

THE SPUR

No. 4
Vol. VIII



SCHOOL OFFICERS, SUMMER TERM, 1948.

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Editors : William Walsh, D. P. White, J. R. Hopkins.

Committee : J. A. A. Evans, D. W. Tanner, N. Godwin.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We acknowledge the receipt of the following with many thanks:—
The Aldenhamian, The Ashtedian, The Fettesian, The Caterham School Magazine, The Bryanston Saga, The Bristol Grammar School Chronicle, The Radleian, The Wellingtonian, The Becchamian, The Abbotsholmian, The Wimbledon High School Magazine and The Kingstonian, with apologies for any inadvertent omissions.

THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. VIII, No. 4.

Summer, 1948.

YOUR MONEY

Behind the initials "G. S. F." lies a subject of some importance, about which you are entitled to information. The County allows us from the rates a limited amount to spend on books, apparatus and materials for our work, but for the more popular things that happen outside class, for clubs, games, entertainments and most of our small luxuries, we depend on our own finances in the *General School Fund*. This is controlled by the Headmaster, and managed (as regards its complicated book-keeping, etc.) by the Secretary; and I should like to mention here, since too often it is taken for granted, the clearness, accuracy and benevolent efficiency of Miss Woodhouse in this, as in everything she does for us all. An annual balance sheet is approved by the Governors. But it is really your fund, and you should know how it comes and where it goes.

It comes, largely, from your contributions each term, of 3/6 or more if you are generous. There is no legal compulsion to pay this, but those who do not are enjoying some of their pleasures at the expense of others. These subscriptions totalled £200 9s. 0d. last year. And it goes, principally, on running and printing School magazines and diaries, which cost £100 16s. 0d. last year, and on extras for School games, team teas and travelling, etc., which came to £80 13s. 0d. You will see that when these two items were paid for, less than £20 of your subscriptions remained.

But, in fact, our further expenses came to over £156. Books and periodicals for the library cost £62. There were subscriptions, to the Rugby Union, etc.; the remaining payments on the orchestra's instruments; refreshments for sundry parents' meetings; help for the Printers and the Chess Club (besides the funds they raise for themselves); small garden expenses; the cricket film (£7 more than your shilling fund raised), and hire of other films, and many small items. After using up the last of your G.S.F. subscriptions, therefore, we are left with £37 still to pay. Where do we find the money?

Our second main source of income was the half-share of the proceeds of the 1947 Garden Party, £99. (It will be more this year.) The Library bookstall at Open Night took over £55. The Second Play, besides paying for the production, some additions to our props and wardrobe, and the House Plays, contributed some £30 to G.S.F. By these additions we reach a credit balance of £47. Also, during the year, we finally wound up the old clothing account and transferred to the General Fund its accumulated profits of £104—a windfall which cannot occur again. We finish, therefore, some £150 better off.

We are thus building up a little reserve, and improving from our situation two years ago when the balance was hardly enough to pay for the next magazine. But there are heavy expenses ahead : we need a new cineprojector, which will cost about £250, a new printing press (about £70), and new stage curtains, whose price will be appalling. The County gave us the boxing ring, but the base, pads and fittings will cost G.S.F. about £30. The Printers, the Tennis Club, and many other activities deserve more financial help. We could do with a good radio set, more records, books, pictures, and many other items which will occur to you as useful and desirable things about the School. They all depend on the state of our funds, and therefore on your support for the Garden Party, School Plays, the bookstall at Open Night and—simplest of all—on the generosity of your subscriptions to "G. S. F."

HENRY PORTER.

VALE

Wartime conditions, blowing good like all ill winds, gave us the help of Mrs. Henderson ; the returning claims of peace call her away. But she is for Raynes Park no war-time stopgap, but one who has made a permanent and vivid contribution to the School, and our loss is great. There is no need to list her activities—how she took the need to exchange Maths for Science in her stride, and added English as a sideline, or the much that she gave to the events in the School stage, both as producer (notably of "Toad") and as the inspiration of much besides the decor in other productions. As one legacy she leaves us a stage wardrobe which will remind us of her for years to come, and the combination of gifts she brought to it—the capacity for research into period styles, first-class design, and then translation under her own hands into reality—is so rare that we cannot expect to replace her, but must hope for her continued help as time permits. Even in coping with boys' imbecility over their own property she added charity to efficiency. We shall need to find more vitality from among ourselves in the stead of that which she added to so many facets of School life. Even if we could find it in full, the School and the Common Room will be the duller and poorer for the loss of "C.M.H." May she henceforward be a frequent visitor.

HOUSE NOTES

Cobb's

Captain : D. Thompson.

Vice-Captain : D. W. Tanner.

School Prefects : D. Thompson, D. W. Tanner, D. G. Lines,
D. P. White.

Sub-Prefects : F. Hodges, F. B. Kirby, D. H. Bacon,
J. R. Hopkins.

This has been a very successful term ; since the last edition of *The Spur* was printed the House has won two cups, and finished second in one and third in two other competitions. This success has been due to a great all-round effort throughout the House, with team-spirit playing a great part at all times.

Tennis

We must first congratulate our Tennis VI most heartily on securing this new cup, which Mr. Cobb himself so kindly presented to the School at the end of last term. The team, under the captaincy of D. P. White, gained an overwhelming victory against Gibb's by seven matches to one, and thus qualified to meet Halliwell's in the final. This match was

very keenly contested, the result being still in the balance after four hours' play, but the House finished worthy victors by four matches to two with three drawn.

Dramatics

We produced an adaptation of R. C. Sheriff's "Journey's End" with the following cast :—

Captain Hardy	...	...	David Beardwell
Lieutenant Osborne	...	...	David Tanner
Private Mason	...	...	Dennis Bacon
C. S. M. Broughton	...	...	... Ian Bell
2nd Lieut. Raleigh	...	...	... David Lines
Captain Stanhope	...	...	John Hopkins
2nd Lieut. Hibbert	...	...	Ronald Ayres
The Colonel	...	...	Paul Pooley

Production : David Lines.

Stage Manager : Frank Hodges.

Team-work was the keynote of the success of this production. The acting throughout the cast was of an extremely high standard, while the set was superb. It would be invidious to single out any individual acting performance, but special mention must be made of David Lines, who, having cut the play brilliantly, produced it and further gave the best display of acting of the competition.

Although we were given second place, it is good to know that once again we afforded the audience the most pleasurable entertainment of the day.

Boxing

Bagley must be congratulated upon leading the House to victory in this, the other new competition. Our success was almost entirely due to our younger members, so that we can look forward to the next few years with great hope. Norton, Biggs, Miller and Tanner were our most successful competitors, while Bagley and Croft were unlucky to be beaten in the Finals.

Athletics

After a very creditable effort throughout the House in qualifying, we began the finals holding second place. This position we unfortunately had to yield but we finished a very close third to Newsom's, and can consider ourselves unlucky to have lost the services of our best junior runner, Eales, half-way through the meeting, who has strained a thigh muscle badly. Simpson and Brooke deserve congratulations for winning their events, and it is indicative of the spirit of the House that for the second year running we have won the Tug-o'-War.

