

THE SPUR

Vol. VI

No. 4



# THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.

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

Vol. VI. No. 4.

December, 1943.

## HEADMASTER'S NOTES

Since I wrote last term's notes two Old Boys have been killed in action with the Royal Air Force. Both M. H. C. Ashdown and J. A. G. Billingham were brothers of present members of the School. Our profound sympathy goes out to their families and friends. Their sacrifice should impel us to make the School worthy of the future, and the future worthy of so grievous a cost.

N. G. Brodrick has been elected to an Open Exhibition in History at the Queen's College, Oxford. The School takes great pride in his **achievement**. Ten County Major Scholarships have also been awarded to members of the Sixth Form as well as twenty-nine Higher Certificates.

This term we have welcomed to the Staff Mr. E. R. C. Dartington, Miss J. Bishell, Dr. H. G. Dittmar and Mr. L. Deubert. Mr. Deubert unfortunately cannot remain with us for long, but we hope that the others are happily settled. Mr. Moore now holds a commission in the R.A.F. and is separated from us by a greater distance than before. Even so, he contrives to give a measure of instruction and advice.

The activities of Old Boys are now so numerous that it is hard to make any selection of them here. But no doubt the Old Boys' News Letter will increase in size and interest each year. After a very successful period of office, culminating in the O.R.P. Society's Dance in July, Arthur Thompson has had to resign from the post of Honorary Secretary, as he is now fully occupied in the R.A.F. The Committee of the Society has recommended the election of Bernard Meade as Secretary, though he will be unable to take up his duties until March. Meanwhile D. F. Smith is serving as Acting Secretary. The two Old Boys' evenings which have been held this term give proof of his energy and enthusiasm. Nine Old Boys are now in residence at Oxford and three at Cambridge. A. de Potier is Secretary of the Cambridge University Film Society.

Accounts of many lectures are given in succeeding pages. Once again I should like to express our thanks to the lecturers, all distinguished in their various fields of action and study, for their great kindness in coming here and so generously giving their time. I hope that the abundance of lecturers will never be taken for granted and that our gratitude will not flag.

Last term's performance of the *Medea* exceeded the highest expectations. Both the translation and the production were brilliant, and Mr. Warner and Mr. Beecroft have our warmest congratulations. It was a fine precedent to have members of the "Spur" Dramatic Society acting with members of the School. Miss Lewington, Mrs. Spencer, Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Smith maintained an exceptionally high level of performance. It is to be hoped that they will soon be seen again on the School stage.

This term the Music Club has had several concerts of great and varied interest. Under its auspices the Czech Trio gave a performance for parents, friends and members of the School, which was an outstanding musical event. In the interval Mr. Fried of the Czech Air Force made an appeal for the Fund for Disabled Czecho-Slovak Airmen, and a sum of nearly ten pounds was collected. I know that all who were present would wish me to express our gratitude and admiration to Miss Marketta, Mr. Sedivka and Mr. Horitz.

The Junior School is being experimentally reorganised. The Forms are steadily developing as social units with the co-operation of the Prefects attached to them and each has its own club to cater for special interests. A4 has a Stamp Club, A3 a Chess Club, A2 an Engineering Club and A1 a "Charmen's" Club. The Juniors have had their own Film Shows and Lectures and also a Music Recital. The Junior School Court and Council are institutions of real value.

Mr. Garrett returned to the School in July and presented the John Garrett Cup at the Sports. It was stimulating to have him among us. His short speech, impromptu but characteristic, must have recalled memories of the exciting days when the foundations were being laid.

The tragically sudden and premature death of Mr. C. A. Roberts has deprived the School of one of its keenest supporters. His encouragement was most helpful to me, and it was good to see him on the touch-line at every Rugger match and in regular attendance at our discussions. Mrs. Roberts, her daughter and her son, John, are assured of our heartfelt sympathy.

## ROLL OF HONOUR

### *Killed*

Sgt./Observer M. H. C. Ashdown, R.A.F.  
Sgt. A/G. J. A. G. Billingham, R.A.F.

### *Missing*

Sgt.-Pilot J. A. Smith, R.A.F.  
P/O. A. V. I. Cook, R.A.F.  
P/O. S. G. Palk, R.A.F.

### *Prisoner of War*

P/O. J. D. L. Moore, R.A.F.  
Sgt.-Pilot R. G. Franklin, R.A.F.

## OBITUARY

### JOHN ANTHONY GEOFFERY BILLINGHAM

John Anthony Geoffery Billingham was one of the original members of the School when it opened in 1935, and one of the first members of Gibb's House. By a tragic circumstance he was one of the first casualties which the School has sustained.

As a senior he made his mark as a forward at Rugby football and played some grand games for the School and for his House. His last terms were marked by a quiet seriousness and a great spirit of loyal co-operation. He left in December, 1939, to take up engineering and in October, 1941, volunteered for the R.A.F., in which he became a Sergeant Air-Gunner. Returning from operations over Germany he lost his life when his aircraft crashed over this country.

His death is particularly close to us, for his father is a Governor of the School and his younger brother is School Captain.

## M. H. C. ASHDOWN

Michael Ashdown came to the School from Kingston Grammar School, County Dublin, during the second year of the School's existence in 1936. He was in Form Vb and in Milton's when he left in January, 1940. He is remembered as one whose quiet and pleasant personality had a lasting influence for good on those with whom he came in contact.

On leaving school he went first to Henley's, then to the R.A.F., in which he attained the rank of Sergt. Pilot. It was on his sixth operational flight as aircraft captain over Germany that he lost his life, when his aircraft crashed in the sea.

## SCHOOL OFFICERS, AUTUMN TERM, 1943

*Head of School:* G. P. Billingham.

*Second Boy:* N. T. Poulter.

### *School Prefects:*

G. P. Billingham, N. T. Poulter, N. G. Brodrick, M. G. Brown, J. A. Carter, J. F. Green, A. G. Hopkins, D. A. R. Reid, J. J. Roberts, C. Thompson.

*Prefect of Hall:* J. A. Carter.

*Prefect of Library:* N. G. Brodrick.

*Secretary of Rugger:* J. F. Green.

*Secretary of Games Committee:* J. J. Roberts.

## EXAMINATION RESULTS, 1943

The following boys were awarded Higher Certificates as a result of their work in the examination in June:

ARTS SIXTH.—Andrews V. H., J. Bell, N. G. Brodrick (with distinctions in History and English), Cattel G. M., Cooper D. M., Dixon R., Dobson K. S., R. G. Forward, Nightingale D. L., A. H. Overell, N. T. Poulter, D. P. Rendall, Schrecker M. G., Simeone R. N. (with distinction in Geography).

SCIENCE SIXTH.—Bannister B., M. G. Bedford, Bond A. E., Gardiner A., Jillett R. L., C. J. V. Liddle, Parker R. H. G., Prior K. G., Smith M. J., Tait D. B., Warren E. R., Wright K. W.

CLASSICAL SIXTH.—Royd House E., Ruff B. A., Smith I. P.

County University Scholarships were awarded to:

Bannister B., J. Bell, Bond A. E., N. T. Brodrick, Nightingale D. L., A. H. Overell, N. T. Poulter, Schrecker M. G., Simeone R. N., Smith M. J.

The following boys were awarded General School Certificates:

The prefix (m) denoting exemption from London Matriculation.

V.1.—Carpenter, Collins, Cunningham, (m) Eyles, Fullman, Hillier, Lutz, Page, Robinson E. F., Rogers, Stewart, Ward, White V.

V.2.—(m) Aries, Bradley, Ellis D. A., Ellis R. D., Harding, (m) Harrison D., Jaunet, (m) Jones K., Joyce, (m) Newman R. A., (m) Rolison, Toase, (m) Tuthill.

V.3.—Barber, (m) Brebner, (m) Carr, Chippington, (m) Cousin P. G., (m) Howard, (m) Jepson, Jowett, (m) Moss, Perry, Petts, Plummer, (m) Salter, (m) Saunders, Smith H. A., Stark, (m) Taylor A. L., Thomas, (m) Upcott, Ward J., (m) Wiggins, (m) Woodward.

## HOUSE NOTES

### Cobb's

*House Captain:* J. A. Carter.

*Vice-Captain:* A. G. Hopkins.

*House Prefect:* C. Thompson.

### Athletics

*Captain:* M. G. Bedford.

At the beginning of the sports, the House stood third in qualifying points and for a short time on the first day our flag fluttered at first place on the masthead, giving us high hopes of winning the Athletics Cup for the third time running. Our earlier defeat in the tug-o-war against Halliwell's however, combined with a lack of qualifying points, found us placed third at the end of the second day.

#### Swimming

*Captain:* J. A. Carter.

Although last in qualifying, eighteen points behind Halliwell's, the swimming team succeeded in obtaining second place in the sports. The swimmers of the House are to be congratulated on their very good performance and we have high hopes of wresting the cup from Halliwell's next year if the standard of qualifying is improved.

#### Rugger

*Captain:* A. G. Hopkins.

Confident of a smashing victory over Newsom's, we failed miserably to achieve our object and only just succeeded in beating them 9-6 after a very hard fought game. After this rude awakening, the team turned out in an aggressive spirit against Halliwell's and played a magnificent game, beating them 14-8. Two more matches are yet to be played, against Milton's and Gibb's. We look forward especially to the time-honoured feud with Gibb's at the end of term.

#### Dramatics

**The House Play this year will be *Thunder Rock*.** Rehearsals are now in full swing under Simeone's direction and great keenness is being shown by the whole cast. It is very encouraging that three of our few new members of the House are taking part in the play.

