

SPUR

FEBRUARY 1969

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FEBRUARY, 1969

THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

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

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SCHOOL OFFICERS

School Captain : S. L. Buckingham

Librarian : I. D. Ness

School Councillors :

Upper Sixth : B. Green, J. L. Richards, M. J. Frost, A. R. G. Jackson

Lower Sixth : R. G. Fennell, A. E. Hickish, B. T. Holmes, P. C. Horton

Fifths : C. F. Brammall, D. W. Evans

Fourths : M. F. Lucas, P. Szanto

Thirds : M. R. Szymanski, M. E. Pickstone

Seconds : C. L. Grylls, M. D. Foster

Firsts : M. J. Davies, A. C. Muirhead

EDITORIAL

A strange, uncanny atmosphere pervaded the Hall as the stage was dismantled after the last of the Grammar School's plays. There is a feeling of inevitability as we all participate in the final activities that are the stepping stones to the conclusion of a dream that was fulfilled as Raynes Park County Grammar School, many years before the present Upper Sixth saw the light of day. One revolutionary trend in education mellows before the conception of a more enlightened policy, and we are the spectators, moreover the operatives, of a generation struggling to equate learning to ability, striving for a new zenith of productivity. The mourning of the old will change to the jubilation in the creation of a 'Brave New World.' As befits the institution, the birth will be a slow and probably undramatic affair—perhaps almost unnoticed, until the present day Juniors themselves take up the reins of 'Student Power' and vaguely recall the Grammar School that welcomed them half a dozen years back, and shaped them into the first of a new generation to tackle from a comprehensive standpoint the changing problems of a demanding, technological world.

Even now we set the trends for what will, in turn, become tradition. The School Council is still striving to prove itself, combatting apathy with enthusiasm, while the introduction of Senior School responsibility is a brave experiment. All can feel that they are participating for the general good, and can achieve as much, or as little, as their output merits. No longer can it be said that only the sportsmen will excel in a school system that has previously been very much their 'closed shop.' The increasing scope of extra-curricula activities ensures that any willing helper can play a useful and rewarding role, regardless of ability. In a world that demands zest and adaptability to a greater extent than purely academic prowess, the education received during one's teenage period will be the yardstick for success in a competitive society. We will witness the rise or fall of Comprehensive Education, a revolutionary reorganization, just as the first pupils and staff watched the Grammar School's, a society ago.

J. J. Humphreys.

SCHOOL NOTES

The School is glad to welcome Mr. E. Parry: he takes over the Chemistry Department from Mr. Peter Smith, who is now a part-time teacher. He has already impressed those who have met him with his vigorous approach, enthusiasm in the rugby coaching and expertise in stage lighting, and we hope he will be with us a long time. We were also pleased to welcome back Mrs. Christiane Lovell, whom we had known some two years ago as an assistante, and who is now married to one of our 'Old Boys.' Mrs. Lovell has joined us to help teach, part-time, German. We are also pleased to welcome two Assistants to the School, Mlle. M. Viala from Paris and Herr W. Zydatis from Berlin.

* * * *

A return to the Award Lists for Oxford and Cambridge is welcome, and S. L. Buckingham is to be congratulated on gaining an Open Scholarship to Christ's College, Cambridge, to read Mechanical Sciences, and P. W. Roberts on gaining an Open Exhibition at Exeter College, Oxford, to read English.

* * * *

It is a relief to record that no members of staff are leaving at the end of the Christmas Term and indeed all the members of staff serving at present have been appointed to the High School in September 1969. This should certainly ensure that the continuity between the Grammar School and the new High School will be strong and valuable.

* * * *

We were sorry to lose the services of Mr. André Charise who had been with us as Laboratory Assistant for just over a year. Many people were charmed by his Gallic ways and for someone quite unused to school and technical matters, he showed remarkable dexterity and willingness to learn. I know Mr. James much appreciated his work with the Nuffield Physics Scheme. We hope when he is in better health he may consider returning to us, but until then we wish him a speedy recovery of strength.

In Mr. Charise's place we are pleased to have the services of Paul Isaacson, until recently one of our senior third year sixth students, who will be helping out in the laboratories until he goes to university next September.

Under the scheme that was agreed at the end of the Summer Term, neither are the Prefects, as they were known, existing, nor is their room over in the Annexe. Instead, Houses have taken on their duties and many more people have been able to take responsible positions in the school than has previously been possible. The Prefects Room has now been amalgamated with the Sixth Form Common Room in Rooms L and M to provide one Sixth Form room. It will be possible in time to furnish the room really well and comfortably for the senior pupils.

The School is grateful for the work of the Parents' Association in raising £250 at their Autumn Fair. This has made it possible to reorganise the lighting of the stage and we hope also to purchase a pair of kettle drums for the School Orchestra. With the School stage's yearly encroachment on the body of the Hall, clearly it was necessary to rewire and replenish the lighting points: over £170 has been spent on doing that very thing. Next year it is hoped to move the whole of the lighting box and circuit from the back of the stage to the Gallery, so that in line with modern stage techniques, it will be possible to control all the lighting effects from a position where the stage is visible.

* * * *

It was pleasing to co-operate again with Wimbledon County School for Girls in the School Play and noticeable that the Social Service Unit is also combining activities with the same school. The Walk on December 8th raised something in the region of £902 for the 'Help the Aged' Fund. Members of both schools also gave an enjoyable concert in Merton Hall to raise money for social service needs in the Borough.

* * * *

The floods that took place in South East England on the week end of 15th/16th September were not avoided by the School: the Headmaster's Study was in four feet of water, and the Boilerhouse had to be extensively repaired. Apart from this and flooded corridors, the School was comparatively unscathed. It appears that the new fly-over is causing a blockage of the Brook and that floods from the Brook may be more frequent. Flood warnings were out again on the night of December 17th, and it looked as though the Headmaster's study was yet again liable to be flooded, but this was just averted.

* * * *

Among the sporting successes recorded this term, the highlight must be the victory of the 1st XV and, incidentally, the 2nd XV over Rutlish School. According to the records which are available, Rutlish has never been defeated by us before and therefore this was a very significant event. In Cross-country equally the school has been doing very well and in a newly formed league they stand first in the senior competition, second in the intermediate. They were again successful in being placed first in the U.19 and U.17 Sections of the Merton District Cross Country Championships.

Visitors to the school have been many and the following are thanked for coming to speak to the sixth form:

September 16th—Sir Cyril Black, Member of Parliament. 'Parliament and Moral Questions.'

September 23rd—Messrs. Gebbott, Phillips, Feline and Chapman: 'Going to University.'

October 18th—Dr. Donald Gould, Editor of "New Scientist": 'Medicine of the Future.'

November 4th—R. Feldman, Esq.: 'Presidential Election.'

November 11th—J. B. Heath, Esq.—Director of Research at the Board of Trade: 'Cost Value in Economics.'

November 25th—Dr. David Kerr, Member of Parliament: 'Welfare State of the Future.'

December 16th—Mr. David Yorath: 'Student Power.'

Visitors to the school have also included a group of staff officers from Camberley coming to see how our preparations for comprehensive reorganisation are going; Members of the Institute of Education in London to see Team Teaching experiments and also many speakers who have been invited to talk to the Team Teaching groups in the first and third years. There has also been a series of careers talks organised in the lunch hours, and many representatives of industry and the professions have come to give information to the seniors about prospects in their fields.

* * * *

One of the requests of the School Council was that the General School Fund Accounts should be published in the "Spur." This has been answered, and simplified accounts are presented below. These accounts are always audited yearly by the Chairman of the Governors and presented to the Governing Body for inspection.

* * * *

It was disappointing to hear that the proposed ski-ing holiday to Galtür in Austria was suddenly cancelled owing to there being a longer booking from foreign skiers than our School trip could manage. However, the Travel Agency was able to find an alternative place in Switzerland, and now our party will be visiting that country. What with this trip, the Greek Cruise in February and a Hockey Tour in April, it looks as though the school visits abroad will be numerous and varied.

G. Bartlett and S. K. Smith are to be congratulated on representing the London Schools Colt Hockey XI. J. J. Humphreys is to be congratulated on being recommended for an R.A.F. Scholarship, and R. G. Sharpe commended for being the first pupil from this school to join the scheme, 'Community Service Volunteers.'

GENERAL SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNTS, 1967-68

RECEIPTS	£ s. d.	PAYMENTS	£ s. d.
Subscriptions & Donations	1048 0 8	Subscriptions	63 2 3
Diary Sales & Spur Advertisements	86 5 0	Games Expenses	341 3 10
Games Receipts	74 7 11	Diaries & 'Spur'	428 18 6
Excess of Expenditure over Income	65 9 2	Library & Newspapers	60 9 3
		House Plays & Supper Expenses	32 0 4
		Lettering Honours	
		Board	25 0 0
		T.V. Rental	19 18 6
		Refreshments	140 6 5
		Prizegiving	36 18 4
		Visits	24 14 2
		A.T.C.	8 1 1
		Model Railway	4 3 4
		Biology Laboratory	11 13 6
		Wreaths, Gifts, Refreshments	21 1 9
		Repairs	9 19 0
		Bank Charges & Cheque Books	9 6 5
		Film Subsidies	6 0 0
		Miscellaneous	31 6 1
	£1274 2 9		£1274 2 9

SCHOOL OCCASIONS THE PRIZEGIVING

On Tuesday, October 22nd, Wimbledon Town Hall was once again besieged by blue-clad Raynes Park schoolboys and their parents on the occasion of the annual Prizegiving—the last, as the Headmaster was to remind us, in our days as a Grammar School.

The Chairman's introductory remarks were followed by the Headmaster's report. Despite flood damage to his records, Mr. Giles gave us a full account of the School's activities and achievements over the previous twelve months. The School's academic record had been pleasing with particularly good G.C.E. results on the Science side. New teaching methods were being tried out in many subjects, and it was intended to increase still further the scope of these projects.

Changes were to be found in other aspects of the School life too. In anticipation of the larger numbers expected in the High School, the House system had been strengthened by the substitution of tutor sets, consisting of members of all ages throughout the school, for the old form system. It was hoped that in this way boys would feel themselves more definitely part of the House community. The prefect system too had been replaced by a scheme in which each House was responsible for School duties on one day of the week. The tasks were shared between the fifth and lower sixth years, thus giving these boys a chance to exercise authority, and, at the same time, discover for themselves some of the problems of control, the necessity of self discipline, and the thoughtfulness required in exercising such powers. This would become increasingly important when, in the High School, three quarters of the school would leave at sixteen. These earlier leavers would under this new arrangement have the opportunity to help run the school.

Another way in which it was hoped to involve students in the running of the school was the formation of the School Council under Mr. Horler's guidance. Representatives from each year had been meeting with Staff representatives to discuss issues which concerned the school. Other extra-curricular activities had also flourished. Few other schools of our size could field as many sports teams on a Saturday. No less than a quarter of our number had taken part in the School Concert, while for the School Play, John Osborne's "Martin Luther," a complete new stage had been constructed at the other end of the School Hall. A Sixth-form common room had been established, and the school was now the proud owner of a primrose-yellow minibus, which had proved an extremely useful asset. The past year had been full and varied, and plans were already advanced to make the final year as a Grammar School as full and as exciting as those years in the past.

The Headmaster's report was followed by the distribution of prizes by Lady Nyholm, and then Professor Sir Ronald Nyholm, D.Sc., F.R.S., an eminent chemist, spoke to the school. He explained how scientific research often involved men trained in many widely differing branches of science, to a degree that the layman seldom realised.

Thanks were proposed to Sir Ronald and Lady Nyholm, and to the Chairman of the Governors, before the occasion ended.

S. L. Buckingham.

PRIZE LIST FOR ACADEMIC YEAR ENDED JULY, 1968

Form Prizes

1st Year	J. H. Dow, P. H. Haines.
2Y	M. R. Szymanski, I. G. Parker, R. E. Heath.
2Z	M. E. Pickstone, C. B. Hosier.
3C	A. P. Maguire, P. Szanto.
3H	N. A. Holmes, S. C. Lovell.
4A	A. J. Shephard, N. Moss.
4D	M. Loxton, R. C. Sharpe.
4K	D. K. Pinnock, R. Barford, A. J. Brown.
5F	P. C. Berry, P. C. Horton, L. D. Leyland.
5I	R. G. Fennell, A. E. Hickish, N. Lee, A. E. Marsh, J. L. Pilkington, G. D. Tovell, N. H. C. Ware.
5G	M. J. Boxall.

Lower Sixth—

Arts	P. J. Smith, K. M. Rissen.
Mathematics	A. R. G. Jackson, R. S. Shaw.
Science	D. C. Woodcock, D. M. Roberts.

Upper Sixth—

Mathematics	S. L. Buckingham, S. A. Shea.
Science	B. Green, P. Isaacson, J. S. Milton, G. B. Brookes.
Economics	G. C. Fry.