Hockey

The Seniors put up a very good fight against Gibb's in the second round, but lost 4—3 after playing extra time. Consistent performances among the Colts, however, partially redeemed our position and we finished third.

The Colts, in fact, show much promise in every province, especially as cricketers ; they have not yet lost a match, with victories over Milton's, Halliwell's and Gibb's to their credit, and it is hoped that they will be capable of making the losses which we will incur at the end of this term seem negligible, and bring back once more the most coveted cup.

D.T.

Valete

This term we lose many of our most distinguished personalities, who have brought honour to us, and who have served their House and School and thereby themselves to their utmost. DONALD THOMPSON, Head of the School, holder of colours in every School team, whose debonair versatility has given us so much confidence ;

DAVID LINES, who has played many roles with great dignity, feeling and poignancy in House and School plays, but whose loyal, dogged awkward self we like best of all; these two go forthwith into the Army and then to Oxford and Cambridge respectively. DAVID TANNER, by virtue of his Open Scholarship, the culmination of his hard working career here, goes to Oxford in October. We shall remember him as "Gaffer" and "Osborne," the characters who held desperate men together by their cool-headed understanding of human frailty. FRANK HODGES, whose clear efficient light has burned steadily behind all manner of bushels. DENNIS BACON, who has always known where he was going, why and how, and who has shown himself aware of the tragic-comic essence of human life, leaves to study engineering at London University. And PAUL POOLEY, Captain of Swimming, goes to meet life unarmed, save for the shield of the spirit. We who remain must close the gaps, while wishing these leaving "good hunting."

Gibb's

Captain : N. Godwin.

Vice-Captain : S. Priestman.

Sub-Prefects : B. D. Cunningham, G. Clayton.

This term has been, as is inevitable, extremely busy. Before, however, we deal with the multifarious activities, a word or two must be said about the House-Play Competition and the Hockey.

N. Godwin produced "In the Zone," a one-act epic of the sea by Eugene O'Neill, with the following cast :—

Davis	...	...	...	...	...	D. Spiers
Swanson	...	...	...	...	J. Charman	
Scotty	...	...	...	...	N. MacDonald	
Ivan	...	...	...	...	M. Cameron	
Smithy	...	...	...	...	S. Priestman	
Jack (Yank)	...	...	...	...	D. Allaway	
Cockey...	...	...	...	...	L. Bunch	
Driscoll	...	...	...	...	B. M. Jones	

Stage Manager : D. Allaway.

The House is to be congratulated on obtaining the third place, and B. M. Jones on an outstanding performance.

Hockey. Captain : M. Cameron.

In the semi-final we beat Cobb's after extra time by 4 goals to 3. We followed up our success by defeating Milton's by 6 goals to 3 in the final. Had it not been for the fact that the Hockey Cup was awarded to the House with the highest aggregate points in the Colt and Senior Competition, we should have once more retrieved it, but, unfortunately, our Colts did not do at all well and thus the cup passed out of reach.

Holgate and Cameron are to be congratulated on their excellent play.

Athletics. Captain : M. Holden.

Our congratulations are due to M. Holden on his appointment to the captaincy of House Athletics. The response of the House in qualifying was very poor indeed as a result of which in the actual competition we were placed last.

The following however, are to be congratulated on their magnificent efforts :—Holgate (1st equal Long Jump); MacDonald (1st Senior High Jump); Holden (3rd Open Mile); Birkett (1st Colt High Jump); Arnold and Pratt, P. (3rd equal Major High Jump).

Cricket. Captain : B. D. Cunningham.

This year the Houses competed in a "knock-out" competition. We were knocked out in the first round by Milton's, losing by 45 runs to 87. We defeated Halliwell's by 53 runs to 41, and are looking forward to opposing Cobb's unofficially.

Holgate, Cunningham and Parkhurst are to be congratulated on being selected to play for the First XI.

Swimming. Captain : S. Priestman.

As with the Athletics, so with Swimming, qualifying points are of utmost importance, and upon them the final result of the competition is largely dependent. At the moment of writing we are third, which is far from satisfactory, and a greater effort must be made by all.

Boxing. Captain : Davies.

The amateur pugilists—novices included—in the House who entered for this "body-banging" competition are to be sincerely congratulated on obtaining second place—we lost by one point—without any severe injury; it was possibly more unpleasant for those watching. Allaway and Hobbs are to be commended on winning the finals of their respective weights.

N.G.

Halliwell's

House Captain : D. M. Cheatle.

Vice-Captain : G. W. Thomas.

Prefects : D. M. Cheatle, J. A. A. Evans, G. W. Thomas.

Sub-Prefects : J. Ashley, N. Gardiner, J. R. Wells.

Halliwell's have lost the *Boxing Cup*. We have, however, gained second place in the Tennis, first place in the Dramatics, and won, after an exciting struggle, the *Athletics Cup*. In spite of the enthusiasm and exhortations of G. W. Thomas, Halliwell's lay only second in the preliminary points, but in the actual Sports the House achieved the cup, mainly by the efforts of the teams in the relay events, all of which we won.

But our successes have not been confined to our merely physical activities. The House play "Marco Millions," by Eugene O'Neill, was produced by John Powell and Antony Evans with the following cast :—

<i>Chorus</i> :	D. H. Bennett, M. Davis, G. Grindrod, A. B. Charles, M. J. Hudson, P. Rose, B. W. Makepeace, M. Phillips
Marco Polo	...
Donata	...
Kublai Khan	...
Princess Kukachin	...
Chu-Yin	...
A Chamberlain	...
An Usher	...
Nicolo Polo	...
Maffeo Polo	...
Ghazan Khan	...
A Messenger	...
Paolo Loredano	...
The Priest of Buddha	...
The Priest of Tao	...
The Priest of Confucius	...
The Priest of Islam	...
Soldiers & Attendants	...

Chorus of Guests : J. F. Allen, D. H. Bennett, J. R. Child, L. H. Conley, M. Davis, M. W. Dick, G. Grindrod, D. E. Laver, A. C. Manifold, J. Rowe, J. Sanders, P. J. Vogardo, C. M. White.

The sustained labours of the stage staff under M. Needham are often unrecognised, but success would have been impossible without the hard work of Charles, Cheney, Conchie, Mills, Menzies, S., Smith, M. J., Taylor, Tillinghast, Tralls, Tribe and Trimmer. In fact, so many members of the House were involved that congratulations must be extended to all its members.

The Tennis team, under its captain, Norman Gardiner, is to be congratulated on coming second in the House Tennis Tournament, it was beaten in the finals by 4 matches to 2 with 3 matches drawn.

The House Cricket Team has met with little success although the match against Gibbs, which we lost by only 10 runs, had a very exciting finish. More success is expected from our Junior members who have been practising avidously in the nets with Peter Fiander, the House Cricket Captain.

As well as the Junior Cricket, another competition is as yet undecided—Swimming. In this, thanks mainly to John Ashley, we have a lead of 59 qualifying points over our nearest rivals, and we will be putting a very strong team in the Sports itself.

