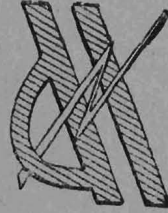


THE

Vol. VII

E SPUR

No. 5



THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. VII, No. 5.

Easter, 1946.

Editorial.

An Editorial was written for an early issue of the "Spur": its object was to stimulate interest in a journal that was presumably a record of School activities, and which could also become a vehicle for literary self-expression. That Editorial was a plea to those readers who had some concern for the welfare of the magazine. This editorial is an even more desperate "cri-du-cœur."

The "Spur" has become, of late, a wooden and uninspired catalogue of events; it may be that this is the fault of the Editor and the Committee. More probable it is because the material submitted for publication confines itself to the traditional summarising of the term's happenings. Admittedly, the "Spur" needs this; it would not be a School magazine, did it not contain records of School life, term by term. But the "Spur" cannot exist as a mere catalogue: we must have original contributions.

Since the last issue of the magazine, we have heard, and overheard, various comments. Readers are bored. This is a natural reaction, for it seems that they have not realised their responsibilities. It is to them that we look for original and intriguing articles, short stories and verse. The contribution of verse should not be the particular preserve of the Poetry Society; if you possess, or suppose yourself to possess literary talents, then let others enjoy their products. Exploit your gifts to the full; be unashamed of your own efforts.

Hand your contributions to the Editor, or to any member of the committee, and they will receive full and favourable consideration.

A School magazine depends largely upon the Sixth-form for its original content, but, except for very few, the majority of Sixth-formers have, with blushing modesty, retired into a Trappist-like silence. Have they nothing worth saying? Do they not think their reflections worth preserving? Laziness is the prime cause of their inertia. They have been shamed by the juniors, a sample of whose poetic talent can be found elsewhere in this issue.

There is a strange tradition that all contributions to the "Spur" should be submitted upon the last day of term. The fallacy of this belief must be ruthlessly exposed; contributions should be handed to the Editor not later than the date posted upon the main notice board. Promptness ensures early publication. Owing to pressure of work, and shortage of staff, the printers must receive copy at least a month before the date of issue. Therefore, such articles as House Notes, reports from various Societies and of other current affairs must be delivered on, or preferably before the date decided.

With Polonius, we will "take each man's censure"; unlike him, we have not reserved our own. Ideas are at all times welcome, and the Editor would be only too pleased to hear advice and criticism, which would prove that interest in the "Spur" is yet alive.

The "Spur" is the ideal medium for the expression of your ideas and your talents. It should not be wasted

R.H.R.

HEADMASTER'S NOTES

"The last," it seems, "shall be first": for of our four hundred odd total population the Headmaster is still the latest comer to Raynes Park. Newcomers, whether first-formers or Headmasters, should be conscious of the fact, and walk delicately until they feel their feet. There is so much going on to admire, and compare with habitués mine would as yet be so uncritical an appreciation of all the School's activities, from the Poetry Society to the now-forming Boxing Club, that I mean not to emulate my predecessors in reviewing even briefly all that had happened this term. More adequate reports, by chroniclers more versed in each activity, fill the pages that follow.

If yet a stranger in some ways, in one point at least I was at one with everyone at Raynes Park even before I joined you, in owing a great debt, of gratitude for his help and of admiration for his achievement, to Charles Wrinch. Success and happiness go with him, and may we often see him as a visitor among us!

It has been a quiet term. The effects of war linger, and when we had hoped to have made the last of such untimely announcements, the death in hospital in India of D. H. Ellis, (1936-38) came as a worse blow. The sympathy of us all is with his parents. But the war, if unofficially, is over; by next term Mr. Doolan and Mr. Polack will be back with us, and so much has happened in the workshop that Mr. Moore seems to have been back there longer than a term. If supplies are short, that spurs him on only to a greater variety of undertakings. On the other hand, we have heavy losses to face: Miss Bishell leaves us for the exclusive society of her own sex in a County School in Essex, Mr. James for work on regional planning in Northumberland, and Mr. Peckett to become Headmaster of the Priory, Shrewsbury. It is good to know that for them all the change means greater opportunities, but I have been here long enough to know how hard it will be to find their equals in their stead. My own feelings, to be merely personal, are mixed especially when I think of losing Mr. Peckett, who can do things with boys and Latin that I can only admire, and takes these talents from us to my own old school; I must console myself with the feeling that I am henceforward one of his Old Boys. One other, happier, event must be recorded while we speak of the staff; our hearty felicitations are tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Stirling on the birth of a son on January 26th.

Our old boys, scattered by the war, are re-grouping and gathering strength for a wide range of undertakings, and begin with one great advantage in having Mr. Cobb as their Chairman. There could not be an apter choice. To their list of War Decorations, Victor Grills (1935-38) has recently added an M.B.E., awarded for his services in the Battle of the Atlantic. The School offers him congratulations, and takes pleasure in its share of reflected credit.

Our lecture programme, modest as planned in quantity though not in quality, was made more modest still by mishaps. Perhaps we appreciated all the more the few who have spoken to us, and from those who were prevented we have promises with which to begin on next term's fixture list. Quietly also the Orchestra has been recruiting its resources, and as the result of an enjoyable—but disappointingly attended—Staff Concert on Jan 30th it is some six pounds nearer to being sole proprietor of its double-bass. A 'cello is also a subject of negotiations, but these are expensive times in which to live.

A quiet term I have already called it; in fact the School has moved ahead by its own momentum, as it well can, and I believe without deviation from its now established course. Slowly the proportion of you that I know increases and I come nearer to an understanding of the genius of the place. I like Raynes Park and its people as I find them. By and by I shall feel more able to help press the forward drive; I have no intention of trying to make the School travel in any other direction but the one in which it has so far blazed its trail. **HENRY PORTER.**

SCHOOL OFFICERS, EASTER TERM, 1946

Head of School: A. G. Hopkins.
C. W. Baker, A. H. Bartvain, R. A. Doyle, B. Newman,
C. R. Parker, R. H. Robinson, D. Saunders, H. A. Smith,
T. C. Taylor.
Prefect of Hall: A. H. Bartman
Prefect of Library: C. W. Baker
Secretary of Games Committee: H. A. Smith

ROLL OF HONOUR

Killed

2nd Lieut. J. W. Robins.
St.-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, D.F.C., R.A.F.
Sgmn. V. E. Sayer, R.C.S.
Lieut. A. Uff, R.A.C.
Pilot-Officer R. Jones, R.A.F.
Sgt.-Gunner Derek C. Maynard, R.A.F.
Flying Officer R. D. Franks, R.A.F.
Flight Sgt. John F. Smith, R.A.F.
L.A.C. Derek H. Ellis, 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.

OBITUARY

Sub-Lieutenant John Edward Fisher, R.N.V.R. 1925-1944

John Fisher came to Raynes Park at the beginning of its second term and left in 1941. Though he is still posted at the time of writing as "Missing, presumed killed," there can be no doubt that he died in the gallant assault on Walcheren at the end of 1944. It is not only because I enjoyed the privilege of knowing him and his family well, but also because I believe him to have been an outstanding example of the Raynes Park product at its finest that I am proud to have been asked to write about him.

I say he was a Raynes Park product, but that is only half the truth. The seeds of his character were planted and their growth tended just as much by a first-class family life, happy, united, tolerant and well-informed. The home and the school worked together. John benefitted; so did the School, and there is at least one ex-member of the Staff who will be grateful always to the memory of John's father who himself died with tragic suddenness in 1943.

John was not academically brilliant, though he had plenty of shrewd common sense. After a short preliminary period of doubt, I became convinced that his decision (wisely guided, but not forced upon him, by his father) to leave school early had been right in his particular case. The speed with which he matured during his short spell of adult

civilian life was astonishing and made him all the more ready to get the most out of University College, Oxford, when the Navy sent him there on a Short Course. He loved this experience, and his letters after he had gone to sea, showed how much he had gained from it and what an excellent standard of values he had acquired there. He had thoughts of going back to the University after the war.

The concentration and considerable style of John's batsmanship and his utterly fearless tackling at full-back were visible evidence of one of his qualities—a great courage and determination. His service as Hon. Secretary of the Old Boys' Society revealed a second—his loyal constancy. The third was perhaps only appreciated to the full by those who knew him more closely: he had a tolerance, a hospitality of mind and a gentle sense of humour which would have done credit to many people far older than he.