GENERAL PRIZES

Music	J. G. Hoare.
Art	R. M. Padwick (Senior), D. P. Marsh (Middle), I. G. Parker (Junior).
Craft	D. Lawrence.
T. H. Porter Memorial Prize (work in Library)	A. J. Shephard, I. C. Robertson, G. Scotton, R. Barford.
“Outside Effort”	P. G. Sharpe, P. F. Goldsmith.
S. R. Hall Memorial Prize for General Studies	P. W. Roberts, P. Isaacson.
Headmaster's Prize for Essay	B. S. Ring, R. W. Jones, D. C. Woodcock.
Kilburn Prize	P. C. Horton.
Old Boys' Prize	J. L. Richards, C. P. Ainger.
Mrs. M. J. Monroe Prizes for Spoken French	M. D. Williamson (Senior), M. E. Pickstone (Junior).
L. A. G. Strong Prize	L. P. Pearce, A. T. Isaacson.
John Robbins Prize	R. P. Myers, R. M. Padwick (already awarded).

Alderman Cobbett Prize	W. R. Hanlon.
Leaving Prize for Head of School	G. A. Hopper, R. D. Barton.
Norman Prize (Best Scientific Work)	B. Green.
Whitman Prize (Medical Studies)	G. B. Brookes.

Advanced Level Certificates

VI Arts and Economics	C. P. Ainger, R. D. Barton, J. H. Bodnarchuk, G. C. Bond, D. N. Clutterbuck, T. J. Cook (Merit in French), E. J. Currie, I. G. Dallaway, S. N. G. Down, P. J. Dufty, S. J. Finch, G. C. Fry (Merit in Economics), G. C. Gosling, R. P. Lea, J. D. Needle, P. B. Nicholls (Merit in Geography), R. M. Padwick, R. M. Peet, R. W. Seeley (Merit in Economics), S. F. Silver, O. S. Smith-Boyes, D. S. Vahali (Merit in Economics), K. C. Varma, N. W. Walker, D. T. Wingate.
VI Science	M. C. Adams, M. A. Bedford, G. B. Brookes, P. W. Brunton, R. J. Coppen, S. A. Finch, B. Green (Merit in Chemistry), R. W. Hanlon, P. R. Isaacson, P. Keen, I. D. Masters, J. S. Milton, A. J. Taylor.
VI Mathematics	M. W. Baker, G. Borrett, S. L. Buckingham (Merit in Mathematics), K. A. Butcher, J. R. Jolley, B. M. Luffingham, K. C. Reeve, J. Salisbury, P. G. Sharpe, S. A. Shea (Merit in Mathematics), M. J. Taylor, J. Tulett.

TROPHIES

FROM OPEN COMPETITION

- Carshalton Athletics Trophy for U.14 boys.
- Merton and District Athletic Championship: Senior Trophy.
- Merton and District Athletic Championship: Intermediate Trophy.
- London Schools' Hockey Festival: U.14 Section.
- London Schools' Hockey Festival: U.13 Section.

FROM SCHOOL COMPETITION

Eric Parker Cup	M. A. Bedford
A. P. Howard Cup for outstanding Sportsman of the year	G. A. Hopper
Robert Hall Colt Cross Country Cup	J. P. Goddard/P. C. Lucas
Michael Welby Debating Cup	Gibbs
Weightman Chess Cup	Gibbs
Parents' Rugby Cup	Newsoms
Governors' Cricket Cup	Miltons/Newsoms
Spur Society's Hockey Cup	Cobbs
Cray Swimming Cup	Newsoms
S. H. Marshall Cross Country Cup	Newsoms
John Garrett Athletics Cup	Newsoms
T. W. Powys Cobb Tennis Cup	Gibbs
B. C. Michez Cup for Gymnastics	Cobbs
A. R. Pannell Basketball Cup	Newsoms
John Timpson Music Cup	Gibbs
Junior Shield	Miltons
B. T. King Cock House Cup	Newsoms

THE PLAY

'HAMLET' by William Shakespeare, December 10th-14th

The formidable difficulties presented to a producer of 'Hamlet' are obviously increased at the school level by the relative inexperience of the players both in years and in dramatic expression. However the way in which the problems were coped with in this production would convince any newcomer to the school that its reputation for drama is well deserved.

In the design and construction of the set, and in all technical matters, the skill shown by both the producers and those working behind the scenes contributed to the interest of the play. The permanent set was functional but nevertheless visually interesting, offering a useful variety of levels and a wide acting area which was fully exploited, the contrast between court scenes and those of a more intimate nature being heightened by recent additions to the lighting. Much visual appeal was also provided by the costumes, which were particularly effective in the case of the female characters. Sound effects contributed extremely well to the impact of certain scenes, the monotone in the 'Ghost' scene being splendidly sepulchral, while the fanfare perfectly executed by live trumpeters convinced one—if reassurance were needed—that if competent musicians are available, they should certainly be used in preference to 'canned' music.

As a performance, the success of the play depends to a large extent

upon the leading actor, and Paul Roberts did not fail either the producers or his fellow-players. His technical command was considerable: he used the stage with great skill, and his control of movement and gesture is accomplished for one of his age. What is perhaps more remarkable, he seemed to be able to speak Shakespearean verse as if it was his natural idiom. This was an extremely confident and assured performance. In his exchanges with Ophelia and Gertrude in particular, he achieved a striking degree of brutality and sexual disgust, and these were among the best scenes in the play. On the question of interpretation, perhaps the greatest difficulty lies in portraying the essential ambivalence of the character, and one is bound to say that this Hamlet was a little too consistently assured. There was not quite enough, one felt, of the agonised soul-searching which makes the Prince capable of only rash, impulsive action. In spite of this, however, Paul Roberts is to be congratulated for his performance in a supremely testing role which is rarely played with complete success.

Nor was this the only noteworthy performance. To the character of Ophelia Lesley Maroni brought a freshness and youthful appeal which suited the part exactly. Moreover she spoke beautifully, and her acting throughout was very convincing, especially in her last and most challenging scene. Another excellent performance was that of Tony Blakeburn as The Ghost: the scene on the battlements was without doubt one of the highlights of the play. The character-study of Polonius by Angus Hickish was an exceptionally clever piece of acting, although it was a pity that the speech impediment which he carefully cultivated made some words unintelligible. In the other main parts the acting suffered to some extent from inexperience. Lynne McVernon spoke well and acted with great sensitivity, but it should be admitted that the task of successfully portraying the maturity of Gertrude is probably an insuperable one for a girl of her age. Peter Hanson gave the impression of understanding the character of Claudius, but he was not always successful in projecting the necessary assurance of the king; however there were some good moments, and he seemed to gain confidence during the play. In the case of both Tony Williams (Horatio) and Ray Dudman (Laertes) there was a certain amount of monotonous delivery in the earlier scenes, and one felt that variety and interest were being lost for the sake of pace; but they too improved as the play developed, Laertes displaying a fine spirit on behalf of his sister. Space does not permit consideration of the smaller parts, but there were some memorable performances, and no embarrassing lapses.

In a production which was constantly absorbing, there were many fine touches. The moments of high tension were extremely moving, particularly in the final scene, while all opportunities for comic relief were fully exploited. Throughout the play, the pace of the action was remarkable, and the attention of the audience was never allowed to wander. In the last analysis, of course, the success of a production depends upon the producers. It is they, after all, who are responsible for uniting many elements into a single coherent whole, and for turning a lifeless script into

a shared dramatic experience. For their success in achieving this with a play which is both one of the greatest ever written and one of the most difficult to produce, Mr. Poulter and Mr. Holmes are to be warmly congratulated.

A.W.M.

THE CAST

Claudius, <i>King of Denmark</i>		Peter Hanson
Hamlet, <i>Prince of Denmark, son to the late,</i> <i>and nephew to the present king</i>		Paul Roberts
Polonius, <i>Principal Secretary of State</i>		Angus Hickish
Horatio, <i>Friend to Hamlet</i>		Tony Williams
Laertes, <i>Son to Polonius</i>		Ray Dudman
Cornelius } <i>Ambassadors</i>		Adam Fields
Valtemand } <i>to Norway</i>		Alan Marsh
Rosencrantz } <i>formerly fellow students</i>		Martin Williamson
Guildestern } <i>with Hamlet</i>		Michael Pashby
Marcellus }		Jefry Richards
Barnardo } <i>Gentlemen of the Guard</i>		Jeremy Humphreys
Francisco }		Stewart Buckingham
Reynaldo, <i>Servant to Polonius</i>		Jeremy Goddard
Fortinbras, <i>Prince of Norway</i>		Keith Rissen
Gertrude, <i>Queen of Denmark, Mother to Hamlet</i>		Lynne McVernon
Ophelia, <i>Daughter to Polonius</i>		Lesley Maroni
Osric, <i>a courtier</i>		Robin Currie
A Priest		Alan Isaacson
1st Player		Paul Isaacson
2nd Player		Malcolm Foster
3rd Player		Paul Sutton
4th Player		David Pinnock
Other players	Paul Silburn, Stephen Jordan, Clive Grylls	
A Gentleman		Jeremy Goddard
A Gentlewoman		Eileen Wood
1st Gravedigger		Christopher Brammall
2nd Gravedigger		Kevin Quarmby
English Ambassadors	David Pinnock, Chris Harris	
The Ghost of Hamlet's father		Tony Blakeburn
A Lord		Paul Berry
A Messenger		Mark Pickstone
Norwegian Captain		Colin Scrase
Sailors	Nicholas Moss, Alan Jones	
Lords and Ladies of the Court	Katharine Malec, Michele Cain, Chris Kelly, Jeffrey Marsh	
Soldiers and Attendants ...	Mark Healey, Paul Farazmand, Nigel Richards, Martin Loxton, Stephen Brown, Andrew Lee, Ewan Currie, Alan Patrick	

Properties, Stage and Set Construction :

Roger Beenev and Cecil Riley assisted by:—Terry Smith, Duncan Woodcock, Stephen Ball, Elliott Burns, Chris Harper, John Bulmer, David Spokes, John Pilkington, David Pelly, Lester Pearce, Peter Meller, David Marsh, Pierre Onraet, Ian Marcouse, Charles Willcox, Andrew Sharpe, Neil Bradford, Peter Haines, Robert Pitcher, Colin Clark, Martin Leyden

Lighting

Eryl Parry assisted by :— Paul Isaacson, John Milton, David Roberts, Ewan Currie, Raymond Shaw, Malcolm Taylor, Malcolm Warner.

Sound Effects : Jonathan Chappell.

Front of House Arrangement and Publicity :

John Carter assisted by :—Robin Fennell, and Paul Horton

Costumes from the School Wardrobe under the supervision of Joan Monroe and Clive Spraggs.

Music arranged by Denis Aldersea and James Dennis, and played by The Raynes Park Musicians.

Production assistant: David Pinnock.

We are specially grateful to Mrs. Earl and the other parents for making new costumes and reviving old ones. Extra lighting equipment has been purchased with a large donation from the Parents' Association whom we warmly thank.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Lynne McVernon, Lesley Maroni, Eileen Wood, Michele Cain, and Katharine Malec appear by kind permission of Miss L. E. Mackie, Headmistress of Wimbledon County Grammar School. We express our gratitude to the Headmistress and to Mrs. M. Ralphs for making this co-operation between the two schools run so smoothly.

The play was produced by Norman Poulter and William Holmes

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

"Mr. Aldersea's annual final fling took place on the evening of December 19th . . ." —but now the authors have to apologise for not being able to go on in such a wonderful style as last year's critic, and therefore ask the reader to refer to the Autumn Spur 1968, page 12, as far as the style is concerned. As to the contents perhaps the following might do:

The concert was divided into three parts, gradually decreasing from a solemn and religious atmosphere to a more casual and amusing piece of entertainment. The first part with genuine Christmas Carols, Hymns and Biblical Readings impressed the audience very deeply: the huge number of active participants, certainly more than 125 pupils, were superbly organised and brilliantly welded together, under the baton of Mr. Aldersea

—in short, a stirring performance! The great enthusiasm of all the boys gave to their singing its full intensity. But not only did the pupils contribute to this performance, some of the Staff, the Headmaster and the School Secretary, distinguished themselves in a song by P. J. Smith.

After a pleasant interval of 20 minutes for refreshments, the solemnity of the first part faded away and we were subtly led into a merrier Christmas atmosphere. We enjoyed especially the First Year's Letters to God and the Special Collectors' Item "You've gotta pick a pocket or two."