We are not unnaturally excited at the possibility of holding Cock House Cup for the fourth consecutive year, and if the Swimming goes as we hope, we shall achieve this ambition. If we do so it will have been largely as a result of many to whom we now have to say goodbye—to our Captain, DENIS CHEATLE, who leaves to study Law at the London School of Economics; to our Vice-Captain, GORDON THOMAS, who goes to the University College of Exeter, both of whom have performed their offices with vigour and wisdom; to our last remaining Prefect, ANTHONY EVANS, whose quiet power has been a tower of strength; to our stout-hearted and never-tiring JOHN ASHLEY, to NORMAN GARDINER, who goes to Keeble College, and to all our other unnamed members who have worked for years for our long run of success. We wish them all God Speed and happy successful lives.

D.M.C.

Milton's

Captain : K. Grant.

Vice-Captain : Aylng.

Although we came last in the House Play Competition at the end of last term, I do not think we disgraced ourselves. Lintott and the parents of the cast must be congratulated on producing such a wonderful set of colourful costumes and properties. But to balance this, we won the Hockey Cup, mainly due to the Colts, who, with Tutt as their captain, won all their matches.

In the Athletics, at the beginning of this term we came fourth. All those who gained places on the Sport's Day and in the finals are to be congratulated on their good performances, especially Pegrum, who gained two firsts and two thirds. Once again we see the necessity of all doing their best to qualify before the actual Sports to give the House a good start. So far in Cricket, under Kohlbeck's leadership, we have done well. The first match which was against Gibb's, we won by two wickets, and the second against Cobb's, which we won by five wickets. The last match is against Newsom's.

The other sport of this term is Swimming. At the moment we lie fourth in the qualifying points, and some way behind Halliwell's, who are first.

This term two new inter-House activities were started, Boxing and Tennis. In both we have not done very well, coming fourth in Boxing and being defeated in the first round of Tennis.

To all those boys who are leaving at the end of this term we wish them the best of luck, and hope they will return to see us soon.

K. G.

Newsom's

House Captain : P. A. Blight.

Vice-Captain : M. J. Welby.

Prefects : P. A. Blight, N. G. Colvin.

Sub-Prefect : M. J. Welby.

As a result of the House Play Competition the House was placed fourth. Despite our lack of seasoned actors, all concerned did well and their efforts, together with those of the producer, Jackson, gave the audience an enjoyable and amusing thirty minutes' entertainment. The adjudicator, Miss Judith Furse, mentioned the good performances of Welby, Walters, Goodger, and Forster.

In Inter-House Hockey, also decided last term, our final position was third.

In Athletics this term we began well by gaining a good lead in qualifying points, with a total of 457—thirty points ahead of the next House. A large number of Seniors and Colts qualified in all events, and the all-round effort of the Juniors was also extremely satisfactory. Particularly commendable were the efforts of many boys in the House who, though not naturally gifted, were determined to do their best. On Sports Day, though we did quite well, we were not able to maintain our lead and finished second.

The outstanding performance was that of Matravers in the Mile, who broke the School record in the excellent time of 4 minutes, 44.4/5th seconds. A first place was also gained by Grove, and Blight tied for first place in the Senior Long Jump. Second places went to Welby (100 yards and High Jump), Golding (Long Jump), Grove (High Jump), P. Phillips (Weight), Fry (440 yards), as well as the Colt and Major Relay Teams. Third places in their events were obtained by Florentine, Crichton and Goodger. The Tug-of-War Team, at a disadvantage from lack of weight, won one pull to Halliwell's two by sheer grit after a three-minute pull.

Grateful thanks are due to Mr. Atkin and Mr. Cholmondeley for their help during Athletics training.

Other House activities this term have been Swimming, under the direction of Colvin, and Boxing, captained by Phillips. In Swimming, though still last in qualifying points, we are slowly pulling up, as a result of a determined response to Mr. Cholmondeley's encouragement. The results of the Boxing Championships reflect credit on the House and on the efforts of Phillips. We finished third, five points behind the leaders, and among many plucky performances that of Colvin was outstanding.

The Senior Cricket Team, led by Pike, are now in the finals, having beaten Halliwell's by 7 wickets. The Colts XI have also gained victories over Halliwell's (57 runs to 49) and Gibb's (52 to 51). The Juniors have begun well by winning their first match, against Gibb's by 55 runs to 41.

P. A. B.

As usual, in this term of the year we have to say goodbye to those members of the House who are leaving. To all we extend our good wishes, in particular to P. A. BLIGHT, our House Captain.

E. L. H.

G. J. A.

A. C.

HOUSE PLAY COMPETITION, 1948.

1st.—Halliwell's. "Marco Millions," by Eugene O'Neill. Produced by J. C. Powell.

2nd.—Cobb's. "Journey's End," by R. C. Sheriff. Produced by D. G. Lines.

- 3rd.—Gibb's. "In the Zone," by Eugene O'Neill. Produced by N. Godwin.
 4th.—Newsom's. "Thirty Minutes in a Street," by Beatrice Mayor. Produced by B. S. Jackson.
 5th.—Milton's. "The Poetasters of Ispahan," by Clifford Bax. Produced by K. Lintott.

Adjudicator : Judith Furse.

"THE PLAY'S THE THING"

Or it should have been. Unity and the team spirit should be a major characteristic of the House Play Competition, and as we have implied, it was present only intermittently. Gibb's "In the Zone" was perhaps the best example of co-operation among the actors, although Halliwell's contrived to integrate production, stage management and acting into a convincing whole.

It is not, of course, the responsibility of House play producers to combine and prepare a nicely balanced programme. Nevertheless, the tendency to produce plays of dramatic—in some cases almost of a melodramatic sort—was remarkable. Perhaps this type of acting appeals to the imagination of producer and player, or perhaps, as seems more likely to us, the comparative ease with which a "play-with-a-story" can be put across to immature audiences provides the attraction. The question then arises, of course, as to whether a House Play producer is concerned with impressing the adjudicator or entertaining the audience.

It may be that he should aim at neither, considering himself as the author's deputy, an interpreter rather than a creator.

Four out of the five producers, wisely realising their limitations, confined themselves to a single set, embodying in it as much detail and flexibility as was possible. The other producer, by the simple process of ignoring apparently insuperable difficulties, contrived six changes of scene with an audacious effectiveness.

Despite keen competition, Halliwell's obtained a well deserved first place with their production of O'Neill's "Marco Millions." It was from the first obvious that this producer approached his problem from an original point of view. The production abounded with imaginative ideas, and to this it owed both its successes and its faults. While the use of masks and exaggerated headresses emphasised the serene splendour of the Chinese court, Marco Polo and the western merchants failed to provide an effective antithesis. The music was more than incidental, it performed a vital function and was obviously intended to play as important a rôle as the dialogue in the final effect. The lighting, imaginative in the last two scenes, although avoiding the usual searchlight display, provided insufficient contrast elsewhere. Intense amber proved rather enervating to the senses, an effect unsuited to the constant change of emotion in this much-cut play. In spite of these few criticisms, perhaps inevitable in any school production, one can only echo Miss Judith Furse's own words, that "the producer displayed a keen sense of the theatre sadly lacking among present-day professionals."

