

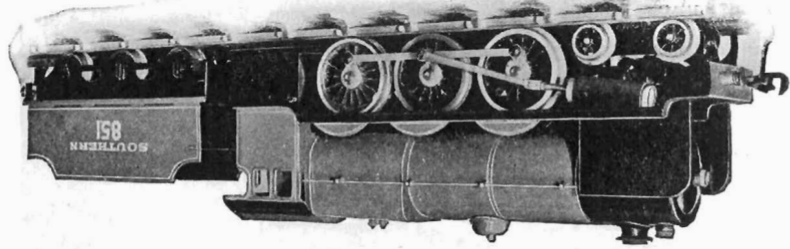
THE SPUR

Vol. III

No. 2



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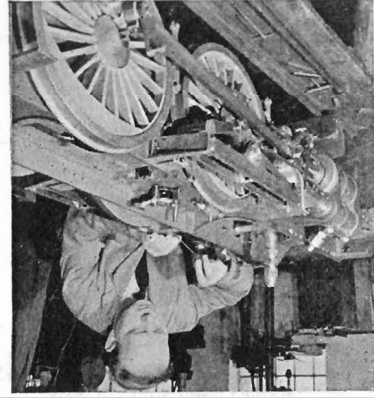
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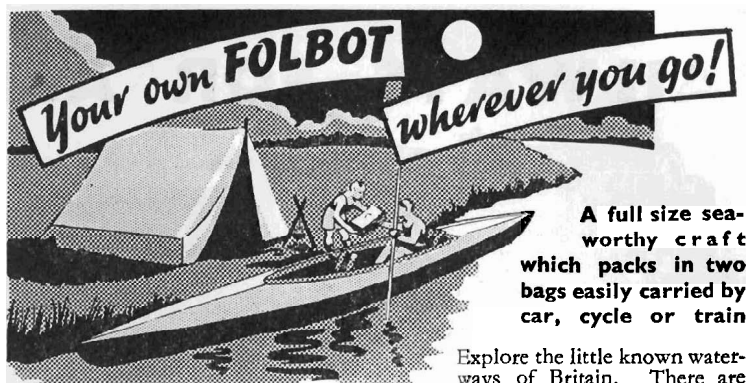
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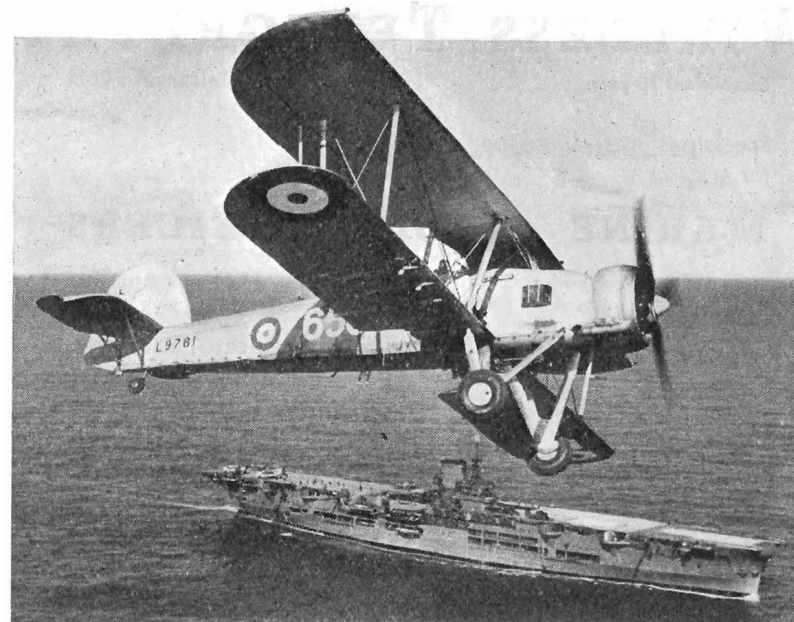
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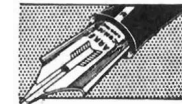
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Candidates, who must be between the ages of 14 and 16 years and 6 months, according to trade selected, will be required to pass an educational examination to be held as follows:—

For entry into the Army in January, 1940.—3rd October, 1939.

For entry into the Army in March, 1940.—2nd January, 1940.

Applications to sit at the examinations must be lodged with an Army Recruiting Officer at least a fortnight before the date of each examination.

In addition to technical training, each apprentice is housed, fed and clothed free of cost. During the apprenticeship he receives pay varying from 11d. to 1s. 7d. a day for each day of the year, including holidays. During the recognized holiday period he receives a subsistence allowance in addition to pay, and travel to and from his home free of charge.

Full particulars of age limits for the various trades can be obtained from any Army Recruiting Office or direct from the War Office (A.G.10), 5, Great Scotland Yard, S.W.1.

Bertie Bassett's Diary
*"Everyone soon
gets on my
trail!"*



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THE SPUR

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. III. No. 2.

JULY, 1939.

HEADMASTER'S NOTES

Threat of war has meant invasion of our grounds. In the near future we shall be equipped with trenches at the expense of much green grass and a part of the Biology Plot. It is presumably the price we pay for relative security. There is consolation in the fact that we are to be treated as a self-contained unit, unlikely to have to house other schools. It is devoutly to be hoped that our precautions will never be necessary, but however many heads of governments plan dementedly, it is our job to carry on our work with quiet efficiency, assuming that each term will be lived through, undisturbed by the horror of war. Any other course means chaos and capitulation.

* * * *

"Twelfth Night" last term was presented in the week characterized by the highest incidence of illness since the School opened. It would be folly to tempt again a providence which spared the cast but laid low the producer, and we have therefore decided to give "Romeo and Juliet" on December 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th. The House Play Competition will therefore be postponed until the first month of the Easter Term.

* * * *

The School Dramatic Society has arranged two readings for next term—"Dangerous Corner" and "Peer Gynt." It is hoped that this experience will help the casting of Bernard Shaw's "Major Barbara," which will be the Society's first full-length production. It will take place in March, 1940, and Mr. Beecroft will produce.

* * * *

The tragic death of the Master of Whitgift was a rude shock to us all. He had always shown the liveliest interest in this School, making real effort in a busy life to find time to attend its functions. The School's sympathy goes out to Mrs. Gurner and her son.

* * * *

It is easy to recognize hard and consistent work on the School's behalf by giving to boys who have deserved it a Merit Half. It is beyond the wit of man to ensure weather in which they can enjoy it. This year the party journeyed to Southampton, where throughout the day it rained cats and dogs, so frustrating all Mr. Hanson's careful work to ensure a good time.

* * * *

It is pleasant to record that the Chairman of the Governors and his side this year turned the tables on the Staff by defeating them at golf by three games to one.

