

RAYNES

PARK

COUNTY

GRAMMAR

SCHOOL

The

SPUR

SPRING TERM 1953



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THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL

“To each his need, from each his power”

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SCHOOL OFFICERS, Spring Term, 1953

Head of the School: A. F. Wright.

Prefects: D. J. Bevan, A. D. Brooke, K. R. Buckingham, A. F. Cox, D. J. Ferebee, D. A. Jackson, A. S. Jeapes, A. G. G. Law, M. A. Phillips, P. A. Tanner.

Captain of Hockey: A. D. Brooke.

Secretary of Hockey: D. A. Jackson.

Captain of Cross-Country: P. M. Childs.

Secretary of Cross-Country: D. L. Hall.

Secretary of the Games Committee: D. J. Bevan.

Librarian: A. J. Tillinghast.

HOUSE NOTES

Cobbs

Captain: P. A. Tanner.

Prefects: A. D. Brooke, K. R. Buckingham, D. A. Jackson, P. A. Tanner.

It is as yet too early to make a full record of House achievements this term, but some thoughtful prophesying will, I am sure, prove to be more than wishful thinking.

Cross-Country.—This event has taken place and though I am the last to search for excuses yet I feel sure all will agree that we were beaten only by bad luck. No less than four of our good runners were struck down with 'flu. K. Eales very pluckily ran when it was obvious that he was decidedly ill, and he deserves special mention for his game display. D. Shepherd also ran when he was "under the weather." Braine ran splendidly, breaking the course record and coming in first. Talbot came in a strong third, and Hayter, Brooke, Fash and Harper ensured third position for us. Had Cook and Francis been able to run we could not have helped but come first.

Debating.—We won our first-round debate against Newsoms, but the judges decided that Miltons had beaten us in the final. Apart from occasional lapses, our team—Hayter, Wright, Wilson, from the floor, and Jackson from the table—spoke very well, and are in no way to blame for our losing the cup which has been ours for two years.

Hockey.—Owing to bad weather the first Senior match has not yet been played. However, with D. Brooke (School Captain of Hockey), D. Jackson, K. Eales and D. Cook all from the 1st XI in our team, we can reasonably hope for 1st or 2nd place. The Colts, under their able captain, Osborn, went off to a flying start with a 7—1 win against Halliwells. Constant practice under the valuable guidance of Mr. Pratt has brought them this result. M. Francis, Ingram and Hill (A. D.) appear to be the outstanding players. Hill (G. A.) is also promising.

Swimming.—Mr. Foister continues to give up much of his valuable time to coach us. I hope everybody will avail himself of this matchless opportunity and let his self-sacrificing efforts be rewarded by a flood of qualifying points. In this sport it is the many, not the few, who are important.

Juniors.—We have a strong team, and frequent practices, run by Mr. Atkin, have helped to maintain the standard. Our first match, against Miltons, was won by 23—0. Poynter is an enthusiastic captain, well supported on the field by Ridge. Many individuals show thrust and determination, and team-work is developing.

This term has taught us that we must not rely on the few outstanding boys too much. They, as much as anybody, are likely to be ill, and then we

must have good reserves to fall back on. The crisis of the Cross-Country Race taught us this, and if the lesson is not lost to us then it may be of greater value than a cup.
P.A.T.

Tanner has not mentioned his own part in the Debating Competition, which brought us so near to winning the cup.
G.J.A.

Gibbs

Captain: A. F. Wright.

Vice-Captain: A. S. Jeapes.

Heaven only knows why Gibbs are not far and away ahead of all opposition in the hunt for this coveted Cock House Cup, for in the abounding spirit and enthusiasm, alike in Seniors, Colts and Juniors, it can be seen that, this year, Gibbs have certainly chosen to win. Something, it appears, must have gone wrong in the execution.

Now, after praising the House spirit, it might seem quite paradoxical to have to point out immediately that in last term's Rugby Competition we finished last. But that is a thing of the past, which we are quickly forgetting. The disgrace, in fact, has been redeemed, to a large extent, by the work of the Juniors this term. The Seniors and Colts succeeded in winning only two matches between them, but the Junior team has won each of the two House matches already played. It is a strong team, and one, I feel, which will offer severe opposition to Cobbs, who won the Junior Shield last year. P. C. Clark and Mackenzie, at half-back, have been the most enterprising and dangerous of those behind the scrum, and Burge and Hickford the best of a strong set of forwards.

This term began with the Michael Welby Cup. Jeapes, Arnold, Elliott and Fowles all spoke well, and we beat Halliwells in the first round, but the semi-final against Miltons—who eventually won the cup—was rather disappointing. The whole team seemed concerned rather with being amusing than convincing, and the judges quite rightly considered Miltons the better debaters.

But above all else this year, it is of our performance in the Cross-Country Race that we might feel justly proud. House spirit stands its severest trial in competitions such as the Boxing and the Cross-Country, which most people find singularly objectionable, and in each case Gibbs' House spirit has been admirable. Last term we were runners-up for the Boxing Cup, and now we are runners-up for the Cross-Country Cup. With the exception of our captain, John Davis, who finished 6th, we had no brilliant individual runners, and it is to such people as D. A. Beavitt, Lynch, Hulatt, Phillips and Elliott, who remained quietly in the background until the day of the race, and then ran surprisingly well, that we are indebted for our success.

Mr. Loveday, our House Master—who, despite his many years of energetic leadership, is for some reason seldom mentioned in the House Notes—must certainly feel somewhat disappointed in the House: so many times he has pointed out to us the importance of winning, and it does now seem such a long time since we have won a cup. But, if the young men of Gibbs are capable of sustaining their zest, then reward must certainly follow soon.
A.F.W.

Halliwells

Captain: M. A. Phillips.

Vice-Captain: A. J. Tillinghast.

Last term, after an extremely exciting struggle, we managed to win back the Rugby Cup, although the verdict was in doubt right up to the last Colt House match, which was against Newsoms. Due to the inspired leadership of Higham, brilliant play by Boyd, and two grand tries by Creasey, we managed to win this game by six points to nil, thus winning the Colt Competition outright. The Seniors did not excel this season, finishing third in their competition, but this result, combined with the Colts' magnificent performance,

proved too good for the other Houses. Our congratulations are extended to all concerned.

This term saw the House engaged in several competitions—the first one being the Michael Welby Debating Competition. Although this cup does not help towards Cock House Cup, it is a great honour to possess it, but once again it has eluded our grasp. This year we were knocked out by Gibbs in the first round, but our thanks are due to Tillinghast and Dick for putting up such a good fight.

Cross-Country was our next engagement and, in spite of the pessimism of our captain, the team managed to romp home easy winners by a comfortable margin of 35 points. Our congratulations are due to P. M. Childs, our captain, for the hard work he did in training our team, and also for the fact that he was fittingly our first man home, being fourth in the general classification. Congratulations are extended to the rest of the team for backing up our captain so well, by finishing in the following order: Marriott 5th, Swinscoe 7th, Cousins 13th, Day 14th, Jackson 16th, Corke 22nd and Price 27th.

At the time of writing no House matches have been played in the Senior Section of the Hockey Competition. On paper our team does not appear to be very strong, but we wish them the best of luck, and hope they will taste the fruits of victory. Meanwhile the Colts have played one match, losing to Cobbs by 7 goals to 1. We hope that they will not be disheartened by this result, but gain victories in their remaining matches.

Junior Rugby House matches commenced this term. Although our team looked weak on paper we had hoped they would surprise everybody by winning their matches, but our hopes have not been fulfilled. They have played two matches, losing 3—9 to Gibbs and 3—14 to Miltons. The team has been well led by Gamble, who by deeds rather than words has demonstrated how he wishes the team to play. If the whole team followed his example, and had his unflagging spirit, the above results would have been reversed.

We have now been Cock House seven times during the last eight years, as the result of good team-work. We can retain the Cock House Cup for another year if everybody pulls his weight in the Athletics and Swimming Competitions next term.
M.A.P.

Miltons

Captain: A. G. Law.

Prefects: A. F. Cox, D. J. Ferebee, A. G. Law.

After a few setbacks last term the Senior rugger side won all its games through superb team-work, and we came second in the competition in spite of the Colts recording no wins. Better form was shown by the Juniors, who have won one game.

David Hall led our debating team to two magnificent successes in the competition, and thus the Michael Welby Cup came to Miltons for the first time. After a bye to the second round in which the team "Deplored the present House System in schools" in a lively and amusing debate against Gibbs, they came up against Cobbs in the final. The superiority of our floor speakers, backed up by Hall's usual persuasiveness and Betts' flippancy, pulled us through. The whole team of Hall, Betts, Patrick, Cohen, Faint and Read must be heartily congratulated.

This brief success was followed by a dismal failure in the Cross-Country. Our captain, Hall, excelled himself in running an intelligent race to finish 2nd. The rest of the team, however, proved to be very poor, and the only mentionable performances were those of Stocker and Howard, 19th and 23rd respectively.

There have been no Senior hockey games yet, but the team is very strong on paper, and with a win or two from the Colts we hope to pull off a win in the competition.

Next term our attention will be focused on too many activities, Cricket, Athletics, Swimming, Tennis, the House Plays and, above all, examinations. It will need a great deal of effort from the Middle School to raise our standard in Athletics and Swimming. Cricket and the House Plays seem bright prospects, but we shall have to find new talent for the Tennis.

A.G.L.

Newsoms

House Captain: D. J. Bevan.