"Journey's End" produced by Cobb's, was a splendid example of an adaptation of a full length play to a successful "one-acter." It was well produced with natural movement and gesture. The set, although spoiled by erratic lighting, was perhaps the only one which attempted realism and achieved it. The acting, when it did not approach the hysterical, admirably interpreted the rather sickly sentiments of the original. The strained atmosphere was consistently maintained and the climaxes nicely judged. The production, although on a different plane, was a formidable rival to Halliwell's, and provided exciting entertainment.

"In the Zone," presented by Gibb's, was placed third, a position justified by thorough competence in acting, direction and stage-management. Although absence of any particular brilliance prevented it from obtaining a higher placing, the production was an exemplar of complete co-operation and understanding between players and producer, a lesson from which all other Houses could profit.

Beatrice Mayor's comedy, "Thirty Minutes in a Street," was given a gay production by Newsom's. We would be inclined to take for granted the fact that the producer managed to assemble at one place, at one time, even if not entirely with one accord, his entire cast to perform its frantic gyrations across the boards, although we would commend the dispatch with which it was hustled on and off. As Miss Furse pointed out, the choice was a rather unfortunate one, since the play does not make a complete, unified narrative, the episodes are too disparate. The dominance of the General Post Office was also, on the whole, regrettable. Nevertheless, the play bubbled over with obvious enthusiasm and zest, and was immensely enjoyed by the Junior School.

The necessity of placing the plays is always unfortunate, since it means one House must be placed last. This year it fell to Milton's, who produced Clifford Bax's minor oriental pastiche, "The Poetasters of Ispahan." The aptness of the choice was again to be questioned. Bax's verse seemed hardly suitable for performance by boys, who allowed it to drag. The production was, however, delightfully designed and lit, although the movement and grouping were rather undistinguished and aimless, the producer did not seem to know whether he was presenting a ballet, a farce or a fantasy.

The individual performances remain. Without doubt John Wells' "Kublai Khan" was the evenings best example of dramatic acting. His characterisation owed as much to its control as to its oratory for its effectiveness. "Chu Yin," the Cathayan sage in the same production as portrayed by Denis Cheatle, was perhaps the most sympathetic performance. A moving characterisation of a wise, intensely human figure. David Tanner, as "Osborne" in "Journey's End," gave a sincere performance. Allaway as "Yank" in "In the Zone" and Jones as "Driscoll" gave vivid, bluff performances in a charmingly blasphemous atmosphere. Welby, of Newsom's, and Bacon of Cobb's provided, each in his own way, much needed humorous relief. Walter's performance in "Thirty Minutes in a Street" was notable for its light touch of coltish embarrassment. Pegrum and Betts, of Milton's, deserve recognition for naturally effective characterisations, bringing a wealth of reality into an otherwise artificial piece.

In these days of increasing mediocrity and artistic decline, it was refreshing and reassuring to witness such a display of taste, originality and enterprise as was presented by the House Play productions this year. Inspiring also was the obvious enthusiasm with which these plays were supported, an encouraging sign which indicates that almost nation-wide apathy, especially among youth, has not penetrated into our midst.

B. S. J. and J. C. P.

THE POETRY SOCIETY

Secretary : J. R. Hopkins.

Members : Mr. W. W. Walsh, J. A. A. Evans, N. Godwin, D. W. Tanner, D. M. Cheatle, D. G. Lines, G. C. Wenham, D. Beardwell, J. Powell, B. Jackson.

When that testing time for School Societies, the beginning of a new year, there are deep sighs for the greatness that has gone and will never come again. And so it was with the Poetry Society, when it gathered, in its meagre strength, around the Library table. This time it seemed

that the Society must certainly disband. But we had counted without the energy of the President and Founder, Mr. Walsh.

Fired with his enthusiasm, new members gathered, poems appeared and the Society once again flourished with its customary intellectual vigour. This has seen yet another abundant harvest of original contributions, and elsewhere there is an attack and defence of the selection of the Society's poetry, published in this magazine.

Now, as the end of the School year "draws on apace," fears for the continued existence return. Mr. Walsh has shown that his energy is in no way diminished by producing at successive meetings a remarkable study of T. S. Eliot, and an original poem. And now the rest is with those who will come into the Sixth Form next year.

Many of this year's Society will have gone when the School reassembles, and those of us who remain cannot pay them greater tribute than to sigh more deeply and more profoundly at their loss.

J. R. H.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

The meetings of the Society this term have again been curtailed by the **imminence of exams.** It was possible to have one meeting early in the term, and we were very grateful to Miss Castle, of the Girls' County School, for giving us a talk. Miss Castle had been on a Geographical expedition to the Auvergne district of Central France last summer, and she gave a very informative account of her explorations. The sparseness of the agriculture within the numerous rift valleys, the lack of good communications, the homely pastoral life of the population, all were brought vividly before us by Miss Castle's talk, and her admirable illustrations.

D. G. L.

THE CHRISTIAN UNION

Leader : D. Langton.

This term has seen the commencement of what I consider the most important Society in the School—The Christian Union. It has been formed with the sole object of joining together all the Christian boys in the School and any others who are in any way connected with, or interested in, religious affairs, so that we can learn more about the Lord Jesus Christ and the way in which we can serve Him in our School and in our daily lives.

We meet once a week on Fridays at 4.15 p.m. in the School Library. At the commencement of the term we met in one of the form rooms, which was not very well suited to our purpose, and we were very pleased to accept the offer of the use of the Library, which is a much larger room and away from the rest of the School.

We have a visiting speaker every week, from as many of the different Churches and Christian Youth Organisations as possible, each talk lasting approximately 20 minutes. The numbers have been fairly high, starting from 20 with the highest number of 34 when we had for our speaker a London City Missionary, who gave us a very interesting and realistic testimony.

As well as meeting on Friday afternoons, some of our number attended a Surrey Inter-School Christian Rally, which was held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, 20th May, at the Sutton Crusader Hall. The rally was organised by the leaders of the Christian Unions of the Schools in Surrey, and was attended by 170 boys and girls from 19 different schools. The speaker was the Rev. J. G. Sheldon, of Morden Parish Church, who gave a challenging talk on "What it means to be a Christian."

The Rally was a great success, and another will be held on Friday, July 23rd, at 7.0 p.m., in the Sutton County Boys' School, to which any

boy or girl over 13 years of age who attends a Sunday School is warmly invited.

As I will be leaving this term, I will have to hand the leadership over to another member of the Christian Union, and I hope the boys at School will give him the encouragement he needs.

In closing I would like to write the motto which I have chosen for our Christian Union—

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only."

D. A. L.

MUSIC NOTES

In musical activities of recent months, prime place must be given to the City Opera Club's visit to the School to present Mozart's "Così Fan Tutte." If occasionally the principals disappointed, it was because we had forgotten that they were not professional vocalists of a very high standard; if the orchestra began a little raggedly, it was because it has been reduced to strings, piano and tympani to meet the acoustic difficulties presented by the lack of an orchestral pit; if the movements of the chorus were a little confined, the fault must be ascribed to our unusual stage. But, to compensate, how much this amateur company had to give: a vitality of performance born of sheer joy in playing each role; a vocal accuracy born of complete familiarity with the score—and this with the precise mathematics of Mozart; a natural histrionic ability which gave us many touches of humour, lost in a larger theatre, and filled an empty plot brimful with fun.