#### Valete

**Last term many valuable members of the House left us.** In M. G. Bedford we lose our House Captain who has led us so ably throughout the year. He will especially be remembered for his athletic achievements for the House and for the School. He is now on a naval short course at Edinburgh University. D. P. Rendall has left us and is now on a naval short course at Oxford. We congratulate him on the award of the Eric Parker Cup. D. M. Cooper, B. Bannister, D. Griffiths and A. S. C. Barker have also left us. We wish them all good fortune and hope they will often come back to see us.

Mr. Cobb has been back several times this term and was on the touch-line for the Cobb's v. Halliwell's rugger match. We welcome him at all times back at School and look forward to the time when he comes back permanently.

#### Gibb's

*Captain:* G. P. Billingham.

*Vice-Captain:* D. A. R. Reid.

*Captain of Rugger:* G. P. Billingham.

It seems rather late to record our success and failures of last term, but how far our success outweighed our failure may be judged by the fact that we were Cock House last year by a larger margin of points than in any previous year. We will not go through the achievements which have secured for us first place, but rather stress the miserable failure of our swimming when we were placed last, mainly as a result of lack of spirit in the House. We can only hope that the new members of the House will help to renew interest in this apparently dying activity.

In the last issue of *The Spur* we were waiting to play the final of the House Cricket Competition against Halliwell's. We won that match fairly easily, thanks mainly to the batting and bowling of Wright. It

is pleasant to think that the team will remain practically unchanged for this year.

**In athletics we were first by a clear margin of fifty points.** The credit for this success must go almost entirely to K. H. Taylor, the House athletics captain, and to the Colts, who won almost every event in their section.

Here we must mention the House Supper which was held last term. It was arranged in response to a demand from senior members of the House who remembered the days (they seem very long ago) when a House Supper marked every victory. It was worked out that we were owing at least seven such suppers. Excellent food was provided by Mrs. Austin and we drank to the future success of the House in mineral water (those that had any left). The supper was followed by a game of rounders outside. **We had as our guests the other House captains. We hope they enjoyed it as much as the House did.**

**Of this term we can say little.** We have played two House rugger matches, against Milton's and Newsom's, winning by 47-0 and 35-5 respectively. **Things look well for the future in this direction.**

The House Play is now in production and we hope to repeat the success of last year. We have chosen a modern play by V. A. Pearn, *The Devil in the Cathedral*.

And now it only remains to welcome new members to the House, wishing them happiness and at the same time hoping they will uphold the traditions which the House has built up.

#### Halliwell's

*House Captain:* J. F. Green.

*Vice-Captain:* M. G. Brown.

**This year the House enters on a new phase.** Mr. Halliwell's new appointment last term deprived us of the Housemaster who has led us since the foundation of the House in 1935. Although we realise what a loss Mr. Halliwell is, we appreciate our good fortune in having Mr. Smith as his successor.

As a result of new additions to the House, our numbers are greater than ever before. We welcome these Junior members and anticipate much of them.

Hearty congratulations are extended to two old members of the House, J. A. Bell and Bond A. E., on their gaining County Major Scholarships. They are both at Oriel College, Oxford, Bell reading Law, and Bond, Chemistry. We wish them the best of success in their University careers.

#### Cricket.

Our successful encounter with Cobb's in the semi-final of last term's Cricket Competition has already been recorded. This left us with Gibb's as our rivals in the final. In the early part of the game events took a similar course to those of the previous Cobb's match. Gibb's, who **batted first, lost their best batsmen with the score still under 20.** However, our fielding was poor and due largely to the energies of Wright, Gibb's managed to total 89. Unfortunately Gibb's bowling was of such a high standard that we collapsed. Newman was the only player to reach double figures.

#### Swimming

*Captain:* J. F. Green.

For the first time in four years we were placed first in the House **Competition.** Although our swimming was of a high standard in the sports, it was our large number of qualifying points that was decisive.

This year our swimmers are very promising and we look forward to next July with confidence.

### Athletics.

*Captain:* M. G. Brown.

At one time during the sports we had hopes of being placed second, however, our deficiency in qualifying points proved too great a disadvantage and we finished fourth.

### Rugger

*Captain:* J. F. Green. *Secretary:* M. G. Brown.

As yet we have only played one game this season. At the opening of the game we felt confident that we should at least draw with Cobb's. But despite the fact that we have a complete Big-side scrum, we lost the game 14—8. Our three-quarters are of slight stature, but they show much promise and we look forward to our next match against Newsom's.

### Milton's

*House Captain:* J. J. Roberts.

*Vice-Captain:* Schrecker M. G.

This term we welcomed our new Housemaster, Mr. R. Loveday. He has shown a many-sided interest in the House. Co-operation, especially among the Juniors, is growing. We hope that this spirit will continue and that we shall see more of certain members of the House who have so far been too content to remain in the background. Among other activities we have paid a most enjoyable visit to the ballet, and hope to pay visits to other shows in the near future. It would certainly help in future House Plays if members became familiar with stage technique by seeing good professional productions. Our *House Play* this term is the first play from Dorothy L. Sayers' cycle *The Man Born to be King*. This play is progressing favourably, and is revealing latent talent among certain junior members of the house.

The *Athletics* result at the end of last term was most encouraging. Due to the unflinching energy of the Captain, C. J. V. Liddle, the House was placed second—a noteworthy achievement considering the fact that we were last in the qualifying. This year we shall miss the services of Liddle, who has left us to join the R.A.F., and we shall have to make a greater effort. Twenty-six boys have qualified for the mile—this is not enough and next term the House must work harder and make sure of winning the cup.

In *Swimming* we only came fourth, owing to a deplorable lack of qualifying points. Juniors and Seniors should train hard all the year round and give all their support to Oliver, the Swimming Captain, who is putting in a great deal of hard work.

So far we have played only one *Rugger* match, and that was against Gibb's. We lost by a wide margin.

We congratulate A. H. Overell, Schrecker M. G. and Smith M. J., who were awarded County Major Scholarships as a result of the Higher School Certificate examination last term.

Oates B. G. has left us to join the Art School, and Schrecker M. G. is leaving at the end of this term. We were glad to see certain of the old boys of the House recently: B. W. Meade, who is studying medicine at Guy's Hospital, S. C. Honeker and A. H. Overell, both of whom are in the Royal Navy, and C. J. V. Liddle, who is now in the Royal Air Force.

We welcome the following juniors to the House, some of whom have already played in the House XV and others who are taking part in the play: Ayling, Birch, Fuller, Burford, Da Costa, Loman, MacDonald, Rabson, Wakefield, Wilkinson.

### Newsom's

*Captain:* N. T. Poulter.

*Vice-Captain:* N. G. Brodrick.

*Captain of Rugger:*

*Captain of Athletics:* } Ward R.

This report of the House activities during the past few months can be conveniently divided into two parts: first, a record of the defeats (ignominious and otherwise) we have suffered at the hands of the other Houses; secondly, a record of our successes, successes which atone in very large measure for our defeats.

Little need be said about cricket: we were drawn to play against Gibb's in the first round of the competition; the game was lost and so Newsom's was eliminated from the contest at the outset.

In spite of the large number of qualifying points gained and in spite of Ward's strenuous coaching and exhortations, we were placed third in the Swimming Competition.

Our position at the end of the Athletics Competition was no better, although the number of qualifying points we had gained gave us second place at the beginning of this event.

Our first rugger match of this term against Cobb's, although lost, does not deserve to be included in the above list of defeats: indeed at half-time it appeared that we might win for we were leading 6—3. It was only a determined break-through on the part of our opponents at the very end of the game that caused us to lose 9—6. We hope that this display of our potential rugger prowess will explode the myth that all rugger matches against Newsom's are of necessity "walk-overs" for the opposing side.

Our academic achievement (which unfortunately does nothing to help us secure the Cock House Cup) remains as high as ever. Out of the four members of Newsom's House who were candidates for Higher Certificate, no fewer than three (N. T. Poulter, N. G. Brodrick and Nightingale D. L.) obtained County Major Scholarships. In addition, N. G. Brodrick created a precedent by being the first boy of this School to gain an Open Exhibition while still in attendance here. In the last School Certificate Examination, the only member of VI to gain Matriculation Exemption was Eyles, a member of Newsom's.

As is usual at this time of the year, the House Play Competition is our chief interest. Undaunted by the result of last year's contest we have chosen a serious play once more and are acting scenes from Goethe's *Faust*. Perhaps it would be as well to add that we have not abandoned the farce through any desire on our part to live down the reputation we have acquired in the past for these "charades" as they have been contemptuously and needlessly called.

We extend a welcome to all the new members of the House who have come up from the Junior School and trust that they will be happy among us. We look to them to take advantage of all the opportunities of serving Newsom's House that are offered to them.

### LECTURES

*Lieut. Sharpe, R.N.V.R., "The Navy, and its part in Combined Operations,"*  
15th July.

Lieut. Sharpe gave his audience an exciting picture of the Navy's activities in wartime. The School had heard last term Mr. Brian Tunstall describing the factors which govern the use of our sea-power. It was now privileged to hear a first-hand account of the Navy in action. Lieut. Sharpe devoted the first half of his lecture to a general survey of the huge task which faced the Navy. We had to keep the seas open to our own shipping and deny the use of them to the enemy. To do this a constant

vigil must be maintained against enemy surface raiders, as well as unceasing efforts against enemy U-boats. All over the globe the ships of the Royal Navy were facing immense hazards to get our convoys across the seas in safety. Lieut. Sharpe then presented a short film of the Navy at War which illustrated his words. Amongst other things it showed how the German battleship, *Bismarck*, was tracked down and annihilated.