If, at the end of last term, the Colts had beaten Halliwell's XV, the Rugby Cup would have been ours for the third successive year. But it was not to be. The Colt XV, however, did well to win against Miltons (33—0), Cobbs (24—3) and Gibbs (22—12), and thereby finished 2nd. This result was due in no small part to the able captaincy of Spencer (B.), and to the support given by Weightman, Pevy, and others of the team. The Senior XV, however, fared less successfully, winning only one match; in this match, against Gibbs, we played as a team, tackled low, and "fought" to the end. In the Junior Rugby Competition, which is held during this term, as yet the Junior XV has played only one match, which it lost to Gibbs (9—3). Before the team, enthusiastically led by Howlett, can reap success, the forwards must learn to play together and to overcome their reluctance to tackle. Individually, Howlett, Wyatt and Dawton show talent.

In the Cross-Country run Newsoms team gained 4th place, Smith (M. L.) and Michez doing well to finish 8th and 9th. This result, though providing no reason for jubilation, did justice to the strength of the team. By the time these notes are read, our fate in the Hockey Competition will be known. It would be gratifying if we could retain the cup for another year. The Senior XI as yet has played no matches, but the Colts' 2—0 victory over Miltons promises well.

In the first round of the Debating Competition unfortunately we were drawn to meet Cobbs. We were determined to compensate for our lack of experience by thorough preparation. Weightman proposed, and Giles seconded the motion, "This House values corporal punishment as a necessary deterrent to crimes of violence." Although the team lost to a stronger Cobbs side, it did well to provoke a difference of opinion among the judges. Next year it is likely that we will be able to enter a stronger, rather than weaker, team with some experience in House Debating. More members of the House are urged to speak at meetings of the Debating Society, and so gain experience for future years. It would be a fitting tribute to Michael Welby to bring the Debating Cup to his own House.

Next term contains no fewer than five House competitions, and will demand the exertion of all our efforts and abilities to the full. It is in the Athletics and Swimming Competitions that qualifying is so important; it is in qualifying that every member of the House can, and is urged to, partake.

D.J.B.

SCHOOL PLAY

"The Merchant of Venice"

On the occasion of the fourth and final performance of "The Merchant of Venice" we were in the dressing-room, assisting with some final details of making-up. A boy came in bearing a local paper. It was quickly passed around.

"There are some shrewd contents in yon same paper" we thought, noticing the crestfallen expressions around the room.

In time we were given the paper to read, and learnt the verdict of the local Press on the School's performance. And immediately we donned the wig and gown of counsel for the defence.

There was so much that was finely done in this term's Shakespearean production, so much the fruit of painstaking work and clear feeling for the

poetry of the play, so much that was thoroughly worthwhile and entertaining in like measure, that faults and weaknesses (and what play has none?) did never distort the total pleasure of the piece.

No one would concede that the producers, Mr. Peter Smith and Mr. John Money, had an easy task. "The Merchant of Venice" has a plot too well-known (to the Second Form "too well-worn," no doubt) for the producer to create the tension of the unknown or the delight of the unexpected. The poetry of the lines and the artistry of setting must needs be his chief media wherewith to move his audience. And this for schoolboys was no mean task.

For the setting the Archer-Riley combination, backed by the indefatigable shifters of the scenes, provided all that the producers might wish, and triumphed gloriously over the intense gloom of the front curtain (requiescat in pace) and the problematic stage. A pleasant idea, too, to employ the Shakespearean tradition of changing the scene openly and unashamed before the audience.

And so to the individual characters. From the start M. Dick gave us a very satisfactory Antonio, carrying the heavy spirit of the

"tainted wether of the flock,

Meetest for death"

right through his part. His lines were clear and well-spoken and in mood an excellent contrast to his "good friend Bassanio," played by Alan Wright. Bassanio had a freshness and a poise which made him an attractive if unconventional hero of the piece. Unconventional because while he was undoubtedly

"a Venetian, a scholar and a soldier"

his passion was so calm, so poised and so restrained, that 'twas hard to credit such sayings as

"Only my blood speaks to you in my veins."

But perhaps Portia felt of him

"thy paleness moves me more than eloquence."

Portia herself (M. Read) was "fair," fair to the eyes and in performance. Had she (and, forsooth, other characters besides) been sent for a period to a good old-fashioned elocution mistress, her success would have been assured. No such accusation need be levelled at Shylock (D. L. Hall), who gave a masterly performance. Here was finely portrayed

"A stony adversary, an inhuman wretch

Uncapable of pity; void and empty

From any dram of mercy."

He held his audience, and his scenes with Antonio and before the court of Venice were, in our opinion, the highlight of the play, as rightly they should be.

Of the secondary characters B. Finch, as Jessica, brought a tenderness and calm gentleness to the part, lacking perhaps the passionate vivacity of the amorous Jewess. Her suitor and husband, Lorenzo (Christopher Wright), fresh from his previous success in female rôles, had not yet acquired sufficient virility to fill the rôle of the dashing eloper and the romantic dreamer:

"on such a night as this . . ."

Next year he will be excellent. J. Dunn as Nerissa was a pleasing confidante to Portia, but the two great successes among the minor characters were A. Jeapes as the Prince of Morocco, and M. Elliott as Launcelot—the former, splendid and dignified in his Oriental grandeur, the latter delightfully impish, roguish and versatile. His soliloquies were tremendous fun, and his scenes with his blind father (J. Manning) highly diverting.

Space does not permit of a detailed comment on all minor characters, though here the criticism made of Portia most certainly applied as well. As always in the Smithsian production the crowd scenes were gay and full of life, the use of the urchins and the fruit-seller being especially pleasing.

One particular pleasure must, however, be mentioned—the clear and confident singing by P. Vickers of “Tell me where is fancy bred.”

To sum up, we plead for a complete and unqualified annulment of the verdict pronounced by the aforesaid local paper as unjustifiable and unjust. We were attracted by the vivacious and colourful scenes of the market square; we were moved by the sadness of Antonio, and felt it borne away on the freshness of Bassanio's eloquence, and by a strange and not unpleasing calmness in his plea for Portia's hand. We felt sympathy for the hopeless suit of Morocco, and scorn for the affected pride of Arragon; we laughed at the plaguiings of Launcelot's conscience and waited with bated breath beneath Jessica's window, while later, the aged Tubal brought us pathos when telling the distraught father of her flight. We were impressed by the weighty pronouncements of the Duke of Venice, and were borne away by the melody of the youthful singer. And finally we were drawn through the whole gamut of amusement, derision, distaste, disgust, through horror, and, finally, to pity, as Shylock strove desperately to secure the execution of his bond, and eventually crept from the court-room, broken, defeated and utterly destitute.

Such a performance, we submit, my Lords, was never worthy of condemnation.
J.D.T.

SCHOOL DANCE

Though the School Dance regularly proves to be the best attended and the most financially beneficial of all Sixth Form activities, several members of the Upper Sixth helped on the morning before to decorate the Hall with streamers, coloured paper bells, holly and mistletoe. We were fortunate in again acquiring the services of Freddie Faulkner's Band, who provided lively music and helped immensely in creating the very gay atmosphere which everyone enjoyed. I must take this opportunity of apologizing to our patrons for the quality of the coffee. I will endeavour in the future to see that all those who require it will be able to have a liberal helping of sugar.

After all expenses had been met, the profit amounted to £3 5s. Though this was a considerable advance on the Summer Dance, the total was disappointing, but, taking into consideration the brief publicity that could be given to it, and the small amount of tickets sold before the night, we should be quite satisfied.
A.J.T.

THE MICHAEL WELBY CUP

I had prepared, to facilitate the compilation of this report, an elaborate series of notes taken during the debates for this cup. I was rather proud of them. They seemed an account of more pointed arguments than I was conscious of in the debates themselves. But they had one fault. To read they were dull. Lest, therefore, I should suffer the ignominious fate of having my copy unrecognizably amended by the editorial body, or perhaps—even worse—tactfully returned to be rewritten, I have dispensed with my notes and propose to report those things good and bad which my memory still retains almost a month after the last debate.

The first debate found Halliwell's House making a militant attack upon the two-year period of National Service. A. J. Tillinghast was in lively form as ever, playfully pretending that he was at a loss for words—I think he overdoes this oratorical trick, or perhaps he really is lost, incredible though that may be—but I remember that he seemed to regard vocational training and education as synonymous. He thought matrimony was a good institution. Gibbs opposed the motion, led by A. F. Wright, who sang to us. He has a not unpleasant voice, but his charm was not altogether convincing, in spite of a quotation from Cicero. Of the other speakers, I remember M. Dick's concern about youthful crime, and A. S. Jeapes' concern for the molly-coddled, and from the floor, a pleasing speech from A. Fowles, with a not-offensive naïvety in his outburst of youthful loyalty to his House at the end. The judges' verdict went to Gibbs, who gave a livelier showing from the floor.

I was unable to attend the next debate on the motion “That this house values corporal punishment as a necessary deterrent to crimes of violence,” between Newsoms and Cobbs. But it must have been a lively debate, for it provoked more comment in the Common Room than any of the others. Newsoms team was inexperienced, and Fourth-former C. R. Weightman—even if he did appeal too frequently to the chair—must be congratulated on allowing the more experienced Cobbs to win by a narrow margin only with the house and the judges. I hear, incidentally, that P. J. Parsons was convinced that no one liked work.

Miltons entered the field against Gibbs, proposing “That this house depletes the present House System.” Unfortunately I remember this debate for the introduction, without the sweetness of wit, of the personal element. D. L. Hall survived the onslaughts of the protagonists from the prefectorial body, but it was the pointed comedy of R. S. Betts which I enjoyed most. It was an amusing thought to elevate the diminutive S. J. Cohen to the height of A. S. Jeapes. He speaks promisingly and should do well when he gains more confidence. D. V. Patrick delivered a speech to the seat of a chair, A. J. Faint continued to smile, and I thought M. A. Elliott had been inspired by Mr. James Edwards. The voting gave the verdict to Gibbs (15—18) but the judges to Miltons.