If he had lived, John would have become a splendid citizen. I believe that he has left behind his own memorial by setting a standard to which anyone should be proud to aspire. As Raynes Park educates more like him in the years that are to come, it will be performing a pre-eminent service to the country and to the world.

A.W.N.

Brian Parker

All those who knew Brian Parker will be grieved to hear of his now officially presumed death on active service over Germany on the night of September 27th-28th, 1944. He volunteered for the R.A.F. just after his 18th birthday. After a period spent on ground staff duties, he qualified for air crew and was later attached to the R.A.A.F. as a **Sergeant Engineer**. It was with an R.A.A.F. unit that he went on a bombing mission to Kaiserslautern in the Saar. It is all the more tragic that his plane was the only one lost on that operation, when it crashed into a hill on the return journey after bombing the target. Of the seven of the crew killed four were unidentified and it is almost certain that one of these must have been Brian Parker.

Those of us who knew and appreciated his quiet charm of manner and his personality at School, and who saw him again as an old boy, more mature, but with still the same unspoilt attitude to life, will feel his loss acutely. He was one of those who was always ready to give of his best to the community and one whose influence was much deeper than he himself ever realised. We can only send to his parents our sincere and deep sympathy.

R.W.E.

SINGAPORE LETTER

From Lieut. H. Hill, R.N.V.R.

If you had occasion, during the war, to visit some seaside resort on the South Coast you can hardly have failed to notice the prevailing air of loneliness and waste which invaded these places. The garish colours of former amusement parks, washed, spotted and peeled by the weather: the gaunt eyeless windows of hotels and boarding houses, emptied of their troops and left to the ravages of dirt and rats and the ghost of memory: the acres of rusted barbed wire, the wind-swept gunsights—all these combined into a pattern which told of neglect and loss of life. They produced an atmosphere which was in itself a depression.

It was an atmosphere similar to this which I found in Singapore when first I landed here. The long years of occupation by the Japanese had left their mark, and though outwardly the city and the island appeared virtually untouched by the hand of war, one could sense that frustration and waste had been known.

Very soon this became more evident. In pre-war years the trade of the port had been large and the land had been prosperous. Now, because of wanton neglect, all this had been changed. The trade, and the means of trade had gone: the heavy machinery of the dockyards had been used without care or maintenance until it was useless: water supplies were polluted: dysentery was rife and in swamps which had grown because of lack of drainage, the malarial mosquito had returned to its former breeding grounds. Under British rule it had been among the greatest triumphs of science to free the land from the pest. Under the new British Military Administration it had become one of the major problems.

Surrounded by all this, the approach of the Christmas season seemed an incongruous misfit until a breath of English air stirred in the tropical heat. It came with the arrival of John Gielgud and his touring company: a part of London and home. For almost two weeks they have presented in turn, "Hamlet" and "Blythe Spirit" to a crowded Garrison Theatre, and on Christmas Eve I was one of an audience privileged to see the former production. Nothing could have contributed to a more delightful evening and in writing of it there is a danger of lapsing into a string of superlatives. Every aspect of the play was shewn with delicate balance by a great cast who found an obvious delight in their art, while Gielgud, who had produced the whole, moved among them graciously in the most inspired interpretation of Hamlet I have seen. It was rich and elevating to watch the great tragedy unfold.

Driving back to my base towards midnight, I thought back on the days when "Hamlet" was produced at Raynes Park. I remembered the long evenings of rehearsal which ended so often in a loss of temper: the ingenuity and hard work of those who designed and executed the costumes: the exciting smell of grease paint and the heavy odds we laid in matches on the wild games of poker and pontoon in the dressing rooms. And I thought of the satisfying thrill which each performance brought, and these things seemed a part of the memories of Christmas in another world, a younger and less tumbled world in which the clouds which later loomed so dark, had not then revealed themselves. We did not expect the storm and we did not fear it. It was a memory tinged with more than sadness, for it was of a life which could never return, and many who had shared in it could never strive to replace what had been lost.

The night air was still and humid. The road was empty of traffic, and from deep ditches came the monotonous croaking of bull-frogs. It was indeed peace on earth, something achieved, a new era of peace, and the time honoured festival was with us once more. It was a season less jovial, more lonely than it had been before, and yet one could distinguish the same spirit. And it seemed then from all I had seen and heard that evening, that a part at least of the finer things of the past remained, and that upon these things, and guided by them, we had to build again. Perhaps the greatest foundation stone of them all was that first Christmas greeting—goodwill towards men.

CYM. S.A. HILL.

HOUSE NOTES

Cobb's

Captain: A. G. Hopkins.

Vice-Captain: D. Thompson.

Athletics

At the moment we have the greatest number of qualifying points. Though more important than the mere number of points is the fact that, excepting those essential few, who, for several reasons, had not much hope of passing, practically everyone in the House has attempted to qualify.

There have been practise cross-country runs each week. It is expected that there will be a very marked increase in numbers and enthusiasm about these runs during the three weeks which are left before the actual competition.

Dramatics

We succeeded in choosing and adapting our play reasonably early in the term, and despite initial difficulties over the content of the play, we are now in the midst of preparing "Outward Bound" for presentation in a fortnight's time.

Hockey

We have played two matches, and despite the prophecies of the *savants*, we have won them both. The first against Milton's by 3—0, the second against Newsom's 2—1; This brings us to the final with Halliwell's who are strong, but we have hopes in our strategy that "defence is the best means of attack." We hope that it will continue to serve us in good stead.

This has been a much better term.

Gibb's

Captain : R. A. Doyle.

Vice-Captain : Godwin.

Sub-Prefect : Peake.

Hockey

Hockey practises this term have been unavoidably delayed by bad weather. Up to the time of writing we have played only one game, against Halliwell's. Although we lost this, (5—0), the team played absolutely "all-out" until the final whistle. With more practice, we should develop into a very sound team. It is encouraging to see some of the junior members of the House turning out and playing extremely hard and manfully for the team.

Dramatics

Our choice of production this year may seem rather an ambitious one. We are choosing scenes from "Hamlet," which Warham is producing. There seems to have been some dispute among the cast as to the choice of play, but this has been settled, and "Hamlet" is under way.

Swimming

Peake has been doing valuable work in coaching members of the House at Wimbledon this term, but owing to other activities, a full attendance has not yet been possible.

Cross-Country Running

Warham is moulding a cross-country team into shape, and has already had several trial runs, but here again, bad weather and other House activities have held up any definite progress in this direction.

Athletics

At present we are third in the Athletics qualifying. This means that everyone has not qualified, and if we are to maintain the Gibb's tradition of being first, far greater effort is needed here.

Halliwell's.

House Captain : C. W. Baker.

Captain of Hockey : B. A. Newman.

Captain of Athletics : J. C. Taylor.

Captain of Cross Country : C. E. Parker.

Prefects : H. A. Smith, R. H. Robinson.

Sub-Prefects : Chamberlain K.

This term we are again able to record success in the the two Inter-House Competitions held before these notes go to press.

In hockey we played Gibb's first and won (5-0). Chance and the play of a good team combined to make us opponents to Cobb's in the Finals. There are two schools of thought about this last game in which our forwards played at putting throughout both halves but only succeeded in scoring one goal. One claims that this was done so that Cobb's should have a chance; the other that our forwards were not all they should be. Strategists from all parts of the school will, we feel sure, understand which school of thought is the school of Truth. For the benefit of all concerned, the score at the end of this exciting game was 1-0 in favour of Halliwell's, which gigantic score gave us the Hockey Cup "in toto."

In dramatics, nothing is certain. The play chosen was William Saroyan's "Across the Board on Tomorrow Morning." It was an ambitious choice, and we hoped to carry the trophy off easily. In the Dress Rehearsal's however, it became clear that our one serious rival was Cobb's who were staging Sutton Vane's "Outward Bound." Serious was the right word, for after the actual performance opinion in the audience was in favour of our rival, and things looked black. The judge was not swayed by public opinion, although everybody seemed to be conspiring in loud stage whispers to make her aware of it. We were placed first after a moment of suspense, and Gibb's "Hamlet" second, which only goes to show how an audience can be misled by too much melodrama.