The second part of his lecture was devoted to one specific activity of units of the Navy—combined operations. He dealt with the large-scale raid on Dieppe, and we realised for the first time how elaborate such operations really are. Elaborate “briefings,” split-second timing and superb staff work were vital to its success. The raid itself was described unforgettably by one who had been on the spot. Lieut. Sharpe told us how he took his unescorted destroyer into the raging inferno which was Dieppe harbour. In the calm, precise tone of a man who might have been describing a country walk he related how his ship had been straddled with bombs, raked with machine-gun fire and all but blown out of the water. But she was not destroyed and her mission was successfully carried out. He concluded his exhilarating lecture by presenting a film of the Dieppe raid which showed what a hazardous operation it had been.

N.G.B.

*Dr. E. J. F. James, “Scientific Research and Social Needs,” 27th July.*

What is the position of Scientific Research to-day? Explaining this, Dr. James, in an interesting and well-delivered lecture, sketched the development of research from the era of the gifted amateur such as Boyle to the present day, when science has become an important industry.

His plea was for more extensive research, and he enumerated six frustrating factors.

First, the difficulty of convincing business men that money spent on research is not wasted. Secondly, research must not be confined to chemistry and physics, as it is now—biology, sociology and psychology are three sciences which will take on an ever-increasing importance. Next, people are afraid of the possibilities of science, which is little understood, and is not applied to social problems.

The “social irresponsibility” of the pure scientist is the fourth factor preventing more extensive research. This again means that there is often a complete divorcement of research and social needs. So long as research is not properly planned and controlled, socially valuable patents may be bought up and “frozen” since they might lessen profits. Finally, there is too much secrecy about the results of research carried out privately.

Dr. James called for a wider realisation of the social implications of science. Our outlook is too superficial; research workers with social vision as well as technical ability are needed. This combination is, however, reciprocal—social administrators with some scientific training would be a great help. The speaker also called for larger subsidies for research work, and, lastly, for the training of young scientists who would not cut themselves off from all other knowledge—the type of scientist this School strives to produce.

R.H.G.P.

*G. K. Laycock, “Sweden,” 30th October.*

The Swedes are a very similar people to ourselves. We have similar languages and belong to the same racial group. The Scandinavians are far more our spiritual neighbours than are the French. For democracy is inherent in Sweden, and not taken up during the nineteenth century, as it was by many European countries. The Swedes, like ourselves, are very proud of their ancient tradition of freedom. Their parliament is the historic Rikstag, consisting of two chambers, both democratically elected by a system of proportional representation. There is a great respect for law and freedom, as in England, and no fascist methods are

found in the Swedish judicial system. But at the same time their respect of the law leads them to stick to the letter of the law, to obey every rule without any regard for the personal factor.

The Swedes have a powerful feeling of being a very small people. They have kept out of political affairs and developed a pacific tradition, which has resulted in over one hundred years of peace. The war is looked upon as “the play of the great powers.” Nevertheless there is a great psychological affection for England which manifests itself in their desire for British goods. Moreover, there are, at present, excellent, accurate news reports from England. Their interest in England is not so much in the art of England, as in her sport: England’s football teams are, indeed, her best ambassadors in Sweden.

R.N.S.

*Councillor Drake, Address, 4th October.*

In an address equalled only in its humour by the variety of subjects with which it dealt, the retiring Mayor of Wimbledon, Councillor Drake, drew our attention to many historical facts which merit our interest and with which many of us were unacquainted until this lecture. Few people know, for instance, that the coaches which 150 years ago traversed England with such punctuality attained an average speed of 5½ miles per hour, which is as fast as an ordinary walking pace. The internal-combustion engine which has had so great an influence on man’s life was invented as recently as 1884. The first flight made in an heavier than air machine, that made by the Wright Brothers in 1903, lasted for twelve seconds; yet during the course of the past fifty years the aeroplane has been so perfected as to enable thousands of miles of ocean to be crossed with perfect safety. An interesting historical fact is that the 130 ships that made up the Spanish Armada had a total displacement of 60,000 tons, while the *Queen Mary* has a displacement of 80,000 tons. It is for us the descendants of the Englishman who fought in the gallant action against the Armada to see that the “post-war world” becomes a reality; only then shall we have fulfilled the obligation put upon us by our great past.

A.T.E.B.

*Guy Boas, “The Mystery of Stamp Collecting,” 6th October.*

Stamp collecting is a hobby followed and enjoyed by people of all classes and ages. History, Geography, Art, and many other subjects can be learnt from these little scraps of paper, and an interesting collection can be made of archæological subjects portrayed on them. There are many remarkable stories behind foreign stamps, which may have travelled thousands of miles from the far corners of the earth, and from places whose very names are surrounded with romance.

One of the most interesting of these stories concerns Mauritius, the first British Colony to follow the example of the Mother Country by issuing postage-stamps. The local watchmaker was entrusted with the engraving of the copper plate from which the 1d. and 2d. issues were printed, but made an error in the printing. These stamps would normally have been destroyed, but the wife of the Governor was sending out invitations to a ball and used them. Thus about a thousand specimens were used, but only about twenty-five are known of to-day, and the average value of each is £5,000. This is only one example of the fascination of stamp collecting.

C.T.

*Dr. Elwyn Davies, “Human Types and Climate,” 12th October.*

We have a tendency to make wide generalisations about the characteristics of foreign peoples, which are often prejudiced. Differences in human types are due to the very wide distribution of the human type. Most animals are limited to one climate, but man is not, because he can

adjust himself to the climate by artificial means. He can also adapt his physical form to climate. The simplest example of this is his adaptation to sunny climates. The effect of ultra-violet rays is to produce the irritation known as sunburn and the skin gives out a dark pigment to protect it from this burning. The result is that peoples living in hot climates have developed dark skins in evolution. But this reaction took place early in the process of evolution and is irreversible.

The early home of man was in North Africa and Arabia, because during the Ice Age the rain winds were pushed southwards to produce parkland and grassland in the present desert areas. With the retreat of the ice, conditions reverted to normal, and the population moved out to more favourable areas. Some moved northwards into Europe, others moved southward into Africa, and the rest moved eastward into Asia.

Those who moved to Africa went into hot tropical conditions and had to be accustomed to moist heat. Their skin had to be adapted to the dispersal of heat, and dispersal by radiation and perspiration is difficult under wet conditions. To fit the tropical conditions the upper layer of the skin is very thin and the bloodvessels are placed near the skin. To protect the skin against the powerful sun of Central Africa it has a dark colouring. The sweat glands are large and very numerous in the skin of an African. The hair follicle is broad and flabby so that the hair is not gripped tightly and tends to become crinkly. And, to make it a good conductor of heat, the skin is kept moist.

The peoples who went across Asia moved into a region of cold winters and dry, biting winds, and they acquired adaptations for the conservation of bodily heat. As a result the outer layer of their skin is thick and dry; and the bloodvessels are deep down, and the colour is yellow as a result. In these Mongoloid peoples there are few sweat glands and the hair follicle is very tight, to prevent the escape of heat, so that the hair lies lank and straight. These people have also developed slit-eyes as a result of a fatty eyelid and a larger eye muscle.

There is no very distinctive adaptation in the European peoples whose skin and hair are intermediate between those of the Negroid and Mongoloid peoples. The hair grows wavy; the bloodvessels are close to the skin and produce a rosy colouring; but the skin is fair, as there is no need for protection against powerful sunshine.

These characteristics are all adaptations to meet conditions of climate. Once acquired they have all remained since they were acquired during a formative period. Physical differences are almost all quantitative, not qualitative.

R.N.S.

George Glasgow, "Post-War Problems," 14th October.

What will happen to Italy after the war? How can we end the territorial dispute between Russia and Poland? What about that now little considered Austro-Hungarian Empire? These are the kind of questions our fathers sought to answer in 1918 and which the present generation will be faced with in the near future. So far, no treaty ever written has achieved its purpose. Through the League of Nations treaties were signed at the rate of almost one a day, treaties which contradicted one another and which no country intended to carry out.

Why did this war come about? At Versailles in 1919 world disarmament was promised; in 1932, thirteen years later, Litvinov was openly mocked at by the League of Nations for proposing disarmament. The same year the Germans offered similar proposals which were at once rejected, and, as a direct result, in 1933 Hitler became Chancellor of Germany.

Yet there is only one problem that matters; man must be taught to obey the laws of this universe. After the last war we stripped Germany of her arms and of her money; we took away some of her land and crowded

her into a small space. According to the laws of nature an explosion resulted; a nation must not be subjected. In all previous peace treaties the conquered nation has been completely vanquished; this method has never succeeded. Let us after this war make an experiment and give Germany the colonies she desires and a "square deal" in every respect; then leave the rest to human nature and to God.

B.A.R.

Joseph Macleod, "The Russian Theatre," 18th October.

The fact that there are over one thousand theatres in the Soviet Union unaffected by the present war shows the importance of the modern Soviet Theatre. The word theatre in Russian means more than it does in English. It stands for a group of people—actors, producers, stage-managers, electricians, scene painters, scene shifters—who form a permanent company which often travels through the country.

The Russians go to the theatre more often than we do, but for them it is not an escape from life. They enjoy it as being an extension of their own experience. It brings them into a sense of proportion, and state propaganda is not to be found on the Russian stage.

