

THE SPUR

Vol. III

No. I





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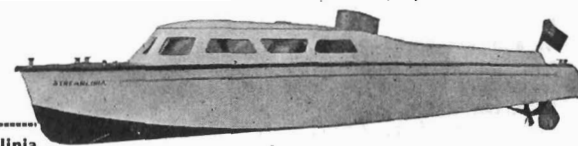
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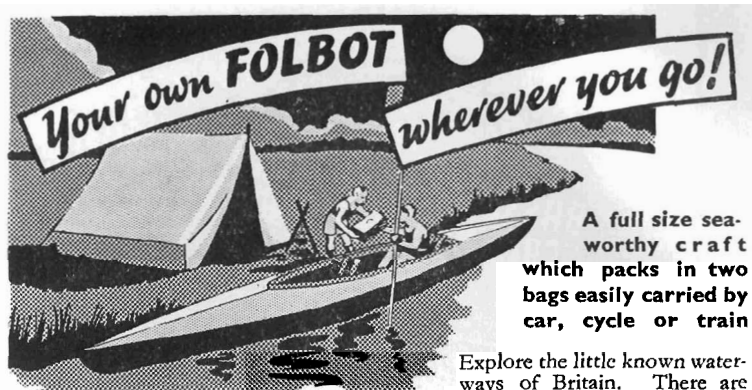
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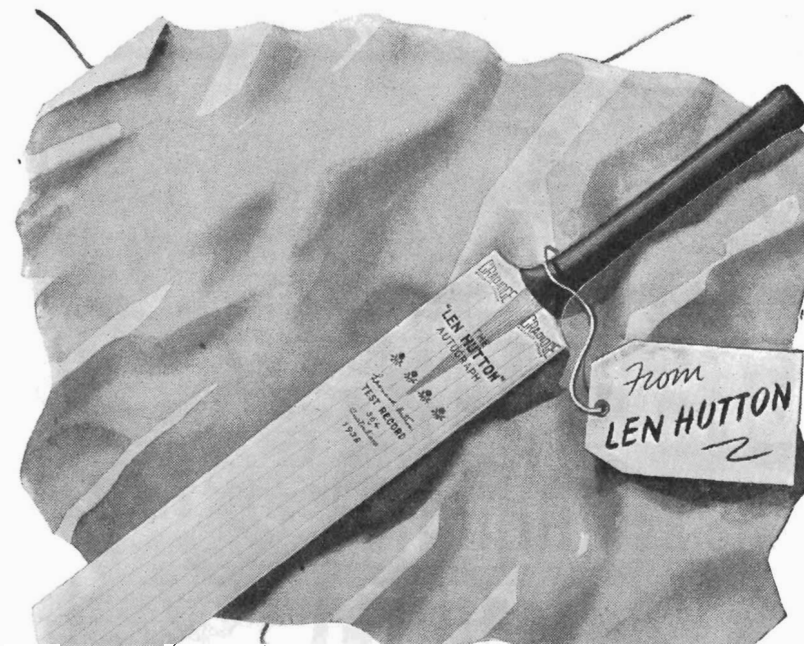
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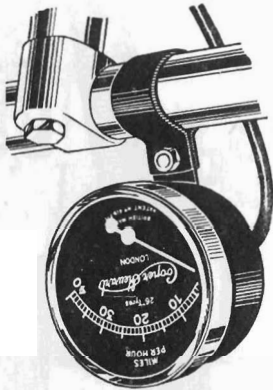
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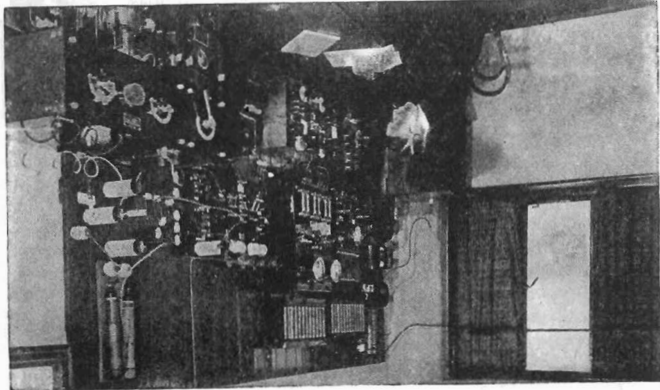


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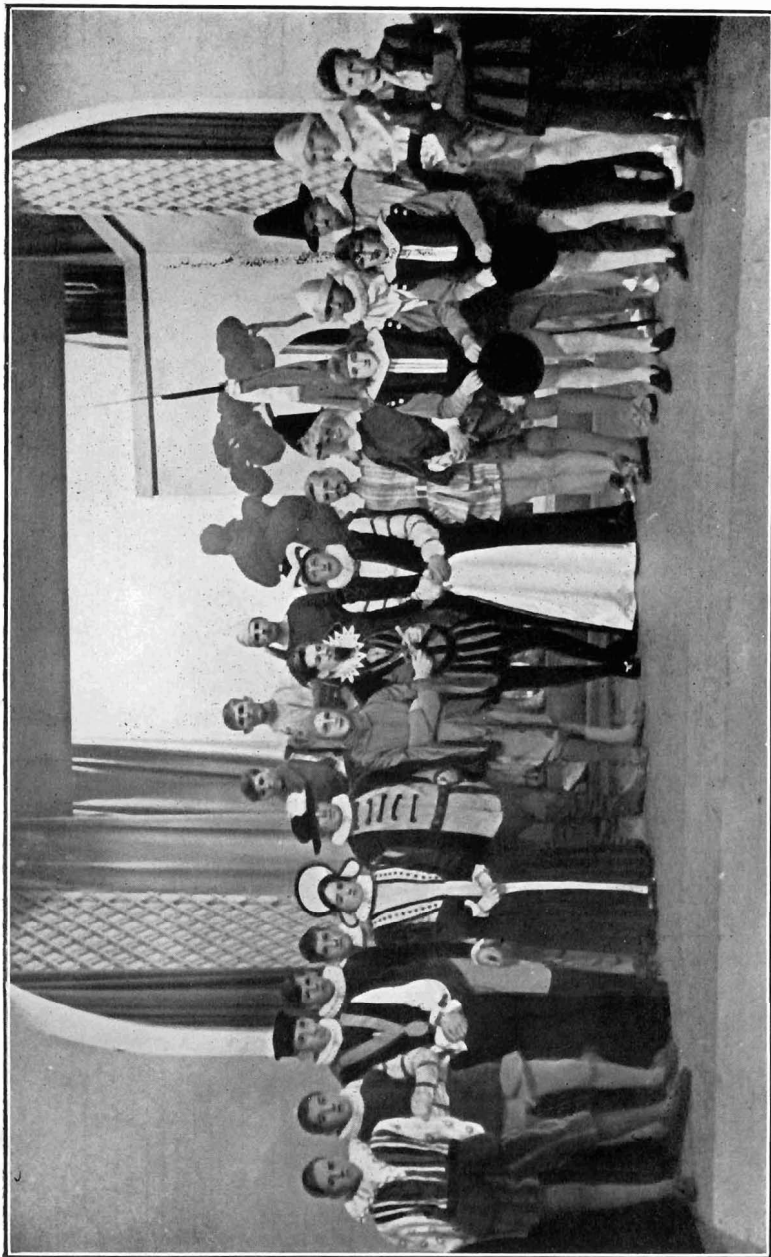
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"TWELFTH NIGHT": THE CAST
[Reproduced by the courtesy of the "Wimbledon Borough News"]

THE SPUR

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. III. No. 1.

APRIL, 1939.

EDITORIAL

Editors, like poets, must be inspired. They are only able to write as their whimsy takes them. In its infinite sagacity *The Spur* has recognized this fundamental fact. It has become a custom that if by press day the Editor is found to be unmoved, devoid of any enthusiasm, any round, polished sentences, any Message for his public, then *The Spur* goes to the printers without shame or Editorial. In this number our caprices as Editor have had to be laid aside. An important decision has recently been made concerning *The Spur's* future policy, and it is essential that all aspiring contributors to this journal should be told. Up to now we have endeavoured to combine in this Magazine both records of School events and also any original contributions sent in by boys from the School. This policy has not fully succeeded for two reasons. Firstly, we have not had enough contributions—a fault that can easily be remedied now; and secondly, we have not had enough space to print even the few contributions we did receive. We have worried printers, obtained estimates, and, with the aid of "Elementary Arithmetic" and "Maths. for the Million," made intricate financial calculations, eventually discovering that in our present position it is impossible to increase the size of *The Spur*.

After discussing several alternatives we finally made our decision. From now on you will look in vain among our pages for humorous poems, short stories and the other charivari that it is customary to find in School magazines. Instead, *The Spur* will be solely a record of School activities. But we will print all voluntary contributions that we deem worthy in a "*Spur* Literary Supplement." This will be published only when we consider that we have enough. It is hoped that the first number will be on sale next Open Night. In the past we have encouraged and exhorted all boys who have literary trends to write for *The Spur*. The need is even more urgent now if the Literary Supplement is to succeed.

