

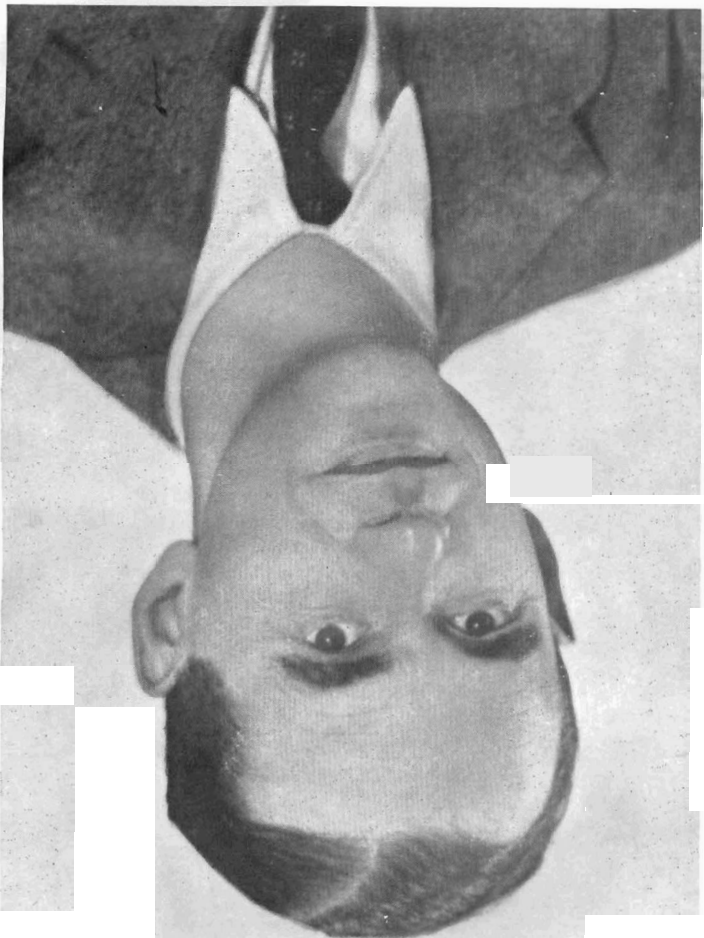
THE

SPUR

Vol. VII

No. 4





CHARLES WRINCH

Headmaster : Jan. 1st, 1943—Dec. 31st, 1945

THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. VII, No. 4.

January, 1946.

APPRECIATION OF THE HEADMASTER

(From a Master)

Those of us who were present at the first visit of Charles Wrinch to the School will remember his immediate concern with the personal interests and problems of those to whom he spoke; and we who have worked with him during his last term, when his own future might have occupied his mind to the exclusion of everything else, have been aware that he has been anxious only to ensure the well-being and the future of the School. This is his outstanding characteristic—an unselfish devotion to the needs of others and a complete forgetfulness of himself in their service. From the first his object has been to preserve the spirit of the School, to retain the character that had been developed under John Garrett, and to make possible to an ever-growing School population the benefits which the School had to offer.

That this was a wise policy is obvious to us who have known the problems with which he has been faced, and we have cause to be grateful that Mr. Wrinch was particularly well qualified for the task. He had the sympathy and vision to grasp the essentials of the Raynes Park tradition, the skill and patience to ride out the storm of war, a glowing confidence in his colleagues, and an unshakeable loyalty to them. It was the response to this warm loyalty and encouragement that made possible the overcoming of so many difficulties. Within two weeks of the arrival of the first flying bombs three separate camps were successfully established in the country; new staff arrived and were soon as eager to serve him as those who had left; parents, as devoted as ever, helped to run games, the A.T.C. and other School activities; prefects learned to bear a far greater share of responsibility, and sub-prefects were trained to help them. His agile mind and selfless devotion called out the best that the School, and the friends of the School, had to give. One great disappointment we share with him—that he has had inevitably to deny himself the active teaching which is his real interest. Those of us—staff as well as boys—who have witnessed his brilliant gifts as a teacher, and have been given some insight into his scholarly mind, will always be grateful for our good fortune, and will realise what his self-denial has meant to him. It is a consolation that Radley will gain the advantage of his departure and that he will gain his own reward.

We shall not forget the genuine interest he has shown in everyone with whom he has worked. The boy who was not filled with a desire to use his time fruitfully, and the master who was not encouraged to seize the opportunities made possible for him, would indeed be insensitive and ungracious. Parents and Old Boys have found him as accessible and as generous with his time, as willing to help with their problems, as have Staff and boys now at School. Whether a master left many years ago, whether a boy was in the Sixth Form or Junior School, made no difference to one who had at heart the School as a living body and a growing organism.

Every one of us has made a personal friend of Charles Wrinch and we are grateful to him for this privilege, as we are for his fine contribution to our School life. We all wish to pay tribute to his grand qualities of mind and character. We shall not say good-bye to him, for we know that he will not forget us.

(From the Head Boy)

This, the first term in a world at peace, ends for us with a sad event—the departure of our Headmaster. He has accomplished a great deal in the three short years he has been with us. We shall remember him for the earnest way in which he considered the fair name and good report of the School before all things, personal and impersonal, and how he spent all his waking energy in this task. His intense desire to maintain and enrich School life, whatever the environmental conditions caused by the war, is perhaps best exemplified by the Evacuation Camps, which he so speedily and ably administered. The strong sense of comradeship that is at present in the School is but one of the results of those Camps, which owe their formation to his fine initiative and courage. It is because of his work that the School is a "living force" and has not become, as have so many other schools under the impact of war conditions, an existing institution.

We shall remember also that here was no gown'd terror, to be viewed from a distance only, but a person in whom we could confide and from whom we could expect always guidance in the solution of our problems. The School realises now that, although in the beginning when the news was first published, it was shaken and selfishly wished the Headmaster to stay, that the Headmaster has made for himself the right decision. But we will not excuse him should he be a long time in fulfilling his promise to come to us again.

HEADMASTER'S NOTES

By the time these notes appear in print their writer will no longer be Headmaster. For three years he has enjoyed that great privilege and has tried, throughout a period of emergency, to serve the best interests of the School. No man could have received finer co-operation and sympathy. The task has been lightened at all times by that spirit of goodwill which is the most striking feature of our happy community, and which has made even the sadness at parting less hard to bear. It is the foundation on which our School is built, and the firmest of all guarantees for the future.

The new Headmaster is Mr. T. H. Porter, of the Queen's College, Oxford, a society with which the School has recently been forging a strong connection. Mr. Porter is a Classical Scholar who, after serving on the staff of Sutton County School, joined the R.A.F. and spent a large part of the war in the Western Desert and Middle East. With his deep understanding, varied experience and wide interests he will lead the School into the "shining uplands" of Peace. I extend to him a very warm welcome. It is a strange coincidence that we were both receiving our education in the Borough of Shrewsbury at the same time.

Our sympathy goes out to the parents of Flying Officer Richard Derek Franks, who have been officially informed that he was killed in air operations over North Italy on April 6th, 1945. His vivid personality will be held in proud remembrance.

Mr. Rex Warner is to be congratulated on his appointment as Director of the British Institute in Athens. His loss to the School is very sadly felt. The presence in our midst of one of the most

distinguished of contemporary writers has been a stimulating experience. We are particularly proud that his well-known translation of the "Medea" was made specially for performance at the School. His geniality was a source of perpetual encouragement during our most difficult years. His sense of scholarship provided a high standard. He was the founder of "The Partisans," a Society which has become one of our most original institutions, and remains to remind us of his personality.

We are most happy to welcome back to the School Mr. J. B. Grubb, Mr. Denis Moore, and Mr. J. R. James. They have been badly missed during the war years. Mr. James is assured of our heartfelt sympathy in the loss, through a tragic accident, of his wife. Our thoughts this Christmas will be with him and with his twin daughters.

It is a privilege to have here for a year Mademoiselle I. Chiarelli, who comes to us as French "assistante" from Aix-en-Provence. The standard of spoken French in the School is rising rapidly. We hope that she is gaining something here in exchange for all that she gives.

We part with regret from Mr. V. Edwards, Mr. P. A. Lett, and Mr. F. L. Billows. Mr. Edwards has in a short time become a real friend to many members of the School. Mr. Lett has maintained the high tradition of Handicraft, and has instituted Cross-country Running, leaving a permanent mark on our steady development. Mr. Billows in the course of one term has refreshed the School with his enthusiasm and enriched it with his experience of foreign countries.

The School is grateful to two friends who have generously presented handsome prizes. Miss Essex has given a prize for French which has helped to stimulate the resurgence of interest in this vital subject. Miss M. Norman, who has been teaching at Bushey County Secondary School, has offered two annual prizes for the most promising pre-medical student and for distinguished work in the Sixth Form. This splendid gesture is the direct result of our happy collaboration with Bushey School, and is a remarkable tribute to our work in the neighbouring building. The first awards have been made (with acclamation) to A. S. Gardiner and M. G. Brown, both of whom are now at Oxford.