The actors themselves frequently impersonate living people, especially important figures in the Soviet Union such as Stalin. They attempt to portray accurately the parts they are playing. This Soviet Realism, as it is called, is a new product of the October Revolution. The pre-Revolutionary middle class was not interested in realism, and so the Russian theatre was essentially formalist. Meierhold's theory, born at the time of the Revolution, that all men were simply cogs in the world machine; produced a new conception which was entirely opposite to the intention of the Soviets. Contrary to many people's expectation, the Soviet Government wanted to see the thoughts of the people expressed in an individual manner. Thus Soviet Realism was born as a reaction to Meierhold's theory. Meierhold eventually adapted himself to the Soviet principles. Many of the different Soviet Socialist Republics had no theatre at the time of the Revolution; now most of these Republics have twenty or more theatres. Other Republics, whose separate culture had been suppressed under the Tsarist régime, have been encouraged to develop their own theatres.

The themes of Russian plays at the moment are not limited to war, and because of Soviet Realism even the Germans are portrayed on the stage. Foreign playwrights are also popular in Russia. Molière having been staged in one of the new Eastern Republics by Mongols dressed in the correct Louis XIV wigs. Shakespeare, however, is probably their most popular foreign playwright.

In answer to questions, Mr. Macleod said that actors in the Soviet Union often were important figures in politics and other sides of social life. Amateur theatres were also very common, and young amateur players were often trained as professional actors if they showed sufficient talent.

The films are no rival to the theatre in the Soviet Union, but are rather the theatre's counterpart. Most important of all, however, is the fact that Soviet plays are not full of State propaganda, though anti-Socialist plays would probably be forbidden by the play committee. Finally, no script is subjected to a censorship, as our plays are; there is no equivalent of the Lord Chamberlain's censorship in Russia.

C.W.B.

Mr. L. A. G. Strong, "Shakespeare and Psychology," 24th October.

Psychology is one of those new-born sciences about which we pretend to know very much, and in reality know very little. Mr. Strong therefore began his lecture by defining the terms of this science.

Most people have COMPLEXES of some kind, these being separate personalities split from the main personality. They are not really harmful



until they begin to live a life of their own, in which case they are called NEUROSES. A lunatic suffers by having too many such personalities, which jar upon each other. There are several forms of complex, and BAD TIMING is one of the most common. An OBSESSION makes life unharmonious by causing the sufferer to concentrate upon one central idea which for him becomes life itself. Many people are liable to day-dream in an effort to escape from harsh reality. This form of complex, called FANTASY, is especially harmful if employed as a substitute for action in real life with a view to avoiding difficulties.

In the plays of Shakespeare we can observe all these psychological manifestations. Bad timing, in its various forms, is the root of most of his tragedies. Romeo, obsessed by a love for Juliet, cannot wait and **tries to rush into marriage: the result is disaster.** Macbeth, pricked on by the promises of the Witches, is unable to await the great honours promised him, and tries to speed up natural processes until his crimes bring Nemesis down on him. Antony is so obsessed that for him Cleopatra is life, and nothing else is of any importance. Othello, like Leontes in *A Winter's Tale* has the obsession that his love is unfaithful to him. Iago himself is not a mere villain. Instead, his feeling of disgust for the black man has become an obsession. Orsino in *Twelfth Night* and Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice*, both daydream in order to avoid having to take action. It needed reality in both cases to bring them back to life.

The psychological problems of Hamlet have been widely debated. Whether he suffered from an Œdipus Complex has been a subject of much discussion. Similar cases have been found to exist in real life even to-day.

It would be wrong to say that Shakespeare has stood the test of modern psychology. It is modern psychology that has stood the test of Shakespeare.

M.G.S.

Lionel Gamlin, "Speech," 27th October.

Mr. Gamlin gave the School a very amusing and informative lecture on the important subject of speech. Most people talk very indistinctly. Since the advent of broadcasting the spoken word has regained much of the importance, which it lost during 400 years when the written word was the most important communicative method. At present the spoken word has enormous power, as can be seen in the great success of Nazi broadcast propaganda.

English is at present spoken very badly—the result of the lost importance of the spoken word, of the neglect of speech in schools, and of the speed of modern life. It is essential that schools should give time to speech training; especially now that we are forced to express our thoughts very quickly, the result of which is a slipshod delivery such as American slang. The three essentials for proper speech are clarity, rhythm, and sympathy with mood and circumstances. To speak properly one must choose the right words, give rich colouring to one's phrases and at the same time practise restraint and suit one's speech to the occasion.

R.N.S.

Rev. S. S. Luckcock, "India—To-day and To-morrow," 2nd November.

Obstacles in the way of any attempt to reform conditions in India are well-nigh insuperable; India is a land of innumerable races, religions and languages; every state is determined to preserve its autonomy, and efforts to reconcile the opinions of the different parties are, therefore, doomed to failure. Over ninety per cent. of her population are on the land; working miserable patches of ground which grow smaller and smaller as they are divided between the sons on the death of their father. The Hindu section of the population is forbidden by its religion to adopt new methods of cultivating the land which would better the conditions of the

peasants. The "untouchable" class live under the most distressing conditions, their income is approximately 35s. per year, which can never be expected to provide them with a sufficiently nutritious diet, and it has been calculated that the income of the poorer classes would have to be increased five times before endemic diseases in India could be finally stamped out.

The missionaries started education in India, and there has grown up a small class educated on English principles, which fills most of the lower government posts. Even so, ninety-five per cent. of the people remain illiterate; a proportion which is not likely to decrease under present conditions, for any increase in literacy is offset by the ever-growing population.

Having given an interesting account of the history of Congress, and an explanation of its enormous influence, Mr. Luckcock said that politically India is at present in a state of siege; the Cripps proposals are the only apparent solution to the deadlock. These, however, will have to be revised, for they contain a clause whereby, in the event of dispute arising, a state can dissociate itself from its neighbours. If this clause took effect, India would return once more to the condition in which we found her in the past—that of a country devastated by internal strife—and the work of two centuries would have been of no avail.

G.B.T.

C. Day Lewis, "How a poem is made," 18th November.

There are three stages in the birth of a poem. The inspiration comes first into the poet's mind as an experience or feeling. After this first inspiration, the idea remains, working inside the unconscious mind for a period of time varying from a few days to years. The poem is born by concentrating on the ideas which have ripened in the unconscious mind, and the excitement of creating a new poem inspires the poet to write a first line or stanza. In order to receive the poem from the unconscious to the conscious mind, reason and senses should be lulled. When the general shape has been born, the poet has to exercise his poetic imagination which can only be developed by continuous practice. Poetical lines are produced by the poet's fascination of words, but a complete poem is only achieved by the constant playing off of images. Mr. Day Lewis illustrated his lecture with one of his own poems.

E. C. Gordon England, 22nd November, 1943.

To be a success an engineer must have the "vivid questioning mind" demanded of any scientist who is seeking after Truth. He must question and creatively criticise all that is put before him; he must consider the facts and formulæ in text-books as mere milestones and think only of the facts of his own times and not those of his ancestors. Since engineering necessitates the collecting of men, the successful engineer must also be able to manage people and get them to do things willingly for their own benefit.

The engineer can be defined as one who creates, out of his own imagination, new machines and buildings from the facts of his times. Consequently, the engineer of the future is going to be a most important member of the community because society cannot exist without engineering. Transport, agriculture, civil engineering, communications and building are all going to afford vast opportunities for the engineer because of the demand by the people for these things; of these, building will probably provide the largest field for talent.

Engineering provides an excellent career and a very full life, but the engineer must never lose sight of the fact that not only does engineering provide a career—the materialistic point of view. But also, and even more important, it provides a means whereby men can be beneficial to the community or make a vast contribution to the amelioration of mankind.

M.G.B.



**“WHY WAS I KILLED?”**

By REX WARNER. The Bodley Head, 7s.6d.

The title of Mr. Warner's novel explains what it is about. A young soldier, killed in an advance, has a vision in which he sees his own body lying all awry on the ground, and at the same time sees a wider picture which gives him a new understanding of the value and meaning of life. Never has life seemed so desirable, so full of possibilities, as in this moment of leaving it. Accordingly it becomes very important for him to know why he has been killed. What has he died for? What good purpose, if any, is advanced by his death?

After a further extension of his vision in which he seems to enter into the experience of many men who have been killed, he finds himself by the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Westminster Abbey. A priest who is there evidently sees him as if he were alive, and he puts his question to the priest. Before the answer is given, a party of tourists arrive with their guide. The dead soldier makes for the shelter of a pillar, but it seems they do not see him. The priest puts his question to them, and they give their several answers. There is an important and successful man of business, a refugee scholar from abroad, a young couple, a woman in mourning, a volunteer in the Spanish War, etc. As each speaks, the soldier finds that he is able to move up and down their lives in time (or, as we might say, to take a cross-section at several points in that reality, extended in time, which is the life of each) and see what they have been, and how they came to their present state. The woman in mourning lost her husband in the first world war, her son in this war, and bitterly resents both losses. Sir Alfred Fothey, whose elder brother was killed when he was a child, “gives” a son to another war, and has only conventional answers to make to the priest's question. The grim idealist from Spain cannot forget what was seen and suffered there, and will not let anyone else forget: and so on, through the list of persons assembled. In each reply the soldier discerns an element of truth, yet none satisfies him. At last, when the impatient guide has recalled the party to its interrupted duty of sightseeing, the priest gives his answer. It helps: but it is not, and is not meant to be, final.

Mr. Warner examines his question and states the different points of view with a clarity which may blind one to the range of ideas presented and the difficulties that surround the whole enquiry. As a diagnosis of the evils of man's situation it could hardly be bettered. The writing has both eloquence and simplicity, and the whole book is lit by the author's passionate belief in life, and the humanity, what perhaps one might call the fierce gentleness of his attitude towards his kind. There is no attempt to evade uncomfortable conclusions.

