

THE SPUR

Vol. VII

No. 3



THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. VII, No. 3.

Autumn, 1945.

FOREWORD

Ten years ago—on September 19th, 1935—the School opened its doors. One member of the original Staff, Mr. Cobb, and the School Secretary, Mrs. French, are happily still here and have seen many changes since the memorable first day. Then, with only 160 boys, there was more than enough room for every kind of activity. Now, with the prospect of more than 400, we are penned into a building which is far too small for our barest needs. Whereas, originally, scope could be and was deliberately provided for every interest, we now lack sufficient space even for our ordinary School work.

Yet, in spite of this constriction, the spirit in which the School was founded retains its vigour. Education, we still believe, has no right to its name if it fails to bring out the Whole Man. The School is something much more than a place for work and games. It is where we learn that

"Man must live among his neighbours
For he cannot live alone

and that the best that is in us can only be brought out in relation to the community in which we have our part to play. This spirit has not only survived but has actually been nourished by the trials of war. If it can be carried forward into the period of peace and reconstruction, the health of the School will be assured.

But something more will be needed. The future of the School and, indeed of Britain, depends wholly on quality. In a small community or country quantitative standards have small significance, but for the achievement of quality there is every opportunity. Our aim must never stop short of Excellence. The second-rate can have no place among us. Our danger is to rest content with past attainments and to rely too much on the help of our friends and sponsors. We can have no cause for satisfaction until, through our own toil and sweat, the word "Excellent" can be applied to all that we do.

The first decade can be justified only by the second. Unless every member of the School sets himself the highest standards, the work and enthusiasm of John Garrett, and of those who gave the School its flying start, will begin to lose their effect. We are faced with as heavy a responsibility as has ever fallen to any generation at any School—the responsibility of proving, beyond all shadow of doubt, that a Maintained School is fully able not only to make a vivid first impression, but also to stay the course and rise to even higher levels of greatness.

CHARLES WRINCH.

HEADMASTER'S NOTES.

Mr. J. Hood Phillips, Deputy Education Officer for Surrey, and Acting Clerk to the Governors of this School, is to be congratulated on his appointment as Secretary to the Senate of London University. But it is impossible to exaggerate our sense of loss. Mr. Hood Phillips has been closely connected with the School from the time when it was a skeleton of bricks and mortar. He has worked incessantly to help

it through its growing pains and through the inconveniences of war. He has been ready to give immediate assistance in every emergency. His vision and his sympathetic appreciation of our particular aims and problems will be most sadly missed. I take this opportunity of offering him our profound gratitude and our best wishes for the future.

Mrs. Jackson, who most generously allowed her home life to be interrupted in order to tide us through the war, has now retired. She was helping with school activities, especially with costumes for the plays, long before she actually joined the Staff. It is hard to realise that she will no longer be connected with Raynes Park, where her personality has made so vital an impression. I know how grieved countless Old Boys will be when they receive the news of her departure.

Mr. Haslam left during the Summer Term to take up work as Artistic Adviser at the Merton Park Film Studios. In spite of indifferent health he has given the School full measure of his brilliant gifts, and his influence has been incalculable. His career will be followed with keen interest.

Miss Essex, whose part-time service has been at our disposal during the war, is now obliged to return to full-time work at Wimbledon County School for girls. She has made a place for herself here which cannot be filled, and it is to be hoped that, as she is remaining in the district, we shall continue to see much of her. She has invariably given the School far more than we had the right to expect, and she would be the last to believe how much we owe her.

Mr. Dartington has left to take charge of a House at King's School, Canterbury. Confronted by the greatest difficulties, including that of being bombed out, he has in two years set the School an outstanding example of the meaning of intellectual integrity and achievement. It will go ill with us if we forget it. He has earned our special thanks for his strenuous work with the A.T.C., in the performance of which he revealed great powers of organisation.

Dr. Dittmar, who is taking up urgent duties with the U.S. Army of Occupation, will, it is hoped, find full scope for his great accomplishments which we have been proud to have at our disposal for two years. We look forward to many visits from him in the future.

We welcome to the Staff Mrs. Horne, who is taking up her work here once more; Mr. L. A. Webb, a graduate of the University of Wales, who has been in charge of French and Rugby Football at Devonport High School; Mr. Anthony Stirling and Mr. W. Walsh, both of whom are Cambridge graduates. At any time I am expecting to have the welcome news that some of the members of the Staff, now on active service, are being released.

We congratulate Mr. Tom Braddock, a member of the Governing Body, and recently its Chairman, on being elected Member of Parliament for Mitcham.

To make up for our quiet Autumn Term, the Summer Term has been crowded with activities. The first Cross Country Race revealed many promising runners, and the Athletic Sports showed that more intensive training might lead to really good results. The Cricket XI had a successful season. The three matches which they lost might easily have been turned into victories. The Swimming Sports gave evidence of a steadily rising standard. The Scout Garden Party was the most successful event of its kind which has yet been held; and the Old Boys' Dance was well organised and much enjoyed. "Toad of Toad Hall," the Junior School Play, provided the Junior School with something of which it could justly feel proud. The producers (Mrs.

Henderson and Miss Bishell) are to be congratulated on stimulating so much enthusiasm and hard work with such pleasing results. Open Night, the culminating event of the School Year, was probably more varied than ever before. It was unfortunate that the winning House Play, "Christopher Columbus," could not be presented that evening by Halliwell's, owing to the absence of the leading actor. But in its place the runners up, Cobb's, gave a good performance of the first act of "The Devil's Disciple." The level attained in the Competition was much higher than had been expected, in view of the very short time allowed for rehearsal, and I now feel sorry that parents and visitors were not admitted. To add to the pressure of events at the end of term we had the School Election, admirably organised by the Sixth Form Society. The election of the Liberal Candidate may, perhaps, reflect a sobriety of judgment which became increasingly apparent in the electorate as the campaign proceeded.

The institution of Sub-Prefects and House Prefects should do much to help with the efficiency of School organisation. The first holders of these new positions have a great chance to establish a sound tradition.

The new Commanding Officer of the Air Training Corps will be Flight-Lieutenant G. M. Wilson. He has done outstanding work for the Squadron since its earliest days, and his present appointment gives cause for great confidence.

In memory of John Robbins, Mr. Basil Wright has instituted an annual prize for the best Essay on the use of the media of public information, particularly film, in relation to democratic development and progress. Essays should be handed to me on or before Monday, November 12th. I hope that there will be a large number of entries, and that Mr. Wright himself will select the prize-winner.

Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. French, whose mother died in July. Needless to say, Mrs. French refused to allow her anxiety during a long and trying illness to interfere in any way with her work for the School. I am glad to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to her for her devotion to duty in the most difficult conditions.

SCHOOL OFFICERS, SUMMER TERM, 1945

Head of School : J. F. Green.

Second Boy : A. G. Hopkins.

M. G. Brown, E. Jepson, P. R. Mason, R. A. J. Wood, F. Potton,
V. R. White, C. Toase.

Prefect of Hall : M. G. Brown.

Prefect of Library : C. Toase.

Secretary of Games Committee : M. G. Brown.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Killed :

Sgt.-Observer M. H. C. Ashdown, R.A.F.
Sgt.-Air Gunner J. A. G. Billingham, R.A.F.
Flying Officer A. V. I. Cook, R.A.F.
Flight-Lieut. R. Barnes, R.A.F., D.F.C.
Sigm. V. G. Sayer, R.C.S.
Lieut. J. W. Robbins, R.A.
Lieut. A. Uff, R.A.C.
Pilot Officer R. Jones, R.A.F.

Missing (Presumed Killed) :
 Sgt.-Pilot J. A. Smith, R.A.F.
 Pilot Officer S. G. Palk, R.A.F.
 Sub-Lieut. J. Fisher, R.N.V.R.

Missing :
 Sgt. F. Spinks, R.A.F.
 W. Bailey, R.A.F.

HOUSE NOTES

Cobb's House Notes

Captain : A. G. Hopkins.
Vice-Captain : E. Jepson.
School Prefect : C. Toase.

Athletics.

At the beginning of the season we managed to gain a fair proportion of gratifying points, but in the sports we had little success owing to the lack of good senior athletes. The cross-country run took place on an extremely hot day, but nevertheless we gained second place.

Cricket.

We were drawn against Newsom's, and despite our morning practices we were unable to give them a very good game, and were fairly easily defeated.

Swimming.

We were bottom in qualifying and only three members of the House were placed in the actual competition, Ward, a junior member of the House, being the only person to win a race for us.

Dramatics.

This is the only event of the year in which we may take some pride. In ten days, due to the willing co-operation of many members of the House, we were able to produce a play that was placed second.

CAST.			
Mrs. Dudgeon ...	...	...	Hines.
Elsie ...	...	...	Harris.
Christy Dudgeon ...	...	...	Hale.
Antony Anderson ...	...	...	A. Hopkins.
Judith Anderson ...	...	...	A. Warren.
Mayor Hawkins ...	...	...	Carr.
Uncle Titus ...	...	...	D. G. White.
Uncle Williams ...	...	...	J. Hopkins.
Richard Dudgeon ...	...	...	Ellingham.

Stage Manager ...	...	...	Pooley.
Lighting ...	...	...	Perry.
In Charge of Production ...	...	...	Ellingham.

This has been a bad year.

Halliwell's

Captain : J. F. Green.
Vice-Captain : M. G. Brown.
School Prefects : P. R. Mason, R. A. J. Wood.

This year has, for us, been one of resounding victories, out of a possible 8 cups we have 6½ to our credit—the half being a drawn hockey match with Newsom's. It is only fit that we should make a brief resumé of our successes and lay them down as a challenge which, we hope, the House will very soon take up again, and better.

Cross-Country.

Captain : R. A. J. Wood.

We are proud to be the first owners of this new Cup, presented to the School by Alderman Marshall. After a three-mile run over Wimbledon Common. The House team returned easy victors with a handsome margin of over a hundred points on the runner-up. P. R. Mason especially is to be congratulated on his splendid winning time.

Athletics.

Captain : R. A. J. Wood.

Although lying second in qualifying points, and even third at the end of the first day's sports, we definitely made it known in the second round who were to be the winners—easy winners at that. R. A. J. Wood and G. E. Green both gave a splendid performance.

Halliwell's House Play

"CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS"—LOUIS MACNEICE.

CAST.			
Christopher Columbus ...	...	...	R. A. J. Wood.
Doubt : Talavera : Segovia ...	...	...	R. H. Robinson.
Faith : Antonio : Vicente Pinzon : Luis ...	...	...	Parker, C.
Jose : Prior : Herald : Town Crier ...	...	...	N. Bedford.
Artur : Martin Pinzón : Pedro ...	...	...	P. R. Mason.
Alfredo : Mendoza : Drego de Deza ...	...	...	M. Brown.
Bartolome : Juan ...	...	...	Conchie.
Francisco Manuel ...	...	...	Jockinsen.
Carlos : Host : Peasant ...	...	...	D. Grindrod.
Beatriz ...	...	...	Strong.
Waiting Woman ...	...	...	S. Smith.
Isabella, Queen of Castile ...	...	...	D. Parker.
Vasco : Hidalgo ...	...	...	Kentish.
Gutiérrez ...	...	...	N. Gardiner.
First Commissioner ...	...	...	G. Haine.
Other Commissioners, Crew of the <i>Santa Maria, etc.</i> }	...	...	Flander, Horton, Thomas.

Lighting ...	...	...	K. Jones.
Stage Manager ...	...	...	J. C. Taylor.
Production ...	...	...	Cecil Baker.

This being the first occasion on which this House has won the House Play Competition, I would like particularly to thank the cast, especially Robert Wood, who left the day after to join H.M. Marines, for their co-operation during the anxious fortnight before the Judgment Day. I would also like to thank K. Jones for the splendid way in which he managed the lighting after only one full-dress rehearsal.

Certainly we ought to have won on this occasion, as we had about three-quarters of the cast of the *Tempest* in our House, but nothing is certain in House Dramatics, and we expected that our ambitious choice would not be justified because of the short time available for rehearsal.

Further notes and a great deal of criticism will, I feel sure, be found elsewhere in this magazine.

Swimming.

Captain : J. F. Green.

Sufficient it is to say that we started with a lead of 127 on the next House in qualifying points and increased it to 163. Our grand total was 416 points. I do congratulate the House on such a magnificent effort. Giblard, a new member of the House, is a swimmer of extraordinary high promise.

Cricket.