The production was a triumph for the whole company: the School is beholden to them all for this unusual opportunity to enjoy opera "at home." But it is with no show of reluctance to incur further debt that we shall welcome the City Opera Club, this time with "Il Seraglio," on June 24th.

Our own music making has been much encouraged by Mr. Vyse. He has reformed the School Choir into a small but enthusiastic group, and from it came the principal items of the short concert at the Garden Fête. Two lively choruses, a male voice quartet and recitatives from Bach's "Peasant Cantata" showed that the Choir can sing with the gusto bred of confidence in sound leadership, and to Mr. Vyse must go the credit. D. B. Vaughan was happy in his choice of Purcell's "The Myrtle Shade," and J. B. Laurence gave an acceptable offering of piano music of Bach and Beethoven. The Second Forms sang two songs by Charles Wood and Henry Cary, and the programme was concluded in lighter vein by two trios from the Savoy Operas sung by Mr. Loveday, Mr. Vyse and E. Cholmondeley. There was a robust vigour in the music of this short concert which gives earnest of more ambitious programmes in the future.

A. C.

CRAFT NOTES

This term has been a specially busy one in the workshop, quite apart from the usual excitement of the General Schools woodwork examination. That particular group of unfortunates have spent most of the term in making some small article of furniture from their own design, and although this has meant using a great deal of timber, the experiment has been well worth while, and no doubt many of you have seen the finished articles. It was a very creditable show for a group of boys who have had to cram so much work into so limited a time. In the latter part of the term most of the wood-working groups have been engaged in preparing the sets for "Emil and the Detectives," and by the time you read this account you will doubtless have seen such unusual properties as the chocolate machine, telephone box, railway carriage and lamp-post!

The Pottery work this term has made up for the great setback we had at Christmas time when the kiln chimney was declared unsafe, and we were unable to fire any work during the Easter term. A new chimney has been installed, much higher than the previous one, and we have been firing in all kinds of weather, irrespective of the strength of the wind, so that we have finished not only the Summer term's work but also the stock of the previous term's work which had accumulated. The Pottery Club have been very busy during their evening meetings, and apart from their usual activities they have also constructed a concrete clay trough which stands outside the workshop in the open air. This will enable us to recondition old and otherwise practically useless clay and, later, to prepare clay dug from our own gardens ready for use on the wheel.

The Printer's Guild have held their weekly meetings as usual, and planned and carried out a wide range of projects. Programmes and tickets for *Cosi Fan Tutte*, *Il Seraglio* and *Emil and the Detectives*, have aroused favourable comment, and I hope that the new style of Library Review with its emphasis is on a more tidy and pleasing appearance, will also attract more readers. I may add that the previous issue was sold out within half-an-hour of publication. We still await the long promised new printing equipment, and now that you have seen what the printers can do with the primitive tools at their disposal, no doubt you will all be expecting great things from them in the future.

The Puppet Club has had an eventful programme this term. The main work has been the preparation and rehearsal of their new play—*St. George and the Dragon*, which made its first public appearance at the Educational Puppetry Association Festival in London recently. Later it was presented at School for the benefit of the Club members-parents. They are now busy on work in preparation for their Christmas show, which we hope will be a public performance. A long-term project for the production of a Puppet Operetta is being planned, and you will be hearing more about this later.

I cannot conclude without mentioning our visit to the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society's latest exhibition at the Guildhall. It is good to go out sometimes to see just what standard of work is achieved by contemporary craftsmen, and I doubt whether we should have been able to find a greater concentration of beautifully made articles in many kinds of materials anywhere else in London during the year. I hope that many of you will make a point of seeing next year's exhibition.

D. R. S.

VERSE

Good Friday, 1948

Night, day, night.
How long?
The probing dawn came
Displacing fond darkness,
Recalling the unforgettable agony;
Prompting tired eyes to behold again
The suggestive half light
Of the indeible Death hour.
Agonising scourges of white light
Calling again the half-forgotten features
In the dimming corners of the mind.
Slivers of memory
Pieced to startling untruths of dreams.
Silently slashing the soothing canopy of darkness
Woven by maidens Sorrow and Sleep,
Over the Death Scene.

The soul-less rock

Folded its deep arms over his wasted form.
Congealed blood and closed eye,
Stiffened limbs and tight lips.
It wasn't to the tomb.
The sealing,
And the guards,
And Malicious triumph of the Sanbredrus.
Witness of the irretrievable.
It was soon over.
Life had ceased for us too.
We did what we could.

Bitter spices,
We took them,
Soon after daybreak,
Down the bitter paths of Memory ;
Dress and shoes heedlessly wet
In the cold sweat of the the mourning grass,
The mist had been there before us
Softening the death-glaze of
The unwinking boulder.
We groped helplessly on,
Relief of thought and memory.

The turning points of the reeling mind,
Thoughts pacing the heart-beats
And the flickering shadows of emotion.
Linen garments, and the knapkin once about his head.
The dawn swirled in on the mists
As the light of reason
Shattered silently the incomprehensible.
Stinging reality burst ;
And we stumbled breathlessly away.

D.W.T.

A Quiet Winter

I have passed a quiet winter ;
Watching my life in a mirror,
Seeing evil as good ; and comforted
Because personal wrongs seem insignificant,
When the world is sunk
In a spirit of malice and petty hate.
Thus went the winter,
My life-sap dried, and producing no flower.
My life barren, a body of clay
Clogging the pores of goodness—saturating
My conscience with promise of tomorrow's good.
But this was sin I did not see, whilst
I watched my life in a mirror,
Seeing evil as good.

Now comes the spring, and gone
Is the comfort of unrealised transgression ; gone
Is delusion, seeing evil as good ; gone
With the mackintosh and black umbrella ; gone
With the winter-coat, into the darkness
Of the cupboard beneath the stairs.
Here's, now, a world of pastoral poems
Of innocent play, changing in winter
To covetous lust—lambs that leap

Will be salted-mutton, when winter comes—
The cream of cows will be soured milk,
When the long nights of winter come.
And when the world forgets the natural goodness
Of Spring—my own petty wrongs will sink, again,
To insignificance.

J.R.H.

Capital Judgment

Clarity of starlight's crystal, free
Of taint, alloy or alien light,
Passes a judgment, mild and severe,
On the impure, angular city,
Where in the dull street and the dusty park,
In bars, in buses and in the irritable queue
The dejected native snarls at the arrogant stranger,
And the just, the beautiful, the rational
Collect an embarrassed or contemptuous copper,
Or merely stand
Hunched in the unregarded gutter.
The traffic-lights perform their Red Sea miracle.
I tread the sudden, narrow zone of safety
Between the barricades of light and hear
And feel, below the level of hearing,
On the rock sea-bottom of myself, the pointed
Comment of the circling blood,
The verdict of the muscles, unlocked and running
And the profound intuition of the heart
Rejecting the bits, the pieces,
The grimed and tattered bric-a-brac
Spread out on the neglected pavements of the mind

W.W

The Cynical Army

The slim dagger slides off the bone and gratingly rasps
and sears the greasy uncooked fat.
Flowing, the dead blood
Drips, drop by insignificant drop, drips,
And spreads, fertilising the sterile dung.
And they come the cynical army—
The metaphysical charwomen
—We didn't mean no 'arm,
We never do, in a careless murder by the way
—The metaphysical charwomen
With souls for their dusters and all hell for their pails.