Our tenth anniversary was informally celebrated on September 19th. It was a memorable experience to entertain so many of the original Staff, Old Boys and Parents. Mr. Garrett was in his most sparkling form. His two speeches brought fresh inspiration and food for thought. The fact was confirmed that all who have ever passed through R.P.C.S., whether as boys or as members of the Staff, remain indissolubly linked with its fortunes.

For the formal Prizegiving on November 27th we migrated to the Wimbledon Town Hall. By the end of the evening we felt that we had been in the School all the time, so completely did Spirit take control of Place. We are most grateful to Dr. G. B. Jeffery, the new Director of the University of London Institute of Education, for distributing the prizes and for giving so carefully considered an address.

The term has not been lacking in entertainment to celebrate our Anniversary. "Treasure Island," specially adapted for this performance, would, I think, have pleased R. L. S. himself. The momentary break with the Shakespeare tradition has been fully justified. Three major concerts have been given. At the first, a School Concert, and the second, a Concert by the Malden and District Orchestral Society,

collections were taken which go far to help us pay for our newly acquired double bass. We are grateful to Mr. Parkhurst for his help, and for arranging the outstandingly good second concert. The Carol Concert was more ambitious than ever. The Double Quartet revealed exciting possibilities, and the Mimmers' Play was even more entertaining than in previous years.

On the last day of Term a short French play was given by Form Middle One with remarkable success. Mr. Webb and all the actors are to be congratulated on setting up this landmark which will, I hope, be followed by longer productions.

At last we have won the annual Rugger match against Rutlish. This is a significant opening to a new decade. Our first striking achievement in Athletics has been made by E. G. Green, who won the second place at Putting the Weight out of the whole of Great Britain in the A.T.C. Sports at the White City.

"Fare forward, voyagers," and may God bless you all.

Peter Alan Knight

December 21st, 1945.

It is with great sorrow that we have to record the death of Peter Knight on December 17th, 1945, after a very brief illness. He came here in September, 1943, and from the start immersed himself in School activities. His enthusiasm knew no bounds. Both at work and at play he gave all that was in him. We shall not forget his brave tackling in playing Rugger for the Colts, or his encouragement to the First Fifteen from the touch line. His singing in "Toad of Toad Hall," in which he took the part of the Nurse, still echoes in the memory. Intellectually he showed high promise. It is hard to realise that so strong and vivid a personality has been taken from us. His parents and his young brother have the profound sympathy of all who knew and loved him here.

SCHOOL OFFICERS, CHRISTMAS TERM, 1945

Head of School : A. G. Hopkins.

Second Boy : P. R. Mason.

C. W. Baker, A. H. Bartram, R. A. Doyle, E. G. Green, H. A. Smith.

Prefect of Hall : E. G. Green.

Prefect of Library : C. W. Baker.

Secretary of Games Committee : H. A. Smith.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Killed

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

D. Franks, R.A.F.

Flight Sgt. John F. Smith, 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.

GENERAL SCHOOL CERTIFICATE RESULTS

Midsummer, 1945

FORM V3

Ashley, Ayling (M.), Birch, Cheatle, Clayton, Cotterell, Cromwell (M.), Godwin, Harrington, Hodges, Hope, Jenner (M.), Lockwood (M.), Needham, Phillips, Priestman, Standish, Tanner (M.), Tutchell, Wilkinson (M.).

FORM V2

Amey, Bedford, Buckingham, Burgess, Cunningham, Heath, Horton, James, Jochimsen, Mackintosh, Newman, Plumridge, Swash, Tomkins (M.), Trickey, Watson, Wilson (M.).

FORM VI

Burton, Fleet, Hale, Jahn, Packham, Smith, Warham, White.

"M." denotes exemption from Matriculation.

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE RESULTS

Midsummer, 1945

ARTS

C. W. Baker (Fr.), R. A. Bradley, Chamberlain (Geog.), Ellis, Eyles (Geog.), Harrison, Jones, Lutz, Petts, Saunders, Taylor.

SCIENCE

Bird, A. G. Hopkins, Howard, Jepson, P. R. Mason, Moss (Chem.), Newman, Overell, F. Potton, Salter, Starck, Tuthill, Wiggins.

ECONOMICS

Ellis, H. A. Smith.

The parentheses denote "Distinction" in French, Geography and Chemistry.

SCHOOL TENTH ANNIVERSARY

On September 19th staff and prefects, past and present, assembled with John Garrett and our present Headmaster in the Gymnasium to celebrate the School's Tenth Anniversary. The somewhat austere nature of the surroundings was relieved by the presence of the Birthday Cake, cooked by a member of the kitchen staff, and standing in the middle with its ten candles flickering in the cool air, while the wall-bars stood stiffly to attention.

As journalists are wont to say, the banquet spread before us was sumptuous. Trestle tables, accustomed to the normal fare of School lunch, were overloaded with the dishes of pre-war parties; there was almost enough tea to allow rivers of it to flow in the corridors.

In these conditions conversation was not formal. The contemporary weather conditions were not discussed, nor health. Beside these cold conventions, what X. was doing at Bombay or whether Y. was

demobilised appeared as live, interesting topics. Needless to say, they were not exhausted when the cake was formally cut by John Green.

John Garrett was then prevailed upon to speak. He delighted his audience by a stimulating account of his own rabbit-keeping days at this School, a subject called to mind by the jellies cast in rabbits' forms on the table in front of him. His account, brief though it was, of recollections of his life at Raynes Park was like hearing "footfalls echo in the memory."

The evening ended with the reading of Greetings Telegrams from Mr. Gibb, who was unfortunately unable to be present, and from Ian Smith serving in His Majesty's Forces.

C. W. B.

VISIT TO "HENRY V"

On the tenth anniversary of the School's opening, the whole School proceeded to the Odeon, Shannon Corner, to enjoy Laurence Olivier's production of Shakespeare's "Henry V." The film was of about two and a half hours' duration, at the end of which time the School, seniors and juniors alike, expressed their wholehearted approval of this excellent production.

In photography, acting and setting the film, in at least one opinion, was unsurpassed.

The opening was unusual and natural; one sensed the excitement caused by the imminence of a new play—the hurried running up of the flag over the Globe Theatre, the signals to the musicians eagerly waiting, and the anticipatory murmurings of the groundlings, as they flocked to their desired points of vantage. The Elizabethan atmosphere was well simulated.

To place the first scene actually inside the Globe Theatre was, I think, well done. By this device one could grasp more firmly and satisfactorily the Elizabethan attitude towards playgoing. One noted the gallants swaggering, in slashed velvet and scarlet hose, on to the stage itself, there to indulge in good-humoured banter with the actors. That great enemy of the open-air Elizabethan theatre, the rain, was here depicted, the actors continuing the performance although uncomfortably dampened. Prominence was also given to the custom of bowing the actors off the stage.

Technically, the lengthy opening speech of the Archbishop of Canterbury, which is so apt to pall, is unsuited to cinematic technique. This was overcome admirably by breaking the speech up into a series of amusing contretemps—the Archbishop forgetting his lines, and the temperamental Archbishop of Ely refusing finally to retrieve the fallen maps.

The photography was excellent, and there was a number of unusual shots, notably the photograph of that magnificent first flight of English arrows. The brief glimpse of the terror-stricken horse during the battle, effectively symbolised the confusion and strife of the moment; the sight of the horses' hooves, and gay raiment of the knights reflected in the waters of the marsh, also gave a realistic impression of the prelude to battle; and the close-up of the interlocked hands of Princess Katherine and King Henry, with the rings of France and England side by side, symbolised the union of the two countries.

The settings were beautiful throughout. Especially notable was the first sight of the French Court; there was a pre-Raphaelite quality in the depiction of the Court ruled over by the senile French King.

Laurence Olivier as Henry V was superb, but his penchant for screaming the last few words of his inspiring speeches was rather jarring to the ear.

Milton's

House Captain: D. Saunders.

Sub-Prefect: Faulkner.

This term we experienced a great loss in the disappearance of our Captain, R. A. Bradley, whose steady dependable qualities exerted a great influence on the House.

It gives us great pleasure to record our first Rugger victory in the House Competition for three years, defeating Gibb's by 6—3, although previously we lost to Halliwell's by about 39—0. We will now, on December 12th, play Newsom's for second place. If, however, we are defeated by a large amount third place will go to Cobb's. However, we hope to press Newsom's very hard, and perhaps beat them.

This term, on November 19th, we had a House Supper, not to celebrate anything but merely because it was a good idea. Osmint, Hatswell, Bird and Alder, who organised the main events of the programme, are to be congratulated for their success. We thank the kitchen for their efforts, and the parents for their supplies of food. We hope that in a year or two we shall be able to have a House Supper celebrating our first capture of the Cock House Cup.

D. M. S.

Newsom's

House Captain: A. H. Bartram.

Vice-Captain: H. Wiggins.

House Prefects: Doling, Jarrow, Harrison, Mason.