Following the second interval an even more active contribution was given by pupils and Staff reading a selection of texts, giving an international flavour to this Christmas evening, or should we preferably say, an Anglo-Saxon taste? The Welsh scene as well as the American and the Irish scenes were brought to life through well selected and humorous readings, and Mr. Peter Smith obliged with 'Winter Treat.' The concert ended with colourful and varied items of entertainment when Bach and Gershwin went side by side, and when the school computer wished us a "staccatoed" "Mery Christmas," which, after such lyricism, threw us abruptly back into our mechanised age. The full and enthusiastic participation of the audience in "O come, all ye faithful" brought this beautiful evening to an end.

We are always fortunate in the way our Assistants join in with the various School activities, and, this year, Herr Zydatis and Mlle. Viala have created a precedent by their own little Entente Cordiale which has resulted in the above review. Thank you very much.

HOUSE NOTES

COBBS

House Captain : S. J. Potten.

Vice-Captain : I. D. Ness.

For many years the Autumn Term has been a very profitable one for us. Although this year we have not done quite as well as in the past, we have made a good start in the Cock House Competition. As always one section of the house has proved to be stronger—this term it has been the Seniors.

This was clearly seen in the Rugby Competition where the Seniors won outright their section; the contributions of Cocks, Rissen and Pepperreil should not be underestimated but I would like to thank all Seniors who played. In the Colts section, however, we were quite weak and unable to win any matches, but they did put up a good performance. Thanks go to Fordham, not only as far as Rugby is concerned, but also for his organization of Colt Basketball. The Seniors also won the Senior Basketball; this was a sound all-round team effort, but again Rissen was outstanding.

Chess has never really been one of our strong points, but this year under Silver's leadership we have performed very well and are assured of at least second place, perhaps even first. This result is all the better because we came fifth last year.

Swimming qualifying began this term and, thanks mainly to the Senior part of the House, we have made an adequate start—but only adequate—and we must not relax at all.

I should like to thank all our House Masters, especially Mr. Atkin, for their assistance and support.

Finally, on a sad note, we have unfortunately to say goodbye to Stephen Silver; we wish him well at college and thank him for all his work for the house, especially in financial matters.

GIBBS

Captain : G. Brookes.

Deputy : B. Green.

This term has been relatively successful for the House. We are doing very well in tennis, having beaten our chief adversaries, Cobbs. However, work on the court has caused postponement of other matches until next term, when we are confident of retaining the Cup. Roberts was outstanding, although Finch (S), our captain, was below his best form. Finch (R) also deserves credit for some fine performances.

Rugby can be regarded as a triumph: the Senior team scored for the first time in two years, ably assisted by the referee who must have sympathized with our barren years. Dudman, Feist and Marshall all played valiantly. The Colts won all their matches and the Juniors are confident of emulating them next term.

Senior Basketball finished with our carrying off the wooden spoon. This was only to be expected as none of the school team was present in our ranks. The Colts' prospects appear more favourable. The only other competitive activity was Chess. At the moment we are guaranteed third place at least. Our Senior team was particularly strong, consisting entirely of School team players, but the inexperienced Juniors failed to maintain our superiority.

Leaving sports aside, the House was active in several other spheres. Smith, aided by Green and Roberts provided music which helped to make our House assemblies more lively and rewarding. A variety of modernised hymns and folk songs were attempted.

Tutor Meetings were held once a week in an effort to promote participation, and discussions on issues varying from religion and politics to moral and social problems were tackled. One Tutor Group inaugurated a Tutor lunch. Two were held this term and they met with great enjoyment and success. The House Supper was staged this term, but did not surpass productions of former years. Constructive rather than destructive criticism from our more vociferous hecklers would certainly be welcomed by next year's producer.

HALLIWELLS

House Captain : S. L. Murphy.

Vice Captain : M. A. Pashby.

We should like to begin by congratulating Mr. M. Gleed on his appointment as House Master and by welcoming Mr. E. Parry to the House, wishing them both the best of luck. Mr. Gleed has already shown his ability to raise the House from its recent state of apathy, instilling enthusiasm and spirit into all its members.

The year has begun well ; we are leading in the Rugby Competition, two points ahead of Gibbs, and it is now up to our Juniors who, under the supervision of Mr. Jones, could win for Halliwells their first cup of the year. We would like to congratulate the juniors for the willingness they have shown in attending practices.

We hold a strong position in the Basketball Competition and, if the Colts attain a commendable standard, we could gain one of the first two positions. The Chess Competition has been completed, the team gaining third place. Although the Music Cup will not be competed for until July, J. J. Leonard has already begun preparing the House musicians for the event.

Owing to the new policy the fifth and sixth forms have been responsible for order in the School and we noted with pleasure the efficiency with which the Seniors conducted themselves on the day allocated to them for duty.

Next term we become involved in numerous competitions and hope the results gained this term will spur on every member of the House to even greater efforts.

MILTONS

House-Captain : A. T. Williams.

Deputy House Captain : K. C. Reeve.

If one inquired how many times we have won the Cock House Cup, the curt reply would be "We haven't!" This is not through lack of skill or ability, but downright laziness! Perhaps this has been true of previous years, but for once the Seniors have pulled their weight and the rest of the house has shown sufficient enthusiasm to warrant the forecast that Miltons could be Cock House this year.

This new attitude has been characterised by the excellent results of the Seniors in Rugby and Basketball. Only one match was lost in each of these sections, much to the "surprise" of Cobbs, who can hardly say they deserved their victories. Our success in Senior Basketball bodes well for the Cup, if only the Colts can release all their potential, something they failed to do in Rugby. making our probable position in that Competition third.

Although most of the Chess matches were lost, the results were close,

and the Juniors must be congratulated on their enthusiasm and, in some cases, expertise.

People tend to think that a House runs itself, but without the sacrifice of a great deal of time by the Senior House Master and Deputy House Captain nothing would get organised and nothing be achieved. The successes of this term are a reflection on these people, and I am very sorry that Reeve will be leaving school this term to enter the world outside, depriving us of his many talents, especially in Hockey and Cricket.

If members of the House would contribute just a little more effort we could win that Cup that has eluded us for thirty years.

NEWSOMS

House Committee: J. Milton, M. Taylor, P. Beardsmore, P. Horton, D. Evans, J. Goddard, P. Lucas, T. Wells, T. Moore.

The success of a house depends largely on the enthusiasm aroused by its leaders who are usually members of the Upper Sixth. As free-time is rather scarce in that realm, it was decided to establish a House Committee to accept some of this burden. The Committee, composed of the House Tutors, House captain, deputy, and an elected representative from each year, will meet at the beginning of and mid-way through each term to discuss the activities of that term, thus improving communication between the senior, colt, and junior levels of the house.

Although no competition has been completed, this term has been reasonably busy and reports of the activities are submitted below by the appropriate captain.

Whereas in the past our Rugby strength has been in the forwards, this year's team had perhaps the best outsiders in the Competition, all of them having played for the School 1st or 2nd Fifteens. Lack of forward power, however, prevented more than one victory—against Gibbs. Defeats by Halliwells and Miltons preceded the match with the supposed strongest team, Cobbs. We hit top form to draw six apiece, the forwards doing especially well as several were hardly rugby players. North, Russell, Lloyd and Meller deserve mention for their enthusiasm. As few Upper Sixth formers played, next year's prospects must be high. P. Beardsmore.

The Colts XV, in their first two matches played disappointingly owing to poor co-ordination, but did better with wins against Miltons and Cobbs thanks largely to the efforts of Goddard, Devine, Dodd, Wood, Brown, and Gagen, gaining third place in the Competition. D. Anstes.

In the Basketball Competition the team played well against Cobbs, making good use of the fast break against a more skilful team but lost 12-17. Taylor must be singled out for his performance. Against Miltons we disappointed but produced some of the fastest play in the Competition

against Halliwells to win 24-7, Taylor, Russell, Beardsmore being to the fore. The game with Gibbs was a mere formality!

Much now depends on the Colts who it is hoped will do well in a Competition that remains wide open.

P. Metcalfe.

The Chess team has been fairly successful, having lifted itself from its one-time fifth position to third—at present. Sutton has proved an invaluable addition to the Seniors and Leith, in the Juniors, has won all his matches. It was encouraging to defeat the previously unbeaten Cobbs by 8-2, but our final position will not be known until next term—one of the first three places seems likely.

The House Supper was unquestionably a success. Breaking with tradition it was not held on the school premises, but at the "Prince of Wales," and for this we are indebted to Mr. Anstes. It was unanimously agreed that the entertainment produced, under the direction of Mr. Holmes, was the best for years, and for this we must thank Bond, Currie, and Beardsmore, not forgetting Chappell and Wiles, who played the music.

We look forward to next term's eight competitions knowing that we have an excellent chance in five of them and fair prospects in the others.

EXPERIENCES

PER ARDUA

One problem of considerable magnitude faces the average member of the "Upper Sixth" about this time of year; the fact that he will be pitched out into the big, bad World at the end of the Academic Year. In short, he needs a job. Since it is a common belief that we have only one innings in which to leave our mark in Humanity's score-book, this would seem an all important quest. Because I wished for not only a job, but also a full career, I thought long and hard before doing anything more than reading a multitude of glossy pamphlets. Having already rippled the waves of the Cadet Corps, and having not yet been drowned, I decided to apply for a Permanent Commission in the Royal Air Force.

The obvious method of entry to an 'A' Level student is to obtain a Royal Air Force Cadetship, tenable either at the R.A.F. College Cranwell, or at University. To qualify for this award, and to obtain any Commission in the Service, one has to pass some strenuous tests at the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre, based at R.A.F. Biggin Hill. Certain preliminary forms having been completed, one is offered an appointment to attend the centre for a period of four or five days, depending on the award applied for. Thus, one is eventually faced by the impressive sight of a Spitfire and a Hurricane guarding the new Reception Centre at 'O.A.S.C.,' the first glimpse of the rigours of the next few days. Accommodation is provided in

comfortable, centrally heated blocks, housing the candidates at the rate of five a room. If you find it impossible to co-exist with other people in the same room, then you certainly will not survive the early part of Officer Training. The first evening, after an introductory lecture, is taken up with settling in, and investigating the leisurely interiors of the Candidates' Club and Mess. (A Mess, for those lacking in service jargon, is the Dining-Room, and the term is entirely unworthy of the polished oak tables and silver-bedecked hall typical of Officers' Messes throughout the world.) The Club is sensibly arranged with a good Bar, Games Room, Lounge and two television rooms. Relaxation was at all times enjoyable, with the combination of soothing spirits, and the presence of would-be Air Stewardesses, who are also tested at the centre, in more ways than one!

The wintry dawn sees a trail of sleepy, though eager bodies heading for the Testing Centre, where they receive the Aptitude Tests, which consist of nine written examinations, ranging from General Knowledge to Mechanical Reasoning, followed by three practical tests to assess the degree of co-ordination (taken by both Aircrew and Ground Branch applicants) all of which take some seven hours of actual work. This is exhausting: all sections require one hundred per cent. concentration for up to two hours at a stretch, and all this on a Sunday morning!

The next shock comes when one is asked to get up at six-thirty the following day, for the start of the Medical Examination and Interviews. With the intensity of the procedures it is impossible to hide any information. There are three separate interviews, with the President of the Board, a veteran Group-Captain (using that term in its service meaning, which implies an experienced and honoured career, both in peace and wartime), with a Board, consisting of two experienced Officers, and with an independent Headmaster, who assesses the candidate's educational abilities. Any one of the above confrontations can last up to an hour, and they all impart a sincere respect for the efficiency and quality of the Examiners. This does not indicate any patronization on their part; they are extremely amiable as well as being thorough. The 'Medical' follows, with tests ranging from electro-cardiograph to audio and visual assessments, as well as a pure examination of one's health. Having been informed by the President of the Medical Board of one's suitability, physically, for flying and ground duties, one awaits the preliminary results of the two days' tests, in order to know whether one qualifies for the second part of the procedure. About half the candidates are rejected at this stage.

For the last section, covering one and one half days one undergoes situational exercises to assess one's personal qualities. It would be unfair both to a would-be candidate, and to the Centre, to elaborate further, and it must suffice to say that both physical and mental problems are encountered. All exercises are exhausting and amusing, while there is nothing objectionable to a fairly fit and constructively intelligent schoolboy. The idea is not to ascertain what one cannot do, but to evaluate the ability to solve a demanding problem, whether it is verbal, or athletic, in

order to assess one's efficiency and sense of responsibility in an unexpected situation: in short, to discover one's potential as an Officer in the Royal Air Force.

The whole exercise is demanding, though always enjoyable and rewarding. One is not required to have the cunning of Montgomery of Alamein, or the physique of Tarzan, but must be willing to give to the utmost for four days, when 'on duty.' Leisure time is completely unobserved, though one is expected not to disgrace the establishment. Biggin Hill is left with a deep admiration for the R.A.F., and a longing to play a part in an active future looking Service.

