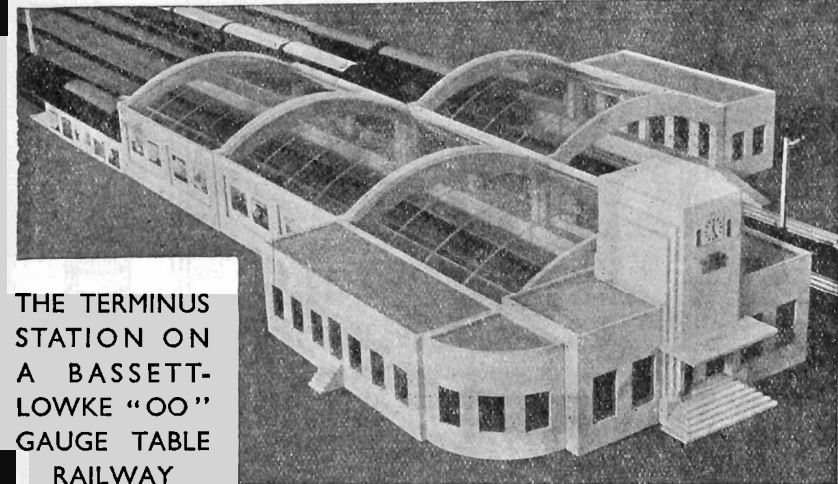


# THE SPUR

VOL. I

No. 3





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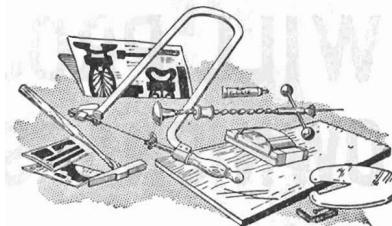
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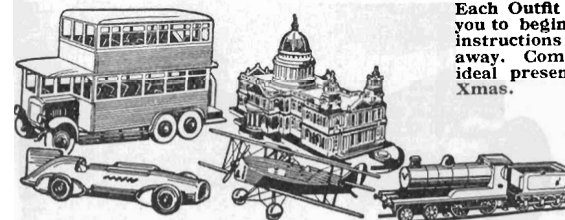


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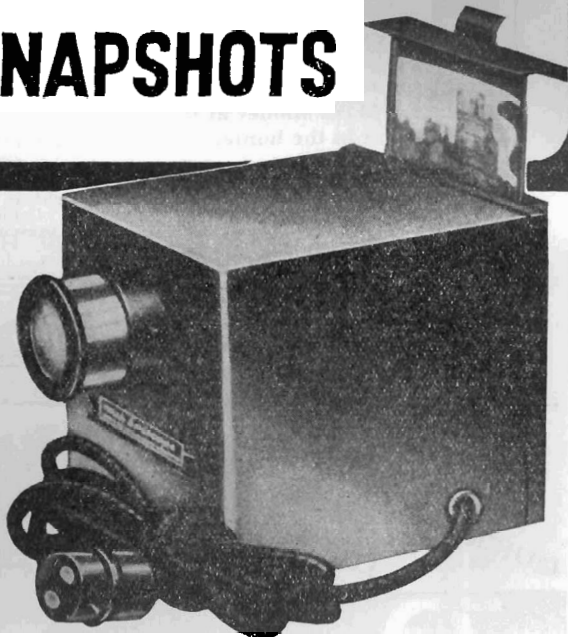
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# THE SPUR

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

Vol 1. No. 3.

NOVEMBER, 1937.

## EDITORIAL

**This is a significant occasion.** It is the first upon which the *Spur* has had an editorial, and it is the last *Spur* in the old tradition.

We've heard it lots of times. "Where," asks the reader, "are those ebullitions of boyishness that we expect to see in a school magazine; those fresh and unstilted limericks, those lashing lampoons, those gripping stories, and those vivid accounts of school happenings which the young can do so well and which they delight in doing? Where are they? **I don't see them.**"

The answer in the past—up to and including this number—is that they aren't there. "Why not?" asks the same tiresome critic, determined to drive us into a corner. "All this is prosy stuff, presumably the work of Masters. The *Spur* is spurious; not the work of the School at all, but of the Common Room. **I refuse to read it any more.**"

We spring to the defence.

In the first place there hasn't so far been much room for individual verse and stories. The reason is plain. Till now the *Spur* has appeared comparatively seldom—its first number recorded the whole history of the School's first year—with the result that original contributions have been rather crowded out, purely for financial reasons.

Secondly, any school magazine run by boys must depend largely upon the Sixth Form for its inspiration and contents. And we've only just acquired one. Now it is there, free from the impending menace of General Schools, able to devote its long hours of leisure to producing a boys' magazine such as has never been seen before. We want lots of contributions from the rest of the School too, but it must be upon the Sixth that we finally depend.

And lastly, we must take issue seriously with the critic who claims that the Staff are pompous. To begin with, they're not, and, to go on with, if they are, now the chance



is given for the rising generation to be served. Let them rush in and seize it. We refuse to argue any more.

So, from now onwards, the *Spur* will make its bow in *the last two or three weeks of every term*. Thus much more space will be left for original material. And, early next term, we will have a mass meeting to appoint a permanent staff of boys, learned editors, judicial reviewers, vivid reporters, and energetic writers of prose and verse.

Watch for the announcement. Then roll up in your hundreds and ask for jobs.

### HEADMASTER'S NOTES

Having endured the floods of last winter and the herring-boned trenches of early summer, our playing fields are now giving of their best, and we are glad to record our gratitude to the County authorities responsible. When a few bald patches have been re-sown, we should have next year a first-class Rugby pitch. The high netting above the fence is as great a convenience to our neighbours as to ourselves. It is even hoped that the extension round the south side of the playing field may one day enclose tennis courts. So far it has served only as an arena for the Athenians' bonfire. Expectation runs high that at last we are soon to have planted a row of poplars, which should do something to conceal the architectural horrors which surround us.

It is perhaps blessing as well as coincidence that whenever our Chairman comes to visit us the coal cart follows hard behind, because himself the victim of our difficulties, he has spared no effort to overcome them. At present the extrication of a car from even the widened path is as much an accomplishment as driving out of the Lex Garage in the theatre rush, but when next year Doctor Bradley's scheme is completed with the extension of the asphalt from playground to fence, a wide white line separating playground from park, every car should be happy.

The introduction of gaily coloured drinking mugs inspired Mr. Rogers to return to School Dinner as a subject for painting. His picture called "Glasses" was first exhibited at Agnew's, and now it is hanging in the Carnegie International Exhibition at Pittsburg, U.S.A. The *New York Times* writes: "Gaiety here asserts once more its

nimble prerogative in Claude Rogers's colourful sketch, 'Glasses'." One thinks that our Art Master must have been uncannily successful in rendering the midday hurly-burly of food and chatter to have its gaiety recognized in terms of paint on the other side of the Atlantic. Mr. Rogers is also exhibiting with the London Group at the New Burlington Galleries.

The School Diary, sponsored by the Second Master, has been a great success. As a means of communicating fixtures at School to parents it is going far to overcome boys' obstinate reluctance to carry home invitations. It would be a help if every parent ensured each term that his son had one in his possession, and insisted moreover on consulting it at intervals.

When Mr. Halliwell designed our badge, he included what we thought were three outstanding features of the district—the arterial road, the bridge, and the electricity. He certainly had no idea of the prophetic power that it was likely to become. With the published photograph of the threatened run-over, our bridge is seen to be an accurate representation of what the run-over is to be.

Hamlet's theatrical history makes the Treasury smack its lips, and think confidently of the Dramatic Challenge Cup for which all the Houses are going to compete next term. At the Old Vic. the first question asked when the season opens is the date of the "Hamlet" production. Mr. Gielgud's London production ran for 155 performances, and made, after deducting entertainment tax, £33,507. Its success may in some measure be due to the habit of folk collecting "Hamlets" as others collect cigarette cards. The late Mr. Newton saw ninety actors in the part, while for the Editor of *Who's Who in the Theatre* Laurence Olivier was his fiftieth Hamlet. Shakespeare remains the most successful dramatist in the world, and "Hamlet" his most popular play. We look forward therefore with confidence to our own four-night run.

Miss Auriol Lee, who came down to give professional blessing to our cast, before they entered upon the intensive stage of rehearsal, had a good story to tell of a recent "Hamlet" in New York. On the programme Shakespeare

was printed in apologetic insignificance: the name of the young man responsible for the version performed, in huge block capitals. As she left the theatre she was assaulted by proud parents, who exclaimed: "Oh, Miss Lee, you must forgive our excitement, but, you see, that was our boy's play."

\* \* \* \*

At the Conference on the study of Shakespeare in August at Stratford-on-Avon, the Headmaster delivered a lecture on the place which the acting of Shakespeare should occupy in schools. It is anticipated that next year, the Conference will be so arranged as to be immediately useful to all Higher Certificate candidates. In that event Raynes Park will certainly send its representatives.

\* \* \* \*

We welcome to the Staff Mr. Grubb, Mr. Raynham, Mr. James, and Mr. Moore. Rumour has it that an important factor in making appointments is the likely number of runs each candidate will score against the School XI in the Staff cricket match. Although the suggestion is unfounded, the Staff look forward with increased confidence to next July's encounter. Masters are at present divided among the universities as follows:—Cambridge 9, London 5, Oxford 1—the Headmaster.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. Courchée goes to the Headmastership of Millom County Secondary School, taking with him our congratulations, good wishes, and thanks for all that he has done here for the mathematics and the Scouts. We hope that he and Mrs. Courchée will find every happiness among the mountains of Cumberland. Mr. Raynham succeeds Mr. Courchée as Senior Mathematics Master and Scoutmaster. A second Mathematics Master has yet to be appointed.

\* \* \* \*

Mrs. Naomi Mitchison gave a most valuable talk on archæology and ancient sculpture, while Doctor Evans-Pritchard talked of field work in anthropology. Mr. Hill, whose lecture on Mincing Lane was so much appreciated last year, talked about furs and skins. It would be useful to hear of other parents who would be willing to come and talk with authority on practical life in the business world.

\* \* \* \*

The afternoon of July 2nd will stand out in memory, for then it was that the School had the honour of listening for

forty-five minutes to Mr. George Lansbury, P.C., M.P. Fresh from his interviews with President Roosevelt, Signor Mussolini, and Herr Hitler, he spoke with intimate knowledge of the possibilities of European conciliation, in which he ardently believes. The closing passage of his speech, in which he testified as an old man to his faith in the power of love, was as moving as any oratory in our memory. From anyone else it would have sounded the emptiest sentimentality: from George Lansbury it was the sincere expression of a faith which can move mountains. His enthusiasm for the atmosphere of the School was inspiring, and when in reply to the remark: "Yes, we can do something here," he said, "You can do anything here, my boy," the words will linger always as a clarion call to greater and sterner effort.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. Alan Clark, an old Whitgiftian now reading English at Saint Edmund Hall, Oxford, was an honorary member of the Common Room during July, and gave useful help during a crowded part of the term. We welcome Mr. Birchmore and Mr. Robinson, of London University, as Student Masters during the year.

\* \* \* \*

Early this term Mr. Graham Stainforth was host to a party of boys at Hampton Court Palace. Interest was enhanced because he was our guide, for from intimate knowledge he was able to call attention to many new aspects. His mother gave us a superb tea in her apartments in the Palace, to see which was counted a rare privilege.

\* \* \* \*

Our congratulations are due to Councillor Drake, not only for his recovery, which we welcome, but also for the pluck which he has shown in reassuming so quickly his active and useful life, and for refusing to be thrust by severe illness into prolonged convalescence.

\* \* \* \*

At the Empire Rally of Youth, in connection with the Coronation, the School was represented at Westminster Abbey and the Albert Hall by Jepson and Roberts. It fell to Jepson to move the vote of thanks to the Chief Education Officer and Mrs. Haig-Brown at the tea which they gave to all the representatives from Surrey schools.



The excellent practice whereby boys on leaving the School give to the Library a book, duly inscribed with their name and date of presentation, is taking root. It is a means whereby the Library shelves receive necessary recruitment, and boys are thus enabled to show in tangible form something of what the School has meant to them. It is hoped that in future no boy will leave without consulting the Librarian about his presentation book.

\* \* \* \*

Our School Charity Collection at the end of the Summer Term slumped alarmingly. We were able to send to the Basil Jellicoe Memorial Home in Somerstown a cheque for only £2 18s., as against £4 7s. at Easter. This will never do, for in trying to make two ends meet, those responsible for providing for recreation through games and physical training of some of the poorest of London's young people rely on our quota of support. We are most anxious when the collection is made on Monday, December 20th, that well over £5 will be realized. Every boy can play his part in thinking ahead of what he can do for those less fortunate than himself.

\* \* \* \*

We welcome the newly born Surrey County Schools' Athletic Sports held on the University of London ground in July, and congratulate Hughes on achieving for us the first place in the 220 yards under sixteen.

\* \* \* \*

Of our eight candidates for the General School Certificate, four were successful: Fielding, Smith J., Hinton and Dorey. The two first-named did well enough to secure exemption from Matriculation.

\* \* \* \*

The name of Mr. Robert Mayer is respected wherever music is enjoyed, for it is he who has made possible first-class music for masses of children both at the Central Hall, Westminster, and at many centres up and down the country. It is hoped to start again a centre in Wimbledon, and a concert to discover the likely measure of support is to be given next March. Raynes Park will spare no effort to ensure the enrichment of the life of children of all schools in the neighbourhood which such concerts indubitably afford.

## PRIZE-GIVING

The Hall was packed on the evening of October 29th for the Prize-giving ceremony. Flowers crowded the steps of the stage, the floodlights gleamed, and the books on the table, awaiting presentation, looked most attractive.

The Chairman of the Governors, Dr. J. E. C. Bradley, welcomed the parents and visitors, saying that occasions such as this provided a good opportunity for them to meet and to see and hear what the County was doing for their boys. A boy to whom he had recently talked was convinced that speakers welcomed this chance to lecture a defenceless audience. He was not sure about this, but was not going to delay letting them start any longer.