Captain : K. Chamberlain.

After our first half-an-hour against Gibbs' our position seemed hopeless but, thanks to a grand innings by Goff, we revived and beat them by 72 runs to 11. In the final round against Newsom's, however, we were less fortunate. Again our best batsmen fell; but this time there was no revival. We were beaten by 3 wickets.

And now, after all this comes the crown to it all—the Cock House Cup; it had not been in our possession since 1938. I hope that we see a lot more of it.

The House Supper.

To celebrate our achievements, Halliwell's staged a House Supper to round off the School year. To everyone concerned in organising this, the whole House offers its thanks especially Mrs. Austin and the kitchen staff, who put before us such a royal spread. A toast to the King. This was followed by a toast given by Mr. Smith to the House itself, in which he wished all leaving members God Speed. The response was made by the House Captain (J. F. Green), in which he drank to R. A. J. Wood—responsible for so many of our successes, and this year's winner of the Eric Parker Cup. After virtually winning the dramatics for us he had left on the morning of this celebration to join the Royal Marines—a career that his family has followed for generations. After another bout of eating, the Vice-Captain (M. G. Brown) gave a toast to the founder of the House (Frank Halliwell and his wife Irene). He was able to read to the members present a very opportune telegram of congratulation. One of our guests, the second boy (A. G. Hopkins) gave a toast to the School, and the evening was brought to a close with three cheers for Mrs. Austin and her helpers.

And so ends the chronicle of our most successful year.

Gibb's

House Captain : V. R. White.

Vice-Captain : R. A. Doyle.

Last Term we had regretfully to part with our House Master, Mr. Gibb. We welcome, however, in his place, Mr. Loveday.

Athletics.

Captain : R. A. Doyle.

We retained our usual position of first in the Athletics Qualifying, but, unfortunately, we only came third in the actual sports. Congratulations are due to V. R. White, Doyle, Foote, Cameron and Godwin for their very good performances.

In spite of a very determined effort by our Cross-Country Team, we only managed to come fourth. However, we hope to do better next year, when several of our promising juniors will have become seniors.

Cricket.

Captain : V. R. White.

In this year's knock-out competition, we were chosen to play Milton's, whom we beat fairly easily seven wickets. This meant we had then to play Halliwell's, who beat us by the handsome total of 72 to 11 runs.

Dramatics.

Our entry for the House Play Competition this year was "The House with the Twisty Windows." Unfortunately we had two of the Cast away for some time and the play was not up to the standard we had desired. Furthermore, time was against us, and the play we chose was rather too ambitious a choice for the House to produce successfully. However, creditable performances were given by Warner and Chapman. Peake produced and acted energetically, and with a few more rehearsals we might have achieved better results.

Swimming.

Captain : R. A. Doyle.

The standard of our swimming this year shows a vast improvement. Although only third in the qualifying, we managed to obtain second position in the actual sports, which is no mean achievement. The following are to be congratulated on their excellent performances, Doyle, Warner, Peake and Charman.

Milton's House Notes

Captain : R. Bradley.

Sub-Prefects :

Overell, Bradley, Gardiner, Faulkner,

House Prefects :

Bird, Moss, Salter, Hatswell, Osmint, Saunders, Uff.

Athletics.

Our position after the qualifying had finished was fourth and 33 points behind the leading House. The competition was keen. We passed Cobb's on the first day and Gibb's on the second, thus gaining second position. All competitors put up a good show and we congratulate those gaining places. Our unsatisfactory failure to get all the qualifying points that could have been got deprived us of the possible chance of a first place in the sports, but this reflects mostly on the previous term and other activities this term show that we have learnt our lesson.

Cross-Country Running.

Milton's entered more runners in this new event than any other House. With the exception of Macdonald, who ran extremely well and gained second place, our runners were not outstanding. Under these circumstances the enthusiasm shown was very creditable.

Cricket.

Our very unfortunate results at Cricket this term are best forgotten. We can only hope that the cloud will lift next year, a hope which is justified by the performance of some of the members of the team this year.

Dramatics.

HOUSE PLAY	CAST	—Producer	
Androcles	Hatswell.
Ferrovius	Haythornthwaite.
Captain	Saunders.
Caesar	Levy.
Sprintho	Schrecker.
Metellus	Alder.
Lentulus	Osmint.
Editor	Bradley.
Centurion Moss.
Lavinia	Swash.
Megara Uff.
Lion	Faulkner.
Christians	Horsley, Rabson,	Lowman.
Soldiers	Pegrum, Buller.

Stage and Lighting ... ..	...	...	Grant.
Music ... ..	...	...	Lintott.
Make-up ... ..	...	...	Gardiner, Salter.

Swimming.

All swimmers in the House, almost without exception, have turned up this Term at the Baths to get their qualifying points. We started the sports holding second position and five points ahead of Gibb's, and our struggle with them was a thrilling one for both sides, the issue being

undecided almost to the end. They defeated us finally by a narrow margin. Haythornthwaite and McBride did particularly well in the sports.

This Term the House has been constantly energetic without the stimulus of any outstanding success and in the face of defeat.

Newsom's

House Captain : F. Potton.

Vice-Captain : Bartram.

Prefect : F. Potton.

Sub-Prefects : Bartram, Eyles, Wiggins.

House Prefects : Ellis, R., Farrow, Marson, Taylor.

Although not all the aspects of the Term have been uniformly satisfactory, it has been undoubtedly the best term of a year which compares favourably with past years. In some spheres our standard of performance has been high, and even where our efforts have not been crowned with success, it has not been for want of enthusiasm. Even our failures have been only relative. It is to be hoped that the improvement in the fortunes of the House will be maintained and expanded.

Athletics.

Our weak position, subsequent to the qualifying, was improved in the sports themselves, chiefly by the activities of the House juniors, notably Sleigh, and we secured fourth place after being last in qualifying points. Had a little more eagerness to qualify been shown by some House members, our final position might have been better. The achievement of the junior members of the House in the sports and the cross-country running, though failing to remedy our position, shows promise for the future.

Cricket.

By winning the knock-out cricket competition, we are the only House to have wrested a few leaves of the laurels of victory from all-conquering Halliwell's. Our first match was played against Cobb's, who, although they did not field a strong team, gave us a good game. We batted first and scored 82, dismissing our opponents for 38. This win secured us a place in the trials, where we were opposed to Halliwell's, who possessed a strong team. By keen bowling and fielding, with some slight assistance from a unreliable pitch, we dismissed our opponents for only 28. After some of our early batsmen had been dismissed cheaply, we passed their total and declared at 35 for 7, thus securing the Cricket Cup. As Mr. Newsom was on a visit to London he was able to see us win, and he no doubt inspired our performance.

Dramatics.

The House play was a success depending on the conscientiousness and co-operation of a very large number of House members. Although Trickey acted his large part very well indeed our play was unlike those of some of our competitors, based on a true team spirit, without any noticeable duplication of parts to outstanding performers. All the participants did not excel but all gave of their best, and the fact of our being placed fourth is more a compliment to others than a reflection upon us.

CAST AND STAGE PERSONNEL.

CAST			
Harrison.	Deling.	Jackson.	F. Patton.
Trickey.	Mackleworth.	Poole.	Tomkins.
Rippengal.	Brice.	R. Ellis.	Petts.
Wellby.	Payne.	Farrow.	Holmes.

Pike. John. Packham. Simpson.
 Bartram. Gunn. Martin. Burton.
Producer : Wiggins. *Curtain* : Bray. *Music* : Howard.
Prompter : Eyles. *Lights* : Phillips, Dady. *Stage Hands* : Gambrill,
 Wesson, Gough.

Swimming.

Except for a struggle for second place, in which we did not take part, the result of the swimming was decided by the number of qualifying points obtained before the sports. Our low position in this respect was accounted for by a lack of swimmers, and by our refusal to adopt the totalitarian methods of compulsion applied by some rival houses. Our position of fourth in the qualifying was maintained by the sports. It is a healthy sign that our House juniors won their relay.

House Supper.

In view of the revival of our House fortunes we were promised a House Supper if we won the Cricket Cup, which promise was duly honoured. The proceedings were started by a truly magnificent three-course feast of an hour's duration, which left everyone feeling comfortable and inactive, and which left a quantity of food unconsumed. We should like to thank Mrs. Austin for her kind co-operation. After an interlude for recuperation, during which sports of the physically passive kind were pursued, the whole House repaired to the gym to engage in an all-in fight, which excused itself by the name of skittle-ball. The party broke up shortly after 10 o'clock, a good time having been had by all.

House Members Leaving.

We are unfortunate in losing F. Potton, our able House captain, and captain of House rugby, hockey and cricket, at the end of the summer term. By his leadership and constant activity in House affairs, he has won the respect of the members of the House. He achieved distinction by being appointed captain of School hockey and cricket. His loss will be keenly felt. Also leaving are Eyles, Howard, and Taylor.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NOTES

The Junior School is realising its individuality more and more and the members are becoming increasingly conscious of the part they have to play in the life of the School.

Junior Lunch is, perhaps, the main feature by which the Junior School is made aware of its identity, and it is pleasing to note how many of the members do try to add to the pleasantness of the occasion. A little more co-operation from some individualists would be welcome. It is an important thing to learn to make a meal an enjoyable social function and to think about others instead of making oneself the centre of the universe. School meals do tend to counteract this, but we still meet one or two people who grumble and forget that we are fortunate in having the variation in meals that we do—or even the meals for that matter.

Only one Film Show has been given this term, when the films shown were:—"The London Pigeon"; "The Downs." A humorous film extolling the properties of 'Vick.'

The second advertised Film Show was replaced by a Bird Talk by Miss Whitman, who showed pictures of about eighteen garden birds, thrown on the screen from the epidiascope. Many boys do take an interest in bird watching, and it was to give these a nucleus for their observations that the talk was devised. It is hoped later to have talks on other groups of birds, animals, insects or plants, to encourage a keenness for field work and individual observation.

In the last week of the term a lecture was given by Mr. Everard, of the Surrey Archeological Society, on "Surrey in History." This was again illustrated by the epidiascope, and is reported elsewhere.

Junior Court has had to meet less frequently this term, and it is hoped that this points to an improved standard of behaviour. There are a few regular offenders and it is clear that next term, when punishments are decided upon by the Junior Court they must be more severe and carried through with greater perseverance.

Perhaps the most outstanding even of the term was the Junior School Play, which was a very creditable effort in which a large number of juniors played a part. This is again given a special report, so no details will be given here, except to say that we hope that all the boys who worked hard to produce the play, whether their efforts were seen or unseen, will learn much of practical value which will be very useful to them later on.

Swimming should be an important feature of the Summer Term, but only about twelve juniors attended regularly at the Baths on Saturday mornings. Entries for the Sports were satisfactory, but next year we hope to see many more boys taking up swimming and a larger and keener attendance at the Baths.

At the end of the term, Junior School had its own Athletic Sports. For these they were divided up into as many as eleven age groups, so that boys would only have to compete against their equals in age.

Variations in size and physique in the Forms make it difficult for one Form to compete against another in games, and it has been felt for some time that another division of the Junior School is needed for games and athletics. Next term, therefore, the three Clubs will be introduced for sports activities only. The Form will remain the unit for everything else, such as work, serving at lunch, etc.

We hope that this will fulfil a long-felt need and that, with the Form on the one hand and the Club on the other, all juniors will find that they can bring that abundance of high spirits and enthusiasm, which is their rightful heritage, into their School life and find them satisfied so that they grow up into right-minded, healthy, dependable boys—a credit to their School.

THE SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

The Society met frequently at the beginning of term and with an encouraging enthusiasm, but pressure of other School activities has made it difficult to arrange meetings in the second half of term. There is no doubt that there is room for the further development of this Society, and the experience gained in these two terms will help us to provide fuller and more interesting programmes in future. The newly-formed Film Society and the Musical Society are both associated with the VIth Form Society, and members attended in large numbers for the performance of "Cosi fan Tutte" at the Wimbledon Theatre, and the showing of Fritz Lang's "Metropolis," and two shorts [Mozart," and "The Beginning of the Cinema"] at School. One of the most interesting meetings was a lecture from Mr. Harry May on Local Government. Boys had been encouraged to think about the subject by an Exhibition on Local Government lent to the School by N.A.L.G.O., and the lecturer gave us a great deal of information, but in a way that stimulated his audience.