* * * *

The habit of giving is one which the School hopes to instil, and recent results are encouraging. The response to Pound Day for the Nelson Hospital was greater than ever before, and our sale of Alexandra Roses topped the list of all schools in the neighbourhood. If the Charity Collection for the Banstead Hospital breaks all records and touches the seven-pound figure, we shall have raised by the terminal effort £50 in four years. Boys receiving medical attention in the office should remember the box which invites their thanks in coppers. A right feeling was shown by a boy who said in the Tuck Shop: "Can you give me change, please? I owe some money to Mrs. French's box." Any money contributed there is added to the collection.

* * * *

The School was represented at the Empire Service for Youth in Westminster Abbey by Jepson and Lionel Smith. The sermon was given by the Bishop of Croydon, who preached here last term.

* * * *

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. James on the birth of twin daughters.

* * * *

Continuity of tenure is highly important in a new school, and this one has been very fortunate. This term, however, we have to part with Mr. Sexty, who leaves us to join the staff of Enfield Grammar School. We thank him for all that he has done here, and particularly for his work with the School's music. His fine voice will be missed, but we hope that it may still be available at some future Staff Concert. He takes with him our best wishes.

* * * *

Next term we welcome two new members of the Staff, Mr. A. P. Polack and Mr. P. F. Baker. Both are Cambridge men, Mr. Polack having taken a First Class in both parts of the Modern Languages Tripos, and Mr. Baker a First Class in both parts of the Modern History Tripos. Mr. Polack was at St. John's College, and comes here from Wycliffe College, Stonehouse. Mr. Baker was at Trinity, and comes to us from Stowe. We hope they will both find great happiness here.

* * * *

Mr. Rupert Shephard is to be congratulated on having had a most interesting one-man exhibition of his work at the Calman Gallery. His pictures of small French ports and of boats were as pleasing as his dexterous studies of horses were surprising.

* * * *

We welcome the new caretaker, C. W. Bedford, and his wife. The School is already showing the result of their energy and work. We hope that Bedford will long feel himself able to repeat his memorable phrase: "The School's as much my home as the boys'."

* * * *

A most successful theatre party enjoyed the revival of "The Ascent of F.6" at The Old Vic. Next season's programme is such as to attract large numbers of boys to these expeditions. Old boys are always welcome.

* * * *

This term sees our largest exodus. Over thirty boys, most of whom have been with us from the beginning, become Old Boys. We are sorry to lose them and wish them well. They must remember that they have roots here. Whether or not they are going to live in the immediate neighbourhood, they should still join the Old Boys' Society, which is the means devised to keep them in touch with the School. A further hope is that although their parents may no longer have a son here, their support will still be welcomed, and their company welcome.

* * * *

At a time when boys are thinking of posts, it is interesting to record that D. W. Wotton has gone to Australia to farm, and that D. T. Parker is in charge of gangs of dockers, learning to be an officer in the Merchant Service. He plies between Liverpool and Buenos Aires. In planning a career it is too often forgotten that this country has an Empire which still calls for development. A safe job on an office stool, where the

most dangerous adventure is in crossing London's streets, should not necessarily be the summit of every boy's ambition for his career.

* * * *

We record with gratitude the following gifts: a table in oak for the Hall platform, from the "Spur" Social Society; a set of four balalaikas, from Mr. Cromoff; two magnolias and two virginia creepers, from Mr. Eric Parker; sets of records of Beethoven, César Frank, Berlioz and Brahms, from Mr. Rudolph Messel.

LECTURES

Basil Wright, March 15th.

Mr. Wright read the script for the new documentary film of a coaling ship plying between Newcastle and London, showing how, from the short story of a stowaway by Robert O'Flaherty, the film grew through every process. The documentary film was the only great contribution this country has made to the film world. A valuable discussion followed when boys asked and found out the good and bad qualities in such films as "The Citadel," "Pygmalion" and "The Lady Vanishes." "Pygmalion" succeeded despite Shaw, and not because of him. "When he says it succeeded because of his plot and writing, it is the biggest lie he has told in a long career of lying."

Nicholas Cheke, March 16th.

Representing the Society for the Preservation of Rural England, Mr. Cheke appealed for a vigorous recognition of the rights which local authorities have in preventing ugly hoardings, unsightly petrol stations, the cutting down of trees which have taken twenty years to grow, and advertising in unsuitable places, such as the faces of bridges. Until public opinion demanded it local authorities were timorous of acting on the powers Parliament had given them. The lecture was illustrated with photographs of great beauty, showing what has been preserved, and of equal horror showing where ribbon development of bungalows along the coast and unscrupulous advertising have already destroyed what once was lovely.

G. A. N. Lowndes, May 12th.

A lecture on schools and their development from 1865 onwards. Teachers used to have to ask police protection from

"the rough humour and the pelting tendencies of the neighbourhood" in which they taught. Children used often to be sewn into their clothes for the winter, and teachers had to wear sulphur bags in the hems of their skirts as a protection against vermin. By a silent social revolution, we have now become a nation at school, by which there is a place in school for every child. The ready-made clothes industry has been a notable factor in achieving greater social equality. A result of education can be seen in the behaviour of crowds in industrial disputes, when Bloody Sunday is compared with the General Strike of 1926. Contemporary passion for camping and swimming is due to the schools' example, and the growth of societies to the more varied curriculum. The work done for the health, orderliness, sobriety and happiness of the population was illustrated by slides made from prints at London County Hall.

Headmaster of Westminster, May 18th.

The meaning of Ascension Day in the Christian life. Christianity has three acts—the first, God as the Jehovah of power; the second, the life of the carpenter's Son on earth; and the third, the life of the spirit which began on Ascension Day. The happening of that day seems more remote for us because it is commemorated by no holiday, and because it is often associated in our minds with funny representations in mediæval glass. We must not be afraid to laugh at these, for God must embrace even our fun. We can, by studying the life of Christ, become like Him as surely as the boy in the Swiss village who, by continual contemplation of the face of the so-called deliverer of his village from the tyrant, came to resemble him.

Naomi Mitchison, May 23rd.

"Early Christians." Time to think out Christianity anew and to discover why it has changed from what it was to the people who first practised it. The early Christians thought of the Kingdom of Heaven as something immediately attainable in *this* world. As the Church got power and possessions, it had to put the Kingdom of Heaven into the next world. Roman Empire was a totalitarian state, which persecuted Christians on the political ground that their ideals clashed with Roman needs. Modern persecution throws light on these early slaves who suffered death gladly. In the beatitude, "Blessed are the meek," the meek means the "not-proud," the collaborators, the people who can work together. Blessedness was

a state of trust and amity, barriers down, having no power and no seeking after it. In early days forgiveness of each other was easier in the small community. "Unless we are prepared to live dangerously, we cannot be true Christians." In the presence of danger, money barriers are most likely to fall and "meekness" be achieved.