In his report, the Headmaster emphasized that it was important for the School now to be given a chance of settling down and consolidating its position after two years of breathless existence. Its organization now approached normality, with eleven Forms, five Houses, and three Clubs. Next year two whole Forms would be presented for the General School Examination, and a small nucleus of boys would start after Christmas to work for the Higher Certificate in 1939. There was still too large a proportion of small boys over responsible Seniors, but this problem would progressively disappear, especially if parents would disregard the blandishments of an immediate but poorly paid post when their boy reached the age of sixteen, leaving him longer at school to reap the benefits of advanced work in the Sixth Form and of an opportunity to hold positions of responsibility. Where circumstances demanded it, the County were able to help in the support of a boy at this stage.

The Summer General Schools result of two exemptions from Matriculation and four certificates out of eight candidates was not unsatisfactory. The demand for Matriculation on the part of employers was often unfortunate in its results, but the examination was valuable as a barometer of the efficiency of the School, and perhaps served a useful purpose in reminding everyone of the emphasis that should be laid upon education for work as against education for leisure. The cart must not be put before the horse in this connection, any more than the Physical Fitness Campaign should be allowed to make people regard fitness with a morbid pre-occupation.

But there were other considerations too. School was no longer a place where a lesson was to be learned, but where a life was to be lived. The boy must "grow and wax strong in spirit, filled with wisdom." The school day provided for every side of that development, body, character and brain. The provision of dinner and tea for an increasing number of boys made it possible for them to take full part in games and in all the other multifarious out-of-school activities. Clubs, Societies, and the Library provided full opportunities. "Julius Cæsar" last winter had been such a success that ambitious schemes for this year's "Hamlet" were fully warranted. The play had been an artistic triumph, and the School's music was now following rapidly in its steps. The Choir was improving daily; the Staff Recital had been a great success; the Friday Recitals organized by Mr. Benjamin and the visits of boys to the Robert Mayer concerts had been of the greatest value and greatly appreciated. Talks from distinguished men and women in many walks of life, factory visits, the visit of the Balliol Players, and the Lithograph Exhibition had all added to the School's chance of looking through

"Charm'd magic casements, opening on the foam  
Of perilous seas, in faery lands forlorn."

Elsewhere the Scout Camp, the small beginnings in the way of trips to the Continent in the summer holidays, which it was hoped would grow greatly in numbers, the new projector, the coaching lavished on Rugby, Cricket and Hockey, had all made their contribution to the growth of the School. But it must now settle down to establish firmly the new traditions and ideals it had set itself to follow.

The Headmaster welcomed Mr. Gurner, under whom he had worked before coming to Raynes Park, and Mr. Malim, from whom he had always received "sage counsel, timely encouragement, and great example."

Mr. F. B. Malim, M.A., lately Master of Wellington College, presented the prizes. His speech was delivered sitting on the table and was more an informal talk than the lecture the Chairman had made us expect. He spoke of the School as an "Alma Mater," comparing it with the mothers who had so much power of good in the education of their sons. Nobody thought of his mother as an institution; she had a separate personality, and so had a school. An ancient school like Winchester gave its sons the feeling that its personality was formed already and had existed for years, something spiritual that was only changed and modified very

gradually. It was not to be found in buildings, playing fields, or other material things; it often owed much to one man, but was always greater than one man. It was manifold, complicated, mysterious and great, the product of a multitude of human personalities, living, playing, working, teaching and being taught.

Raynes Park was still young, and its character was still being moulded, still in the plastic state. Experiments could still be made without compunction, but these early stages of development had a double importance, for in them an example was set that others were to follow in later years. Something was now being built up—that personality of Raynes Park that would have a guiding influence on generations of boys in future times.

A vote of thanks was proposed on behalf of the Governors by Professor Hughes Parry, and seconded by Mr. Ronald Gurner, Master of Whitgift.

## PRIZE LIST

### SUBJECT PRIZES

*English*.—Treen, Rodrigues, Vaughan, P. W., Poulter, Rogers, Loudoun.

*History*.—Robbins, Simmons, Vaughan, D. G., Heron, Brodrick.

*Geography*.—Fielding (and M. Cert.), Toms, Richards, Grills, Petit.

*Latin*.—Palk, Honeker, Thompson, A., Catell, Bartram.

*French*.—Hinton, Cook, A. V. I., Gates, Lucas, F., Maltus, D. J.

*German*.—Eyles.

*Mathematics*.—Molchanoff, Corps, Winder, Sommers, Saxby, Collins.

*Science*.—Smith, J. (for Biology), de Potier (for Chemistry and Physics), Christian (for Chemistry), Gibbs, H. T. (for Chemistry and Physics), Austin (for Chemistry, Physics and Biology), Carr (for Science).

*Art*.—Lamberth, Nagle, E. J., Sleigh, Holwill.

*Woodwork*.—Waight, Spurlock.

## SCHOOL PRIZES

*Headmaster's Essay Prize.*—Mason.

*Mr. Gibb's Geography Prize.*—Senior, Mason. Junior, Sommers.

*General Knowledge Prizes.*—Senior, Vaughan, D. G. Junior, Bedford.

*Holiday Art Prize.*—Lamberth.

*Scripture Recitation Prizes.*—Buckhurst, Cockman, Bartram, James, Vaughan, P. W., Grills.

*Cock House Cup.*—Halliwell's, Roberts, G.

---

## SCHOOL OFFICERS, Christmas Term, 1937

*Head of the School.*—E. B. Jepson.

### *School Prefects*

G. N. Roberts, A. de Potier, D. W. Taplin, K. Miller,  
R. V. Grills, J. C. Clayden.

*Captain of Rugby.*—D. W. Taplin.

*Secretary of Rugby.*—R. V. Grills.

---

## HOUSE NOTES

### Cobb's

At the beginning of the Summer Term we celebrated the winning of the Athletics Cup for the second year in succession. The House Supper took place in the traditional manner, that is, by eating what, perhaps, was too much, followed by "quips and pranks and youthful jollity" on the trench-scarred School Ground, which activity was sedately termed Rounders.

### CRICKET

*Captain.*—E. Jepson. *Vice-Captain.*—L. C. Fielding.

Having lost none of our previous year's successful XI, the outlook for the season was propitious. As time went on it became clear that our batting did not show the desired improvement. Our strength lay in our bowlers, Jepson and Clayden, and in our wicket-keeper, W. Stephens. Our batsmen throughout the season did not play themselves in, but

let themselves be tempted to hit out before getting set. The result was a series of disappointments and low batting averages.

Jepson captained the School XI, the House being represented regularly also by Clayden and Mason. Dawson, Stephens and R. P. Hill played for the School on several occasions.

### HOUSE MATCHES

#### *v. Gibb's.*

We dismissed Gibb's for a very low score and went out confidently to bat. Much to our chagrin, our opponents disposed of us for a total of even less! Our second innings was rather better, and resulted in a narrow win for us. But we were not very pleased with ourselves.

#### *v. Halliwell's*

The outcome of this match was decisive, and lost us the Cricket Cup. Halliwell's made short work of us. Panic took possession of our batsmen after a catastrophic opening, when Crouch, with his slow twisters, bowled our steadiest men one after the other. R. P. Hill and F. Roberts made a valiant stand, but nevertheless we were soundly beaten by over an innings. **How are the mighty fallen!**

A disturbing feature of the season's cricket was the absence of any promising "stars" among the Junior members of the House. To Jepson and Clayden we owe a large measure of our success, for they bore the brunt of the battles and were indefatigable in their efforts in the nets. It is clear that we should try to walk before we can run, and use the nets to strengthen our defence play before attempting to "slog."

### SWIMMING

Attendance at the baths was good throughout the term, our Secretary, Stephens, and Barnes setting an admirable example. At the Swimming Sports we lay second to Halliwell's after the qualifying rounds. Unluckily we had the misfortune to enter without a Junior Relay team. During the Sports all three Houses were leading on points at one time or another, and the finish looked like being very close—as indeed it was. Halliwell's drew away at the end and won by a comfortable margin, while we dropped to third place.

We may, however, allow ourselves a modest pat on the back, for our team really gave that last ounce which goes so far. Barnes, R. F. Hill, Gurney and the brothers Marshall deserve special mention.

#### AUTUMN TERM

We welcomed this term seven new members bearing ancient and glorious names to fill our depleted ranks, to whom we look to make good our losses. We trust, by the mingling of our hopes and their aspirations, that they will see to it, when their turn comes, that we hold what we have held, and will strive to advance the honour of their House. To those who have left us to serve under other colours, we offer our thanks for services rendered, and recall (we hope with them) past glories shared, at the same time assuring them that there are as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it.

#### RUGGER

We are fortunate in still having in our team seven veterans of our past two triumphant seasons, including our Captain, Jepson. At the beginning of term W. Stephens was unanimously elected House Vice-Captain and Secretary of Rugger. The formation of the two additional Houses has sapped much of our strength, especially in the three-quarter line, so that it is up to those selected to play for the House to fill those gaps and make our defence sound. The most serious loss was the breaking-up of the R. P. Hill and Austin combination. But writing, as I am, on the eve of the first House match, I am sure I can voice the determination of us all to hold that most prized of trophies, the Rugger Cup, which, up to the time of writing, has been held only by Cobb's since our foundation.

#### LEAGUE RUGGER

Our measure of success was not great. Several of our Juniors show promise, which is due in great part to the admirable reorganization of School Rugger, and the institution of League Rugger, which has not only afforded more opportunities of play and the advantages of playing with boys of similar size and prowess, but the valuable experience of match play. It is only fair to bear in mind that our weakness in League matches was in part due to the number of Cobb boys playing on Big Side.

#### OLD BOYS

It is with great pleasure that we have seen L. C. Fielding, our late and lamented Vice-Captain, so often at the School. He has the signal distinction of being our first distinguished Old Boy. He is now working with a great insurance company in London. We would like him to know that as fervently as he insures others against failure, is he assured of our good wishes and warm welcome here. May the loss we sustain in him be proportionate to the success he wins for himself.

#### Gibb's

The following are the House Officers :—

*House Captain and Captain of Rugby.*—D. W. Taplin.

*Captain of Hockey.*—F. J. Treen.

*Captain of Athletics.*—J. T. Launder.

*Captain of Swimming.*—R. R. Winder.

This last year has not been quite so full of successes as it might have been, but we can say that it has at least been one long effort. And some of our efforts have not been in vain. Our successes have been three in number—the winning of the Swimming Cup for the second time, the consequent House Supper, and the winning of the Rugby Leagues.

Having mentioned our gains, we will now consider (with regret) our losses. Last year we lost the Athletic Cup to Cobb's by a very small margin, and if there had been a better turn-out in the qualifying rounds we should certainly have got it. In this year's Sports we were not quite so successful in the fact that we lost the Cup to Cobb's by a much bigger margin, but we were successful in the fact that, in spite of abominable weather conditions, the turn-out was far better and there was much more enthusiasm. We can therefore say that we lost the Sports Cup, not through want of effort, but through lack of strength in the Competitive Sports.

\* \* \* \*

To those who regard the House score book as the history of its Cricket, the 1937 season must seem very unsatisfactory. But those who saw our eleven in their two struggles will realize that our weakness in playing fast bowling accounted largely for our defeats, and that on both occasions we put up a keen struggle.

### *v. Halliwell's*

The Halliwell's attack, relying rather on a good length than shock bowling, had little difficulty in dismissing us for 42. Then our perhaps unenterprising attack was hit for 81 before Roberts sportingly declared for 4 wickets. In the second innings our score was more formidable and we left Halliwell's to score just over fifty for victory. With five wickets down for eleven, we seemed to be on top, but a steady knock by Daniels gave Halliwell's a three-wicket victory. (Daniels 34, Wotton 8 for 23.)

### *v. Cobb's*

The fact that Cobb's used only two bowlers, both of those fast, in both innings, shows our position at a glance. We were dismissed for 26 and 11, and no one was able to play the inspired bowling of Clayden, who took 14 wickets for as many runs. In the first innings Wotton, 5 wickets for 11, and Treen, 2 for 11, adopting similar tactics, were able to run through the Cobb's XI, and Gibb's led by one run on the first innings. But in the second innings none of Gibb's bowlers could find a length, and Cobb's continued to bat until 46 were on the board, Hill, R. P., scoring 24.

\* \* \* \*

Our first success of the year came in the Swimming, when, in spite of our loss of Whiteley, who was such a tower of strength last year, we succeeded in holding the Swimming Cup against our competitors. Practically everyone in the House who could swim pulled his weight, and it is difficult to single out individuals. But Winder worked tirelessly, both as a Captain and as a competitor in the Sports, and his diving must be recorded.

The House Swimming Supper was as successful this year as it was the previous year. Boys who had left our House for new Houses attended, our guests being the rival House Captains. The food was excellent, and games such as "Murder" were played afterwards. But Mr. Gibb's surprise item was the high light of the evening. This turned out to be a comic film, and was much appreciated by all the members of the House.

We shall hope for another surprise item at our next House Supper!!

Our other success was in the House Leagues, which were started this year. They gave the lesser lights of the House a chance to show their ability, and this they did by defeating both the two old Houses and the two new ones. The spirit of the team was very welcome, but we should have appreciated a little more spirit from the House in the form of a crowd on the touch-line to cheer the team on.

These Leagues, which were tried out as an experiment, proved to be very successful, and we hope that they will be continued next year.

\* \* \* \*

As for the Rugby Cup, it is a little early to say, but our hopes are high for such another victory as the House Leagues.

### **Halliwell's**

*Captain.*—G. N. Roberts. *Vice-Captain.*—D. T. Parker.

At the close of our second year as a House, by virtue of winning both the Hockey and Cricket Cups, we won the Cock House Trophy.

The House Suppers which resulted from these two victories showed that there was amongst us as great an ability for clowning as for winning games. Some of us will have lasting memories of certain faces being wreathed in jam and the presentation of a bat to the *Victor Ludorum*.

During the first half of this Rugger season, three members of our House—G. N. Roberts, A. de Potier and Grubb—have been awarded their Rugger Colours. This is a fine achievement, and we must take this opportunity of offering our congratulations to them.