The evening was spent discussing the Cinema; a forum was arranged, and groups led by Hopkins, Overell, Potton and Jones argued four different problems, the leaders then reporting the findings of their groups. This discussion technique is always popular and successful. A different kind of debate was held later in the term, when members were chosen by ballot to argue six short subjects without preparation.

The last meeting of the term was held in the hall, and members were invited to read or to play on the gramophone their "personal choice."

Mr. Warner's reading of his own poems was greatly appreciated, and so were readings by Peake and Ellingham. Mr. Milton played a Handel violin sonata, and Howard a pianoforte solo; Bradley, Bird and Gardiner played recordings of classical, and Potton and Overell of jazz music. The Society greatly enjoyed the evening, and so did the very welcome visitors from the Wimbledon High School and County School.

The report of the School General Election, in which the Society took a leading part, is to be found elsewhere. At the end of term, members were invited by Wimbledon High School to a dance, and a very pleasant evening was enjoyed by everyone.

CRICKET

This season's First XI has emerged with a much better record than we anticipated. Of the nine games played, five were won, three lost, and one, the first match to be played against Epsom College Second XI was drawn. Of the defeats, two were very narrow, being lost by one and nine runs respectively; the only serious setback was against Epsom County School.

White, Potton and Hodkin were outstanding throughout the season, the two former as all rounders, and Hodkin as a batsman and fielder. Apart from their successes on the field, Potton and White were most energetic and enthusiastic as Captain and Secretary respectively. Of the remaining members of the side, Parker and J. C. Taylor came along with good performances on occasion, but there was a lack of consistency in the batting. Newman showed sturdy defensive qualities against Kingston Grammar School and the Old Boys, but he must try to develop some scoring strokes. A. L. Taylor and Eyles were much too diffident in dealing with loose balls. They should learn to deal with the bowling on its merits, and to treat the full toss and half volley with much greater severity. A. L. Taylor bowled very steadily without much luck, so that his return of sixteen wickets hardly does him credit.

The ground fielding was good, but there was still a lamentable lack of accuracy in the returns to the wicket-keeper and the bowler. The former position caused trouble, but perhaps the experience he has gained this season will stand Smith in good stead in the future.

Although losing White and Potton, we shall have the nucleus of next season's team left with Chamberlain, Hodkin, Parker, Smith and J. C. Taylor, so we should be able to look forward to the future with confidence.

W. H. H.

CRICKET RESULTS.

Date.	School	Opponents.	Result.
May 12	v. St. George's College (A)	69	61 Won.
" 26	v. Surbiton County Sch. (A)	97 for 8	35 Won.
" 30	v. Wallington County Sch. (A)	66	54 Won.
June 2	v. Epsom County Sch. (A)	72	107 Lost.
" 16	v. King's College 2nd XI (A)	94	66 Won.
" 23	v. Rutlish ... (A)	143	56 Won.
" 30	v. Kingston Grammar Sch. (A)	70	72 Lost.
July 7	v. Epsom College 2nd XI (A)	100 for 7	95 for 7 Draw.
" 21	v. Old Boys ... (H)	61	96 Lost.

AVERAGES.

Batting.	Runs.	Innings.	Times Not Out.	Highest Score.	Average.
*Hodkin, V. ...	140	9	1	32	17.5
*White, V. R. ...	128	9	0	37	14.2
*Potton, F. ...	124	9	0	35	13.7
Parker, C. ...	81	9	0	35	9
*Taylor, J. C. ...	48	6	0	28	8
Chamberlain ...	62	9	0	17	6.8
Eyles, A. ...	25	7	3	13	6.2
*Smith, H. A. ...	34	9	0	10	3.7
Mason ...	6	4	2	5†	3
*Taylor, A. L. ...	22	9	1	8	2.7
Newman, B. ...	20	9	1	9†	2.5

D. Croft, Thompson, D., and Ripplingal also played.

* Denotes Colours. † Not Out.

Bowling.	Overs.	Maidens.	Wickets.	Runs.	Average.
V. R. White ...	91.5	22	41	204	4.97
F. Potton ...	58.3	15	25	133	5.32
A. L. Taylor ...	51	14	16	114	7.12
Eyles ...	6	0	1	30	30

SCHOOL ATHLETICS, 1945

Results of Previous Competitions

1936—Cobb's. 1937—Cobb's. 1938—42—No competition.

1943—Gibb's.
1944—Gibbs, 1st. Milton's, 2nd. Cobb's, 3rd.
Halliwell's, 4th. Newsom's, 5th.

Friday, 11th May.

Captain of Athletics: R. A. J. Wood.

Cross-Country Run

On this rather hot Friday afternoon about twenty boys from each House assembled at Wimbledon Common for the Cross-Country Run. They all set out in a mass, but after the first half-mile the competitors fell into three groups, a fairly small group that drew ahead, a group of slower but steady runners, and a small number of stragglers who trailed out over a distance of three-quarters of a mile. Over the last half-mile the speed was increased and most competitors finished with a sprint of about 75 yards. Halliwell's House managed to win by a fairly large margin of points. Mason, the first in, completed the course in 14 mins. 39.5 secs.

RESULT.

Halliwell's 1st. Cobb's 2nd. Milton's 3rd. Gibb's 4th.
Newsom's 5th.

May 15th and 17th.

School Sports

	1ST.	2ND.	3RD.	
LONG JUMP—				
(Junior) Herbert (M)	Brittain (C)	Hopkins, J. (C)	14' 11½"	*
(Colt) Green, G. (H)	Birch (M)	Ashley (H)	18' 2"	
(Open) Green, G. (H)	R. A. J. Wood (H)	—	18' 8"	
100 YARDS—				
(Junior) Sleigh (N)	Cameron (G)	Pegrum (M)	12 secs.†	
(Colt) Osmint (M)	Foote (G)	Winter (M)	12.8 secs.	
(Open) R. A. J. Wood (H)	V. R. White (G)	Faulkner (M)	11.8 secs.	
	Macbride (M)			

HIGH JUMP—

(Junior) Welby (N)	Simpson (N)	Tanner (C)	4' 5½"	*
(Colt) Foote (G)	Winter (M)	Birch (M)	4' 7½"	
(Open) Doyle (G)	Robinson (H)	Martin (N)	4' 11½"	

RELAY—

(Junior) 4 x 110 yds.	Newsom's.	Milton's.	Cobb's.	
	Welby.	Herbert.	Brittain.	58.4 secs.
	Gunn.	Pegrum.	Tanner.	
	Matravers.	Ayling.	Simpson.	
	Sleigh.	McBride.	Hopkins, J.	
(Colt) 4 x 220 yds.	Milton's.	Halliwell's.	Newsom's.	
	MacDonald.	Thomas.	Trickey.	
	Birch.	Cotterell.	Mason.	
	Winter.	Ashley.	Brice.	
	Osmint.	Newman.	Payne.	

RELAY—

(Open) 4 x 440 yds.	Halliwell's.	Cobb's.	Gibb's.	
	P. Mason.	Norton.	Doyle.	4 mins. 1.4 secs.*
	J. Green.	E. Jepson.	Pringle.	
	Green, G.	A. Hopkins.	Ellis.	
	Green, G.	Hopkins, A.	Ellis.	
	R. A. J. Wood.	Hill.	V. R. White	

WEIGHT—

(Junior) Sleigh (N)	Goff (H)	Pegrum (M)	30' 4½"	*
(Colt) Green, G. (H)	Ashley (H)	Newcombe (M)	39' 9"	*
(Open) J. Green (H)	Martin (N)	Bradley (M)	33' 0"	

MILE—

(Open) P. Mason (H)	MacDonald (M)	Matravers (N)	5 mins. 33 secs.
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HALF-MILE—

(Colt) Thomas (H)	MacDonald (M)	Godwin (G)	2 mins. 27.4 secs
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440 YARDS—

(Junior) Sleigh (N)	Cameron (G)	Brittain (C)	60.2 secs.*
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Final Positions.

1st, Halliwell's. 4th, Newsom's.
2nd, Milton's. 5th, Cobb's.
3rd, Gibb's.

* Denotes records broken. † Denotes records equalled.

June 11th.

Inter Schools Athletics

This year at Imber Court our performance was much better than in previous years, and if, next year, we take our training a little more seriously, we should stand a good chance of obtaining one of the first three places.

The following represented the School at Imber Court:—

	Senior.	Colt.	Junior.
Mile ...	P. Mason.	—	—
880 yards ...	MacDonald.	Matravers.	—
440 yards ...	R. A. J. Wood.	Sleigh.	—
220 yards ...	V. R. White.	Cameron.	Holmes.
High Jump ...	Doyle.	Welby.	—
Long Jump ...	Green, G.	Herbert.	—
Relay ...	Hill.	Pegrum.	Vaughan.
	V. R. White.	Parker.	Langton.
	Faulkner.	Cameron.	Holmes.
	R. A. J. Wood.	Sleigh.	Simpson.

I would like to congratulate P. R. Mason on running a very good mile, in which he came fifth. Steigh is also to be congratulated for winning his heat of the 440 yards in record time.

As a result of their performance this year the following have been awarded their Athletic Colours:—

P. R. Mason,
V. R. White,
Hill,
Faulkner,
G. Green,
Doyle,
14th July, 1945.

A.T.C. Surrey Sports

Five members of the Squadron were asked to run for North Surrey in the Surrey A.T.C. Sports, which were attended by Air Marshal Sir Leslie Gossage. They were:—

Flight-Sergt. Hill,
Sergt. Faulkner,
Corporal Doyle,
Cadet Green,

Flight-Sergt. Hill was the first to run. He competed in and won the Junior 100 yards, he also took part in the 880 yards, in which he came third. Corporal Wood came second in the 440 yards, and the team, of which he was a member, won the medley relay. Corporal Doyle came third in the High Jump. Cadet Green did extremely well in the Putting the Weight, which he won. Sergeant Faulkner ran very well for his Relay Team, gaining several yards. The final position of North Surrey was second. East Surrey came first.

As a result of their performance the following were awarded their Surrey Colours:—

Flight-Sergt. Hill,
Corporal Wood,
Cadet Green,

R. Wood.

THE HOUSE PLAY COMPETITION, 1945

1st, Halliwell's, 52.
2nd, Cobb's, 46.
3rd, Milton's, 45.
Possible total, 60.

The period of preparation for this Competition was inadequate this year and all House Producers faced the day of the Competition with very natural trepidation. Some of them must have been agreeably surprised at the performances put up under their direction, and not one of them, probably, felt his worst fears had been realised.

Christopher Columbus, by Louis McNiece (Halliwell's). The actors spoke their lines clearly and intelligently, with the right feeling for the verse. All the parts were well played with excellent gesture and by-play, and since several players acted several parts, there was a chance to show individual versatility. This was so in the case of Bedford, whose beautiful voice and good gestures made him a notable Abbot. The Herald furnished him with a contrasted part. It was humorously conceived as a Cockney and gave relief and variety to the play. In the same way the rough and picturesque sailors stood out in clear contrast from the courtly figures, the ship's officers and the learned clerics. The producer's grouping of the characters on the stage also heightened this effect of contrast very cleverly, while maintaining free movement between the various groups.

The use of the inner and outer stages was well adjusted, Columbus's various interviews being very quickly contrived. The result was smooth and swift action through a large number of scenes. Christopher Columbus was played by Wood, with dignity, sincerity and force, and gave a true sense of a man of action, compelled by a thirst for knowledge and an inner, almost mystical faith in his

Western route to the East. In all essentials this character was right, easily dominating the brightly-coloured and changing scenes. I understand that, owing to technical difficulties, he was unable to remove his hat in the presence of Queen Isabella. This was a pity. The lighting and clothes were good and, although many costumes were borrowed from the property cupboard, the House had shown ingenuity in making up and embellishing costumes for themselves. Above all they wore their clothes with an air and without self-consciousness. The Producer, Baker, is to be congratulated on a swift but unhurried production, which ran smoothly throughout and was splendidly audible. His groupings were often picturesque and always workmanlike, and the variety and contrast achieved prevented any hint of the monotony, so often to be found in poetic drama, but perhaps the chief honour here must go to the Author. The whole atmosphere of the play was well communicated to the audience. It was a beautiful production. The whole cast is to be congratulated on being apparently word perfect and at ease in their parts, in so short a time. It must have meant a great deal of real hard work.

For future reference, I would like to suggest that the doubling and trebling of parts in a House Play is an undesirable practice. House Plays are meant for Houses, not for star performers only. True, in this case, the Cast did include quite a number of different players, but it might have included more, and even if this had meant a lower level of performance, it would have been worth while. If this practice should become common, it might well ruin the whole spirit of this competition.