And so it was Miltons and Cobbs in the final, to debate Victorianism. D. L. Hall and P. A. Tanner were evenly matched, the former appealing against prejudice—and the Albert Memorial—the latter charging the Victorians with hypocrisy and puritanism. But R. S. Betts, with his description of the bric-à-brac of the Victorian interior and his counter-charge that the plea of hypocrisy was the tribute vice paid to virtue, was more vital than the more prosaic D. A. Jackson of Cobbs. From the floor, the teams were evenly balanced. S. J. Cohen quoted Tennyson at length, and I. Wilson spoke with clarity. I. Hayter and M. Read were both disappointing, the former seeming, my dear, too, too utterly bored with it all, the latter scarcely relevant in reading a lengthy essay on Victorian clothing. The house gave the verdict to Miltons by 25 votes to 12. But the judges found their task more difficult and kept the house and speakers in suspense before declaring their concurrence with the verdict of the house.

It was, I think, a livelier series of debates than in former years, and Miltons did much to justify their victory. But the fixed order of speaking from the floor is not a natural procedure and does not lead to good debating by those speakers who seem too rarely to have enough facts to counter the arguments of previous speakers, and so are reluctant to abandon a previously prepared speech. There were many speakers whom we had not heard before, many we hope to hear again. I am personally grateful to the judges for their help—theirs is a not inconsiderable task—to Mr. Loveday for taking the chair in the Newsoms—Cobbs debate and to the leaders of the House teams for their part, not least for reaching speedy and amicable agreement on the subjects and wording of motions.
A.C.

A RECITAL

Oratorio, since the war, has met with nothing like the great success of Opera. Perhaps it is because those composers who have a regular place in the repertoire of England's Opera Houses have succeeded in endowing the majority of their works with a libretto which is either exciting or mysterious, whereas the plot of an Oratorio remains, for most people, formidable. Perhaps, again, the attraction of Opera lies in the fact that well-known Operas are more obviously melodious than well-known Oratorios. Whatever the reason may be, it has remained sufficiently potent to prevent the ordinary man completely enjoying Oratorio. The great achievement of Miss Ruth Hayes, Mr. Loveday, and Mr. Cholmondeley is that on Monday, February 16th, they gave a recital of excerpts from Mendelssohn's “Elijah” to an audience of Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth-formers, to an audience, that is to say, of ordinary men, and they succeeded in making them enjoy it thoroughly.

It is only on such occasions as this that many people in the School realize that Mr. Loveday is a baritone of considerable quality. Moreover, it is only since Miss Hayes has known the School, and has been kind enough to give up so much of her time, that it has been possible to offer a comprehensive excerpt from any work.

And this certainly was a comprehensive excerpt: the baritone part, always well handled in the past, was now augmented by a delightful soprano voice. Miss Hayes sang the parts of the Widow, the Boy, and the Prophet, and Mr. Loveday the part of Elijah. It was the aria, "Hear ye, Israel," sung by Miss Hayes, that was enjoyed more than anything. Elijah's famous prayer, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel," and his fierce and triumphant "Is not his word like a fire?" were admirably sung by Mr. Loveday.

To no small extent did this recital owe its success to Mr. Cholmondeley's accompaniment. Without his knowledge of the score—and many hours of rehearsal—the Recital, and the duet in particular, could not have been so splendidly produced.

A.F.W.

THE DA VINCI SOCIETY

It is now possible to complete the report on our first term's programme. Following the film on Henry Moore (see last term's issue), Mr. Trinder gave the second part of his talk on the Pre-Raphaelites on November 17th, in which he completed his survey of this important if isolated movement in British Art.

On Monday, November 24th, Mr. Rudgley gave a talk under the title "Every picture tells a story." Mr. Rudgley took a number of paintings from a wide range and proceeded to analyse their narrative content, pointing out the importance of the significant statement to be found in all good works of art, and likewise dismissing the superficial and sentimental to be found in many so-called "narrative" paintings.

The last lecture of the term was given by Mr. Archer on Monday, December 1st, when he chose as his subject "Pattern in Design." Using a fascinating collection of illustrations, Mr. Archer showed how Pattern can be found in the most unexpected places, in the textures of walls, rows of seats, harbours. Examples of applied pattern were also shown, and one was able to trace the source of many contemporary designs, where the modern designer has been inspired by seeing nature anew. This lecture completed our Winter Term Programme.

SPRING TERM, 1953.

The first meeting of this term was held on Monday, January 12th, under the heading "Art Forum," and was designed to give members an opportunity to discuss Art in its widest sense. Though a sparsely-attended meeting, a lively discussion was held, with topics raised such as "What is a masterpiece?" "Is State aid good for art?"

The second talk of the term was given by Mr. Riley on January 19th when he introduced what is to be a series of lectures on British Water-colour Painters. Works of the early topographical artists were shown and comparisons were made between these early and contemporary water-colour painters.

The succeeding lecture on January 26th was given by our first outside lecturer, an art director in the film industry, Mr. George Haslam, who, incidentally, was a former Art Master at the School. Mr. Haslam confined his attention to the work of the Art Director in films, and illustrated his talk with a large number of shots explaining the work of the Special Effects Department. We were also able to see some of his original set sketches. This was a very interesting and popular lecture.

On February 2nd we were given a talk by Jones, of the Printers' Guild, on Typography. He is the second member of the School to address the Society. He gave a well-informed talk, ably illustrated by examples of fine typography, and his evident admiration for the work of Eric Gill was clearly demonstrated.

"The Art of Caricature" was the title of Mr. Rudgley's lecture given on February 9th. This was a well-attended lecture, and Mr. Rudgley gave a lively yet learned exposition of this subject. Further interest was manifest in the inclusion of the "case history" of one of Mr. Rudgley's own works, that of Mr. Churchill, in which he caught a lively epitome of our "stolid" Prime Minister.

On February 16th, rising from his sick bed, Pevy of IVb arrived in the nick of time to address us on the topic of Egyptian Art. He gave a most entertaining talk, presented with a fine command of language and an admirable series of illustrations. He subsequently retired once more to sick bay. As a society we were greatly indebted to him for his noble effort, and look forward to further lectures.

The following lecture on February 23rd, "Is Photography an Art?" was given by Mr. Archer, himself no mean photographer. Mr. Archer pointed out, rightly, that photography was an art in its own right and in no way competed with Fine Art; in fact it was when it attempted to usurp the field of Fine Art that it defeated its own ends.

At the time of writing we are about to hear a talk by Mr. Timpson on "Mapmakers' Masterpieces," in which he is to reveal to us the beauties of the Art of Cartography.

The Society continues to flourish and is contributing an important part to the School life. With three talks from members of the School and two more promised this term, I think one can feel confident of the Society's health. One point of criticism: people still seem a little shy at question time! This Society will only live by a lively exchange of ideas, and you, the members, only can supply this.

A.C.R.

SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

There has been both a contraction and expansion in the Sixth Form Society personal-choice evenings, since, as a First-former, I read of the proud meetings that were held some eight years ago. In the meeting held on December 5th, last term, our personal choice was restricted to the playing of gramophone records and the reading of verse and certain articles. In 1945, gramophone records were certainly played, and verse was certainly read, but, in addition, some more ambitious members of the Sixth Form chose to play their own musical instruments, and others chose to sing. But, if the means by which we illustrate our personal choice are fewer, our interests now cover a wider field. Traditional Music is now more popular, and at the same time there remains a place for Rossini; one poem might well be credited as the personal choice of a Second rather than Sixth-former, but, again, some delight in intellectual articles.

It was a successful first meeting of this re-established Society, and, for this term, a Mock Trial and a Film evening have been arranged.

A.F.W.

CHRISTIAN UNION

This term has seen a slight increase in numbers, which is encouraging, but attendance is still not as high as it should be in a school of approaching 400 boys. Still, those who come are for the most part regular attenders, and in spite of interference from Trial Examinations and the Michael Welby Debating Cup, we have enjoyed a series of talks by missionaries and local ministers. We were privileged to hear two missionaries who were among the last to leave China, and who gave us a vivid picture of life under the present Communist régime.

The other main event of this term was the rally of the Christian Unions in this area, which was held in the Library on Friday, February 20th. Although the numbers present from our own Union were disappointing, those of us who attended heard a refreshing and challenging address from Mr. L. Millican. I should like here to put in a plea for these rallies; too often they are regarded as not worth bothering about, but at them the doubts which so often come upon us are often cleared away by the unashamed faith of others.

Next term, unfortunately, University Examinations interfere with the normal progress of School, and of the Union, but we shall keep going, of course, as we can. Let us try and make 1953 a year lived for Christ. Let us try and bring Christ close to the heart of the School; at least let us make sure that the School knows we are Christians. A word here and there can often bring someone else close to Christ, someone whom you had never dreamed capable of knowing Him. Once you are a Christian yourself, you can never stand still: you cannot mark time; Christianity is a faith of action, and we must be men of action, remembering that all that matters is Christ.

Well, now it is Easter again. As we go home for the holidays, let us remember for a few moments that black, wooden cross, on a hill called Calvary, and the last minutes of agony as God, having taken on human flesh, chose to die a human death for the sins of the world. And then let us remember the glory of that Sunday morning, as the sun rose on the world, and death and sin were finally conquered. God has done His part. Now it depends on you. Are you prepared to accept His amazing offer to you. His offer of Himself?

"And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain,
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?"

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

At the first meeting of the New Year, we were honoured with a paper presented by Mr. Sweetland. As it was his first visit to the Society we hope he felt at home; our welcome, too, goes to the members of the first-year Sixth, who are now members of the Society.