J. J. Humphreys.

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP — BETWS-Y-COED

With the intention of spending their week absorbed in Post-glacial Formations and Denuded Synclines, our two intrepid geographers, G.N.A. and K.M.R., departed for Betws-y-Coed, in the 4-in-line, 1703 cubes, Hurst-shift, Ford-Hemi underglass, driven by G.N.A., who with no help from K.M.R. managed the unique achievement of losing the M1. Only stopping for a brief Eisteddfod on the way, we reached Betws-y-Coed—the usual type of Welsh village, where one can hear a tap drip for miles (except, of course, on Choir night).

Our centre lay hidden away on the side of the Conway valley; with the crags above and the river below it was a picturesque position . . . but, Jove, what a dump! Our personal accommodation could only be termed microscopic, with two-bunk beds virtually filling the room.

Supper was followed by an introductory talk by our Geography mistress/master (delete where applicable) for the week, whose names were Joan/John!

Our first morning was mostly spent coming down an "easy" crag face, which we insisted on going down, despite the rest of the crowd's use of the "difficult" road route. It is interesting to note that K.M.R. increased his high jump record (downwards) to 50ft. on this perilous descent. When we finally reached the bottom we were put in charge of a Settlement Study of Betws-y-Coed with four girls under us. Despite obvious hindrances they completed the work with several hours to spare, but we were honourable enough to treat them to a cup of B.R. coffee.

Here Geography ceased . . . R.I.P. . . . From then on the week is only remembered for its "night-life" . . . which consisted of . . . work from 7.00 to 9.30 p.m. . . . Finding this a trifle disconcerting, we searched for further amusements . . . we found the Library, but owing to the amazing lack of interesting books . . . we kept looking. The Table Tennis was perpetually surrounded by a number of Carbon-copy Eddie Warings . . . and darts was forbidden after someone threw one through

a gas-pipe. Despairing, K.M.R. disappeared to his room to recollect fond memories of New Malden love-life, occasionally stimulated by one letter per week. However G.N.A. wishing to keep his hand in, soon got working and after the Monday night the Consul was affectionately known as the "Old-Banger." It was on one of these evenings when upon jumping into his freezing bunk, K.M.R. uttered that immortal phrase, "Owwwh—Beds-y-cold" . . .

The studies continued in an air of what only can be called "Displeasure," and the last night was looked upon with an air of relief, except by G.N.A. who by this time had become highly involved. Our morning of departure dawned and after fondling farewells had been said, our Consul headed towards London again, with only fleeting memories of that "glorious"(?) week.

G. N. Abbott and K. M. Rissen.

THE OCKLEY WALK

"28 MILES OR 4.48×10^{14} ANGSTROM UNITS"

Anyone abroad at the unearthly hour of 7.30 a.m. on a Sunday morning would have been astonished to see the chilly and dowdy forecourt of Wimbledon Station packed to capacity with over 200 enthusiastic people. It was there that the Marathon was to begin.

Since a mass start was out of the question, one was free to commence the walk when one had obtained a walker's armband from the Marshal-in-Chief. Obtaining an armband was a feat in itself—as the Raynes Park chaps found themselves sandwiched between a trestle-table and a phalanx of the weaker(?) sex from Wimbledon County School.

Once this formality was completed, and route maps had been issued, the walk started. People amalgamated into small groups and set off along a dimly-lit pathway by the side of the railway.

After about a mile, any illusions about being frozen alive were quickly dispelled, as I soon found myself shedding anorak, scarf and gloves to re-establish thermal equilibrium.

Dawn broke at the first checkpoint—the Worcester Park Terraces—fortunately the sky was blue in places and it showed all the signs of giving us a good day's weather. Our route then took us through Ewell, Chessington, and then on to Claygate Common—a muddy waste—owing no doubt to a high water-table and the recent rains.

Here we were met by a half-naked human who *ran* up behind us. At first we stood rooted to the ground in horror at the sight of this superman who still had the energy to run, but he quickly identified himself as a famous Hovercraft-builder and head-boy of a certain educational establishment. Spurred on by this exhilarating company we churned our way across Arbrook Common, marching to the strains of "Lily the Pink."

We sped through Oxshott, Stoke d'Abernon, then on to Great Bookham Common—like Claygate Common rather wet— but onwards we

squelched, following curious red dots on trees and inventing new verses to "Lily the Pink" since all the decent ones had long been exhausted. The melodious tones were regularly interrupted by curses as yet another member of the party emptied out a litre of mud from his Sunday-best shoes!

We emerged from the swamp into a respectable area of Bookham. Further along the road, the Howard of Effingham School was reached where we were revived with hot soup. This was drunk standing as one might have sat down never to rise again!

The time was then 12.30, and it looked dubious if we would arrive at Ockley by the 4 p.m. deadline, but, undaunted, we trudged on up and up the dip-slope of the North Downs, followed by hordes of cameramen who had the amazing habit of obtaining a lift in a marshal's car on to the next checkpoint where we again met them!

Footpaths and pavements had by now vanished, and the road gave way to a winding lane. Single file conditions were imposed on the walkers, but fortunately 99 per cent. of the traffic on the road consisted of marshals in cars, whose support on this uphill grind was most welcome. Soon after Dogkennel Green (Check-point 12) the gradient slackened, and the road then plunged us down a steep hill, shown on the map as 1 in 5 or steeper. Going down was nearly as bad as going up, as the tendency was to break into a trot, which was more painful on already tender feet.

Abinger lay two miles on at the bottom of the scarp; here we were informed that we had only four miles to go, only to be told a mile on, at the next check-point that we had five miles left. This demoralising statement had no chance to take effect because "Top Gear" then came on on Radio 1 which accelerated our flagging pace; and also relieved the monotony of "Lily the Pink"—then on its 163rd time round. Leith Hill was tackled next—we were met at the bottom with "Keep it up, boys, only two more miles to go!" from a newly appointed Chemistry master—never before was I so pleased to see him!

Those last two miles were probably covered fastest, despite aching limbs, and we pounded into Ockley, narrowly beating a yellow mini-bus full of exhausted people who had been overcome by the sheer magnitude of the "feat"—or the blisters on them!

A welcome sit-down, followed by a cup of cocoa came next, while we watched other mud-bespattered souls stagger in. Needless to say we did not walk home: some went by coach, others by car to enjoy a hot bath and a meal!

Our thanks go to all those who acted as marshals, supervisors, sponsors, or who in any way helped to make the walk the success that it was. Our thanks also to Mr. Riley and the Social Service Committee, on whose shoulders the whole project for our feet was borne.

D. C. Woodcock.

SOCIETIES

CHRISTIAN UNION

This term has seen the usual fluctuation in numbers attending our meetings; the best attended meeting was for the film, which was held on a Friday evening after school. Owing, partly, to canvassing by a certain Biology master over forty people were crammed into the History room to watch "Red River of Life." Coffee and cakes were served during the interval.

Other meetings included Bible studies, discussions, and a talk from Ian Brewer on the possibilities of social work among children living in slums in Southwark. It is perhaps overlooked by some Christians that they have a responsibility to help people in need, and that this should come side by side with the spreading of the Gospel.

Several outside speakers came to lead meetings: these included Rev. Bob Crossley, who talked on "Superstition" (on Friday 13th December!) and Rev. Roy Graham who gave a very well reasoned talk on the 'Doctrine of the Trinity.'

The stronger members set off early one morning during half-term to take part in a ramble. Transport was provided by a 1954 dormobile which, rumour has it, was made in Las Vegas from old slot-machine parts. Despite derogatory comments from the passengers on the sound of the "engine," we arrived at Epsom Downs for the beginning of the ramble and proceeded to walk for over ten miles stopping only for lunch (and a riotous game of cricket). Towards the end of our trek one of the smaller members complained of blisters and a gallant sixth-former came to his rescue, carrying him for the last mile. It was generally agreed to have been a most enjoyable day.

The Juniors have had a varied programme including tapes, quizzes, talks and discussions, although numbers seem to have been declining lately.

B. Green.

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

The Society seems at times to be running into the same lack of sixth form support as does the Debating Society, and, as in the Debating, a hard core of regulars constitutes the Society; Old Boy attendance particularly seems confined to a small circle. If numbers seem to be diminishing, however, the quality of the meetings does not. Two meetings have been held this term; the first—a talk on the Sibylline books—was given by Dr. J. M. Frayn of Wimbledon High School. A talk on such a subject of antiquity could obviously have developed quite easily into a boring proposition of theories; as it was though, Dr. Frayn introduced only the most relevant and substantial theories into her talk, the net result

of which was a comprehensive and balanced talk, containing as it did elements of myth, with the story of the Sibyl selling the books to Tarquin the Proud, and elements of literature, when reference was made to the appearance of the Sibyl in the Aeneid.

At the second of the two meetings, held just before Christmas, a comedy was read, as is usual at this season; this year it was Plautus' "Amphitryo" which revolves around a love affair of Jupiter which necessitates his doubling the length of the night and impersonating his paramour's husband. The plot is complicated, at times it seems deliberately so, for in places the "Amphitryo" is a take-off of contemporary comedies. Paul Sutton read the title part of Amphitryo, the "straight man" of the play, and Philip Dufty took the comic part of Amphitryo's muddled servant, Sozia; Mrs. Matthias read with true dramatic feeling the part of Amphitryo's wife; Mr. Wyatt read the part of Mercury, Jove's son and dramatic agent, and megalomaniac cries of "type-casting" from Mr. Carter greeted his introduction as Jupiter.

G. C. Bond.

COMPUTER SOCIETY

Unfortunately not much work has been done on the computer this term: most of our members appear to have been too busy on their school work and indeed work for the School Play. Remarks such as "I'm sorry, Max, I've just *got* to do a Physics practical this lunch hour" or "I've got to do my Maths homework" are not uncommon.

However Jackson and Shaw have excelled themselves in constructing at home, in record time, the computer cabinet—we look forward to seeing this masterpiece of engineering? ! ! !

Pelly and Pilkington have spent a lot of time on their printed circuit board, with the result that it has now been completely wired and tested: the board forms part of the computer memory. A similar board has been completed by Leonard and his associates and recent tests by the constructors have shown that the circuits are functioning correctly.

At present, however, we have a problem with a circuit which will not function correctly although the fault in the design has almost been discovered.

It is pleasing to report that the printed circuit board containing the indication amplifiers, which last term refused to function, has this term been rectified. These amplifiers cause lights on the front panel to come on when inputs are applied: the fault lay in the supply voltage which was found to be about ten volts below the critical working voltage.

I hope that next term, the activities of the society will expand once more.

D. M. Roberts.

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

'MORE WORDS WITH LESS ART'

J. J. Humphreys, 6A2.

No subject has suffered so greatly at the hands of the 'intellectual' than that magnificent mis-description 'Art.' For the sake of sanity let me define, with the almighty reverential sterility of the 'New Oxford Dictionary,' that omnipotent, soul-shaking, back-biting, verbally debauched term. Art is a skill especially applied to design and workmanship. No, it does not cover the cash-bell-ringing swooning of an unintelligible fairy who proclaims to issue the spontaneous reaction of genius in a soul shattering blast of 'Pop' music. Yes, it does reject the instant-mixed verbal diarrhoea that gushes from the ruby-lipped, hypodermic-pierced, 'hep-cat' who couldn't string a metre together for the price of a 'fix.' 'Art' does require, however, a combination of inspiration, nay, genius, with a skilfully woven framework of basic comprehension.

Obviously, there is little to be gained from a verbal victory over a section of society who will refute the definition offered, by virtue of their supreme judgement, earned by many days at the L.S.E., combined with the victorious, earth-shattering conquests in Grosvenor Square, and the all-night chemists. 'Art' constitutes a skill in executing painting, writing, and music-making. Genius, or a suspicion of it, does not constitute art, unless accompanied in its communicative expression by a skilful rendering of the theme. Many reasonable people, when faced with a selection of modern works, will find the greatest difficulty in differentiating between a sincere and skilful composition and that produced by a vain but empty speculator. One sure way is to judge whether the work can be said to qualify in the three following requirements. Does it present the theme in a new interpretation, or look on a subject from a new light? Has the verbal, visual, or audio format an enlightened presentation that highlights the artist's understanding of the medium? Does the work communicate at least the essence of its contents, if one has a fair knowledge within that particular field? Having gained a positive count from this short test an offering can be said to constitute art. Nowadays there is a considerable effluence of

material from untried sources, which can rise to fame through skilful publicity methods, or by sole virtue of its being considered an imminent 'gas.' What must be eliminated once and for all from the ranks of art are those renderings that rely on either, purely a technically perfect editing to raise the standard of an otherwise poor production, or a presentation that lacks originality and the essence that springs from a questing mind. The very fact that a new work cannot be understood by an intelligent audience is often proof that it lacks clarity of thought and expression. Although many inspired renderings are not comprehended by the general public for many years this is no evaluation of their true worth. However, if the artist's contemporaries have not the slightest insight into the work, despite their acceptance of its author, then surely that particular creation must be lacking in some part of its composition? No great artist, although spurned by the world at large, has not been understood or partially accepted by his contemporaries, even though a fuller comprehension has not been achieved for many years. Shakespeare, on the other hand must have been meaningful to all levels of intelligence within his audience, though perhaps they still considered him outlandish.