The Devil's Disciple, Act I. Shaw. (Cobb's).

Here again the Cast is to be congratulated on knowing their parts. The production was well thought out and efficient. The House had managed their clothes with admirable ingenuity, for our property cupboard can offer little that can even be adapted to the Eighteenth Century. Their make-up was not so happy. J. Hopkins, for instance, looked far too young, a Middle School boy with a red nose, rather than an elderly gentleman with a misspent youth.

The acting of Lines as Mrs. Dudgeon was good, though a shade monotonous—a real character, however, was created. Hale was excellent as *Christie Carr*, as the lawyer, and A. Hopkins and A. Warren as the clergyman and his pretty wife, were good, and so was Essie (Harris). Ellingham, as Dick Dudgeon, played quite well, but lacked some of the casual dare-devil bitterness of spirit which he should dominate the scene. Perhaps his responsibilities as producer weighed unduly on his mind. They need not have done so, for he produced a good performance, bearing witness to united effort.

Androcles and the Lion, by Bernard Shaw. (Milton's).

This House was lucky in finding its Roman costumes in the property cupboard and had little to do but to wear them properly. This they certainly managed to do, and with good lighting and grouping, they made a most pleasing spectacle.

The production showed many signs of intelligent conception. The play is so good that it can scarcely help being exciting, and Schrecker had grasped his opportunities in theory. Unfortunately he had failed to make his Cast do the steady learning of parts and rehearsing necessarily to a finished production. When the inevitable happened and the Company dried up, there did not even appear to be a prompter. The long pause which ensued was unpardonable. It was a great pity, for Swash as Lavinia gave a beautiful performance. His voice and his looks were perfectly suited to the part, and he played it with the inner tranquillity and courage and the gentle mockery that the part demands. Saunders, as "the handsome Captain," not only looked his part but acted it extremely well. He spoke rather too fast, but so

distinctly and intelligently that it scarcely mattered. Osmint, as Lentulus, gave an excellent character sketch in a few seconds, and so did Uff, as Megira, in a not much longer period of time. Hatswell, as Androcles, gave the right type of humility and friendliness to the character, but failed to dominate the play, as I think he is meant to do. This was mainly a fault of production. The Lion, played by Faulkner in an excellent suit, was an appealing animal. Levy was rather disappointing in the part of the Emperor, for which he was well cast. The part needed more affectation and effete sophistication. It was the conception of the part that was at fault.

This performance was good enough to exasperate me, when I thought of what it might have been.

Ten Sixty-Six and All That. (Newsom's.)

Unlike the last three, this is not a first-class play, but it is eminently suitable as a School House Play. It gives a chance to many small part actors, is topical for schoolboys, and is amusing. The producer (Wiggins) made quite sensible use of his inner and outer stages—most of his players appeared word perfect and some of the jokes came over well. Many clothes were borrowed from the property cupboard, but nearly all needed to be adapted, and the producer had taken the trouble to study the clothes of the different periods and met with considerable success in suggesting costumes of various dates. A great deal of keenness and hard work went into this production, which went with few hitches and was at times really funny. Trickey and Welby, as the Common Man and his Wife, looked and acted their parts. Gunn, as Berengaria of Navarre, Ellis, as Blondell, and, above all, Farrow as a most unorthodox and very funny Richard I, were all good. Martin's Baron on his way to Runnymede got over a real character. Petts's conception of his part, too, was excellent. He looked right, had the right voice, and his jokes when audible were well made. Here, however, we come to the main failure of the House. Verbal jokes are no good if they are not heard, and far too many of these were thrown away by inaudibility, or by wrong emphasis and timing. Also, laughs must be allowed for, not acted through. Producers of farce must take great care about this. Harrison, as the Compère, had just the right manner, but he mumbled and threw away many of his best jokes.

As usual Newsom's gave the impression that they enjoyed their House Play.

The House of the Twisty Windows, by Mary Pakington. (Gibb's.)

Gibb's was unfortunate in having both Chapman and Jones away for part of the fortnight allowed for rehearsals. It was, therefore, all the more unfortunate that they had chosen for their Play one that is neither very well written nor easy to act. A first-class Play will very nearly act itself, but a second-rate Play needs acting well to be tolerable. This particular one was peculiarly difficult, since it has to combine a spirit of stark reality and suspense with a Celtic fairy tale atmosphere of make-believe.

The play was under-rehearsed and not word perfect. It was generally audible but not always. Chapman, as Lady Ponting, and Puttock, as Anne Sorrell, gave promise of good performances at some future date, and Warner, as Charlie Clive, was good—so was Pringle, as the Russian Guard. Peake, who is a good actor, under-acted as Derrick Moore. This is not his usual danger. Doyle, as James Roper, neither looked nor sounded enough of the sophisticated man of the world—but he strove valiantly to hold the play together in the early stages, where he is of major importance.

The House had to rely entirely on their own resources for their clothes and set to work in a businesslike manner.

C. M. J.

This term, and the latter part of last term, has been notable for the increase in the number of visits to outside concerts.

Interest in orchestral music in the Junior School has been greatly stimulated by the attendance of some thirty boys at each of the Saturday Morning Concerts for Children, held at the Central Hall, Westminster. Quite a large symphony orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. David McCallum, was got together by Mr. Ernest Read, whose apt introductory remarks gained the attention of the youngest listeners right from the start. At the first concert we were introduced to the Bach-Handel Orchestra, and we remember particularly the brilliant trumpet obligato of "Let the Bright Seraphim" (Handel), and the glorious quartet of trumpet, flute, oboe and violin, with background of strings in the "Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F" (Bach). The second concert was devoted to the classical period of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. Here we met the clarinet for the first time in these concerts, and before hearing the "Figaro Overture" in full, Mr. Read got the wood-wind chorus and the string chorus to play their parts separately. Other delights at this concert were the "Clock Symphony" of Haydn, the "Pianoforte Concerto in A" of Mozart, and the "Egmont Overture" of Beethoven. The last concert was on the Romantic Period of Schubert, Mendelssohn, Schumann and Brahms, and the programme included the "Rosamunde Music," the "Fingal's Cave Overture," the "Midsummer Night's Dream Nocturne," Schumann's Dances." The most admirable feature of the series was the way in which Mr. Read estimated beforehand just what children of 10 to 14 need and how much they can take at a time.

The Senior School Music Club, in conjunction with the Sixth Form Society, has also sought its music out of School this term. On 27th April we visited Wimbledon Theatre for the Sadler's Wells production of "Cosi Fan Tutte." This opera was first produced in Vienna in 1790, and contains some of Mozart's most exquisite music. We already knew what a high standard of performance to expect, for we saw "The Magic Flute," given by the same company a year ago. The new production of "Cosi Fan Tutte," however, exceeded our greatest expectations.

Our second and third excursions were to the Albert Hall, on Wednesdays, 20th and 27th June. On the first occasion the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Pistoulari, gave a Beethoven Concert. Ida Haendel was the soloist. To the seasoned concert-goers amongst us, the renderings of the "Egmont Overture," the "Violin Concerto in D major," and the "Fifth Symphony" were a revelation, but to the boys who had never visited the Albert Hall before they were breath-taking. The second concert, nevertheless, was even greater still, for Casals, himself, was soloist, with the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Adrian Boult. The programme was tremendous. It consisted of the "Fidelio Overture" of Beethoven, the "Haffner Symphony" of Mozart, the Brahms' "Variations on a Theme of Haydn," the Schumann 'Cello Concerto in A minor, and the Elgar 'Cello Concerto in E minor, and the applause, tumultuous at the beginning, was riotous at the end.

It is significant that in our first term free from aerial activity, concert going has started on such a grand scale.

R. L.

THE SCHOOL GENERAL ELECTION

As the School showed such a lively interest in the country's General Election, a similar event was conducted inside the School. The campaign speeches of the candidates for the Conservative, Liberal, Labour and Common Wealth Parties are here given, and the results of the poll, which took place on Tuesday, 24th July, follow after the speeches.

THE COMMON WEALTH CAMPAIGN

The first meeting of the Common Wealth Party occurred in the Art Room, the purpose of the meeting being to elect a candidate to represent the party in the School's election. Mr. R. H. Robinson was put forward as the prospective candidate by the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the party (Mr. C. R. E. Parker), who delivered a short address to the assembled members. Mr. Parker then asked Mr. Robinson to say a few words to the audience.

The prospective candidate arose and very briefly stated his personal intentions should he be adopted by the members.

He was not, he said, representative of any class or sect of the community. He was not dominated by any Trades Union, nor had he any vested interests in property or by business. He was, in the truest sense, a man of the people, who would do his utmost to further the people's ends. The Common Wealth Party was founded upon a solid and enduring Socialist policy, and if he were adopted as the party's candidate, and returned to Parliament, then he would strive to further the gospel of Socialism among all parties, endeavouring especially to influence members of the Labour Party to embrace the Common Wealth policy, and in so doing, Mr. Robinson hoped a worldwide enthusiasm for Socialism would follow. He emphasised the point that this speech was merely intended as a vehicle for the expression of his personal views. His adoption having been put to the vote, Mr. Robinson was elected the Common Wealth candidate.

The second meeting took place in the Hall, at which those members of the Senior School, interested in the Party, attended.

The first speaker (the Chairman), confined himself to explaining the purpose of the meeting, which was that the Common Wealth candidate might describe the policy of his party. The chairman continued, saying that envious slurs had been cast upon the candidate's sincerity, as he had changed, over night, from active support of the Communist Party, to active support of the Common Wealth Party. The reason for this was quite simple: Mr. Robinson had imagined the views of the Communists to be Socialist views, but he discovered they were not, and he, therefore, quite sensibly, changed his sphere of activity to the only Socialist Party existing in Great Britain—the Common Wealth Party.

In his speech, the candidate expounded in detail the first two aims of Common Wealth—Vital Democracy and Common Ownership. For twenty-five years the country had endured Capitalism, which meant that for twenty-five years, a few of the people had had too much money, most people had had too little, and there had been millions of unemployed. Socialism was the antidote to this Tory poison, and, therefore, Common Wealth. It would not compromise with the old system—it would sweep it aside, and build a new and decent Britain from its ruins.

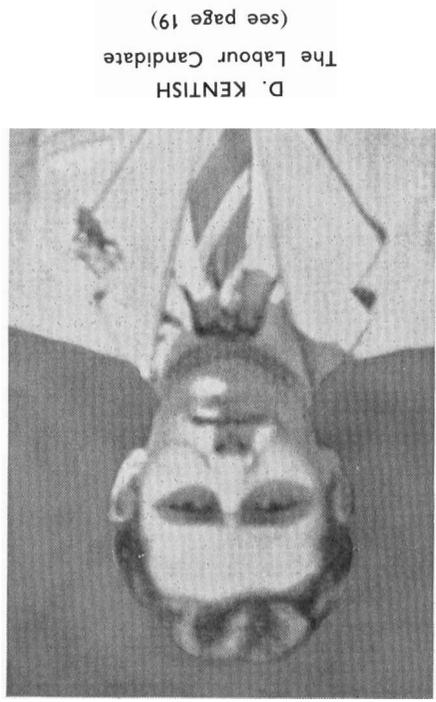
Vital Democracy involved the abolition of the House of Lords and the arguments for and against the House of Lords was dealt with and intelligently disposed of by the candidate.



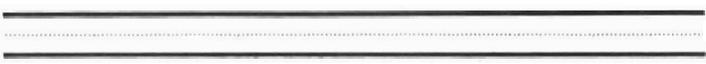
R. H. ROBINSON
The Common Wealth Candidate
(see page 18)

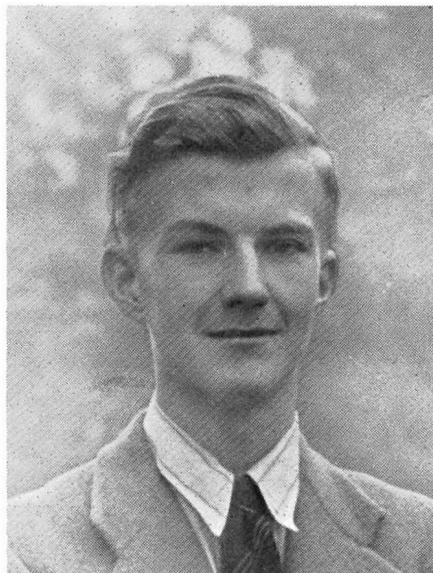


B. OVERELL
The Liberal Candidate
(see page 20)



D. KENTISH
The Labour Candidate
(see page 19)





C. W. BAKER
The Conservative Candidate
(see page 22)

The Common Wealth Party wished for a thorough electoral reform, including the institution of proportional representation. Local Governments should be invested with more power, they being in close touch with the needs of the people than Whitehall.