Mr. Sweetland first of all apologized for the hasty preparation of his paper, and then proceeded to give a most lucid and well-prepared account of Roman Britain. He began by giving a short outline of the conquests of Britain, from the semi-mythological Pytheas through Julius Caesar to Claudius and the complete Romanization of most of this country. He then discussed Britain as a typical frontier post, maintained by three regular legions. He took as an example his native Wales, and gave a detailed account of the garrisoning of this part of the province, and the main-road structure between Antoninus Pius in the north, built to keep out the Picts and the Scots. After this careful study of Britain as a frontier province, the speaker passed on to the social life of Roman Britain, which centred on the baths and the theatre. After a very comprehensive talk, he apologized for the omissions, which must have been very few, and ended his paper.

This term we are to have a talk by D. P. White and D. Thompson, accompanied by slides, on their recent visit to Greece, which should make an enjoyable change from our normal meetings.

LITERARY SOCIETY

"What we cannot understand, it is very common and indeed a very natural thing, for us to undervalue." (J. G. Lockhart)

There is such a wealth of lasting pleasure to be gained from great literature, past and present, that we should pity, not deride, those whose mentality never rises above the wirelless, cinema and television. Our Society gives boys a pleasant opportunity to study and try to understand some of the great literary works, because we are sure an appreciation of good literature is one of the best things they can take with them from our School.

After some discussion it was decided to change the name of the Poetry Society to the "Literary Society." By this we hope to widen our scope without

forgetting the importance of original verse. We have also decided on fewer but more comprehensive meetings. We have held but one meeting this term and there we carefully discussed and criticized "Misericordia" by R. S. Betts and "The Rainbow" by D. A. Jackson—two poems published last term in *The Spur*. We also found time to discuss a poem by Stephen Spender—"An Air Raid across the Bay," a poem which, as Mr. Mloney, our President, pointed out, conveys no feeling, and is merely a neat indulgence in word play. Our plans for the rest of the term include discussions on W. H. Auden and Dylan Thomas, as well as a meeting for "personal choice," and a special meeting for original verse. We look forward also to special evening talks to be given by A. J. Tillinghast and A. Faint. The subjects of the talks will be, respectively, Rupert Brooke and Wilfred Owen. We also hope for a talk by an outside visitor. We do hope that more serious meetings will attract more people to this regrettable small society.

P.A.T.

DEBATING SOCIETY

"The time has come, the walrus said,
To talk of many things,
. . ."

This term has seen the annual Inter-House Competition for the Michael Welby Cup. Mr. Cholmondeley, the President of the Society, has dealt more fully with this elsewhere, and I will restrict myself to one or two personal impressions. The standard was markedly higher than last year, and we saw some refreshingly new faces, especially from the floor. Debating should not be regarded as a Senior pastime, and the Society should be a School society in every sense of the word. We are therefore holding a debate later in the term which will be conducted completely by Fourth-formers. One cannot start debating too young, for even if you do not enjoy it, and I would be very surprised to find that such was the case, the ability to speak in public is, and always will be, a considerable social asset. I would further urge those who intend to come and debate not to write out their speeches word for word. Preparation is, for most of us, essential, but it must be judiciously conducted. The inconsequential stammer trying to express a personal opinion is learning more about the art of debating than the comprehensive researcher who merely culls opinions from second-hand text-books. So let us forget our books for a time, and follow in the wake of the walrus.

P.A.T.

GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

The sloppy vulgarity of the popular song and the emotional power of jazz have still not entirely robbed the School of those who appreciate good music. The meetings of the Gramophone Society are always well attended, but we should like to see some new faces: dare we hope that some modern rhythm enthusiasts will decide to widen their musical experience?

Since our assumption of a twentieth-century composers series last November, a variety of successful programmes have been played. Three Sibelius' symphonies have been played—the Second, the Third, and the Sixth; and the Sixth symphony of Vaughan Williams. Two "Personal Choice" programmes played Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" and Chopin's "Fantaisie Impromptu," and R. A. Giles Mendelssohn's deservedly well-known "Italian" Symphony. The concert which attracted the largest attendance within living memory, however, was the "Grand End of Term Concert of Italian Opera," presented by the Head of the School with his customary knowledgeable charm. It contained arias from Tosca, Turandot, Madame Butterfly, Gianni Schicchi, Cavalleria Rusticana and I Pagliacci. Originally conceived as an experiment, this highly successful venture will be repeated this term.

Twentieth-century music is sometimes regarded as a curious attempt to create concord from discord. A ballet suite which exemplifies this point

of view—Stravinsky's "Petrouchka"—was presented by our patron, Mr. Rudgley, on February 24th. For three weeks before this, however, we heard programmes of music by one of the great composers of the age, Sir Edward Elgar, who was a master of harmony. First, on February 3rd, we had his haunting "Wand of Youth" suites; next, the incomparable "Enigma Variations," and, lastly, some of his minor works: the gay, tuneful Bavarian Dances, the delightful Chansons de Matin and de Nuit, and the rousing Pomp and Circumstance Marches. We were unfortunately unable to beg, borrow or steal records of either of his symphonies. Modern music of the tuneful kind was also represented by Vaughan Williams' "Serenade to Music," written to celebrate the jubilee of Sir Henry Wood, his Overture to Aristophanes' comedy "The Wasps," and his new "Romanza for Harmonica and String Orchestra," which aroused considerable controversy.

We are now coming to the end of our supply of twentieth-century music, and must therefore begin a new series in the near future. We invite anyone with ideas and records to bring them to the General Meeting, which will be held on the first Tuesday of next term; we also reiterate that the Gramophone Society requires no fee for attendance, and that anyone, providing he listens to the music with some degree of appreciation, is always welcome.

R.S.B.
D.A.J.

GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

In the first half of the term we unfortunately did not meet on the only date arranged. This meeting, however, was only postponed and, by the time these notes are published, I hope that an American lady will have addressed the Society on New England. The other meeting which I hope will have taken place is a film evening. The films to be shown include two on Australia, one on New Zealand, and a National Coal Board film.

I hope that the large proportion of geographers in the School will have taken an active interest in these two evenings. The Geography Society is open to all and the subjects dealt with are of general interest. So, in the future, I hope that the geographers of the first year will come along and rub shoulders with those of the sixth year at the many interesting meetings we hope to have.

A.J.T.

CHESS CLUB

Since the publication of last term's issue of *The Spur*, the chess team has played four matches. Our win against Wandsworth was largely due to the willingness of players to fill places vacated at the last moment, for, in spite of fielding a largely inexperienced team, we won by $5\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{2}$. This very encouraging win was followed, at the beginning of this term, by a victory over our old rivals at Kingston Grammar School by $3\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{2}$. Following this, however, the team has met with rather less success: against Tiffins, without our regular first and second boards, we lost by $2\frac{1}{2}$ matches to $5\frac{1}{2}$. This was understandable, but our next defeat should not have occurred; owing to negligence, and possibly the magnificent tea which our opponents always provide, we were defeated at King's College, Wimbledon, by $3\frac{1}{2}$ games to $4\frac{1}{2}$.

We have been fortunate that our lower boards have now been strengthened by the welcome addition of Britton and Fash. Britton has already shown himself to be a sound, reliable player, while Fash is brilliant at times, but must learn to think. The most improved player in the side is Weightman, who has won his last four matches: Ferebee is still unbeaten, and Hayter, Cousins, and Page have all been reliable, although Hayter's fine unbeaten record has now come to an end. We can at least look forward with confidence to our remaining matches with Kingston and Sutton.

The other main event of the term has been the annual Knock-out Competition, which has, as usual, provided some surprises: Fash, the School No. 8, managed to knock out both the School No. 2 and No. 4 and so reach

the semi-final, where he was finally beaten by Hayter. The other semi-final, between Ferebee and Page, has yet to be played but, whatever the result, the final should be an interesting match.

Suggestions, too, have been made that a House Chess Competition should be instituted. We hope that this scheme, which will introduce more boys to the concentration of match-play, will soon be under way: Chess Club funds are in a prosperous state, and we have had an offer of part of the cost of a shield from a parent.

I must end by asking for care in the use of sets. If you borrow them, do please see they are returned. Too often they are left lying around on top of lockers, where pieces are lost and broken. Chess sets are expensive, and we cannot afford to waste those that we have.

D.A.J.

THE SPUR MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Our new station has been built and is to be named Miltons' Park: this being an island station, the platform is approached by a subway from the booking-hall situated on the roadway nearby, and by the time the Garden Party takes place we shall have station staff and passengers on the station to complete its appearance. With the new double track, this station is served by both up and down line trains.

Several members who have brought their own trains along have been able to run them successfully on our track now that it has been completely converted to a third rail centre track.

The goods siding we proposed has had to be put in abeyance for the want of funds. In the meantime we will concentrate on putting in small items, such as farm animals, trees and people on the roadways, which can be purchased for a few shillings at a time.

Mr. Oakley kindly responded to the appeal, in our last report, for a parent to give us additional help on our club nights. Mr. Phillips and I appreciate his help very much. There has been quite a good attendance during the term: on an average about twelve members have turned up each night, and a useful amount of work has been put in on the track by all concerned.

S.J.Y.

A.T.C. NOTES

Since the last edition of *The Spur* our hopes for a good report on our Annual Inspection by H.Q. 61 Group were amply fulfilled, because the report when it came proved to be highly complimentary, and very satisfying to all concerned.

This term the Squadron has continued to grow in numbers—now being safely above the half-century mark, and has especially distinguished itself in the field of Aircraft Recognition. Although the Squadron team only came about halfway in the All England contest in London, when they were competing with the highly experienced and more mature Royal Observer Corps teams, L/Cadet Loveday and Cadet Dyer managed to secure first and second place, respectively, in the Area Contest for the local A.T.C. Squadrons. They then proceeded to repeat the performance in the Surrey Wing A.T.C. Competition, winning the Archer Trophy for the Squadron. Later they will be representing Surrey against the other Counties in the 61 Group.