At the beginning of this School Year we, like the other original Houses, lost many of our boys to the two new Houses, Milton's and Newsom's. This was inevitable and we are very sorry to lose them, and yet we are glad to see that some have taken over executive positions in other Houses. We have especially to congratulate V. R. Grills on becoming House Captain of Newsom's.

At the same time last September we gained some valuable new recruits in the boys drafted to us from the Clubs. We must again welcome these boys to our House, and express our hope that they will find pleasure and happiness in working and in being members of our community.

## CRICKET, 1937

By beating Gibb's House 146 runs to 132, and Cobb's House by an innings and seven runs, we won the Cricket Cup, which we so nearly won last year.

In the first match against Gibb's on May 31st, having won the toss, we put them in first and they scored but 42 runs, their wickets falling fast and inexpensively. Richards took four wickets in his last two overs, and we had the excitement of seeing no runs scored by their last four men. We then went in and knocked up 70 for 4 before stumps were drawn at the end of the first day's play. After about twenty minutes' play on the second day, G. Roberts declared intuitively at 81 for 4, with only a lead of 39 runs. Gibb's again went in, and this time knocked our bowling all over the place and scored 90. This left us with 51 to get, which we got at the expense of 8 wickets after being 11 for 5 wickets. Daniels played a magnificent game and scored 34.

Against Cobb's on July 5th we had a much easier victory. They went in first and we quickly dismissed them for 42 runs. Crouch, who has since left us and joined Newsom's, with his slow spin bowling took 7 wickets for 22 runs, a very creditable effort. We then went in and knocked up a steady 35 for 2 wickets before the close of the first day's play. The second day we continued our steady scoring and were all out for 92. Cobb's, in their second innings, scored but 43 runs. This was mainly due to our good fielding. Many will remember Lake's acrobatic catch on the boundary, and it enabled us to win comfortably by an innings and 7 runs.

## SWIMMING

In the Swimming Sports of last July we became very near another victory. Slightly ahead on qualifying points, we started the Gala with high hopes and were just ahead of Gibb's when all the racing events were over. But Gibb's House superior Senior diving team took many points from us and they were just able to come out victorious after a very exciting duel for points throughout the Gala.

## RUGGER, 1937

### League Results

Halliwell's	v. Gibb's, 0—5.
„	v. Cobb's.
„	v. Newsom's, 30—11.
„	v. Milton's, 5—0.

The Rugger form shown by our House Juniors during this first season's League matches has been very reassuring and has left no doubt that the best traditions of the game will be carried on by our House in the future.

As it will be seen from the results printed above, our League team lost only one match. The House that beat us was Gibb's, and although there was no doubt as to who was the superior team at the time, it was perhaps unfortunate for us that we had to play them in our first match, as the improvement shown by our team in the last matches was very noticeable. Jordan's captaining improved with each game, and the experience gained during these matches will be valuable to the players when they take their place in House sides in future years. Franks as scrum half, Daniels as fly half, and Wells in the forwards played excellently, and under the capable leading of Jordan, the forwards as a body packed down, fell and followed up on the ball very well.

In our first House match of this season we were victorious. On November 11th we beat Newsom's 9—0, after a very hard-fought game. We can be forgiven a little feeling of pride when we note that there were no less than five old boys of the House playing for Newsom's, but even so we were still able to beat them.

We look forward to the other House matches with high hopes, for this season our team contains eight Big Side players, three of whom are Colours.

## Milton's

It is pleasant to be able to send our first House Notes to the *Spur*, and particularly so after watching, in wild excitement, the efforts of our Rugger XV in the first House match this afternoon. Whatever may happen now, we have shown on the field a determination not to give in, under any circumstances, until the final whistle has blown; and it was particularly good to see all the players come off the field happy in the knowledge that they had played very well indeed, and taking their defeat, which might so easily have been a victory, philosophically. We lost the match to Gibb's 5—6, the last try being scored against us at the last possible moment, a heart-breaking business after the tremendous effort we had shown. But in this game, as in every other we have played, it was obvious that to lose the game did not mean that we did not enjoy it. In the League matches we have lost successively to Newsom's 6—8 (after leading 6—)



at half-time), to Gibb's 3—14, to Cobb's 0—15, and to Halliwell's 0—6, and on every occasion the whole team thoroughly enjoyed the game.

It is early yet to discuss the House from any other point of view; there are projects on foot for more than one organization which will help to employ the non-athletic members, and we hope to be able to describe them in the next number. So far one can only report that more members of the House are stopping to dinner, and many more do their share at House and League matches than formerly. If we can create the tradition that School and House activities are of greater importance than those at home, than cinemas, for instance, and if every boy can be brought to see that there exists in the School some organization in which he can employ—and enjoy—himself, we shall be doing our share. Our progress has so far been encouraging; there is every reason to believe that it will be maintained.

### Newsom's

We started our adventure under quite favourable auspices. One or two boys actually said they were glad of a new House Master (they were probably wrong at the time, and have almost certainly changed their minds since). But, at the beginning of term there was a vague feeling that it was fun to be in on something new, though there were in many cases regrets to be overcome.

So far we are still very young, but if the spirit in which the League matches and our one House match so far have been played is anything to go by, the future is rosy—a long vista of House Suppers. We won the first two Leagues, against Cobb's fairly easily and against Milton's by a great second-half revival, after being six points down at half-time. For the game with Halliwell's we had a lapse and played downright badly, but against Gibb's we staged a terrific come-back and played very well in a defeat by a better side.

For the first House match—against Halliwell's—we gave away an immense amount of weight in the scrum. But Grills's leadership made our small, inexperienced pack a real obstacle to the steam-roller. They got a low hard shove in tight and often heeled to ball, but never quickly enough, partly because the back row had a tendency to interfere with it. The backs were starved of scoring opportunities, but Austin, Crouch and Richards especially were magnificent in

defence, falling and tackling with heroism, and the other backs supported them nobly. Two of the Halliwell tries were unstoppable runaways, so the score by no means disgraced us, and we go forward with confidence to greater things in the fresh fields we have set ourselves to plough.

**The House ties have arrived.** Milton's tried to swindle us of our rightful design by an unworthy subterfuge, but we successfully countered it, and now go suitably adorned.

The next things we want are (i) a further addition to our increasing number at the House dinner table, and (ii) a really big crowd on the touch-line for the next House match and for all subsequent ones.

May we congratulate Grills and Austin on being awarded their 1st XV Colours? Richards and Barnes have also been playing in the team.

### HOUSE OFFICERS

*House Captain.*—R. V. Grills.

*Captain of Rugger.*—R. V. Grills.

Other officers not yet appointed.

### COCK HOUSE TROPHY, 1936-7

1	Halliwell's	...	...	...	20
2	Cobb's	...	...	...	17
3	Gibb's	...	...	...	7

### HOUSE LEAGUE TABLE, 1937

			Cobb's	Gibb's	Halliwell's	Milton's	Newsom's	Total Points
Cobb's	...	...		G	H	C	N	4
Gibb's	...	...	G		G	G	G	16
Halliwell's	...	...	H	G		H	H	12
Milton's	...	...	C	G	H		N	0
Newsom's	...	...	N	G	H	N		8

## CLUB NOTES

### ATHENIANS

The bright spot of our activities in the immediate past was the Firework Display, while that of the immediate future will be the inter-Club Rugger contest. The former went off very successfully, as also did the box in which reserves of fireworks were stored. This incident, although spectacular and even frightening, really was unprepared for, and seemed to take the place of the procession of guys, which for some reason never appeared. Our originality evidently extended to changing skyrockets into grass snakes. A fuller account by a "special correspondent" appears elsewhere, but we must record here our special thanks to the Staff, who helped both before and during the display; to Mr. Moore for his shavings, to Mr. Cobb for his advice on turf, and to Mr. Milton for the use of the Hockey pitch.

The Rugger outlook is very promising. There was an enthusiastic turn-out for the practice match, and one feels that some of our newcomers have not wasted any time on the flood grounds this term. Only about half a dozen boys do not play at all, and of the others a very large number are prepared to play on any day of the week. What we lack in weight and speed we certainly have in courage and keenness.

A word of praise must be given to the Cricket XI of last summer. The team was victorious in both the Spartan and Trojan matches. There was some good batting and bowling by Fisher, J. E., and Green, F. E., proved a reliable wicket-keeper.

In the Swimming Sports we could not retain the Inter-Club Shield, and finished only second. Only a quarter of the Club are attending the swimming baths this season. This is a pity, and it is hoped that several will change their minds next term. As most of those attending are already swimmers, a great opportunity to learn to swim and become at home in the water is being missed.

It is very pleasing to record that only a very few boys now do not stay to dinner regularly.

In the Form lists made out for the first half of this term, three boys were placed above +10, and another ten above +3. With this there were comparatively few on the negative side.

## OPEN NIGHT

There is no limit to the enthusiasm shown by the School for cramming its parents and visitors with educational matter. The big opportunity only comes once a year, but this summer's Open Night was seized again avidly as a chance of passing on the information we take in, and, at the same time, of showing others what we do in school hours. Lest minds unused to academic strain should feel overcome, there was an interval when physical training held the stage, and another for refreshments.

But to proceed from the general to the particular. The Hall was hung with pictures of every style and colouring, every pattern and design. Bright and joyous splashes predominated, but there was some excellent sober drawing. The visitor could see how unfettered are the efforts of the Art Room, and how successful. All through the evening viewers thronged along the walls, pleased and perhaps enlivened.

The Geography Room had become a Meteorological Station, where one could hear and see the theory and practice of weather forecasting, or discover the precise amount of rain the Rugger pitch had to endure during the winter. And there was a most intriguing box into which the visitor was encouraged to look. It showed him how a photograph of an island was taken from the air. The demonstrator in this department stood up excellently to some highly knowledgeable questioning.

The laboratories were once again a centre to which the crowds moved in a mass, many people doing the rounds two or three times. Here was a bicycle that didn't move, so rigged as to show the output of energy on the part of the feverishly pedalling rider; an experiment with carbon dioxide; the reproducing of the School Badge by electrotyping; an aquarium of water creatures in captivity, whose habits and eccentricities were eagerly explained and comprehended; some homely mice; a neon light; a black box in which the snares and delusions in matching colours were made obvious as well as understandable. Enthralling, instructive, fascinating and creditable it all was, but time was perhaps too short for the layman fully to grasp all the information that was offered.

For its exhibition, History had overflowed from its own room to the one next door. Perhaps its greatest achievement was the comprehensive exposition it gave of the working of British Local Government. Particularly if one lives

in Surrey, there is now no excuse for not knowing exactly how the rates are spent, who spends them, and who represents one's interest on the Council. The diagrams explained all these very clearly; they were boldly drawn, and none but the necessary details were put in. There was also a chart showing the outstanding events of the last four or five thousand years, putting the puny struggles of the moderns in their right perspective with regard to the ancient civilizations. (But the writer *still* maintains that Queen Neferteti was in the wrong century.) Arms of every recent age were all around, documents of historical importance and interest, drawings illustrating the costumes of all ages. Models of medieval castles, the landing of the Romans, and a Mesopotamian temple added realism. But the finest thing in this section, if one may discriminate, was the model diagram of the medieval Three-field System, showing the drawbacks and advantages of our ancestors' agricultural methods.

In the Library Mr. Oates lectured twice to interested audiences on the scheme and style of Aristophanes' "Frogs" which the Balliol Players were soon to perform at the School. There can be no doubt that made the prospect so entertaining that many who came, if not to scoff, at any rate in a spirit of scepticism, returned to the performance to pray. Brisk booking was done outside the Library doors.

On the grass beyond the playground the Gym. Display attracted a large crowd to watch the gyrations and leaps of Mr. Sweeney's earnest pupils. There is a Latin quotation about this, but it is so hackneyed that its message cannot be printed, though it remains appropriate just the same.

Refreshments went briskly in the Hall, but at Fielder's improvised bookshop the response to the appeal to buy books for the library was disappointing.

Credit is due in no small measure to those who laboured so long to make the whole affair a success; brains and brawn, mind and matter, all played their part in showing our visitors that, at Raynes Park, time's march is as quick as it is anywhere, its progress marked by new milestones in every department whose work was exhibited.

## THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

There is little of a startling nature to record in the annals of the Library since a report last appeared in these pages. It has been a period of quiet consolidation, uninterrupted by any outstanding achievement. Nevertheless, those of us who know the Library feel that we are steadily progressing towards that ideal which we have always set ourselves—a love of books and a true appreciation of their value in the life of the School. Tangible evidence of this progress is difficult to discover. But it cannot be denied that the Library is a centre of absorbing interest to an increasing minority of boys: that its devotees are not only more numerous but more discriminating in their choice of reading: that their literary taste is developing towards maturity.

What statistics are available are not without significance. The average number of books borrowed in a week has been 185 during the present term: during the corresponding term of last year the figure was 103. A record was established when on a very wet Monday in November no less than 74 books were borrowed in a single day. The number of books now on the shelves is 1809. This represents an increase of 470 since the last report. Of these only 40 were bought, the remaining 430 being gifts. Parents and friends of the School provided 242, the Headmaster and members of the Staff 52, the boys 101, and the Open Night 35.

The walls of the Library are no longer hideous with "blood," and our pictorial decoration is now complete. Designs for new tables and chairs have been made and approved: it remains for the County Council to put them into execution. Magazine racks have been fitted by our newly acquired friend and ally, Mr. Moore: the necessary magazines have been promised from the School treasury. The "Library Monthly Review" has passed from the censorious hands of the Librarian: its destiny now lies with the Editor and his Committee of boys. So far they have battled cheerfully with the difficulties of producing a readable broadsheet with such meagre resources as a borrowed typewriter and that fearsome instrument whose true function is to reproduce examination papers. The agitation for a School printing press has begun and will have to be satisfied sooner or later.

In conclusion, we would express our gratitude to all who have sponsored the Library's cause, whether it be the Headmaster or the select band of the faithful who daily perform a

sometimes dull and often arduous task under the direction of Fielding or his successor, Clayden; to the innumerable parents, friends and boys who have presented books, among them Mr. Carr-Jones, who generously provided an entire *Encyclopædia Britannica*; Mr. Rudolph Messel, who has given over 100 books during the year; Mrs. Naomi Mitchison, Miss Odlum, Mr. John Roberts, Mrs. Rourke.