The marked improvement of the House last year, on the sports field was followed by the usual Newsom's high standard in schoolwork. In the Higher Certificate F. Potton, Howard and Eyles were awarded County Scholarships, the latter gaining the prize for the best result in the examination.

Rugger

Captain: A. H. Bartram.

Vice-Captain: Harrison.

The adoption of a second place in the inter-house tournament has considerably enhanced its interest. We have played two House matches so far this term. The first against Gibb's, we won by 8 points to 3, after a good hearted brawl. Halliwell's, however, proved too strong for us but although we were defeated by 24 points to 9, we were never overwhelmed. The remaining match is against Milton's for second place. Any success we may have in the rugger can be attributed to the enthusiasm and strength of the middle part of the House.

Hodkin is to be congratulated on being awarded his cricket colours last term, and A. H. Bartram on his rugger colours this term.

Finally I wish to welcome on behalf of the rest of the House the following new members, whom I would remind that they are as much part of the House as the most senior members. We look to them to further the glory of the House.

Bartram B, Crozier, Farmer, Florentine, Hollyfield, Holmes J, Munday, Paine, Redish, Rippengal, Withers and Fry. A.H.B.

JUNIOR SCIENCE CLUB

The Junior Science Club was divided at the beginning of this term, the General Science Club meeting the Natural History Club. Both groups had three meetings during the term. The first meeting of the General Science Club was lectured to by Mr. Hanson. His subject was "Seeing is Believing," and he gave many examples of

when seeing was not believing. The second meeting was taken by Melmoth and Jeffery of M1, who gave a talk and demonstration concerning the Halogens. At the third meeting some models of electric motors were made.

The Natural History Club was in Miss Whitman's charge, and the first meeting consisted of a walk round the School garden, many interesting facts being observed. The second meeting was a talk on "Creepy Crawly Things," which dealt with spiders and other creeping creatures. The last meeting was another talk about preparing and keeping a nature scrap book and diary, which is to be kept through the holidays by the members.

I. B. B.

RUGBY

The season has been difficult but interesting. The 1st XV commenced with three good wins. The difficulty of finding a reliable full-back and later of replacing Cotterill at stand-off half, necessitated re-making a team. The latter part of the season has been decidedly successful. The School lost very narrowly to the Bec School and to the Tiffins School but beat the Rutlish School in a fine game of football. The Captain and Secretary must be congratulated upon their efforts and enthusiasm. It has been most pleasing to see the School Home matches so well attended. The record of the 2nd XV affords little satisfaction and we must hope that many of the 1st XV will be available next season.

L.W.

Characters of the Team

A. G. Hopkins: A good, hard working forward, energetic and always well-up. A very reliable Captain.

G. E. Green: Strond and speedy, with a powerful hand-off. Has scored some spectacular Tries.

P. R. Mason: A good forward who has filled the Full-Back position since half term in a determined and plucky manner. Sometimes suffers from "nerves" but is to be congratulated for his willingness to take up this position.

A. H. Bartram: Well deserved the colours which have been awarded him.

Newman: A clever Scrum half with a good brain for the position. Must learn to throw a long pass.

Saunders: A fast-moving forward, always working hard and in the thick of it.

Taylor: Has developed into a very good three-quarter. Good eye for an opening but is too often tackled in possession.

Doyle: A wing with speed but lacks determination and has not tackled well.

Faulkner: Plays hard, on the ball; not spectacular but reliable.

Kentish: Uses weight in Scrum but breaks too soon and interferes with Scrum half.

Sleigh: First class kicking, heavy and powerful but slow in attack. Must learn to tackle low.

Thomas: A good hooker; quick to take opportunities.

Ashley: Must not be selfish; fierce in attack but must learn to pass.

Parker: A good kick but lacks determination to get over in the corner at all costs. Tackling not quite up to standard.

Cotterill: Best Back in school. His accident caused us to re-make the Team.

Thompson: Kicking good, rather slow and not thrustful enough.

1ST XV RESULTS

Opponents	Result	For	Against
1. Surbiton ...	Won	10	3
2. Beckenham ...	Won	20	19
3. St. George's College ...	Won	24	6
4. City Freemans ...	Lcst	3	11
5. K.C.S. "A" ...	Won	21	13
6. Harrow 2nd XV ...	Lost	0	23
7. Wimbledon College ...	Lost	3	19
8. Wallington C. S. ...	Draw	0	0
9. Bec School ...	Lost	13	15
10. Tiffins School ...	Lost	11	13
11. Rutlish School ...	Won	14	8
12. Old Boys ...	Draw	11	11

Results, 12 Matches: Won 5, Lost 5, Drawn 2.

Points for: 130. Points against: 133.

2ND XV

Opponents	Result	For	Against
1. Beckenham 2nd XV ...	Lost	3	6
2. St. George's 2nd XV ...	Won	21	6
3. K.C.S. 3rd XV ...	Lost	3	17
4. Wimbledon College 2nd XV ...	Lost	3	9
5. Wallington C.S. ...	Lost	0	6
6. K.C.S. 3rd XV ...	Lost	13	14
7. Surbiton 2nd XV ...	Lost	5	14
8. Rutlish 2nd XV ...	Lost	0	30

Played 7: Won 1, Lost 7.

Points for: 48. Points against: 102.

COLT XV

Opponents	Result	For	Against
1. Surbiton ...	Won	24	6
2. Wimbledon College ...	Lost	3	19
3. Beckenham ...	Won	72	0
4. Rutlish ...	Won	7	3
5. K.C.S. ...	Lost	5	32
6. Bec School ...	Won	6	5
7. K.C.S. ...	Lost	6	14

Played 7: Won 4, Lost 3.

Points for: 123. Points against: 79.

Colt XV

The Colts XV has had a very good season and displayed form which augurs well for the future; a fuller fixture list would undoubtedly have helped the team to make further progress. The forwards were especially good in the loose, while the backs, though better individually than as a combination, were full of thrust. Worth particular mention are Pegrum, an inspiring leader of the pack, Pike, whose play as a scrum half was as courageous as it was effective, Welby, always dangerous at fly-half, and Cameron, a keen and rapidly improving wing. Two general weaknesses may be noted—an indecisiveness in tackling, and an unwillingness of the pack in performing one of its essential duties, getting down and pushing hard in loose scrums.

The Town Hall was full to capacity on Tuesday, November 27th, 1945, for the first formal Prize-giving since the beginning of the war.

The proceedings were opened with the School song. Then the chairman gave a few introductory remarks. He welcomed the guests who included the Mayor and Mayoress of Wimbledon, the Mayor and Mayoress of Malden and Combe, and the Chairman of the Merton and Morden Council, and especially Dr. G. B. Jeffery, the Director of the University of London Institute of Education, and then introduced the Headmaster who gave his report. It was a striking testimony as to the healthy state of the School, not only in the academic sphere but in crafts, sports and many other outside activities, by an enumeration of a great many achievements. He ended by thanking everyone connected with the School for their unflinching co-operation during his period of office as Headmaster.

The parents and the School sang "Jerusalem," and then the prizes were distributed by Dr. Jeffery, who afterwards gave the address.

He began by enumerating humoursly the age-old methods of addressing an audience on Speech Day, and in doing this he asked for a half-holiday for the School, which gained him instant popularity. Then, striking a more serious note, Dr. Jeffery attempted to define democracy and to emphasise its importance in the new world. Cynicism would get us nowhere, for it was merely destructive. What, however, was truly needed was a new attitude of respect for the "other fellow," his work and possessions. This attitude, he believed, was to be formed by education, in which he had a great belief. He ended by congratulating the School on its achievements, and said it was doing a great service in educating boys in those two essentials, "Decency" and "Democracy."

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. R. Baker, Chief Education Officer of the Surrey County Council, and seconded by A. G. Hopkins, the Head Boy.

The proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

H. S. P.

PRIZE LIST, 1944-45

FORM PRIZES

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| A4 | Bullock, I. B. | Middle 3 | Harris, D. P., and Beardwell, D. T. |
| A3 | Crichton, J. W. | Middle 2 | Jackson, B. S. |
| A2 | Melmoth, A. | Middle 1 | Conchie, A. F., and Warren, A. S. |
| A1 | Champion, J. V. | Fourth | Grant, K. |

Prize for the Best Performance in School Certificate: Tanner, D. W.

Prizes for the most promising work in the First Year Sixth:

Parker, C. R. E. (Classics).	Peake, H. S. (Arts).
Farrow, C. O. (Science).	Hatswell, E. D. (Economics).

HIGHER CERTIFICATES

VI. Economics

- (a) Ellis, D. A.
Smith, H. A.

- (b) Hopkins, A. G.
Howard, J. G.
Jepson, E. M.
P. R. Mason.

- (c) Moss, J. A.
Newman, R. A. A.
Overell, B. G.
Potton, F.
Salter, C. E.
Stark, G. P.
Tutbill, A. P.
Wiggins, H. S.