J. C. Taylor has been awarded his Hockey Colours. We congratulate him on his becoming a triple colour.

Cotterill and Chamberlain K. have also been awarded Hockey Colours.

Thomas and Cotterill have been appointed House Prefect.

In athletics, qualifying this team has been moderately good. After a bad start we have succeeded in capturing top place with 87 points, leading by one point over Cobb's. This lead must be improved and strengthened so that our rightful place in Athletics can be retained. The House will have to pull together very strongly next term in order to do this.

The most we dare say about the coming Cross Country Run is that we have hope. Next time there should be something more definite, for as a team we are strong, though individual brilliance is lacking.

Milton's

House-Captain : D. M. Saunders.

Sub-Prefects : J. Faulkner ; R. Bird.

We are sorry to say that we lost to Newsom's 14—8, thus missing second place in the rigger knockout, but we have some promising players among the Colts and may hope for better results next season. Our hockey team was beaten 3—0 by Cobbs, which is an encouraging sign of the house's spirit, considering the strength of our opponents. We congratulate J. Joyce on becoming a House Prefect.

So far this term, House qualifying for athletics has not been encouraging. If we are to win the sports after taking second place in three years running, there must be a decided improvement. We hope the rest of the term will show some signs of this.

After a long period of indecision we have at last decided to produce Shaw's "Apple Cart" as our house play, which will call for great application on the part of all concerned as it is primarily a play of dialogue, rather than action. We are well on the way to the creation of a Shavian tradition in our house, as this will be the third play of his we have produced.

Newsom's

House Captain : A. H. Bartram.
Vice-Captain : H. Wiggins.
Sub-Prefects : Farrow, Harrison.
House-Prefects : Doling, Marson.
Captain of Hockey : A. H. Bartram.
Captain of Athletics : Sleigh.

This term has brought no outstanding triumphs to the House, but in their place may be seen a growing resolve by most members to take a more active part in the furthering of the House interests. The preparations for the House play have afforded many non-athletics a real chance to take a positive part in a House activity. The choice of play this year has fallen on Max Beerbohm's "Savonarola Brown." Wiggins is once again producing, ably assisted by Harrison. The cast is as follows :—

Savonarola	A. Bartram
Lucretzia Borgia	Jackson
Friar	Holmes
Sacristan	Florentine
St. Francis of Assissi	Rippengal
Leonardo Da Vinci	Blight
Dante	Doling
A Fool	Packham
Sorcerer's Apprentices	{ Gunn
	Welby
	West
A Porter	Pike
A Cobbler	Farrow
Pope... ..	Brice
Cesare Borgia	Harrison
Commentator	Timpson
Cosimo de Medici }	
Lorenzo de Medici }	

The remainder of the House have non-speaking parts.

The athletic qualifying position is much more satisfactory than last year. But our position in the House list calls for an ever greater effort by the whole House.

So far, the weather has effectively countered all attempts to play our hockey match with Cobb's. With three members in the first XI we have high hopes of our chances in the competition.

This term we welcomed back our last year's House Captain, F. Potton. His visit recalled memories of his inspiring leadership of the House on the sports field, and the standard he set for school work. We wish him the best of luck both in his army career in the Intelligence Corps and in his university career afterwards.

WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

To the uninitiated the workshop is just a centre of noise and confusion. The noise is inevitable and to some of us both pleasant and significant. The clanking of the 100 years old Potters' wheel seems to penetrate the more violent sounds of mallet on wood and the wedging of clay, and is becoming familiar to all who frequent our part of the school. **The confusion is, I hope, more apparent than real.** We are crowding three major crafts and a multitude of others into a room scarcely adequate for woodwork alone. We are so short of space that with a form of 30 boys we have to have at least three different crafts in progress at the same time in order to accomodate everyone, and even then Pottery and Woodwork often have to take place on the same bench. Class teaching under these conditions is impossible but this is of minor importance. Making things is so individual a process that five boys

would be far too many to teach at one time, and skill, the mechanics of craft can be learnt but never taught., What actually happens is a kind of universal apprenticeship. We are all teachers in the workshop and all learn by observing the mistakes and successes of others. Each boy follows his own particular craft and has to play his part in keeping our varied raw materials separate . . . The confusion is mine, for no sooner do I start to help a boy on the Potters' wheel, covering my arms to the elbows in liquid clay, than some boy wants his woodwork tested. Or if I try to help the Printer to adjust the pressure on the press and get my hands black with Printers' ink, a boy, weaving a white wool rug, is sure to get into difficulties . . . I shall not be able to solve this problem until everything in the workshop is equally coated with a thin paste of glue, clay and Printers' ink. Then I shall not need to wash so often during a lesson.

Classwork is only a small part of our activities. The crowded time-table does not allow enough time during school hours to satisfy a boy's desire to make things, especially as the limitations of our equipment cause a certain amount of queueing for the use of tools. The keenest boys come into their own out of school hours for the workshop is never closed and never empty. Five organised clubs meet regularly after school and a host of individuals is always working. Only two qualifications are required from those wishing to use the workshop—a genuine desire to make something and an undertaking to finish the job once begun.

Printing started in 1938 as an indirect result of an agreement between Mr. Chamberlain and Hitler at Munich. The school prepared a private evacuation scheme in case war broke out, and money was subscribed by Parents to pay for the scheme. With the passing of the Munich crisis the Parent's Association voted that some of the money should be devoted to a school project in gratitude for the school's enterprise in preceding the Government Evacuation Scheme by twelve months. This gift of some £30 bought the press, type-cases and our first fount of type, after which we had to be self supporting.

From the beginning a Guild was formed on the lines of the old Mediaeval Craft Guilds. Training was in the form of an apprenticeship and promotion to Printer, Foreman and Senior Foreman followed. Each Foreman was qualified to take two Apprentices whom he taught and who eventually passed their tests to become Printers. After the first group of boys were trained the system worked automatically and new recruits were so faithful to the tradition that the Guild ran itself during the six years I was on war service and was substantially the same when I returned last Christmas. It has always been our proud boast that our publications come out on the day advertised in the school calendar, and only once have we failed. This was during the flying-bomb period when the school lived and worked in shelters. All other acts of war have left us undaunted. Even a 1,000 lb. bomb exploding just outside the workshop in the winter of 1940, a week from publication date failed to defeat us. The type-cases were filled with broken glass and brick rubble, the windows were out and the press was blown onto the floor but still the Senior Foreman carried on, cleared the type-cases, re-erected the press and finished to time. That copy of the Library Review is historic and should be read by everyone. It is Volume III, number 2, October, 1940, and can be found in the bound volumes of the Review in the Library.

This year the Guild has been reorganised and I am glad to see the old tradition rising to the surface again. I consider the activities of the Printers to be most important to the school and regard the post of Senior Foreman as ranking equally with a Captain of Games. Our biggest difficulty at the moment is finance. The number of boys in the school who can read appears to be small and in the past we have had difficulty in selling 100 copies of the Library Review to produce an

income of about 10/- a term. From this we have to buy paper, type, ink and many other items of equipment, with the result that we can only afford enough type to set up one page at a time so that it is rapidly wearing out. We hope that we shall be better supported by the school in the future and are proposing to open a subscription list. Boys will be able to give in their names as promising to buy a copy of the Review and we in turn will promise to print enough copies of each issue for everyone. A glance at the bound volumes of the Review in the Library will show how worthwhile it is to possess a collection of issues.

The Puppet Club is being revived and hopes shortly to present "The Play of Noah's Ark." This is an old Morality Play and the more Senior members of the school may remember a burlesque version edited by Mr. Newsom and presented by his house during a House Play Competition. Ours is the original version which, although intended to be performed during Religious Festivals, is both spectacular and funny. The club was first formed in 1941 when this school was made the headquarters of the Educational Puppetry Association, Surrey Branch. Our first productions, "Alice in Wonderland" and scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" were both performed in London for other branches of the E.P.A. and our reputation in the movement was growing when Flying bombs again curtailed our activities. We suffer a lot from not having a stage of our own and have always to improvise with boxes and curtains on the school stage. However, when things become easier, we are going to construct a portable stage which can be set up anywhere and we shall then be able once again to go on tour. Puppets are fascinating people and endear themselves to all who handle them. We are fortunate in having the support of a sixth former and I would welcome any other senior boy who feels he could spare the time to assist.