Where so much ground is covered and so many fine things seen and said, I hope it will not be thought perverse when I say that what has interested me most of all is an omission. The whole enquiry is conducted in terms of this world. No character, not even the priest, considers that the soldier may have been killed because his work here was done, or he was needed somewhere else. It may be objected at once that such a consideration lies outside Mr. Warner's terms of reference: that his enquiry is concerned with an individual only as a symbol, that it is directed really to the nature of war, and to what mankind is up to in the twentieth century after Christ. But I personally would have liked to see some reference to another order of reality, some awareness of a philosophy not limited by here-and-now. It is, after all, possible that, in that long evolution of the soul of which physical evolution may be the shadow, the occasion of a man's death may be unimportant. The reasons for it may lie quite outside the circumstances of a single incarnation, a single stage on a long journey. I do not press this Eastern belief,

which has more in common with Christianity than might appear at first sight. I only suggest that, if Mr. Warner's scheme could have been widened so as to include it, an extra level would have been added to a very impressive book.

**THE “MEDEA” OF EURIPIDES**

The evening of 31st July was meet for tragedy. The moment before Medea's entrance, the heavens broke into lamentation with the Nurse:

“It is clear that she will soon put lightning  
In that cloud of her cries that is rising  
With a passion increasing.”

For the rest of the play the storm kept time with the players. It is of the resulting harmony I write.

For the performance seemed to me essentially *harmonious*. The sense of movement shewn by all the players, from Medea to each individual member of the Chorus, was especially striking. They knit together a pattern of great beauty and rhythm in words, gestures, attitudes. The complexities of the plot were reduced by them to a noble simplicity, so that the unfolding of the tragedy was as surely understood by us as by the Greek men and women who first witnessed it.

The frightful humiliation of a brilliant woman caught up in idolatry of a stupid man; the intolerable pain borne by a woman ruled by love towards a man ruled by the amount of money in his pocket; or, in our day, the disillusion of an adventurous woman, married to a transatlantic flyer, who finds he is determined to work for the Prudential for the rest of his life. All these things Medea—at one level of her character—may be said to have felt for Jason. At a far higher level, she was the “true believer” who put love in an ikon for mystical worship, and, losing her faith, drew from the mere contemplation of the empty ikon such power of hate as to destroy love utterly.

While thunder beat its drums outside the amphitheatre, the performance of the players mounted in the same natural crescendo.

The “Medea” of Miss Lewington was both majestic and moving—a very subtle blend of emotions. Her timing and control of movement were professional in the highest sense. Jason seized his main opportunity with a will, and the dialogue of the Fourth Episode was as much Nightingale's triumph as that of Miss Lewington. D. M. Cooper as the Messenger made his speech in the Fifth Episode one of the finest things in the play. I would also mention the pleasure I had in the excellent playing of Aigeus (Holwill).

To write of Mr. Warner's translation last is merely to recognise that it was the foundation-stone of the whole brilliant performance, of which the Chorus was also an integral part. The humanity and delicate violence of his verse could not have given greater pleasure. The youthful dignity of the Chorus added to the stature of their performance. Their diction and movement deserve professional praise.

All those who trained the players and set the stage for “Medea” must feel their labours rewarded by the enthusiasm of the audience, and by the vivid memories which all of us retain of an evening to which their skill and imagination contributed so greatly.

U.B.

		CAST.			
Medea's Nurse	... ..	...	...	...	Sadie Spencer
Tutor to Medea's Children	... ..	...	...	...	E. A. MacDonald
<b>MEDEA</b>	... ..	...	...	...	<b>Vera Lewington</b>
Kreon, King of Corinth	... ..	...	...	...	P. Smith
Jason	... ..	...	...	...	D. L. Nightingale
Aigeus, King of Athens	... ..	...	...	...	F. J. W. Holwill
Messenger	... ..	...	...	...	D. M. Cooper

*CHORUS of Corinthian Women*: J. Warner (leader), J. E. Newcombe, H. R. Clarke, H. D. Parker, B. H. Horsley, S. Priestman, D. J. McBride, P. G. Puttock.  
*Attendants*: M. G. Brown, J. A. Carter, C. J. Liddle, D. P. Rendall, A. H. Overell, L. Ayling, D. G. Lines.  
*Children of Medea*: D. J. Tutshell, W. M. Warren.

### "THE SPUR" DRAMATIC SOCIETY

This year the Society, which is composed mainly of parents and of friends of the School and whose main object is the reading of plays, started with a good membership, in spite of bombs, buses and blackouts. This term has a varied programme of plays. It started with Shaw's *Misalliance*, followed by *Right you are—if you think so*, by Pirandello, a dramatised version of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Electra* of Sophocles, and ended with Elmer Rice's *See Naples and Die*. Plans are maturing for a Special Night in December, when it is hoped that something a little more ambitious than our ordinary readings will be attempted.

May I take this opportunity of recommending the Society to the attention of any parents or their friends who are interested in either reading plays or in listening to them? Membership costs 3s. 6d. a year and is open to anyone connected with the School.

PETER SMITH, *Hon. Sec.*

### THE MUSIC SOCIETY

This term the School Music Society has been re-formed. A committee of seven with the Headmaster as chairman has been elected to run the affairs of the Society.

At the first meeting Mr. Loveday gave a recital of Schubert and Schumann lieder and Dr. Coventry played pianoforte music by Handel and Bach.

The second concert of the term was given by the members themselves, which, although arranged at short notice, proved a great success.

#### PROGRAMME.

1. Trory G. and Clack K. (Piano Duet) "Sheep may safely graze" *Bach*
  2. Parker R. (Violin) Waltz in A *Brahms*
  3. Howard J. (Piano) Prelude No. 15 in D flat *Chopin*
  4. Gardiner A. S. Pieces for Clarinet, Recorder and Bamboo Pipe
  5. D. A. R. Reid "Come to the Fair," "Fairings" *Easthope Martin*
  6. Wilson R. Impromptu in G flat Major *Chopin*  
Six Variations on an original theme *Beethoven*
- INTERVAL.
7. Ruff B. (Piano) Two Preludes, No. 7 in A, No. 20 in C Minor *Chopin*  
*Mendelssohn*
  8. Wright K. (Viola) Selections from *Bach, Tartini, Handel, Beethoven*
  9. Clack K. (Piano) Adagietto *Poulenc*
  10. D. A. R. Reid "Never More"—Marriage of Figaro *Mozart*
  11. Trory G. (Piano) Romance in D *Sibelius*  
Concert Studies No. 1 in D *Chaminade*
  12. Clack K. (Piano) "Liebestraum" *Kreisler*

Trory G. accompanied throughout the evening.

The Third Music Club programme was a recital by Cedric Borgnis.

His programme consisted of:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Sonata in B.                               | <i>Schubert</i>     |
| Prelude, Fugue, and Chorale                | <i>Cesar Franck</i> |
| Nocturne in B                              | <i>Faure</i>        |
| "The Gates of Kiev"                        | <i>Moussorgsky</i>  |
| Elegy                                      | <i>C. Borgnis</i>   |
| Gavotte and Musette in the style of Handel | <i>C. Borgnis</i>   |

We thank King's College Music Society for their generosity in giving us complimentary tickets for their excellent Subscription Concerts.

### THE CZECH TRIO

JAN SEDIVKA (Violin) KAREL HORITZ (Violoncello)  
 LISA MARKETTA (Piano)

The programme which the Czech Trio presented to an eager, if somewhat meagre, audience in the Hall in the evening of Wednesday, November 24th, was both pleasurable and provocative. Pleasurable because the two piano trios selected were performed with great technical skill and genuine emotional sensitivity; provocative because both the Smetana G Minor and the Dvorak "Dumki" made at least one member of the audience ponder on the question whether the piano trio is, or ever can be, a musical form capable of expressing a "programme."

The purist will argue that the donkey's neigh is best left to the donkey and not imitated on the trombone; that Smetana's "My Fatherland" can truly be appreciated only by citizens of that fatherland; that his Trio in G Minor (which expresses the premature death of his eldest daughter) can truly be appreciated only by Smetana. He will go on to argue that a piano, a violin and a 'cello is too small a unit to express any autobiographical episode; that such a "programme," if it is musically expressible at all, needs at least a pair of horns and an oboe or two. The present writer confesses, first, that he is a purist but yet enjoyed the evening's performance, and, second, that to pursue the argument further he would need the genius of a Corno de Bassetto and much more paper than present restrictions allow.

The pleasure of the evening was entirely due to the pianist. Miss Lisa Marketta did not behave as if she were soloist in a concert at the Albert Hall,—and how many a piano trio has been ruined by such pretensions! Hers was a modest and proportionate performance, never obtrusive, always conscious of artistic unity. The violinist, Mr. Jan Sedivka, was perhaps somewhat overwhelmed by the vigour of the 'cellist. But his delicacy and restraint were those of the artist. The 'cellist, Mr. Karel Horitz, clearly enjoyed himself as Dvorak meant him to. His *pizzicato* (in the words of Berlioz "so often called for, so seldom achieved") was a rare delight.

R.O.

### THE PARTISANS

Five momentous and earth-shaking discussions have taken place since the activities of The Partisans were last recorded in these pages. The Partisans are forging ahead in their self-imposed task of leading a darkened world back to enlightenment and sanity. That this enormous task weighs but lightly on the shoulders of those who bear it is shown by the tremendous humour extracted from the most unpromising subject by the indefatigable members.