- (a) Distinction in French.
(b) Distinction in Geography.
(c) Distinction in Chemistry.

Prizes for best work in Higher Certificate:

English.—Jones, K. J.
French.—Baker, C. W.
History.—Saunders, D. M.
Geography.—Chamberlain, K. L.
Physics.—Hopkins, A. G.
Newman, R. A. A.

- Best Examination Performance:* Eyles, A. G. A.
Statistics.—Smith, H. A.
Economics.—Eyles, A. G. A.
Applied Mathematics } R. A. A.
Pure Mathematics } Newman.

- Zoology.—Wiggins, H. S.
Botany.—Overell, B.
Chemistry.—Moss, J. A.

- School Prizes*
- Special Geography Prize for Juniors.—King, A. S.
Art Prizes.—Bedford N. S. Harris, D. P.
Music Prizes.—Junior: Ball, D. W. Senior: Wilson, R. W. R.
Schrecker, B. T.
Verse Speaking Competition Prizes.—Havery, R., Mumford, R. A., Hopkins, J., Warner, J., Robinson, R. H.

- Handicraft Prize.—Warham, T. S.
Evening Prizes.—Middle School: Mackay, D. S. Sixth Form: Baker, C. W.

- General Knowledge Prizes.—Junior: Melmoth, A. Senior: Pringle, P. L., Alder, B. G.

- John Robbins Prize.—1st, Baker, C. W.; 2nd, Hopkins, A. G.
Leaving Prize to Head of the School, 1944-45.—Green, J. F. C.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

This was not only made at the first official School function after the war, but was also a report on the progress of the School during the first decade of its existence. Mr. Winch began by paying tribute to all those Old Boys who died in this war, reading their names and calling for a minute's silence in their honour. He was glad that our second decade began at a time when there was also beginning a new era of peace and reconstruction, and was sure that education would play an ever more important part in this era. Here he paused to remark on the presence of Dr. Jeffery, and to say how honoured we were by it at our first official function outside the School.

Indeed, it had become necessary, for the original number of 160 boys had swollen to 416, and our hall was no longer big enough for such a number and their parents, who, owing to the School policy of close co-operation between them and the Staff, had always well supported the School. He thanked the Mayor of Wimbledon for the loan of the Town Hall, and welcomed all those on the platform with him.

Under Mr. Garrett, who had been highly praised by the School Inspectors, the combination of a balanced curriculum and co-operation with parents had been carried out to make the School not merely a place to give boys the elements of education, but also a centre of social and cultural activity. Mr. Garrett had infused into the School a spirit rightly called unique, and Mr. Winch had had the duty of preserving it. This task had not been easy during the difficult times of war; the prefects had to be relied on much more, and the School was much split up by evacuation in 1944. There was much to be regained after the frustration of the war years, but that, despite all upheavals, the School spirit has remained unimpaired is the greatest possible tribute to Mr. Garrett and his work.

Mr. Winch went on to say that the greatest difficulty was that of space. His task had not been to attract boys to the School, but to refuse them. He had to thank Mr. Scott, of Bushey Central, for relieving some of the pressure. The policy of the School had been to have small classes and allow for a great variety of interests. Overcrowding had not allowed this policy its full expansion, but nevertheless the results had been good. A large Sixth Form had been built up as a result of the belief that education only began there, and the policy of the School has been to substitute Higher Certificate for School Certificate as the aim of the boys. Such has been the success of this policy that in the last three years 74 Higher Certificates have been won and 34 County Scholarships. Among these Sixth Formers few have been as outstanding as J. Green, late School Captain, combining a splendid example in this office with great intellectual ability, recently winning an Exhibition in Mathematics to Oxford. A. G. Hopkins, his successor, is also doing splendid work. Another notable success was that of R. A. Newman, who won the Faraday Scholarship in electrical engineering, open to competition from the whole of Great Britain. He mentioned many other academic triumphs, and concluded that in the sphere of education our condition was very healthy. There was a growing Classical Sixth, and the direct method of teaching in Latin was being carried out with great success. It had now become the rule rather than the exception that a boy should wish to enter the Sixth.

Intellectual attainments, however, are only a part of the School life. Handicrafts and art had assumed an important position. At this time a study of the theory and practice of pottery making and design was being carried on in the workshop. Puppetry had been important and it is being renewed. The School plays and the printing press have acted as valuable integrating factors between the art and handicraft sections and the ordinary work of the School. To all was given a chance of learning how to use their hands.

In the sphere of athletics we have started cross-country running, and our Rugger is recovering from a previous disastrous year; and E. G. C. Green, in an A.T.C. athletic competition, for putting the weight came second out of competitors drawn from all parts of Great Britain. Swimming is on the up grade, and tennis has been revived.

Where general activities are concerned the Staff has worked extremely hard. A vigorous Sixth Form Society, with interests ranging from a Mock Parliament to forums on the American model, has been formed, and Film and Music Societies are also active. Our orchestra is growing, but is not yet big enough to compete with the Girls' School. Our great dramatic tradition has been continued by the performance of "The Tempest," and this term "Treasure Island."

There have also been House plays and Junior School plays. A French Chantrelle, who is doing much to improve the School's French. Both the A.T.C. and the Scouts are flourishing, and it is a typical example of parental co-operation that Mr. Wilson is O.C. of the A.T.C. and

Mr. Phillips assistant scoutmaster of the Scouts. The Spur Dramatic Society consists almost wholly of parents. Lectures this term have been few, due to the competition of other activities.

The failure or success of a School is tested by its Old Boys. Almost every day Mr. Winch receives a visit or letter from one of them, and from everywhere there is a tale of the growing reputation of the School as a result of their activities and examples.

Mr. Winch then thanked everyone for their help—the Staff and Governors, the S.C.C.E.C., Mrs. French, Mr. and Mrs. Austin and the rest of the kitchen staff, the gardener, and Mr. Basil Wright. Mr. Gibb's great work as Second Master received special mention.

The School is a community with a motto to live up to. Values have been created for their own sake, and labour has been for the good of all. Mr. Winch was proud to have been Head of such a School.

D. S.

LECTURES

October 11th, 1945.—Captain Lawson Smith, "Deep Sea Diving."

After this lecture it is not likely, to use Ted Kavanagh's phrase, that we shall ever forget the diver.

Captain Smith taught us a great deal about the practical side of diving. He appeared to us in diving dress, and at the end of his lecture gave us the chance of examining it at close quarters. Those of us who, after a year or so in the Arts, Sixth were not accustomed to figures, he embarrassed by a wealth of detail about pressures and depths and weights. But, however many figures, he was always humorous and interesting. What appeared to be the most interesting feature of a deep sea diver's suit was the small microphone pad which is fitted to the diver's throat over the voice box, and which picks up his words and relays them to the surface without any underwater atmospherics.

His story of the sea-monster at the end of his lecture gripped the whole School. Senior boys who had secretly smirked at his story of the explosion at a previous school he had visited, which had blown the Headmaster to etheral regions only to cause him to be returned swiftly and ungraciously, were to be seen sitting anxiously on the edge of their chairs. All the greater was their disgust when they learnt the sea-monster was a mermaid! No, we shall never forget the diver!

C. W. B.

November 14th, 1945.—Miss Amy Moor, "The Peckham Health Centre."

The Peckham Health Centre was the first of its kind in the world. This venture, started some twenty-five years ago, has proved an entirely successful experiment and provided an excellent model for similar organisations. Its present home is a modern building, costing £45,000, and in both medical and social spheres it provides the means of collecting enough statistical information to prevent ill-health, which is the ultimate aim of the Centre.

All classes are enrolled into this Centre, from the man on the dole to the business man, and all pay the same contribution of one shilling a week for the complete use of its amenities. Swimming, gymnastics, acting, reading, debating and billiards are among pastimes provided for mental and physical recreation, and the only condition of membership is that everyone has a complete medical overhaul once a year. From facts deduced from this, the doctors are able to explain simply to each person exactly how he stands, and facilitate any action he might choose to take.

Mr. Ponsonby first became interested in Economics in 1923, when a Labour Government came into power. For many years the Labour Party had promised to relieve unemployment if it ever did have the chance, and as Mr. Ponsonby knew many of the members of this party to be honest men of goodwill, he confidently expected some change. But this Labour Government had absolutely no effect on the unemployment figures; they remained perfectly steady. From this he concluded two things: firstly, that the goodwill of the Government was not enough; and, secondly, that there was an intellectual problem of some complexity. There are still many more problems as difficult as this to-day, and these required more clear thinking than goodwill.

This century's problems were different from those of the last. Then Political Emancipation was the object; now it may almost be said that the object is Economic Emancipation, i.e., the more equal distribution of wealth amongst the people.

But, as he saw it, there were two great drawbacks to the attainment of this object: firstly, the fact that many economists could not agree upon certain principles; and, secondly, the refusal of all political parties to commit themselves in any great detail to a definite clear-cut policy on problems such as unemployment.