The Show Case is only a very miserable substitute for the permanent Exhibition Room and Art Gallery which should be part of any school. In it we show you each week some piece of craft which is worthy of attention, not because it is a masterpiece but because it has points which illustrate the essential difference between the work of hands and of machines. We are living in the beginning of a machine age. Everything around us is machine made and we are forced to accept whatever is offered us in the way of design simply because mass-production has made it cheap. We are so used to mechanical perfection that we have ceased to wonder how it is done. When everyday things were made by hand no two were alike, so that choosing even the meanest kitchen utensil meant an exercising in taste and judgment. Now we order from a catalogue, choosing by size and price rather than by merit.

Everything in the Show Case is literally unique, simply because it is made by hand, and it is therefore worth more than a glance. You will never see another quite like it because hands are free to follow the dictates of the mind. Just as each thought leaves its impression on the brain, so each thing made leaves the mind more mature and the hands more skilled. The machine, however, is harshly limited by its grooves and gear-wheels. It cannot experiment or take advantage of irregularities in its raw materials, and therefore all its products are identical and as soulless as itself.

We are so used to the accuracy of mass-production that we are losing our critical faculties, and, if this attitude is allowed to persist, the general standard of taste must continue to fall. Be critical of what you see in the Show Case. It is not there just for you to admire and may indeed be put there to illustrate a fault. Read what I write about each exhibit so that you will know what to look for and what I consider to be its good and bad points. Above all, if you do not agree with what I have written, come and tell me. I am not trying to tell you what you ought to like and your opinion is quite as valuable as mine.

Pottery as a school craft is comparatively new to us. It is a War time innovation designed to fill the gap caused by restrictions on wood and almost all other Handicraft materials. Fortunately, clay has no military value and its supply cannot be controlled. It can be dug up almost everywhere and we were even prepared to scrape it off the boots of Rugger players if necessary. Our equipment, however, has not proved so easy to acquire. The kiln cost nearly £100 of school fund money, but apart from this we have had to improvise everything. For five years our only Potters' wheel was an old one belonging to me, and not till this term were we able to supplement it with another, rescued from a scrap heap and renovated at a cost of £6 10s., again from school funds. We are still in dire need of much equipment which other Potters consider essential, but are nevertheless managing to achieve something. The Potters' Club was formed this term in a desperate attempt to overcome our limitations. Its main purpose is to experiment with our materials and devise new methods of using what little equipment we have managed to collect. A small but very keen group of boys is doing wonders and is vindicating my belief that Pottery is an almost ideal craft for schools. One boy has promised Mrs. Austin a dolls' tea set. True he did not realise at the time what was involved, but he is sticking to his guns and if he succeeds we shall have taken another important step in our efforts to increase our knowledge. Let us hope that one day we may be given room to expand and need no longer worry about the now inevitable mixing of clay and saw-dust, Printers' ink and weaving, red hot kilns and small fingers.

D.M.

HOCKEY RESULTS, 1946

1st XI			
Opponents	Result	For	Against
Beckenham ...	Lost ...	0 ...	1
Kingston G. S. ...	Won ...	3 ...	0
Caterham ...	Won ...	3 ...	0
Spencer H. C. ...	Drawn ...	2 ...	2
St. George's College ...	Drawn ...	3 ...	3
Kingston G. S. ...	Won ...	5 ...	2
Caterham ...	Lost ...	3 ...	4
Spencer H. C. ...	Drawn ...	2 ...	2
St. George's College ...	Lost ...	2 ...	5
Old Boys ...	Drawn ...	3 ...	3

Results : 11 matches ; Won 0 ; Lost 0 ; Drawn 0.

2nd XI			
Opponents	Result	For	Against
Caterham ...	Lost ...	1 ...	8
St. George's College ...	Lost ...	0 ...	5
Kingston G. S. ...	Lost ...	0 ...	12
Caterham ...	Lost ...	0 ...	7
St. George's College ...	Lost ...	0 ...	7

COLT XI			
Opponents	Result	For	Against
St. George's College ...	Won ...	3 ...	1
Kingston G. S. ...	Drawn ...	2 ...	2
Beckenham ...	Won ...	5 ...	3
Kingston G. S. ...	Lost ...	1 ...	3
St. George's College ...	Lost ...	1 ...	4
Beckenham	0 ...	0

This has been the School's best season so far, not because the results tabled above are particularly impressive, but because the standard of hockey displayed has been far higher than before. Largely because we were able to rent the London University Ground for six home matches, the team learned to play hockey as it should be played, and the open games, long through passing and intelligent forward play, made possible by a good, fast surface, was a pleasure to watch, particularly for those of us who have suffered so long the miserable, muddy mess that is the Alliance Ground. Unfortunately these new conditions were available for only a tiny proportion of the School hockey players, and not even these few could practice on the University Ground, so they came to matches ill prepared for the change in pace. The Second XI and the Colts had to play under the usual difficulties, and there was never any hope that the Second XI would give a reasonable account of themselves. The First XI also had the great advantage of playing away fixtures against first class sides and on excellent grounds. Particularly happy has been our association with the Spencer Club; some of our boys played for their 1st and 2nd Elevens and gained most valuable experience as a result. We played two matches against Spencer 2nd XI and not only drew both games but earned the applause of all the experienced players who were present. Ogilvy, who has been capped 35 times for England, took a close interest in the side and has promised to help any of our boys who continue to play hockey after leaving school. An appreciation such as this will have the advantage of keeping our own boys together, and of placing them straight away in the highest rank of first class hockey.

After a very good beginning to the season, we realised once again how badly we are handicapped by lack of well-trained reserves in the Second XI. We had no one to replace Smith, Bartram, Parker and Hopkins when they were away, and this explains our poor performance against Caterham and against St. George's in the return matches. But in any case we could not hope to beat the latter who achieved finest form, and, as usual, if it had not been for a wonderful performance by Pike, the score would have been much heavier. In the other matches the side played really well, and for the first time we saw forward movements developing from intelligent half-back play and completed by some fine work in the circle by Cotterill who was always ready for a snap goal, and very difficult to stop once he was away. Our danger became apparent towards the end of the season. As more boys were encouraged by the good surface to practice stickwork, and found that they could flick and dribble, they fell into the fatal temptation to hang on to the ball during matches. One great advantage our poor Ground has always given us is that it is necessary to hit the ball as hard and as soon as possible and we have frequently over-run more skilful opponents as a result. It would be a pity if, in learning new tricks, we forgot the old, and fundamental ones which have stood us in good stead.

Most of the XI will have left before next season, and it will be up to this season's Colts to get all the practice they can before them. There are promising recruits among them, but they have had so far too little experience and they must do what they can to make up for it. Meanwhile Hopkins, as Captain, deserves congratulations for the way in which he has worked for the side this year, and for the team spirit which he has built up by his own stirring example.

A.M.

Characters.

*A. G. Hopkins. (Captain. Centre-half). A splendid example to his side; of untiring energy and enthusiasm. Has made great progress in stick-work and in positional play, and has learnt how to open up the game and to get his forwards going.

B. A. Newman. (Left-half). Has exactly the persistence and doggedness required from a wing-half, good stick-work and first class footwork. Still rather weak in clearing. He has a very promising future.

*D. Thompson. (Inside-left). He is clever and cool-headed, and has developed a good sense of strategy. But he is rather slow and is apt to take things much too easily during the first vital fifteen minutes.

*J. C. Taylor. (Right-back). He has saved the situation time and again by his cool judgement and unerring eye. Awkward but effective stick-work. Covers well and tackles with great vigour.

*Cotterill. (Centre-forward). He has developed into a fine attacking forward and is very quick to seize any chance of running through in the 25. This and his excellent ball control have brought the side many fine goals; his mid-field play needs developing.

*K. Chamberlain. (Left-back). He is a very safe and stylish player; marks closely and clears well.

A. H. Bartram. (Right Half). He has played many fine games, and is particularly strong during the last 15 minutes. Positional play very good, but weak in hitting, and badly handicapped by inability to flick.

C. E. Parker. (Outside-left). A greatly improved player who has brought off some first class solo efforts. He is inclined to forget his part in the forward line, but has the stickwork and intelligence to overcome this weakness.