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### THE DEBATING SOCIETY

So far this term there have been two debates and a mock trial. The debates took the following form:—

Friday, October 1st.

“This House deplores the lack of a Spirit of Adventure in Modern Youth.”

For the Motion: Hinton and Launder.

Against the Motion: Grills and J. Smith.

The Motion was lost by 31 votes to 2.

Friday, November 12th.

“This House welcomes the opportunity given to the Government of ridding the British people of the burden of Empire.”

For the Motion: Grubb and A. Milton, Esq.

Against the Motion: D. T. Parker and J. Grubb, Esq.

The Motion was lost by 9 votes to 13.

On Friday, October 22nd, a Mock Trial was held in the **Geography Room**. The prisoner was charged with the theft of the silver cups belonging to the School, and many witnesses were called to establish evidence against him. Great credit is due to Counsel for the Defence, who not only broke down the witnesses for the prosecution, but secured the acquittal of his client. The principal actors were effectively clothed in wigs and gowns, and everyone, from the usher to the judge, played his part very well indeed. The experiment was a great success and deserves repetition.

The Society is making progress; the speaking has improved, there is more life and keenness in scoring debating points, and at last members are learning to speak from notes with assurance. But we need more support yet. Those who have attended regularly will bear witness to the fact that

the meetings are full of profit, of interest and of amusement; they could be made very much more so with a larger attendance; a flourishing Debating Society can make a great contribution to the life of the School, and the Senior Forms in particular would be doing a great service both to themselves and to the School if they would keep open those three or four Friday afternoons in the term which are given over to meetings of the Society.

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### THE PROJECTOR IN USE

This term has seen the coming into regular usage of our talkie projector which we were able, through the generosity of our many friends, to purchase at the end of the Summer Term. Once but a mysterious black box to be gazed upon with reverence from afar, it has now become a familiar sight to all, and few there are who have not gazed into its shining interior and wondered why it is necessary for the film “to go round so many little wheels.”

Although its primary use is to serve an educational purpose, for the instructional film, with its vivid portrayal of otherwise unfamiliar sights, is now an accepted teaching aid, the projector has been used for many informal film shows. Each Monday lunchtime there has been a short film show for any who wished to attend, and judging by the large numbers who have sought admission to the Physics Lab., these have been popular. If all goes well, they will be continued next term.

Unfortunately, the cost of hiring films is comparatively high, and for these shows we have had to rely very much on films which we could borrow free of charge and with little choice in the matter of subject. So while all the films have not been of general appeal, most of us enjoyed “Methods of Communication,” which gave us a picture summary of the ways in which news is carried from the time of the “runner of messages” to the coming of the automatic telephone.

On some Saturday mornings we have tried a more ambitious programme lasting over an hour, for which the charge of threepence was made. True, our first show did not start quite to time, for the films spent the morning going round in the post-office van, to be delivered two hours after the programme was timed to start; but things like that are only allowed to happen once. Again it must be stressed that the hiring charges of the films has been nothing like covered

by our receipts, and although we wish to continue these shows, it will depend very much on whether we can get the necessary numbers to forsake their Saturday morning slumbers or visits to the "Mickey Mouse" Club.

Most of the films shown so far have been of the "documentary" type, which tell in a succession of sound pictures the story of some everyday happening. Perhaps we were a little bewildered by Paul Rotha's shots of whirling wheels and spinning cranks in "Great Cargoes," the story of the building of the new Southampton Docks; but the new type of animated diagram film, "The Expansion of Germany," made clear in all our minds the events which led up to the Great War. By the time the Magazine is in the press we hope to have varied these films with some of the earlier silent films of the greatest of all screen comedians, the inimitable Charlie.

On the more definitely instructional side we have seen the book film, "Chapter and Verse," which was shown to the whole school, films on such varied subjects as "Roots," "Vision," "Water in the Air," and the "International Rugger" film, from which were gained many tips to be put into practice on the field of play. Perhaps the most valuable have been the biological films, for only by means of the moving picture can actual movements of animals and plants be seen and processes taking months in actual time be speeded up so that complete growth can be watched in less than a minute.

So we have made a start, and the film which, whether we like it or not, is becoming one of the more important factors in national life, is also finding its place in our education.

### INTERVIEW WITH A PRODUCER

"I can give you just five minutes," he said, as he looked at his watch. "Then I have to see twelve boys who want books changing, five who want stationery, advise the people who are working on the stage, find the Swimming Register, and give a private tuition in French. I am a very busy Bee, as you must realize."

I plunged quickly into my list of questions. Some of them were rather frivolous, but, on these occasions, he quite firmly changed the subject.

"What do you feel about producing 'Hamlet' this year?" I asked. "Is it a much more difficult and arduous undertaking than 'Julius Cæsar' last year?"

"Probably," he replied, "but it's quite different. In 'Cæsar' we were dealing with mass crowd effects. What matters in 'Hamlet' are the small details of individual characterization."

"Our cast is very young for such a task. Do you think they're capable of coping with the extra difficulties?"

"That remains to be seen. But I can say that I would never have undertaken it at all if I had not been sure that I had someone fully capable of taking the part of Hamlet himself."

"Aren't matters complicated by the extra difficulty confronting the junior members of the cast? Will they be able to grasp the meaning of the play and be carried on by it in the same way as they were in the 'Cæsar' crowd?"

"That's a bad question, because there is no crowd in 'Hamlet.' Anyway, I don't think the 'Cæsar' crowd as a whole was swept along so much by the play itself as by the influence of one or two key actors who gave them a lead."

"Well then, what about the people in the smaller parts? The kind who were conspirators last year. Will they understand 'Hamlet' as a play?"

"Perhaps they *won't* grasp the whole thing, but 'Hamlet' has so many cross-tracks and minor motives, ambition and revenge, for instance, that there should be nobody who cannot catch hold of *one*, whereas in 'Cæsar' the political motive was about the only one that mattered."

"What about our audience? They obviously enjoyed the broad canvas of 'Cæsar,' but what will their attitude be to the detail of 'Hamlet'?"

"There again you have the same thing. 'Hamlet' depends upon a single character in relation to various sets of contests and situations. It's Hamlet that matters all the time, with the King or the Queen, with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, with Horatio, with Ophelia. In 'Cæsar' it was almost right to say that the crowd was the principal character and that its importance lay in its effect upon Anthony and Brutus directly, and indirectly, when it was not even present, upon them and Cassius. If anything, the audience should find 'Hamlet' easier to enjoy, because, in spite of all the psychological considerations scholars and charlatans claim to find in it, it still remains a magnificent play as a play."

"Are you again having girls to play the women's parts?"

"Yes. The same two as last year are coming down to take part."

"Why are you having them, and not giving the parts to boys?"

"First of all, because there are only two girls' parts in the play, and because last year, in producing 'Cæsar,' I often thought what a magnificent Queen and Ophelia they would make, long before the idea of doing 'Hamlet' here was suggested. Secondly, because I think boys must be introduced to girls' parts in Shakespeare through the comedies, so that they may learn the mere mechanics of comparatively straightforward characterization before attempting the difficult task of playing the infinitely more complicated parts that are found in the tragedies."

"Do you feel that an acting tradition has been established in the School?"

"No, but it is *being* established. For instance, I was amazed at the first casting readings this term in the difference in the interpretation and reading of verse displayed by those who were in last year's play; then by the easy way in which these people fell into their stage positions and business; and, perhaps most important of all, by the serious attitude towards rehearsals that is everywhere apparent, and which is very gratifying."

At this moment, the peace of the Common Room was disturbed by a terrible commotion in the passage outside. The producer sprang to his feet.

"It must be for me," he said. "It always *is* for me." And he bustled out, sweeping from his desk, as he went, a bunch of keys, sixty exercise books, Polonius' costume, his gown and several files.

Once again the School hummed busily.

### THE STAFF CONCERT

Once again, on the 13th of October, the musical members of the Staff played and sang to a large audience of parents, visitors and boys, largely with their entertainment in view, but also with an eye to the collection that was to be taken at the end for the purchase of instruments for the School Orchestra.

Criticism of their performance would be impertinent, and comparisons everyone knows to be odious, but the greatest moments in the evening were undoubtedly the end of the *Adagio Cantabile* in the C Minor Sonata, with which Mr. Beecroft held the audience suspended breathlessly by the sheer beauty of the music for several seconds after it had stopped, and, in lighter vein, Mr. Sexty's energetic and enraged entry in the bass part of "Maiden Fair, O deign to tell," interrupting the warbling of Mr. Oates and Mr. Milton.

But the whole concert was the greatest possible success. The Golden Sonata showed three players combining delightfully; the slow movements of the Handel led up in well-judged stages to the bustle of the finale. Mr. Sexty's two groups of songs were greatly appreciated for their lightness of touch and control of range. The two Stanford ones were the most popular, "Father O'Flynn" because it was an old favourite, and the "Unbiddable Child" because here we quickly recognized and took to our hearts a new one. It must be sung again in the Hall, and soon.

Mr. Beecroft's playing only further convinced us that he is one of the best amateur pianists we have ever heard. An expert critic might have something to add, but we remain speechless with praise.

And the Raynes Park Male Quartet finished up a most successful evening, sending the audience away vastly entertained by their efforts, greatly impressed by what had gone before, and very grateful.

Reinforced by a munificent gift of £5 from the Spur Social Society, the collection reached the very satisfactory sum of £13 3s. 7d.

The programme is appended :—

Golden Sonata for two violins and piano *Purcell* (1658-1695)

Largo. Allegro. Grave. Allegro.

Violins : Mr. BEECROFT and Mr. MILTON.

Piano : Mr. SEXTY.

Sonata in C Minor. (Pathétique) *Beethoven* (1770-1827)

Grave—Allegro di molto e con brio.

Adagio cantabile. Rondo allegro.

Piano : Mr. BEECROFT.



Songs : (a) "Go to bed, sweet Muse" } R. Jones (c.1600)  
 (b) "Sweet Kate" ..... }  
 (c) "Arise, ye subterranean winds" }  
 Purcell (1658-1695)

Mr. SEXTY.

Sonata in D for violin and pianoforte. ... Handel (1685-1759)  
 Andante sostenuto. Allegro. Larghetto. Allegro.  
 Violin : Mr. MILTON.  
 Piano : Mr. BEECROFT.

Songs : (a) "Mother Carey" ..... Frederick Keel  
 (b) "Father O'Flynn" ..... } C. V. Stanford  
 (c) "The bold, unbiddable child" }  
 Mr. SEXTY

Polonaise in C Sharp Minor ..... Chopin (1810-1849)  
 Mr. BEECROFT

Part-Songs :

(a) "Simple Simon" ..... Herbert Hughes  
 (b) "Maiden fair, O deign to tell" ... Haydn (1732-1809)  
 (c) "Doctor Foster" ..... Herbert Hughes

Mr. BEECROFT, Mr. MILTON, Mr. OATES, Mr. SEXTY.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON RECITAL

The first of this winter's Recitals, arranged once again by our benefactor, was given in the Hall on November 12th. The programme is appended :—

Violin : STEFAN KRAYKMAN.

At the Piano : ISRAEL HOFFMANN.

#### A

1. Sonata in D major ..... Handel
2. Partita in D minor for violin solo ..... Bach  
 Allemande. Courante. Sarabande. Gigue.

#### B

3. Melodie ..... Gluck....arr. Kreisler
4. Romanza Andaluza ..... Sarasate
5. Habanera ..... Sarasate



### COMBING THE WORLD FOR PEOPLE'S NEEDS. COMMERCE AS A CAREER

THOMAS once collected conkers. These he exchanged with another small boy for a pen-knife. The pen-knife he bartered for a fountain pen; this he sold for 3s. With his 3s. Thomas purchased from another small boy a stamp album. Extracting the stamps one by one, he sold them for quite a large sum of money, with which he made some very sound bargains with his fellow students. By the time Thomas left school he was worth quite a lot of money and set up in business on his own. He died a millionaire.

He sounds a very go-ahead young fellow—and was probably a great nuisance to his teachers! But he showed "sound commercial instinct!" He relieved people of things they did not want and provided them with things he was able to persuade them that they did.

In fact, he was doing in a small school community what the man of commerce does in the larger sphere of world trade. And very useful work it is too.

The man of commerce makes it possible for the dweller in or near the town to satisfy with a minimum of trouble his needs for an easy and comfortable existence. A new summer suit is required; he walks down the High Street, stops at a clothing store or a tailor's shop—and there is just the suit he needs. What a nuisance it would be if, instead, he had to go out to Australia, collect the wool himself, take it to Yorkshire to be made into cloth, collect the cloth and pass it on to a tailor to be made into a suit . . . only to find he must make another extended world tour to provide himself with the necessary buttons. What a fag! What a waste of time and money!

Fortunately an extremely complicated but efficient system of commerce has been evolved that relieves us of any such trouble.

Let us now take a peep at the workings of this organization.

## The Scope of Commerce

Commerce and industry being so closely interwoven are often spoken of as if both terms mean the same thing. But this is not so. The function of industry is to turn raw materials into marketable goods; commerce concerns itself only with the buying and selling of them; their warehousing, insurance and transport.

Those engaged in commerce are the import and export, wholesale and retail merchants; transport and forwarding agents; stock and share brokers; bill brokers; ship and insurance brokers; warehousemen and bankers. To these might be added the control of mines, forests, farms, cotton fields, tea, cocoa, coffee, rubber, sugar and coconut plantations, quarries and fields of mineral deposits.

Thus the passage of commodities from the producer to the consumer provides work for a very large number of men and women.

The complexity of this vast business organization can best be realized by noting what takes place at one of the world's largest ports.

If you were to stand on London Bridge you would see stretching before you on both sides of the Thames docks, wharves, warehouses, customs offices and ordinary business offices, while passing up and down the river would be the most diverse assortment of vessels—steamships, barges drawn by self-important looking tugs, ocean going liners, sailing ships, lighters—all engaged in the commerce of this great port. Their cargoes will consist of almost everything the people of London need—wines, spirits, spices, toys, silks, carpets, provisions, tobacco, wool, timber, fruit, drugs, ivory, chemicals—and have been produced and drawn from all parts of the world.