This is where the economist comes in, for every Government will need economists to guide it. But although an economist can usually foretell the results of any one policy, no economist should advocate between any group of policies. He emphasised that such a decision would be a purely moral one, showing a preference to one side or the other. There is such a thing as Scientific Neutrality.

Another of the functions of the economist is the research of the past and the development of the science—to develop the tools for the practical economist.

But now, at last, the economist has come into his own. More and more economists are needed in industry, in academic circles, and in the Government (during this war there was an economic section attached to it); and youths who are lucky enough to get such a good knowledge of economics, as we do here, will find themselves engaged in one of the most modern and expanding careers in the world to-day. Mr. Ponsonby finished his lecture with the quotation, "The Good Life is one inspired by Love but guided by Reason."

S. S.

"TREASURE ISLAND"

THE CAST.

Characters in order of appearance.
James Hawkins, Esq. (the grown-up Jim)... C. R. E. Parker
Jim Hawkins... H. D. E. Parker
Mrs. Hawkins (his mother)... S. H. Smith
David Livesey, Esq., M.D., J.P. ... J. Warner
Billy Bones ... H. S. Peake
Hunter ... R. W. Phillips
Joyce } Servants to Squire Trelawney
Black Dog }
George Merry }
Dick Johnson }
Israel Hands }
Tom Morgan }
Buccaneers ... {
P. Hale
D. G. White
A. R. Conchey
J. Ashley
P. L. Pringle
C. O. Farrow
D. G. Lines
R. W. Phillips

Socially the Centre started spontaneously, fencing, badminton, chess, whist drives, concert parties and dances becoming regular features. Because social segregation was regarded as a major cause of ill-health, the Centre provided a means for young people to get together and to find in each other latent attributes. A girl, on joining, thought her boy friend merely to be "a perfectly divine dancing partner," but she soon discovered that he was less adept at other forms of more intellectual amusement, and promptly changed him for one of her own temperament.

November 19th, 1945.—Michael Roberts.—"Science and Religion."

In a lecture lacking neither in wit, nor in interest, Mr. Michael Roberts was able to clarify, and add to, the Sixth Form's knowledge on this most important subject.

The study of people is a far more difficult and complicated thing than, say, mathematics. Pascal, who was both a mathematician and a philosopher, only turned his mind to mathematics in his hours of leisure, or when he had toothache.

The scientific attitude to the world—that it is merely a collection of atoms—is not only more complicated, but less accurate, than an attitude which does not ignore people. People are real and have many characteristics; one only becomes aware of them when they are a nuisance. Some of their aims are useful and some not useful, but valuable for their own sake. Religion is concerned with these latter states of mind. The answer to the question as to whether the cathedrals built in the Middle Ages were useful, or whether they were a waste of time and money, is that it is this characteristic of "human dignity" that distinguishes men from animals.

November 22nd, 1945.—Martita Hunt.—"Verse Speaking."

In a short though entertaining and instructive talk, after announcing the names of the winners of the Verse Speaking Competition, Miss Martita Hunt said there were two maxims to remember in reading verse aloud.

The first was either to stand up straight or sit upright, and above all to avoid drooping or leaning while speaking verse.

The second maxim to remember was to bear in mind always while speaking, the meaning and feeling of the poem. Unless this was done the poem would become a mere string of words without any significance.

Miss Hunt concluded her lecture with some valuable illustrations of how poetry should be read. The two Shakespearean sonnets she spoke are, it is to be hoped, not the last poems we shall hear her recite, and the whole School would welcome a return visit.

John Trelawney, Esq. ... N. S. Bedford
 Mr. Dance, Exciseman ... J. R. Hopkins
 Captain Smollett ... D. Harrison
 Long John Silver ... R. H. Robinson
 Abraham Gray, A.B. ... N. S. Gardiner
 Benjamin Gunn ... D. H. Kentish

Costumes by Doreen Errol.

Wigs by Spaans.

Dramatic Version of the Story by C. R. E. Parker.

Producer : Peter Smith.
 Assistant Producer : A. G. Hopkins.
 Stage Manager : D. H. Kentish.

This departure from the School tradition of an annual Shakespeare play was triumphantly justified by the event. For the first time we saw boy players unharassed by the formidable discipline of blank verse, no longer straining to plumb unathomed depths of character. The spectator could relax in easy enjoyment instead of the strained no longer trying to communicate emotions beyond their experience. scruple in this welter of murder and sudden death, this barking of sea-dogs, this strictly class-conscious atmosphere of gentlemen versus players.

The version presented was a dramatisation made by a member of the Sixth Form. As such, it was an admirable piece of work. The occasionally bookish and stilted tones of the original dialogue were enlivened into vigorous and natural speech. The much more fearsome task of confining a rambling romance within the tighter pattern of a three-act play was at least tackled with skill. That the second half of the play remained comparatively episodic and over-complicated must be laid to the charge of the author rather than the present adapter. Stevenson is almost without rival in presenting a situation and an atmosphere, and introducing characters who grip the attention on their very first appearance. But the characters seldom develop, remaining as flat as pasteboard to the end, and the plot, instead of gaining in tension and sharpening in focus as the climax approaches, often degenerates into a loose and wearisome complexity. One thinks of "The Master of Ballantrae" and that tedious, unconvincing man-hunt through the Canadian wastes, compared with the magnificent hostility of the two brothers in their Border home in the opening chapters. Or one compares the maddening meandering dénouement in "The Wrecker," with the superb mystery of the auction sale. The present adapter managed adequately to sustain interest, and to tell with reasonable clarity his story, linking acted with smooth competence.

In a good cast, Long John Silver was easily outstanding. Acting with intelligence, confidence and gusto, he alone gave the impression of holding always something in reserve and never straining for effect. His physical agility was astounding, and one will not easily forget those moments of passion when his whole body was shaken by the venom of each vicious syllable. The criticism of a certain Mr. Chad was heard to mutter something about "Wot! No parrot?" may be dismissed as irrelevant and capitious.

Ben Gunn was the particular unexpected delight of the evening. Here was no island Caliban and no spiritless Man Friday, but an original fantastic, a Cockney eccentric, as it were some Pearly King lost many years and rediscovered on some desolate stretch of Hampstead Heath.

Squire Treawney was a memorable buffoon sketched in the lighter manner of Mr. Charles Laughton. This genial windbag con-trusted excellently with four-square Captain Smollett, shrewd, masterful and every inch a sailor.

Sustained emotional acting made the part of Billy Bones perhaps the most ambitious performance of the evening. It was not, however, successful as a representation of evil; at times one was reminded rather of the hysteria of a salvationist rebirth than of the squalor of a grog-sodden death.

Other vivid memories include the poised and graceful silences of young Jim Hawkins, fighting, alas, a losing battle against self-righteousness; the pleasant diction (too young, too amiable, but there was something here which smacked indeed of the eighteenth century) of Dr. Livesey; the skinny malevolence of Blind Pew.

The production abounded in life and colour; settings, lighting and costumes all contributed handsomely, and spoke of hard but rewarding work behind the scenes. The lighting in particular seemed to show a quite unusual standard of efficiency. At the end of the first and last acts the curtain fell on a spectacle worthy of the professional stage. It is hard to recall another play which relies so extensively on the mechanics of properties and effects: ammunition of every calibre is discharged, capstans turn, fires are lit, tankards are filled and bottles are broken. That all these things happened realistically and virtually without technical hitch shows a very high standard of care and forethought.

The final tribute must go to the producer. Almost the whole responsibility for this show lay on his shoulders, and to him belongs the credit for a production which was smooth without slickness, effective without artifice, and, above and beyond everything, entertaining from the first word to the last.

J. R. G.

THE SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

Although other School activities have threatened to interfere with the Society, it has met frequently this term, and now seems to have become firmly established in the School.

The proceedings for the term started with a formal debate on the motion, "In the opinion of this House the future of Great Britain depends on friendship with Russia." Mr. Walsh and Baker spoke first in support of the motion, and Mr. Billows and Peake spoke for the opposition. Much credit for the success of the meeting is due to these speakers, who exhibited quite unusual skill and experience in debating. When the debate was declared open a pessimistic trend was noticeable among the speeches made by various members, and the motion was eventually defeated by 15 votes to 10.

The practice of visiting theatres has been continued this term, with the result that members have seen "Henry IV (Part 2)" at the New Theatre, and "The Rivals" at the Criterion Theatre.

Partly as a result of these visits, and partly because it seemed to be a very popular idea among members of the Society, a play-reading of "She Stoops to Conquer" was held later in the term; members of Wimborne County School also participated. The popularity of play-reading was confirmed, and it is hoped to continue with this next term.

Another "Personal Choice" programme has been given this term. The undoubted popularity of this type of meeting seems to lie in its possibility of endless variation, a supposition which was borne out by the rather cosmopolitan nature of the programme given on October 3rd. Baker, Robinson and Peake gave poetry readings; Peake finished with an amusing character study. Gramophone records

of classical music were played by Carr, Salter and Robinson, while Perry, Howard and Overell played jazz recordings. Afterwards the documentary film, "The Spanish Earth," dealing with an incident in the Spanish Civil War, was shown.