HEADMASTER'S NOTES

"Twelfth Night" has been the outstanding event of the term. To have put on a play for four nights good enough to earn favourable notice in *The Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and *New Statesman*, with no dislocation of School work, is a decent achievement. If criticism has been severe we can congratulate ourselves on having been treated as a serious production aiming at the highest standards, rather than as an amateur show not far removed from charade exhibitionism.

* * * *

Theatre-goers sometimes search their memories for unforgettable moments in their experience of plays. Such an one was the impression of colour and beauty as the cast surged forward for the last curtain. Piebald as confetti, it was yet, as Ferdinand says of Prospero's masque, "a most majestic vision, and harmonious charmingly." For this we are indebted to Mr. Shephard for designs for the costumes, to Mrs. Jackson for so faithfully realizing his intentions, and to a band of hard-working parents who laboured over months to make them. To them and to Mr. Moore must go much of the credit for the satisfactory balance sheet printed elsewhere in this issue.

* * * *

The collapse of the Musicians' Gallery on the last night went to show what good discipline Mr. Beecroft has given his actors. There was no sign of panic, and those playing in the next scene were in their place to carry on as if nothing untoward had happened. Not a line was dropped, and although for the next twenty minutes new positions had hastily to be improvised, every boy was equal to his occasion. Jepson earned for himself a place in the School Play's history by completing his scene without embarrassment, when the noise behind the curtain would have justified him crying "Hell is empty and all the devils are here."

* * * *

For lecturers to visit us once may be a venture of faith: for them to come again is a pleasant comment on the audience they find. This issue records return visits from Mr. Tom Hopkinson, Mr. L. A. G. Strong and Mr. Day Lewis. The last-named saw "Twelfth Night," and wrote the criticism which appeared in *The New Statesman*.

* * * *

The highest absentee record of the term coincided with the week of the play—forty-four boys and four Masters. We were more than fortunate that the cast remained intact. To arrange the play in the term notoriously the worst for health must be to give "hostages to fortune," and our luck this year may not rule out a re-arrangement of dates next.

* * * *

The School's sympathy is with Molchanoff, Wilson, Green and Chapman in their long illnesses. They have our best wishes for a quick recovery and the certainty of a welcome back to the School where they belong as soon as may be.

* * * *

The project started this term of a band of boys who, by giving freely of their time and effort in manual work in the School grounds, earn an honourable place in the School, is making great progress. Enrolment is voluntary, but once membership has been given such service has first call on a boy's time. By their efforts the Biology patch is already being subduced to scientific service, and even the submerged remains of cowsheds do not long defy determined excavation. A grassy bank surmounted with trees and bushes, and a ditch will remain to remind the district in miniature of what the countryside once looked like.

* * * *

The *Library Review*, proudly printed on the School Press, goes on from strength to strength. It is exciting great interest in wider Library circles, as well as proving itself invaluable as an organ concentrating attention on the Library as a focal point for the School's intellectual and imaginative life.

* * * *

On February 9th we had the privilege of a recital of songs by Hendra Porges, and of the playing of the piano by Adele Katz. To undisputed technical skill must be added the most gracious and charming personalities, which made listening a double pleasure. The Czech folk songs were a great joy.

* * * *

Our congratulations to Mr. Milton on his marriage, and a very sincere welcome to his wife. Her reading of Lydia Languish in "The Rivals" introduced her to the activities of a School where we hope she may be always happy.

* * * *

Miss van der Sluys has joined the Staff as cook-house-keeper. A qualified cook, holding diplomas and experienced in cooking for schools, she has taken over full control of that side of School life. It is to be wished that still more boys would stay to dinner. Even if financial considerations make regular attendance impossible, two or three dinners a week give a boy some touch with other members of his House and some contact with his House Master. It cannot be sufficiently emphasized that dinners are not merely a convenience for boys living far from the School: the School Day involving dinner at School is a basic point in School policy, and it cannot be pretended that boys who do not stay are gaining from the School the same advantages as those who do. The paragraph in the prospectus relating to this is even more true in the light of nearly four years' experience than when it was written.

* * * *

An exchange visit with Bryanston School in July next has arisen as a result of an address given there about the life of a day school boy. Interest in a different system of education was excited, and we have been invited to send six boys for a week there, after which we shall be hosts to six of their boys. It should be a splendid opportunity for widening experience and extending sympathies. Bryanston is a public school ten years old, situated in grounds of incomparable beauty at Blandford. Their "Saga" appears in the Library each term.

* * * *

We record with gratitude the following gifts to the School:—Seeds for the Biology Garden, James Carter & Co., Ltd.; three small silver cups, Mr. Ashdown; the Play programmes, Mr. Withers; printing books, Mr. Gardiner; a collection of fossils, Michael Harrison; rockery stones and garden plants, Dr. G. B. Harrison; a proofing press (on indefinite loan), Mr. John Roberts..

SCHOOL OFFICERS, EASTER TERM, 1939

Head of the School : E. B. Jepson.

School Prefects :

D. W. Taplin, A. de Potier, W. J. Stephens, A. Hinton,
L. A. Smith, K. O. Richards.

Captain of Hockey : W. J. Stephens.

Secretary of Hockey : D. W. Taplin.

PRIZE-GIVING

Raynes Park has been fortunate in the visitors who have come to present the prizes. For our third Prize Giving we were delighted to welcome Lord David Cecil. Dr. J. E. C. Bradley was in the chair.

The Hall was packed once more. Indeed the numbers had to be regulated by exclusion, for otherwise the crowd would have been impossible. Mr. Langley offered prayers, and the Headmaster then presented his report. He reviewed the results of the year's policy of consolidation and progress in all spheres of the School's existence. Appealing for the co-operation of parents in the education of their sons, the Headmaster said:—

"I have always believed that parents and School must be co-partners in the education of boys. Often enough when impressions are pooled a solution comes. There is, however, a wider aspect of our relationship, and that is an attempt to secure interest in activities common to boys and parents alike. This School is able to give to its sons opportunities for the enrichment of life and leisure through multifarious activities which the age in which they were educated denied to their parents. We do now ask you to identify yourselves with these activities. The reason is twofold—your own enjoyment and a consequent avoidance of possible conflict between School values and home values. A boy once told me when he was leaving that his happiness at School had been impaired because the way of life which he had come here dimly to perceive, and perceiving to defend energetically, had excited at home only gibes that 'It wouldn't work. Unselfishness at School is all right. But it won't answer in the world.' He was glad to leave School to find out which was right. I do not suggest that this is a frequent state of affairs, but the fact that it happened once is a warning. The solution I see in a more complete identification of parents with what goes on here. This term we have invited you to the House Play Competition, to two dramatic readings, to a Staff Concert, and to a Christmas Carol Service. I have analysed by forms the response to such invitations, and I have made the discovery that the highest attendance comes from the parents of the Forms whose work is best, and the lowest from Forms whose work is most indifferent. To my mind this may well argue that the keen boy does propaganda

at home for his School, and parental keenness in its turn stimulates the boy.' I know and value your help in sending your boys to School clean and tidy. I do appreciate that it means an effort to turn out to a School function after a hard day's work. I know very often that there are younger members of the family who cannot be left. But I do appeal to parents to remember—and here I quote from a parent's letter—'that by merely sharing our son's artistic, and dramatic, and literary experiences, we are taking a part in their education.' And that part helps us in what we are trying to do for your sons. There has always been a General Staff of parents who support us on every occasion: what we want now is an army."

Lord David Cecil then presented the prizes. His speech was a sheer delight, unassuming, informal, yet beautifully phrased and full of wisdom about books and the part they can play in human life. Reading was not natural to every person. The habit had to be cultivated. "If you need to get the reading habit," he said, "I advise you to read what you like." Stories of adventure might lead to a deeper interest in the lands where their scene is laid; famous books of a past generation or age might arouse an interest in the history of their periods. "Don't read only your contemporaries. If a classic author has survived for hundreds of years, his works are obviously of value. We learn what the world was like before our time, and we see what it was that produced the conditions under which we live." Reading helped one to form sensible judgments about things outside one's own immediate sphere; thus one's prejudices could be broken down and one could get an impartial view. "There are countries like Germany and Russia which have a strict censorship of books. If the Russian people were allowed to read more about social activities as conducted in such places as Denmark and Sweden, a great deal would be done to improve conditions in Russia without this frightful tyranny and bloodshed." Life was inevitably narrow. There were interesting people and places in the world, but for most of us the only way we could be introduced to them was through the medium of books. In that way we could lead the life of kings and queens.

Councillor T. Braddock proposed the vote of thanks to Lord David, and spoke of the interest displayed in Raynes Park by the Surrey Education Authorities. Mr. D.

Emmanuel seconded. Both are members of the Governing Body.

And so finished an event which Lord David afterwards described as one of the most enjoyable functions of its kind he had ever attended. This was charming of him, particularly as he had contributed so much himself to our enjoyment.