The candidate dealt in detail with Common Ownership. All national resources must be in the hands of the people. Private traders would be protected under Socialism from the evil machinations of the monopolists.

Remaining points of the Common Wealth policy, such as social security, world unity and colonial freedom were dealt with at the third meeting.

At the fourth meeting both the Liberal and Common Wealth candidates addressed the same audience. Mr. Robinson summarised his party's policy and gave the main differences between his party and other parties. He finished thus: "Common Wealth is fighting for a new world, not a revised edition of the old one. . . . Service to the community must eventually replace self-interest. These objects cannot be achieved whilst so much of the wealth and power of the world is in the hands of so few. If you are courageous, determined, and have 'grit,' then the Common Wealth Party is for you!"

THE SPUR LABOUR PARTY

At the first mention of a School Election there was an immediate demand for a Labour Candidate. Consequently the Labour Party was first off the mark by holding a meeting in the Art Room of all those interested in forming a Party, and at which a candidate was chosen. Mr. Kenneth Horne, introduced by the Chairman, and John Ellingham, gave a few impartial words on the usual procedure for the adoption of a candidate. The prospective candidate (D. H. Kentish) then spoke. After answering several questions he was considered and adopted.

The next day a meeting of *The Spur* Labour Party was held and an executive committee selected as follows:—

H. S. Peake	...	...	<i>Chairman.</i>
J. Pead	...	...	<i>Candidate's Agent.</i>
R. Bird	...	...	<i>General Secretary.</i>
T. L. Trinder	...	...	<i>Information.</i>
D. Daling	...	...	<i>Publicity.</i>
C. E. Salter		}	<i>Reporters.</i>
G. Osmint			

The organisation of the campaign was left in the hands of this committee, which held its first meeting over the following week-end.

During the following week a letter from the candidate was given to every member of the Party in which a survey of the campaign was given. The main object of this letter was to let the members of the party know the ways in which they could help. One of the suggestions was that all members of the party should wear red roses, and the School was suddenly brightened by the appearance of these emblems in many button-holes. It was indeed unfortunate that the Conservative candidate should see fit to quote it as an example of a lack of policy on the part of the Labour Party. It was even more unfortunate that he should not only read, but also misinterpret this document which had no need to set out a policy, nor ever intended to, and which, in any case, was not written for the benefit of the Conservative candidate; or for that matter for any but those in the Labour Party!

The first meeting of the election, a Conservative meeting, was followed the next day by a Labour Party meeting. The Chair was taken by H. S. Peake, who handed the meeting straightway to the Labour candidate. The greater part of his speech was devoted to a

quick history of Tory foreign policy during the inter-war period, and this was considered necessary because the misdeeds and evils which have characterised the Conservative policy in the past must not only be a guide but a warning for the future.

A tricky question was given by one member of the audience who quoted a speech by Mr. Attlee which, at first sight, might seem to have diverged from the policy of the Labour Party before the war as presented by the candidate. This query, as promised, was effectively cleared up at the next meeting, but it is interesting to note that the questioner was reading his quotation from that doubtful book by Quintin Hogg; a book which was rather unsuccessful as far as the Conservatives were concerned since the writer found it very difficult to find any mud to sling at the Labour Party. Much of what he did scrape up he has since had to withdraw and apologise for.

The second meeting of the Labour Candidate was held in the Geography room, and his speech dealt almost entirely with the way in which the Labour Party would deal with the problems which face us; in fact a general survey of the policy of the party.

By the time of this meeting, the other three parties had all followed the lead of the Labour Party and each of the four big windows in the lower corridor were decorated with either anti-Tory or anti-Socialist posters, or else a Liberal collection of both these types.

The last big meeting, at which the Labour candidate spoke, was held in conjunction with the Conservative candidate, and the Chair was taken by F. Potton. At this meeting the Labour candidate said that he personally thought that the whole world was turning Socialist, for it is the only way to run a large modern community. The Labour Party, he said, was a Socialist party, and their policy for the five years following this election were the first steps towards a Socialist Britain. The essential point of the Labour Party's policy is that it is Practical.

It must be admitted that standing up in front of a large audience and receiving questions over such a vast array of subjects, questions very often worked out to catch the candidate, is not pleasant. But, nevertheless, all four candidates will agree that the whole venture has been very interesting and extremely worth while. Let us hope that the object of the experiment has been achieved: that of educating ourselves in the duties of citizenship as far as politics are concerned.

THE LIBERAL CAMPAIGN

The Liberal candidate, at the School election, was Brian Overell, a member of the Science Sixth. He was adopted as candidate at a meeting of the Party on Tuesday, 10th July. In a short inaugural speech, he said that he did not intend to allow an exclusive fight between Socialism, which offered State control and loss of personal freedom and efficiency on the one hand, and Toryism, which offered the country freedom to be controlled by vested interests, on the other. He wanted to give the constituency a third alternative by representing, not a section, but the whole of the community, and by giving them what they wanted—namely, greater personal happiness and freedom, not only from control, but also from want and fear of want.

The Liberal Party held its first public meeting in the School hall. It was attended by the whole Senior School. F. Potton, in his capacity as chairman of the Party, opened the meeting with a short address, in which he defined the Liberal policy as taking the middle course between the extremes of Toryism and Socialism, not because the party was too weak to adopt a strong policy, but because it took the best from both extremes. He then introduced the Party candidate, who began his speech by saying that the Liberal revival was not a nostalgic shadow of a great past. The revival was dynamic and forceful; Liberalism was needed as it was never needed before. It was not a coincidence

that the slump in Liberalism was followed by the shameful inter-war years, when politics always took the line of least resistance. The candidate continued with a return attack upon the Tory Party, which had spoken contemptuously of the Liberals at a previous meeting. He said that the Tories were endeavouring to win the election solely on the strength of Mr. Churchill, having little constructive policy to offer the country. After several comments on the Tories' method of running the election, he was greeted with applause when he asked the audience, even if they did not vote Liberal, not at any rate to vote Tory.

He then discussed the merits of the Socialist programme of State Control, saying that for the Liberals, nationalisation was a question of expediency, not of principle. The Socialist argument that aggregation of wealth in private hands could be used to distort the course of Government for private ends, could be met by the Liberal proposals for radical Parliamentary reform. Other points in the Liberal policy were then discussed. The candidate terminated his speech with an account of the past work of the Liberals. Several questions were then answered. He apologised to one questioner if he had given the impression that he underestimated Mr. Churchill's worth, he was attacking the Tories for using Mr. Churchill for their own ends. Leading members of the School Tory Party disagreed as to whether Mr. Churchill controlled the party, or the party controlled Mr. Churchill.

On the following Wednesday, M. Perry, a member of the Party, held a meeting in the Art Room, where he gave a detailed account of the Liberal policy and plans for the future. He dispelled the doubts of many of the electorate that the Liberals had no strong and determined policy.

The final meeting of the Party was held in conjunction with the Common Wealth Party, in the School hall. The Liberal candidate spoke first, and dealt with the main points in the Liberal policy. He pointed out that the election was not just a fight between State Control and Private Enterprise. Liberalism offered a third alternative, that of co-operative industry, with the workers sharing the profits of the industry in which they worked. The Liberal ideal was for everybody to be a capitalist—only when citizens controlled their own lives could they be absolutely free. He terminated by saying that only the Liberal and Common Wealth Parties were free and unbacked by any powerful sectional interest; for this reason alone the voter should back one of these two parties. The choice was between Socialism, with loss of freedom, efficiency and enterprise, and Liberalism, which offered a progressive society that was free but fair.

After the Common Wealth candidate had spoken, the Liberal candidate answered several points which had occurred in his opponent's speech. He said that Common Wealth would serve no useful purpose by abolishing the House of Lords, which, thanks to the Liberals, had little power now. A second House was necessary to check the power of the first. He did not agree with the Common Wealth prophecy that the Liberal method of controlled industry would require more bureaucracy than would the Common Wealth method of State-owned industry. In his opinion the Common Wealth idea of State ownership built up a forbidding picture of a nation of wage slaves.

This meeting terminated the Liberal election campaign, which was backed by a general canvassing of the constituency, and a display of election posters.

ELECTION REPORT, NATIONAL CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Candidate C. W. Baker.
Chairman A. S. Gardiner.
Secretary H. A. Smith.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The above and G. P. Starck, M. Carr, D. Harrison, D. Cheatle, and N. Godwin.

In this four-cornered election fight, we knew from the beginning that our Party probably stood the least chance at the Poll. The School, being modern and at the centre of a large built-up area, tended as a whole to favour those parties which had more progressive policies to offer.

After the first meeting of our Executive, we set out to show the School the National Conservative Party not only had a practical policy, but that this policy was best suited to the economic and political dangers of the post-war years.

At our first meeting, D. Cheatle opened with a vigorous attack on the other parties standing at this election. This was followed by the candidate's own speech, which was confined entirely to policy. There was much audible opposition at this meeting, which was the first of the whole campaign, but the speaker succeeded in putting his policy before the audience. Questions were asked at the end which covered a great deal of ground—the mistakes of our party and the supposed mistakes being attacked in detail.

This proved to us that our belief that this would be a hard fight was not a vain one.

The second meeting of our party was based rather differently. The candidate's intention at this meeting was not to place his own policy before his audience, but to show them the weaknesses of the policies of his opponents. The speech dealt roughly with his opponents, and naturally provoked a good deal of questions. At this meeting the Party's Election Address was circularised and it seemed to have some influence on the meeting.

Owing to the pressure of time, the third meeting had to be shared with the Labour Party, and was under the Chairmanship of F. Potton, officially the Chairman of the Liberal Party. The candidate spoke first and declared it his aim to persuade people to listen with open minds to his policy and to remove from their minds the idea that this policy was Mr. Churchill's. How far he succeeded remains to be seen. He dealt with the unjust claims of his opponents in treating his policy as reactionary—he exposed the lie that said that his party was opposed to progress. To prove this he again put forward the bare outlines of his policy and dealt with the vexed question of Nationalisation. "Other parties had taken a stand on the principle they claimed to support, or on the grounds of pure expediency, he said, but rather than ask whether it was a good principle, or whether it was expedient, I would ask whether it is practical and can be paid for without endangering the economic position of the country."

With these words he struck the keynote of the whole of the campaign.

At the last meeting the candidate did not speak for long. He said that he had asked for written questions, but as these were not forthcoming, except for two, he would not bore them with further statements of policy, but would invite their own questions.

These covered a wide range from "What does the Party intend to do about the falling birth rate" to "What about the railways?" This latter in challenge to a statement on Private Enterprise.

The meeting was not so well attended as the other three, but this was attributed to the fine weather. Questions did not stop until the end of Lunch Hour, when the meeting had to be closed. The candidate appealed to the audience to go away, think on what had been said and then VOTE CONSERVATIVE.

This has been written on the Eve of the Poll, and although the Party does not expect a success in this campaign, it does hope that it has shown the School that all sides of every question must be reviewed before a judgment is made.

C. W. B.

RESULT OF THE SCHOOL GENERAL ELECTION

Total votes cast	...	...	...	243
Did not vote	...	...	...	6
Absent; no proxy arranged	...	...	...	12
Not on the register	...	...	...	1
Voting papers spoiled	...	...	...	1

RESULT.

Overell (<i>Liberal</i>)	...	...	...	89
Baker (<i>Conservative</i>)	...	...	...	58
Robinson (<i>Common Wealth</i>)	...	...	...	56
Kentish (<i>Labour</i>)	...	...	...	40

TOAD OF TOAD HALL

By A. A. MILNE.

This endearing satire, adapted from Kenneth Grahame's "Wind in the Willows," was presented by the Junior School during the term which saw VE-Day and the General Election—three events, not without their bearing on one another, which ensure this term a memorable place in World and School History.

As a Junior School activity, the production was supremely successful, for a good sixty boys, all under thirteen, were engaged in the presentation; some forty in the cast and at least twenty as stage-hands, electricians, back-room boys, property designers and makers, ushers, etc. It was a glorious frolic of whisker and tail, pride and prejudice, horse-sense and insensibility. To the producers (Mrs. Henderson and Miss Bishell), for their handling of a half-century of semi-domesticated bipeds in the rôles of comparatively civilised quadrupeds over a period of weeks our sympathetic congratulations are due.