Most of these goods are bought or sold before they begin their journey overseas. In most large ports it is usual for those concerned with the buying or selling of any one type of article to become centralized in the same locality. In the same way, those concerned with insurance will be found mostly in the same district, and those engaged in banking and its kindred pursuits will tend to group themselves round the central bank.

## Some Important Markets

Most of these specialized areas have their own "markets" where those with the same commercial interests can meet together to do business. As these "markets" play a very important part in commerce and provide employment

for a large number of commercial men, we will glance at the more important of them and see what are their functions in this complex business of distribution.

*Lloyds Shipping Exchange.*—Members of "Lloyds" are interested primarily in insurance. If you are a merchant and wish to export, shall we say, a sewing machine to China, you will wish to cover yourself against the possibility of loss during the voyage. Members of "Lloyds" will be happy to cover this risk for a small consideration. They will cover



many other "risks" as well. They will indemnify you against the possibility of a knock on the shins at cricket or a kick on the ankle at soccer. . . . A very accommodating lot of gentlemen.

*The Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange.*—If you have taken to shipping as a career you will probably spend many hours a day on the "Baltic." It is here that owners of cargo vessels go to sell space in the holds of their ships. The

Baltic is also an important market for wheat, maize, barley, oats, rye, linseed, turpentine, groundnuts, and a host of miscellaneous seeds, oils and fats.

*The Stock Exchange*, known in the city as the "House."—This is where the stocks and shares in all those companies, railways, municipalities, governments, etc., you will find enumerated on the "city" pages of your daily paper are bought and sold. Those who meet here are called "jobbers" (if they do business only with other members) and "brokers" if they buy or sell to the general public.

*Markets for Foodstuffs.*—The London markets provide foodstuffs for 9,000,000 people. The meat market at Smithfield is the largest in the world; its sales amount to nearly 500,000 tons a year.

Other important foodstuff markets are:—Leadenhall Market (meat and poultry); Billingsgate (fish); Spitalfields (fruit and vegetables). Similar markets are to be found in most of the large seaport towns.

*Other Markets.*—Situated in the Mincing Lane and Mark Lane districts are smaller markets, where rubber, metals and tea are bought and sold.

These are only the more important commercial centres of London. They are an indication, however, of the complexity of the world of commerce, and of the many and varied openings that commerce offers to those seeking careers.

### Choosing a Branch of Commerce

We have now seen what is the nature of the work covered by the term "**Commerce.**" Let us now examine the various careers that commerce offers the ambitious youth.

*The Merchant and Broker.*—The duty of the merchant is to share or distribute the producer's risk, which he does in co-operation with banks, finance and discount firms, and insurance companies. He also assists the producer to sell his products and arranges for their delivery to the consumer.

Merchants are graded roughly into three groups according to the class of goods handled. They are as follows:—

(1) *General Merchants*, who deal largely with the export trade and handle a wide range of goods. Their chief home centres are London and Liverpool. Most of the larger ones have overseas agencies or depots that offer sound prospects to the youth anxious to go abroad.

The commencing salary varies from £50 to £100 a year according to the standing of the firm and the age and educational qualifications of the junior.

The first years with a general merchant will be occupied with such routine jobs as book-keeping, postal clerk, shipping clerk, invoice clerk and transport clerk. The tasks of buying and selling will come later.



It is not usual to be sent abroad below the age of 22. Salaries for service overseas usually range between £300 and £600 a year with commission on whatever business is obtained, with six months' leave every three years.

(2) *Textile Merchants* deal principally in cotton or wool, and have their centres at Manchester, Bradford, or Leeds.

The textile merchant carefully studies possible fluctuations in the market, both from the cost of raw material point of view and from that of changing fashions. He buys from

**the producers and sells to the consumers.** Some textile merchants work on a commission basis only; others buy when they think the material is cheap, and seek to make a profit on an expected rise in value.

Unlike the general merchant, who often never sees the commodities he handles, the junior in textiles must acquire a very wide knowledge of cloth construction and analysis, of raw materials used, and of methods of manufacture, if he is to become a buyer or salesman.

Juniors usually start at 16 with a commencing salary of 15s. a week.

The first two years will be spent in learning about the packing, despatching, invoicing or book-keeping work of the office. He may then be put under an experienced buyer, salesman or accountant. Most large firms will help their juniors to study the textiles they handle either at their own mills or at technical institutes in the locality.

A junior salesman or buyer may begin on a salary of £150 plus commission or on £250 without commission.

(3) *Produce Merchants* are mainly importers of raw materials and foodstuffs. They deal in such goods as grain, coffee, fruit, timber, seeds, oils, hides, tea, etc.

Owing to the fact that many of the larger firms of produce merchants have important trade interests overseas, it is this branch of commerce the recruit wishing to go abroad should adopt. Many such firms actually finance the sources of supply of the goods in which they deal; these are mostly centred in the East and West Indies, Africa, India, the Near East, South America and Jamaica. Others will have important branch offices in these districts.

It is usual for juniors to be appointed at the age of sixteen to seventeen, and they will not be expected to go abroad until they have had five or six years' training in the London office. Appointments abroad are usually made for three or four years with six months' leave in England on completion.

For those who do not wish to go abroad there are, of course, opportunities in produce merchants' offices in England. Here the work will take him on to the various produce exchanges to study the markets in which his firm is interested. Salaries for such "market clerks" range between £350-£600 a year, with or without commission.

Actual market work is a reward for efficiency, intelligence and personality. Those who do not display these characteristics must be content with ordinary routine work in the office. Although there is a strong tendency for the increasingly powerful combines to throttle the small merchant, it is still not uncommon for the experienced "market

clerk" to obtain financial backing and to start in business on his own—alternatively, to obtain a partnership in an established organization.

### Methods of Entry

Whilst a high standard of education is required, commercial firms rarely demand that recruits shall have passed qualifying examinations. Such examinations as those set by the Royal Society of Arts or the London Chamber of Commerce should not, however, be ignored. Their certificates are valuable as a proof of general intelligence.

The usual method of recruitment is through private nomination or recommendation. Where no such means are available, valuable introductions can usually be obtained from the special Employment Committees operating under the auspices of the Incorporated Associations of Head Masters of Public Secondary Schools or through the Local Committees for Juvenile Employment.

Failing these, a suitably worded letter addressed to trading firms might be considered. Any good commercial directory would be suitable, although great care should be exercised in choosing firms of some substance.

### School Days

Steady work for the School Certificate, Matriculation or Higher Certificate should be undertaken by the student preparing himself for a commercial career.

During the last year or two particular attention might be paid to mathematics, geography, English, economics and foreign languages.

### The Boy who is Wanted

Competition is keen and only the most efficient can hope to succeed. The boy entering commerce must be prepared to **work very hard**. Owing to the importance of cables from overseas, which often do not arrive until the late afternoon, the merchant is usually the last to leave the city.

Competition is becoming increasingly keen, and success can go only to those who show intelligence, initiative and keenness.

Personal contacts are extremely important in commerce—especially for the market clerk. Personality is therefore of considerable importance.

For the boy who is anxious to go abroad, a high standard of physical fitness is necessary, and many large

companies give preference to one who has a good sports record as well as a good education.

With these, commerce offers a lucrative, interesting and useful career to those who, like Thomas, obtain a thrill from the old, old business of buying and selling.

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### INTERESTING CAREERS AT A GLANCE

#### **Civil Service and Local Administration**

##### *Civil Service (1) General Clerical Class.*

Age of Entry : 16 to 17.

Method of Entry : Competitive Exam. set by Civil Service Commissioners. Fee, £2.

Commencing Salary : £60, plus Bonus. Latter about 50 per cent.

Salary Prospects : £250, plus Bonus.

Remarks : Good opportunities if Executive Class Exam. taken at 18.

##### *Civil Service (2) Executive Class.*

Age of Entry : 18 to 19.

Method of Entry : Competitive Exam. Fee, £4.

Commencing Salary : £100, plus Bonus.

Salary Prospects : £400, plus Bonus.

##### *Civil Service (3) Post Office.*

Age of Entry : 17 to 23.

Method of Entry : Competitive Examination. Fee, £2.

Commencing Salary : £150, plus Bonus.

Salary Prospects : £400, plus Bonus as Assistant Engineers.

##### *The Municipal Services (1) London County Council.*

Age of Entry : 17 to 19.

Method of Entry : Competitive Exams. (Glasgow and Manchester also by Competitive Exams.).

Commencing Salary : £50 to £80.

Salary Prospects : £800 to £1,000.

Remarks : Those interested in Finance should take Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants Examination. Others should take examination of the Technical Association of Local Government Officers.

##### *The Municipal Services (2) Provincial Councils.*

Age of Entry : 15 to 17.

Methods of Entry : School Leaving Certificate or its equivalent.

Salaries : Depend on status of municipal body.

### THE SCIENCE CLUB

Of the forty or fifty boys who asked to be allowed to use the Laboratories on Friday nights and Saturday mornings, unfortunately room was found for only a dozen or so. Younger boys will find that they have their opportunity later.

Activities have been as varied as ever ; collection of biological specimens, use of microscopes, making of chemicals, dissection of rats, and the getting of oil from orange peel are a few examples. The members of the Club were in great part responsible for the display in the Laboratories on Open Night, and that meant many hours of work. Sometimes by mutual consent work stops, and items of interest are inquired about or debated—in fact, here are opportunities to work at one's own pet subject as one wants to.

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### SCHOOL VISITS

As in previous terms, parties of boys have been to various places of interest. We made our now annual expeditions round the London Docks and to the Ford Works down the river at Dagenham. As well we have visited Wandsworth Gas Works and the Wimbledon Power Station. Now that our projector is in full use and we are becoming film-minded, a visit to a film studio seems logical, and by the end of term we shall have seen a full-dress scene being shot at the Gainsborough Studios.

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### THE GAS FILMS

One of the first social events of the term was the film show given by the Wandsworth and District Gas Company on October 7th, when an audience of somewhat over four hundred parents and boys enjoyed a very excellent selection of films.

We have long been used to seeing a static Mr. Therm in our daily papers, but then we saw him a dynamic figure mounted on his fiery charger putting an end to our cold discomforts in "Getting into Hot Water." Most of us have realized or been taught in our youths that gas comes in some miraculous and rather smelly way from coal, and we felt a sneaking sympathy when "The man who knew too little" rashly swore to live without any of the other by-products

which are produced in the destructive distillation of coal. In "Dinner Hour" we saw the careful regulation of gas supply that must be made when thousands of housewives decide at one and the same time to cook their mid-day roast, and many of those present would go home determined to emulate the culinary capers of M. Marcel Boulestin in "A Famous Cook at Work."

But the high light of the evening was the "Nutrition Film," which was the Gas, Light and Coke Company's 1936 contribution to a study of social conditions, followed this year by "Children at School," a film directed by Basil Wright which will be shown at the Gas Company's show next term. From a study of research work in nutrition we were shown the effect of correct feeding on physical development, how closely wrong feeding is dependent on poverty, and something of the work which is being done by the Government and local bodies in their efforts to cope with this so widely spread social evil of under-nourishment. Although it was impossible for the majority of us to gather more than a hazy idea or two about the elements of correct dietetics, it fulfilled its purpose of making us feel that much was wrong and that some effort was being made to put it right. We are grateful for the opportunity of seeing it.

## THE SCOUT FETE

The Scouts banded together to raise money one Saturday in the summer. They took over the premises, buildings, grounds and all, and, with the thoroughness that is bred in their race, succeeded in providing an afternoon's entertainment that was loudly acclaimed. They also achieved their financial object, which was to help their own funds for camp equipment and other matters, and to send a donation to a troop in a less prosperous district.

After the Fête had been formally declared open in the Hall by Mr. H. E. Haig-Brown, the County's Chief Education Officer, the visitors were encouraged to wander at large amusing themselves at the many side-shows. Out in the grounds were top hats at which one was exhorted to throw balls, a dart board, a "stake your claim" pitch, and other delights, but, for the writer, there were two pre-eminent high spots—the windows at which you were asked to throw stones, and the trolley contraption that was taking people for

rides over the stream on to Bradbury's bank. The first of these was magnificent fun; if your shot missed by yards you were driven irresistibly to try again, and when you scored a "bull" there was the glorious smashing noise dear to the heart of the devotees of slapstick. But the journey over the stream surpassed everything for sheer joy. Its quality of suspense, literal and metaphorical, as its devilish operators rocked their passengers to and fro in mid-stream, and the opportunity it gave a large audience of laughing at the misfortunes of others, made it perhaps the best patronized of all the side-shows.

In the Gym. was a "white elephant" stall which belied its name completely. Not only were the tandaluses and wireless sets it offered for sale ornamental, but they were also useful. A roaring trade was done. But bigger still was the business of the cake and sweet stall over which the Scouts' ladies presided; it gave, almost throughout the day, the impression of being almost sold out, but fresh supplies were conjured up at a moment's notice, only to disappear as had their predecessors. In a corner was an infuriating stall designed to show up any unsteadiness of the hand, and a game of candle-lighting which both singed and fascinated.

There was tea in the Hall at the appropriate time, and a circulating cake the weight of which ignorant males were persuaded to try to guess. And all the time the side-shows went on indefatigably.

We are bound to confess that we were so exhausted after spending our money and our energy, and watching the charming art of the Elizabeth MacLachlan Scottish Dancers, that we can remember few details of the plays with which the Troop finished the day. But we will always remember the magnificent satire of the play about wireless sets, with its *dénouement* under the table.

An opportunity was given also for visitors to see the Scouts taking part in their own particular games, a glorious kind of football which had the appearance of one long grand maul, and other competitions, and so the afternoon was complete, having given us an insight into the Troop's habits, its ability to enjoy itself, and, above all, its ability to organize its Fête so that the visitors' enjoyment was unalloyed. May we congratulate the Scouts on their eager singleness of purpose and the thoroughness with which they carry through what they have set themselves to do?



## RAYNES PARK ABROAD

N.B.—It had been intended to write a much fuller account of the adventures of the Raynes Park continental expeditions. On consideration, however, of questions of space, it was found to be impossible to do justice to the impressions of all members of both parties. This being so, it was reluctantly decided to limit the accounts to something in the form of a chronological diary. It is only further proof that original and personal matter is being crowded out now which will find plenty of room in future numbers of the *Spur*.—ED.