The list of prize-winners is appended:—

PRIZE LIST

English.—Launder, Purser, Rodrigues, Townson, Uff, Forrest, Andrews.

Mathematics.—Cook, Daniels, Baker, James E. J., Barton, Ruff, Gray E. J.

Science.—Richards, Revill, Wilson, Meade, Green J. F.

French.—Gibbs, Franks, Nagle A., Cattell, Molchanoff.

History.—Hinton, Hamer, Petit, Maltus D. J., Honeker.

Geography.—Grills, Jordan, Hill P. S., Sommers, Simeone.

Latin.—Palk, Gates, Thompson A., Bartlett G., Brodrick.

German.—Carter J. A., Chapman, Thompson C.

Ancient History.—Gardiner.

Civics.—Reid, Barker.

Woodwork.—Smith R. J., Carr-Jones M. T., Francis, Bradbury.

Art.—Vaughan D. G., Saxby M. F., Tollett, Williams K.

Mr. Gibb's Geography Prize.—Sommers.

Holiday Art Prize.—Sleigh.

General Knowledge Prizes.—Senior, Hinton; Junior, Petit.

Science Prize.—Palmer.

Scripture Recitation Prizes.—Cockman, Taylor K., Smith F. G., Holwill.

HOUSE NOTES

Cobb's

Captain.—E. B. Jepson.

Vice-Captain.—W. J. Stephens.

This year we feel that Cobb's have consolidated themselves firmly, and are now capable of giving their opponents gruelling games, with the right House spirit behind them. Almost all are pulling their weight satisfactorily, as shown by the past year's successful Rugby season, and this year's Hockey.

House Hockey has greatly improved upon last year's performance, and we have won and lost a game (Cobb's v. Gibb's, Lost, 1—3; Cobb's v. Halliwall's, Won, 2—0). We hope to give a good account of ourselves in the future matches. **Stephens has led his team well.** Jepson is a little too fast, but capable of centring well (very industrious as centre-forward). Bailey, a sound defence. Mansbridge, distributes the ball well but rather slowly. Hill P. S. plays vigorously. Gurney must learn to take the ball on the run, but gives an encouraging performance, as also does Uff. Pengelly, industrious but hitting not his strong point. Palmer, if only he got more opportunities on the wing, would do well. Townson has solid ideas about the game and tries to put them into practice.

The House League was rather weak, but more experience will overcome our difficulties. Bedford played hard and with great determination. Our good wishes also go with Hurst, Parslow and Crowne, who leave us this term.

Hockey XI :—

STEPHENS (*Captain*).

"Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world,
Like a Colossus."—*Julius Cæsar*.

JEPSON.

"Once more into the breach, dear friends, once more."—*Henry V.*

BAILEY, W. A.

"He is, indeed, sir, the most skilful, bloody and fatal opposite that you could possibly have found in any part of Raynes Park."—*Twelfth Night*.

HILL, P. S.

"Nor do not saw the air too much with your hand,
but use all gently."—*Hamlet*.

MANSBRIDGE.

"Nay, let me alone for swearing."—*Twelfth Night*.

TOWNSON.

"And like a man to double business bound, I stand
in pause, where I shall first begin, and both neglect."
—*Hamlet*.

UFF.

"Creeps like a snail, unwillingly, to goal."

COOK (*Goal*).

"Oh, my defence is rank."—*Hamlet*.

Gibb's

We are now beginning to settle down in this year of grace, 1939, and to realize that we have before us a year of success or, alternatively, failure. The optimist may say that we have begun the year well by our success in the League matches, and our victory over Cobb's in the first Hockey House match, but we must remember that it is far easier to start the year successfully when we are full of vigour and spirit, than at the end of the year, when things seem a little drab and unattractive. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that we keep up the House Spirit. This should be our watchword, for it is this spirit which wins us the cups—size does not matter even in Rugby, so long as the spirit is there.

Let us now move away from spirits, etc., to the last House Supper. This supper was one of the most successful we have yet had. This is just as it should be, since it was held in honour of winning the Rugby Cup. We were lucky in having a professional clairvoyant, who described various objects from a safety-pin to a small boy, while his face was enveloped in a piece of cloth. Various games were played, and the evening ended with a comical film. We are now looking forward to our next House Supper, which is to be held in the very near future in honour of winning the Hockey Cup. This, of course, is a foregone conclusion.

House Hockey League Notes

It was with dismay that I viewed our League team as they lined-up for this first game against Cobb's. In size and capabilities it seemed to me that Cobb's were our superiors. But our forwards had more life in them, and the defence, although inexperienced, played to their utmost and hung on

to their man with great tenacity. We won this game and eventually beat Halliwell's as well. But we had hard luck in the Newsom's match, when Billingham G. was absent, and we could only force a draw. Milton's also gave us a hard game, and eventually this also was a draw. We drew top with Milton's, having won two and drawn two.

Valete

D. W. Taplin, one of the original members of the School and one of the first School Prefects, leaves us this term. In January, 1936, when the first three Houses were formed, he became the first House Captain of Gibb's, a position which he has filled for three years and a term. It is difficult to assess at its full value all the work he has done, both seen and unseen. Not only on the Rugger field, where he was most effective, but in the general life and detailed contacts from day to day he has been an inspiring Captain and an excellent and trustworthy leader. The House has reason to remember with gratitude all that he has done.

To him and to Patrick, who also leaves us this term, we offer our best wishes.

Halliwell's

House Captain.—L. A. Smith.

Vice-Captain.—J. P. R. Jordan.

This term has, unfortunately, been rather a flat one. There has been a lack of interest in House activities by both Seniors and Juniors. This is partly due to Seniors not realizing their responsibility to Juniors who will take their place in a few years' time. Juniors will never be able in their turn to take their Senior places in the House and School unless they take an interest in House activities.

This year we have contributed a number of boys to the School Play, three of whom took principal parts. We congratulate these three, J. H. Grubb, R. D. Franks, P. Muncaster. P. Muncaster has shown himself a newcomer to the stage who can act well. We hope that he will appear in the House plays in future. K. Daniels, G. A. Baker, J. Lake also took parts in the School Play.

Rugby

Captain.—A. de Potier.

Secretary.—K. Daniels.

It may be remembered that half-way through last term we indulged in a little self-criticism, and since then the spirit

in the game has been much better. This resulted in a higher standard of play, and in our coming second with Cobb's. We extend our congratulations to Gibb's, who won the Rugby Cup.

Hockey

Captain.—L. A. Smith.

Secretary.—J. P. R. Jordan.

We were unfortunate in having so many of our good players excluded from House League games. J. O. Hitchon, who captained the team, deserves praise for doing his best at a difficult job. He works unceasingly and tries hard on the field. Juniors should note that we are in great need for a future goalkeeper. The chief faults in the League game were that forwards lacked penetrating power, and the defence had no idea of positioning or marking.

A large number of Big Side players are included in the House team, but this does not mean we have a strong side. The team must work together if they wish to achieve a high standard of hockey.

Milton's

We have always been regarded as a House that was terribly in earnest, but somehow unable to produce many outstanding results. No longer can that cry be applied to us. Not content with winning the Rugger Leagues outright and the Dramatic Cup, we have now proceeded to gain Hockey honours. Our League team played heroically and were successful in overcoming both the persistence of our opponents and the ghastly conditions of the grounds. The result was that we now share the title of "Head of the Leagues" with Gibb's. All this bodes well for the continued keenness of the House; it means that when our Juniors take the positions of our present Seniors they will be in a position to commandeer all those cups on which we cast so many envious eyes in our first few weeks as a new-born House. Such a large number of Seniors have left us recently that we still feel their loss to us only too acutely. Owing to these unfortunate vacancies our Hockey team has been enormously weakened, nevertheless we have lived up to our reputation of giving every House a very thorough scare. We can honestly say that no one has had a run-away victory over us in any sport.

Our League team, captained by Wratten, beat Halliwell's and Cobb's, and drew with Newsom's and Gibb's. It is a pity we did not win outright, since for thirty-five out of the forty minutes we were taking pot shots at Gibb's goal.

Up to the moment we have played only one Hockey match, which we lost to Halliwell's 3—0.

Following on our success in the Dramatic Cup, four of our members were chosen for leading parts in the School Play, "Twelfth Night." We offer our sincerest congratulations to Hinton, Cockman, Day and Honeker for their extraordinarily fine performances in the respective parts of Malvolio, Feste, Belch and Viola. It is sufficient to say that they deserved all the praise lavished upon them both by parents and dramatic critics.

Newsom's

To mention the word Rugby in a term completely monopolized by Hockey is a gesture of no little daring; yet mention must be made of the welcome keenness and enthusiasm that gripped both spectators and players alike during our last match against Halliwell's. That we lost does not in the least rob us of any of the credit that must be bestowed upon the whole House.

What the House Hockey League team lacked in skill (a failing universally recognized throughout the Houses) it made up in sheer courage and determination: it is to be deplored that the attendance on the touch line was very low—never exceeding a paltry half dozen or so.