Basil Wright, May 24th.

The last talk continued, showing how the requirements of the script have been changed by the extension of the film from half-an-hour to an hour. He showed the necessity for the double plot, and the care with which the documentary spirit had to be preserved, even if fantasy was introduced at the end.

Colonel Thwaites, C.B.E., M.V.O., M.C., June 6th.

A talk on Anglo-American relations. Though more pro-British feeling in Eastern cities, unlikely that more American aid would be forthcoming than munitions and food. The U.S.A. was frightened of Japan and not of Hitler. Russia's badge was the clenched fist of hatred. In a few weeks this country would be strong enough to challenge Hitler without the help of "barbarian Russia." England stood for "toleration and loving kindness to all men."

H. V. D. Dyson, June 12th.

On books "set" and otherwise. An interesting theory that "Gulliver's Travels" is a story of a shipwreck, and "Robinson Crusoe" of domestic life. Crusoe on his island behaves like a dissenting shopkeeper. A missionary, he makes converts. He is at one with the society which produced him. Gulliver endures shipwreck, desertion by the crew, piracy, and mutiny. He is the first exile: an abandoned soul. "Paradise Lost" is a poem about freedom. God is a monarch who gives His people freedom to defy him. "Satan, a little tarnished, a shade fly-blown, becomes the cunning councillor who packs the committee: Belial as Home Secretary will control night clubs." "Tristram Shandy" is a series of superbly welded beginnings." "Shakespeare only wrote a single book, the plays being the chapters." "Wordsworth wrote about idiots: never for them. Neither he nor Shelley could ever get a story: Homer could."

Michel Saint-Denis, June 19th.

If we are going ever to have again an "Illustre Théâtre" we must get back to what Molière understood it to be—a living together of everyone concerned in the making of a play—author, producer, company, and stage hands. Contemporary dramatists no longer try to achieve the magic and thrill of sheer theatre. *Real* hot water and *real* trees are no substitute, because such naturalism never deceives. "The drama is make-believe; it does not deal with truth but with effect." The present poetic revival is too intellectual. Shakespeare works on an audience poetically, because his poetry reaches you and gives a meaning to the action which makes unnecessary a comprehension of the fullest meaning of his plays. This because he was not an intellectual, but one who understood theatre. Ibsen and Eliot's philosophical language does not carry in the theatre, because it reaches you when you do not wish to think. "A producer is one who has not been able to be either actor or dramatist, but would like to be both."

J. P. V. D. Balsdon, July 3rd.

On Fascism and the Roman Empire. Rise of Fascist Italy and of Roman Empire closely parallel. The fall of the Roman Empire "has many startling and terrifying parallels to the state of the British Empire to-day." Analogy of Mussolini and the Emperor Augustus stands out, and one married his daughter to Ciano, the other to Agrippa. Both insisted on a substitution of sober family life for the excesses of Antony in Egypt and of Rome before 1923. Both believed that if you want party members they must be got hold of young. Both wanted to vindicate a shameful defeat. Both suppressed freedom of thought. Fascism need not survive to-day because there is still a struggle between two systems, and then there was no alternative to the Roman Empire."

LECTURE LIST

The following lectures have been given in the School since September, 1937:—

Rt. Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.: Peace in Europe.

Kingsley Martin: Foreign Affairs.

Tom Hopkinson: (i) Advertising, (ii) The Press (two visits).

The Chaplain of Bryanston: The Certainty of Christianity.

Elsie Fogerty: Recitation.
 Stephen Spender: Modern Poetry.
 A. G. Vaughan: The Linoleum Industry.
 Kenneth Ingram: The new Outlook.
 Robert Grimston, M.P.: Conservatism.
 Dr. G. B. Harrison: "Twelfth Night"—as historian.
 Rev. Nigel Scott: The St. Pancras Housing Estate.
 Dame Sybil Thorndike: Dramatic recital.
 R. C. Sherriff: Making Films.
 L. H. Sutton: The British Empire in the Modern World.
 C. Day Lewis: Poetry Reading and Song Recital (two visits).
 John Newsom: Distressed Areas.
 Very Rev. the Dean of Gloucester: Christian Duties.
 Nevill Coghill: Idea of a University.
 R. D. Russell: Standards in Architecture.
 L. A. G. Strong: (i) Writing as a Job, (ii) The Short Story (two visits).
 Rt. Rev. Bishop Hudson: Adventures as a Missionary.
 J. E. Barton: Art in the Machine Age.
 Gyles Isham: "Twelfth Night"—as actor.
 Walter de la Mare: Meaning in Poetry.
 Dr. A. Sandison: Prints and Engravings.
 Colonel Nye: The Army's Function in Peace-time.
 Sir Edward Penton: Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital, Banstead.
 Rt. Rev. The Bishop of Croydon: Christian Persistence.
 Guy Pocock: Problems of Broadcasting.
 Basil Wright: Documentary Films (two visits).

SCHOOL OFFICERS, SUMMER TERM, 1939

Head of the School: E. B. Jepson.

School Prefects:

A. de Potier, W. J. Stephens, A. Hinton, L. A. Smith,
 K. O. Richards, J. H. Grubb.

Captain of Cricket: K. O. Richards.

Secretary of Cricket: F. J. Treen.

HOUSE NOTES

Cobb's

House Captain.—E. B. Jepson.

Vice-Captain.—W. J. Stephens.

Cricket Personalities

*E. B. JEPSON (*Captain*).—Up to the present he has not been able to find his form at the wicket, but his bowling has fully compensated this deficiency.

†W. J. STEPHENS.—Although not always a reliable batsman he is an excellent fielder and his energy is most commendable and his throw-in is exceptionally good.

*BAILEY, W.—A batsman with excellent balance and timing, but should try to increase his rate of scoring; his bowling is of a high standard, with an easy action.

MANSBRIDGE.—A trier, but needs more confidence in himself. Bowling is his stronger point.

PENGILLY.—A very enterprising batsman, but should learn to keep a cool head in emergencies.

HEATH.—He has proved his worth as wicket keeper.

SHEWRY.—A new member, whose efforts have been most welcome, and who shows good promise.

HILL, R.C.—He might be more alert in the field.

UFF.—He has hardly justified his inclusion in the team.

PALMER.—He makes the best of what must be a difficult game for him.

* Last year's colours. † This year's colour.

Our League team made rather puny, but not altogether disheartening efforts. We tried hard in the House League but failed to win a match. The House team was far more encouraging, and we hope for still greater things. Our fielding at times was slack and in our next match must show improvement if we are to give Halliwell's a good game. We are in the finals and no stone must be left unturned to put all our energies into this next important match.