Mr. Milton and a party of members took part in the Youth Conference at Surbiton High School on October 19th, the subject of the Conference being, "San Francisco, Atoms, Peace." Considerable interest was aroused by this Conference among those members who were fortunate enough to be present. The next meeting of the Society was accordingly devoted to a report and discussion on the Conference. The formation of a Mock Parliament has been under consideration ever since the School General Election, but it was not found possible to arrange for a meeting until after half-term.

The Labour Government being in power on this occasion, the Cabinet consisted of the following: Robinson (Prime Minister), Parker (Home Secretary), Bird (Foreign Secretary), Wiggins (Minister for Civil Aviation), Baker was leader of the Opposition.

The proceedings were begun by a short question time (in which the Communist member for East Fife, Carolin, took a very active part). A member of the Cabinet, too, was heard innocently to quote "The Daily Herald" as his only source of information regarding foreign affairs.

The second reading of the Bill to bring all forms of Education under a national system was then introduced by the Minister of Education with a very able speech, but was afterwards hotly criticised by the Opposition. Both amendments to the Bill, introduced by Baker and Godwin, were defeated; and when the division came on the Bill itself, it was carried by 22 votes to 16.

The success of this type of meeting seems assured. Not only has it a wide appeal, but it forms practically the only type of meeting in which every member can take an active part.

The Sixth Form Society has, in addition to the above, been represented at meetings of the Film Society and Music Society which have been held this term.

THE MUSIC CLUB

Although this term has seen so many activities the Music Club has continued its meetings, even if on occasions the audience for recitals has not been as great as might have been desired.

Mr. Billows has given three talks on Leider: dealing with the cycle; "Die Schöne Mullerin," of Schumann; and of Brahms and Hugo Wolf.

After a great deal of discussion and a preliminary showing of "Metropolis," last term, a film society was officially started this term. The films "Spanish Earth," Chaplin's "The Champion" and "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari," which was introduced by Mr. Haslam, have been shown. We were particularly happy to have Mr. Basil Wright, who was so very helpful in the planning of the Society, and who has offered all possible assistance (including the arranging for small groups of members to go round Pinewood Studios), to talk to us on the "Documentary Movement." He dealt with the history, the purpose and the hopes of the movement, as well as giving a general survey of the power of this new medium. These are the facts concerning the Society so far. A longer account of the aims and composition of the Society will, we hope, appear in the next edition of this magazine.

A. G. H.

THE FILM SOCIETY

As guest artists we have been pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Peckett. Mr. Peckett played a Violin Sonata by Schubert; Mrs. Peckett, pianoforte pieces by Poulenc and Prokofiev.

The week of Purcell's anniversary Mr. Billows, Mr. Loveday and Vaughan sang a number of songs by that great English master. We look forward to a recital by Mr. Peckett's son, David Peckett, who played so well at the last School Concert.

Finally, on behalf of the Music Club, I should like to thank Ball of Middle Two for his work all through the term as accompanist at the song recitals.

C. W. B. (Secretary).

THE POETRY SOCIETY

President: The Headmaster.
Secretary: R. H. Robinson.
Members: H. S. Peake, C. W. Baker, C. R. E. Parker, R. H. Robinson, A. B. Levy, R. Bird, Mr. W. Walsh and Mr. C. Peckett.

The Poetry Society is yet in embryonic form, having been in existence only since last term. It was felt that poetry had been neglected hitherto in the activities of this School, and a few persons, themselves interested in poetry, tentatively formed themselves into a society for the propagation of this art. The Headmaster was approached and, showing his usual enthusiasm for experiment, agreed to become the Society's President. Mr. Peckett volunteered his services as guide, mentor and friend, and each member, rather sheepishly at first, read their own poetic effusions for the delectation of the Society.

Our membership cannot truthfully be said to have increased phenomenally. Levy has left the School and, although he remains an official, the Society is denied his presence.

Mr. Walsh, a firm disciple of the Eliot school, has been a welcome addition to the Society, and we have already heard some of his own excellent poetry.

Bird has only recently joined us.

Meetings this term have been somewhat disrupted owing to rehearsals for the School Play. Last term the Society foregathered in the Library upon alternate Thursdays, and these meetings, it is hoped, will be resumed next term.

In taste the Poetry Society is, above all, catholic. It has listened to widely differing types of poetry composed by its members: we have soared Wordsworthianly, and have been led in the paths of dry pedantry, after the manner of Eliot. Although the primary function of the Society is to encourage the composing of poetry among its members, we have heard several readings from those poets favoured by individual members.

Interest in poetry is sadly lacking in the School, and the Poetry Society is endeavouring to promote enthusiasm for this art. Those who wish may apply to the Secretary for an invitation to meetings of the Society, and we hope, by this means, to increase our membership and to improve the quality of our work. Examples of the efforts of the Society are to be found elsewhere in this issue.

We would like to justify the Headmaster's reference to this Society in his Report: "Their doings are very esoteric; their membership very small; but their significance very great!"

R. H. R.

At the first meeting of this term Robert Robinson gave a paper on the modern poet, Ezra Pound. He opened with a vigorous counter-attack on those who inveighed against modern poetry. He claimed that there was no foundation for the often repeated condemnation that modern poets were no more than intellectual snobs. Thus, having cleared the ground, he opened his talk proper with an introduction to the Imagist poets.

In 1914 was published a volume, "Les Imagistes." To this, the poets who were later known by the name Imagists contributed, and among them was Ezra Pound. These poets not only introduced *vers libres*, but also affirmed the supreme power of the word. Poetry, in fact, was to be a mosaic of words. In its economy of presentation, and in its vocabulary, the new movement was unequivocally anti-Romantic. The idea was neglected: imagery became finer than cut stone.

Ezra Pound's poetry was then considered in detail. The speaker admitted that the variations in Pound's style often suggested the work of a dilettante, but, in spite of this, Pound's work was of great value. He was an experimenter, out to find the new form for modern poetry. To this end he did not hesitate to use association, symbol and allegory, but he never rid himself of his horror of the discursive poem. Half-illusions were used to suggest emotion, and journalistic clichés to give background. He made a specialty of what he called "unrhymed cadence," or the "rhythm of the speaking voice." In translations he often mocked at scholarship and willfully misused poetic content. His use of rhyme, to give the effect of cheapness, can be compared with that of T. S. Eliot. He shows himself akin to Oscar Wilde in his desire to shock the bourgeoisie, and often achieves nothing but vulgarity.

Robert Robinson then dealt briefly with the "Cantos" which he said were claimed to be striking. They were considered to be an Epic of Timelessness, although the association between the author and the reader was often lacking.

He concluded by saying that Ezra Pound was essentially an "aesthetic," a "sardonic observer of himself and his times."

Colin Parker gave the other paper this term on G. K. Chesterton. G. K. C. was born in London in 1874 and died in 1936. During most of his life he was continually writing, and his works show a wide knowledge of his fellow-men and of the art of living. In 1892 he went to college; in 1894 he noted, "Woe unto them that are tired of everything, for everything will soon be tired of them."

He began his career as a journalist, writing casual reviews for the "Book Review," "Speaker," and the "Outlook." About this time he met Frances Blegg, who later became his wife. From 1900 work followed work in a great stream. "Napoleon of Nottingham Hill" was succeeded by a biography of Dickens, the "Man who was Thursday" and the "Flying Inn."

He made many friends, among others Hilaire Belloc and Clerihew Bentley, as well as Ronald Knox, who later converted him to Roman Catholicism.

He was also a cartoonist, and drew cartoons for Bentley's "Biography for Beginners." As a magazine editor ("G.K.'s Weekly") he stood very firmly for the liberty of Englishmen and the opposition to and combat of vice in all its forms. The paper was well illustrated by quotations from G.K.C.'s works, and included his sarcastic poem, "To a Modern Poet," and his famous remark that "it was strange that an age which had nothing to say should have invented loudspeakers."

A.T.C. CAMP AT ODIHAM

Both papers were followed by lively discussions which were of a general nature, as the Partisans as a whole had to acknowledge their ignorance of both Ezra Pound and Chesterton. To Robinson and Parker they therefore owe a debt of gratitude for adding to their meagre knowledge of modern poetry and modern writing in general. C. W. B.

This term a party of cadets under Flight-Lieut. Wilson and Flying Officer Herdman made a week-end visit to Odiham R.C.A.F. station in Hampshire. We were given transport from the station to the camp, and were met at the camp by a mobile N.A.A.F.I. canteen, for which we were all grateful. We were then shown the amenities of the station and told that the time was ours until lights out at 22.30 hours.

Breakfast at 07.30 hours on Saturday morning was followed by instruction in air-sea rescue, and a flight in a Dakota for every cadet in the afternoon. Sunday morning was spent in link training, every cadet controlling a link trainer for five minutes. A visit to Flying Control, where we saw just how much routine there was to go through before an aeroplane took off, was followed by a visit to the wireless room, where we were all amazed by the number and variety of large instruments needed on the station.