D.M.C.

Good Friday : An Annotated Poem

The curdled milk sky with the bloody fingers
Of the unkind stars beyond
Beckon, beckon, beckon
To the enjoyable hell of their beauty.
But the sea does not mind
And clearly reflects, undistorted the dry moon
And the little waves are drowned,
Lulled by the nursing sea to sleep.
Then alone of the trees that spoil the clean shape of the hill.
The crooked stick in calm
But the sea near the hill is burned
And its ash, clean, pure and
Dead
Fit for the sacrifice of God.

14

The sea is both the Christian soul and God himself. Since it sees things 'undistorted' it is not affected by the attractions, which are in truth an impediment to the spiritual life, of worldly beauty or of superstition. The dry moon symbolises the intelligence which is correctly interpreted only through religious experience. The little wavers are of passion and desire which are lost in God. But Christianity not only gives peace from carnal desires but, more important, it purifies and makes new and more exacting demands even to the great sacrifice of the "crooked stick" on Calvary.

D.M.C.

BLAST AND COUNTERBLAST

The Poetry in the Spur . . . A Defence

This is not a defence of the policy of the SPUR, which includes poetry submitted to it by members of the school. As such the poetry has its own right to inclusion, as work representative of activities taking place in the school. This is a defence of the poetry itself. Most of the poetry included comes within the extensive category of modern poetry. This does not necessarily mean that the verse is, first, without metre, second, without any logical progression, and, third, completely incomprehensible to all except the poet, himself. Modern Poetry is vague in form and complicated in detail, because, since the days of the Elizabethan Love Lyric, the world has progressed, not only in the realms of Science, but also in the realm of self-knowledge. Much as we might wish it, the world is not a mere continuation of the cycle "Birth, copulation and death," in strict progression. Modern life is complicated, not alone by physical disabilities, but, also, by mental faults. Poetry is an expression of life, seen through the eyes of the poet. Once the word "eyes" was taken to mean, literally observation of externals. To-day, when every action seems capable of an added psychological interpretation, the poet is far more interested in seeing things, not idyllically as they might be, but as they appear transformed by the attitude of his mind. Modern Poetry is then, largely, a study of character, and character very rarely conforms to the iambic pentameter and an "A.B.A.B." rhyme scheme.

Contributing to this selection we have had Scientist, Classicist, Artist, Economist—all have made their attempt at writing modern poetry, some have failed, but those who have passed the most difficult test of presenting it to their colleagues and masters, and have come through triumphant, are then considered for the SPUR. This poetry that finally reaches the pages of the SPUR is indicative of the character, not of the whole school, but of a section of it that has the talent to express itself.

The critics within the school of modern poetry take their examples from the work of the leading modern poets. They take up a work of art as might a cheap novel, expecting it too, to offer all it contains, upon a first, cursory glance. Modern poetry is as much a challenge to the lethargic world that has been so spoon-fed on cheap films that it refuses to think for itself. Unless what the world terms entertainment makes itself labouredly clear, then its merit is nil and it is incomprehensible, illogical stupidity.

This, then is the comment that the world passes upon the expression of its own make-up.

The poetry in the SPUR, while it cannot lay claim to such lofty ideals, is an expression of the narrow field of experience open to the schoolboy. It is a very limited sphere of life seen through the eyes of an adolescent. And it too finds itself condemned among its fellows.

J.R.H.

15

As dreams are made on, and our little life
Is rounded with a sleep."
As examples of the spoken word these records are superb. Gielgud
is a sincere actor, having the vulgar gravity and ostentation of some of his
colleagues. He has a beautiful restraint, and presents our school with,
at the same time, the facility to hear our language used to the limit of its
capacity and, the facility to hear our language used to the limit of the
exertions machiney presented by the, in any case, as yet, immature
medium of the cinema.

The real masterpiece from the *Lobet's* as well as from the Speaker's point of view is Mr. George Eliot's rendering of the great speech. "Our revellers now are ended," ending Shakespeare's most perfect couplet—

The full range of John Gielgud's voice is not revealed, however, until his interpretation of Richard II. His performance of "What must the King do now?" is more famous than his records because he uses a new microphone technique which is singularly effective. By drawing away from the microphone he scale emphasizes by Gielgud's voice may be fully appreciated, too, that the scale accompanying "A little grave, an obscure grave." It is in this passage following, "A little grave, an obscure grave," that this character points to where the volume (but without distortion) and thus greatly appeals to the audience.

The highpoints of the set are three in number. We are given the most exquisite reading conceivable of two sonnets, "Let me not to the matinage of time mindes," admit it was delivered, "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" The halveses add full exploitation of liguidities in these, beautifullly modulated cadences and the Sopranoes alone.

Any work of art will lose much of its transmitted meaning if it is restricted to an artistic medium foreign to it. That is why it is easy to recognize the superiority of Shakespeare's Hamlet (in records) over Othello's (on the screen). It is the very limitation of the stage (a limitation more easily realized on record than on the screen), the absence of colour and certainity and its proximity to the audience that makes Shakespeare's masterpiece a masterpiece as able merely to indicate its existence.

SHAKESPEARE OFF THE STAGE

I now come to a most pertinent statement. The poetry in the *Sprur*, according to J.R.H., is polished only after some slighting of the most difficult test. But the only test it suffers is being read to that mutual admiration Society the Poetry Society and indeed is only seen by one of the editors whom he has the harassing job of relating in legible terms would make very much difference—not that a number of poems, as J.R.H. says, this poetry is not indicative of the character of the whole school but of a section that has the talent to express itself. It could be called something else.

J.R.H. would have us to believe in it written through an addiction to cheap films and cheap novels. It is probably the view of the average *Sprur* editor that former and it is an important side to the question. As Horace once said, it seems in the *Sprur* as is "parturient montes, nasciturla dictu[m] mus," The mountains are in labor; there is born a ridiculous mouse.

Finally, to quote J.R.H., once more, "The poetry in the *Sprur* is an expression of the narrow field of experience open to the schoolboy." In reply, we may say that the titles of three poems recently published in the *Sprur*, "Sterility," "Nemesis," "Detached," They speak for themselves.

This article does not claim to be original ; it is a reply to J.R.H.'s supplied vindication of the Poetry in the Spur.

No one, I think, would deny Poetry the right of a place in the Spur, but we are entitled to demand something comprehensible to the average reader. J.R.H. maintains that the poetry in the Spur is not necessarily without metre, without any logical progression or connection, but we are entitled to demand something comprehensible to the majority of readers. We are entitled to demand poetry that the Spur is not necessarily rhythmical to the Spur : —

The inevitable approaches,
Ordered from —When?
The irretrievable passes,
Predominant to —now?