### GERMAN PARTY

A party went to Germany with Mr. Beecroft to join with Masters and boys of Chiswick School in producing "Macbeth."

*Wednesday, August 18th.*—We met at Liverpool Street at 10 in the morning. By boat train to Harwich, thence to Flushing. Arrived at Cologne about midnight and stayed at the Youth Hostel.

*Thursday, August 19th.*—From Cologne to Coblenz, and from there by boat up the Rhine to Rudesheim. The Youth Hostel here was on the top of a hill, with magnificent views over the valley.

*Friday, August 20th.*—On to Bad Ems, where we were met by numbers of small children who had pieces of paper with the names of the party on them. We were led through the town to the houses of the various families with whom we were to stay.

*Saturday, August 21st.*—A rehearsal at the theatre in the morning. In the afternoon our first performance to an audience we were surprised to find was largely English. Very kind reception.

*Sunday, August 22nd.*—Left Bad Ems for Limbounge, where we visited the Cathedral and had lunch. Thence to Gressen, where we were met again, this time in pouring rain. During the evening we were shown over the town by our hosts.

*Monday, August 23rd.*—Rehearsal during the morning. Some of the party drove to the famous University town of Marbounge, where they met a K.C.S. boy at the castle. Evening performance in a very small hall.

*Tuesday, August 24th.*—To Frankfurt, where we were spread all over the town as the guests of different families.

*Wednesday, August 25th.*—Rehearsal in the morning and a performance in the evening.

*Thursday, August 26th.*—A performance at Hanau at 9.30 a.m. Returned very tired, and, for the most part, early to bed.

*Friday, August 27th.*—In the afternoon to Homberg for an evening performance.

*Saturday, August 28th.*—Moved on to Darmstadt, where we rehearsed at once, afterwards paying a visit to the town Beer Garden.

*Sunday, August 29th.*—By train to Heidelberg, where we had lunch, and visited the castle, afterwards hiring boats to go on the river. Then to Karlsruhe, where we were given a great welcome by the German boys who had stayed at Chiswick. Eight of us stayed at the Youth Hostel.

*Monday, August 30th.*—Went to the Zoo and then by coach all round the town and the surrounding district. In the afternoon a visit to the Rhine Bath, where we had tea and returned in a special train.

*Tuesday, August 31st.*—Up among the high parts of the Black Forest by coach, visiting a small swimming bath on the way. Walked to Baden Baden and visited a small castle. An official welcome was given to us.

*Wednesday, September 1st.*—We toured art galleries and the castle. Most of us visited the Rhine bath again.

*Thursday, September 2nd.*—Went on to Nuremburg, where the Reichs Partilag was being prepared. We stayed in a kind of Y.M.C.A.

*Friday, September 3rd.*—Round the district.

*Saturday, September 4th.*—To Munich, where we stayed in a hotel and spent several days sight-seeing.

*Tuesday, September 7th.*—Spent the day at the Starnberg, a large lake in the high land surrounding Munich. Bathed.

*Thursday, September 9th.*—Went to Garmisch, where we spent the day climbing the lower slopes of the mountains. The weather was breaking as we left the lovely town.

*Friday, September 10th.*—Continual rain. Left 7.30.

*Saturday, September 11th.*—Arrived at Cologne soon after six, thence to Flushing. A very rough crossing to Harwich.

### BELGIAN PARTY

A large party went to Belgium with Mr. Milton with no artistic purpose, but bent on pure enjoyment, tinged, perhaps, with edification.

*Monday, September 6th.*—To Dover from Victoria in the morning. A four and a-half hours' voyage to Ostend, and by train to Brussels, where we were met by M. Pirard, the proprietor of the hotel where we were to stay. He gave us a delightful welcome and a large—much-appreciated—meal. Then we went to make our first exploration of Brussels.

*Tuesday, September 7th.*—We went for a sight-seeing walk and climbed to the top of the Palace of Justice. We all started with smiles on our faces, but these soon wore off, for there were over five hundred steps! In the afternoon we amused ourselves, and in the evening we went to see a game of pelota, which is very fast and exciting. Later that night Mr. Milton was locked out of the hotel and had to climb through a window.

*Wednesday, September 8th.*—We visited Antwerp, where we walked through a tunnel under the River Scheldt. We went to the cathedral, and the more determined of us climbed the steeple. Our coach driver took us round the docks, and to the Zoo. Height was available for those who wanted it easily at the top of a sky-scraper that had a lift.

*Thursday, September 9th.*—To Waterloo, where we saw the famous Panorama of the Battle. Later another tour of Brussels, including the Cathedral, the Exchange, Notre Dame de Laeke, the Royal Palace, the Memorial to Sir John French, Japanese and Chinese pagodas, and the Memorial to Leopold I.

*Friday, September 10th.*—Left Brussels for Spa via Landen, Liège, and Laeken. We were again met by our hotel proprietor.

*Saturday, September 11th.*—To Cologne. Had lunch at an Englishman's Café. Walked for two hours. Then to the Cathedral, which is famous all over the world.

*Monday, September 13th.*—Back to England. School the next day!

### THE TRAIN CLUB

*Secretary.*—R. J. Holgate. *Treasurer.*—E. L. James.

The Art Room becomes highly mechanised on Saturday mornings. Paints, drawing boards and desks give way to rolling stock of every description, an intricate network of railway lines and engines of varied charms. Realism is heightened by the shrill hootings of the Train Club members, by the feverish workings of break-down gangs, and by the construction of mountain passes and tunnels. As a climax to this intense activity, we have record runs, accurately timed by stop-watches, across the American or Asiatic continents, or wherever we have gone on our imaginative journeys.

But lest our critics continue to think that our meetings are nothing but noisy chaos, let it be made clear that the initiated alone can hope to understand the subtleties of points, signals and sidings.

Most interesting lectures on trains, bridges and tunnels have so far been given by Club members, adding the theoretical side which is so necessary for complete appreciation of world railways. On the Art Room floor we become highly skilled track layers, engine drivers and guards, conquering the difficulties of marshes, rivers and mountains over the earth's surface.

### GARDENING NOTES

(*A Haughticultural Lament*)

A garden is not born, not even made, but always in the making. And gardening is a humble occupation, with much bending, border grubbing and raking. Since lasting joy is found not in the contemplation of any finished thing, but in

the fashioning, let us then to the garden and beautify a bleeding piece of earth. But Brown minor says "I don't like clay," and Smith tertius will come another day, and then there's Henry, who fears his mother's wrath if he returns at night with muddy boots. His father, on the other hand, who toils the livelong day amid concrete and bricks and mortar in surroundings unmagnetic, whose feet alight at every step on asphalt, tarmac, paving stones and dirty floors of wheeled vehicles, or such unyielding things as these, his father, I say, hurrying home, flings newspaper, umbrella, bowler hat aside, lets nought impede his progress to the toolshed. Soon with crude accoutrements of horticulture he sallies forth to dig and grub till darkness intervenes. 'Tis then the acrid smell of cleaved earth weans him from sweet nicotine, from battle, murder and sudden death, and turns his thoughts to Larkspur and Gypsophyla, Candytuft and Daffodil. How good the bonfire smells compared with Castrol B! How tedious are Hore Belisha's painted points when set against our own herbaceous border! And then, at last, the cool, soft earth receives his tired sole.

It is said that boys are cruel, callous and unseemly. Be that so, then let him take his trowel and pop the juicy grub, slash the squirming worm and leave no stone unturned that harbours the mobile wood-louse. Away with the disdainful sidelong glance at muddied shoe and sullied trouser-hem. Surely the marks of manual toil are worthier than the blots and scars of classroom scuffle guerilla war? Is it so *infra dig* to dig?

*Postscript.*

With little time and few willing hands, our garden has its bright and intermittent spots. The rock garden is begun. No slithery scree or rugged cliff is it; it's rather like a pudding, or a disordered dolmen. But wait till April, when we are absent. It will be lovely then.

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### THE STAGE

The presentation of plays on the School stage has been, and always will be, a problem. An ideal stage has three important properties. The opening must be of ample width to display the action, and must be as low as possible in order to economise in the height of scenery. The platform must be on the eye-level of the audience and must not slope, so

that, while the actors' feet are visible, there will be no need to carpet the stage. Lastly, the stage ceiling must be at least two and a half times the height of the proscenium opening, so that scenery may be hoisted out of sight. Consideration of our stage will show that in none of these points are we satisfied.

In order to overcome the difficulty of width, we have built, for "Hamlet," a permanent set on either side of the proscenium opening, in order to extend the acting area to the side walls of the auditorium. The height of the proscenium cannot, of course, be lessened without spoiling the shape of the arch, but we have overcome both this difficulty and that of head room by having beams fixed to the ceiling in an up and down stage direction. These have been fitted with hooks, and from these we can hang all our scenery on pulleys and ropes. Back-cloths will be made to roll up, and short curtains, four feet long and extending across the stage, will be hung from the ceiling, hiding both the beams and the rolled-up scenery.

Considerable change has been made in the lighting equipment, and now all lamps in front of the proscenium arch are spotlights. This means that we are able to control the spread of light without using light absorbing "tin hats," and the 2,000-candle power provided can all be directed on the acting area without illuminating the proscenium wall, the ceiling and the first six rows of the audience.

We are hopeful that these changes will make our stage suitable for the production of Shakespeare's plays, or indeed any play requiring a semi-permanent setting.

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### ATHENIAN FIREWORK DISPLAY

After only two years of existence, the Athenian Firework Display has become a tradition. Last year it was a small, informal, tentative attempt. This year it assumed garbs of elaborate ritual and formal method.

It is an exclusive function, the motto being "Athenians only, and those privileged to receive invitations." Members of the Staff and certain Prefects were ushered to the middle of the Hockey pitches, where certain hooded and sinister figures kept them entertained.

The pyromaniac proceedings started with a procession of torches, whose bearers danced round the waiting stack,

presently lighting it and sending towards heaven their sacrifice to the gods of constitutional monarchy. The blaze being well under way, and the victims having started to sag, resigning themselves to the inevitable, bangs, whizzes and flashes glittered and resounded in all directions.

Nothing can really be said about the fireworks except that they were magnificent and ubiquitous, arousing enthusiasm everywhere and some alarm amongst the less iron-nerved of the guests. But it was real dramatic terror, hugely enjoyed. An accident to the box containing the fireworks cut short the length of the display, but gave us in fuller measure than might otherwise have been the case the noble impression of the explosive genius of the Athenians.

May they and their brood of stars flourish for ever. And may we all be asked again.

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### CRICKET RETROSPECT—1937 SEASON

We started our second Cricket season with much more confidence and much more knowledge of ourselves than was the case with our very tentative first year. We still had a great many weaknesses to overcome, but the result of our matches showed that we had at least been successful in so far that we went out with determination to win. Perhaps one of our greatest features was a greater enthusiasm, the discovery that the game needed and was worth pretty serious efforts, and that when we gave those efforts wholeheartedly, as we did, the result was an added confidence and ability to score runs and to play reasonable and enjoyable cricket. Then, too, the season opened well with a win against Mr. Gibb's eleven, which put us in the right mood from the beginning.

Our great problem was with pitches. On the School ground we increased our nets from three to five, a most valuable addition if only the pitches had been better. Even with matting laid they were deplorable, and on more than one occasion nets had to be scrapped after a few rounds. The ground was so hard and uneven that the unfortunate batsman was never sure whether the ball would rise head high or shoot through half an inch above the ground. Conditions on the Hood ground, though not so bad, were far from satisfactory. With this in mind it is not surprising that our bowling was much more effective than our batting. It is to

be hoped that next year there may be that much-needed improvement on both grounds, for before we can produce batsmen we must have a reasonably true pitch.

An innovation which it is hoped to carry on in the future **is a prize for fielding**. Last season it was held with difficulty, owing to the fact that the work of draining the cricket field had only just been completed. Nervousness of the occasion and the hazards of the ground seemed to be too much for most of the entrants, and the standard of fielding was much below our average. D. W. Wotton was the only one to combat both with confidence, and was never seriously challenged for the prize.

Our fixture list was still a tentative one, and it is hoped next year to make it fuller and more representative. The first match on May 29th was against Mr. Gibb's eleven. The School batted first and raised a modest total of 72. Against weak bowling the batsmen might have been more enterprising, but only Clayden saw it for what it was and helped himself to a quick 32 before being caught off a miss-hit. Mr. Gibb's eleven opened confidently, but lost Mr. Cobb at 14 through an unfortunate misunderstanding in calling. Following this early disaster, wickets fell cheaply, and nine were down for 61. H. T. Gibbs was placed in the unfortunate position of having to try to keep his end up while Mr. Gibb kept the bowling and tried for the runs. A miscount by the singular as to the balls bowled resulted in the plural being left to face Clayden, and he was bowled by a straight one that came through quickly. A close match and just the thing needed to harden the team.

The match against the K.C.S. Colt side was as successful as last year—perhaps more so from our point of view, since we won by four wickets. Batting first, K.C.S. gave us a beautiful exhibition of orthodox strokes and piled up 89 for six before tea. A generous declaration after the interval left us ample time to lose our wickets or get the runs. Richards looked a batsman all the way and produced a determined 43, and we passed their score with the loss of five wickets only.

On June 16th we had a fixture against an "A" side from Surbiton, which resulted amidst breathless excitement in a win by one run. In this match the complete superiority of our bowling was obvious. Clayden and Richards, with no less than 23 overs between them, tied their opening pair down to such an extent that it took an hour for them to put

eight runs up on the board, and they were finally dismissed with a meagre total of 42. Things looked rosy for us, but we lost Mason at seven and Clayden and Nagle at 18. Richards stopped the rot with a valuable 14, but then came the deluge. Four wickets fell for one run, but we finally drew level with nine wickets down. Then Richards left to a catch, and it was left to J. Smith and Dawson to grapple with that elusive single. Dawson got it—off the edge of the bat, and that was that.