Greatly invigorated by the arrival of the members of the House on Big Side, we had hopes of gaining a high position in the House Hockey results. We were greatly disappointed by a thoroughly deserved defeat at the hands of Gibb's (magnificently led by Treen), but after a blind re-shuffling of the team we managed to do far better in our next match, with the result that the House Hockey Cup does not seem such a tantalizingly long way off. We have been afflicted by an almost overwhelming tide of misfortunes in the shape of illness and the like; Richards, however, has not yet succumbed, and while there is Richards there is indeed hope!

We look forward to seeing the House Cricket team triumph once more. We have no serious opposition, and although we feel greatly the loss of Crouch (aptly described by

a rival House as the arch-villain of two seasons), we feel confident of enjoying another House Cricket Supper.

The House is not yet sufficiently represented in the weekly Swimming sessions, and although, admittedly, the Swimming Sports seem very far off, we must not entirely forget them. We do not wish to appear sinister, but we feel we must confess that, confident as we are of the Cricket, we can entertain even greater hopes of securing the Swimming Cup.

However, with the unpleasant memories of our low position in the House Rugger table, and our ignominious defeat in the House Dramatics, we must spare no effort to make 1939 an "annus mirabilis" for the House.

Appended is the House Hockey team:—

Goal: de Cossio.

Backs: Barnes, Ogle.

Halves: Fisher S., Richards, Stanford.

Forwards: Hambrook, Elliott, Austin, Caltell, Tullberg.

RUGGER HOUSE MATCH TABLE

		Cobb's	Gibb's	Halliwell's	Milton's	Newsom's
Cobb's	...	—	G	Draw	C	C
Gibb's	...	G	—	G	G	G
Halliwell's	...	Draw	G	—	H	H
Milton's	...	C	G	H	—	N
Newsom's	...	C	G	H	N	—

1st—16.—Gibb's

2nd—10 { Cobb's
Halliwell's

4th—4.—Newsom's

5th—0.—Milton's

HOCKEY HOUSE LEAGUE TABLE

		Cobb's	Gibb's	Halliwell's	Milton's	Newsom's
Cobb's	...	—	G	Draw	M	Draw
Gibb's	...	G	—	G	Draw	Draw
Halliwell's	...	Draw	G	—	M	H
Milton's	...	M	Draw	M	—	Draw
Newsom's	...	Draw	Draw		H	—

1st—12 { Milton's
Gibb's

3rd—6 { Newsom's
Halliwell's

5th—4.—Cobb's



“TWELFTH NIGHT”

*Performances at Raynes Park County School,
8th, 9th, 10th and 11th February, 1939*

Of all Shakespeare's plays, “Twelfth Night” is the most radiant. In its rainbow blend of comedy and loveliness, of music and phantasy, of humour and wit and drama, it supplies—and demands—every ingredient which goes to make a perfect evening's entertainment. It has been said that no tragedian can wholly fail in the part of Hamlet, and one might add that no company can wholly fail in “Twelfth Night,” for the joyousness and beauty of the play are capable of transmitting their own infection even though the actor falters and the producer's vision dims.

It may be said at once that the production of “Twelfth Night” by Raynes Park County School does not leave the play to rely only on its own intrinsic glories. In pictorial appeal, in costume, in lighting, in scenery, in make-up, the Raynes Park production is as worthy of the play as any production could be. Indeed it may well be doubted whether any school performance of this play has been dressed more exquisitely, and even in professional productions one would probably have to go back to the classic presentation by Mr. Granville Barker at the Savoy Theatre before the war to recall dresses so lovely and appropriate. To the parents and all who were responsible for these dresses the most unqualified congratulations must be extended.

Raynes Park also knows well how to utilize its stage, and equal sensibility and ingenuity were displayed in fashioning so many charming scenic effects. The musicians' gallery, which greeted us when the curtains first parted, sky-swung, and lit, like the scene below it, to the mellow tone of a Rembrandt canvas, will linger long in the memory of all who feel enchantment. Beautiful, too, was Olivia's garden, though the box trees and seats seemed scarcely capable of shielding the plotters from Malvolio's sight; and very effective was the backcloth of the street scene, though it might have been more dimly lighted in the cruel episode of Sir Topas's mocking of the incarcerated steward.

The acting and the delivery of the lines were not, unfortunately, of the same high standard as the appeal to the eye. The whole cast was well drilled in fundamentals: every player had learnt to stand still and to avoid meaningless gesture, and evident hard work had given certainty and precision to place and grouping, though even greater attention

to the niceties of grouping is necessary if full effect is to be given to situation—for instance, when Malvolio makes his tremendous final exit he should be able to move down a clear-cut passage, and not merely tear himself away from a thronged company.

The words were delivered practically throughout the production at top speed. This was to shirk the issue, for unless lines so full of beauty and humour as are those of this masterpiece are said with sufficient sense of timing, it is impossible for the abundant virtue to be extracted by the actors and communicated to the audience. Shakespeare, like a symphony, requires *largos* and *andantes*, and cannot be understood if he is played throughout at a sustained *allegro*. The speed made it impossible for the players to do full justice to their parts, and makes it difficult for a critic to do full justice to the players. A. Hinton found time, however, in the general gallop to make a dignified Malvolio, and P. Cockman made a sprightly Feste, whose singing was delightful. J. H. Grubb looked charming as Olivia, and both he and E. B. Jepson as Orsino showed that they would have been capable of still more musical speech had time allowed. A. Day played Sir Toby with a pawky sense of comedy, but both he and P. Muncaster as Sir Andrew had to hasten over their joking at such speed that one could not properly assess their quality. S. C. Honeker was so clearly too young for casting as Viola that one must commend his promise rather than his achievement; A. C. Gray is to be praised for his effective discretion in playing the Priest, and S. T. Lauder as Fabian should be capable of good things to come.

If before next year's production the School will take in hand this fundamental necessity of verbal timing, and will develop its standard of speech to anything like its glorious standard of visible presentation, the future should draw from it notable Shakespearean achievements. But that it must learn to satisfy the ear as well as the eye is essential: for Shakespeare is a supreme poet, and the tools of a poet are words, and words which make music. GUY BOAS.

"TWELFTH NIGHT" BALANCE SHEET

	<i>Receipts</i>				£	s.	d.
By Sale of Tickets	83	0	2
„ Programmes	5	2	0
„ Profit on Tuck	2	10	4
					£90 12 6		

	<i>Expenses</i>						£	s.	d.
Dresses	28	0	10½
Stage	20	18	6½
Printing	12	6	
Make-up	4	4	0
							53	15	11
Profit on Play	36	16	7
							£90 12 6		

CAROL SERVICE

The Choir are learning rapidly, and their singing is growing in refinement. This refinement has not, however, deprived them of an obvious enjoyment in robust singing, and it was the more energetic carols that showed them at their best. Carols are meant, mostly, to sound spontaneous, and this quality appeared plainly in "I Saw Three Ships" and "Unto us a Boy is Born." Elsewhere the singers showed an appreciation of the necessity for balance in harmony singing, and the ability to arouse the enthusiasm of the congregation on the occasions when they were asked to join in. The soloists put up creditable performances. It was a great pleasure to welcome four parents who supported and supplemented those members of the Staff who sing tenor and bass.

We append the programme:—

PART I

1. Hymn. "Christians Awake." *Wainwright*
2. Carol. "A Child this Day is Born." *arr. Geoffrey Shaw*
3. Carol. "The First Nowell." *Traditional*
4. Carol. "The Manger Throne." *Steggall*
5. Carol. "I Saw Three Ships." *Traditional*
6. Carol. "In Dulci Jubilo." *R. C. Pearsall*
(Soloists: A. C. Barker, A. S. Gardiner, Mr. R. C. A. Oates, Mr. A. H. Reid.)
7. Carol. "King Jesus hath a Garden." *arr. Charles Wood*
8. Hymn. "While Shepherds Watched." ... *Traditional*

Interval

9. Hymn. "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing." *Mendelssohn*
10. Carol. "Good King Wenceslas." *Traditional*
(Soloists: C. M. Nunns, Mr. A. Milton.)
11. Carol. "O Little Town of Bethlehem." *Walford Davies*
(Soloist: Mr. L. W. Clack.)
12. Carol. "When Christ was Born." *A. H. Brown*
13. Carol. "Lullay, My Liking." *Holst*
(Soloist: B. A. Ruff.)
14. Carol. "Unto us a Boy is Born." *arr. Geoffrey Shaw*
15. Carol. "Angels from the Realms of Glory." *arr. Martin Shaw*
16. Hymn. "O Come, all ye Faithful." *Anon.*

THE CHOIR

Trebles: A. C. Barker, R. A. Bradley, D. G. Escott,
C. M. Nunns, D. A. Reid, B. A. Ruff, M. G. Schrecker,
V. R. White.

Altos: R. G. Chapman, A. S. Gardiner, W. H. Gather-
cole, R. C. Heath, B. G. Overell, R. H. Parker, D. S.
Williams.