Of course it was inevitable that some good lines would be lost and some stage business overlooked, too hurried, or too protracted; for tail-management, ear-control and miming, not to mention expression in hind-legs rather than in little-fingers, are matters that require long practice, having long fallen into desuetude among our species. It was also pleasing to note the freedom from slavery to fashion in tails, for some were worn high, some low, some were short and others very, very long, but no one—not even a Wild Wooder—was so sophisticated as to hold his tail in his mouth—like whiting.

Perhaps something was missed by some of the character parts, in that they seemed to rely too much on costume and make-up, whereas they could have suited their gait and some actions to the animal they represented. The costumes were the originals used in the London production, and the make-up was most ingenious.

Marigold (Sirman) and Mole (Spiers) deserve special mention; the former for her grace and use of eyes and voice, which must have convinced all, that the Riverside Folk really do speak and behave like people; and Mole, whose initial mental struggle was rather too brief, won our sympathy by his innocence, our concern by his dangerous decision with Oscar Wilde to overcome temptation by yielding to it,

and our hearts by his steadfast loyalty to his friends, who had opened new worlds of experience to him—the Open Road, High Life and River Pleasures—even when he had come to recognise Ratty's limitations, Toad's instability, and Badger's pomposity. His high-spot was in the rollicking lyric "a-walloping we will go," when the whole audience to a man was ready to surrender their braces to him—come what might.

Toad had a difficult part to play, but although he was better in his "ups" than in his "downs," his expansiveness was inclined to be merely boastful and his dejection merely vindictive, thereby losing some of the sympathy of the audience, who looked in vain for that geniality which endears him to Ratty and Mole, but, of course, not to Badger, who acted only as "an old friend of the family."

The choral speaking of the People of the Wild Wood could hardly have been better, but the singing was rather weak and the words indistinct, but they made up in part for this by their vivacity on the very limited floor-space. The practical Ratty and Badger, the soul of propriety, who so aptly repaid Mole for sitting on him, by sitting on the luncheon basket, held the play together and maintained their characterisation excellently throughout. Cues were picked up remarkably well by the whole cast.

Of the smaller parts, Phoebe (Menzies), the Washerwoman (Bunch), and Alfred (fore and aft—or rather, Langton and Craton) were outstanding, while the Judge (P. Pooley), the Policeman (Hobbs), and the Usher (Patient), although having no tails but only tales, had beautiful natures and noses.

The piano accompaniment, played by Ball, aged 13, was beyond praise. His delicacy of touch, precision and calm contributed much to the charm and success of the presentation as a whole.

Last, but not least, those indefatigable and indispensable workers behind the scenes deserve a full measure of praise. Mistakes of timing there certainly were, but the sets were very good, the properties ingenious and artistic, and everything worked—even the reluctant pistol.

A special feature was the printing of the programmes and tickets by juniors on the School press. The poster artists, too, did a splendid job, and their original and striking designs transfigured the Hall. All this only goes to show what a lot can happen when a Toad is in a Hole.

A VISIT TO EAST MALLING, KENT

British agricultural research scientists have had some of their best-known successes in the grafting of fruit trees, and the root stocks they have produced now have a world-wide reputation. Some of the five hundred thousand of these being sent abroad were grown at the East Malling Research Station, which some of us visited on May 7th.

A member of the staff met us at the Station and personally conducted us round. He began by explaining that the usual method of propagating fruit trees is by grafting. A small cutting from the required species of fruit tree is grafted on to a "stock," which imparts some of its own characteristics, such as vigorous growth or early fruiting to it. We were shown an orchard of apple grafts grown on different varieties of root stocks, and were able to see the effects of the stocks on the size, shape and fruiting of the tree. We learned that careful records were kept of the amount of fruit produced by each tree on the Station, and were surprised to find that the crop per acre was independent of the size of the trees grown. We visited next, an orchard of garden-size apple trees, whose rate of growth was being carefully measured. The effects of different methods of pruning were also described, and specimen trees to illustrate these, shown to us. We passed long rows of pear and cherry trees and the hop garden, and

paused on the outskirts of an experimental plot in which similar trees were being grown in soil of deficient n certain minerals. This plot was divided into small areas containing nine trees, each area deficient in one mineral. The centre tree was the most closely observed, for the outer eight were guard trees preventing minerals from one area diffusing into the next.

We lunched in the main building, which, with the laboratories and offices, was situated on a road running through the Station. The accommodation for the staff seemed pleasant and modern, with the windows of the small dining hall looking on to a central square. After lunch, we adjourned to the Entomological laboratory where we heard an interesting lecture on the main types of insects which attack fruit trees. Boxes of specimen insects, glass tubes containing live insects and sprigs of diseased trees were set out on view; these contributed to a very successful lecture.

To complete our survey of the Station, we visited another experimental plot concerned with correlating the growth of a plant with the amount of moisture in the soil. We were told that before any conclusion is reached, hundreds of similar experiments must be carried out to ensure that the result is based on statistics which eliminate chance effects caused by the varying composition of the soil and the potentialities of any particular plant.

A. S. G.

LECTURES

24th May, 1945.

"CRIME AS AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM." Alec Paterson, M.C.

"Crime has always been with us and always will," was Mr. Paterson's opening statement. It has proved to be one of the few eternal and universal problems which have come to perplex mankind. Wherever and whenever a community is formed there must be rules laid down to govern it, and there is always someone who will break one or more of these rules. There are three things in the world upon which one cannot depend, who will win a cricket match, the English climate and the human character.

The great problem is what to do with the criminal after he has been caught. There are three possible answers. The first is to kill or mutilate the offender. This form of punishment is the earliest and most primitive. As a country becomes more and more civilised the number of crimes punishable by death become less. In England to-day the only criminals punished by death are those who commit High Treason or murder.

A later form of punishment was that of transportation to some penal colony in tropical or equatorial regions. England had such a colony in the Amdaman Islands, where the convicts were set to work to drain the unhealthy malarious swamps. This penal colony was eventually abandoned. France still has such a colony at Devil's Island off French Guiana. These islands consist mainly of fetid, fever-ridden swamps. A large number of the criminals who go there die of fever. After they have served their sentence they have to remain on the island for as long again as a *libéré*, and it is during this period that they usually die. If their sentence is more than eight years they are never allowed to return. Italy has a penal colony on the swamp region of Sardinia. Transportation is a failure and is dying out, for countries have realised that you cannot colonise with convicts.

The most modern form of punishment is that of imprisonment. A century or two ago the prison was used purely as a place in which to detain the criminal while he awaited trial. But to-day the prison is a place where the criminal spends his period of confinement after his trial.

Until quite recent times there was a popular belief that there was a definite "criminal type." An Italian criminologist, Lombroso, went to great lengths to prove this by measuring and comparing the shapes and sizes of faces and heads of many criminals. He thought he had found a "criminal type," but what he had really found was a "prison type," produced as a result of living for many years in a prison. Another popular belief was that crime with violence had been put down purely by flogging the criminals, but Mr. Paterson said he had never known this to be the case. Many people believed the crime to be typical of the criminal; this is not so, the murderer is not necessarily a violent or brutal man.

Yet another problem is that of the punishment of political prisoners. Should they, as in the opinion of Russia and Eastern European States, be punished more heavily than ordinary criminals for the reason that they have offended nearly the whole community, or less than the ordinary criminal for the reason that they have only done what they believe to be right? When punishing the offender should the punishment fit the crime or the criminal. Should each previous offence be brought into consideration, or no?

We must remember that crime is not a social problem that stands alone without any other connections. It is closely connected with other social problems, such as poverty, slum conditions and unemployment. Such things are not without possible remedy. Mr. Paterson ended his lecture by reminding us of the words of the late William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury:

"No man is a criminal and nothing else."

R. A. J. W.

30th May, 1945.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT. Mr. Harry May.

During the last hundred years, the system of local government has gradually developed from parish meetings to the county council meetings of to-day. Originally the power to collect rates lay with the vestries of the parish churches; they fixed rates for sanitary arrangements and lighting. (Parish meetings in many cases usually finished when the members adjourned to the local pub, where they tasted ale.)

Increasing population made this method unwieldy and so the system of non-county-borough, county-boroughs, county councils and ministries was built up. The local government councils are endowed with a certain amount of authority; they can order the construction of roads, houses, etc., but permission must be had from a minister if a council wishes to borrow any capital for these undertakings. The ministries also dictate the policy and detail of local government.

Mr. May then described how a borough is created from an urban district. Any urban district, independent of size may send a petition to the Privy Council if it desires to become a borough, and this Council sends a commission to make a public enquiry in the district. Before the Privy Council advises the King to grant a Charter of Incorporation, it must be satisfied that the inhabitants desire to have a borough and that there is a "civil unity" or "spirit." If this is the case, the urban district becomes a borough.

The lecture finished with a description of the use of rates once they have been collected, and Mr. May assured his audience that "you get what you pay for."

M. G. B

"HOLLAND TO-DAY." Mr. J. J. Van der Laan.

Holland is in many ways an extraordinary country with her windmills, dykes and tulips. But she has long been a haven of safety and rest where the arts and sciences have flourished, as is shown by such names as Rembrandt, Franz Hals, Spinoza and Grotius. More

recently Holland has been developing her industrial resources. Ship-building has been subsidised, and it is notable that it was Dutch tug-boats that towed the great Singapore dry-dock to its destination; while coalmining, although begun only in 1915, has enabled the country to become self-supporting in that product.

The Dutch people have always loved liberty and hated war, and when the Germans treacherously invaded their country, in 1940, they were ill-able to resist the attack. After the occupation many succeeded in escaping from Holland, and Dutchmen became almost regular passengers of the Royal Navy. But those who stayed suffered terribly, and there are records of many foul atrocities, in spite of which sabotage, once started by a few schoolboys, was a constant worry to the Nazi. Nevertheless the occupation had its lighter moments, as when a Dutch-woman, caught listening to the B.B.C. by the Gestapo, explained that she was waiting to hear Hitler's promised broadcast from Buckingham Palace! Now that the war in Europe is over the Dutch look forward hopefully to the future, when all nations shall join hands in a spirit of international co-operation.

J. J.

18th July, 1945.

"SURREY IN HISTORY." Mr. H. Everard.

Surrey is a comparatively small county which is divided into four main areas: the "Downs" area, the "Riverside" country, the "Fold" area, and the area between the hills. The history of this county can be traced back to palaeolithic and neolithic times; there are, for example, pit-dwellings at Worn's Heath.

The Romans in England built a large number of roads, and the remains of some of them—Watling Street, Staines Street (running from Chichester to London), and the Pilgrim's Way (from Hampshire to Kent)—are still to be found in Surrey. Remains of Saxon communities are also still to be found, the most well-known being a cemetery at Mitcham.

There are, however, few large buildings of historical interest, but Mr. Everard showed a number of photographs of the abbeys at Waverley and Bermondsey; the priories at Newark and Merton, and Farnham and Guildford castles. Surrey also possesses the oldest remaining windmill in the county, built at Outwood in 1655.

Churches are fairly abundant, and many of them are connected with legends. It is said that Saint Catherine's and Saint Martha's churches were built on each side of a road by two sisters who had only one hammer between them; when one of them wanted it, she shouted across the road to the other, who threw the hammer to her!

Surrey is enriched by three palaces: Hampton Court, Lambeth and Richmond, this last possessing the room in which Queen Elizabeth died in 1603.

THE PARTISANS

Members: Rex Warner, George Haslam, J. F. Green, M. G. Brown,

R. A. J. Wood, P. R. Mason, E. Jepson, R. H. Robinson, H. Peake.

Secretary: M. G. Brown.

Two meetings of the Partisans were held this summer term; at the first of these, P. L. Mason started the discussion by reading a paper on "British and American Radios." In Britain, broadcasting has become almost a monopoly under the B.B.C., and it is very difficult for anyone so wishing, to set up a rival concern and make it pay. But any American may set up a transmitting station, even if it be only a local one, and be sure of an audience.

The important question that arises is concerned with entertainment value; which produce programmes of higher artistic taste: those subsidised by a manufacturer of the "only-chewing-gum-which-

does-not-make-your-jaws-ache," as under the American system, or those which have no advertising use at all, as under the English system.