Art, although transient in its trends and unforeseeable in its future, must remain based on a fixed object, or goal; although the means of attaining this will be devious, to the point of reversion, advancement must be at the same time both rapid yet thorough. A definition of the goal would be immediately invalid, since the direction of exploration has been both shortsighted and futuristic. Great leaps have been made into new media, while obsessions in perfecting techniques have meant that the understanding of the public has temporarily been united in a slowly advancing technique of expression; then, suddenly, a rapid exploration or realisation of a totally new scope has once more severed the bonds of the public—artist union. Surely the aim of the artist, in literature, music and painting, must be to expound thoroughly all possibilities resulting from an insight into Nature and the Universe, applying no bounds to combinations, or backgrounds to themes, which in themselves may only owe a distant experience to Nature or Humanity. Naturally, this end, luckily, cannot be reached, but the importance of rediscovery under a new light made by a sharp soul, will serve to remind a blunted and dulled populace that they are alive in an age of perpetual miracle, that Science can only mis-direct and form freakish impossibilities in comprehension open only to the communicative, skilful, and sympathetic artist. To obtain an artistic purity we must separate the skilful from the average, the entertainers from the creators, and above all the sincere from the exploiters of misunderstanding.

A FOURTH MITTY

A. P. Maguire, 4C.

There was I, sitting on the bank playing the biggest barbel ever caught in the country. It had made three desperate fifty-yard runs and I was well in control of the situation although I was only using a four-pound breaking strain line.

A voice behind me whispered, "He'll have it in in a minute; best chap at playing barbel I've ever seen."

Glowing with pride, I held the fish very well as it stripped another thirty yards of line off the reel. Gradually it began to tire, and with the rod bent double, I slowly began to retrieve some line. Four minutes later the fish, which weighed at least seventeen pounds—two and a half pounds over the existing record—was ready for the most difficult task of all, netting. It splashed furiously as I reeled it towards the now waiting net, and I knew that I would have to be extremely clever to be able to net it . . .

"Andrew! you've got a bite." I looked round, having snapped out of my dream, and saw my float feebly bobbing up and down. I struck and swung in a four-inch gudgeon. "Hmm, what a pest," I thought, "an under-size 'gudge.'"

"Come on," said Mum, "you said that once you had caught one we'd go home."

"Alright," I said and grudgingly started to pack up.

Ten minutes later we were ready and started making for the bus stop. We boarded the bus and waited. However, when the driver tried to start up the bus, it would not go, so a mechanic was called for.

"Ah, here's a chap who knows everything about engines," said the conductor.

"Do you want me to fix the motor for you?" I asked.

"If you don't mind, yes, sir."

I got off the bus and went to see what was wrong. A man in the crowd which had gathered, said, "I've seen this chap at work before; he's marvellous—could mend anything."

I peered into the motor to see what was wrong—"Ah, that's it," I said, "all I have to do is to . . ."

"Andrew!"

"What now, Mum?"

"Wake up," she said, "we'll have to catch another bus ; this one won't take us anywhere."

We boarded another bus and started on the journey home without any further mishaps.

Out of the window I saw a fire engine go past with siren and blue light howling and flashing.

The fire had now spread up to the top floor and we knew that a woman was still trapped up there.

"Well, who's going to go up and get her then?" asked the chief, "You Maguire?"

"Yes." I replied.

"Good man that," he whispered, "one of our best."

The ladders were set up and all the fire fighting clothes and gas masks were put on me.

I quickly climbed up and went in through the open window to see if I could carry this woman to safety.

In the far corner of the room I heard a terrible coughing ; so I went to investigate and discovered her lying, coughing. I put her over my shoulder and went back over to the window which had by now caught fire and would create a great difficulty for escaping.

"Andrew! it's time to get off ; have you been dreaming again?"

"No," I promptly replied.

We got off the bus and started home.

"Oh gosh," said Mum, "I haven't got the key."

"Don't worry," I said, as the great locksmith planned how he would force his way into the Bank of England vaults.

PUTNEY VALE

R. D. Sinclair, 3Y.

Graves to the right, graves to the left, graves as far as the eye can see. For the wealthy there are family vaults ; for the not-so-wealthy a communal garden headstone will serve its purpose with equal efficiency.

The cemetery is a town, a town of the dead, all lined up waiting for the Day of Judgement. Once inside the town you feel as if you are trespassing. Once inside you feel that all things outside the boundary have stopped. You are the only person, the only person to talk, the only person to move or think. You are the only person alive in this town—but there are others ; oh yes, almost certainly others, watching you, waiting for you to join them.

There is a still and quiet atmosphere in this town. Very quiet indeed. One might almost say as quiet as a graveyard.

DOG DETECTIVE

D. Barrow, 1F.

I write about the dog
Which in colour was dark brown—
He must have been quite hungry,
Losing his owner in the town.

I followed the unhappy dog
Into the house of gloom,
And feeling very nervous,
Entered the dark and shadowy room.

I followed the poor dog
Up stairs which groaned and creaked,
Into the upper rooms,
Which had nearly all been wrecked.

As I searched them one by one
And peeped behind the door,
I stopped with sudden fear,
To see a body on the floor.

THE STORM

P. Norton, 2nd.

At night it began
That terrible roar ;
It battered on the pane
And hammered on the door.

The skies opened up,
And the waters came down ;
The streams became rivers
And ran through the town.

Great sheets of lightning
Flashed in the sky ;
Under the bridge
The river rose high.

It came over the banks,
Flooded field and wood ;
Sheep and cattle were scared
As on high ground they stood.

All the animals waited.
At last the rain ceased ;
By morning the sun shone,
At last there was peace.

STORM

A. Isaacson, 3Y.

As 'The End' appears
on the luminous television screen,
the faint sound of a motor bike
is carried by the wind
towards the isolated house.
A faint rumble of thunder
blends with the noise of the motor bike.
Huge black clouds
come out from the under-world,
eager to tell
of the horrible hell
that lastingly lurks
in the centre of the earth,
by sending lightning
which cuts down trees
and carelessly kills people.
The house's lights disappear ;

the house disappears,
but momentarily it comes back to life
each time lightning strikes.
The motor bike crashes past at 70 m.p.h.,
its headlamp cutting through the darkness—
but the driver doesn't see
the curve in the storm-soaked road,
and his bike skids
with a gigantic explosion
in unison
with a final thunder clap from the storm.

THE STORM

P. Kelley, 3Y.

Shattering the stillness of the dark blue night,
Crash ! comes the thunder, 'n' gives the girls a fright,
Walking through the darkness,
Walking through the night,
Crash, bang ! Crash, bang ! Crash, bang, bang !

Lighting up the scene on that dark blue night,
Flash ! comes the lightning and floods all with light,
Thinking on the darkness,
Thinking on the light,
Flash, bang ! Flash, bang ! Flash, bang, bang !

Wetting all the streets on that dark blue night,
Splash ! comes the hail, hitting all in sight,
Watching all the darkness,
Watching all the light,
Splash, bang ! Splash, bang ! Splash, bang, bang !

The storm is abroad on that dark blue night,
Engulfing all the people in one great bite,
Disturbing all the darkness,
Disturbing all the night,
Splash, bang ! Flash, bang ! Crash, bang, bang !

THE GODS' STORM

M. R. Szymanski, 3Y.

Aeolus sets free his winds ;
They seek and find every hiding place,
Helping death on its way.
Neptune stirs the sea
With his three-pronged trident.
Jupiter wreaks his justice on man,
By throwing the flashing thunderbolts.
Vulcan erupts the volcanoes.
Discord gets her way.
The Fates cut life's thread.
Death !
Unlucky mortals struggle,
But in vain.

THE TEMPEST

Anon.

The delicate network of wind-torn
Trees,
Shatters, into a million pieces.
The sea's jagged edge explodes at the
Onslaught of an unseen force.
The land writhes to the Being's breath.
His hands rip up trees and send them
Flying,
While the feet flatten the ground and the toes
Claw the grass to shreds.
A never-ending search by the eyes of the monster,
Reveal new life to kill,

STAMP OUT, FLATTEN, DESTROY,
Is printed on the mind of this supernatural
Creature.
Then, for one split-second it falters ;
Suddenly, the eyes drop out ;
The feet fall off ;
The hands seize up ;
Slowly the monstrosity fades away.
Death has come to it ;
A great phenomenon defeated by a flatulent
Gust of warm air.

OLD AGE

N. Devine, 4C.

In a squalid basement hole,
She lived,
Alone,
In a world of dreams,
Cold, lonely and half starved—
Her face yellow through lack of light ;
Her whole body just skin on bones ;
Her ears almost deaf ;
Her mouth partly dumb ;
Her eyes dim.
The postman never came ;
Her relatives didn't care.
Nobody came !

All day dreaming of her youth,
Of the husband who had left her ;
Reading letters five years old—
She thought they came yesterday.

But last week she died.
Nobody noticed for days—
Till the rent man came for his money.
She was buried alone—
Nobody came!

HOOLIGANS

N. Devine, 4C.

Bossed around all day in the docks ;
Pushed around at home at night ;
They want to escape,
To be superior for a while.
Football—the means of escape !
Take it out on the fans,
Take it out on the coppers,
Take it out on the trains.
Their feelings bottled up—
A week's worth of hate
Let loose in a few hours of wrecking.
What can we do?
Fines have no effect—
Prisons have no effect.
What they need is a decent job,
Some decent parents.
Let's give them a fair chance.

THE DAY I DIED

P. Meller, 5D.

The purple mists of nothingness swirled through my head
Dulling my brain and blinding my sight.
The high priestess of Death stood mocking
From deep in the depths of the burning chasm of fire—
And I fell
To the gaping jaws of eternity below ;
I was scorched and burnt
And I died a million times.
Charon, my guide,
I followed in faith.
Wrestling and twisting, I fought my mind ;
The dark tortures tormented my soul,
And I looked for salvation
But blew my mind ;
I lost my senses and found my eternal fate.
A demon of fire shot through my eye, and Lucifer laughed.
Burning in purgatory, I longed to die
But lived a living death,
As the high priestess mocked
From the fathomless depths of no return.
The Devil leered, and I cried for my soul.
The heat too strong and the light too bright,
My senses died,
And the swirling mists of fluorescent light
Engulfed my person and killed my soul.

THREE POEMS

J. Nakar, 6AII.

MAN AND THE UNIVERSE

Our world is but a tiny speck
That circles round its sun,

An ember on a far flung arm,
An outpost of its galaxy.

The galaxy is lost in space,
A pinprick in the universe.

The universe is nothing but
A plaything of eternity.

Man, the ruler of his planet,
Feels like creation's pride.

Man, the king of the universe,
Has found not half his realm.

Man is still tied to the planet
Where he's lived but a breath of time.

Man of superhuman power
Should learn his place in Time.

DEATH VALLEY

The atom cloud is risen high,
Its mushroom cover fills the sky ;
The land below is silent now—
No-one knows quite why or how.
The desert sand is turned to glass,
Relieved by not a blade of grass.
There's nothing left on looking down ;
An hour ago it was a town.

TURN TABLE

“I’m an intelligent human being ;
I come from the planet Earth,
Our planet is quite unsurpassable ;
Of brain-power we have no dearth.
Our achievement will never be equalled,
Our knowledge is total and strong ;
We intend to take over your planet,
But don’t get me wrong!

Our people are friendly and helpful ;
We seek no material gain,
We just want to raise you up to our level,
A height you could never attain.
We will give you not only our science—
You admit that your need of it’s great—
But will share with you also our culture,
And our manners you are sure not to hate.
Of pride you can see we know nothing ;
Of arrogance we know even less.
We seek only goodness and virtue,
To bring light to places of darkness.”

The reply came with utmost politeness,
“We respect you’ve no motives of greed,
But we cannot accept in all fairness.
Now let me explain, and take heed.
You tell us our need of science is dire,
It’s true we don’t seem to have much,
But we belong to a greater empire,

Which supplies all our needs as such.
Our planet's an unspoilt health centre,
To give rest to those whom Science abused,
Let us recommend you to our Empire,
No planet has yet been refused."

WONDERLESS ?

G. H. Roberts, VI Sc. 2.

"Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."—Mark 10.15.

Positive chemotaxis
Is the chase for food ;
And when he relaxes
It's but slowing of blood.
Identified by song
Are blackbird and thrush ;
Monocotyledon
Is iris or rush,
And nothing more.