The match against the Parents was our next fixture. Confidence ran high, perhaps too much so, for the team was soon tied up by Mr. Marshall's slow spinners and Mr. Wright's fastish deliveries. Our early batsmen retired hurriedly, and in some cases ignominiously, and but for a stand by Jepson one hesitates to speculate on our possible score. The tail popped on another 20 and we were all out for 78—not a very alarming total to face. Mr. Billingham and Mr. Vaughan, with unhurried confidence, proceeded to show us how to combine attack and defence, and but for unfortunate run-outs might have been there now. Mr. Billingham's hard-hit 43 laid more than a good foundation. Then fortunes changed and three surprises and indignant fathers were returned to their deck chairs for a total addition of one and a heightened respect for Jepson's bowling. Things began to be exciting, for if the rot continued it looked as if the fathers might yet be put in their places. Mr. Marshall, however, had other ideas to the tune of a valuable 13; Mr. Clarkson was also firm about it; Mr. Clayden added a quota; and for eight wickets the School total was passed, and the fathers no doubt felt that at least for another year they could go on laying down the law without superior and exasperating smiles of pity from their offspring.

The first full-day fixture in the School history was against the Staff on July 26th. Feeling ran high; the team thought it would have easy passage; the Staff suspected the team might have, but hoped it wouldn't. So plans were laid. The School won the toss and did just what the Staff wanted them to—put them in. In an endeavour to tire out the bowling, Mr. Cobb and Mr. Gibb opened, but at two runs Mr. Cobb left to a very nasty twister from Treen. The next wicket fell at 25, and it looked as if a nasty hole might be made in the Staff side before lunch. Mr. Milton came to the rescue with his usual hard-hitting methods, while Mr. Gibb, having at least two lives, still played on sedately. The last

ball before lunch dislodged Mr. Milton for a valuable 54, and the score board showed 113 for 3. After lunch the atmosphere was less grim; risks were taken and the score mounted more rapidly. A valuable 23 by Mr. Oates, and a determined 13 not out by Mr. Halliwell helped to produce a total of 169, the highest figure scored against the team that season. The School, however, had no reason to be frightened of the Staff bowling, and it was a very difficult job to separate Nagle and Mason, who raised 46 before Nagle was caught and bowled by Mr. Milton for a valuable 18. Mason left at 51, and the next four wickets fell cheaply. Stephens, with light-hearted abandon, proceeded to sweep up 18, and J. Smith a further 10. But this was not enough, and the School could only raise a total of 111.

And the Cricket season was over.

After their match against the School, the Parents most generously presented a cricket bat to be awarded to the most useful and improved cricketer in the XI. It was awarded to Richards, whose batting had been one of the brighter features of the side, and whose bowling had on many occasions been valuable. Our thanks are due to the Parents for their generous and acceptable gesture.

R. W. G.

#### BATTING

	Inns.	Times not out	Runs	Most in innings	Ave.
Richards .....	4	0	67	46	16.75
Clayden .....	4	0	52	32	13.0
Mason .....	4	1	20	9	6.6
Nagle .....	4	0	23	6	5.75
Jepson .....	4	0	24	20	5.0
Wotton .....	4	0	18	10	4.5

#### BOWLING

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Ave.
Jepson .....	21	4	49	9	5.4
Wotton .....	8	3	14	9	7.0
Richards .....	24	12	42	5	8.3
Clayden .....	41.3	9	94	11	8.4

## MATCH RESULTS

Mr. Gibb's XI 64, School 72. Won.  
K.C.S. 89 for 6, School 97 for 7. Won.  
Surbiton C.S. 42, School 43. Won.  
Parents 82 for 8, School 78. Lost.  
Staff 169, School 111. Lost.

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## JUNIOR CRICKET

Again it was a story of the essential practice being made difficult by the roughness of the wickets in the nets, but some progress was made, several batsmen learning successfully the importance of a straight bat and a left foot that is near the ball, and one or two bowlers acquiring a fairly steady length. Fisher, J. E., and Billingham both batted and bowled quite well, and Green, F. E., was a highly promising wicket-keeper.

Two matches were played. The first, a great game with Mr. Gibb's XI on the Hood ground, resulting in a loss; and the second, against a Dorking Preparatory School team, providing a comfortable win by 5 wickets.

The Club Competition was won by the Athenians with easy wins over both their opponents.

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## RUGBY SEASON, 1937

It will be remembered that in the Rugby article dealing with last season the writer, in spite of failures, said that he had confidence in the ultimate success of the Rugby football, a success which would only come with a new and vitalized spirit. So far this season that spirit has been pleasurably present, and our Rugby this term has been a different matter altogether. Intensive coaching and intensive practice have only been made possible and fruitful because of the will to play, to get down to it, and to learn by the sweat of our brow how to play and consequently how to enjoy it. We opened the season, it is true, rather tentatively, rather wondering whether it was worth the effort, and then we suddenly discovered that it was.

At a Games Committee meeting, held at the end of the the Summer Term, it was decided to inaugurate a series of House League games, in which each House put out a twelve-a-side team and excluded all its Big Side players. Its success has been complete and has resulted in really keen and bustling Rugger, in which it has been possible to spot players who in the near future will take their place on Big Side. A no less successful feature has been the success with which these matches have been refereed by Prefects (a step forward in our Rugby history), which was viewed in some quarters with some apprehension when the Games Committee decided upon it.

To discuss our First XV is this year a much more pleasant task than it was last. The basis of what successes they have had has been with the forwards. For the eight places there has been abundance of material, but fortunately it has been possible to play them almost unchanged so far. Thus they have learned to work in together and have formed a bustling, hard-working and a usually intelligent scrum. In the loose they have been at their best, but sometimes in the set scrummage they have failed to get that concerted push which would have helped the hooker so much. One of the most marked improvements has been in line-out work, where particularly Stephens has been invaluable, and both de Potier and Parker are following in his footsteps. Behind the scrum Austin has improved beyond all recognition, and has learned to whip the ball out with speed and some degree of accuracy. At stand-off we have not been so fortunate, and so far R. P. Hill has not fulfilled his earlier promise. Stand-off halves are so essential, but so difficult to find, and even more difficult to make. The three-quarter line has been another difficulty, but here too there has been considerable improvement. It must be remembered that a three-quarter is a much more difficult person to make than a forward, for he is so much more on his own, and the elements of three-quarter play are so much more difficult to learn and it requires a greater Rugger sense. At the moment their weakness lies in slowness off the mark and in poor and slow passing, so that the wings seldom get a chance to show their paces. The full-back position is another problem we have to face. Dawson has not been entirely successful, and Winder has been tried there with much greater success, but he can ill be spared from the three-quarter line, especially as he has developed considerable thrust recently.



So much for the analysis of our Rugby. One feels now that we need no longer wilt at our problems and our difficulties. We can now build our team with the knowledge that we can find enough people who, though perhaps inexperienced, will give their best. D. W. Taplin as Captain has given a great deal both on and off the field, and his leadership has been an inspiration, the value of which has been great. The growth of our Rugby has not been confined to the Big Side only, but has gone on throughout the School, a necessity if we are going to reach a better standard.

### MATCHES

*October 16th. XV versus Surbiton C. S. 2nd XV.*

Won 30—0.

This was our first match of the season, and it no doubt did our morale a great deal of good to have a comparatively easy win. It was with the forwards that the chief honours lay, and their rushes, though lacking ball control, were powerful. Grubb was particularly prominent, but too often lacked backing. Both Grills and Parker got through a lot of work in the open, and Austin as scrum half showed how he had improved. A feature of the match was G. Roberts's place-kicking; he converted all six tries, many from difficult angles. The three-quarters too often failed to make sufficient use of their opportunities, though Winder (1) and Hughes (2) ran well for their tries.

*October 23rd. XV versus Mr. T. Seymour's XV*

Lost 6—3.

For this match the School fielded the same XV as against Surbiton, but found their opponents a harder nut to crack. Weather conditions were cold and stormy, but however unpleasant they were, they were in our favour. The scratch visiting side was composed of adults and included several old Colours of other schools, and especially were they strong at stand-off half, centre three-quarter and full back. From the first whistle we were put on the defensive, but by hard forward work and keen marking, managed to keep them out until near the end of the first half, when they broke through in the centre for an unconverted try. The second half found us playing uphill and in the face of driving rain and wind. From a misunderstanding Hughes got an opening on the left wing and, running strongly, levelled the score for another unconverted try. The visitors were roused.

They swept down the field in concerted and controlled rushes, and we were almost swept away like chaff before the wind. It seemed that we should break, but Taplin held his side together heroically and the forwards fought and spoiled and scrummaged to their last ounce. The three-quarters gave only feeble assistance. In the heat of battle they bunched together and quite failed to mark their opposite numbers. Dawson was quite at sea in the full back position, and only two knock-ons by their right wing prevented certain tries. Until late in the game it looked as if we should hold them to a draw, but a scrummage infringement gave them an easy penalty, and a result in keeping with the run of play. For us it was a most creditable loss, and one that should have stiffened us a great deal.

*October 27th. XV versus Whitgift Colts. Won 3—0.*

For this match Winder replaced Dawson at full back, and Richards and Clarkson came into the three-quarter line. Owing to illness, the pack had to be shuffled, and J. F. Smith came in as a winger. Whitgift had very sportingly put out a slightly weakened Colt side, and if they had played at full strength the result would possibly have been different. Again the weather was wet and cold, and it was thus another forward day. Throughout the game it was a dour struggle with our forwards working hard and collectively. It was from a loose maul that Austin wriggled over in the corner for the only score of the match. The re-constituted three-quarter line was definitely an improvement, and though it was not a handling day, they defended well. At the beginning of the second half Whitgift started off with shock tactics, and we were nearly swept off our feet by the storm. Scrum after scrum took place nearly on our line, but by judicious kicking, chiefly by Austin, we gradually drove them back, penetrated into their half, and on several occasions just failed to finish off promising movements. Altogether a grand rousing game.

*November 3rd. XV versus Wimbledon College Colts.*

Lost 5—0.

We were perhaps lucky to get away with such a narrow margin of defeat. If it had not been for Winder at full back there would have been at least three more certain tries against us. Again the forwards bore the brunt, and except for one

lapse when they lost the ball in ten successive scrums, they held their own.' Austin was the mainspring of all our attacks, some of his kicking in tight corners being really neat and clever, and he was always in the thick of it. The link between him and his three-quarters was a weak one, and passing movements were too often still-born and our defence was too often hesitant. In tackling one is seldom permitted a second chance, and if one hesitates to take the first, one is too often lost. Wimbledon tackled crisply and quickly, and in consequence broke up our movements before they had time to develop.

*November 13th. XV versus Kingston Grammar School 2nd XV. Won 9—3.*

This was one of the keenest and most open games. A dry ball and firm conditions naturally helped to make handling more confident. Again it was the forwards who paved the way, and it is significant that none of the three tries was scored by a three-quarter, in spite of the fact that they were given a good deal of the ball. Poor mid-field defence was directly responsible for their break through and try during the first half, and we faced the second half with a score of 3—0 against us. From a line-out Miller fought his way over to equalize soon after the restart. Later from a scrum near our opponents' goal line Austin worked the blind side to get over himself, and near the end of the game Grills, who had been particularly prominent in handling rushes, went over near the corner. Richards in the second half was brought in to the stand-off half position, and was not unsuccessful in feeding his partners, but slowness both in running and passing gave the wing men only a meagre chance, and they seldom could do more than make a few yards or kick for touch.

## CHARACTERS

The following are 1st XV Colours :—

- D. W. TAPLIN (*Captain*).—Shows leadership which springs from sheer honesty of purpose. By determination and example keeps his forwards together and will not let them get rattled. The cares of captaincy have not helped his own game, but his tackling and his grip of the situation have more than made up for it.

- R. V. GRILLS (*Secretary*).—As Secretary he has made a real job of things. On the field he is dashing and hard-working, the hotter the game the happier he is, possesses a fierce hand-off and lots of dash. Usually fierce and cheerful at one and the same time.
- A. DE POTIER (*forward*).—Often successful as a hooker, and has shown all-round improvement lately. At times seems to lose himself and be stupid.
- G. N. ROBERTS (*three-quarter*).—A most useful place kicker. Can tackle well. Has recently developed an obsession of making for the defence where it is thickest. Rather slow in foot and mind.
- D. G. AUSTIN (*scrum half*).—The most improved player in the School. Quick, full of spirit, brainy. Apt to try and go on his own a bit too much recently.
- W. J. STEPHENS (*forward*).—In the tight, hard pushing. In the attacking line-out, intelligent and skilful. In the loose, dashing and penetrative, especially when handling.
- J. H. GRUBB (*forward*).—At his best in foot rushes, but pulls his weight everywhere, and an untiring worker.

The following are playing for the 1st XV, but have not yet been awarded colours :—

- K. C. MILLER (*forward*).—Rather stately and rather slow thinking. Useful tackler.
- R. R. WINDER (*full back*).—Very fair hands. A determined and fearless tackler. As a three-quarter has developed penetration.
- D. T. PARKER (*forward*).—A trifle ponderous, but useful when he gets going. Rather too fond of trying to intercept from the line-out.
- L. HUGHES (*wing three-quarter*).—A powerful runner and not afraid to go all out sometimes. Useful in defence. Can't handle and can't throw in.
- R. P. HILL (*stand-off half*).—Very mixed, and having an off patch at the moment. Must learn to run straighter, fall on the ball and tackle.
- W. RODRIGUES (*forward*).—Hardworking and slow thinking, but vastly improved. Always ready to give of his best.

K. O. RICHARDS (*centre three-quarter*).—Has come into the side recently, and shows promise. His defence is improving, but he must learn to give passes better.

P. G. CLARKSON (*wing three-quarter*).—Young and inexperienced, but willing to go hard. He has speed and possibilities.

R. W. G.

### STOP PRESS

Winder and Rodrigues were awarded their colours after the completion of this article.

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### JUNIOR RUGGER

At the time of going to press the Junior XV has not yet played a match, but a lot of progress has been made in practice games. The forwards are quite heavy, but they do not yet push hard enough or watch the ball sufficiently closely to be really good. But they are improving and will come into their own presently. Wright and Billingham are a good pair of halves, though Billingham is inclined to do too much on his own. He captains the side well, however, and is intelligent and successful with his kicking. The three-quarters have not settled down. Individually they are all good, but they have not learned to combine either in attack or defence, and are liable to lose their heads and get hopelessly out of position in emergencies. Fletcher's kicking and saving at full back are good, but his positioning is poor and he is rather slow in getting to the ball. There is the making of a good side here, but it will mean concentrated hard work and long practice.