The influence of wireless in our everyday life is dependent entirely on the listener; some listeners are intelligent, choose their programmes with care and think about the things they hear; others, less intelligent, have the wireless on all day, listen to practically none of it, and take all that they hear as the final word.

The Partisans were generally agreed that entertainment value could be greatly increased, but that this would only happen if listeners desired it, and showed that they desired it.

The second meeting was addressed by a guest-speaker, Mr. Brewin who, having spent some time in a prisoner-of-war camp in Italy, and having discovered a great admiration for Dante, came to tell the ignorant Partisans something about the life and work of this great poet.

Dante Alighieri was born in 1265 into an Italy divided by political factions known as the Guelphs (under Pope Innocent III), and the Ghibellines (under the Emperor Frederick). Throughout his life it was his ideal to make Italy a united country, and in 1282 he became one of the six governors of this city of Florence.

At the age of nine, Dante fell in love with Beatrice, whom he intended to marry; but she was given to another man, and later died in 1290. Dante was heartbroken at this, but in 1291 he married Gemma and had a number of children by her.

He began to write his most well-known poem, "The Divine Comedy," in 1300, but in 1302 he was exiled at the instigation of Pope Boniface, and he wandered over Europe, writing his poem until he died at Ravenna in 1321.

Whilst writing the Comedy, Dante lived only for death; except for himself, all the characters are from beyond the grave. The poem is allegorical in character and is divided into three parts: "Hell," "Purgatory," and "Heaven." Dante describes the states of those who have passed over into these places; those in Hell include the lechers, who were whipped for their sins, the misers and prodigals, heretics who are grilled from everlasting to everlasting. Those in Purgatory are able to purge their sins and then pass into Heaven to join those already there who, in their several spheres, are contemplating God.

Mr. Brewin finished his talk by saying that he hoped that some of the Partisans would have the energy to learn some Italian and read Dante in the original, but hopes such as these are generally vain.

M. G. B.

19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

The 1945 Summer Garden Party.

The 10th Annual Summer Garden Party, held on June 2nd, was opened by Mr. Van der Laan, a Dutch journalist, who edited an underground newspaper, and is now the Public Relations Officer for the Royal Netherlands Government.

Mr. Van der Laan was introduced by Mr. G. A. N. Lowndes, who told of the perilous escape our guest had made from Holland in a stolen lighter and finally being picked up by a British Destroyer in mid-Channel. In his opening speech, Mr. Van der Laan said how fortunate we had been in this country in escaping the terrible consequences of German occupation. Devastation and destruction had overtaken his country, and they were indeed grateful for all the help rendered by Great Britain, and especially by the Scouts with their Relief Teams, their hospitality and the gifts of clothing and footwear. Thousands of undernourished Dutch children were being nursed back to health in England. "Scouting," he went on, "must play an important part in the future of the world, and by its international brotherhood and

co-operation that went beyond frontiers and boundaries, it could help to secure the future peace. Scouts must really join hands with their brothers across the sea." He hoped that facilities for visits for our lads to Holland would not long be delayed.

The Scoutmaster then said that the 19th is very anxious to go abroad. We had adopted a Dutch Scout Troop under the Headquarters Scheme, and we were going to ask Mr. Van der Laan to unfurl a Dutch National Flag later in the day. This flag would be taken to Holland by some member of this Group and be presented to our Dutch brothers just as soon as travelling was permitted. This was a first step in the "hands across the sea" movement.

Immediately after the opening, trade was very brisk. The gymnasium was transformed into a market place of many colours and flags. Stallholders were soon very busy, and during the height of excitement, a call for silence was made and bargain hunting came to a standstill whilst Mr. Van der Laan broke the Dutch flag over the "Tribute to Holland" stall. This was staffed by a Dutch Rover and depicted the country's characteristics and particularly its scouting. For this stall, Mr. Haydn Dinmock, editor of *The Scout*, kindly lent Jamboree photographs and a bound set of original copies of the "Jamboree Post." Mr. Van der Laan said it gave him very great pleasure to accept this flag on behalf of the Scouts in Holland and that he was grateful for our help and the collection of candles, soap and clothes for his people.

The fun-fair, larger than in previous years, provided amusement for everyone, and even the "few months old" found shelter, and mother comfort in the Creche. The tea service was as popular and efficient as ever, while the ice cream barrow attracted a continuous stream of customers. Cinema shows were held in the afternoon and evening. Mr. Leslie Wilson, the Royal Command performer, gave an excellent show to a crowded hall. The auction sale was re-introduced this year, and Mr. Newsom performed—it was a magnificent show.

It would be impossible to thank individually all those energetic helpers who turn up so faithfully every year, and many of them we know were working for months beforehand in preparation. We realise fully how much they do to make this annual event a success.

We are inspired by the keen interest of our President, the Headmaster. The treasurer, Mr. Elliott, went home happy in the thought that he had counted more money than in previous years, and a few days later, he was able to announce that by taking just over £300, from which expenses were to be deducted, we were about to add about £220 to funds which now include the camp site fund, the fund for financing visits to France and Holland in the near future, and the fund for helping Senior Scouts to proceed to College or University.

The Scout Social Evening for Parents.

On Wednesday, 11th July, over seventy parents and friends gathered together in the Hall. A. D. C. Prince spoke about the War-time Jamboree Club, which had been held once a month in the Crypt of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and which was attended by Rovers and Scouters of all the Allied Countries. It was largely through this Club that the Scouters of the 19th kept in regular touch with those many Allied Scouts who attended the International Week-end at Raynes Park in 1944.

The Deputy Education Officer for Surrey (Mr. J. Hood Phillips), then addressed the gathering. He spoke of the great work done by scouting in the early days when our schools were sadly lacking and provided nothing outside the curriculum. Now things had changed and much of what had been provided by Baden Powell, in his great

vision, was now done inside the schools. We had now the more important part of supplementing the school provision, of giving scope for travel and adventure, and particularly the spirit of comradeship in the open air. He also spoke of the serious thought to be given to Senior Scouts, of the attitude of the County Authority towards voluntary organisations, and of the ethical and international aims of scouting.

Mr. Loveday, accompanied by Miss Whitman, gave a song recital in two well-chosen and delightful groups. Refreshments were served. The Headmaster and the Chairman of the Governors also spoke.

General Scout Group Activities and Work.

Another edition of the ELMS, No. 14, the Groups' *Bulletin*, has just appeared. It records some present-day developments of the 1944 International Rally and the contacts which we are able to maintain. There are notes on visits to the Union Cold Storage Company's works, the Central Telegraph Office of the G.P.O., some joint activities with the Guides and the Rangers, the District Youth Organisations' Athletic Contest, St. George's Day Service, and on the five separate patrol camps held at Easter.

Dr. Kelly, who gave us earlier a lecture on Blood Transfusion, maintains a kindly interest in our work, and has written some useful advice and an encouraging note for the annual summer camp. For seniors, there has been an illustrated lecture on cave exploring. Mrs. Phillips has conducted a course in Missioner Badge and Nursing Work, while Mr. Phillips, Buffalo, has run instructional classes for recruits and 2nd-class work.

The following badges have been awarded this term:—

<i>Athlete's</i> ...	Phillips, Wells, Poole, Withers, Baldwin.
<i>Swimmer's</i> ...	Ashley, Law.
<i>Pioneer's</i> ...	Forward, Puttock.
<i>Cyclist's</i> ...	Law.
<i>Cook's</i> ...	Thomas, Baldwin, Puttock, Phillips.
<i>Missioner's</i> ...	Forward, Baldwin, Gambrell, Patston, Spencer, Withers.
<i>2nd Class Test</i>	Patston, Gambrell, Doling, Withers.
<i>1st Class Test</i>	Haythornthwaite.
<i>King's Scout</i>	Kentish.

The following have competed successfully in District Athletic Contests:—Mason, Thomas, Ashley, Osmint, Standish, Tutchell.

The Silver Medal for the winning patrol of the term has been awarded to the Kingfisher Patrol, PL. Haythornthwaite.

By the time this is published camp will be history. At the moment we are all looking forward to another Summer Camp and, of course, this year free of black-out and other restrictions. The Camp is for a fortnight, and will be held at Dairy Farm, Marden, in Kent, where we shall combine fruit-picking with the normal scouting activities. The main party will travel all the way by lorry, while another party will cycle through Surrey and Kent.

THE DISC

A SHORT STORY.

Now, with the twilight, the chill, hovering during the hours of day, descended. A coldness crept heavily into the room; it lit deep into the corners; filling and freezing and enfolding. Snow drifted across the cracked window, brushing, softly and in silence, the battered case-ment. A grey, sullen light, gift of a steely sky, filtered through, and gave to the room an unhealthy and misted glow.

Two figures were seated in the centre of the room. They were close together—seeking warmth in nearness. The man was thin and pale and shivering slightly. The other, a woman, was small; she was thin, but without the man's consumptive pallor. A few inches of scrawny wrist showed at the end of the man's frayed sleeve. His fingers toyed stiffly with the rung of his chair. They were quite blue.

Furniture was sparse; a deal table, a grate—empty, and the occupied chairs; no more. Above, hanging from the ceiling, an electric light bulb. The huddled shape of the two people was a shadow, indefinite in the rapidly thickening gloom. Outside the window, a solitary branch, urged by the snow, shook and shuddered; jerking unevenly across the light. The two were alone.

They had not asked anything; but now they had nothing. No food, no warmth, no light. They were not living. Life was pain, and only pain was their's. A physical anguish had driven deeper and deeper through their bodies, until it was a disease of the spirit, more terrible than pain. Their souls were rotting in darkness.

A bitterness that had been long in germination, stirred uneasily in the man's breast. They had tried and tried to live. They wished no more than Life. None of its attributes, its ease, but Life—air and rain and a certain freedom. The body of the man was thin and frail; the passion that now rose in him was big—he was pregnant with a misery beyond pain. It burst from him, torn from his soul, a cry of despair: "God! . . . God! . . . let us live, let us live!"

He rose, steadying himself, his nervous hand upon the table; his grievance welled to his throat, ripe for utterance. No hope—no warmth—no light.

Immediately, light was his vehicle for grievance. Darkness around them. Light should be their's. Everyone had light. Why not light? God in Heaven—why not light?

He drooped. He sank back. The woman clutched his cold hand in hers. He shivered. Sweat bathed his face. His lips were dry. Nervously, he passed his tongue over them. His left hand, thrust into his pocket, fingered, unfeelingly, a metal disc—a smooth thing; his pockets, of all else, were barren.

The woman raised her head. Above her, she saw dimly the light globe. Dull as it was, seemingly lifeless, a sense of latent potency hovered round it. Her head bent, she stared unseeingly at the floor. The irony of their situation came to her clearly, so vividly clearly. Actually they were penniless—and a penny could give them light.

Half involuntarily, she turned towards the man. She stopped. Useless, useless. A penny . . . a penny . . .

The man still fingered the disc—forgotten token of a Free Lunch counter. The sensation of touch was abstract, outside him. The smooth, flawless surface of the brass disc he compared, unthinkingly almost, with his uneasy, impeded existence. The difference, so great. The disc was useless. In that, a similarity, his life was useless; it had no weight in the world that ran and sang before him; quite useless.

He looked at the bulb hanging sadly above him. It could dispel the gloom. The mere pressing of a penny into a slot. The room would change.

Soon his heart was pounding heavily. In a second, the smooth thing had a new significance. He drew it from his pocket. Twisting it this way and that, he peered at it. The size of a penny.

His wife eyed him. She knew his thoughts, and exalted. Still they defied that power that would crush them. She laughed a little; quietly, but hysterically. It trickled from her lips, spreading incongruously into the coldly silent room. They would have light.

There was a guiltiness in it, though. Honesty? Did honesty have a place in the pain that was their existence?

They looked at each other. At last, the man rose. The disc, he held. Slowly, he moved to the open door. He passed outside. Straining her ears, the woman heard quiet movement. Then silence, as of dust, hanging wearily in the airless air of a hot room; then, a metallic ring, as the round thing entered the metre. The man returned. The woman now trembled with a child-like eagerness. She moved restlessly on her chair. The man turned to the switch. He touched it. . . .

Immediately, the room had changed. It was inundated with golden, warming light, that spilled from the globe, and in one flooding wave, engulfed the whole room, swirling round chairs, table—everything. Tangible, comforting light, that sparkled and painted, and revealed.

The man's eyes glistened as he moved to the dusty window, and unhooked the cloth that served as blind and curtain. Returning, he sat next his wife.