Tenors: Mr. L. W. Clack, Mr. A. Milton, Mr. R. C. A.
Oates.

Basses: Mr. S. Gardiner, Mr. W. Muncaster, Mr. A. H.
Reid, Mr. A. W. Newsom.

Accompanist: Mr. F. S. Beecroft.

Conductor: Mr. G. G. H. Sexty.

LECTURES

Walter de la Mare, December 6th.

To summarize this paper on "Meaning in Poetry" would be impossible. Instead, Mr. de la Mare has permitted us to quote a passage which reveals its charm of approach to the subject and the beauty of its prose style:—"We react to new words as mere sounds to which we cannot ascribe a meaning. I opened my invaluable Webster and chanced upon the M's. The following words surrendered themselves: mazzard, maslyn, meakin, metchoacan and mekonophagism. All were entirely new to me. Each in turn I repeated them aloud, listened heedfully, and then asked myself, What precisely as verbal sounds has been their effect upon me? Mazzard for me at once evoked a fleeting glimpse of wild duck, a low sky, a waste of reeds, and dawn-lit water. Maslyn suggested a faded crimson—of curtains, say, in some old room, hung long in the sun. Metchoacan brought eagle-feathered, hatchet-faced Red Indian braves vaguely into view. Any new word evokes in the mind an aura or penumbra of meaning. This is in part connected with their sounds, in part with the personal association of such sounds. Mazzard is the name of a cultivated cherry. Meakin is not the name of a character in Dickens—a second cousin, say, of Uriah Heep's—but is a wild flower, the water milfoil. From the dictionary meaning a host of other images had followed—like a flight of peewits on a winter's day. Some day I may devour heaped-up dishes of maslyn, washed down with copious draughts of metchoacan: and in an endeavour to case the pangs of gluttony I may become at last a mekonophagist."

Tom Hopkinson, December 16th.

Picture Post started by determining "How much can we give to the public for a given price?" It assumed that the public wants a well-ordered paper which would appeal to its intelligence, having photographs of the real life of ordinary people. Democracy believes that people want and deserve the best. Democracy has not yet worked because it has not been true to its own principle of the equality of fundamental rights. Democracy must have an economic as well as a political side. People must have enough to live on or the vote is a farce. A Navy is useless without a contented people. Why fight for Democracy against Fascism if Democracy does not give a man enough to live on? Our

immediate job is threefold—to adopt a critical attitude towards newspapers and films: to resist every curtailment of liberties: to equip ourselves with information the better to challenge ideas which seem to us wrong.

L. A. G. Strong, January 16th.

On his second visit Mr. Strong read four of his short stories, "The Absentee," "Evening Piece," "A Shot in the Garden," and "The Accident." Lord David Cecil insisted when he was here on the value of literature in revealing a nation's essential characteristics. From some of these stories and their interpretation we saw what he meant.

The Bishop of Croydon, February 13th.

"What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" It is not one doing, but the going on of doing. God judges not achievement but the will and the striving. If the Prodigal Son had not got quite home, but had died with his arms outstretched towards where his parents lived, his father would still have welcomed home his son. The character of Christ is revealed in the story of the Philistines jeering at a dead dog. "Look at his filthy coat. Look at his sores," they cried. "Yes," our Lord would have said, "but the whiteness of pearls is not whiter than his teeth." The pattern of all goodness is in the Gospels, which are best read through disregarding chapters and verses, as the story of the greatest man who has ever lived.

Guy Pocock, February 28th.

Broadcasting was an entirely new art, having no tradition and demanding an entirely new technique with new rules. A speech over the air was not a public speech: it was broadcasting. A most necessary rule was the study of the psychology of your broadcaster, and an attempt to give him his accustomed atmosphere instead of the bare microphone. Hence the fifty people in the audience to applaud the funny man's humour. Broadcast drama depending on sound and not at all on sight demanded a new technique. Therefore the producer himself must never see his actors: their movements are controlled by lights operated by the producer playing with stops on a kind of organ. Mr. Pocock took us on an imaginary conducted tour through all the studios of Broadcasting House.

CECIL DAY LEWIS

We have had song recitals at this School, and we have had lectures on poetry, but when, a year ago, we saw a very bald entry in the School diary: C. Day Lewis, Song and Poetry Recital, most of us wondered what we were going to hear on Friday afternoon. Tennyson, judging from his poems, may have had a voice like that which father assumes when coaxing a reluctant baby to perform its parlour tricks; we could imagine him singing the "Last Rose of Summer" or the "Sands of Dee." We could picture Shakespeare singing madrigals or something like "Gather Ye Rosebuds." Marlowe would probably enjoy "Come, Landlord, Fill the Flowing Bowl." But a modern poet is a very different matter. Would he sing the "Red Flag"? Would he be as careless of harmonies as, to our ignorant and unenlightened eyes, he was of metres? We waited and wondered.

When Day Lewis came into the Hall on Friday the 10th of February, this term, he saw again the School piano with a hundred and fifty boys ranged around it in a semi-circle. But this time the atmosphere in the Hall was very different. No longer did we wonder idly what was to come. We expected to be delighted and we were not disappointed. Any doubts that we may have had that Day Lewis might not be so exciting as before were immediately dispelled.

There are many accusations levelled at modern poetry. One is that it does not mean anything and is only a number of ill-sounding words strung together in an incomprehensible order, without rhyme or metre. To hear Cecil Day Lewis read his own poetry completely refutes such criticism, at least where his own poems are concerned. The long poem which he read about the Civil War in Spain told of a handful of men of the Basque country to whom "freedom was more than a word." It was vigorous and exciting, and its metaphors and similes were clear-cut, forceful and crammed with meaning. After the poem he sang several groups of songs, including "The Queen's Maries," "The Mountains of Pomeroy," "Breathe Not His Name," and "Oft in the Stilly Night," which he had sung before. He has an obvious preference for very simple tunes, such as the Irish airs with the words of Tom Moore, which suit perfectly his naturally clear and melodious voice. As a request he sung again "The Queen's Maries." During his song the bird, which regularly attends all important School functions held in the Hall, moved by envy and jealousy, set himself up as the singer's rival and

began to sing in competition. But, poor bird, he lost heart, his puny pipings stopped and he flew away trying hard to keep a stiff upper beak. I am afraid that Day Lewis's magnificent singing may have blighted his unsuccessful competitor's life. His recital, which lasted a whole afternoon, was probably the most enjoyable one we have ever heard at the School. We must thank C. Day Lewis sincerely for coming, and we shall always hope that he will visit us again. The more generous our benefactors are the more we expect from them.

"THE RIVALS"

On March 10th the *Spur* Dramatic Society presented Sheridan's "Rivals" in the Library. This is their third play reading since the Society was founded, and undoubtedly the best. The play gives a picture of Bath society in the eighteenth century, and in our minds we usually associate it with knee-breeches, snuff, clouded canes and periwigs. The *Spur* Dramatic Society put aside such baubles, and played in modern dress. The result was by no means incongruous. The general level of acting was so high that one forgot such trifles as costumes and the hard chairs on which we had to sit. The long declarations of love or alternatively of hatred which so many of the characters had to make were on the whole spoken too fast, and at times it was rather difficult to understand what was being said.

The character which most people remember in connection with the "Rivals" is that weather-beaten old she-dragon, Mrs. Malaprop. That part was excellently played by Mrs. Nunns, who not only looked like a Mrs. Malaprop, but also pointed her remarks so well that it was almost impossible to miss her jokes and "malapropisms." Her performance will not be forgotten by anyone who saw her for a long time to come. Mr. Halliwell was extremely good as Bob Acres, and his gentle swearing was as funny as anything else in the play. Of the rest of the cast, Mrs. Milton gave an admirable performance as Lydia Languish, and Mr. Nunns as Sir Anthony Absolute possessed the most rollicking, infectious laugh that I have ever heard.

This reading certainly augurs well for the success of the full-length play that the Society intends to produce in the Christmas Term if the players act as well as those in the "Rivals."

COMMENTS FROM SEVERAL SOURCES

"You wouldn't find a better atmosphere in any school in England."—*London University Inspector to visitors from Dartington Hall.*

"Courteous, attentive, and free."—*L. A. G. Strong on his audience.*

"Sir, you've spoken of those who want to stay in the Army. What happens to those who want to get out?"—*Hinton, a question asked of Colonel Nye.*

"Although I've left, I like to know what the School is doing all the time."—*R. P. Hill.*

"I am enclosing a guinea as a tangible expression of all that has been accomplished on behalf of my son."—*A Parent of a boy leaving.*

"I wrote to my uncle, asking him to the School Play. He couldn't come. But he sent this half-a-crown."—*A boy with the right attitude to the Play.*

"This looks as if I shall miss the Mock Trial."—*A boy in the ambulance on his way to hospital for a serious operation.*

"I still have a strong preference for my old love, its occupants, and its surroundings."—*A boy moved to another school.*

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

So far this term we have added 135 books to the Library. Most of these have been presentations and we are duly grateful. The year's purchases, with few exceptions, remain in store. They will appear among the "recent additions" in small but regular doses. The size of each dose has been calculated so as to ensure a weekly supply of new books up to the time when our stock can be replenished, keeping in mind the possibilities of Open Night. This regulation of new books is desirable in so far as we are now past the stage when the barrenness of the shelves was an offence to the eye, and essential if *The Library Review* is to have its opportunity of introducing each of the more attractive books by criticism and comment. In any case, to flood the Library with new material is doubtful policy.