H. A. Smith. (Outside-right). He played gallantly in a position not of his choosing and got the ball across the centre frequently. But he is too slow for a winger.

Farrow. (Inside-right). A fast and penetrating forward, but he has not yet the sense of positional play to take his proper part in the line.

Pike. (Goalkeeper). He has saved the side on many occasions by his cool judgement, fearlessness, and wonderful quickness of eye and of movement. An admirable judge of when to run out.

* Signifies School Hockey Colours.

THE JUNIOR SCIENCE CLUB

The Science Club is still divided into two parts, the Chemistry branch and Physics' branch and the Biology branch. In the first mentioned branch the first lecture was by three members. Boorman of A1, talked about steel and iron, King of the same form, talked about cellulose and Bullock of A1 talked and, with the help of some of the actual equipment, demonstrated about non-ferrous metals. Mr. Smith gave us a very interesting talk about elements, molecules and atoms. We are going to the Science Museum at Kensington later in the term. The second branch has had quite an interesting term. We voted for the winner in a small holiday competition in the first meeting. A visit to the Natural History Museum has been postponed. We went to Wimbledon Common and had a very interesting afternoon. The Chemistry branch is run by Miss Bishell who is leaving soon. The Biology branch is run by Miss Whitman.

I.B.B. (A1)

THE MUSIC SOCIETY

The Orchestra

Since we acquired the now famous Double-Bass last term, the instrumental music in the school has been gradually moving forward. R. E. Bennison, M. C. Cumberlidge, C. Davies and J. W. Hobbs have started violin lessons under Mr. Parkhurst, (three of them on school violins); J. M. Hoare is learning the 'Cello (an instrument kindly lent by Mr. Parkhurst)'; B. A. Gambrill, G. Grindrod and N. J. MacDonald have taken up the Viola under Wing-Commander Grieve who has

already taught D. W. Ball to play the double-bass efficiently. In A. Melmoth (Clarinet) and R. J. Threlfall (Flute) we have the beginnings of a wood-wind section, although Threlfall has not been lucky enough to get an instrument of his own yet. Brian Parkhurst is now studying the Tympani in earnest. Leak M. S. fancies the Trumpet and is hoping to take it up next term; and quite a number of other boys are hoping to start violin lessons shortly. We, therefore, look forward to having a really large "School" Orchestra for the Carol Concert next Christmas. Although the double-bass is not quite paid for we have already begun negotiations for a school cello. It is very necessary these days to seize the opportunity of buying a good instrument when it arises. By the time this issue is published, therefore, the school should possess three violins, one viola, one cello and a double-bass and we shall then be looking round for more violins.

The Choir
In spite of the ravages of influenza a small part song choir has been rehearsing each Tuesday lunch-time and we hope to include much more harmony in our next concert. Efforts have been made this term also, to stabilize the choir in morning assembly by placing it in a more prominent position from which it can give greater encouragement and assistance to the congregation.

The Maiden and District Orchestral Society.
It will be remembered that a most enjoyable concert was given in the school hall by this society early last December. We are to be given a similar treat on Tuesday, 14th May. The programme will include: Schumann's pianoforte concerto in A minor.

The solo part will be played by Miss Lawton (Mrs. Peckett) whom we heard to such advantage in the Staff Concert early this term (see separate report).

A party of twenty boys has been attending, with great enthusiasm, these concerts given by the London Symphony and London Philharmonic Orchestras under the conductorship of Boyd Neel whose introductory talks are most helpful. We were lucky to have very good seats in the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, where the first three concerts took place. An added thrill at the third concert was the attendance of Queen Elizabeth and the two Princesses. We have now returned for the remaining three concerts to the Central Hall, Westminster.

19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

The New Year's activities began in the holidays when a party of some twenty seniors and juniors walked all day in the Windsor Castle district. We met early one morning at Kingston and went by bus to Staines. The morning was grey and with a cold wind but the pace set by Pip Thomas and John Ashley undoubtedly kept us warm until the sun broke through. From Staines we followed the tow path all the way west from here we entered Windsor Great Park and viewed the Castle from the south. The famous avenue of trees has partly disappeared and given rise to saplings. We followed this avenue for a mile or so south to the Monument, and then through the Great Park to Virginia Water where we viewed the water falls as the sun set. The juniors found the pace hard but willingly faced the five mile road walk back to Staines. However, encouraged by Tiger and with Pip Thomas's best roadside manner, we found a driver anxious to take the whole party back—it was a grand ending to a grand day's walking.

This term we have been able to meet as a whole Troop without conflicting activities, on Tuesday afternoons. There is no doubt that this method, with the Patrol Leaders taking the major share of the programme, has led to much better meetings. But we still get a spot

of absentees from the usual few. There have been the regular monthly Church Services at Christ Church on the first Sunday evening of each month with a fair attendance. The acquisition by the S.M. of a large number of surplus A.R.P. berets has solved the headgear problem all the time that the official hats are unobtainable. When the Group is on full parade and wears these blue berets with the blue uniform, it gives a smart and impressive picture.

On Wednesday, 20th February, we were privileged to entertain Bohadddin Pazargad, the Chief Scout Executive of Persia. The International Department at I.H.Q. had specially asked the 19th. to give a demonstration "troop meeting" and the programme not only impressed our guest but served as a great stimulus to the Group as a whole; the activities were certainly well done as the surprise item was exciting. The County Commissioner, in writing to thank the Group for responding to the I.H.Q.'s call, said that these acts of international friendship have astonished him far reaching results. We were glad to welcome the D.C. who presented badges and also the Headmaster.

As the result of the winter collection of clothing for the needy in Holland, we were able to send fourteen well packed parcels. These will be distributed by the Royal Netherlands Red Cross in Holland. The S.M. has had several letters from the Scouters of the 4th Damiengroep of The Hague, with which Troop we have joined under the "Link Up Scheme." Pieter Berkel has sent photographs of his home town and of Dutch national costume. Some boys in the Troop are corresponding individually with their opposite numbers in Holland. G. Grindrod and K. Mackenzie have had interesting exchanges of letters and P. L. Osmint has been for some time in touch with a senior scout in France.

The end of term will see another edition of "The Elms" and we are particularly glad of the article written by Mr. Grubb on local bird life and suggestions for its study. With our number of friends in Holland, France and Norway, all the Old Boys of the Group and a host of local friends, the circulation of this Group magazine has reached a great number and the current edition will have to be printed for over a hundred and twenty copies. Volume III of the Group's Official Log is nearing its end and still maintains an exciting record in writing, photographs and cartoons. It is always available for borrowing by parents.

Sister Hunt has continued her course of first aid and nursing lectures this term and an examination of the candidates for the St. John Ambulance Association Certificate will take place. We are exceedingly grateful to her for valuable and happy course. On Saturdays, Buffalo has continued his course for juniors and with Mrs. Phillips' help, has done good work in passing Tenderfoot and Second Class Tests. They have spent some very cold afternoons on the Reservation and some very enjoyable ones on indoor work at the Carlew Den. Jerks, (Mr. Thomas), came again to help at the Wednesday meeting on 20th February and is planning another tough night walk for the seniors. We shall resume Saturday evening senior activities soon with his help.

Pawa Hoogi has at last come home to us to rest. From long and faithful service in Central Africa, from a dignified retirement in the Governor's house, a long journey aboard an ocean going liner, a disturbed sleep in a war stricken London Home, Pawa Hoogi was escorted on the final stages of his journey to the 19th, by the patrol leaders. On every parade he is as regular as the clock and even Tiger's commands do not get the respect now paid to Pawa Hoogi.

On Sunday, 17th February, the 19th invaded Waterloo Station and for two hours controlled all trains entering and leaving the station. By the kindness of the Stationmaster, we were allowed to take a party to the all-electric signal box where, after an explanatory talk by the chief signaller, the boys were allowed to operate signals and points. Few, if any, travellers could have known that for over two hours all trains were controlled by 19th Wimbledon Scouts.

