved standard.

Early morning physical training now seems to have come to stay in the 19th. Jerks and his "muscular" accomplice woke the camp at 7.30 a.m. and almost by 7.31 two long lines of pyjam-ied beings skipped their way over the field and out on to the Exeter Road. ("It's a sound idea" said Stag and Tiger jointly as they watched the figures disappear over the skyline and then sipped their early morning cup of tea). The inevitable result of both methods of becoming conscious at the beginning of a new day, is good temper, good health, good spirits and good appetites the whole day long. Bathing involved a grand walk down through the woods, a slippery and exciting descent of the cliff path and a scramble over rocks to one of the few spots where entry could be made. Once in the water it was fine and bathing parades became popular even in the rain.

Pip, writing on the eve of his call-up, says that the camp-fires at Pinhay were the outstanding features of the camp which he will always remember. It was a rare opportunity which Major Allhusen provided in saying we could have all the timber we could find and could fell all

the dead trees. And the camp-fire site was truly magnificent—a natural hollow in the hillside, a sheer chalk cliff as a back cloth, wooded slopes of the three sides and trees overhanging to form a natural ceiling. The Guides from St. Albans joined wholeheartedly into the programme, adding charm and colour to our singing and echoes from the tree tops. They taught us several new songs and made us "music-makers." Stag and Jerks sang solos, Stoat, aided and abetted by the seniors, entertained. The Rangers faced the difficulties of such large fires and made cocoa by remote control.

There were no outstanding excursions but individual patrols and the seniors devised their own outside programmes. There was so much of interest on the immediate site and along the wooded cliffs to make more distant outings unnecessary. For his practical help and interest we have to thank Mr. Lanfear, the Bailiff, and we are indeed most grateful for all his hospitality and the freedom we enjoyed to our host, Major Ormsby Allhusen.

### SCOUTING THIS TERM

Mr. A. Cholmondeley, who joined the staff a year ago and who has for some time taken an active interest in the 19th Wimbledon Troop, has agreed to become a Scoutmaster. At his own wish, he was invested as a scout with two other recruits, Keeble and Tordre. His application for a Warrant was received with special pleasure by the Wimbledon Executive Committee and the formal presentation will take place late this term. For a very long time, it has been apparent that the 19th was suffering by being understaffed and certain parents have helped most nobly. We hope they will continue to do so, and even more must Scouting, as the 19th sees it, be a triple co-operative game between scouts, parents and scouters. Mr. Cholmondeley becomes Scoutmaster of the Scout Troop while Mr. Raynham becomes, as he has really acted for so long, Group Scoutmaster of the 19th Group with its sections—scouts, senior scouts, Choughs and the newly formed Old Scouts Guild.

Inspired and encouraged by the Venturer Badges awarded to Seniors Macdonald and Simpson last term, P.L.'s Casselton and Hopkins trained hard and patiently during the holidays and have now succeeded in passing this Senior Scout Badge. The last several months in fact has seen a trend towards becoming trained and efficient and the following indication of successes this term is most welcome and should be of encouragement to our many recruits.

Over 15 badges—

*Venturer* : Casselton, Hopkins  
*Despatch Rider* : Casselton, Hopkins, Hood-Phillips  
*Naturalist* : Casselton.

Under 15 badges—

*Messenger* : Christmas, Wise  
*Philatelist* : Hood-Phillips, Wise  
*Athlete* : Child, Wise, Langton, Fash, Davis, Christmas  
*Camper* : Langton  
*Stalker* : Farrant  
*Swimmer* : Langton, Clayton  
*Designer* : Langton, Casselton  
*Linguist* : Napier  
*Cooks* : Langton, Helliwell, Christmas, Napier.

Including the Senior Scouts, the Group has at the moment 1 Bushman's Thong, 4 Venturer Badges, 4 Green Scout Cords, 8 First-class Badges and 12 second-class Badges, while there are 40 scouts in the Troop, 5 in the Senior Scout Patrol and a larger number of Choughs who, although they have left school, still keep in active touch with us.

The formal troop meetings this term have aimed at competitive activities which also provide training and revision in 2nd and 1st Badge work. There have been the monthly Church Services at Christ Church, two Parents' Evenings, several individual patrol outings, and the end



of term will see a combined night wide game and a Christmas Party. Visits and all day country activities are planned for the coming holidays.

Seniors Thomas and Macdonald spent the latter part of the summer holidays climbing in the French Alps. They were sent from the 19th to join a party led by the I.H.Q. Commissioner for Senior Scouts. They spent a few days in Paris as guests of French scouts, and then went south to climb at Grenoble, Ailefroide, Refuge Glasier Blanc and Pic des Agneaux.