Up to date the Club Competition is very open, the Spartans having narrowly beaten the Trojans, who later found their form to have an easy win over the Athenians.

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### DEUTSCHLANDSENDER

#### AN EPIGRAMMATIC FRAGMENT

Wenn man nachts nicht schlafen kann,  
Ist man nur ein halbe Mann.  
Wer an Abend Horlick's trinkt,  
Morgens mit dem Vöglein singt.

### THE SCHOOL SCOUT TROOP

The chief event at the beginning of the summer was, of course, the Fête, which we believe is being noticed elsewhere in the *Spur*: suffice it to say, then, that we more than realized our financial aim of raising £20, and that we value even more the experience of pulling together which the whole affair gave to us and the friends of the Troop. We must take this belated opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the generous support received on all sides: incidentally the sum of £2 has been sent as a gift to a (financially) depressed Troop in the Greenwich district.

Meanwhile we took part in the Association Athletic Sports on April 24th, and our representatives did very creditably on that enjoyable occasion. On the following day the Troop attended the St. George's Day Church parade at the Town Hall, and this will live in the memory of some of those present. At the Coronation selected members sold programmes—some with conspicuous enterprise—to the loyal citizens of Wimbledon, and we believe a good time was had by all.

These and other arrangements involved deferring the P.L.s' and Seconds' Camp till later than usual, but the good weather enjoyed at Clock Barn was a compensation for the delay. We appreciated the kindness of the owner of Busbridge Hall in allowing us to walk through the very interesting grounds. Week-end Patrol Camps followed quickly, ending with a Recruits' Week-end in July: these took place at Blackmore Heath, and we are indebted to Mr. Searle, the gamekeeper there, for his assistance; this is a really secluded site, the only snag being the distance from water.

Summer Camp was again held at Petworth, and for those who attended was an unqualified success. The results of last year's experience were put into practice from the first, and as if in conspiracy the weather was glorious. We were glad to see so many friends on Visitors' Day. This camp was a turning-point, and the S.M. is grateful to the small band whose loyalty and keenness brought about its success.

This term we have lost King and Lucas, both of Eagle Patrol. Lucas was particularly useful at camp.

The term's recruits show good promise, and the new P.L.s are doing their work well. One or two Second Classes have been gained lately, but this is not enough for a Troop that is still new. There is a tendency in some quarters to

exaggerate the difficulty of this essential test. Winter is the time for badge work—congratulations to Hughes, whose well-earned Naturalist is the first badge gained in the Troop—but may his example not be lost on others!

We welcome Mr. Raynham, late S.M. of 4th Sidcup and formerly of 2nd Steyning, as our A.S.M. and future S.M. It only remains to the present holder of that office to wish the Troop all good success as the years go by, and to pay a passing tribute to the splendid co-operation of parents whose friendship has been a conspicuous feature of a brief two years' work. Good camping—valeté!

H. B. C.

### VOLUNTARY GYM

A stranger passing near the gym. on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday afternoon between 4.15 and 5.30 might be forgiven for thinking that "the sound of riot and ill-managed merriment" proceeded from a rout as monstrous as any led by the fake enchanter. If he plucked up sufficient courage to go inside, he would probably decide that here was a nightmare come true, in which the people concerned swing up to impossible heights, dive from very insecure platforms, wrestle, box, jump, and roll all at once. He would note, too, that the ritual includes violent attacks on any master who is unfortunate enough to tackle one job at a time. Anyone who presumes to take charge must make up his mind to get used to this; the Gym. is where the boy gets his own back. Once the master's appearance at the end of the corridor gives notice that he is sufficiently gorged with tea, a dash is made for the ropes, and that is the end of his significance until he appears in gym. kit—to be pushed over, mauled and trampled on until his last whites have been torn to shreds. Meanwhile on eight groaning ropes about two dozen ruffians swing high up to the roof and back again on to the long-suffering horses, cannoning into one another, turning turtle, and all the while shrieking threats and warnings at one another. In one corner is a group of acrobats, who are trying to find room to stand on their hands: in another some, boxing. And here's another warning: if any charitable member of the Staff tries to make himself of a height with his opponent, he had better pick his man first. There are few juniors in the gym. who do not know how to

take advantage of an "instructor" who sags at the knees in an effort to put himself on equal terms with his pupil. There is a game, too, commonly called Foot and Mouth Disease, in which two rival sides try to score by throwing a football between two beams. It looks like mass murder. Some of us thank heaven for the window ladder and the wall bars; we can sit on the top bars like gods and watch the fight below until Mrs. Sugden appears with broom and duster and sweeps the howling mob into the shower baths.

### HOCKEY OUTLOOK

The Christmas Term number of the *Spur* provides a welcome opportunity for a discussion of hockey prospects, and it is not too early to begin thinking over the lessons which we learnt last Easter, and to make a plan of campaign for next. We shall start the season with greater assurance, now that our early adventures are behind us, with better prospects because the grounds will be better and the weather cannot be worse, and with more efficiency because so many boys have already been thoroughly bitten with enthusiasm for the game. A great deal can be done in preparation before next term begins. In the first place it is worth noting that the finest hockey in the world can often be seen in the neighbourhood of the School, though not as close as the Hood Ground; it would be an education for those who are free on Saturdays towards the end of term and in the holidays to watch some of these games. Then there is the question of sticks; it might be worth warning those who do not already possess them, that they will do well to get expert advice before committing themselves. A good stick is a friend for ever, and it is well worth saving up to buy a dependable one, one which is both strong and light, better than to squander small sums on sticks that will never give any satisfaction, and which will very easily break.

Again, a great deal can be done before next term by way of practice. The rules of the game, which at first are apparently devised to prevent a player from hitting the ball except in the most difficult way and at the most inconvenient moment, are always an obstacle at the beginning of a hockey career; and when in particular the beginner has to learn to control a very obstinate ball with what seems a very inadequate weapon, and also to keep his body away from his

opponent, it is always a danger that technical difficulties will destroy enthusiasm for the game. That is why our experience last year was so reassuring and encouraging; there were very few who had not, by the end of term, learnt to avoid using the wrong side of the stick, and to keep on the right side of the ball. Our greatest difficulty lies before us—to learn to play as a team, to develop a sense of position on the hockey field, which a triumphant Rugger season will have inevitably made unnatural. Finally, those who will do their best to develop a hockey tradition and to become useful players will be well rewarded when they leave school, for in London and the suburbs there are over fifty hockey clubs, each with three or four sides, who will welcome young players and ensure them many years of exhilarating pleasure and excellent sport.

## THE SWIMMING SPORTS

The Swimming Sports took place at the end of the Summer Term, and were a great success. By winning them, Gibb's deprived Cobb's of their last chance of winning the Cock House Trophy. **The Trojans won the Club event.**

## RESULTS

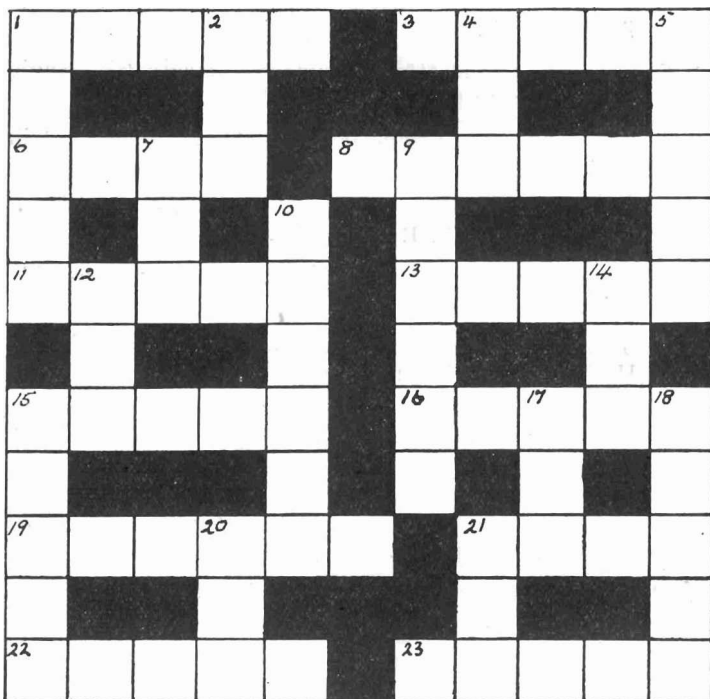
Scoring.—Ordinary Events: (1) 8, (2) 4, (3) 2. Relay Races: (1) 20, (2) 10, (3) 6.

- 1 *Plunge (House Junior)*.—Robbins (H), Bailey W. A. (C), Baily G. (G).
- 2 *High Dive (Clubs)*.—Francis (T), de Cossio (T), Zolmanis (S).
- 3 *High Dive (House Junior)*.—Franks (H), Baily G. (G), Prangnell (C).
- 4 *Standing Spring Board (Clubs)*.—Weedon (A), de Cossio (T), Evans (A).
- 5 *Standing Spring Board (House Juniors)*.—Nagle A. (G), Baily G. (G), Hamer (H).
- 6 *Running Spring Board (Clubs)*.—Carr-Jones (T), de Cossio (T), Evans (A).

- 7 *Running Spring Board (House Juniors)*.—Baily G. (G), Franks (H), Sayer (G).
- 8 *One Length Crawl (Clubs)*.—Weedon (A), Smith R. J. (T), Lucas (S).
- 9 *One Length Crawl (House Juniors)*.—Heath (C), Nagle A. (G), Hamer (H).
- 10 *Two Lengths Any Stroke (Clubs)*.—Carr-Jones (T), Hill R. C. (A), Evans (A).
- 11 *Two Lengths Any Stroke (House Juniors)*.—Rodrigues (G), Prangnell (C), Robbins (H).
- 12 *Two Lengths Breast Stroke (Clubs)*.—Carr-Jones (T), Smith R. J. (T), Hill R. C. (A).
- 13 *Two Lengths Breast Stroke (House Juniors)*.—Franks (H), Nagle A. (G), Prangnell (C).
- 14 *One Length Crawl (House Seniors)*.—Hill R. P. (C), Roberts G. (H), Hughes (G).
- 15 *Relay Race (Clubs)*.—Athenians, Trojans, Spartans.
- 16 *Two Lengths Any Stroke (Seniors)*.—Barnes (C), Roberts G. (H), de Potier (H).
- 17 *Relay Race (House Juniors)*.—Gibb's, Halliwell's.
- 18 *Two Lengths Breast Stroke (Seniors)*.—Lamberth (G), Stephens (C), Moore (H).
- 19 *Three Lengths (House Seniors)*.—Barnes (C), Hill R. P. (C), Wright (G).
- 20 *Relay Race (Houses)*.—Cobb's, Gibb's, Halliwell's.
- 21 *Plunge (House Seniors)*.—Smith L. A., Parker, Jepson.
- 22 *Standing Spring Board (Senior)*.—Winder (G), Barnes (C), Smith J. (H).
- 23 *Running Spring Board (Senior)*.—Winder (G), Gurney (C), Smith L. A. (H).
- 24 *High Dive (Senior)*.—Winder (G), Simmons (G), Smith J. (H).

## SPUR CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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ACROSS

- 1 See 19.  
3 Newspapers go to it.  
6 Part.  
8 Here we learn to tackle low.  
11 Chemical compound.  
13 Defunct School club.  
15 Garment.  
16 As in hindrance.  
19 If he has 1 across he looks after  
the interests of a number of  
boys.  
21 Porch.  
22 Severe.  
23 It sounds an important American  
State.

## DOWN

- 1 Is this boy interested in birds?  
2 Prosecute the girl.  
4 Half of 8.  
5 Rest in peace after a little  
science.  
7 His wife indulged in a fatal  
retrospect.  
9 Girl's name.  
10 An awkward mess, if fish are  
in it.  
12 The same in Scotland.  
14 Writings.  
15 Aegean island.  
17 Proverbial example of industry  
to the sluggish.  
18 Commerce.  
20 Devonian hill.  
22 Bath, or Harrogate for example.

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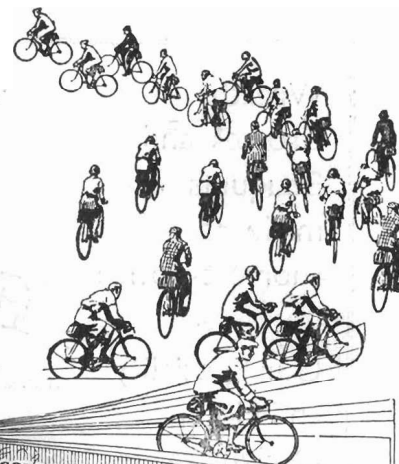
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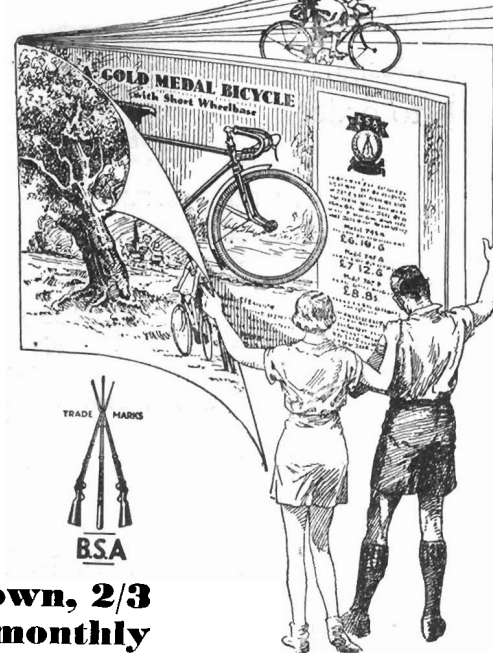
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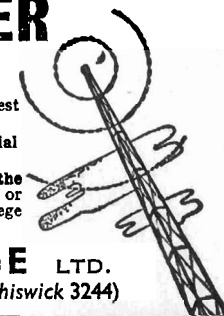
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