F/Sergt. Cox was presented with the A.O.C.'s Certificate for the best all-round Cadet of the year, and Sergt. Smith has been making good progress towards his pilot's licence. We have been particularly indebted to various former Cadets who have come back during periods of leave to help with the training of Cadets. P/O's Allen and Mackenzie, both pilots, and P/O. Price, now studying navigation, have given most useful assistance at a time when we have been rather short of instructors.

J.D.T.

HOCKEY

1st XI

This term, as unfortunately often occurs, the weather has been against us, and already four of the 1st and 2nd XI matches have had to be cancelled. One of them, however, suffered not from the elements, but from the fact that the staff of Banstead Hospital had a tea party. We hope they enjoyed it!!!

At the beginning of the term we looked forward optimistically to what we hoped would be a good season, with seven people still at school who had already played for the 1st XI, and many players above average who could be relied upon in case of emergency.

Unfortunately, this early optimism has not, as yet, been rewarded. True, in practice the team's defence—Wearn in goal, Jackson and Beaumont as backs, and Pooles, Brooke and Cook half-backs—seemed as firm as a rock, but in actual matches there has always been an element of uncertainty and a slight feeling of desperation present.

The main fault seems to be in the too-casual marking and the attempts to do too much with the ball instead of clearing first time. The hitting, on the whole, has been very good, particularly so in the case of Jackson and Beaumont in defence and Michez in the forwards.

Our first match against St. Mary's College was a keenly-fought affair, and, although we seemed to have more of the play, I think the result was a fair one. The next match, preceded by much speculation, resulted in an easy victory, with Smith (M. L.) (colours 1952) and Michez both scoring **hat-tricks**. Nevertheless, in both these games, the wingers tended to stray too far from their wings and the insides to crowd the centre-forward too much. Of the inside-forwards, Michez has been the most active and has distributed the ball well, while Tillinghast has combined well with the centre-forward and been very effective. This may be due to the rather unusual type of footwear he uses: who knows?

Our next game, against Surbiton H.C. 2nd XI, resulted, as we had feared, in a very heavy defeat, although there were several good individual attempts. The least said about that game, however, the better for everyone concerned.

The last match played before this article was written was against St. George's College. This match we also lost, although we were without the services of Beaumont at right-back. Jeapes filled the breach well and his forceful tackles helped considerably in a match that, to put it mildly, was not one of our best.

At the beginning of the term we managed to obtain the services of Mr. Burgess, a first-class umpire, and Mr. Pearman, Captain of Richmond H.C., who gave us an interesting talk on the rules and general principles of the game. The attendance, however, was far from good. Later, on January 31st, an instructive Saturday morning was spent with Mr. Burgess and Mr. Hands (Assistant Secretary of the Hockey Association) on the Oberon. I am sure the team will join with me in thanking them for so generously giving up their time to help us.

This term, Hockey colours were awarded to D. A. Jackson, R. M. Beaumont and B. C. Michez. A.D.B.

Results

1st XI

v. St. Mary's College	...	...	...	Drew	1—1
v. Russell School	...	...	...	Won	7—0
v. Surbiton H.C. 2nd XI	...	...	...	Lost	0—7
v. St. George's College	...	...	...	Lost	2—8

2nd XI

v. Banstead Hospital	...	...	...	Won	5—4
v. Russell School	...	...	...	Won	4—0
v. Surbiton H.C. 4th XI	...	...	...	Lost	2—11
v. St. George's College	...	...	...	Lost	*0—2

2nd XI

This season has seen the 2nd XI stronger than usual, as can be seen from the results. We have so far played four matches, winning two and losing two. The standard of play has been relatively high, and the forwards have been combining well. The approach play has at times been first rate, turning defence into attack by short passes up the centre, and then long, sweeping passes out to the wings. Although the team is good in approach work, the ability to shoot quickly and hard in the circle has been sadly lacking, thus giving the opposing defence time to recover. Tulett has led his forwards well, accepting the few chances he has had. Tanner and Burns, the two insides, distribute their passes well, running into the open spaces for the return pass. The wingers, Braine, Jordan and Law have worked hard, but must learn to centre the ball to the back of the circle on reaching the corner, and not along the goal line.

The defence has played well, but must learn that it is essential to clear the ball first time out of the circle, and not start dribbling it along their own goal line. Wright in goal has improved with every match and really saved the day against St. George's. Keeble and Williams, the backs, have combined well, Keeble being perhaps the only member of the team consistent with his stoppages and clean hits. Jeapes has also played when not required by the 1st XI, and has been a tower of strength in the side. The wing-halves, Fash and Fewster, distribute the ball well, but tend to wander too far inside, thus leaving their wingers unmarked. M.A.P.

Colt XI

RESULTS

v. Drayton Manor G.S.	...	...	...	(H)	10—1
v. Drayton Manor G.S.	...	...	...	(A)	4—2
v. City of London School	...	...	...	(H)	0—2
v. Kingston G.S.	...	...	...	(A)	0—5
v. St. George's	...	...	...	(A)	0—5

It is not very easy to assess accurately the standard of Middle School Hockey, as we have had little opportunity to measure our strength against other schools. We will be better able to judge by term's end, unless the weather interferes.

It is certain, however, that there has been a remarkable improvement since the beginning of the term—which suggests quite optimistic possibilities. The Inter-House games have largely confirmed this. Of the goalkeepers, Stevens (A. J.) seems the best, though little ahead of Wilson (I.); the full-back play has been somewhat disappointing, with Fowles, Pegram and Higham (J. R.) the best. Some good half-back play has been seen, with definite attempts to be constructive, mainly from Lavous, Boyd, Holden, Loible and Atkins.

The forwards are still somewhat rough, and tend to overlook the wings; the best probably are Nicholls, Spencer (B.), Ingram (B. S.), Weightman, Francis, and Hill (G. A.).

On the whole it has been a satisfactory beginning, and it has been good to see those who didn't feature prominently in the "Rugger" term showing up well—which is, of course, the strongest justification for hockey. P.O.D.

CROSS-COUNTRY

After *The Spur* had gone to press last term the Junior team recorded two outstanding victories, which augurs well for our strength in the future. First, we retained our hold on the Kingston G.S. Junior Relay Cup after a close battle with Kingston. On the first stage Talbot ran his usual reliable race, leading until near home, but being unable to match the sprint of the Purley and Kingston runners at the finish. Davis, running 2nd, quickly closed the gap and stayed just behind the Kingston runner throughout his leg. On the third stage Swinscoe was able to use his excellent finishing burst over the last quarter of a mile to give Braine a lead of fifty yards. Braine, running steadily throughout, ran the fastest time of the afternoon, and enabled the School to win by 150 yards.

For the first time we won the Sutton and Cheam Harriers' Junior Schools Race. Braine ran well throughout to finish 2nd, and he was well backed up by Talbot 6th and Davis 10th, and so we won the cup with 18 points, Kingston G.S. again being second, with 25 points.

Unfortunately the Senior team is composed mainly of these Juniors, and in races where the combined total of the Seniors and Juniors decides the result, such as the Judge Cup, I doubt whether the Seniors will be strong enough to enable us to win.

This term we have maintained an unbeaten record, winning three Senior matches and one Junior.

In the return match with St. Mary's College, Twickenham, we avenged last term's defeat, winning by 36 points to 42. McDonough, of St. Mary's, was first home in a new course record of 18 mins. 39 secs., and he was followed by Braine in 18.40, which was also inside the old course record, with Childs 4th in 18.55, Talbot 5th, Davis 6th, and Hall 7th.

In the junior match against Sutton C.S. and Beckenham G.S. we scored an overwhelming victory. Barry, who gives every promise of following in Braine's footsteps, was first home in 16 mins. 13 secs. for the Junior 2½ miles course, backed up by Marriott 3rd, Swinscoe 4th and Paxman 6th. We scored 14 points to Beckenham's 40 and Sutton's 40. The Seniors' race on the same day was between Sutton and ourselves only, and we won by 16 points to 23. Smith of Sutton lead the way throughout, with Braine and Childs in close attendance. His time was 18 mins. 48 secs., Braine's 18.48.5, and Child's 18.53. As Davis was 4th and Hall 5th we made almost a clean sweep.

In a match against a weakened team from the R.A.F., Chessington, only Blackwell of the R.A.F. could get under 19 minutes in exceptionally windy conditions; but good packing, with Braine 2nd, Childs 4th, Talbot 5th, Davis 6th, Hall 7th, and Francis 8th, enabled us to win by 17 points to 22.

On Wednesday, February 18th, the School Inter-House Cross-Country Run was held over the usual 3¼-mile course from the Oberon. Statistical details can be seen below. Braine's time in winning the race was a new course record of 18 mins. 31 secs., and with intelligent training and not too much racing he should follow in the footsteps of Matravers during the next two years. Halliwells gained their usual team victory, having ten men home before any other team had eight.

Halliwells	Gibbs	Cobbs	Newsoms	Millons
Childs 4th	Davis 6th	Braine 1st	Smith 8th	Hall 2nd
Marriott 5th	Wright 10th	Talbot 3rd	Michez 9th	Stocker 19th
Swinscoe 7th	Beavitt 11th	Shepherd 12th	Jordan 18th	Howard 23rd
Cousins 13th	Jeapes 15th	Hayter 17th	Bevan 25th	Carver 33rd
Day 14th	Lynch 20th	Eales 24th	Manning 30th	Janaway 34th
Jackson 16th	Hulatt 21st	Brooke 26th	Giles 37th	Law 38th
Corke 22nd	Phillips 28th	Harper 29th	Dorey 43rd	Burns 44th
Price 27th	Elliott 32nd	Fash 36th	Forster 50th	Gubb 52nd
Points 108	143	148	220	245
Position 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th

P.M.C.