Swimming

The Swimming Gala is not far ahead and as yet our turn out at Wimbledon is not good enough. At present we are second in the qualifying rounds, with 35 marks, 4 points behind Gibb's. All members must try and qualify even if they have only just learned to swim. The effort required to qualify

is by far easier for the Juniors and nothing more is required than sheer determination. We are a House that has been very close to holding the Cup and now is our chance to possess it. Qualifying rounds are vital and must be regarded seriously.

Tennis

Those of us who are unable to appreciate Cricket are now trying their hand at tennis. There is a trophy at stake for the winner of the Tournament. It is to be hoped that we may produce a tennis player of distinction, being resident in an area world-famous for tennis.

Valete

This term a large section of the House backbone is leaving, namely: Bailey, Gurney, C. H. Hill, P. S. Hill, Mansbridge, S. W. Heath and Uff. At least five have been members of the House since its genesis, and all have played their part in making it what it is to-day. We lose in C. Hill and Gurney two actors who have made their mark in House dramatics, in Bailey the best all-round athlete we have had, whose batting style at cricket is perhaps the best the school has yet produced. He won his School Colours for Rugger and Cricket. Mansbridge and P. Hill won their House Hockey colours, and all those leaving played for the House in all games. We hope that they will not forget what they stood for while they were part of us, and we wish them well in all they undertake.

Ankömmlinge

“The old order changeth yielding place to new.” We welcome a large number of newcomers, nearly equal to our old stagers. I hope there will be no doubt in the minds of the newcomers that they are joining us and not we them. They will have a tradition to keep up and a reputation to maintain and enhance, and we ask them to sink their personal successes in the corporate effort required to make good our losses, and surpass former achievements.

Gibb's

It was gratifying to follow up our success in the Rugby Cup competition by winning the Hockey Cup in the Easter Term, the more so since we have previously been well in the running for it, but have always fallen down rather inexplicably in one match or another.

This term in the Cricket Cup, after a match with Cobb's full of excitement and fluctuating fortunes, we made a quiet exit, but even so there is an excellent chance of adding the Cock House Trophy to our honours list. Much will depend upon our performance in the Swimming Sports. At the moment the issue is an open one, perhaps because there has been a turn out for swimming that has been far from good. In many cases there is little excuse for this slackness, since many swimmers are not cricketers as well, and should find the time to support the baths more regularly.

As was to be expected, we have at the end of this School year a larger number of leavers than ever before. Treen, our House Cricket Captain, and H. Saunders have already left us. At the end of the term we lose E. Nagle, who succeeded Taplin as House Captain, Goodman, B. Parker and Zolmanis. To them all we give our best wishes, and express the hope that we shall see them back as Old Boys.

It may interest the House to know that Wotton, who was our first House Cricket Captain and a School Prefect, has recently sailed for Australia, where he is taking up work on a sheep-station. Simmons, who was a member of the successful Hockey side, is somewhere in Norfolk learning the intricacies of the building trade. Most of our other old members are still in the neighbourhood and turn up periodically.

Next term the following new boys join us: Andrews, Gathercole, Cunningham, Dailley, Ellis, Reid, D. A. R., Healey, Saward, Young, Downham, Hillier, and Smith, F. G. To them we offer a welcome.

Halliwell's

Captain: L. A. Smith.

Vice-Captain: J. P. R. Jordan.

As during last term, a certain section of the House, chiefly **Junior**, takes no interest in House activities. Unless more House spirit is shown next term—when many Seniors will have left—the House will be in a weak condition.

This term Tennis has been available, and we are pleased to note that many have taken advantage of this. Cricket is not everybody's ideal game, and an alternative has been most welcome.

Hockey

Captain: L. A. Smith.

First we must take this opportunity of congratulating our captain and K. Daniels on being awarded their Colours.

As we had several members in Big Side, hopes ran high for retaining the Cup; but unfortunately Gibb's proved too strong for us, and so we must congratulate them on winning the Hockey Cup.

Cricket

Captain: J. Grubb.

We were unfortunate to lose our first Captain, H. T. Gibbs, after he had successfully carried us to the final, which has not yet been played. We beat Milton's fairly easily, and Newsom's by two runs owing to some hard hitting by Gibbs and Jordan. Our congratulations go again to the House Captain and to K. Daniels, this time for being awarded Cricket Colours.

Swimming

Captain: A. de Potier.

The number of boys who have already qualified is a good sign, but it would be a deplorable state of affairs if the only occasion for a visit to the baths were that when qualification was being attempted. To make any athletic activity merely a point-grabbing effort is to look at life through very twisted windows.

Next term will see a great change in the personnel of the House: very many of the Seniors will have left. To all of them we extend our best wishes for their future, and our thanks for what in their various spheres they have done for us. To focus attention on some and not others is unavoidably to give a wrong perspective, but it would seem equally wrong to let the House Captain, the House Vice-Captain, and J. H. Grubb leave us without remembering what contributions to the House they have made during their School life.

Milton's

The end of the year has found our House as fresh and as alive as it was at the beginning. We started the year well, when we were successful in the Rugby Leagues, winning them outright; we went on to fresh triumphs, added new laurels, when we won the Dramatic Cup by a superb display of

histrionic ability; we found time to seize the Hockey League Championship en route; and we have now brought the year to a brilliant close by rising to the foremost position in the Cricket Leagues. The results were:—

v. Gibb's. Won. Gibb's 102, Milton 116.

v. Halliwell's. Won. Halliwell's 50, Milton's 53 for 2 dec. (Fletcher 30).

The accent has been on the Juniors, and they have done well for their House. They will continue to do so, and the older members, some of whom are leaving us this term, will have no fear in relinquishing the reins, for they may rest assured that they will be admirably controlled by the newcomers. We are now in the vanguard at swimming and are rapidly gaining a reputation as an athletic, as well as an intellectual, unit. We look forward to next term, when we trust we shall make a valiant attempt to repeat our success of last year in the dramatic competition.

Valets

K. A. Mason has served the House valiantly and will leave a gap that it will be difficult to fill. As Captain of Cricket and Hockey, and as a leading member of the Rugger XV, his energy and enthusiasm have always been of tremendous value.

A. V. Saxby. Captain of the House Rugger XV in which capacity he inspired his side by his vigour and perseverance.

J. Wratten. Played for the House at Cricket, Rugger and Hockey, and was particularly successful as Hockey League Captain.

D. W. Smith. Played many useful games in House and League Cricket, Rugger and Hockey matches; we shall also miss him in the Swimming competition.

Langridge, A., and Langridge, D., will be remembered particularly for their part in the play "The Poison Party" at the House Supper, following our victory in the Dramatic Competition. They were also useful performers in House League matches.