Towards the end of last term we welcomed Mr. Milton back to our ranks, when he brought with him some members of the Discussion Group which he had founded at Surbiton County School. R. H. G. Parker spoke to the combined Discussion Groups on "Education and Co-education," giving his audience some of the conclusions reached upon the subject at the Cheltenham Inter-Schools Conference in the Easter holidays. The exclusively male audience came to the astounding conclusion that co-education is undesirable in our schools. We would like to thank the members of Surbiton County School for visiting us and Mr. Milton for his co-operation.

The last meeting of the summer term was opened by D. M. Cooper, who discussed "The Place of Films in Society." No member of The Partisans expressed satisfaction with the film industry as it exists to-day, but no definite conclusion was reached about its reformation. At this meeting the first recorded instance of a lady visitor to our Society made Partisan history. Our guest was Miss Vera Lewington.

The advance party blazed a new trail this year when, with full kit, these six seniors cycled eastwards along the Surrey Downs into the heart of Kent. They pitched camp in an orchard under trees laden with fruit and in three days had established the full camp with its many tents, the woodcraft kitchen, the dining shelter and stores, all against a background of reds and greens of the apples and the golden yellow of ripe oats. Adventures soon began with the hunting and killing of two foxes, with rabbits, with swaying tops of ladders and with river bathing : through-

**The main party followed later.** There were thirty-four boys, and the S.M. was assisted by Mr. Bullen, Mr. Loveday and Mr. Phillips—*ditto* Crow, Stag, and Buffalo. Our visitors included Mr. Cobb (who at once became the Squire!), the Treasurer and his wife, and the Head-master who camped with us a few nights as the Great Panda. As an agricultural party we received generous supplies of rationed foods from the Food Office, while fuel, local transport and plentiful supplies of fruit were given to us by our host—the Big White Chief. Home-made cider and outside apple dumplings were among many thoughtful considerations bestowed upon us by our hosts. We cannot speak of camp without remembering their kindnesses.

Each patrol had one free day a week for walking and scout activities and another spent in the camp with catering, cooking and campcraft. The rest of the time, excepting a free day on Sundays, was spent in the orchards picking fruit, in the sorting sheds weighing out, or in the corn and peas. We loosened our backs in the first two days picking up "drops," and then climbed for picking plums and, later, apples. And slowly we learnt how to eat "Victorias" without regretting the consequences. In all, the camp picked about eleven hundred boxes as well as lending a hand in other directions. Relaxation was found in river bathing and camp-fires in the evenings.

The Maidstone District Commissioner made a tour of inspection and reported very favourably. He has since taken over the duties of I.H.Q. International Commissioner and we at Kaynes Park shall probably see more of him soon. **T. L. Forward** later visited him at the training camp at Tovil.

This year's experiment of combining service with camping was a very successful one and in most ways it was to our material advantage. What adverse criticisms there are have come from those less energetic. Thomas, Parker, Forward, Judd, and Goodwin were our swimmers, Grindrod our diver, and Ivins and Haythornthwaite gave a convincing life-saving display. In September we entered a team in an Inter-Town Organisation Contest and the Scouts came first, with the A.T.C. a good second. In the District Athletic Sports, also held during the holidays when some of our team were away, the 19th Troop came third.

**Last term ended with a District Swimming Gala.** We sent in a strong team to compete with other Wimbledon Troops and came first, Thomas, Parker, Forward, Judd, and Goodwin were our swimmers, Grindrod our diver, and Ivins and Haythornthwaite gave a convincing life-saving display. In September we entered a team in an Inter-Town Organisation Contest and the Scouts came first, with the A.T.C. a good second. In the District Athletic Sports, also held during the holidays when some of our team were away, the 19th Troop came third.

The Association Patrol Camping Competition, the first to be held in war time, took place at Frylands Wood just before term began. We sent in three patrols and the Seagulls were awarded third place. The Woodpeckers and Eagles received favourable comments. The whole weekend was as enjoyable as it was valuable : each scout must have

Mr. Warner opened the first meeting of this term with a talk on "Dickens." Despite a brilliant defence of this author it seemed that the only Dickensians in our midst were Mr. Warner himself and the Head-master, who was our guest at this meeting.

At the next meeting J. Green gave a brilliant paper on "Thought and Argument." It is significant that all his rhetorical devices did not help him to win his last argument against the rest of The Partisans.

B. Ruff opened the last meeting with a talk on "Religion." He discussed the social responsibilities of Christianity and gave a general survey of the great religions of the past. The paper gave rise to one of the most stimulating discussions in the history of The Partisans. No conclusion was reached but many sound ideas were put forward.

At our next meeting we condently look forward to a development of this vast question of religion, when J. Roberts speaks on "Practical Ethics."

FILMS

The following films have been shown this term :

- "From the Four Corners."
- "Young Farmers."
- "Common Cause."
- "Clyde Built."
- "The U.S.S.R. at War."
- "Maori Land and Movement."
- "Prairie Land Portraits."
- "The Golden Fleece."
- "This is Colour."

N.G.B.

This term the Society welcomes the following new members : Mrs. Horn, Baker, Bray, Carter, Reid, Roberts, and Schrecker. So far we have had only two meetings this term, when Baker read a paper on "China," and Brodick read one on "Modern American Politics." Lively discussions ensued at both these meetings. We look forward to Roulter's paper on "The Roaring Twenties" at the last meeting this term.

SCIENTISTS' MEETING

Two members of the Science Sixth were fortunate enough to be invited to a Meeting of Allied Scientists, held recently at the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. The chief speaker, Sir Stafford Crisp, was introduced by Sir Richard Redmayne, K.C.B., President of the Institute of Professional Civil Servants, who expressed his delight at having present such an eminent lawyer and politician, who, by virtue of his science degree, would not feel out of place in the gathering.

Sir Stafford delivered a speech on radio and international relations which displayed extensive knowledge of the subject in all its aspects. He said that radio was the affair of both politicians and scientists, and that while scientists had played their part, the politicians had been severely lacking. It was for the whole of mankind to see that radio, an international invention, was not misused by private, or purely national interests.

Sir Stafford's speech was greatly appreciated, and he was heartily thanked by five other speakers, who represented the scientists of the world. These were Professor Hildebrand from California; Dr. W. C. Chen, representing Chinese scientists; Sir A. Stanley Angwin, President of the Institute of Electrical Engineers; Sir Noel Ashbridge, Deputy Director-General of the B.B.C.; and Sir Robert Watson-Watt, famous for his work on Radio-Location.

learned much in campcraft by competing so keenly with a large number of varied patrols.

Some 150 scouts and officers from the district attended a Scouts' Own Service held on our reservation in October. Our Chaplain gave a very helpful address. There have been two Church Parades this term but numbers attending have not been as great as before. The Chaplain has entertained some of our seniors at his home in order to answer their questions and to encourage informal discussions on religion and our "Duty to God."

Difficulties of staff and time-table have seriously interfered with our work as a Troop. But most of the patrols have responded well and done good work in the dens. Several patrol camps took place in August and we can claim some sixteen different weekend camps in the season at places including Godalming, Horsley, Mickleham, Frylands Wood, and Oxshott. In November a party of eight braved the hail and a bitter wind by walking from Epsom Downs to Walton Heath, Reigate, and along the Pilgrims' Way to Chaldon. They stayed the night at a Youth Hostel where the wardens provided an enormous meal and the welcome comfort of an open fireside. Outside, the wind howled, the rain fell and one almost heard the mud ooze. The party slept in the upper rooms of the Manor, and on the following morning, after cooking their own breakfasts, they set out to face the icy wind and a four hours' tramp to Burgh Heath. There must be more Youth Hostel weekends.

Another small group spent a Saturday visiting a steel works. They saw the making of many things that will help to win this war and tried their hands at arc welding. Mr. Phillips, who arranged the visit, provided lunch and showed how the health of the workers is cared for. One outcome of the visit is that Nurse Hill travels across London each week to the Curlews' Den in order to give a series of first aid lectures. These have been thorough and immensely valuable. Mr. Mason has helped in a similar way by running a course of signalling, while Mr. Thomas is taking classes in night scouting and unarmed defensive combat. We are indeed grateful for this help with small instructional groups, especially at a time when it is almost impossible to meet together as a troop. If these patrol activities can be developed, we shall come out all the stronger.

Although it has not been possible to arrange a full parents' meeting this term, there was a good gathering in the Common Room after the Camp Reunion, and camp-fire. Many are working already for next year's fête and we hope all parents will come along and meet each other early in the New Year. Mr. Elliott continues his grand work as Treasurer, and we shall be more than delighted when Mr. Phillips (Buffalo) receives his warrant as Assistant Scoutmaster.

## RESULTS OF ATHLETIC SPORTS

### TUESDAY, 27TH JULY.

- 100 Yards (Junior)—1st, Hill (C), 12 secs.; 2nd, Green G. (H); 3rd, Saunders (M).
- 100 Yards (Colt)—1st, White V. R. (G), 11.8 secs.; 2nd, Faulkner (M); 3rd, Wood (H).
- 100 Yards (Open)—1st, C. J. V. Liddle (M), 11 secs.; 2nd, Warren (C); 3rd, G. Billingham (G).
- 100 Yards (Minor)—1st, Sleigh (S), 13.2 secs.; 2nd, Welby (T); 3rd, Parker (A).
- 100 Yards (Major)—1st, Hodges (T), 13.2 secs.; 2nd, Birch (S); 3rd, Godwin (A).
- Putting the Weight (Colt)—1st, Brown (H), 35 ft. 11 ins. (8.8 lb.); 2nd, Ivins (H); 3rd, Hopkins (C).