A Branch of the B.P. Guild of Old Scouts has now been formed by the 19th. It is open to any adult who has at some time been a bona fide member of the Movement, and is not necessarily confined to parents of school scouts or Old Boys. The founder members joined together in the inaugural ceremony preceding the Parents' Evening of November 29th. Each accepted the Scout Law and made the Promise under the Group Colours. We hope Old Boys and parents who are eligible will come forward and join the Branch.

## OLD BOYS' NOTES

The end of the Summer Term saw our Annual Cricket match against the School, played this year not on the familiar Alliance Ground but on the K.C.S. Ground at West Barnes Lane. It was the first game of the Old Boys' cricket season and we lost. Ken Richards who scored 27 saved us from complete ignominy, but our modest total of 53 was passed by the School without the loss of a wicket.

Matches were played against Sutton Magpies (won), Busbridge Village (won), and Epsom County Old Boys (lost).

The Rugby secretary, Peter Pritchard, can now get occasional games for Old Boys with one of the Old Haileyburian XV's; any of you who would like to take advantage of this offer should communicate with Peter, his address is :—

“Dancerwood”  
Grafton Road,  
Worcester Park.

The fixtures arranged so far for the Old Boys XV are :—

Dec. 18th v. School

Jan. 8th v. University Vandals

other are being negotiated with the Old Purleians, Regent Street Polytechnic, Old Rutlishians, and The Distillers.

The Hockey fixtures for the future are :—

Feb. 5th v. St. Ebba's Hospital Away

Feb. 12th v. Kingston Technical College Away

March 12th v. Cooper's Hill Away

April 2nd v. Kingston Technical College Away

The hockey secretary is :

Peter Hill,  
48, Alpine Avenue,  
Tolworth.

and any Old Boys who wish to play should get in touch with him.

A most enjoyable Whist Drive was held in the School Hall on Friday, October 1st. Like MacNamara's Band we were few in number, but those who did come expressed a desire for future whist drives, and we hope that they will become a regular activity of the Society.

For the next few months we are to be without our Chairman Mr. Cobb, who is going abroad; as yet his successor has not been definitely selected, but whoever it is I am sure the Society will help him in the difficult task of filling the gap caused by Mr. Cobb's absence.

No doubt by the time these notes reach you Christmas Greetings will be a little belated so may I close by wishing you all good health, happiness and success for the coming year.

R. W. P.

To the Editor,

19th November, 1948.

From your Cambridge Correspondent.

Dear Sir,

Herewith a further report from the banks of the Cam; a report of the activities of a small, but we hope, select community of Raynes Park Old Boys.

Robert Chapman who is reading Architecture at Trinity, is to be congratulated on the excellent result he obtained in the first part of his Tripos examination. Courtenay Liddle (Christ's) and David Reid (Selwyn) have been playing rugby for their colleges, and Keith Wright (St. John's), who has also played for the University Wanderers, visited Oxford with his college hockey team to play against Balliol, for whom Charlie Thompson played and Arthur Thompson umpired—quite a family affair! While on the subject of sport, it is to be added that your correspondent, in his abortive attempts at squash, has been suggested as a likely candidate for the Vic-Wells Ballet.

Ronnie Forward, reading English at Selwyn, is the Honorary Secretary of C.I.C.C.U. (work that one out for yourself), and is keeping fit by playing an occasional game of hockey. Martin Schrecker, who is at Queens' reading French and German, is making no effort at keeping fit. Clifford Salter has fully recovered from the accident which kept him out of action for most of his first year—he is at St. John's where we can also expect to meet Hugh Wiggins; winding-up this list, and keeping Liddle company at Christ's, is Gordon Starke.

We have had our informal evening in Courtenay's rooms, and admired the liberality of our host in providing a large quantity of first-class beer, while, owing to his health he himself was forced to drink cocoa. As we have all settled into the life here, we find it to be less of a joy-ride than some people (among them the Correspondent of the “Daily Mirror”—vide page 4, 6th November 1948) tend to believe. Most of us are “ex-service,” and find we have more work and less money than the pre-war undergraduate, around whom grew up the legend of the domestic utensil on the college spire. The thought of approaching examinations is a constant incentive (in this age of incentives), especially since one's stay here is partly determined by results achieved. Nevertheless, we managed to keep the spirit of Guy Fawkes alive, and collect vast sums of money on Poppy Day by the staging of what are commonly called “students rags.”

Finally, no letter from Cambridge can be complete without a reference to traffic problems; any Old Boys contemplating coming up here are advised to get a Boadicea Chariot to cut their way from lecture to lecture at a speed greater than that of light—which is the speed required in order to get a seat in the crowded lecture halls.

Yours very sincerely,

X 16.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contemporaries, and apologise for any inadvertent omissions :—The Wellingtonian, The Fettesian, Bryanston Saga, Bristol Grammar School Chronicle, Aldenhamian, Licensed Victuallers' School Magazine, The Ashtedian, Wimbledon High School Magazine, The Caterhamian, The Radleian.

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