Salvets

Carr-Jones, Carter, H. C., Gardiner, Higgins, Kidd, Lee, Overett, Read, L. W., Reeves, Reuter, Rignell, Schrecker.

Newsom's

With a high position in the Cock House results last year we had hoped for an even higher place this year. Unfortunately our expectations have not as yet been fully realised; after failing miserably in the Inter-House Hockey matches we proceeded to get knocked out in the first round of the Cricket matches. It is true that we lost only by three runs but the unhappy fact that we did lose remains unaltered. Disillusioned, but not downhearted we have put our trust in the forthcoming Swimming Gala. Qualifying is satisfactory, and despite the loss of Barnes we feel confident of attaining a prominent position in the Gala results.

A large Junior element is being introduced into the House next September, among whom we hope—and not without reason—to find many potential Rugby enthusiasts. Up to now our Juniors have always shouldered the greater burden of the House's activities, and though valiant in their efforts they have not been altogether successful. The now welcome addition to the upper half of the House should do much to realise our Rugby and other future ambitions. Again compared with the other Houses we shall have lost few of our original team—an encouraging fact, for by now we have learned to co-operate successfully with each other.

Tennis

To compensate our ignoble defeat in Cricket we have the encouraging thought that we possess tennis players of unparalleled skill. Thus we feel sure that the Tennis trophy will be handed to a member of this House.

Valete

We must express our regret at losing three of our most valued members of the House: Revill, Hambrook and Ogle, whose efforts to further the activities of the House have always been untiring and unstinted. Revill will be always remembered by his valuable efforts in the House Plays where his knowledge of switches and levers has been unrivalled throughout the school. Ogle and Hambrook have both been stalwarts of Rugby, Hockey and Cricket matches, and they will be greatly missed next year.

HOCKEY HOUSE TABLE, 1939

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

CRICKET LEAGUE TABLE

Newsom's v. Cobb's. Newsom's 68, Cobb's 48.

Newsom's v. Halliwell's. Newsom's 47, Halliwell's 70 for 5.

Gibb's v. Milton's. Gibb's 103, Milton's 116 for 5.

Halliwell's v. Milton's. Halliwell's 50, Milton's 54 for 2.

THE SCOUT FETE

An expectant hush spread over the people congregated on the lawn as the Headmaster introduced Lady David Douglas-Hamilton, who had kindly come to declare the Scout Fête open. In a speech perfectly suited to the occasion, she urged that Scout camps be taken sometimes abroad, and that a vast sum of money be raised to that end. She wished the 19th Wimbledon Troop's effort success. The Scoutmaster, Mr. Raynham, proposed the vote of thanks to Lady David, and told also of the year's work. Dr. G. B. Harrison seconded him.

A concerted rush, and the lawn was empty, save for autograph hunters and a few who were too old or too infirm to join the boisterous element. We were happy to see in our midst the Chairman of the Governors and Miss Bradley.

We, being on the outskirts of the crowd by virtue of our late arrival, headed the rush. Our pockets were full of coppers, and we were resolved to go home laden with prizes. Alas for our resolutions! Before two minutes had passed, we succumbed to the heat of the sun and the charm of a saleslady,

with the result that we at once bought more ices than were good for us. Thus fortified, we threw fluffy balls in an attempt to dislodge tin cans, and retired baffled. At the next stall a parent told us how easy it was to win a prize by throwing darts on to a revolving board. ("You must speculate to accumulate.") We tried, and found that losing money was easier. Next, we found a place where a ping pong ball had to be persuaded through a small hole with a golf club. We paid, remembered what Mr. Milton had told us about "flicking," allowed for the wind—and were foiled again.

Tea followed naturally, as did more ices. Then we sauntered outside and were earnestly beguiled into taking a ticket in a "Treasure Hunt." After trying to knock nails into a sleeper and win a prize on the "Mouse Derby," we looked over the Scouts' Reserve. Duly impressed by their efficiency and by their cooking, we joined a large crowd who were watching a splendid display by the Wimbledon Branch of the Women's League of Health and Beauty.

Till the time of the auction we had a go at the coconuts, but prizes still eluded us. The auction of what remained from the stalls and of various specially earmarked "effects" was fun again, but the auctioneer was perhaps a little hampered by the microphone into which he had to speak. It sometimes blotted out his face, and rather impeded his expressive gestures. But bidding was brisk, and the most unlikely articles kept on reappearing for sale, to the evident amusement of the spectators.

But there was at last an end even to this, and we returned home empty-handed, but consoled by the fact that we had contributed materially to the excellent total of about £46 realized by the Fête. Towards this sum substantial donations must be recorded from Lady Carpenter and Dr. Bradley.

Very often efficiency mitigates against amusement. But it didn't this time. Would that our purses were less shallow.

BALLIOL PLAYERS

On July 6th the Balliol Players presented "The Birds" of Aristophanes. This is their third visit to the School and we had learned to look forward to an evening's entertainment of a novel kind. The company once more proved that Greek comedy was never more alive than to-day and that its charm is independent of time and place. "The Birds" is the most fantastically humorous play that we have seen them perform;

it is packed with farce backed up by historical interest. In their production, the Balliol Players used a free adaptation in sparkling verse which added greatly to the smoothness and continuity of the dialogue. They further increased the appeal of the play as a whole by modern references and allusions to present-day affairs. The name of a heavyweight boxer here and mention of a political figure there were funny through their sheer incongruity. Typical of this was the entrance of the gigantic Heracles with his lazy grin and American drawl. Mention must also be made of the pig in the sacrifice scene—its costume was an achievement in itself.

Nowadays the chorus is probably the least comprehensible phase of Greek comedy, but it was presented convincingly, and in no way distracted the interest of the audience. The birds themselves, with their multi-coloured plumage, which although slightly unorthodox, glowed vividly against their dark background, gave colour to the performance in every sense. The two main characters, Eulpidēs and Peisthetærus, were splendid throughout the play for their comic bewilderment and determination to exclude gate-crashers in the form of poets and other queer people from their new kingdom of "Cloude-cuckooland."

The whole production was carried through with smoothness and clearness of expression which made the best of every amusing incident, cunningly keeping the balance between true comedy and farce. The audience's reception of the play showed it to be the most popular that the Balliol players have so far performed at the school. Its success prompts us to hope for further visits of the Players, now that the school is developing an appreciation of Greek comedy.

THE MERIT HALF

On Thursday, the 6th of July, at a quarter-past nine in the morning, we proceeded, under the direction of Mr. Hanson and Mr. Watts, to Raynes Park Station, where we entrained for Southampton. After a somewhat tedious journey we arrived at Southampton. On reaching the docks we were at once struck with the size of the place—shed upon shed, and crane upon crane (metaphorically speaking, of course) confronted us. Along the quays were moored ships of all nations—here a battleship from the Argentine, every officer festooned in buttons, gold lace and cocked hats; there a ship carrying bananas from the West Indies, and in corner a grain ship from Australia; but everywhere a ship of some sort.