Another flight was arranged for the afternoon, in which again every cadet took part. Monday morning was spent in roaming over a large hanger, and climbing over the planes inside. Monday afternoon brought us to the end of the visit, when we left Odiham, leaving our grateful thanks with the R.C.A.F. staff and personnel for a pleasant and instructive week-end.

P. E. B.

THE SCHOOL CONCERT

This concert, held on Wednesday, October 31st, gave an admirable display of the musical talent which the School possesses. It brought forward many new artists whose performances were of a standard well in keeping with the School's tradition. The audience was very large, in spite of the foggy weather, and it showed its appreciation very materially in the sum of nearly £20 which was subscribed for the purpose of buying a double-bass for the orchestra.

The programme was divided into two parts—a service and a secular concert. The service consisted of many well-known works. The choir, under the very able leadership of Mr. Loveday, showed how well they had been trained in fine renderings of two hymns, "In the name of Jesus" and "All hail the power of Jesus' name." Ball gave an exceptional performance of Variations in G by Beethoven. Five of the best members of the choir then sang "My song is love unknown" with much vigour and clarity. Vaughan gave a sympathetic performance of the first movement of Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata." A very promising violin solo, the "Largo in G" by Handel, was given by Parkhurst who, though small, handled his instrument with determination. Macbride with practised skill sang "Walt her angels to the skies," a difficult aria by Handel. Cook showed undoubted promise singing "Come unto Him," by Handel; and Pousob, another junior whose voice we shall hope to hear again soon, sang Handel's "How beautiful are the feet of them."

The second half of the concert was opened by the School orchestra playing "Sinfonietta," by Mozart. It had much improved since its last performance, and gave a very polished rendering of the piece. Menzies continued with "Where'er you walk," by Handel, finely sung; and Vaughan gave a tenor solo, "Fairest Isle," by Purcell. Then David Peckett, the young son of a Master, provided two outstanding piano solos. The boldness of his approach and his technical efficiency compelled the attention. The audience greatly appreciated this talented young artist. McBride followed with the delightful song, "Hark, hark," and the choir sang "Father, hear the prayer we offer." The concert ended with the audience and choir joining together in "God be with you till we meet again."

H. S. P.

19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT TROOP

Summer Camp

This year's camp was held in August at Marden, Kent. For the second time during the war years we were welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. "Big White Chief," whose hospitality will be long remembered by us all. The fruit harvest was particularly good, and our efforts to solve the labour problem seemed most inadequate.

Many scouting activities apart from camping found their way into the programme, and the seniors will no doubt remember a certain car ride one night. Six patrol leaders were given unexpected instructions one evening to don full uniform and prepare for an important job. They were taken in groups of three away from camp, blindfolded in the back of Buffalo's car, and driven like this through winding lanes of unknown countryside. They were released at about seven miles from camp just as darkness fell, and were left to find their own way back to camp across country.

During the fortnight five pairs were sent out on the 48-hour 1st-class Test journey. This involved a 20-mile hike with pack, a night out without tents, preparing their own meals, and returning with the required nature specimens and a written-up log. The following passed successfully: P.L.'s Fleet, Ashley, Standish, Patston, and Scouts Phillips, Puttock, Spencer and Withers. On another occasion the Chouhgs in camp left for a two-day cycle ride to the Sussex and Kent coast, and called in on Mr. Wharton while passing through Greeting.

Granny (P.L. Newman) was as unobtrusively efficient as ever as the quartermaster—food was never short and rations were evenly used throughout the period. He and Pip (P.L. Thomas) did much to make for the smooth running of camp. Harding found his mark in the kitchen and became a reliable cook. Ferret (Hood Phillips) promised well as a steepjack—no vertical ladder was too high or too unsteady for his immediate ascent. The absence of accidents was no doubt due to the preparation and alertness of Bunny (P.L. Fleet). The only case thrust upon us was in the somewhat corrupt form of a hop picker who fell from the back of a moving lorry. She was taken away well and truly bandaged and we seemed to outdo the local M.D. in supplies of first aid gear. Muscles (P.L. Ashley) set a high standard in "dampers" and "twists," but even his baking efforts could not surpass those colossal apple dumplings which appeared from the farmhouse on Sunday for lunch. The Whittan, the camp committee, arranged a "last night" camp fire and were supported by the local farm workers and the Linton Girl Guide Company.

Beult, which provided great facilities for bathing throughout camp. Several scouts passed the 1st-class swimming tests in the River

Troop parades have been held on most Wednesdays this term, and while there has always been a large crowd of juniors and recruits, House and School Rugby matches have seriously curtailed work and the attendance of seniors. We are proud to see so many scouts now appearing in the teams, but the patrols have clearly suffered by the absence of leaders and seconds.

Two patrols, led by P.L.'s Fleet and Patston, entered for the District Scouting Competition, and took third place. In the Inter-Youth Organisations' Swimming Contest the Wimbledon Scouts came first and hold the cup. P.L.'s Crindrod, Thomas, Standish, Ashley all helped in this victory. At the end of September we were hosts to the Wimbledon District Week-end Camp on our Reservation. The numbers attending were not large, but some useful training was done. The Group has attended Evening Service on the first Sunday in each month at Christ Church, where we were pleased to welcome the Local Association to a Carol Service on Sunday, December 16th. Saturday evening programmes have included night games on Wimbledon Common, and physical training activities led by Buffalo, Jerks (fresh from Germany) and Muscles. On one occasion Mr. Ingram came to speak on the last Rover Moot in Sweden and the jamboree in Hungary. We were delighted to see the Rev. Conquest Clare, of Meldreth, when he visited School; he spoke to the Troop and spent some time with us.

Mrs. J. Hunt, S.R.N., has been good enough to give us a course in first aid for seniors and 1st-class badge candidates. The lectures will go on until the spring and will lead to the St. John Ambulance Badge. A fitting climax to the term's activities came in the form of an all-night hike. Led by Buffalo, Jerks and Tiger, the party of eighteen left Epsom at 9.30 p.m. and set out across country towards Reigate. They reached Reigate Hill at midnight in a keen wind, sharp frost and clear moonlight. They then set course due south for some miles and then went through a 20-mile maze of footpaths and roads. The first stop for food was at 2.0 a.m., and protection from the frost was sought in a haystack. Later, as the moon went down, they lit a fire deep in the woods and spent an hour yarning in its warmth. The final stage, made in complete darkness and with heavier feet, led them into Dorking. They arrived at the station at dawn to take the first train back to Raynes Park.

Tenth Year Birthday Party

"Ten years. Ten long years of peace, of war, and of peace again." With these words, Toots (R. G. Forward, R.A.F.), opened the pageant play for parents and friends at the Group's 10th-year Birthday Party. The boys assembled at 4.30 p.m. and began with strenuous activities in the gymnasium. They were later joined by a party of Dutch Scouts, refugee children in this country, who came to share our celebration. In the meanwhile a great feast was being prepared in the Hall, and over seventy past and present scouts sat at table. The focal point of interest was the three-tier iced cake, clothed in ribbons of scout colours. Scotty (Mr. W. Glasscock) cut the cake with due ceremony, and the first pieces were handed to Mr. Courtois, the original Scoutmaster, and to his wife. They had travelled from Warwick for this party. At 6.30 over two hundred parents assembled to see a demonstration of gymnastic apparatus work conducted by P.L. Ashley, of games and some unarmed defensive combat led by Mr. Thomas, and of gymnastic tableaux arranged by Buffalo.

An interval for refreshments was followed by the pageant play. This, in one continuous sequence of scenes and dialogue, reproduced the important and amusing events in the ten years' life of the Group. Camps at Petworth, Marazion (and its storm), Padstow, Whiddown, Peper Harrow, Marden all had a place, and the scenes of the Meldeith Evacuation came in to the sounds of sirens and bombs. The International Rally of 1944 and several Summer Fetes were vividly brought to mind, and certain parents were called in at the last moment to take *their* part in this "Do you remember?" act. At the conclusion of a most happy and successful party, a birthday presentation was made to the Headmaster, our President, whose support has been so helpful and encouraging throughout the last three years of war.

VERSE

Sonnet

A large bank of clouds, now dismally grey,
Lies thickly over the face of the sky.
That tells us that a storm is on its way.
The great sea's surface, motionless and calm,
Uncut by keels that furrow its deep bed,
Warns us—as do the skies now made of lead—
That soon will mighty thunder break this balm,
And smoke from trains and chimneys rising high,
Clouds, just a little more for us, the morn,
And now far-off we hear the wind's long sigh—
A sad and plaintive sound that seems forlorn.
A long-drawn wail that, ever-rising, warns
The sea-gulls that 'tis now their turn to fly.