- Quarter Mile (Minor)—1st, Sleigh (S), 1 min. 15.2 secs.; 2nd, Trimmer (M); 3rd, Ayling (S).
- Quarter Mile (Major)—1st, Godwin (A), 1 min. 13.6 secs.; 2nd, McDonald (S); 3rd, Lines (T).
- Quarter Mile (Junior)—1st, Hill (C), 1 min. 5.4 secs.; 2nd, Schrecker (M); 3rd, Green G. (H).
- Half Mile (Colt)—1st, White V. R. (G), 2 mins. 33.6 secs.; 2nd, Williams (M); 3rd, Cousins (C).
- Mile (Open)—1st, M. G. Bedford (C), 5 mins. 23 secs.; 2nd, Carter (C); 3rd, Ward (N).
- Long Jump (Junior)—1st, Green G. (H), 14ft. 8 ins.; 2nd, Hill (C); 3rd, Schrecker (M).
- Long Jump (Colts)—1st, Doyle (G), 17 ft. 6 ins.; 2nd, Peake (G); 3rd, Cousins T. P. (C).
- Long Jump (Open)—1st, C. J. V. Liddle (M), 18 ft. 10 ins.; 2nd, Cunningham (G); 3rd, Carter (C).
- Long Jump (Minor)—1st, Sleigh (S), 14 ft. 6 ins.; 2nd, Parker (A); 3rd, Holden (S).
- Long Jump (Major)—1st, Birch (S) and Burford (T), 13 ft. 7 ins.; 3rd, Thomas (A).
- Tug-of-War (Semi-finals)—Milton's beat Halliwell's. Gibb's beat Newsom's.

### WEDNESDAY, 28TH JULY.

- Putting the Weight (Open)—1st, C. J. V. Liddle (M), 36 ft. 4 ins.; 2nd, Green J. (H); 3rd, G. Billingham (G).
  - Relay (Minor), 4 × 110—1st, Athenians; 2nd, Trojans; 3rd, Spartans. Time, 1 min. 3.6 secs.
  - Relay (Major), 4 × 110—1st, Trojans; 2nd, Athenians; 3rd, Spartans. Time, 1 min. 1.6 secs.
  - Relay (Junior), 4 × 110—1st, Milton's; 2nd, Newsom's; 3rd, Halliwell's. Time, 57.2 secs.
  - Relay (Colts), 4 × 220—1st, Gibb's; 2nd, Halliwell's; 3rd, Milton's. Time, 1 min. 54 secs.
  - Relay (Open), 4 × 440—1st, Colts; 2nd, Gibb's; 3rd, Halliwell's. Time, 4 mins. 7.4 secs.
  - High Jump (Junior)—1st, Saunders (M), 4 ft. 5 ins.; 2nd, Martin (N); 3rd, Taylor (H).
  - High Jump (Colt)—1st, Doyle (G), 4 ft. 8½ ins.; 2nd, Kent (G); 3rd, Ivins (H).
  - High Jump (Open)—1st, C. J. V. Liddle (H), 5 ft. 1¼ in.; 2nd, Carter (C); 3rd, Cunningham (G).
  - High Jump (Minor)—1st, Parker (A), 4 ft. 1 in.; 2nd, Sleigh (S); 3rd, Vines (S).
  - High Jump (Major)—1st, Birch (S), 3 ft. 11 ins.; 2nd, Ashley (H); 3rd, Lines (T).
  - Tug-of-War—Final Results: 1st, Gibb's; 2nd, Milton's; 3rd, Halliwell's.
- Result of Inter-House Competition for the John Garrett Cup—1st, Gibb's (275); 2nd, Milton's (224); 3rd, Cobb's (220); 4th, Halliwell's (210) and 5th, Newsom's (161).
- Result of Inter-Club Competition in the Junior School—1st, Spartans (189); 2nd, Athenians (149); 3rd, Trojans (137).
- Athletics Colours were awarded to: C. J. V. Liddle, M. G. Bedford, J. Carter.

## RUGGER

The XV this year seem well on the way to carry on the tradition of the last two seasons and have so far lost only one match—against the Old Rutlishian "A" XV by 5 points to 11.

Many factors have helped to keep up this record. Perhaps first must be mentioned the captaincy and the play of G. Billingham: he has captained admirably and scored prodigiously. Again, the balance of the team has been more even than usual. This year there are inside three-quarters of quality and penetrative power and they have been well served by the halves and reasonably well by the forwards. Only by their unsure handing have they failed where they would have succeeded. Williams' unfortunate illness, on the other hand, has weakened one wing and left a gap in the attack impossible adequately to fill. A full-back with dash and resolution has been invaluable. The forwards, individually good and well led by the Secretary, have played steadily but without enough inspiration or combined dash. However, they have usually been able to get the measure of their opponents and give the outsiders a reasonable share of the ball.

The season opened with an unexpectedly easy victory over K.C.S. 2nd XV, who were allowed to see little, and have less, of the ball, and we did more or less as we pleased. Against old Rutlishians "A" we were outweighed and outpaced by a side with more experience and resource. In spite of this we lost only by a narrow margin and put up probably the best performance of the season so far. Harrow had strengthened their 3rd XV by bringing in nearly half of their 2nd XV players; but it availed them little and we ran out easy winners in a fast and open game. Three rather scrambled and scratchy games against K.C.S., Surbiton and Twickenham Junior Technical College did little to improve our play, though in each case we won.

The rest of the season holds the best fixtures and we shall have to play very well indeed to be good enough. If we produce the Rugger of which we are capable they should be grand, roaring games.

### RESULTS.

	Points.	Points.	
		For.	Against.
v. K.C.S. 2nd XV ... ..	Won	40	0
v. Old Rutlish "A" XV ... ..	Lost	5	11
v. Harrow 3rd XV ... ..	Won	32	11
v. K.C.S. 2nd XV ... ..	Won	22	14
v. Twickenham Junior College ... ..	Won	47	0
v. Beckenham C.S. ... ..	Lost	8	20

### 565th SQUADRON, A.T.C.

*Commanding Officer:* Flight Lieut. E. R. C. Dartington.

The Squadron must first place on record the loss sustained by the departure of its first Commanding Officer, Mr. Halliwell, who with patience and vision has nursed it through its critical early years and established a standard of such high efficiency that the task of the new Commanding Officer has been measurably lightened. The Squadron, now standing firmly on its feet and ranked as an outstanding unit in S.E. Command, A.T.C., has entered upon a new training session, quietly confident in its contribution to the corporate life of the School and to the Country's need for a disciplined, alert, air-minded young Britain. Every boy in the School who has qualified by age for enrolment should seriously consider his position and help to raise the Squadron to full strength. It is strongly felt that, while the present national emergency continues, the School must make the maximum effort to support its only pre-service training unit.

The Squadron sends good wishes to P/O. D. Moore, now serving with the R.A.F., and looks forward to further inside information for the "not so raw" recruit reporting for service.

The invaluable assistance with Navigation given to the Squadron by Mr. P. Smith has been greatly missed this term and it is hoped to welcome his return to parades in 1944.

Mr. Lawrence, with a remarkable talent for instructing in diverse practical and air subjects, has regrettably been obliged to resign as A.T.C. Instructor. He takes with him our very best wishes for the future. New Instructors are being enrolled but more are still urgently needed, and the Commanding Officer will at all times be grateful for further offers of voluntary part-time assistance with instruction in Calculations, Navigation, Meteorology and First Aid.

A constant flow of N.C.O.s and senior Cadets to the Services, either by direct entry or through University Short Courses, is being maintained, and to all who have left us since the summer we send good wishes and a renewed invitation to visit us whenever possible.

Mr. Yoxall, a War Correspondent, and an old friend of the Squadron, has recently attended to paint a memorable picture of the epic struggle now being waged in the Mediterranean theatre of war.

Air Commodore Livingstone visited the School in October to give a most interesting lecture on "Night Vision" to the Squadron and members of Wimbledon Wing.

A most successful dance was held on Saturday, 10th July. A Squadron dance has been arranged for 18th December.

Two very successful Summer camps were held and much valuable insight into service life and procedure was gained.

The Commanding Officer wishes to thank all Officers, Instructors, other gentlemen, and N.C.O.s for their tireless efforts to enable the training of the Squadron to continue despite all difficulties. A special word of thanks is due to the ladies of W.V.S. (Morden) under the enthusiastic leadership of Mrs. Whales and Miss Kearney, who continue to provide tea, delicious sandwiches and cakes which we consume with gratitude and a lively appreciation of the labour involved in providing this excellent canteen.

Lastly, we keep fresh the memory of former members of the Squadron who have given their lives in the war. May we who remain be found worthy of their sacrifice!

#### A.T.C. Social Committee

Last term, a Social Committee was elected under the leadership of Sgt. Evans. It was decided to organise a dance, primarily for the entertainment of the Squadron, and secondly, to provide money for Squadron funds. The dance was held on Saturday, 10th July, and its great success rewarded the hard work which was put into its organisation. This term we have lost the dynamic leadership of Sgt. Evans, but it is hoped, with the new committee, that we will be able to repeat the summer success. Finally, we should like to thank Mrs. Whales and her friends for the admirable service which she rendered in preparing refreshments for the dance. Her kindness largely contributed to its success.