Badge work has gone on apace this term and technically we are becoming a much more efficient crowd. Signalling in particular has improved. Buffalo has helped with Semaphore as also in a very successful way has Sec. MacDonald on Tuesdays. The S.M. has set a high standard for 1st Class Signalling in Morse and several have passed successfully. Thomas has a good style in both sending and receiving, Law's sending is good and there has been good work by Puttock, Fleet, Baldwin, Ashley and Patston. The following Proficiency Badges have been awarded this term:—

Trackers Badge Sec. Low

St. John's

Ambulance Badge P.Ls. Thomas, Tutchell. Secs. Puttock, Mackay.

First Class Badge P.Ls. Thomas, Low.

Bushman's Thong Sec. Low.

Pioneer Badge Sec. Law.

Artist's Badge Sc. Doling.

Swimmers Badge Sec. MacDonald.

Electricians P.Ls. Grindrod, Standish, Tutchell, Thomas and Ashley with Scouts Puttock, Mackay, and Wesson.

Campers Badge P.Ls. Grindrod, Fleet, Tutchell, Standish, Patston, Thomas and Ashley and also Scouts Forward, Law, Puttock and Spencer.

Most of the seniors should have 1st Class Badges by Easter when we shall also look for some Bushman's Thongs.

The *Annual Summer Garden Party* this year will take place on Saturday, the 1st June and we shall be asking all parents in the school for their usual help. There will of course, be several changes and new ideas but we still hope that people will not forsake the wartime habit of buying secondhand or home-made commodities. Emphasis this year will be on the entertainment and competitive activity nature of this now traditional summer fete.

All the weekend and one-night camps of the coming summer term must be considered as preparatory to the *Annual Summer Camp*. This is being planned in Cornwall, probably on the hills over-looking the south east corner of Penzance Bay. The standard of personal camping must be high and it is not intended to take scouts who will need looking after. (It was one time rumoured that only 1st class scouts would go!). The catering, programme and general work will be done by seniors and P.Ls. Ashley and Thomas are already preparing themselves as Camp Quartermasters. The *Whittan* must come into its own and this first year of peace camp really must be hard, adventurous and happy.

LECTURE

GEOFFREY CROWTHER

Mr. Crowther, instead of giving a lecture, invited his listeners to fire at him any questions they desired on world affairs. This opportunity was exploited to the full and the questions asked covered practically every sphere of the world which was in the forefront of the news. In his answers Mr. Crowther gave some excellent birds-eye views of the situation in such places as Persia, Greece, Argentine, Finland and Palestine. He analysed the motives of the larger nations in regard to these minority powers and described the political and economic situation which existed within them. "In Persia," he said, "we desired to keep our influence not merely because Britain had oil interests there, but also because she desired to keep her hold on the Indian Ocean. In Greece and Argentine the party system was far different from that of Britain. The strongest party had in fact, the control of elections. In Palestine there was a problem to which at present, there was no solution in sight. The

cure for the problem of the settlement of Germany was extremely controversial. She was the economic heart of Europe and as such, she must be kept healthy. Military occupation could not last for long and eventually feelings of sympathy would overcome those of hate. The encouragement of the elements which went to make a democratic government was above all a necessity.

H.S.P.

THE PARTISANS

Members: Mr. C. W. E. Peckett, M. A. S. Stirling, C. W. Baker, C. R. E. Parker, Peake, R. M. Robinson, D. M. Saunders, Wiggins.

There have been two meetings of the Partisans this term. At the first, Mr. Stewart Smith, a friend of Mr. Stirling, discussed "The Contemporary Attitude to Work."

The text, so to speak, of the whole thesis, was that "work is made for man, and not man for work." In the modern world this position has been entirely reversed. What were the changes which brought this about?

Work could be divided into two separate types: pleasurable or impulsive work, or dissatisfying and compulsive work. The results of both types of work are products for the need of man, waste or destruction. The latter type of work tended to produce mainly waste and destruction.

Before the Fall and the Curse (the speaker took these as allegorical explanations of what actually happened), Adam, (that is, mankind), did not have to work. After the Fall he did, and from then on to the end of the Tribal period, the duty of work became part of the religion of mankind. By the fifteenth century, the compulsive element in work had weakened. The absorption of the worker in his craft, and the craft's essential utility and beauty made for high quality but what might be called the Protestant Revolt, changed the attitude to work once more. Mr. Smith said that as revolutionaries feel guilty, and revolts are always incomplete, so the rebels cling to the remnants of the Old Order. Thus, the reinstatement of the god "work" was the one outstanding fact of the Reformation. Now the god has become such a dictator, that the modern conception of a saint is one who has killed himself by work. In fact, the need for work is the only thing on which all modern political creeds agree.

But this wrong attitude to work is only the lesser of two evils; the greater evil being engendered by it. Man is now frightened of leisure, so frightened that the only test of leisure is the time test. This materialist assessment (an example of which greets one on every book-stall, when publishers quote the number of words in their books) has led to the ruin of all time leisure. We consider that if nothing is done, then we have wasted our time. We ought to consider that if the work we have done is not absorbing and useful then we have wasted our time. Leisure has been regimentalised by work: we say we use our leisure profitably—meaning that we do those things we ought to do. The proper leisure should consist in doing things we want to do, and we can only know what we really want to do, when we have revised our attitude to work.

At the second meeting, Peake gave a paper on "Sex and Society . . ."

Here should follow an account of this paper, but the Secretary who should be penning it is lying in a black and dismal cell under threat of death for not having delivered this brief account of the Partisans' activities to the dictator of modern school life, the Editor of the School Magazine. The writer's last words heard by the outside world were "The Spur was made for the School . . . God have mercy on all secretaries." To which the Editor sternly replied "The wages of ill-spent leisure is death."

C.W.B. (Secretary)

THE POETRY SOCIETY

President : The Headmaster.

Secretary : R. H. Robinson.

Members : Mr. C. E. Peckett, Mr. W. Walsh, G. W. Baker, C. R. Parker, H. S. Peake, R. H. Robinson, S. Smith.

We have mused, whimsically and infrequently, profoundly and superficially upon "Time's ruins and the seven laws" and upon "shoes and ships and sealing wax . . ."

The term began with many lengthy and, we thought, significant contributions. Leisure had produced these efforts, and attendance was eager at our first gathering. This first meeting, while remarkable for the abundance of original work offered by our small, but select body, was especially notable for the reading, given by Mr. Peckett, of the first poem of his forthcoming collection: "Monologues from Hell." The piece was entitled "Ixion, and its horror, detailed and minutely analysed, was delivered in an appreciative silence.

Other sessions of the Society have been few; there is invariably some other School activity which must take precedence—rugger, or hockey or House Play rehearsals. One must also consider those occasional, and sometimes lengthy periods when our Muses desert us, separately or en bloc. They are fickle creatures, and have caused the postponement of many sessions: at least, so we imagine.

Quite definitely, our most important decision during the term was to publish a "slim volume" of the best verse yet contributed to the Society; it is meet that those flowers of poesy, enjoyed by members of the Society, should not be confined to themselves. The volume will contain about eight pages, and will be, in outward appearance at least, unpretentious. We have considered two hundred copies as a suitable number, and sixpence will be the very modest price. The Poetry Society is hoping that the more adventurous members of the School will invest sixpence in a copy, and possibly induce their parents or friends to purchase copies. No date can yet be fixed for the publication: the printers have ample work for some weeks ahead; when our book is issued, it should be well worth the few pence asked to cover the cost of production.

We still lack new members; those who wish, may ask the Secretary for an invitation. At least they may be amused by the spectacle of members who "look greenly," and "gasp out their eloquence."

R.H.R.

THE SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

When the Sixth Form Society was first formed, a year ago, many were sceptical about its chances of survival; one pessimistic member of the staff even went so far as to prophecy its dissolution within one term. There followed a period of doubtful success, during which the prophecy nearly materialised. With a small membership, the presence of other school activities running simultaneously, made attendance often difficult or impossible; indeed, during the Higher Certificate examinations, which involved practically every member, the Society had to be closed down completely, and content itself with taking a major part in the School General Election.

The Society owes its survival and present success largely to the eighteen original members, whose keeness made it possible for meetings to be continued during a critical period in its existence, but its popularity is due, in some manner, to the variety of its activities, which, to quote Mr. Wrinch, "range from a Model Parliament to forums on the American modes."