Poem in the Spur : —

grossion in this stanza, if it can be so called, from a recent published most emphatically. Whether, for example, is there any logical progression as to what is meant. With the second and third I disagree idea as to what is meant. With the first I disagree to challenge his first statement except the poet. I am not in a position to claim that some have had a different interpretation of the Spur.

Plenty incomprehensible to all except the poet. I am not in a position to claim that some have had a different interpretation of the Spur.

Most probably without metre, without any logical progression or connection, but we are entitled to demand poetry that the Spur is not necessarily rhythmical to the Spur : —

The inevitable approaches,
Ordered from —When?
The irretrievable passes,
Predominant to —now?

Hamlet—The Film

And a film it is; not a slavishly stylised version of the play, but a film overflowing with original cinematic ideas. For Olivier is still, first an actor and second, a film producer-director-star. He has a complete disregard for what is "done or not done" in the established cinema. If his film demands that the camera, repeatedly draw back and rush forward, from and towards two characters, then his camera makes these moves, whether or not any hack film-maker considers the atmosphere of conspiracy thus created too subtle for the ordinary cinemaniac. And although the action of the play had been accelerated, this was not done merely to catch the weekly cinema-goer. Olivier has sacrificed much of that which creates the atmosphere on the stage, but only in order that the stage should not overshadow his "essay on Hamlet" that belongs solely to the cinema. His interpretation of the play should not be condemned by all purists merely because it offers a new conception of the Prince and the play, in general. If the Prince is in any way a projection of Shakespeare himself, then Olivier's accentuation of the man-of-action element in Hamlet would be far more in keeping with the insatiable energy that produced the works of Shakespeare.

The film itself has its minor faults, which should not be allowed to fade into the background merely because the first impression is of complete perfection. There were one or two flash-backs, which were as embarrassing as they were unnecessary—an actress of the ability of Eileen Herlie is quite capable of conveying the pathos of the death of Ophelia, without the painful spectacle of Ophelia floating to her death as accompaniment—and the sight of Olivier emulating Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., in an attempt to take a pirate ship single-handed, added nothing to the film except a vague impression that Olivier could play any of Errol Flynn's roles quite comfortably. Olivier does not seem quite to have mastered his brilliant mixture of thoughts and words in the soliloquy at the opening of his part; And, of course, that which is the bone of contention with nearly all the critics, the voice of the Ghost. The description of it as being a cross between the Wembley Stadium and Waterloo Station loudspeakers is quite justified. But even so, personally, it did not dispel the atmosphere of the mist-laden night, but only made me glad that I had, previously, some knowledge of what the Ghost was saying, for otherwise I should have missed entirely his exchange with Hamlet.

But these are small criticisms when they are taken in their contexts as part of a great film. The scene of the film is set, almost entirely, within the walls of a mighty forbidden castle, that looms out of a sea as stormy and disturbed as the atmosphere within the buttresses. The camera moves with a wonderful ease about the corridors and into rooms, following the protagonists of the tragedy. The sense of being gods watching the adventures of another planet is never so strong as when we wander about the gloomy castle, seeing the plot develop and reach its climax, in the great council, as Laertes and Hamlet "play" for the entertainment of the court; "Play" which results in the death of Hamlet and the resolution of the plot with the death of the King. "Silence" settles on the hall, and for the last few minutes Olivier's imagination is allowed full scope. Hamlet's body is borne from the hall—past the chair, with which he has become associated, on whose arm lies a sprig of rosemary "remembrance" of Ophelia—past his mother's bedroom, where Polonius was killed, past the altar where he spared the King as he prayed, and thus caused four more deaths, finally to the platform where the Ghost first appeared and the tragedy began—all these linked by the dead body of the "noble heart." Then, "the gods" turn their gaze elsewhere, for the tragedy of Hamlet is done.

To make his revolutionary picture of Hamlet, Olivier has used revolutionary methods—most important of which is the deep-focus photography introduced by Orson Welles, developed in that Candid-camera view of returning soldiers in "**Best Years of Our Lives**" and now, further developed by Olivier to the extent of making every shot in his film worthy of collection as an art treasure.

His cast is almost without fault, Ophelia isn't quite convincing in the opening exchanges with Olivier, but performs the mad scenes with such extraordinary sincerity that minor defects are completely forgotten. In an outstanding cast—Eileen Herlie, Basil Sydney, Norman Wooland, Felix Aylmer—all deserve especial mention. As for Olivier, his influence hangs over the film to such an extent that the fact that he also plays the main role is almost obscured. As a screen Hamlet he has no real predecessor, all previous attempts being mere photographed stage-plays. He sets a standard in this film in screen-acting that will never be surpassed by any of this generation.

J. R. H.

A PLEA FOR WORLD GOVERNMENT

"If we all pull together and pool the luck and the comradeship, and firmly grasp the larger hopes of humanity, then it may be that we shall move together into a happier sunlit age, when all the little children who are now growing up in this tormented world, may find themselves not the victors of the vanquished in the fleeting triumphs of one country over another in the bloody turmoil of destructive war, but the heirs of all the measures of the past and the masters of all the science, the abundance and the glories of the future." That is the final sentence of the opening address delivered by Mr. Churchill to the Hague Congress in May. It is a complete expression of what all those who support the idea of "**One World**" hope for. What is even more important, it contains not merely empty words. There are several movements working in their own particular ways towards a single goal at the present time. In addition to "**United Europe**" there is still the "**Federal Union Movement**" and the "**United Nations Association**," both of which are, however, being gradually replaced by a larger younger and more virile movement, the "**Crusade for World Government**"—whose principal aim is a People's World Constituent Assembly to meet at Geneva in 1950 for the purpose of deciding ways and means for the achievement of one undivided world.

The important question is what the *people* are able to do for this new surge forward to a safer world. **The answer is fairly simple.** Like many noble causes the movement for World Government is liable to founder because of the apathy of the majority of the citizens of the world. Men and Women in general are only too willing to blame statesmen for calamities that they themselves, by their indolence, their indifference and their ignorance helped to precipitate. World War II was largely the responsibility of mankind as a whole. Even greater will be their responsibility for World War III. Men and Women must become interested in and actively help one or other of the movements created to work for the crying need of the hour—an international authority—that is the vital preliminary.

One of the erroneous beliefs about World Government is that it will involve the creation of huge, permanent armed forces when in point of fact the existence of a World Government would *ipso facto* mean the existence of conditions where multilateral disarmament is not only possible but also imperative which makes nonsense of Mr. Middleton Murry's belief that "freedom of conscience depends on military conscription," for all the freedoms could exist without let or hindrance in such a world.

The prerequisite of a stable World Government must be complete adherence to the principles of Parliamentary Democracy under which

the people own the Government not the Government the people. World Government and the means by which it is created must spring from the peoples of all nations. There is no room for party or personal jealousy. If there is rivalry it must be only to determine who shall contribute most to the common cause. World Government must not be regarded as involving the loss of national sovereignty, but rather the assumption of a larger sovereignty which can alone protect the diverse customs and characteristics of individual nations threatened with obliteration by any totalitarian system.