SWIMMING

Foam has been seen on the water. Aspiring swimmers have attended the three trials held this term, and have raced against the stop-watch. The times then recorded have helped considerably in forming the teams which will represent the School in next term's galas. Much promise was shown, especially by Stevens, of 1A, whose time for one length back-stroke bettered the existing School Junior record by 3 secs., and by Edwards, of 2C, whose crawl is distinctly rapid. Talbot has improved his stroke and is now consistently on the 20 sec. mark for one length, while Saunders continues to swim a clean, fast breast-stroke.

The selected teams will train for the Wimbledon & District and the Surrey Grammar School galas. In addition there may be a Coronation Gala

sponsored by Wimbledon Borough Council. Those who have good reason to think that they will be in the School teams, and those who might like to prove them wrong, should heed the following, and practise over the distances mentioned. Wimbledon & District has a two-length Junior Free Style Championship, juniors being those under 15 on April 1st, 1953. Our own gala has also a two-length free-style race for Juniors, who must be under 14 on July 31st, 1953. In connexion with the School Gala, Seniors and Colts (over 14 and under 16 on July 31st, 1953) may like to be reminded that these groups have a two-length breast-stroke race, and, as well as a one-length free-style race, a race over 100 yds. The Surrey Grammar Schools Association regard juniors a. those under 14 on April 1st, 1953. The Intermediate class is 14-16, and the Senior over 16, both reckoned on April 1st, 1953. There are no races of one length. All Junior races are two lengths, and all Intermediate and Senior three lengths. There is also a Senior 440 yds. Championship. (Have we any fast quarter-milers?)

Apart from preparation for racing, it is desirable that all boys should learn to swim. Classes for non-swimmers, free of charge, were accordingly arranged to take place at Wimbledon Baths on Thursdays after school. These classes apply only to First and Second Form boys, of whom over forty have asked to be included. Owing to the increase in the swimming population which warm weather encourages, the instruction will be confined to the Winter and Spring Terms.

Qualifying has been under way this term for the Medley, quarter-mile, and beginners' width. The Medley must begin with a dive, and must include a proper back-stroke. Points for the timed distances, one and three lengths, may be obtained next term. The following table is included here for your information. Make sure you know your status, because it will be required when assessing the points you score.

Status Age on July 31st, 1953

Minor ...	... Under 13
Major ...	... Under 14
Colt ...	... Under 16
Senior ...	... Over 16

POINTS TABLE

Time in Seconds	1 L.	22	24	26	28	30	32	35	38	41	44	47	50
MINOR	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	3	3	2	2
MAJOR	5	5	5	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	1
COLT	5	5	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	1	1
SENIOR	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1

Points will be awarded for times below, or equalling, the figures shown.

One final word: make sure you do all the qualifying of which you are capable at an early date. W.P.F.

RUGBY

1st XV

Results since the last publication of *The Spur*:

v. Reigate C.G.S.	...	...	...	Lost	5—12
v. City Freemen's	...	...	...	Won	18—0
v. Wandsworth C.G.S.	...	...	...	Lost	0—10
v. Old Boys	...	...	...	Lost	0—13

Towards the end of the season there was a remarkable improvement both in co-ordination and determination. The team had talent, for we had five players in the Surrey trial: K. N. Eales, B. C. Michez, A. S. Jeapes, M. A. Phillips, and M. L. Smith. Michez, Jeapes and Phillips were chosen to play for the County and Smith and Eales were reserves.

If the team had played as well against other schools as it did against the Old Boys, I am certain that the results would have been far better.

Against the superior weight of the Old Boys' forwards, the School forwards were unable to keep their foothold in the mud during the scrummages; but in the line-outs and loose play, they held their own, while the three-quarters showed themselves to be quite as fast in attack and solid in defence as the Spurs. Hard tackling and falling could not keep back the O.B's, however, and as they got the ball from nearly every scrum their forceful attacks won them the game by 13—0. The game was hard and muddy but thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Against Reigate, however, the team played extremely badly, although we were sadly under strength, and we found some unfortunate misunderstanding over the rules of the game. Wandsworth gave us a very enjoyable game and we were unlucky to lose in the last ten minutes, although they were attacking for most of the game. We played City Freeman's at home, and although they played pluckily and skilfully, our superior weight and height in the forwards, and hard running by the three-quarters, won us the game comfortably by 18—0.

1st XV Colours were awarded to P. J. Bunyan, K. N. Eales, B. C. Michez, and M. L. Smith.

2nd XV

The 2nd XV improved beyond recognition in the latter half of the term and finished strongly against the Old Boys, losing narrowly 3—12. The team was changed frequently from the beginning of the season, and many players displayed surprising latent talent. It seems a pity that both the 1st and 2nd XVs, who obviously could play good rugby, took a long time to become co-ordinated. This can only be achieved by playing together as a team, but the actual skill and stamina which is so important to the individual player can be built up before he plays his first game of the season. If each player puts in a few hours practice before coming back to School next rugby term we should have a team worthy of the School.

A.S.J.—M.A.P.

Colt XV

The Colt XV reserved its best form for the second half of the Autumn Term, and proved to be one of the best XVs of recent years.

The forwards, in particular, reached a standard of combined play which I have too rarely seen in our teams. They packed tightly and effectively, dominated the line-out play, put their heads down and pushed hard in loose scrums, and made ground time and again with foot-rushes and inter-passing. The best compliment to their play has been the continued success of Spencer (B.), who finally won his way to the Final Trial for the England Schools XV (Under 15).

The backs, though growing more effective, remained too individual. Francis was undoubtedly the key player, and had a better sense of making an opening than any of the three-quarters, who showed plenty of dash and defended solidly.

P.O.D.

SQUASH

So popular has Squash become that it is now difficult to give a game to everybody who is interested. In spite of this, I should be glad of an occasional reminder from anybody who feels that his turn is long overdue.

Here are a few general hints which players may find useful:—

1. Watch the ball at all times, even when your opponent is playing it.
2. Place the ball away from your opponent. Try to make him run as much as possible, and keep the centre of the court yourself.
3. Make your service as deep as you can, nearly into the back corner.
4. Use both side and front walls.

The terms for junior members at Wimbledon Squash and Badminton Club are quite reasonable. For anybody under 19, the fee is a guinea a year, which includes Squash and Badminton. If you play during non-peak hours (before 6 p.m.) the court fee is sixpence for yourself and sixpence for a guest. These terms also apply at any time during the weekend. If you do join, it is wise to make sure that there is at least one person of approximately the same standard with whom you can play regularly.

G.J.A.

IMPRESSIONS

To speak about England would be beyond the scope of my limited experience. I leave that difficult task to authorized persons, who know how to make out the most striking differences between two countries. It seems much more interesting to say something about the School, which is too modest to be of interest to the official critics.

First of all, I must confess that I have been favourably impressed by the interest some boys seem to take in the study of the French language; and that is, no doubt, due above all to the influence of the French masters who succeed in causing that interest. For those who, in the School, think that English is the only language worth caring for, and who consequently will chuckle in reading my lines, I shall only point out to them, having in my mind one Goethe quotation, that you cannot know your own language properly if you have not studied any foreign language. Besides, if France is famous for her apparent changes in politics, her history as well as her literary productions cannot be ignored. And how interesting it is to read the foreign text rather than to resort to a translation which is, even when it is a good one, too often a distortion of the original. I want just to mention, too, the pleasure drawn from listening to a foreign station on the wireless, from seeing a film without the help of the sub-title, without forgetting, naturally, the tourist's point of view. But everybody knows that already, and would think that I belong to some publicity or travel bureau. So I won't go any further in that matter.

I do think that the Raynes Park boys can work without giving up their clubs, meetings, societies, games and what not! The French boys envy these entertainments and are anxious to introduce them more and more into their schools. And, indeed, it is to be preferred to the system which keeps the boys indoors, forcing them to pretend to work in the "prep-room" under the supervision of a bullying master on duty. I wonder sometimes myself if it is really necessary to cram our brains with things we are not fitted for, and which we are apt to forget as soon as possible. The so-called liberal system of education and instruction makes of the schools, and in particular of Raynes Park, something the majority of boys are not anxious to leave: the schools in England are not regarded as jails or barracks. Believe me, few Old Boys' societies exist in France.

Fortunately, I am speaking as a grandfather would do in recalling his salad days. Time flies, and, as it goes, it brings about some changes which have been experienced already successfully, the main principles of which are of British origin. But we never forget that work remains the main thing to be contemplated. Are the English boys then more prone to laziness? No, it is not true; it is a false statement to say with Shaw that boys in England work only when they have nothing else to do.

When we come over here we don't expect to find lazy English boys: only the methods used to bring up a child are different. We expect to find a model boy. And few are the generations of Assistants whose hopes have been frustrated.

J.S.

"OEDIPUS" AND Mr. WOLFIT

"He pierced his eyeballs time and time again,
Till bloody tears ran down his beard—not drops
But in full spate a whole cascade descending
In drenching cataracts of scarlet rain . . ."

This is drama: and in drama such as "Oedipus Rex" there is a dangerous tendency to over-act, when the resulting sound resembles less high tragedy than "Tea—, Edmund?" A Greek play offers additional pitfalls, some of which were skilfully avoided by Mr. Donald Wolfit's production, though others claimed their full toll of victims. Against a simple but satisfying background of massive pillars and weighty double doors Mr. Wolfit himself, as the unfortunate Oedipus, raged and moaned, strode and tottered most convincingly; while the chorus, in comparison with other disastrous attempts to re-create this essentially Greek convention, was magnificent. By dividing its lines between individual members and keeping, for the most part, to the normal speaking voice, the production avoided the usual sorry spectacle of pole-leaning ancients chanting in a dreary, ludicrous and inaudible sing-song. In the rôle of Tiresias, the blind seer, Sir Lewis Casson was as thorny, as defiant and as prophetic as one could wish. Some of the other chief parts, however, were not so well played: Jocasta (Miss Ellen Pollock) tended towards a "tragic" voice in the Gingold style, and Creon (Mr. Ernest Hare) seemed perhaps too fat and placid for the part of the man of action. The Attendant (Mr. Michael Blythe) was muscular, patchily sunburnt and over-dramatic—although with some excuse, as his long messenger-speech includes the lines quoted above. These also show the vigour and clearness of Mr. Watling's translation; in other places, however, it seems lacking in suitable dignity, although the reader notices it more than the listener. Thus, to describe a man as "about your figure" would seem less fitting than Jebb's "his form was not greatly unlike to thine."