#### A.T.C. Camps

A party of cadets under Flying Officer Wilson and Pilot Officer Moore attended the second camp at an R.A.F. station during August. Banstead Squadron were represented to make a total of 53 cadets. Billets for cadets were in a large mansion about three miles from the airman's mess. Those who had cycles found them very useful. Reveille was sounded at 6.30 by a band from Banstead Squadron and nobody could hope to sleep through ten minutes of martial music played outside their window. After kit inspection we made our way to the mess for break-

fast. Then Orderly Officer's Parade and dismissal to courses of instruction—link, armoury, control tower—and working parties. Every cadet in camp had a flight during the week. Afternoons and evenings were given over to sport. Cricket against the R.A.F. was played as well as inter-flight games. The highlight of the week was sea swimming for all and Rigger on the beach.

The food was good and plentiful, the air invigorating and there were ample opportunities for sport. The P.T. Officer will be remembered for his activities in the gymnasium and on the cricket field. His "assault course" for cadets not able to get in the gymnasium was strenuous and very enjoyable. We all came home feeling much better for our week of open air life.

D.H.B.

### 31ST JULY—7TH AUGUST

At 14.00 hours one Saturday afternoon 48 cadets and N.C.O.s under Flying Officer Pead and Flying Officer Wilson paraded at Raynes Park Station and some five hours later, perspiring freely, we arrived at an R.A.F. aerodrome after three-quarters of an hour's march from the station.

At the unearthly hour of 6.30 next morning we were hauled out of bed by a very energetic-looking gentleman in a sweater and informed the P.T. was the first item on the day's programme. We tottered out into the icy freshness of the early morning, clad in shorts and gym. shoes, and were lined up and put through it—it certainly warmed us up!

A very interesting and varied programme was arranged for the week; visits were made to the armoury, where cadets helped in the making of ammunition belts to the bomb bays, the photographic section, the parachute room, rifle range and various hangars and workshops; weapon training also was given by the R.A.F. Regiment. The great event of the week was of course flying and many cadets had flights, some of several hours' duration. All-night guard was mounted, a new experience for most of us.

Sporting activities at the camp were abundant. One afternoon was devoted to open-air swimming in a nearby lake, and on another day there was a choice of football, hockey or cricket.

The last full day of the camp there was an inspection by the Station Commanding Officer; after the inspection he took the salute at a march past.

The last day of camp dawned. After packing up and handing in our bedding we left camp at 12.45 hours, eventually arriving at Raynes Park at 18.00 hours after a most enjoyable and instructive week.

A.E.H.

## HARVEST CAMP, 1943

This year's Harvest Camp began on a blazing Saturday afternoon in August on Paddington Station. Every member of the party felt somewhat superior to the other travellers whose "journeys were not really necessary" and who had to stand in long queues, waiting anxiously for their trains. The train came in, our cycles were put in the luggage compartment and the first stage of our journey began. A brief pause at Reading and we were on the way to Hungerford Station. Then from Hungerford to Inkpen by road. About ten minutes' riding and we turned off the lane into Church Farm.

There was the barn—our sleeping quarters—the cowshed, converted into a roomy kitchen where an enormous coal cooking-range glowed cheerfully. We were welcomed by Mr. Smith, Mr. Halliwell, M. Wagnieres and Mr. Beecroft; these, together with several boys, had formed the advance party and were responsible for the initial preparations which contributed so much to the subsequent smooth running of the camp. A lazy weekend and then on Monday we began work.

This, for most, meant stooking. First, the crisp, rigid wheat-sheaves which stooked so easily. The field was soon finished and everyone thought stooking a tolerable, if somewhat monotonous, occupation. In the next field a rude awakening awaited us in the form of heavy, limp, flabby and loosely-bound oat-sheaves. As we struggled to form these into stooks, two reapers and binders sailed majestically round the remaining patch of standing corn, their flailing arms seeming to point derisively at us.

We soon made acquaintance with the farm labourers; men whose speech was at first almost unintelligible, except for a few unprintable words which appear to be common to every dialect; in Wiltshire, however, the frequency with which these words are used renders them completely innocuous. An interesting question arises here; while most of the labourers addressed one another by their Christian names, one (the local weather pundit) was always referred to as Mr. B—. Everyone from the foreman down to the boys who led the horses addressed him in this reverent fashion. One felt that he was a descendant of some noble family which had fallen on hard times, and, that although a humble farm labourer, he retained something of his family's former prestige by being addressed with the deferential title of Mr. B—. We also met the foreman, John C—, for the first time. He will, I think, be chiefly remembered for the fact that he did not conform to the townsman's customary conception of a foreman, as regards the amount of work he undertook.

Then came carting—pitching (done with a "prong" and not a pitchfork), placing, leading horses and rick-building. Carting, although hard work, had its compensations, for one was able to spend the interval between the departure of a loaded cart and the arrival of an empty cart resting on stooks or contemplating the almost unnatural white billows of clouds floating serenely across the bright blue sky.

Threshing—a breathless whirl of dust and noise—was our next sample of farm routine. The threshing machine was an all-devouring god and we, its votaries, tried to satisfy its appetite. Its victims (the sheaves) disappeared into its vast maw with a hideous rending sound and were reduced to their component parts in the entrails of the monster.

Soon, too soon in fact, it was time to return home. A feverish orgy of packing and buying of honey to take to our parents, and we were on the platform at Hungerford Station once more. A few hours of travel and we were in London again, feeling that during those few weeks spent at Inkpen we had made new friends and had done something towards establishing an understanding between town and country, an understanding which must become widespread if the visionary's "post-war England" is to become a reality.

In closing, on behalf of those who attended the Harvest Camp, I should like to express deep thanks to those who in any way however small helped to make the camp so successful; Mr. Smith and Mr. Hanson, who wrestled with the vast number of forms needed for such an enterprise, and, above all, Mr. Beecroft and M. Wagnieres, who provided such excellently cooked food for the tired workers.

A.T.E.B.

## THE SECOND HARVEST CAMP

We can, I think, claim that our second Camp was an unqualified success; the weather was kind to us, the Wiltshire War Agricultural Committee did us proud in the way of equipment and we knew our ground much more intimately than we did in 1942. But all these advantages would have counted very little had it not been for the magnificent energy and skill displayed by three people who were, by then, not even officially members of the School. I refer to our colleagues Mr. Halliwell and Mr. Beecroft and to his friend Monsieur Ulysse Wagnière.



Under Mr. Halliwell's practised hand marquees, tents, clotheslines, latrines and sumps sprang up, or down as the case may be, with incredible speed and mathematical precision. Whilst from the kitchen poured forth a most delectable succession of most varied dishes prepared by Mr. Beecroft and M. Wagnière; how skilfully they skipped from dish to dish and from country to country—from Cornish pasties—gurt big 'uns they was tu I can tell 'ee—and jugged hares, to "tomate suprême" and "zweitschgenkuchen." To describe but one meal would tax the versatility of a Charles Lamb. I can only sum it up by quoting one bright boy: "Aren't Nature and Mr. Beecroft wonderful!" And amid this spate of specialised skill I had to maintain a pose of masterful direction—not I fear always successfully.

Of the work I think we can say that it was much less monotonous than last year (I draw a tactful veil over the four days of potato picking which broke a good many backs and one or two reputations at the end of the last week!) Most of the stooking had been done when we arrived and there remained mainly carting and rick-building, in which some acquired an almost professional skill, and threshing in the fields, for most of us a new experience. We had the satisfaction of leaving the work in a state sufficiently near completion that Major Huth's own men were able to finish it without outside help.

Our finances in spite of the magnificent feeding left us well in hand and allowed us to distribute a matter of £45 amongst the fifty-three boys to compensate for their low wages of 2s. 6d. per week paid during the Camp.

During our stay we were visited by our Headmaster and by the late Headmaster, Mr. Garrett. Mr. Hanson, to whose skilful preliminary planning the Camp owed much of its success, conducted the first party back to London. Dr. Coventry brought the first party down. Mr. and Mrs. Moore and Mr. Loveday also put in a week at the Camp and rendered very valuable help at a time when it was much needed.

It is impossible to end this brief account of a very happy and colourful month without recording a debt of gratitude to two other people—to Father Driscoll, the Rector of Inkpen, who was again our very good friend and who threw open his house to us and frequently exchanged his cassock for cook's apron, doing stalwart work in the kitchen. We are glad to have been able to persuade him to pay us an official visit this term. And last but certainly not least, to Fred Holwill, our last year's Head Boy, to whose rare gifts the School and the Camp owe much of their success.

If I may be permitted a purely personal note I would like to record that for me the Camp held an element of sadness since it was to be the last time when I should combine with my two friends, Frank Beecroft and Frank Halliwell, and I take this opportunity of saluting them as two of the most unselfish and devoted colleagues with whom I have ever had the privilege of working.

P.S.

## THE BRYANSTON HARVEST CAMP

Bryanston School is set upon a hill, and is surrounded by a green cloak of trees, which gives way to a patchwork quilt of fields, held together by seams of trees and hedges. It was in these fields that we harvested, and it was in the School that we dined, slept, and made friends. As harvesting is fundamentally the same throughout the country, I will refrain from giving boring details; but there was one annoying experience worth writing about. A party of us spent the whole day "aisling" a field. That night it rained. The following day we spent in knocking down our aisles!

The most enjoyable part of each day was the evening. For nearly every evening there was a talk or discussion, during which we delved into a great variety of interesting topics. Among these were Germany, Walter de la Mare, Farming, Religion and Music. These evening entertainments came to a close with a Farmer's dinner and concert. This marked the end of a grand fortnight that I had enjoyed immensely.

A.G.H.

## "THE SPUR" COMMITTEE

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