"Classify, contrast,
Describe, give accounts."
Hold it! Too fast!
As knowledge mounts
So much is lost.
Contempt creeps in.
What joy, at the Cross,
To wonder again !
Thus I saw.

POEM

By the Teacup

Dustbins,
Scrumming against the flats' wall
Of veined chapped-skin bricks.
A motley crew of ganged jobs ;
Some new,
Like smooth galvanised porridge ;
Some old,
Liquid running agebrown stains,
Dented like hailed golfballs ;
Thinly rust-twisted,
Winded,
Big bulleted braziers
Of the striped hobnail clothcap hut ;
Many hatless,
Or with insulted knockflying crowns
Strewn like dead clothes
Beneath a windy-washing skyline.
Powder ash and smoke's breath
Amble out ;
Paper bags kick along,
And footprints hurry by.
Incinerators insinuating
The final drop-out,
Knowing what it's like
To be cremated,
Yet even these,
One day,
Will be thrown away.

FOREST

By The Teacup

I don't think anyone saw me,
Dashing through the forest with
My red wooden wheelbarrow,
And my puffing face looking
Up at the crowded treetops.
I was stopping, speeding up,
Turning left, right,
Wavering uncertainly,
Trying to catch the ripe pinecones
In my 'barrow,
As they dropped from the twigs
Which were woven into the foliage
Like knitting.
But I pushed it over a tree root
Which was sticking out of the earth
Like a varicose vein,
And all the cones fell out sideways,
Spilling into the dusty,
Caramel-coloured, crumbling earth,
Littered with withered pine needles.

It was weird in the forest,
Enclosed by leaves and branches,
For the tall trees
Canopied out the sun,
And it was like being indoors
On a Saturday afternoon
In late November,
When it's still and grey,
All the lights are on ;
Someone's got a bonfire going,
And they're giving out
The football results.

DEBATING SOCIETY

The membership of the society when integrated and a few random constants are hurled in for good measure must be in the region of thirty-five. I wish I could call this band of gentlemen gallant, or faithful, but whenever an attempt to hold a debate is made, we can usually muster only a grand total of ten. For the rest, it is not their pusillanimity that deters them, but their attraction to other societies. It is high time that these gentlemen realised their commitments to the Debating Society. The School Play performed its annual "touch on the tiller" and promptly took nine members; Social Service claimed another eight, while various brands of School music, rugby practices, and "I've got to fill in my U.C.C.A. form" were all abundant in the depressingly long and varied list of procrastinations.

The dismal story of this term's proceedings now follows:

Motion, "That the more it sees of men, the more this House admires dogs." Advertised seven times on three successive weeks; result—postponed, postponed, cancelled.

Motion, "This House believes in sin." Advertised five times on two successive weeks; result—postponed, cancelled.

At last a debate was held, an inter-school debate: Raynes Park proposed "That beauty is potent, but money is omnipotent." This great occasion attracted an audience of nine from Raynes Park whilst the Ursuline Convent had to be limited to twenty-two for "economic reasons." Topics raised ranged from the "Duccio painting deal" to the potency of the daisy; Rees and Szanto—our two most loyal supporters—poured scorn on the "mythical touch of the opposition," in well reasoned speeches from the floor, whilst the team, Bond, Brewer, Warner and Jackson, went down fighting by fifteen votes to seven with five abstentions. The evening was rounded off by cost price drinks from "Jim's temperamental machine."

Next term? House debates, more inter-school debates and perhaps an Old Boys' debate.

Thanks are due to Mr. Carter for lending the Chairman his gown, for obtaining cost price drinks from "the machine," and for being the never-ending source of encouragement as spirits sag.

A. R. G. Jackson.

SOCIAL SERVICE

This term the work undertaken last year has been successfully continued and extended. The regular work on Wednesday afternoons is still the survey of old-age pensioners for the Merton and Morden Guild of Social Service. We have also assisted the Guild at other functions such as their Autumn Fair and Carol Concert.

Gardening help for the elderly is being provided by members of the School in their own time. We appear, however, to have reached saturation point since no new volunteers have been recruited this term. Girls from Wimbledon County School have taken on many of the gardening jobs for which we have been unable to find helpers, and the Social Service Committees of the two schools are now operating successfully as a single unit.

Two joint money-raising operations have been undertaken this term. The first was a concert held at Merton Hall under the sponsorship of the Merton and Morden Guild of Social Service in which pupils from both schools took part. Although the audience was disappointingly small, there were sufficient numbers to make the concert worthwhile and during the interval nearly £20 was collected for the furnishing of Kelstone Court Old People's Home.

The other venture was a sponsored walk. A hundred and eighty people from both schools, and their friends, started from Wimbledon Station one cold, dark Sunday morning on a 30 mile "stroll" to Ockley Village Hall. At four o'clock, the time limit set for the walk, 57 people had finished. Our sincere thanks are due to all those parents and staff who helped make the walk the success it was. Money is still being collected but the total should reach at least £750—half of which will go to "Help the Aged" and the other half to "Kelstone Court."

Unhappily for some committee members this was their last term at school and so several new members have been appointed; their names appear below. Any member of the school who would like to help us in any way, or has any suggestions for other work, should see any of the committee, which is Mr. Cecil Riley, Mr. Paul Isaacson, Peter Goldsmith, John Leonard, Jeffrey Nakar, Clive Spraggs.

P.I.

SPUR PRESS

In writing my last society report for the Spur Press, I apologise for not having offered an account of ourselves for the past two years. As many inhabitants of the school are aware, however, we have almost reached our standard of production attained about 1945.

Financially we have handled over £230 worth of orders since I first became senior foreman in January 1966. Last term alone, during which we printed Sports Programmes and Oberon magazines, we received over £50. We also printed the labels for the Memorial Library and a large number of dance tickets.

Numerous founts of type have been purchased to augment our already large stock, thus giving us a range from 6 point Gill Sanserif to 14-line Wood Type. Over £100 has been spent on type, and even more on paper, inks and other luxuries such as Swarfega and reference books.

We are now constantly inundated with orders from the School and numerous outside customers, including a London restaurant requiring menus. Other notable work during the recent years has included handcards, leaflets, letterheadings, posters, wedding stationery, programmes, tickets, menus and handbooks.

Owing to inspiration from an old boy of the school, Mr. Roger Cooke, we have experimented with reliefite printing, whereby a special powder is applied to the still-wet ink, and, when heated, fuses with the ink to produce a glossy raised print.

It was not realised until his departure how much Mr. Robert Smith had done to help the society, and he is still sorely missed. Many members of Staff have recently descended upon the society, complaining, as was the case during School Play production, that we make some profit from the School when we provide programmes and tickets. I should like to point out that our costing includes not only paper and ink, but also an allowance for type, which is worn during printing, cleaning materials, oil, gum, proofing paper et cetera. During the Play, we submitted over a dozen different proofs, and suffered constant alterations and additions. I should like to remind the Play officials that we asked for *all* information to be given to us two weeks before the performances.

Such rushed orders have constantly necessitated devoted work from a small group of members, for whom I cannot show enough appreciation. Some members always lose interest during busy spells, but are usually replaced within a few weeks. This is unfortunate, but we must dispense with anyone not prepared to pull his weight. My sincere thanks go to all members, especially the following, who responded admirably to the tasks assigned to them: R. Keefe; J. Leonard; I. Fordham; K. Randall; R. Emery; S. Baker, A. Isaacson; D. Ellis; R. Elliott and M. Szymanski. Thanks are also due to C. Spraggs, D. Magee, J. Chappell and M. Loxton, who have recently left owing to pressure of other work.

I hope that the members and staff who have helped me throughout the year will give my worthy successor, Robert Keefe, as much support as possible.

A. F. Whitten.

SPUR MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Despite climatic conditions, attendance this term has been high, and members showed increased interest in working to improve the layout as opposed to being content just to "run the trains." As a result, considerable progress has been made with the wiring system in addition to some work on the scenery in the Milton Park area. During the change from the three-rail to two-rail system most of the electrical circuits were connected

in a temporary manner in order to minimize delays in bringing the new system into operation. Now we have embarked upon the task of installing a permanent system, which we hope to be able to complete next term.

We were fortunate this term in having Mr. Henderson to join our ranks to help Mr. Slater and Mr. Buckingham supervise our Wednesday evening meetings. I should like to take this opportunity to thank him for joining us. Any other father who would like to help us in this way would be made very welcome at our meetings, as would any new member from the body of the School.

S. L. Buckingham.

SPUR RIDING CLUB

The trend towards a wider choice of games options for seniors has happily been continuing, and this term saw the beginnings of the Spur Riding Club (the only School society with an apt name!) under the auspices of Hillcote Riding School.

The select group of sixth formers who plucked up the courage to face the fearsome beasts have been able to ride on Wednesday afternoons at half the normal price. The peace on Wimbledon Common was shattered when a few weeks after the start the riding bug got loose in the Staff Room. We are now joined regularly by Messrs. Beenev, Cosens and Zydatis and Mlle. Viala. Of these only our friends from overseas had ridden before, and my position as an assistant instructor was an enviable one.

Carol, our instructress, cannot for some unknown reason ever remember the name of "the bearded one" and so refers to him by the name of his horse. We now have a much revered Maths master who answers to the names 'Lucy' and 'Rosie.'

Everyone has learnt rapidly and all are above average pupils—everyone is now off the lead. Best progress, however, has been made by Colin Scrase who now seems to be actually in control of his mount for much of the time.

No-one has actually been thrown off as yet, although M.V. succeeded in sliding gracefully over her horse's neck and W.Z. will probably remember to tighten his girth after sampling the delights of Wimbledon's gorse bushes. Both will return home with a little more knowledge of this England than they wanted!

I hope riding will continue as a games option for in my opinion, it is worth the money simply to watch, and since it has become popular with members of Staff I see no reason why it should not do so.

P.I.

MALE VOICE CHOIR

The name of this group has often prompted younger members of the school to ask why, in a boys' school, the word "male" is included. The answer is, of course, that the term "male voice choir" denotes a choir comprising only tenors and basses, that is having no sopranos or altos. Our particular M.V.C. has now been in existence for a little over a year. It was formed as a result of an Old People's Concert, when at the suggestion of John Salisbury, those who had taken part decided to form a small permanent choir.

The aim of the choir is mainly to sing just for the fun of it, giving the occasional performance in a concert, but, since the main School Choir will soon be forced by the lack of treble voices owing to the comprehensive system to become a Male Voice Choir, it will also form a nucleus of people accustomed to this type of singing, around which 'D.A.' will be able to build the new School Choir. The Choir's biggest engagement to date has been the Concert run by the Social Services group in Merton Hall on December 2nd when a dozen or so items were performed before a depressingly small audience. The Choir also produced after a very short period of rehearsal a remarkably good performance of a difficult and discordant work by a modern composer in the Christmas Concert. Plans for the future include performances of substantial works by Schubert and Elgar. Many thanks are due to all the choir members for their hard work during this term and for enduring my leadership!

P. J. Smith.

No. 565 SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS

Autumn Term is always a busy one for the Squadron and this term has been no exception. The first event was the "Surrey Stroll," a 25 mile walk around Surrey, starting and finishing at Dorking. F/Sgt. Richardson, Cpls. Ball and Buckingham, and Cdts. Pilkington, Arthur and Ketchell completed the course and were awarded a team certificate. Cdt. Bradford also completed the course.

Sporting activities included Soccer, Rugby and Table Tennis. The Wing trials for Soccer and Rugby were attended by seven cadets from this squadron. From these trials Sgt. Flude and Cdt. Metcalfe were selected to play for the Wing at Soccer, the former in goal and the latter at centre-half, against Sussex. Surrey won 6-1, and Cdt. Metcalfe scored one of Surrey's goals. He also played for the Eastern Region at Rugby, against Wales, and although they lost narrowly, he is to be congratulated on being awarded a Corps trial.

In the field of Aircraft Recognition we have been as active as ever. Cpl. Ball and Cdts. Bond, Pilkington, Ketchell and Key entered for the "Air Britain" competition and by no means disgraced themselves. The

following week Cpls. Ball and Buckingham, and Cdt. Bond represented Surrey Wing in the Eastern Region competition at R.A.F. Debden and were unlucky not to return with a trophy.

This term's examination results have been excellent. Cdt. Young passed his Senior Cadet Examination with credit, and Cdts. Antonowicz and Ketchell passed their Basic Examinations. The last named is also to be congratulated on being awarded the John Faulkner Trophy for the best all-round recruit in the squadron.

This term's promotions, owing to the resignation of C.W.O. Hyman on reaching the upper age limit, are as follows:— F/Sgt. F. Richardson to be C.W.O.; Sgt. J. D. Needle to be Flight Sergeant; Cpls. S. M. Ball and J. J. Humphreys to be Sergeant; S/Cdts. G. C. Bond, C. D. Harper, and J. Pilkington to be Corporal.