The interval did little beyond profiting a certain ice-cream company, and rectifying a slight miscalculation in our party's entrance money, before the curtain rose a second time without the peculiar (Greek?) music which five assorted females had played as overture. The Oedipus Coloneus is a markedly less dramatic, more mature and more Greek play; and is, for that reason, harder than its predecessor to "put over." The set, too, with its remarkably regular rock formations and two branches representing the "tangled bowers of berry-clustered vine" at Colonus, was lamentably unreal. Mr. Wolfit again did an admirable job; Miss Iden and Miss Barny were charmingly moving, although their drapery and their coiffure perhaps invited us to consider the question: "which twin has the . . .?" Theseus (Mr. Rendall) was noble and strictly adequate, though his entourage of two was unfortunate. The mystery of the stormy passing of Oedipus into the world of the heroes was the most moving part of the play.

The grouping throughout the production was magnificent, especially in the closing moments, with Theseus standing above the weeping women while the chorus speaks the final words of the play:

"This is the end of tears:
No more Lament.
Through all the years
Immutable stands this event."

We did wonder, however, whether two plays such as these, in reality quite separate dramas, were compatible with the requirements of a single performance. Creon, especially, changes from a badly-used, well-meaning man to a scheming rogue, and only an actor of outstanding ability could have managed successfully such a transformation. In general, however, although the atmosphere of the Athenian Theatre can never be totally re-created, Mr. Wolfit and his company succeeded in bringing Sophocles closer to the common man than at any time since the Athenian people thrilled to the plays of their greatest dramatist.

D.A.J.
P.J.P.

THE OLD VIC "THE MERCHANT OF VENICE"

Mr. Smith and Mr. Money organized a trip to the Old Vic to see the production of "The Merchant of Venice," more especially for the benefit of those who assisted them in their own production of the same play last term.

The gallery at the Old Vic is invariably uncomfortable, and I can usually reckon my opinion of a play by the amount of my discomfort: at "The Merchant of Venice" I was completely at my ease. Most of us, I am sure, went especially to see that engaging new actress, Claire Bloom, but the Old Vic Company were wise enough not to over-emphasize her presence. The play was perfect in almost every detail. I cannot attempt a comprehensive criticism but a few impressions still linger in the memory. Paul Rogers as Shylock was magnificent, and his every gesture was a joy to watch. Irene Worth made Portia the charming, though practical and independent woman Shakespeare intended her to be. Pretty Jessica was competently interpreted by Claire Bloom—certainly a charming young actress. I thought the clown was somewhat unsubtle and unduly slapstick, but he was undeniably amusing, while the various ladies and gentlemen of the play by their zest and individuality created characters out of almost characterless parts. The set was adequate, and the final curtain was particularly lovely. More?—well, suffice it to say that although "The Merchant of Venice" is not one of Shakespeare's more entertaining comedies, the whole evening was completely enjoyable. P.A.T.

THE LIBRARY

Within the next few months the eight-thousandth volume will be entered in the Library accession book. The first entry—Ainsworth's "Tower of London," a favourite of my youth—was recorded in November, 1935. This gives an average of over 400 as our annual intake: in 1952 we added 353, increased costs accounting perhaps for the difference. Nevertheless it is a respectable total, for which we are indebted to a generous County grant, to the liberality of parents, friends, Staff, Old Boys and present pupils at Open Nights, and to miscellaneous gifts. It represents, however, just about 2 per cent. of the new titles published each year: in 1950 over seventeen thousand such came from the nation's presses, well over double the number of volumes on our shelves, without reckoning withdrawals, too often hastened by ill-usage, and losses, also excessive.

Which 2 per cent.? What is the basis of selection? Do not expect to find on the shelves everything you may wish to see. To begin with we do not undertake necessarily to cater for what you want to read; rather we are concerned with what you ought to want to read, sometimes, but by no means invariably, the same thing. If, in addition to "standard" fiction from—say—Defoe to Conrad, you find Hornblower but not . . ., this may be because it is thought that Hornblower may be good for you, in addition to providing first rate entertainment. Again, selection reflects School activities, curricular and extra-curricular: the absence of books on Soccer while Rugger is well represented does not necessarily reflect the Librarians' prejudices. If there are more books on History than on Mathematics, this is because the one is a reading subject in a way the other is not. There are books on most worthwhile hobbies. We try to reflect and encourage new interests: the recent, if still limited, amendment of handwriting by adoption of the Chancery script, which has transformed some of the most deplorable hands, is reflected in the acquisition of books on calligraphy.

Yet the most assiduous combing of the review and advertisement columns of the T.L.S., Books of the Month, etc., etc., will not keep the Librarian fully abreast of the spate of new books, nor can he hope to be equally *au fait* with the needs of all subjects. Suggestions are always welcome, respecting both new books and gaps in the collection of standard works—of fiction, of the English poets from Chaucer to Eliot, of works of reference, to give a few examples only—which should form the hard core of a Library such as ours.

But, like librarians, perhaps, no library will avoid some eccentricities. How did we acquire—and who reads—"Recollections of an Old Mountaineer," dated 1910? To whom do we owe—and how has it remained so long unregarded—a large folio of wonderful plates of cricketers of the late nineteenth century, mustachioed gladiators of unsmiling severity of mien, sporting little round caps of no conceivable utility, but which serve by their juvenility to exaggerate the premature agedness of the wearers? The Library would be the poorer without such vagaries.

Few schools of our kind and size can be so well equipped in periodicals—dailies, weeklies, monthlies, quarterlies, occasionals—extending from *The Times* to the more specialist and recondite journals—"Hockey" and "History To-day," the "Architectural Review" and "Sight and Sound." Most of these are provided out of the G.S.F.: you have therefore a very direct interest in them. Yet I have a feeling that far from full advantage is taken of many of them. A questionnaire is planned, perhaps towards the end of next term, to discover something about the popularity, or otherwise, of each.

The management of all this—ordering, cataloguing and card-indexing, dealing with the borrowing and returning of books, stocktaking, etc.—involves much and continuous labour, mostly cheerfully undertaken by a few whose only reward is consciousness of a worth-while job well done. The Library is rarely empty: often it is full to overflowing, with standing-room only. At first glance this is a gratifying state of affairs: the Library is for use and not for occasional show. Unfortunately some use is in fact misuse. Library pests are easily detected and defined—the gossip, the loungeer, the wet-weather clubman, the table-squatter and chair-rocker among them—and it is for them that expulsion orders and proscription lists must be made. Others offend in lesser measure through thoughtlessness rather than indifference; those who leave books on the tables or return them to wrong places, who grasp the heaviest volumes by the weakest parts of their bindings (we have just spent £17 10s. 0d. in rebinding fifty books), who, their minds doubtless on higher matters, omit to complete forms for the books they borrow, and retain them long beyond the permitted fortnight.

There is still on display a framed, ornate document—the Library Code—which nobody reads, not surprisingly for it is couched in a quaint, coy, facetious Olde Englysshe running to as many words as this article. Embedded in it are many sound maxims: the basic rules of appropriate behaviour are few and elementary. There should prevail a natural and easy atmosphere of quiet orderliness. Notices enjoining "No Talking," "Silence," should be as superfluous as "No Smoking" or "Do not Spit." If we were given to placards it would be rather "Gentlemen, you are in the company of Homer, Plato, Montaigne, Shakespeare, Pascal, Goethe: the greatest minds of the ages are here for your service and delight." H.E.R.

SPRING CLEANING

Towards the end of the first half of this term there descended upon the School a horde of white-clad men armed with the weapons of their trade: the painters had invaded the sacred precincts and, horror upon horror, they began to scrape off a little of the dirt encrusted through the centuries!

It was a fine spring morning when they arrived and the School was surveying the pale sunshine through closed windows, in the stuffy atmosphere created by the boilers, when a number of heads all around the building popped over window-sills and demanded that the windows be opened, so that they could get on with some work.

Our peace was shattered in a moment. The windows were reluctantly opened and the pale sunshine no longer looked friendly. For the rest of the day we blew on cold fingers and shivered in our seats, heartily cursing all County Councils who send their painters in the depths of winter because it's cheaper.

The following days we came suitably muffled in scarves and gloves, ready to withstand the siege of the painters, which had, by now, reached its

height, in insisting that the doors at both ends of the lower corridor were to be opened to allow a whistling tornado to rush through the building. It was at this time that one heard such remarks as, "What's a common denominator, guv?" and "Blimey, I'm going to be a teacher. Don't they have a cushy time?" One question they omitted to ask, and one which many members of the School could not answer, was "How do you work?" They were obviously quite ignorant on this point.

Coupled with this invasion on the outer ramparts, came an attack on littered floors and dirty windows inside. Thus we had a scene one lunch time of a row of desks, two outside each form-room on the lower corridor, surmounted by an unstable chair, with that in turn surmounted by the youngest member of the form, who had been forced up there by a mob of grinning mates, clustered around the desks and doing their very best to shake him down. This poor little wretch was trying to clean the outside windows of the form-room to the best of his ability, much to the amusement of a group of chuckling Sixth-formers, gathered on the stairs, all wearing sadistic grins. No doubt they remembered the attempt of a prefect to clean the Library windows (even the Library wasn't exempted from these operations).