Content

As I forgot to finger the air on my hand,
My brain-flesh was liquid, our minds were one,
Dancing sharply in the pool that whirled,
Sinking through the dark, deep heat
That curled from the eyes, in the dusk and the firelight,
The poisoned flesh was dying in a slow breeze;
The dusty rain was dead;
Through scarlet shadows quickly came old thoughts to me,
As we were wandering through the music of a
Timeless dream;
And smiled as the envious rain grew loud;
It had no place, it could not stay,
But howling fled across the outside bitterness,
Splashing the wake of the wind in its flight.
The ground whispered;
Night muttered in the crumpled bark;
My body froze, and with the rain I fled.

Storm at Sea

Tiger eyes of light in the cabin,
Stumps of candles in the lanterns burning low.
A cold night, starless, by the tiller,
Fingers numb, the heart pulse slow.
And the waves came up to their breaking point,

Then cast their empty carcase on the shore.
In the slow, sliding motion of the sea,
With the flabby slap of water on the sides,
There was a calm, a silent menace,
And the slipping of an ebbing tide.
And the waves came up to their breaking point ;
Then cast their empty carcase on the shore,
A storm burst, crashing from the windward,
Sails bent in the light of the moon,
And unseeing eyes by the tiller
Joined Neptune and the men in Death's swoon.
And the waves came up to their breaking point ;
Then cast their empty carcase on the shore.

C W. B.

Sonnet

Now gaily decked, now blithely comes the spring,
That all the world does with her praises ring,
All sorrow disappears and hopes revive
To see once more the blossoming of new life
Upon the world. And now all things alive
Return resurgent once more to the strife.
Men see great glory even in little things :
In beauteous trees, in fleecy blossom clad,
And in the music that the gay lark sings,
Whose song in soaring rises, never sad.
For in a little bud not yet unfurled
They joyfully see the hope of a new world.

H. S. P.

Sonnet

OLD BOYS' LETTER

A fast game, despite the lack of wind in many members of the Old Boys' team, resulted in a draw 11-11 in the annual Rugger match. The Old Boys' team was : G. Billingham (captain), O. Upcott, C. White, G. Styles, C. Lidell, E. Wells, J. Green, A. Thompson, B. Meade, A. Pangilly, C. Thompson, B. Ruff, J. Roberts, E. B. Jepson, and K. Wright. There was an encouragingly large audience upon the touch line, which included many members of the Society. Then when we came to the Annual General Meeting in the evening there was a larger attendance of members than has been seen during these past war years. Important decisions were made which we hope you will note.

Firstly, it was decided that the committee of the Society should organise a Memorial Fund to those Old Boys who died in the war, and that a sum of a thousand pounds should be aimed at, with the possible object of establishing a grant to Old Boys in need of assistance to enter upon some professional studies. The precise nature of the grant and conditions of award will be decided by the committee as soon as possible. We will be sending you a circular on this matter early in 1946.

We had reluctantly to ask permission to raise the annual subscription rate to 7s. 6d., and to cease accepting any more special Forces rate subscriptions, although those that have been paid previously will be honoured till their holders have been demobilised. A Life subscription rate was suggested at 5 guineas. These proposals were adopted.

It was also decided that members of H.M. Forces should now be allowed to serve on the committee. The following were then elected as the committee for the coming year: G. Billingham, C. Liddle, E. B. Jepson, J. Green and B. Meade. The names of the new Secretary and Treasurer will be announced after our first meeting; meanwhile, please address your correspondence to the School where it will be re-directed.

Turning from the routine business of the Society to the latest news we have from some of our members, we must first congratulate John Hitchon upon his recent engagement.

We heard once more from G. Baker in Ceylon, where he was helping to fly P.O.W.'s away from Singapore and other parts of the neighbouring territories. E. James was in Rangoon, and R. Hill on his way to the Far East in the Navy; his brother Cyril, in H.M.S. "Norfolk," was in these waters. S. W. Heath had his address in Hong Kong with the Navy and is now returned to England.

B. Power is with 77 Squadron, R.A.F., with S.E.A.C.; and L. Richardson was last heard of on his way to Singapore after being stationed in New Delhi. E. Carpenter is also with the Army in India. P. Revill writes that the romance of Bermuda is not what might be hoped.

V. Simmons and Franklyn are now back in England. G. Scoble has also returned from B.A.O.R. and has since been demobilised.

Martin Schrecker wrote from Caterick about the more sordid details of life in the R.A.C. M. Pleeman is in the Navy, whilst his brother Francis is still with the Army. Members in the Forces in this country until lately included K. E. Griggs with the R.A.F. in Gloucestershire, A. C. Nye also in the R.A.F., W. Stephens is resuming his civilian occupation in the Forces (teaching), and I. Smith was hoping to undertake similar work.

K. Dobson was last reported in Malta, whilst we welcome W. Saunders back from Greece after a long and serious illness. E. Nople has returned to England from the Middle East.

P. Anscombe has joined the R.E., whilst at the meeting we saw Lionel Smith and A. Barker, both in the R.A.F. C. Bartram in the Army was also there, as well as K. Taylor and R. Simone.

Amongst those who are in civilian occupations are C. Toase training as a librarian, E. Lovelock a clerk in Lloyds insurance offices, D. Fyfe with Barclays Bank, and C. N. White with an estate agent.

Amongst new recruits to the medical profession are A. S. Gardiner, who will go to Charing Cross Hospital from Keeble College, Oxford; E. Jepson at King's College, London; and J. Haythornthwaite at Trinity College, Dublin. A. Gillette is walking King's College Hospital, and K. Prior will be taking his second M.B. soon. M. Smith will be entering University College Hospital when he has passed his Anatomy qualifying examination.

R. Newman has begun his studies at Faraday House, P. Plumbridge is studying architecture in Wimbeldon, whilst K. Clack is at City and Guilds; J. Moss at the Royal College of Science. A. N. Smith is engaged on chemical research. R. Wilson and B. T. Schrecker are now at the Royal College of Music.

Other members at Universities include R. N. Simone, R. M. Parker, K. Williams and R. John at St. John's, and Marshall at Christ's College, Cambridge; whilst at Oxford are J. Green, M. Brown, Bond and Bannister, Hitchin and Hinton who has been demobilised. K. T. Jones is at Durham on a R.A.F. short course.

To switch back to the Far East again, F. Holwill has been seen in Bombay, D. Reid was there, Skinner is also in India, as is K. Prangnell with R.E.M.E.

N. Broderick is in the Far East and has travelled to China. D. F. Smith, on board H.M.S. "Enterprise," last wrote from Colombo.

T. G. Johnson has been stationed near Hamburg with the B.A.O.R. In this country R. Forward is with the R.A.F., also J. Bell. R. Wood has joined H.M. Marines and was training at Deal. M. Bedford is aboard a fleet carrier, whilst A. L. Taylor is at present working on Telecommunications and hopes to enter the Civil Service. We apologise for omissions and hope that all our information is accurate. Please do write to the Secretary and keep him well posted about your activities.

Our last paragraph is one which we write reluctantly, and that is to bid farewell to C. Winch as President of the Society. The Headmaster came to the School in a difficult period, and yet has always managed to devote a large share of his time to our affairs. This we do appreciate and wish to thank him for his work. He knows that he will always be welcome at our gatherings.

B. W. Meade.

LETTER FROM MR. JOHN GARRETT

During my lecture tour in the Mediterranean for the Admiralty I came across three of our own Old Boys, and half a dozen men I had taught at Whitgift. I saw a good deal of Victor Grills, who holds the important position of Operations Officer at the Hal Far Aerodrome. Fortunately for me this R.A.F. Station is close to Luga Airport in Malta. As I waited about for transport home—held up because of bad weather over United Kingdom—I was grateful to Grills, who gave me a change of scene in his Mess. He holds the exacting job of Mess President, and I was immensely impressed with his popularity and the obvious affection and respect in which he is held. His thought for my comfort and welfare put me deep in his debt. I only narrowly missed seeing Cyril Hill, whose ship, the "Norfolk," had sailed for eastern waters just before I got to Malta. Jaunet I found in Naples. He was working in the R.N. Education Centre, and was responsible for the organisation of a well-stocked Gramophone Library. Steele appeared in the audience at Bighi Hospital. He and Grills are both anxious to become Schoolmasters after the war. It was no small pleasure to me to see these people, and to feel pride in the men they have become.

JOHN GARRETT.

LETTER FROM MR. CHARLES WRINCH

DEAR SIR,

I hope you will allow me to take this early opportunity of thanking all members of the School for the bookcase and lexicon which they have so generously given me on my departure. Greatly as I shall always value these handsome gifts, I count for still more the spirit in which they were presented. I am too deeply moved at present to write at greater length than this. I can only hope that time will give me opportunities to show the full extent of my gratitude. Yours and the School's.

CHARLES WRINCH.

"THE SPUR" COMMITTEE

Editor: R. H. Robinson.

Adviser: Mr. W. Walsh.

Committee: C. W. Baker, C. R. Parker, H. A. Smith, D. P. White.

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The Bryansdon Sage, The Radleian, The Aldenhamian, The Fellesian,
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if there are any others which have been inadvertently omitted.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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