Finally F/Sgt. Needle is to be congratulated on being awarded the Commandant's Certificate of Good Service, the highest award of the Air Training Corps.

S. M. Ball (Sgt.).

CHESS CLUB

Captain : G. B. Brookes.

Hon. Secretary : A. K. Ansari.

Hon. Treasurer : P. R. Rand.

It is pleasing to be able to report that the club is flourishing once more with numbers approaching 80 owing to Marshall's persistent and enthusiastic work. From the subscriptions collected about £7 worth of new sets were purchased. Marshall has recently initiated a league table for members, mainly in the hope that more seniors will participate in lunch-hour meetings, and next term intends to organise a tournament, probably on the Swiss system.

The House Competition has not yet been completed, and all of the Houses except Miltons are in with a chance.

This season the First and Second teams are competing in the Briant Poulter League whilst a First and Junior team are in the London League.

The First team has done very well. The size of the school is, however, a great disadvantage, as most schools we play are at least twice our size.

We encountered strong opposition from Hampton, and Battersea, who last year reached the final of the Sunday Times Competition—for all schools in England—and are confident of winning this season. The matches against Purley, Kingston and Whitgift were close and all should have been drawn. Against Purley, Marcousé lost on time when two pieces up; a mistake by Ansari in a pawn-king end-game brought about our defeat against Kingston, and his mysterious disappearance decided the match against Whitgift.

Marshall set a record number of consecutive wins for the First team—11, but this apparent deficiency in the law of averages was partially rectified by defeat in his next four matches. Brookes was consistent against

some highly qualified opponents, usually from the higher boards of the Surrey team. Sutton proved a very valuable asset, whilst Couper and Silver improved by leaps and bounds as the term progressed, the former being defeated only once.

The Second team was a little out of its depth but nevertheless Rees put up some encouraging performances.

The Juniors tasted school competition for the first time and, although the results were poor, useful experience was gained. In a couple of years Mason, Moore, Norton and Maunder will form the nucleus of a formidable team.

RESULTS

FIRST TEAM: Played 9, Won 4, Lost 5.

	Purley	Elliott	Kingston	Wandsworth	Sutton	Wim. Coll.	Hampton	Whitgift	Battersea	TOTAL
	L2-4	W5-1	(L2)-3½	W4-2	W4-2	W3½-2½	L1½-4½	(L2)-3½	(L1)-5	
Brookes	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	1	½	4
Ansari	0	-	0	1	1	1	0	0	½	3½
Marshall	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
Sutton	1	½	1	1	0	-	-	-	-	3½
Rand	0	1	0	1	1	0	½	0	0	3½
Marcousé	0	1	0	0	-	1	-	-	0	2
Couper	-	1	-	-	½	1	½	½	-	3½
Silver	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	1
Lea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0

SECOND TEAM: Played 5, Lost 5.

v. Selhurst I	...	...	L ½-5½	v. Kingston II	...	...	L 1-5
v. Mitcham I	...	...	L 2-4	v. Wim. Coll. I	...	...	L2½-3½
				v. Whitgift II	...	...	L ½-5½

The following played: Silver, Marshall, Marcousé, Couper, Oatway, Rees, Maunder, Lea, Szanto, Barford, Szymanski, Evans, Hammett, Samad.

UNDER FOURTEEN TEAM: Played 5, Lost 5.

v. Elliott	...	...	L 1-5	v. Wim. Coll.	...	...	L1½-6½
v. Wandsworth	...	...	L 2-4	v. Hampton	...	...	L 2-4
				v. Battersea	...	...	L 1-5

The following played: Szmanski, Pickstone, Pitcher, Hughes, Onraet, Mason, Moore, Maunder, Norton, Smith, C. D.

SPORT

RUGBY

Master-in-Charge : D. F. Alldridge, Esq.

Captain : A. T. Williams.

Vice-Captain : M. W. Bellamy.

RESULTS OF SCHOOL MATCHES

	1st	2nd	3rd	U.15	U.14	U.13
Shene	3-6	33-5		0-30	24-3	8-0
Gunnersbury	20-0	12-17				
Beckenham	19-6	54-0		0-23	0-52	9-11
Bec	0-62	15-11		3-16	3-20	0-33
Pollards Hill					24-3	
Mitcham	14-16	36-0				
Surbiton	0-13	6-0		6-31	0-17	0-21
Garth			11-8			
Wallington	0-16			0-15	18-3	
Harrow	0-12	15-28		0-54	0-15	0-34
Thames Valley	0-13	21-0		5-13	3-14	3-3
Reigate	3-43	0-0		0-51	0-28	11-17
Wimbledon	22-0	29-8		21-3		
Guildford	9-19	11-11	0-13			
Chiswick	0-33	0-3		0-16	6-14	0-26
Tiffins	0-23	0-21				
St. Josephs	6-5					
Beverley	0-3	68-0		11-0	3-25	3-17
Rutlish	6-3	17-0	6-17			

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts. for	Pts. against
1st XV	17	5	12	0	102	273
2nd XV	15	9	4	2	317	104
3rd XV	3	1	2	0	17	38
Under 15 XV	11	2	9	0	46	252
Under 14 XV	11	3	8	0	81	194
Under 13 XV	9	0	8	1	34	182

FIRST FIFTEEN

The final results of this season were unfortunately not as envisaged when the season opened, and only five matches were won. Even so the team played with much determination and spirit throughout the term, in spite of the disadvantage of lack of weight. The poor results can be

attributed mainly to this latter fact, but this is not the only reason, for how can a team which is not prepared to train adequately hope to gain favourable results? Training is vital from the point of view of tactics and for binding a team together; this the players did not seem to realise—they wanted to win matches but were not prepared to give up their time after school to work for it.

Most of the matches were close, hard fought games, despite the Firsts being hit by an unusual crop of injuries. As many as fifteen First and Second players were unable to play on one of the Saturdays alone. Two wins at the beginning of the season against Gunnersbury and Beckenham inspired perhaps a slightly inexperienced team, but their confidence was momentarily rocked after Bec had beaten (?) us. After the Mitcham match was narrowly lost, the team went through a phase of four weeks without scoring and there was great relief when twenty-two points were eventually recorded against Wimbledon the following week. St. Josephs were then narrowly beaten but the highlight of the season was the defeat of Rutlish by 6-3, a team which has lost few matches this season and a school that we had, it is believed, never beaten before. Confidence brimmed over for our penultimate game against Beverley, for which the final score was predicted as perhaps anything over thirty points to nil. We lost 0-3. Enough said!

PEN PORTRAITS

Young—It was rumoured he played.

Collins—He rolled up to every game.

Hickish—Tripped over the ball and scored a try.

Blakeburn—Girl friend gave a lot of support.

Newport—Swallowed the ball against Beverley.

Rissen—Possibly the best striker we have.

Sharpe—The thrusting point of the team.

Pepperrell—Felt self-conscious without his swimming trunks.

Russell—His ability to kick made him a valuable centre forward.

Cocks—Wig slipped against Rutlish.

Meller—Only person presently known who can body swerve two ways at once.

Healey—Played a blinder!

Brewer—Picked his way through most situations.

Reeve—Could turn sideways and disappear.

Beardsmore—Got muddy against St. Joseph's.

Bellamy—Helped the team enormously . . . broke his arm!

Williams—Was only able to play in four games—prayer does work!

SECOND FIFTEEN

Captain : M. J. Taylor.

Masters-in-Charge : Messrs. D. Alldridge and E. Parry.

This has been one of the most successful seasons that a Second Fifteen has ever had, apart from having by far the best record in the School. The results show nine wins: it could have been more.

Early in the season we lacked a goal-kicker and consequently lost against Gunnersbury and Harrow, although in the latter we were equal on tries. We beat Surbiton for the first time in ten years, scoring one of the best tries of the season.

After half-term Reigate provided our hardest match, and, although both teams came near to scoring, neither managed to break through. The most exciting match was against Guildford when, with ten minutes left, we were trailing by eleven points but managed to pull back to draw. Against Chiswick and Tiffins especially, the number of injuries was phenomenal and consequently we had weakened teams. Nevertheless the season ended with two easy wins over Rutlish and Beverley.

Although difficult to pick out individuals, Russell, in the early part of the season, and Pearmine must be congratulated on their fine play at fly-half. North led an unchanged pack with great enthusiasm. In the forwards Jones and Currie jumped consistently well in the line outs; the three-quarters however changed with every game although Mayer gained many points with his accurate goal-kicking after half-term. At full back, Metcalfe has hardly faltered.

The success of the team has been due to some fine tackling, and the ability of our forwards to overcome heavier opposition with tough loose play, giving our threequarters time in which to score tries: no winger could complain that he did not get the ball.

PEN PORTRAITS

Metcalfe—Caught the ball . . . once.

Pearmine—Came out of retirement, pulled a hamstring in his second match—key player.

Hickish—At the end of the season he was thrown out to the Firsts.

Kaill—Hooked opposing hookers well, and, when he saw the ball, hooked even that.

North—Taken pity on early in season—made Vice-captain.

Jones—He should stick to playing his guitar.

Currie—Unfortunate to have his foot bitten.

Potten—Found the pace more to his liking in the Seconds.

Moss—Handled the ball with much skill—unfortunately while still in a loose scrum.

Lloyd—Played centre this season because he did not wish to get his hair ruffled.

Nicoll—He waved his magic wand and tackled . . . like a fairy.

Mayer—Developed foot . . . and mouth.

Taylor—His ability as a leader was unquestionable ; he proved a tower of strength in all respects—joking aside.

A. T. Williams.

COLT FIFTEEN

Master-in-Charge : E. Parry, Esq.

Captain : N. Holmes.

Although the record is not impressive, this has by no means been a disheartened or dispirited team. Really high spirit comes only with success, and as our only wins came late in the term it has not been easy to keep up the morale in a not noticeably rugby-minded fifteen, but the continuous efforts of our coaches have brought about an improved approach and performance. Unfortunately the improvement we seemed to be making was generally equalled by the opposition.

We began by losing fairly heavily to competent teams from Shene and Beckenham. Then, playing with six reserves, we fought a very hard game against Bec to whom we just lost. After being well beaten by Surbiton we played Wallington in the worst conditions possible, losing by fifteen points. A poor display against Harrow was followed by a very good one against Thames Valley who were the victors by five points. After a virtually reserve side had lost to Reigate we won our first match—when we were able to field a full side for the first time— against our local rivals, Wimbledon. After a loss to Chiswick we rounded off the term with the scalp of another local rival, Beverley.

This is our last season as a team as next year some members will be playing for senior fifteens.

Special mention must be made of Szanto, Seeley, Fordham, Miles, Anstes, Haynes and Lovett, all of whom have played consistently well.

Thanks are due to Mr. Parry for his persistent but patient training of the team, and to Mr. Anstes for his encouraging support.

The team has been selected from: Anstes, Bates, Brack, Cossey, Devine, Fordham, Greenyer, Haynes, Holmes, Kerse, Lovell, Lovett, Maguire, Marjoram, Miles, Orr, Patty, Rees, Russell, Seeley, Szanto, West, and Williamson.

UNDER FOURTEEN FIFTEEN

Master-in-Charge : B. W. James, Esq.

Captain : C. R. Kelly.

The season began well with a convincing win against Shene, but was followed by a disastrous result against Beckenham. The team, however, steadily regained spirit and enthusiasm to beat Pollards Hill and Wallington in succession.

Unfortunately after this we suffered from injuries to key players. Hosier who had played very well at fly-half broke his arm and was unable to play for the rest of the season. Although the remaining results were disappointing, the spirit never flagged.

Dodd shone at number eight playing consistently well throughout the season ; he was very well backed up by Kelly, Gagen and Bradford. Wood also played well and was the outstanding threequarter.

The team would like to thank Mr. James for his tireless coaching on Thursday afternoons and Tuesday evenings. We would also like to thank Mr. Kelly for his support throughout the season. The following played: Brown, G., Bradford, Cooper, Dodd, Elliott, Gaffney, Gagen, Heath, Hosier, Humphreys, Kelly, Marsh, Pearson, Sell, Sharpe, Szymanski, Vipond, Wood.

UNDER THIRTEEN FIFTEEN

Master-in-Charge : B. Cosens, Esq.

Captain :

In terms of results, the season has not been at all successful. The spirit shown and enjoyment gained however, have to some extent compensated for this.

Two of our hardest games, against Bec and Harrow, resulted in heavy defeats, but many others were hard fought and close. Unfortunately we always seemed to find ourselves on the losing side, mainly because of our lack of variety in attacking moves.

Throughout the season we have been served well by the consistent form of Jordan and Harris in the outsides and the strength of Stephens and Jones in the forwards. A notable feature has also been the generally good tackling, but in particular that of Engall, Totterdell and Campbell.