Investigation into the registers reveals a few facts of ambiguous value, but of some superficial interest. The

average borrowings' number 123 in each week. This is slightly less than was the case last term. But the proportion of non-fiction to fiction has risen from 21 to 39 out of the total figures. Research has also revealed, for what it is worth, that the ups and downs in the number of daily borrowings have an apparent relation to events in the School. There was a heavy slump during the weeks prior to the production of the School Play. Boom days coincide sometimes with the weather, almost invariably with the occasion of a literary lecture from a visitor; borrowing reached its peak on the day when Mr. L. A. G. Strong read his short stories. There is never much trade on Thursdays. The leanest days seem to be those on which *The Library Review* is published! Presumably the *Review* provides sufficient reading matter for the day.

The *Review* has gone from strength to strength. Even the Librarian is pleased with it. The Printers' Guild has played its part valiantly. The contributors have taken a pleasure in their job, and consequently done it with increasing success. The lino-cutters have been prolific in ideas; we are sorry that there is not more room to display their art. The reputation of the *Review* has already gone beyond the confines of the School: an external order for 500 copies was received for the April number. It remains to be seen whether the *Review* has any effect on the general standard of reading in the School. Meantime it is sufficient reward to know that those who produce it enjoy doing so.

The term has seen an innovation in the shape of a visit to another school library. A select band of seven saw and admired the Library at Bec School. We hope to arrange other excursions of this kind. We thank the Librarian of Bec School for his hospitality and look forward to the return visit.

We cannot close this chapter in our history without recording the accession of a book about ourselves. Under the editorship of the Head Master of Bryanston, *Manhood in the Making* sets out to survey the various types of schools in the country; the principles and practice of each type are expounded by a head master representative of that type. The Secondary Day School is the subject of a chapter written by our Head Master, and in it we find a faithful record of the "School Day" as lived and practised in our midst. It is a distinction that the School and its Head Master should be singled out for the purposes of so excellent a book.

We thank the following Old Boys for the books they presented on the occasion of their leaving the School:—

C. Crouch.—Carroll: "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" (F) and "Alice Through the Looking Glass" (F).
 R. V. Grills.—de Kruif: "Men Against Death" (875).
 A. J. Hurst.—Sayers: "Lord Peter Views the Body" (F).
 D. J. Maltus.—Deeping: "Smith" (F).
 V. Simmons.—Munthe: "Story of San Michele" (890).
 J. Moore.—Strong: "Odd Man In" (F).
 H. J. Maltus.—Wallace: "Educated Evans" (F).

JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

There have been three meetings so far this term:—

Friday, February 3rd.—"This House believes that the only way to make roads safe is to enforce a speed limit of 30 m.p.h."

Proposers: Hobbs and Polton.

Opposers: Smith F. D. and Smith F. G.

The motion was lost by 14 votes to 20.

Friday, February 17th.—"This House believes that the internal combustion engine has brought increased happiness to the world."

Proposers: Bolt and Cooper.

Opposers: Reid D. A. and Young.

The motion was lost by 8 votes to 18.

Friday, March 10th.—Mock Trial. His Majesty's Court of Assize at Raynes Park, in the County of Surrey. Ernest Horace Hawkney was charged that on the first day of March, 1939, he did feloniously steal Dorcas, an antiquity of local repute, against the peace of our Lord the King.

CAST

Judge: A. Milton, Esq.
 Counsel for the Prosecution: Rignell.
 Counsel for the Defence: Smith F. D.
 Clerk of Assize: Smith F. G.
 Judge's Clerk: Simeone.
 Warders: Hopkins and Lea.
 Foreman of the Jury: Nightingale.
 Witnesses: Schecker, Kidd, Stewardson, Young, Evans, Downham, Cunningham.

The battle of wits between Counsel lasted for over two hours, and every method of attack was brought to bear on each other, on witnesses, prisoner, and even on the Judge. Rignell and Smith F. D. surpassed themselves, and many of the witnesses, notably Stewardson, made the most of their opportunities for amusing the House.

The Society prospers. There are now 64 members, the majority of whom attend every debate. Written speeches have disappeared, and there has been a great improvement both in speaking and in the tactics of debate. A further debate is to be held on Friday, March 31st. Motion: "That Road Travel is better than travel by Rail."

CAMERA CLUB NOTES

Because of the non-delivery of apparatus we have not as yet commenced to function as a Club, but the differences of opinion with the County authorities having subsided, we shall soon be able to get to work. The Club will be divided into two camps—those who develop and print, and those who take the photographs. The developers and printers have had to be limited in order to secure a maximum expectation of life for the apparatus in the dark room.

The Headmaster has very generously offered two prizes for photographs—one for the best picture on "Transport in Motion" and one for the best picture on "School Life." It is expected that there will be a good deal of competition for these prizes, but anyone who can produce anything that is really original and well taken is assured of a good chance.

Many of our members were present during the dress rehearsal of "Twelfth Night," and took several photographs, many of which were quite creditable attempts, but most showed that we shall be far better when Mr. Doolan has initiated us into the mysterious art of juggling with time exposures.

BIOLOGY LABOUR SQUAD

The following boys are valuably occupied during their spare time, working on the Biology Plot:—

Roderiques, Lake, Uff, Nagle A., Baker, Alder, Sleigh, Withers, de Cossio, Hilton, Moore, Holwill, Rogers, Billingham G., Holgate, Benjamin.

BROADCASTING HOUSE

We have heard Mr. Guy Pocock tell us all about Broadcasting House. We have read all about Broadcasting House, possibly some of us have seen pictures of Broadcasting House. At any rate, most of us know quite a lot about Broadcasting House. To tell you what you know would be a waste of time. Most people are aware that an immense amount of time and intelligence has been spent in designing Broadcasting House in such a way as to ensure maximum comfort and pleasure for those working and performing in the offices and studios. Everyone knows that a vast sum of money has been spent in making the building acoustically, electrically and mathematically efficient in the best possible manner. But few people know what it feels like to enter the main concert hall (or studio) from the artistes' entrance at the side and see the beautifully designed hall with its rows of seats and its small, efficient stage. I am one of the few, and to see this hall, "back to front," made me realize why such good results are obtained from the artists. Walking up those small stairs one would feel compelled to play or sing well. **Atmosphere? Well, may be; but I'd call it common-sense.** There was someone practising a saxophone on the stage; nothing queer about that, but imagine practising anything in a hall like our own, with its echoes, draughts and depressing dimensions. In this studio there were absolutely no echoes, no draughts and no noises. I point this out because it is not so apparent when one enters in the orthodox way and sits down in a seat.

The next thing which impressed me was the individuality of the separate studios, the artistic intelligence which had been employed in designing them, the understanding of the broadcaster and his feelings when broadcasting. I don't know whether you have had the pleasure of broadcasting. If you have, my remarks will be more than usually clear. If you have not, you may accept it as being a very frightening experience to most people. When a person is nervous the best way to assure him that everything is quite all right is to lull him into a state of comfort, confidence and well-being. In Broadcasting House one may feel completely at ease.

But to continue. On the top floor I had a glimpse of the men behind the scenes—the engineers. Everyone has heard of these men and the mass of controls which they operate, but what will be a surprise to most of you is that Broadcasting House has its own complete telephone exchange, enabling

the House to be "connected-up" to the important theatres, cinemas and lecture halls in London. This, incidentally, includes a line from the Houses of Parliament, the source of Big Ben's chimes! Thus microphone lines can be run to a concert, play or lecture, and so to the transmitting station.

We have often been assured that nothing can go wrong at Broadcasting House, and that there is no such thing as a "technical hitch." On seeing the control room one becomes convinced—nothing can go wrong. Last, but not least, the sound effects room. If you want "a walk on the beach," "a row on the pond," "a storm in the Atlantic," or "a horse trotting down Fleet Street," with the whole Russian Air Force flying overhead, and "a train going round a corner" at the same time, the effects room can do it! The ways in which results are obtained are a proud "secret," even down to the "beach" (for walking purposes), which consists of a large tray of shingle, over which an "engineer" plods his static tread!

The party that went on the B.B.C. expedition are very grateful to Mr. Wood, who made it possible.

FILM SHOWS

On January 27th we had two films. The first one was of the famous Dunlop "90" tyre, showing how it is made. It was a very interesting film, demonstrating that the making of a tyre is not simple, and how science helps to bring the tyre nearer to perfection and the terrific tests the tyre is put to before leaving the factory. Our second film was of "Drawings that Walk and Talk," showing how cartoons gradually grew from the early and primitive vitagraph to cartoon films of pre-war days and whose pictures were like a child's drawing, till we got Popeye, Bonzo, Felix, Mickey Mouse, and other famous characters we know so well. A very interesting show.