The only place that has so far escaped is the annexe. Perhaps the painters were dismayed by the multitudinous numbers of black blobs on the walls and windows, placed there by three years of football on the asphalt.

What is it that causes this fanatical rage for cleaning in the spring time? One member of the Classical Sixth attributed it either to Pan or to a god pronounced "Ayar" but spelt "Ear." The only other help I could get from him was that the phenomenon was known by the ancient Greeks as "Earolam propoiesis." (There will be no prize for anybody who writes and says he can pronounce or even translate it, because he will be wrong.)

The only effect all these efforts seem to have had, is that whenever one drops a piece of paper the person following behind picks it up and drops it into the nearest waste-paper basket.

Now the Common Room is enjoying a spring cleaning, but into those august regions I dare not penetrate. A.J.F.

POPE AT THE AIRPORT

As once great Maro to his gods appeal'd
For strength to picture Hades' stygian field,
So now, great Autogyra, maid of flight,
Grant skill that I may worthily indite
The marvels that my wond'ring eyes have seen
With spirit critic and perception keen.

New-risen from my grave was I this morn,
By Thames pellucid flood at leisure born;
Then turn'd; to Ealing's grassy bounds I came
And there beheld a field of mystic name;
For o'er its gateway broad (O portal dread!)
The seeming sorc'er's charm B.O.A.C. I read.

And then, from out the vast ethereal height
Where Phoebus yet pour'd forth refulgent light
There came a drone as of a myriad bees
Bringing their flow'ry spoils from distant leas;
And lo!! From old Uranus' azure dome,
Where horrid eagles and cruel falcons roam,
Drew nigh (alas!) a yet more dreadful kite,
Winging its way with never swerving flight:
So nearer yet it swoop'd, and gain'd at last
The paved sward, and there its body cast
Upon th'unshaken earth; and from its maw
Came men, whom seemingly its body bore.

How oft (unless it be that poets lie)
 Have men audacious try'd to scale the sky.
 And now, 'tis done: a bird them bears, no bird
 Whose song e'en orient gardens soft have heard;
 For not with twitt'ring but with whining shrill
 It fill'd the balmy air hereto so still.
 No feathers cloth'd its back all silv'ry white,
 Nor yet with wingéd oarage made its flight:
 For they mov'd not, nor beat the frenzied air—
 Which, as it seem'd, th' aërial car propell'd
 And through the heav'ns the doom of silence knell'd.
 No beak it had, but yet a gleaming snout
 Garnish'd the mask Chalybean round about:
 Its frame of dazzling, sternly temper'd steel
 No heart, no organs nat'ral did conceal.
 Indeed, from wing and awful head inferr'd,
 This seemèd only, yet was not, a bird.
 As Icarus once soar'd . . . But let me cease;
 From noisy wonders to my grotto's peace!

CONTRAST

The golden land lies open from the sea
 Enbalm'd in solitude and sweet content:
 The sleek beasts creep in paths of mystery
 And birds weave music in the shadowy groves.
 Flamingoes wander in the azure reefs
 O'erhung by palms which bear a glut of fruit—
 Fat glossy dates and bursting coconuts
 Dropping in lush profusion on the sand.
 And above all a silver voice is heard—
 A bird of paradise 'mid leaves of jade
 With gorgeous tail cascading down the tree
 Like glistening guineas pouring from a jar.
 Among the mountains, deep in dusty mines,
 The jocund men, with picks and hammers, toil
 To snatch the treasure from the fertile earth—
 Rubies and emeralds for the hands of queens.
 And on the shore, the houses white and smooth
 Of shining marble in the summer sun
 Are fanned by scented breezes from the sea,
 Where graceful argosies sway on the tide.

The hand of poverty lies on this street:
 The windows cracked and thick with cloudy grime—
 The rivulets of dampness on the bricks—
 As if they wept in conscious ugliness;
 The factory chimneys jab into the sky,
 And, filth encrusted, belch forth greasy smoke:
 Wheels grind below their grim monotony,
 Watched by the same men through unchanging years.
 The sunless street, dull in its discontent,
 Is thronged despairingly by hapless men
 Hugging their bottled beer with furtive sneer
 Seeking remission from unwilling work.
 And noises shriek into the fading light:
 Foul fumes arise from hastening vehicles
 Hiding with welcome but unwholesome smoke
 The glaring lights, the brash advertisements;
 Children roll marbles in the gutters' filth,
 Pursuing phantom cats and mongrel dogs:
 O for a shaft of sunlight on the scene
 To shoot some joy into the dark despair!

R.S.B.

MY FRIEND

When I am walking in the wood,
 And all the world is green,
 I have a friend who walks with me,
 And yet is seldom seen!

The rustling leaves, the crack of twigs,
 Are all that I can hear,
 And by these sounds, I know full well,
 My friend is very near.

When I call her to my side
 She only wants to run and hide,
 With a joyous bark and a wagging tail,
 Then off again on a rabbit's trail.

A.C., 11c.
 (Junior Contribution.)

LETTERS

DEAR SIR,

I should like to register a protest against the gross misallocation of space in your magazine. As I glance through the pages of your latest publication I am shocked by the amount of repetition, illiteracy and general blah to be found in your pages. For instance, if I start at the beginning, and read the House Notes, I find that I am reading everything twice. In the notes of C—'s House there is a description of a rugby match: "In a very hard-fought game against our old rivals H—'s, we were most unlucky to lose by the extremely narrow margin of 3—6." Then, one page further on, in H—'s notes, I can read exactly the same thing: "The Seniors trounced C—'s and would have scored at least 30 if our opponents, in their usual unsportsmanlike manner, had not kept on kicking the ball into touch." It is this type of needless repetition which has the effect of lowering the standard of your magazine, and which must be cut out.

Again, when I turn to the Society Notes, I find myself asking the question: Why should a society consisting of three masters, a crowd of adoring Fourth-formers, and those members of the Sixth Form who can afford time off from leaning against the radiators in the Library, or sleeping on the Physics Lab. benches, receive such an inordinate amount of space? Surely those who approve of such goings on have heard it all already at the meetings, and those who didn't go originally are not going to plough through all that rigmarole about Henry Moore's latest effigy being cast—where, I can't imagine—or about special tobacco for artists.

There is also another society whose notes have a similar appearance: here we learn that Mr. C— (I can't mention names, but those poor, long-suffering piano keys will tell you who I mean) gave a most illuminating talk on whether the Romans put their milk or their tea in the cup first, and whether the Greeks started to build their houses at the top or the bottom.

If you dispensed with the waste of space mentioned above, think what you could fill the magazine up with. Now let us return to the matter in hand. We could have more of those calculations in which, by using the Crankovitch-Bumpimoff formula, we can work out the day on which St. Valentine's Day falls in 1997, by which time, of course, we shall be old enough to send our own Valentines.

The other addition which would be most welcome to *The Spur* is more articles by members of the Staff. Too often the affairs of this select company are a mystery to the School, and great assistance would be given, I am sure, by descriptions of life in the Common Room, that haven where Masters relax in the deep armchairs with their feet on the mantelpiece, sipping tea and admiring the Indian carpet, while there floats through the air that extraordinary phenomenon—the schoolmaster's joke.

About one small matter I am puzzled. I read some time ago of the exploits of a wild animal and a clown, presumably escaped from some travelling circus, in the wilds of Snowdonia. I just wondered if you could tell me whether their prolonged absence from the pages of your magazine indicates their return to captivity.

Yours, etc.,

PRO BONO PUBLICO, VI Arts.

DEAR SIR,

During my lengthy stay in this establishment, I have slowly become aware of a grave deficiency among the rank and file of its daily inhabitants. A deficiency in loyalty and "team spirit." I could look back on my six and a half years' membership of the School and enumerate several instances where loyalty and the will to put something into the School, rather than take something out of it, has been sadly lacking.

Let me first discuss the societies, whose notes, incidentally, I hope your readers have or will have read, since these societies are for them. In some cases they may be specialized, such as the Classical Society, but in general no detailed knowledge is required, and in fact societies like the Da Vinci ask you to come along to learn. I said learn, but please do not be put off by the thought "Oh books, again!" It is learning with a difference—but I'll tell you no more: just go along and find out.

As you all know, in this School we have two magazines—*The Spur* and *the Oberon*. Both are fine magazines, but they could be better. Ridiculous indeed is a situation when we have a struggle to find ten boys to write articles while there are nearly four hundred boys perfectly capable of wielding a pen.

This shows lack of a sense of responsibility in the more academic field, but there are concerts and plays which suffer likewise. In a supposedly Christian community I find it amazing that we had such a small handful of boys at the Carol Concert. Our School sets a high standard in drama, but I am afraid we have a deplorably low standard of play attendance.

Let me now turn to the field of sport. During the various seasons, our 1st XI and 1st XV have many games at home. At these, I know full well, the participants would enjoy at least a little support. We must agree that when the visitors can supply more supporters than the home team (as happened once in a 1st XV game), something is radically wrong.

My last example is, I think, the most disgusting of all. It concerns the attendance at the Annual Prize-Giving. It seems impossible that boys would try to evade it, but they do. It is therefore necessary to check names on the evening. In a situation where the pupils had the School at heart and were really proud to be its members, this would never happen. I therefore beg of you, my readers, to examine yourselves, and ask yourselves whether you are guilty in any way of this lack of interest, effort and respect. If you will take immediate steps to rectify any shortcomings, we will be a much happier community.

Yours, etc.,

"DISGUSTED."

EDITORS

J. M. Money, Esq., D. A. Jackson, A. J. Tillinghast, A. F. Wright.

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The Editors apologize for any inadvertent omissions.