Those who played during the season were Feist (capt.), Jordan, Brown, Harris, Campbell, Frohnsdorff, Haines, Dow, Totterdell, Stephen, Jones, Nichols, Pitcher, Hughes, Silburn, Foster, Daley, Philpott, Norton.

I would like to thank Mr. Cosens and Mr. Atkin for their help in coaching and training during the term.

CROSS COUNTRY

Master-in-Charge : M. C. Glead, Esq.

Captain and Secretary : D. W. Evans.

Even if this year is not remembered for spectacular wins or disgraceful defeats, it will be remembered as the year the Cross Country League came into being. For a long time fixtures had merely been between individual schools: sometimes age groups varied ; sometimes schools could not raise full teams, and it would be a very lucky school which was not let down

by the opposition sometime during the season. Now, however, it involves us deeply if Surbiton beats Wallington or Glyn is beaten by Selhurst. There are three age groups, and any school not making an appearance is penalised. Nine schools are in the league, everyone running against the other eight twice, and the three age groups scoring separately. Even though running against some schools for the first time, we have not however been forced to abandon old rivals.

The teams have had a successful term on the whole. Defeats there have been, but they have been outweighed by wins. Out of 33 matches 21 have been won.

The seniors have had the most successful term. They began well, overwhelming Rutlish and Teddington in the first match; Surbiton followed suit as did Sutton. Next came a comfortable win over Glyn G.S. (most pleasing as then they were the league leaders). This run of wins was however halted by a John Fisher squad, assisted by our complacency and the absence of two of our better runners. Nevertheless, in an afternoon match we beat Selhurst and Wallington away at Selhurst. Here Milton broke the course record, a most creditable effort as he had never run on the course before. Beverley and Kingston were easily beaten on our home course, and a fortnight later we went to Kingston to beat them again.

The seniors participated with little credit as a team in the Selwyn Trophy, but Milton as an individual in the Over Seventeens gained the third place medal. The Merton District Championships provided a rather hollow victory as only two or three teams entered the Senior race. Milton has consistently led our runners, if not the whole field, but to pick any other one for special commendation is impossible as all have run hard. It must be said nevertheless that the regular team of Milton, Ness, Marshall, Ansari, Holmes, Tovell and Evans is equal to or better than any other squad in the district.

The Colts have won more than they have lost. Their particular success was in the Selwyn Trophy, where they ran consistently well, and were awarded the third place plaque only to be asked for it back a fortnight later, as there had been an error in the scoring. M. Lucas took—and kept—the individual third place medal. The team began the term a little weakly, with a defeat by Teddington, but this was rectified in another match against them later in the term. The only other losses recorded were against John Fisher, Wallington, and Sutton, and in two of these Lucas was absent. He is to be congratulated on bringing down considerably the Colt course record. He has always been well to the fore in runs and has been backed up by Goddard and Evans (I), who in the absence of Lucas, took the lead.

The Junior team is very strong considering the number of first formers available. They have kept well up in the League, but indeed it seems things will be better next term or even next year. Wells. has consistently run well, and two first-formers, Petrides and Wright, have been close behind. These last two ran extremely well in the Merton District Championships

taking second and fourth places respectively. Here the first form team, against very much larger schools, excelled themselves to take the second place.

Not to be forgotten are those who comprise that band of intrepid markers, who every home match, regardless of weather, guide our visitors: our warm thanks are due to them.

The following ran :—

Under Thirteen—Baxter, Broughton, Burt, Feline, Grylls, Maunder, Petrides, Phillips, Sainsbury, Wells, White, Wright.

Under Fifteen—Arthur, Baker, S. Brown, Bush, I. Evans, Fraser, Goddard, Goldsmith, Higgins, Ives, M. Lucas, P. Lucas, Petrides, Simmons, Sole, Tupper.

Over Fifteen—Abeysinghe, Ansari, Arkell, Brookes, A. Brown, Boxall, D. Evans, Holmes, Marshall, Milton, Ness, Randall, Shephard, Tovell.

RESULTS

Match	Age Group	Result	Individual successes
v. Teddington (and Rutlish O.15 only) (H) Selwyn Trophy I (A)	O.15	Won 22-36-57	Milton 1st
	U.15	Lost 31-24	Lucas M. 1st
	U.13	Lost 54-29	Wells 2nd
	O.17	—	Milton 2nd
	U.17	7th/12	D. Evans 15/70
	U.15	2nd/22	M. Lucas 3/130
	U.13	10th/22	Wells 8/130
	O.15	Won 27-54	Milton 1st
	U.15	Won 30-50	Goddard 1st
v. Surbiton (A) (League)	U.13	Lost 42-37	Wells 1st
	O.15	Won 11-28	Milton, Ness, Brookes 1st=
	U.15	Lost 41-37	Goddard 2nd
	U.13	Won 37-41	Wells, Petrides 1st=
	O.15	Won 34-44	Milton 2nd
	U.15	Won 34-45	Lucas 1st
	U.13	Lost 40-38	Wells 1st
v. Teddington (H) Selwyn Trophy II	U.15	Won 36-42	Lucas 2nd
	U.13	Lost 55-28	Wells 2nd
	O.17	—	Milton 5th
	U.17	7th/12	D. Evans 15/70
	U.15	5th/22	M. Lucas 3/160
	U.13	10th/22	Wells 6/170
	O.15	Lost 43-37	Milton 1st
	U.15	Lost 44-38	M. Lucas 1st
v. John Fisher (H) (League)	U.13	Won 39-41	Wells 1st
	O.15	1st	Milton 2nd

Beverley (U.13 and O.15) (H) (League)	U.15 U.13	Won 29-53 2nd to Kingston	M. Lucas 1st Wells 1st
			(Overall)
Selwyn Trophy III	O.17 U.17 U.15 U.13	— 5th/12 4th/22 7th/22	Milton 3rd D. Evans 15th M. Lucas 3rd Wells 4th
v. Kingston (A) (League)	O.15 U.15	Won 30-52 Won 31-47	Milton 1st Evans I., Goddard 1st=
Merton District Championships	U.13 O.17 U.17	Lost 46-38 1st 1st	Wells 1st Milton 3rd Evans D., Lucas M. 1st=
	U.15 U.13	3rd 2nd	Evans I. 8th Petrides 2nd Wright 4th

BASKETBALL

Master-in-Charge : D. Alldridge, Esq.

Captain : K. M. Rissen.

Hon. Secretary : C. J. Newport.

	Under Nineteen		Under Fifteen	
v. Purley	(H)	L. 43-49	(H)	L. 24-52
v. George Abbott	(A)	W. 29-24		
v. Wimbledon	(A)	L. 33-34		
v. Sutton	(H)	L. 35-37	(H)	W. 26-25
v. Glyn	(H)	L. 37-98	(H)	L. 15-71
v. Garth	(H)	W. 67-26		
v. Mitcham	(H)	L. 39-63	(H)	L. 15-26
v. Warlingham	(A)	W. 31-20	(A)	L. 29-37
v. Purley	(A)	L. 35-45	(A)	L. 16-46
v. Redstone			(H)	L. 32-52
v. Riddlesdown			(H)	L. 30-44

UNDER NINETEEN

The rather disappointing results were largely compensated for by the enjoyment the team had from the games. The season started with a wonderful performance against Purley, one of the two giants of the League,

when we held them to 42-49. With such a result behind the squad the future looked bright and the match against George Abbott although lacking in baskets brimmed over with excitement and enthusiasm. From then on the injuries which rid the 1st XV of its captain and his deputy reduced the strength of the squad by a powerful defender and a volatile attacker.

Four defeats and an expected win followed before the most encouraging, and probably most pleasing result of the term—at Warlingham. With memories of last season's tragic encounter we entered the fixture uncertain of the type of basketball we should meet, but we survived and won.

The term ended with a 'return' against Purley, and again they brought the best out of us, though it was as memorable for the entertaining journey there and the hazardous trip back.

UNDER FIFTEEN

Captain: S. J. Arnold.

Poor attendances at practices led to a not very successful term especially as, last year's squad having gained a place in the First League, we met some of the best teams in Surrey.

Holmes has been our top-scorer, being excellent on his set shots from which most of his baskets have come. Fordham, one of our guards, has improved noticeably, especially in his rebounds, but his shooting leaves something to be desired. Seeley whose 'lay-up' shots have been very accurate has also improved. Anstes has also played well and has a high score. Thanks are due to Norman for his excellent and enthusiastic scoring.

The team, whose spirit has been commendable, has consisted of: Anstes, Arnold, Bates, Barrow, Lovell, Holmes, Kerse, Marjoram, Miles, Patty and Seeley.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Sirs,

I must congratulate Mr. Richards on the great perspicacity shown in the Editorial of the previous edition of *The Spur*. His prognostication of "a strong socialist egalitarian movement lurking behind the blue common-room door" has been conclusively proven this term, seeing that proletarian thoughts and measures have been wafting from the corners of that room!

Much bitter feeling and friction has resulted from two of these measures. First, the Upper Sixth Monday lectures are now a platform for left-wing thought. Speakers last term ranged from the Left-wing Labour M.P., Dr. David Kerr, to a self-confessed Marxist from the L.S.E. Are the "powers-that-be" under the delusion that it is their duty to indocinate the school with the thoughts of demagogues?

Secondly, that great "Tory" stalwart, "The Spectator," now takes at least five days to travel from the Commonroom to the Library, and in recent weeks it has even been known not to arrive at all. Are its sacred pages being ceremonially cremated in the gasfire of the Commonroom?

This surely is proof enough that the Right of Centre are regarded as mere "cannon fodder" for Left-wing opinion. The situation must be remedied at once, "The Spectator" must be re-established in its honoured place in the Library, and the "Soviet Weekly" removed.

Yours fearfully,

A. R. G. Jackson.

Dear Sirs,

I am forced to reply to Mr. Jackson's letter in the last issue of the 'Spur.' It can surely be dismissed purely as an attack on all liberal-minded people by an egocentric, pusillanimous neo-fascist.

The view put forward by Mr. Jackson is typical of the attitude of this country's fascist right-wingers. These people are completely opposed to any relaxation of present authoritarianism which might lead to a semblance of reform. The fact that Mr. Jackson found it necessary to complain about a reformatory step which lasted only two days, must show that he wrote his letter in his "nocturnal peregrinations," when undoubtedly he would not be wearing his tie.

So, in conclusion, I say that Mr. Jackson was trying to cause cholera to run high in the school, by his correspondence criticising the reform, which was done purely to make life a little more bearable in this Government controlled institution.

Yours sincerely,

E. S. Burns.

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The above characters may be fictitious, any similarity to persons, living or dead, may well be a coincidence.

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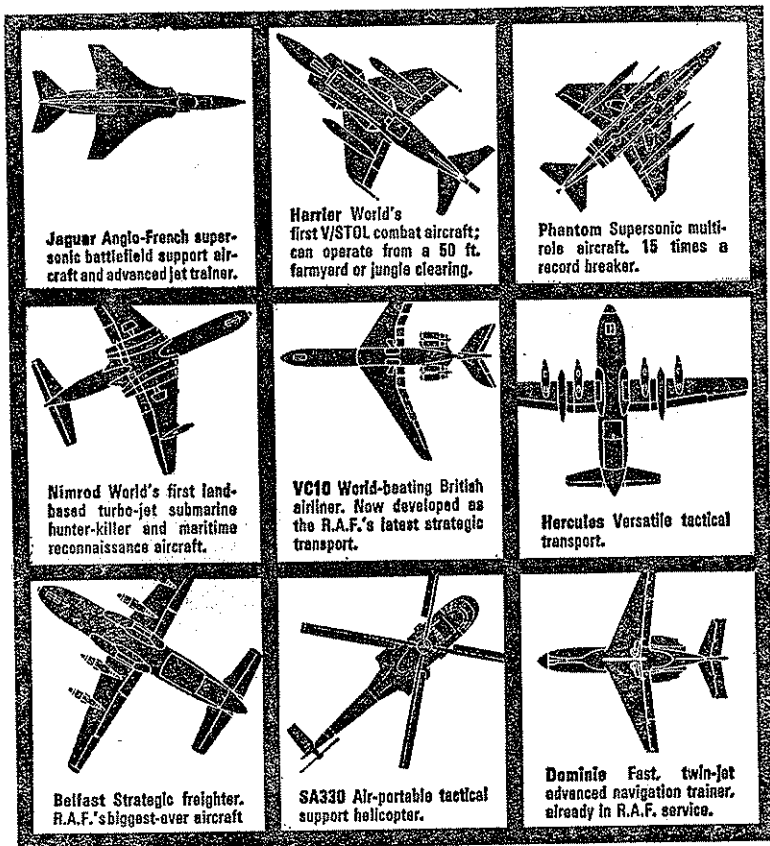
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