* * * * *

Now Toby Job was a beggar—a wanderer before the face of the Lord. His trousers of corduroy were held to his person by a massy belt of leather. He wore a jacket of debatable material. The bristles of his face, rough hewn, gave his chin a dirty, purple hue. The sandy hairs that grew on his scalp stood stiffly as if in church, four-square to the winds of heaven. He had no eyebrows. Other than dicing, swearing, gambling and drinking, he had no vices. Cleanliness he considered an affectation. The touch of water was to him as the agony of the damned in Hell. His head possessed a peculiar shape, something like that of a two-pound loaf. A slight, but nevertheless, penetrating, odour of stale tobacco fumes lingered about his person.

As he picked his way through the puddles of the mean little street, he rattled the shillings in his capacious pocket, and he mused pleasantly upon the thought of the strong ale and the cold beef that the shillings, product of a day's itinerant begging, would bring him. And as he walked, he smiled.

Passing onward, his eye caught the glimmer of a lighted window; an oasis in the desert of the damp, murky street. Toby's eye glimmered. A light; it savoured of opulence. He made his way towards the house. All was silent. A halo of mist hung round the window, glowing softly.

Toby mused awhile. Food, especially unpaid for, would be most acceptable. He decided to knock. Perchance it was some wealthy burgher holding a nocturnal carouse! True, the house was small—decidedly small—but who could account for the eccentricities of the rich?

He knocked, as it seemed to him, sorrowfully. No sound. Again he knocked. Again, no sound. He knocked louder, He thundered at the little door.

Moving to the window, he endeavoured vainly to peer through the blind.

Thoughts, self-sorrowful, passed through his mind. People were within—comfortable, warm, full bellied. And he a tramp . . . well . . . yes, penniless, having no roof above him; condemned to beg his bread. The tramp started really to bewail his supposed fate.

There they were—those people—living in luxury, spitting on the very beggar at their door. The pictures of several Biblical beggars, clad in their rags, passed across his brain, for Toby was familiar with the Good Book from cover to cover; it paid. . . .

They were turning him from them; cold, friendless, hungry, into the damp and fog of night. He was hurt—wounded.

He bent his neck, and applied his lips to the letter box:

"I wouldn't have yer bread, if you was to give it me on a goldjan plate, so I wouldn't. I spurns you. I have the hardiest contempt' for you. Grindin' the faces o' the pore, while livin' in a hadmosphere of operlent splenjour."

He rose. He been requited. As he walked through the gate, he still mumbled, and objected. Phrases floated back, as he pushed onward toward the "Red Lion":

"... operlent rich . . . takin' the bread aht o' the mouths of 'ungry workers . . . livin' in splenjid hidleness. . . ."

His voice grew fainter in the distance. But his hand still jingled the shillings in his pocket.

* * * * *

Inside the room, they sat together; unhearing, uncaring. The light was theirs. They had stolen it. Quietly, they looked at each other. Each sensed a guiltiness in the other; each had also a feeling of righteousness—

Quite soon the light went out.

DEATH, OR INTIMATIONS OF MORTALITY

My body lies around me gross and dead
And the vague blood oozes through its sewered mesh
The constant breathing on the iron bed
Grows slow and faint within the putrid flesh.
My carcass lies below me and the wave
Of loud emotion echoing in the ground
The angry squalls of passion in the grave
Are but strange whisperings of rippled sound.
Then frail remembrance fades and I am naught
Nor man nor mind nor a vague myth of thought
Nor the grey dust within the sacred sound.

CATHEDRAL BELLS

The church bells ring
Over the town they swing
One, two, charging the clouds with song
Four, three, come to mass,
Winds that pass
Carry the sound along.
In the valley, resonant comes the last chime
To St. Ann's hill, for the last time
Through arch, vault, buttress to the vibrant sky
Bells sound again, clappers repeat
Just this once more, pull and let fly
Drowning the clatter of church-goers feet.
The belfry stills
As the last echoes cease
Leaving the distant hills
In peace.

NIGHT SCENE

Stark grotesqueness chills the night;
Jogging shadows lengthen, shoot and stop,
Thin curtains blink and sudden rays invite
Strange passers' peerings, ugly and obscene,
The sky, the eaves, the chimney pots are black,
But yellow light enshrines a garden's green.

I am not quite alone, there wait
Noiseless things, fluttering in the trees, to rush,
Claws sharpened, to avenge their fiendish hate,
Lights click and vanish in the moonlit roads,
Strange forms emerge, rush and are gone like bats.
Candles gutter at what night forbodes.

No spirit haunts except the damp and chill,
Yet shades slink in the dark until the foot,
Loud ringing down the street and up the hill,
Commands retreat. **Cruel, dark eyed, the gloom**
Pierced by low stars, cut open by the light
Rushes my arms, enters my whistling room.

TO THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN

Torn, twisted petals lie lifeless on the grass,
Chased and bruised by Nature's rough journeyman.
They fled at the touch of the warm, West wind,
Driving its humid companion ahead ;
In the dawning rays of their glory were they broken,
And of life deprived by life's eternal fountain.
They wore not the drooping habits nor the looks
Of over-ripened fruit which cloy the palate ;
They had the Spring, the tender blossoming
Of life, of youth, of health, upon their faces.
Whither is their glory fled and why departed ?
Why were they cut down before their time's accomplished,
By their confederates ? Cut down before their prime
Had granted still one further rose to Nature's glory ?

C. W. B.

A COMPARISON OF TWO ART FORMS :

Jazz and Classical Music

First it is necessary to give a definition of the music called Jazz. This music is played usually by small groups of about six instruments, it being entirely spontaneous improvisations, either collectively or as solos, on a tune and which are intended to convey the players' feelings to the hearer. This, of course, eliminates "swing," which is a commercial corruption of jazz, played in an orchestrated way by large bands and which is abhorred by all true jazz musicians.

Having defined jazz, why should it be considered an art form ? An art form is a method by which some person can express his views on or about life as he sees it to others, and naturally there are many ways of accomplishing this. There are painting or sculpture, visual methods, literature, a mental way or music which is the oral form.

Now consider the musical way of self-expression. In classical music the composer is the creative artist. He is excited by some emotion which he conveys on a score by tonal and harmonic means either on a small or large scale. Thus, when his music is played, be it by a symphony orchestra or a string quartet the written music is unchanged and the emotions conveyed to the listener are purely those of one man, the composer. The greatest orchestra in the world cannot excite the listener if the music has been written by a bad composer. Thus classical music has its own peculiar standards of perfection but in its own sphere alone. Therefore these standards cannot and should not be applied to jazz.

In jazz the creative artist is above all the actual musician, the composer of the particular tune being more or less an unknown factor in arriving at the result. The quality of the jazz is dependent solely

upon the ability of the instrumentalist who must possess an accomplished technique on his instrument in order to be free to express himself freely on it. His playing is governed by no laws except his own desires for self-expression and a bearing in mind of the steady beat, which is the basis of all hot music.

Jazz, however, is still by a large number of people, who have been reared on the orderly forms of classical music considered as far from being worthy of the title, art form. Yet some classical composers themselves have been aware of its value, men like Stravinsky and Milhaud. The latter once said :

" One thing I want to emphasize very particularly and that is the beneficial influence of jazz upon all music. It has been enormous and an influence of good. It is a new idea and has brought in new rhythms and almost, one might say, new forms."

These composers have realised that jazz is totally different, a new art form although of the same idiom as their own. People who sneer at jazz and try to ridicule it against classical music standards are like those who praise a Michelangelo and condemn a painting by Watteau or Monet. And in most cases it is true that these people have never even heard true jazz and are not prepared to listen to it either, although they should have more catholic, unbiased tastes.

They decry what is a modern folk music although they listen attentively to the orchestrated folk music of a Dvorak. They are irritated by hot variations on a theme of Gershwin but they are interested in Brahms' variations on a theme of Haydn. They admire the contrapuntal music of a Brandenburg Concerto but they will shun the equally contrapuntal music of a negro New Orleans jazz band. These musical forms are common to both classical and jazz music but because one is written down on paper by one man and the other is a spontaneous product of some musicians, they applaud the former and ignore the latter. In fact it is merely a case of musical snobbery and conservatism. The standards of the former are tonal and harmonic and of the latter are rhythmic and polyphonic and yet they attempt to judge the new by the standards of the old.

There are two criticisms generally levelled at jazz, by those that hear it for the first time, one that the steady beat becomes monotonous and the other that jazz instrumentalists are bad musicians. In answer to the first it should be realised that the beat is for the musicians not the listener. The hearer's attention should be always on the melodic line being traced out by the melody instruments and beat should be allowed to become subconscious.

As to the second it has already been said that jazz players must have a good technique or they are like a ship without sails. All good musicians are the first to admit that jazz trumpet players are the most technically accomplished performers on this instrument, far above the standards set for a good symphony orchestra trumpet player, and it is the same with all the brass and reed instruments. Benny Goodman, who besides playing jazz is interested in chamber music, has been considered technically efficient enough to play with the Budapest String Quartet. Therefore it is obvious that this criticism is false.

To sum up, this article has not been an attempt to refute the beauty of classical music but to get people to listen to jazz, real jazz, in a different light, remembering that although both types of music are means of self-expression they should be regarded as fundamentally different, but equally good, emotional art forms and as such, jazz as much as classical music, should be listened to intently to gain the emotion being expressed in it.

F.P.

As has been necessary for some time now, we must regrettably open another letter with news of casualties amongst our members. Derek Franks was killed this year, when his Spitfire was shot into the Mediterranean. We remember him as a fine athlete and a gay companion, and offer our deepest sympathy to his parents.

When Mr. Gibb left last term, the committee was faced with the task of choosing his successor. It was unanimously decided to invite Mr. T. P. Cobb to become chairman of the committee and he has kindly accepted.

Largely through the efforts of the new chairman, we held a dance in the School Hall after the Old Boys' cricket match, which was attended by a large proportion of our members. The refreshments were the highlight of the evening and had been prepared principally by Miss Whitman and Mrs. Billingham, to whom we extend our sincerest thanks.

The team we fielded at the match, and which was successful by the margin of a few runs represented all years of the School's life. Kenneth Richards bowled with the pace we remember from his schooldays. He is in England for a short time, having finished a tour of operations in the Far East. Ronald Hill was also on leave, having returned from South Africa in March, where he has met Arthur Thompson, Denis Barton and Bridges. His brother Cyril is on H.M.S. Norfolk and was aboard when she took King Haakon back to Norway. Ken Daniels came down from Worksop for the match, and Geoffrey Scoble was able to play when his B.L.A. leave was extended for twenty-four hours. Keith Wright and C. Thompson opened the bowling with much success. F. Robinson strengthened the side whilst G. Billingham acted as captain.

Alan Day was also present at the Dance and we offer him our sincerest congratulations on his engagement. He has returned from Italy and the Land Forces Adriatic before leaving for the Far East. Anthony Hinton was also there; he seems to be fully recovered from the severe injuries he sustained in Africa. Peter Evans, Brian Smith, Martin Schrecker, Alec Bond, David Griffiths and D. A. R. Reid, who was on a Wireless Course in the navy, Ledwich, who is a technical bacteriologist in an L.C.C. hospital, was also present. There were many others but I did not make a note of them at the time, so that the above list is very incomplete.

Amongst those who have written to me is Ian Smith who spent V.E. Day in bed with a "march Fracture." He met A. Pengilly who is at a R.F.M.E. Octu. Francis has returned from Canada. J. Saunders is in Austria; he has fought right through Italy and describes meeting Marshal Tito's troops near Trieste when he was attached to the New Zealand Division.

Gordon Baker was in Ceylon early this year and has seen much of this island as well as of India. Douglas Ash is in the Royal Australian Navy and has been manning a Submarine detector on a motor launch in the Timor Sea. Ronald Pegg has now flown to Australia with the Fleet Air Arm. R. Jillett and M. Smith are both to be congratulated on having passed the 2nd M.B. examination, the former at King's College, London, and the other at Cambridge. Ken Haywood has now joined the Navy.

This then is as much new information of Old Boys as I have and I hope that by the next issue of *The Spur* you will have written to me in great numbers. Please note the School's tenth anniversary celebrations on September 19th and the Old Boys' Rigger match and Annual General Meeting in December.

B. W. MEADE.

Editor: M. G. Brown.

Technical Adviser: C. W. E. Peckett.

Committee: F. Potton, Baker, C. W., Robinson, R. M., Parker, C.

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