On February 24th we had a selection from early films, showing an early news film with Queen Victoria's funeral, a film called "The Conjuror," a very amusing type of early films. "The Great Train Robbery," an early thriller and incidentally a film which would still be popular, showing the ruthlessness of the robbers; "Simple Charity," one of Mary Pickford's early pictures, in which she co-starred with that famous comedian, Charlie Chaplin. Dante's Inferno, a picture which was a great success in London in 1912, about

people's souls after they are dead. "East Lynne," an early love drama, which was an example of British films in pre-war days; and several other films, including a film by the Lumiere Brothers, "The Two Dinners," "A Well-Washed House," and "Drame Chez les Fantoques."

A very good show with a lot of variety.

DEPRESSED AREAS AND FLORAL RE-ARMAMENT

The last month or so we have been beginning to see the tangible results of our huge Floral Re-armament Scheme conceived and set in motion last autumn, being convinced of the improbability of war, though determined to be prepared.

It's in the air—not George Formby but Spring. The last few weeks have punctuated strips of seeming naked earth with blue-green bayonets of daffodils and tulips. New industries have sprung up in areas which the whole winter through have looked depressed and forlorn. Vivid shoots appear and multiply, striving to conceal the motley of toffee papers and 'bus tickets that have lain frosted or sodden on their preserves. Emaciated roots, smug little bulbs and worms—the slithy toves—that have been idle in the winter months, have been set at work by the increasing warmth and hopeful outlook in Raynes Park affairs.

A new sunshine factory—our greenhouse—has been set up in the Biological Plot, where already production is in full swing, so that the many gaps in our floral array may be filled by early summer. Shrubs have been placed at strategic points to resist bombardment from cricket balls, and a long rose pergola has been erected to supplement our defences against possible attack from over the narrow waters which separate us from our neighbours, whose ceaseless rifle practice cannot be viewed with equanimity. Extensive plans for giving instruction in floral first-aid have been outlined by the Biological Section, and we understand that the Tennis Warden has ready a plan for instituting a tennis ball barrage over the greenhouse. Although all this is being effected at an astronomic figure, severely taxing our own material resources, we are convinced that we shall be more than repaid in colour for years to come.

We regret to announce the transfer to another area of "Caspar" Wilsher, whose indefatigable efforts in all weathers, and unswerving loyalty to R. P., have contributed so largely to preparing the grounds for the whole scheme.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

"A" XV v. W. Winder's XV. Won, 10—5.

On December 10th W. Winder brought over a XV from the Royal Naval College at Chatham to play our "A" XV. It was a thousand pities that rain made our School ground impossible and the Hood ground, on which we played, next door to impossible. The result was about as good as could be expected—a mud brawl with no great skill possible by either side. Forward play was individualistic rather than concerted: the outsides seldom, if ever, saw the ball; infringements brought perpetual stoppages; but on both sides there was a fierceness of rush and counter-rush which gave some reality to the game. The result of two goals to one gave a fair indication of the run of play. It was unfortunate that what could have been such a good match should have been so spoiled by weather and the state of the ground.

RUGBY CHARACTERS, 1938

- D. W. TAPLIN (*Forward*).—A maturing and growingly successful Captain. Courageous in defence, dashing, but rather slow, in attack. Not afraid of hard work.
- L. A. SMITH (*Forward*).—A good Secretary and an excellent forward, either in defence or attack.
- W. J. STEPHENS (*Forward*).—Still too polite and prone to believe in "peaceful" penetration. One of the few forwards who can be effective in the line-out.
- D. G. AUSTIN (*Scrum Half*).—Ubiquitous and penetrating. Pops up where least expected and disappears as quickly—usually with the ball. Works cleverly with his outside half.
- K. O. RICHARDS (*Stand-off Half*).—Has learnt to run straight and can be a dangerous attacker. An opportunist and a backer-up. He should develop into a class player.
- J. GRUBB (*Forward*).—Has an eye for position and ability with his feet. Leads innumerable forward rushes. Might with advantage take a course in the off-side rule.
- W. E. RODRIGUES (*Forward*).—Too apt to sacrifice solidity for showiness, but always a tiger, whether near the ball or not.

- E. JEPSON (*Wing Three-quarter*).—Much improved defence. Good acceleration and a turn of speed. Thinks too slowly to be really thrustful.
- B. L. CHRISTIAN (*Inside Three-quarter*).—A vastly improved player who has learnt the value of running straight. Without great speed, can show surprising penetration.
- S. T. LAUNDER (*Wing Three-quarter*).—Rather lacking in inches, in speed and in a sense of position. Should be useful next season.
- A. V. SAXBY (*Forward*).—A dashing skirmisher who is difficult to stop. Works remarkably hard and tenaciously.
- R. BARNES (*Forward*).—A hard worker in the tight scrums, but the slowest things on two legs outside them.
- H. T. GIBBS (*Inside Three-quarter*).—Lacks confidence and experience, and often seems rather worried as to what to do next. Should learn how and when to pass.
- W. A. BAILEY (*Forward*).—Came into the XV late in the season. Often hooks efficiently and always gets into the thick of it.
- H. SAUNDERS (*Full Back*).—Lion-hearted, but tortoise-legged. A fair kick.

HOCKEY

We can say with some justification that the School Hockey has advanced with great strides this season, and this in spite of the abominable conditions at the beginning of term. Rain and snow, and illness so chronic that the Secretary was kept altering lists all day, made the start of the season a difficult one. In addition to this, 1st XI practices were badly hampered by the absence of many important members at rehearsals of "Twelfth Night." Thus six reserves had to play against Kingston Grammar School Colts, and though they gave a good account of themselves, could not help in the building-up of the team. The second match with this side and one with the Wayfarers H.C. had to be abandoned, and what had been an attractive fixture list began to look rather thin. But the six matches that remained should have done much to give the side confidence and experience. There is a great deal to be learnt from studying the methods of sides which score goals against you, and if our

series of defeats so far by K.G.S. Colts, 2—5; Dulwich 4th XI 1—5; Wayfarers H.C., 1—6) have taught us that we shall not score unless we learn dash and skill in the circle, they will have done a great deal. This weakness of ours is one common to every young side, and if, coupled with that other one—slowness in tackling, both in mid-field and in the circle by halves and backs—we have the clue to the greater part of our difficulties. It is impossible to arrange fixtures with sides good enough to teach us what we want to learn, and yet weak enough to allow us to win. So far our matches have been mainly against men, whose strength of wrist and speed of attack have daunted our young side. Against K.G.S. Colts we learnt, or ought to have learnt, something else: the paramount importance of the flick or push shot. The “through pass,” the most dangerous move in the game, is impossible unless the ball is PUSHED, not hit, for in this way its strength can be better controlled. The few members of the 1st XI who have discovered the knack (for it is only that) have found their game much quicker and more enjoyable; and the play of Nagle A., Smith L. A., Daniels and Treen has been notable in this respect. Another thing with which every member of the defence will sadly agree is that lack of knowledge of positional play has left most of them gasping for breath during the last twenty minutes—the part of the game during which our opponents have scored their goals. This is a problem which only the best of first-class players can master, but one which can be sufficiently overcome if they will constantly plan ahead and try to work out the probable line of attack which is in process of development.

The foregoing is sufficient to emphasize that Hockey is a game needing speed, cleverness, brain work and continued practice, and we shall never succeed unless this is realized. Nothing can be more futile than the aimless knocking about, turning, kicking, sticks, pot shots at goal, all of which goes on after dinner and before games. This applies to those below Big Side. The 1st XI and the rest of Big Side are to be congratulated on having brought a spirit of determination and enthusiasm to the game which was entirely lacking last year, and House matches so far have produced some really good constructive Hockey. But while there is a large number of really promising Juniors, they must realize that on their shoulders rests the responsibility for the success of School Hockey, and that they ought to graduate into Big Side having overcome the difficulties which beset most of the Seniors at present.

It might be a good idea to finish in capital letters with the two rules for good Hockey, which so far have been the chief cause of trouble:—KEEP YOUR PLACE. Try to forget your Rugger training for one term, and run STRAIGHT. MARK YOUR OWN MAN, particularly on the edge of the circle.

The very rapid improvement in the standard of the 1st XI is illustrated in the results of the two matches played since the above was written. The Staff side, which easily beat the School last year, was overrun to the extent of 7 goals to 1. The School XI played fast, constructive and intelligent hockey, and the Staff had a very thin time indeed. This was followed up by a decisive victory over Dulwich H.C. 4th XI, the School winning 3—2.