As we were walking along the quayside we were lucky enough to see an Imperial Airways Empire flying-boat land. We then went on and saw the enormous King George V graving dock which, when occasion necessitates, houses the "Queen Mary." Some of the "Queen Mary's" screws were on the side—they were of a considerable size, and one could stand upright underneath their blades.

From then onwards till lunch time, when he again came to life, the writer can remember little except getting very wet, clambering through what appeared to be the window of a warehouse, getting out through another window and traversing miles of sheds which seemed to contain little except an atrocious smell (from furs—presumably skunk), a few packing cases and hordes of men apparently employed to prop up the walls, for they did little else (the writer made a mental note that he should try to get a job there).

After lunch our guide, who seemed to have a passion for back alleys and proverbial short-cuts, took us to the "Aquitania," which we went over. It was very sumptuous, and one found it hard to believe that one was in a ship, and sea-sickness seemed a thing of the miserable past.

After this we wended our way back to some more docks, and, as the way was somewhat tortuous and it was raining veritable kennels of cats and dogs, it was perhaps not very unnatural that we should get a little wet; however, we bore up stoutly and meekly allowed ourselves to be led through more sheds, along more quays and down more alleys, and so on until tea-time, when we found that the rain had left our appetites undiminished. After tea, our guide having disappeared—whether some of our number had turned cannibal or not we are not in a position to state—we departed for Raynes Park, whence we proceeded home by our several ways, looking like so many bedraggled rats, and very much in need of hot baths.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

In the distant past the Librarian recorded in these pages that he never expected to see the Library shelves filled to capacity—a matter of some 5,670 books. To-day he is wondering if perhaps he may after all survive long enough to recall a vista of empty shelves long since filled. At the end of the first year we had 1,015 books; to-day we have 2,929. That is a great achievement, especially as it is the work of a small

minority and not representative of the school as a whole. Too often the majority forget the immense amount of preparation and monotonous routine which is necessary in order to keep the Library in regular use. Books mysteriously disappear and less often reappear—fines are incurred through negligence and inadequacy of memory; wrong-coloured slips are filled up. The chief offenders seem to be in the IV and V forms; the Junior School is more "Library Conscious."

The *Library Review* is now firmly established. The Librarian painfully deciphers the effusions thrust upon him by dishevelled authors and ruthlessly cuts the superfluous matter. To the printers, with memories of our own amateurish and Herculean efforts with an intractable typewriter fresh in our minds, we extend our heartfelt thanks for their co-operation. Although its appeal is essentially to the boys of the school, the *Review* is apparently appreciated more outside than inside the school.

We received a return visit from the Bec School librarians this term and have incorporated one of their ideas in the Library. In spite of the pessimistic predictions of the Librarian who mistrusts everything connected with figures, a Statistical Department has been set up. From its statistics to date it appears that an average of 96 non-fiction books are borrowed in a week, or approximately 14 per day. That is an increase of 85 books per week on the non-fiction borrowings for the Christmas term of 1938. Most non-fiction books are borrowed on Fridays when the borrowings exceed those for fiction. Most books are returned on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. There is a gradual transition from fiction to non-fiction throughout the School which reaches its peak in the VI Form where only one fiction borrowing takes place for every nine non-fiction ones. Books mentioned in the *Library Review* are taken out as soon as they are available irrespective of the fact that they may have received an adverse criticism. From the sale of *Reviews*, twelve new books were bought this term.

We are indebted to the Headmaster, Mr. T. Barton, Dr. G. B. Harrison, Mr. R. Messel, Mr. Zolmanis, Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. A. D. Young, Mrs. Naomi Mitchison and others for the presentation of books to the Library. A full list of books presented by *Alumni* will be given in the next report.

D. T., Vb.

THE BIOLOGY GARDEN

"In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand."

After one year's growth we may perhaps be allowed to pause and comment on what we have been doing with that rather drab corner of the School we own. First, we are no swift annual rushing to blossom and decay, but rather a slow growing perennial making sturdy wood. To plan and plant a garden in these crisis-burdened days is salutary work lifting us into the future years, even decades ahead. Second, we are not building the garden beautiful but making a place where we can find some of the living plants and animals of our rapidly disappearing countryside. What beauty there is, is incidental to the nature of living things.

We began last autumn by erecting our greenhouse — a pleasant job of work which reminded us of the boxes of bricks in our early youth. Alder and Baker finished the job handsomely by putting in a cinder floor. We have spent much time during the year in this sunshine trap, getting delicate plants through their early stages, and setting up pot experiments which show an astonishing individuality.

After erecting the greenhouse we got to work with spade and pick and built our bank to keep out the barbarians. Heavy, dirty work it was, in unfavourable weather, but we forgot all this in the fine spring that followed when we faced the bank and planted our hedgerow—at last, the country was moving back into Raynes Park. Grassing our bank left us with the problem of filling the gaps in our turf. These were turned into plots where we hopefully cast our seeds on the barren, stony ground (from one bed we excavated half a house). We now know that seeds will grow anywhere, if kept wet. This last problem was solved by the aid of a massive hose, with many parts and feminine eccentricities, and by the sacrifice of much of our Easter holidays.

In March we moved part of Dr. Harrison's garden from Bishops Stortford to the tennis court border plot during a showery week-end, and the plants survived splendidly. We are much indebted to Dr. Harrison's generosity as he also gave us a Vivarium which has been set up and stocked by Sleigh, who brought us three sand lizards which he caught at Farnham.

Through the year, quietly in the background, a mound has been arising which has now attained mighty proportions,

quite dwarfing the excavations for our pond at its base. This latter is our main project for the winter.

But now a blight has attacked our garden; we learned this month that A.R.P. trenches had to be dug across our ground. It wasn't until we went out and stood at one end of the garden and tried to fit these monsters into the picture that we realised the pleasant spot this corner had become.

CRICKET, 1939

The season has so far been enjoyable and thoroughly satisfying. Steady and continued progress has been made in **many directions**. For the first time we have had a full programme of matches, and we have at last shown that we are capable of holding our own with other schools of similar size in the neighbourhood. The weather has often been cold, but there have been few real interruptions on account of rain. In addition, the modified programme of House Cricket (which is now run on the knock-out system) has made far fewer incursions into the ordinary routine of practice games and nets. Easily the most important factor in our headway, however, has been the admirable keenness of the members of the elevens. They have been continuously eager to learn, and have played through the season with enjoyment and steadily increasing skill. However inadequate our grounds, accommodation and facilities may be, it is a pleasure to organize cricket under such conditions. Another excellent feature has been the loyalty shown by a small band of devoted parents, who have accompanied us to all our matches, and endured the fiercest rigours of an English summer without complaint.