This term, the tradition has been maintained with a discussion, play reading, meetings of the Model Parliament, and a "Personal Choice" programme. A forum on "Radio," arranged for Jan. 23rd, did not materialise, owing to poor attendance consequent on the recent

influenza epidemic, and an informal discussion on the subject was held instead, after the original group leader of the abandoned forum, Wiggins, Carr, Carolin and Osmint, had read a short paper each dealing with different aspects of the subject, to the Society.

The idea of including play-readings in the activities of the Society having proved acceptable, "Lady Windermere's Fan" (Oscar Wilde) was read by the Society on Feb. 13th, members of Wimbledon County School participating, as on previous occasion, with great success.

As it was felt that a term could not go by without including a "personal choice" programme, the last meeting of the Society was devoted to this popular item. Peake and Robinson gave poetry readings, from T. S. Eliot, Robert Graves, and were followed by Baker who gave a short performance on the piano, of one of his own compositions, and works by Chopin and Mozart. Although this type of programme is capable of infinite variations, yet it does sometimes take a stereotyped aspect, and for this reason alone, items performed by the members themselves are most acceptable. Harrison, Pringle, and Robinson played recordings of classical music, and were followed by Chamberlain, Bird and Starck, who played jazz recordings.

The Model Parliament, which meets every Thursday dinnertime, has held two evening sessions to date, both of which were widely attended by members of the Society and others: a further report is found elsewhere.

The proceedings for the term were concluded with a social and dance, which took place at the school on March, 20th.

Although the main object of the party was to provide dancing facilities to members and guests, the proceedings were enlivened by a treasure hunt, ably organised by Wiggins; a replica of the famous "double or quits" quiz, of radio fame, and of "I Want To Be An Actor," an actual "radio script" being used for the occasion, both of which items were organised by Harrison and Chamberlain, (who were, incidentally, responsible for the rest of the games).

Of the other members who worked to make the party a success, special mention must be given to Perry, who organised the whole event. Osmint, in whose capable hands all catering difficulties vanished, and Carr, who supplied the prizes. In conclusion, one can only say that an enjoyable time was had by all.

R.B.

A.T.C. CAMPS : CALSHOT

During the Christmas holidays a party of cadets under F/Lt. Wilson and P/O Cousins paid a week's visit to Calshot R.A.F. station from Jan. 5th to Jan. 12th. The weather was too bad to do much flying, most cadets having a trip in a Sea Otter and a Sunderland. (To prove the force of the gales, it might be mentioned that the roof of our hut nearly left us one stormy night, and we feared a repetition of this performance for the rest of our stay).

Many small boat trips were, however "enjoyed" by parties of cadets, although when the weather was rough, a few cadets had their first sample of seasickness. Everyone had the experience of seeing the "Queen Mary" and the "Queen Elizabeth," and a few cadets were out in a launch at the time and had the thrill of seeing Britain's largest liner at close quarters.

A hockey-match was arranged with the station team, but after a very hard game the A.T.C. team was beaten by a wide margin. Every Cadet had numerous rounds at the rifle range, most of us being allowed to fire a short burst from a sten-gun.

Navigation and Radar comprised the main courses of instruction, but interesting afternoons were spent at the maps and charts section and the Air Sea Rescue Section, where we dismantled and re-rigged different types of large dinghy.

A pleasant and instructive week ended with an interesting film at the Air Sea Rescue cinema, and although heavy rain and gales made our visit an extremely wet one, everybody thoroughly enjoyed our stay, and we look forward to our next visit at Easter.

ODIHAM

At half term, twenty-six cadets under F/Lt. Wilson attended a week-end visit to Odiham R.C.A.F. station. Most of the time was spent in flying, some cadets returning home with 18 hours flying to their credit. We flew from breakfast to Dinner and from Dinner to Tea, with one night-flight after tea for some cadets.

Every cadet made use of "Canada House," a large hall run by the Canadian "Kights of Columbus," and most cadets returned home with a supply of Canadian chocolate and chewing gum.

The Canadian food was good and plentiful, as usual, and full use was made of the N.A.A.F.I. facilities for billiards and table tennis, not to mention the station cinema and theatre.

We returned on the Monday with a pleasant feeling of satisfaction with our short visit, and extend our grateful thanks for the hospitality of the R.C.A.F. P.E.B.

SHORT STORY.

I would tell you (for you are my friend) of that which I have told no other; I would tell you of the last time that I ever weighed myself. Not for George Eliot would I again submit myself to the process.

I had, I suppose, been lulled into a sense of complacency. For years I had been weighing myself with impunity. Nay! I had brought the action to a fine art. Pennies I had squandered upon every railway platform 'twixt Land's End and John O'Groats. The green machine at Grantham I had fed with coin, and the red machine that lurks in the corner of the waiting-room at Peterborough had known me of old.

The thing had become a drug with me.

Then, disaster!

It occurred, I believe, upon the platform of a tube-station in Notting Hill. I was waiting for a train.

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At eight stone the needle had obviously obtained its second wind; almost cheerfully it moved onward.

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Jauntily, it moved further round the scale. I felt quite proud as I perceived it had almost reached ten stone.

At ten stone twelve lbs. I swallowed rather hard. At eleven stone seven lbs. my hair bristled, ever so slightly. At twelve stone four lbs. I quailed visibly; my knees were weak; my blood had, I believe,

turned to water, a thing I had never hoped, even in my wildest dreams, to experience. At thirteen stone two lbs. my courage flowed back to me, and I entered into the spirit of the thing.

I uttered a triumphant howl; immediately, it seemed, the platform around me was filled with people. Porters, booking-clerks and passengers. They crowded round the machine. For a moment there was silence—pregnant. Then an awed gasp rose upon the air.

As the needle touched fifteen stone, a hearty British cheer resounded from the thronging multitude. At seventeen stone, wagers were made as to where the needle would finally stop. At nineteen stone, drunk with power, I felt that I had savoured all that life had to offer.

Then, finally, with the satisfied air of one who has accomplished something, the perverse needle stopped at 20st. 7 lbs. The indicator went up to twenty-two stone, and, laughing madly, I beat on the glass with my fists, but the needle was exhausted.

Twenty stone seven lbs.—it had an authentic ring!

As I stumbled off the machine, I felt like a God. The spectators fell back warily, forming a lane through their ranks. As I passed through, many of the male members of the audience removed their hats, touching their forelocks respectfully.

Gurgling hysterically, I made for the lift, but remembering my great weight, I turned towards the stairs. I rushed down them, tearing deliriously at my hair, followed by a wildly cheering mob.

At the entrance to the station, I joyously assaulted two large policemen. Help was summoned, and soon a battle was raging which finally absorbed even the spectators. And when, amid vociferous applause, I was at last borne to the ground through the combined efforts of fourteen unshaven coalheavers, I was a sadder, but wiser man. . . .

And even now, when night draws on apace in Notting Hill. The good wives still hush their children with tales of my exploit; and wherever the citizenry of that ancient town foregather, there, in awed whispers, and with bated breath, my tale is still told. It has passed into legend, and is now part of the noble and gallant history of Notting Hill. . . .

You will understand that I have never been near a weighing-machine since that tragic and glorious occasion.

R.H.R.

TWO POEMS FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Pool in the Wood

Deep in the wood,
Where the fawns come to drink;
Lies the pale translucent pool,
With leaf fringed mossy primrose brinks
Which dip to silence cool
Beneath the shimmering surface,
The fish glide noiseless by,
While water weeds grope and grable
And boatman hum and dive.
Down in those sombre depths
Beneath the noisy world,
All is quiet and peaceful
Upon the sand of gold.

John Hobbs

A pleasant and instructive week ended with an interesting film at the Air Sea Rescue cinema, and although heavy rain and gales made our visit an extremely wet one, everybody thoroughly enjoyed our stay, and we look forward to our next visit at Easter.

ODIHAM

At half term, twenty-six cadets under F/Lt. Wilson attended a week-end visit to Odiham R.C.A.F. station. Most of the time was spent in flying, some cadets returning home with 18 hours flying to their credit. We flew from breakfast to Dinner and from Dinner to Tea, with one night-flight after tea for some cadets.

Every cadet made use of "Canada House," a large hall run by the Canadian "Kights of Columbus," and most cadets returned home with a supply of Canadian chocolate and chewing gum.

The Canadian food was good and plentiful, as usual, and full use was made of the N.A.A.F.I. facilities for billiards and table tennis, not to mention the station cinema and theatre.