TABLE TENNIS

The Table Tennis Club has now been re-started, and when the silence of the hall is not rudely broken by the “mellifluous” voices of Mr. Sexty’s beloved choir, the tables are set up and a few boys settle down to an evening’s enjoyment. The Club, now in its fourth season, is displaying a high standard of play. The tournament has come round once more, and one has to look almost with a telescope on the good old days when the Club inhabited an empty Form Room. But the tournament has not lost any of its popularity, and quite a satisfactory crowd has witnessed some exciting contests. I am sure we all enjoyed the match in which Mr. Newsom clearly showed that he was playing merely to keep us amused, and the match in which Mr. Milton met his equal in the cool, calm and collected Treen. The Headmaster looked very much like reaching the finals again until he was beaten by Mr. James, against whom Schrecker and Barton tried so hard. We must admire the astuteness of Masters who hide their talent until tournament time, obviously with the hopes of playing havoc with their “apparently” unsuspecting opponents. It is a pity that only a few members avail themselves of the facilities offered, and it is a deplorable state of affairs only counteracted by the fact that the Club has not gone the way of one or two other school clubs. We are grateful to Mr. Grubb for a successful fourth season and we hope that the Club will be maintained for many years to come.

THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Every Wednesday, at the London Fire Brigade Headquarters, there is a display of fire fighting. One Wednesday Mr. Hanson took Form II Special there. When we approached our destination we saw a huge brick tower rearing above the other buildings. It had no frames in its windows. We found out later that this was the drill tower—the main object of interest. The demonstration started at three o'clock with five hundred or more people sitting on wooden benches or standing up and feeling decidedly miserable with themselves and the rain.

But this feeling was short-lived, as the firemen who were still under instruction demonstrated the fireman's lift for carrying unconscious people, showing each stage in the process. This was followed by a display of fire fighting—wood fires were put out by the ordinary small extinguishers, and petrol fires were put out by a special method. After this the use of hook ladders for climbing to the tops of houses when the usual turntable ladders are not available was demonstrated. It is a slow process, but effective. The tall tower was the scene of many fires. Fire engines rushed across the road from another building and put out the fires with their hoses. The most modern types of engines, with their vast mechanically controlled turntable ladders, were used. People on the third floor and at a height of eighty feet were rescued by hook ladders and life lines. A new kind of hose was shown, having two tubes in one, with a very powerful jet. Finally, a turn-out of engines and men as if for a fire was shown. A tour of the building finished a very enjoyable and interesting afternoon.

19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT TROOP

There are two events which have occupied our thoughts recently, and which are the outstanding events of next term. They are the Troop's Annual Fête on May 13th and the Summer Camp, which begins on July 29th.

The former will follow the same general lines of last year's Fête, but will be more ambitious and, we hope, a happier and more fruitful event. This year we shall have a larger number of parents helping in the immediate work and organization, and with our past experience, coupled with the

full support of all parents and friends of the School, the prospects are decidedly cheerful. Let us hope the sun shines!

At the end of the Summer Term the whole Troop will go into Camp for ten or more days. We are making our second visit to Cornwall, but this year to the north coast some four miles from Padstow. It is wilder and certainly a charming piece of secluded coast land: there will be greater opportunities for exploring and wide games.

Early in the Summer Term we shall be inviting all Patrol Leaders of the Wimbledon District Scout Association to a special P.L.s' Conference—the first, we believe, to be held in the district. Later in the term there will be a series of training camps at week-ends, and all recruits and Tenderfoot Scouts will have to undergo this training. The Old Boys' Association has been approached with the idea of forming a Senior Patrol, and later a Rover Crew: the response from past Scouts has been encouraging, and within a year we should see the formation of this important section of the 19th Group. Its value to the Troop as well as to Scouts leaving the School is incalculable.

RESULTS OF THE PATROL COMPETITION

AUTUMN TERM

1. Curlews	...	...	288	points
2. Falcons	...	...	268	„
3. Seagulls	...	...	267	„
4. Hawks	...	...	251	„
5. Kingfishers	...	...	243	„
6. Eagles	...	...	240	„

Investiture: Churcher, Haine, Jones, Nunns, Nye, Wood.

Important Events from the Log Book

December 10th

P.L.s' and Seconds' visit to Greenwich Hospital and the Maritime Museum.

Falcon Patrol—Sunday At Home.

March 6th

Falcon Patrol tour London.

March 14th
Parents' Social Evening.

March 18th
Troop Field Day, Box Hill and Ranmore Common.

March 26th
P.L.s' and Seconds' evening out, Box Hill and Ranmore Common.

April 29th
Association Sports.

May 13th
Annual Fête.

May 19th
Association P. L.'s Conference.

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL OLD BOYS' SOCIETY

Admonition.—The Society, now it has started properly, is not receiving the support it ought to. I appeal to all Old Boys who read this to help me create a 100 per cent membership. Will you please chase, chivvy, threaten and otherwise make all your friends who have not yet joined do so. Will you please point out that membership for the remainder of the year is only 2s. We have a very good tie on sale at 4s., which only members of the Society can wear.

Praise.—We have a Rugby Section, under the energetic guidance of S. G. Palk, Erridge Road, S.W.19, from whom details are obtainable. The nine people who turned up at the Society's first function at the Kingston Empire had a jolly good time. Unfortunately, owing to the excessive price of champagne, we were unable to toast the Society in that delectable nectar, but we did ourselves really well, and it was hoped that this was but the forerunner of many such occasions.

Future.—For the summer we hope to have a cricket match with the School, and to avenge our defeat at Rugby. May I ask you to keep clear the first Sunday in May, both

for yourself and for your girl friends? We are running a ramble through some of Surrey's most beautiful scenery, which we hope will be attended by all of you. Details will be circulated later.

Reminder.—Membership drive. More support for functions, and a very happy Easter to you all.

On behalf of the Society,

Yours faithfully,

R. V. Grills (Hon. Sec.).

“THE SPUR” BALANCE SHEET

<i>Receipts</i>					£	s.	d.
By Advertisements	5	7	6
„ Sales	15	6
„ General School Fund	12	0	9

£18 3 9

<i>Payments</i>					£	s.	d.
Printer's Bill	18	3	9

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December, 1938.

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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT:

19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT TROOP

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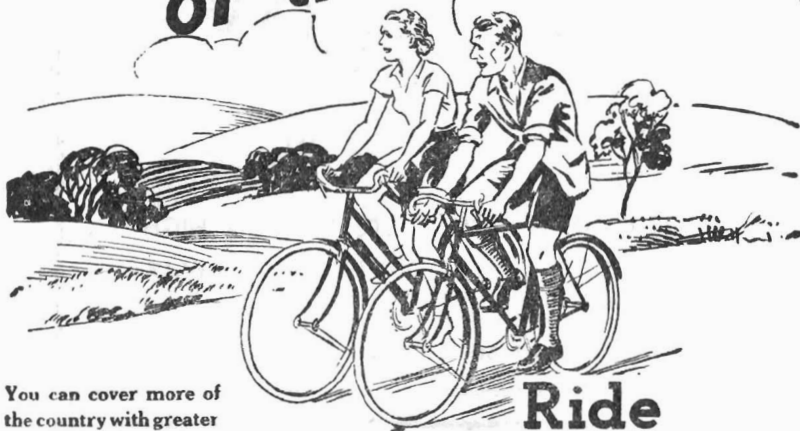
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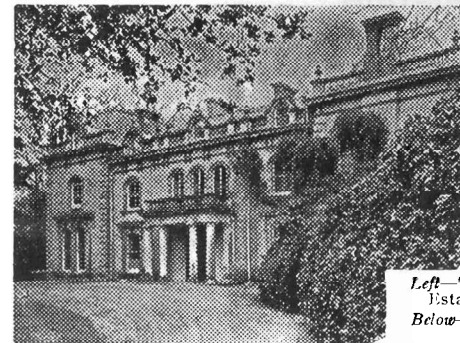
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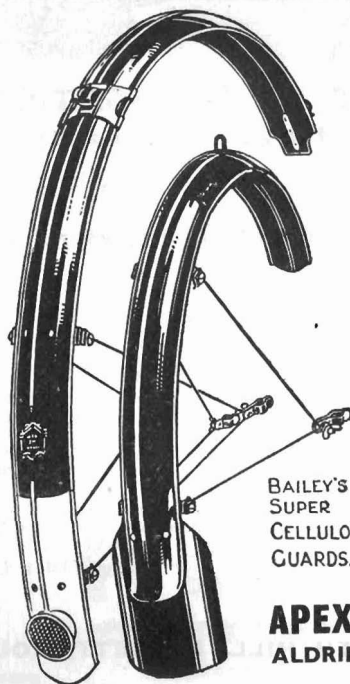
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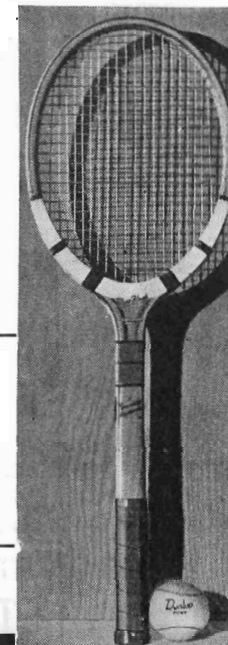
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