At the beginning of the season our batting was very weak indeed, and we collapsed quite helplessly on two occasions. Since then there has been an extraordinary improvement, and the whole team are now capable of making runs and making them with some style. Two technical faults still persist in being responsible for most of our failures: an inability to get the left foot right out to the pitch of the ball when playing forward, and a tendency to hit across any ball on the leg stump. Our out-cricket, on the other hand, has always been impressive. The bowling, though somewhat lacking in variety, has never been less than steady, and has often been really hostile. The progress in fielding has been as remarkable as in the other departments. Each member of the team now

knows his appointed place and can do his job as a unit in what, at times, looks like a really efficient machine.

The second eleven have had a record closely resembling that of the first. They also were a level and balanced team, whose playing strength has improved with every match played. They specialized in exciting finishes. They show quite considerable promise for the future.

The following have been regular members of the 1st XI

Richards (Captain, Colours, 1938).—His keenness has been infectious and unflagging, and his leadership mainly sound. On his day a match-winning bowler with great speed and accuracy. Excellent defensive back-play and an occasional off-drive. **Neat and safe in the field.**

Jepson (Vice-Captain, Colours, 1938).—A good, steady bowler with a quick break-back. His batting has improved, but he still cannot keep the ball down.

Nagle, E. (Colours, 1938).—A wicket-keeper with good hands and eye; but safe rather than hostile. A talented stroke-player who has had a bad season through a mixture of bad luck and lack of concentration.

Bailey (Colours, 1938).—An opening bat with a beautifully straight swing and a grand drive, too rarely used. Bowling often effective, though lacking in ideas.

Stephens (Colours, 1939).—Bats like the village blacksmith, laughs like Gargantua, fields like the Rock of Gibraltar and throws in like Big Bertha.

Smith, L. (Colours, 1939).—A dour and alert defence and a good square cut; just the man for a crisis. He must learn to hit to leg.

Daniels (Colours, 1939).—A canny cricketer who is learning all the time. He watches the ball right on to the bat and bowls his spinners intelligently.

Treen.—An adaptable player, cool and courageous at critical moments. A useful secretary.

Launder.—An outstanding fielder close to the wicket. Swings a bat freely and will one day make lots of runs.

Robbins.—A keen and stylish fielder. Potentially a good bat, but he is continually tempted to hit across a straight one.

Match Results

First Eleven

May 13th. Home. East Sheen C.S. 55, School 56 for 8. Won by 2 wickets. Richards 6 for 4.

May 20th. Away. School 48, K.C.S. Colts 53. Lost by 1 wicket. Stephens 36, Richards 4 for 21.

June 3rd. Away. City Freemans' School 46, School 34. Lost by 12 runs. Robbins 17, Daniels 3 for 7.

June 10th. Away. Epsom College 4th XI 94, School 95 for 4. Won by 6 wickets. Bailey 37 not out and 5 for 12, Smith 18, Richards 15 not out and 3 for 23.

June 17th. Home. School 98 for 7 declared, Parents 36 for 7. Drawn. Daniels 27 not out, Richards 16, Bailey 15, Jepson 4 for 8.

June 24th. Home. School 104 for 8 declared, Old Boys 45. Won by 59 runs. Smith 20, Richards 29 not out and 3 for 10, Bailey 3 for 3.

July 1st. Away. School 63, Ottershaw College 92. Lost by 3 wickets. Launder 17.

July 8th. Away. Surbiton C.S. 63, School 36. Lost by 27 runs. Bailey 3 for 4, Daniels 3 for 10.

Second Eleven

May 13th. Away. East Sheen C.S. 61, School 60. Lost by 1 run. Laurence, K., 4 for 14, Scoble 4 for 18.

May 20th. Home. School 55, Surbiton C.S. 58. Lost by 3 runs. Purser 19.

June 3rd. Away. Hampton G.S. 127 for 8 declared, School 63 for 7. Drawn. Fisher, J., 26 not out, Lawrence, K., 4 for 29.

June 17th. Home. Mitcham C.S. 62, School 67 for 5. Won by 5 wickets. Purser 26, Tullberg 21 not out, Meade 5 for 20.

June 24th. Away. Thames Valley C.S. 71 for 6 declared, School 74 for 8. Won by 2 wickets. Lake 21, Purser 15.

THE COLTS

The Colts have so far played four matches with the following results:—

- v. Hampton Grammar School. H.G.S. 41, R.P.C.S. 29.
- v. Surbiton County School. R.P.C.S. 22, S.C.S. 84.
- v. Thames Valley County School. R.P.C.S. 42, T.V.C.S. 47 for 5.
- v. Surbiton County School. S.C.S. 54, R.P.C.S. 42 for 5.

Three matches lost out of four is not an impressive record, and we have no excuse, for although we lost our best batsman and one of our best bowlers, who were required for the 1st and 2nd XI matches, we were always strong enough on paper to win. The second match against Surbiton proved that lack of confidence had been responsible for our defeats in the first three games; in this match only time and rain robbed us of an easy victory. We often attribute our failure to learn to play with a straight bat to the terrifying things that can happen on our pitches, and there is some justification for this. But we must feel mortified at the style with which for instance some very small boys from Surbiton County School played the fast bowling of Poulter and Lawrence, when they can boast of no better pitches than ours. When the Colts will learn to carry the lessons that they are taught in nets on to field with them, to move the left foot to the pitch of the ball and to swing the bat straight, they will find that they have plenty of talent. These are the two chief faults; there are a dozen boys who are capable of 50 runs in a House League Match when the bowling is served well up on the leg, but almost no one who will play a good length ball as it deserves. Our bowling has improved considerably, Poulter being outstanding now that he has cut down his run and uses his head. Howse deserves congratulation for his improvement behind the stumps, and Rogers, Holwill and Sanderson for excellent fielding.

JUNIORS

So far we have not won a match. Our perpetual benefactors and kind hosts, K.C.S. Junior School, have beaten the full Junior XI handsomely once, and the "Under 12" XI twice. But this does not matter at all, and the games have been fun. What does matter is that the members of the sides are beginning to realise that there is more in cricket than a talkative scramble; order and precision are of its essence.

Batting, bowling and fielding require careful thought and practice. Without them, nobody can go far.

Some of the batting has been encouraging. Nerves let most of the players down in matches, betraying them into absurd shots and foolish running. Yet there really are some left feet near the ball and some straight bats. At this stage "Let runs come" should be the motto; brilliant forcing play requires more strokes, strength and experience than Juniors can be expected to have. Ruff, Rendall and Kidd in particular are showing promise.