We returned on the Monday with a pleasant feeling of satisfaction with our short visit, and extend our grateful thanks for the hospitality of the R.C.A.F. P.E.B.

SHORT STORY.

I would tell you (for you are my friend) of that which I have told no other; I would tell you of the last time that I ever weighed myself. Not for George Eliot would I again submit myself to the process.

I had, I suppose, been lulled into a sense of complacency. For years I had been weighing myself with impunity. Nay! I had brought the action to a fine art. Pennies I had squandered upon every railway platform 'twixt Land's End and John O'Groats. The green machine at Grantham I had fed with coin, and the red machine that lurks in the corner of the waiting-room at Peterborough had known me of old.

The thing had become a drug with me.

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Upon the sand of gold.

John Hobbs

The Weather Cock

Where the voiceless cock doth sigh,
On the steeple top so high,
Where the winds do whistle by,
There the golden cock doth eye
The waving fields of yellow rye.
The stacks of hay set out to dry,
The cows who in the shade do lie,
The mounting waves that lap and die
Upon the rocks that are well nigh ;
All this doth the cock espy.
Then the golden cock doth note
The small fauns dappled summer coat,
The farmer's small but clever goat,
The harbour, and small fishing boat,
And the dark murky castle's moat.
David Evans

TRANSLATION FROM " THE SHEPHERD'S CALENDAR "

Arbes, Alphasibœe, Sororum sunt inhi nulla ;
Nam Pavis uxoris magni nascuntur ab alvo :
Contemnunt crassi tennem pastoris avenam
Phœbum Sim Satyous certat superave canendo ;
Nou audere milri Parnassum scandere montem
Phœbus cum vehemens et Pana pudore repellat.
At calamos molles humilis sub tegmine luci
Ut milri carminibus placeam, etsi. sint mala, canto.
Me non afficiunt mea qui culpautve probantve.
Curto nunquain alios supevere ant vinceri fauna.
Farnam non cupio fugientem ; **Daphiridis egi**
Vitam qui pecudes, ubi mavult, pascit in agvis.
Tucutum nosco numerum durumque sonare ;
Aptius in versum est miserum formare laborem.
Nunc satis est milrimet trepidum depingere mentem
Oarminibusque isdem miserandum effindere questum.

D.P.W.

VERSE.

Here lies a man who has attained
Final and full delight
After much sleeplessness day waned
And he can sleep all night.
They mirror all the stars they've seen in shows
Striving to keep to the original.
In unremembered attitudes their pose
Is theoretically theatrical.
This name is hardly wrong
Indeed a deft touch.
Teeming they wait so long
And err so much.
On the last day, O Lord, forgive this fool
His abominable sin : O let him in
And set him in a corner on a stool,
Crowned with a cone and gay with a dunce's grin.

W. W.

OLD BOYS' NEWS LETTER

Complying with the wish that all articles for the " Spur " should be handed in before March 9th, I find that I am left with only a small amount of news to tell you.

Those Old Boys who are members will have received a circular letter informing them who of the committee were elected Treasurer and Secretaries ; but, for the benefit of those who are non-members (and remember you must be up-to-date with your subscriptions to be a member), G. Scoble was co-opted on to the committee, K. Wright was co-opted so as to continue as Treasurer, E. M. Jepson was elected Social Secretary and C. Liddle was elected General Secretary.

The committee has met several times during the term and has put into motion the organisation necessary for our Memorial Fund. One preliminary meeting of a few parents, members of the staff, and Old Boys appointed a provisional working committee to call together a larger meeting to be held at school at a date to be announced later in a circular letter. At this larger meeting a committee will be elected, a constitution established, and a policy laid down. The committee, I believe, will contain at least three Old Boys, three parents, two members of the staff and one Governor, to be elected annually. The Old Boys' Society committee decided that it was necessary to form this secondary committee, and also to include people other than members of the Old Boys' Society. A full account of the forthcoming meeting will be given in the next issue of the " Spur."

To continue with news of a more social interest, we must congratulate J. Hitchon on his marriage to Miss J. Carter, sister of one of our members, and also extend our congratulations to D. Nightingale who has married quite recently.

Through divers means I hear that Victor Grills has been awarded the M.B.E., but I have not been able to contact him and discover in what division, as no up-to-date address has been readily available. This is the case with many members and may explain why " Spurs " and other correspondence have been failing to reach you. So please, when you write to us, give us your address or a forwarding address if you are very mobile, and if possible supply us with addresses of others whom you know to have moved from their original school-day addresses.

There is one surprising item, K. Wright has at last been called up into the Army and is supposed to be liking it, whilst L. Trinder, who recently joined the R.A.F., finds life boring, and wishes to return soon from his pending embarkation.

D. W. W. Smith writes from Sind S.E.A.A.F. (where he has met B. Purser) that he is serving on the ground.

W. Gathercole writes that he is serving as a Radar Mechanic on a Tank Landing Ship at Malta.

The two Vaughans paid a surprise visit to the school whilst they were on leave, and are expecting to return overseas. We have also been visited by N. Poulter, D. Griffiths and J. Bell, the last of whom was also expecting to go overseas. S. Aries came into the school very " browned off " after being transferred from the R.A.F. to the R.A.O.C.

M. Schrecker, now waiting for the result of a W.O.S.B., is still in Reconnaissance ; F. Potton is with Intelligence and I. P. Smith hopes to go to a Rhine Army College, having been accepted for A.E.C.

A. Thompson, who flies two hours per week, is expected to be made redundant from his aircrew trade and be given a ground job.

C. Thompson is studying at an Aircrew Officers' school but hopes to return to flying.

That is about all the social news I can offer, but remember, if you do not write to us, we cannot keep you well informed as to the activities of fellow-members.

As a parting note, we wish to greet our new president, Mr. H. Porter, who we hope will be present at the hockey match (30th March) and the dance (3rd April).

C.J.V.L.

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following contributions, and apologise for any inadvertent omissions:
 The Brynaston Saga, The Radleian, The Aldenhamian, The Fettesian, Bristol Grammar School Chronicle, The Wellingtonian, The Abbotsholmian, The Ashtedian, Faraday House Journal.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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6	Gibb's
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The School has seen the rise and wane of many debating societies. Many have said words on the cause of their decline and fall. In the Model Parliament, however, we believe we have found something which will give opportunity for learning the art of oratory, and which will provide those who sit in silence with something sufficiently controversial to make them want, in vulgar speech, to stand up and shout. The meetings have been held in the lunch-hour, and this has ensured a large attendance.

For the first half of the term, a Conservative Government was carried its "Housing Bill" at the last meeting of the session by 26 votes to 20.

During the second half of the term, a Labour Government has been in office. At the last meeting before this article was written, a vote of censure on this Government was carried by some fifteen votes. The political situation is therefore somewhat complicated at the moment, since the defeat of the Government was due to a temporary alliance between the Conservatives and the Communists. (Before this is misinterpreted, I have been asked by the Leaders of both Parties to point out that the only point of agreement was dissatisfaction with the Government).

STAFF CONCERT

Wednesday, 30th January.
 A small but excited audience attended this concert which was the first of its kind since the first terms of the war. A collection was taken for the School Orchestra Fund.

- PROGRAMME
1. Two Violins ... Golden Sonata ... Purcell
 2. Two Arias ... from "Il Seraglio" ... Mozart
 3. PIANOFORTE ... (a) Arabesque ... Schumann
 4. SONGS ... (a) Two Grenadiers (Revolutionary) ... Schumann
 5. VIOLIN ... Sonata in D Major ... Handel
 6. PIANOFORTE ... (a) Prelude in C ... Pjohofner
 7. SONGS ... (b) Pastouralle ... Powenc
 8. SONGS ... (c) Hungarian ... MacDowell
 9. VIOLIN ... of Travel (R.L.S.) ... Vaughan Williams
- The artists were:
- Mitzi Lawton ... Pianoforte
 - C. W. E. Peckett ... Violin
 - Alan Milton ... Violin
 - Robert Loveday ... Baritone

"THE SPUR" COMMITTEE

Editor: R. H. Robinson.
 Technical Adviser: Mr. W. Walsh.
 Committee: C. W. Baker, O. R. Parker, H. A. Smith, D. P. White.