The bowling is good, though it is a pity nobody has had the courage to try slow spinners. There is a better idea of length than in past years, and a more persistently straight attack on the wicket. I would put down Polton, Lawrence, L. E., and Thompson as potentially the best, though several others, including White and Ruff, are coming on.

Hopkins should make a very fair wicket-keeper when he grasps the idea that the way to stop a shooter is not to put his hands above his head and stand with his feet apart.

Finally, the job of captain has been done really well—with sense and judgment—by Ruff.

The Trojans (mainly through Lawrence, K.) won the Club competition handsomely.

TENNIS

So far the advancement of the game during this preliminary term has been rather lacking in spirit. The majority of members have not taken full advantage of constant practice to improve their play.

We must realise, however, that the Tennis Club has only been in existence for a short time and consequently most of the players have only just begun to learn, and have had no time to appreciate the finer points of the game.

But it is noticeable that the standard of play has already begun to show much improvement in many cases, and although it is still far from perfection, we must hope for time to show us our budding champions.

OLD BOYS' SOCIETY

The issue of this number of the "Spur" sees the first year of our existence draw to a close. During this year we have run a number of successful outings which were greatly enjoyed by all who came. But we *must* have *more support*. To those of you leaving School, I appeal particularly to join the Society. In return for your subscription you will receive the following privileges. All the issues of the "Spur" and the School Diary will be sent to you; you will be allowed the use of the School on Tuesdays and Thursdays for Tennis, Badminton, Gym., and other purposes. It must be borne in mind, however, that to enjoy these privileges you must be a member of the Society.

This autumn we are running our first Dance on the evening of the Ruggar match with the School. To make this a success we must have a hundred per cent turn-out of the Old Boys, so if you are already a member renew your subscription, and if you have just left School join at once. The five-shilling subscription confers membership for one year (up to next September). Last, I should like to thank the Headmaster and Mr. Gibb for the way in which they have helped us in the past year and to hope for their co-operation in the years to come.

To those of you who have not yet had their holiday, may I wish you a pleasant time.

For and on behalf of the O.B.S.,

R. V. Grills, Hon. Sec.

SPUR SOCIETIES

We print below the names and addresses of the Hon. Secretaries of these two important bodies. They will gladly supply details to any inquirer.

The Spur Dramatic Society: L. C. Fielding, Esq., 15 Somerset Avenue, West Barnes Lane.

The Spur Social Society: J. James, Esq., 47 Portland Avenue, New Malden.

CONTEMPORARIES

We acknowledge the receipt of the following contemporaries, with apologies for any inadvertent omissions:—

Taunton School Journal, The Cryptian, The Fettesian, The West Bridgfordian, The Gresham, The Victorian, The Olicanian, Bryanston Saga, King's College School Wimbledon Magazine.

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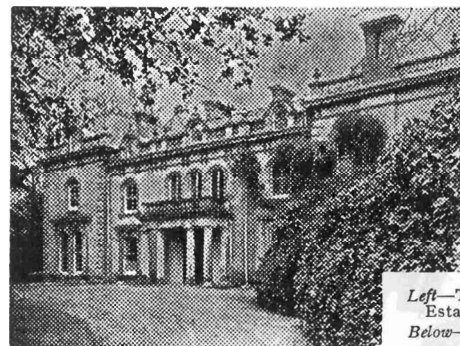
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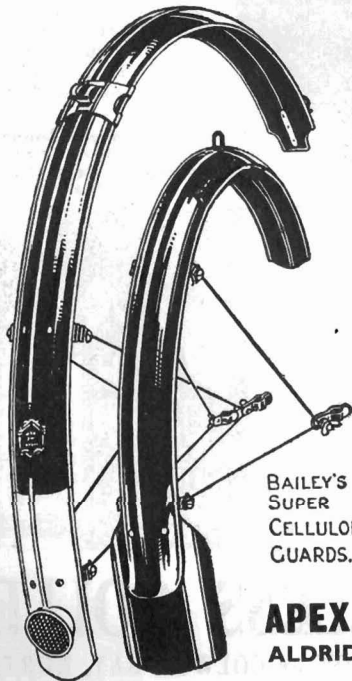
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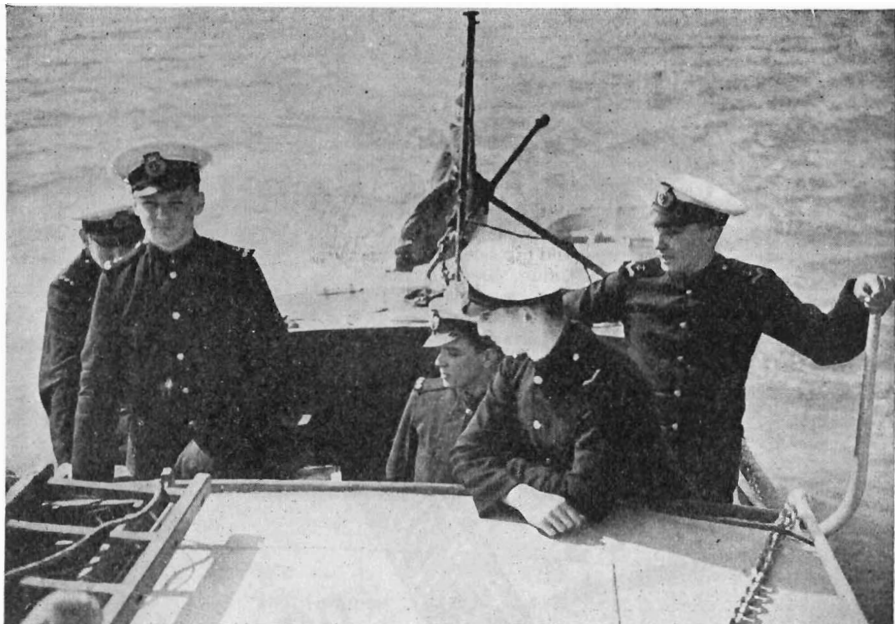


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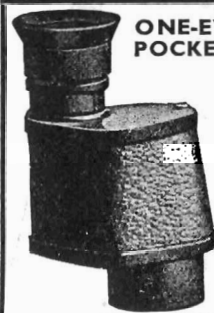
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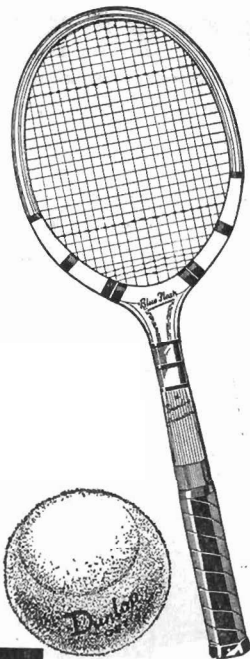
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