As always in the modern world the discussion of responsibility in any great political or social advance involves consideration of that huge, imponderable, potentially fruitful force—World Youth. This is inevitable. With the growth and spread of education young people are bound to think about the world in which they live; they are bound to feel the need for great changes. And as it is they who will make the changes it is obviously valuable that they should appreciate the issues involved from as early an age as possible. Unfortunately, modern youth, while more socially conscious than ever before, is still woefully ignorant on World Affairs and too carefree in its attitude to the problems that resist solution, problems that will constitute its biggest inheritance from the past few years. The continuous round of gaiety—Youth Clubs, Dances, Sport—saps the mental vitality that could be more gainfully employed without necessarily making life less gay.

A change is necessary if the sort of life everyone enjoys is to remain a possibility. The terrifying but exhilarating tasks are to rebuild Europe from its ruins and to establish a stable world order. These cannot be accomplished unless all human beings—young and old—are ready and able to lend a hand. In England, the first thing to do is to abolish military conscription and substitute for it a form of service more positive and more optimistic. It is only in this way "that the sublime can be brought into our daily life with its marvellous transmutations of material things."

J. A. E.

THE COVENT GARDEN OPERA SEASON

It is becoming increasingly obvious that very few people today go to Covent Garden to hear and see but to be heard and seen—unwarranted applause at the end of an aria is inexplicable, however great the performance. All too few people realise apparently the importance of production and decoration in an opera. The music alone will not make it successful. This point was admirably illustrated by the recent performance of "La Traviata." Here was Verdi's exquisite masterpiece magnificently sung and acted by Paolo Silveri and Elisabeth Schwartzkopf but utterly ruined by an atrocious production, ugly and tasteless décor, reminiscent of musical comedy scenery at its most vulgar, and appallingly bad lighting; and yet the audience, for the most part, applauded rapturously. It seems a thousand pities that such a great creation should be spoilt by downright bad staging.

The climax of the season was undoubtedly the appearance of Madame Kirsten Flagstad, today's greatest Wagnerian soprano. The performances of "Tristan und Isolde" and "The Valkyrie," although badly produced, with little or no reverence for the composer's stage directions and a frigid cubistic décor for "The Valkyrie," were memorable moments in a disappointing, but at times exciting, season.

The Covent Garden Opera Company has been in existence two years and yet within that time, no fewer than twelve operas have been presented: "Carmen," "Turandot," "Manon," "The Magic Flute," "Trovatore," "The Mastersingers," "Peter Grimes," "Rosenkavalier," "Tristan und Isolde," "The Valkyrie," "La

Traviata" and "Boris Godunov." Eight of the productions had entirely new décor and costumes. Unfortunately Massenet's "Manon" was unsuccessful, in spite of the fine performance of Virginia Macwatters, and was withdrawn from the repertoire.

"Carmen" with Edith Coates and "La Traviata," in spite of a mediocre and a bad production, seem to have been the most popular works. "Peter Grimes," Benjamin Britten's first opera, was given an admirable production by Tyrone Guthrie with new sets by Tanya Moiseiwitsch. A revised version of Malcolm Barker-Smith's pedestrian production of Mozart's scintillating "The Magic Flute" was also given. The most spectacular production, both in singing and staging, was Michael Bentham's imaginative conception of Puccini's last and greatest work "Turandot"—"Covent Garden's mammoth musical." It was superbly sung, acted and played under the direction of Constant Lambert, with a cruel, glowing décor by the surrealist painter, Leslie Hurry. The huge cast was headed by Eva Turner who brought with her a breath of the real Covent Garden Opera into the present rather artificial one.

The last production of the season was Mussorgsky's "Boris Godunov." This, too, was nearly spoilt by the over-imaginative staging of Peter Brook, one of our most talented producers. He took too many liberties with the score, disregarding completely the composer's simple stage directions for the spectacular "Coronation Scene" and bringing an entirely false meaning into it. The title rôle was sung both by the Polish Marian Nowakowski and the Italian Paolo Silveri. Nowakowski's performance was most certainly the finer, for he is more suited in temperament as well as voice, to the arduous task. Paolo Silveri's "Boris" brought out what lyrical qualities there are in the niggard score, and his death was, theatrically, more effective. Marian Nowakowski's characterisation was far bolder, truer to the original conception and a terrifying study in remorse. The "Clock Scene" proved to be an unforgettable macabre experience. The remaining three operas ranged from the excellent to the adequate. Richard Strauss's "Der Rosenkavalier" was beautifully sung and played. Doris Dorée, Victoria Sladen, Virginia Macwatters and David Franklin were outstanding. "The Mastersingers" was notable for a fine performance by Hans Hotter as Hans Sachs. Later in the season he made an even more impressive Wotan. The scenery and costumes were original Covent Garden stock and the work was produced by Julius Gellner. "Il Trovatore" also ran. It was adequately sung, played and produced, but little else.

The season closed on June 5th with "Boris Godunov," memorable for an unusually sensitive, lyrical rendering of Xenia by Adele Leigh. The next season opens in September with an entirely new production of Verdi's "Aida." Let us hope that there is still an audience for good opera in this country when they return.

J. C. P.

LECTURES

Public Education

G. A. N. LOWNDES, Esq.

At the close of the Easter Term the Upper School attended a lecture by Mr. Lowndes, which he entitled, "Has Public Education been worth while?"

To show how the system we call "public education" has been evolved, Mr. Lowndes had, quite naturally, to look back into the past. The King Edward VI Grammar Schools helped in some small way to produce the Elizabethan literary era, and facilities for education were very high. From the Elizabethan education, which was far from perfect, Mr. Lowndes took us straight to the period of the Industrial

Revolution. In this period the population increased enormously; the schools did not. There were three sections among the people at this time. The educated few, who saw the need for universal enlightenment in the country. This was the smallest section and a mere fringe of the population. The great mass of the people, who were quite inert, not knowing that they might benefit themselves from education. And those who resented the idea of teaching the people to use their own minds. This last section was made up of factory and mine owners who took labour from people who had no chance of climbing out of the rut of poverty.

Needless to say, the conditions for children were appalling, and writers such as Dickens rebelled against these atrocities. Dostoevsky, in 1863, pictured the horrors in London in a true light in his letters, written whilst staying in this country. But between 1870 and 1895 the ideal of compulsory education throughout the country was realised. The "silent social revolution" had begun. In 1876 the London School Board was constituted and began building cheap schools. Compulsory attendance was unpopular, as it was the custom to send the children out at an early age to supplement the family budget. But the ugly eyesores were going up—up to three storeys, the "uncontrollables" were put inside, and annual exams. were instituted. There were 120 children in some of the classes. In 1895 schools were formed for the crippled and the blind. School doctors found it impossible, at first, to make parents take their children to the clinics where they would be treated free. Because of the defects in nutrition, among the children, daily milk was begun, and now 95 per cent. of the school children receive mid-morning milk.

The struggle was at first a social one, but when all children went to school the assimilation of some knowledge became of first importance.

He compared England with Portugal, where it is impossible to work a rationing scheme since few of the people would understand it. Mr. Lowndes ended by giving some figures of progress. "Public education has been attacked in all its stages," he said, "but by teaching the sound principles of thrift, good living and adaptability without superficiality, a new lease of life has been given to the country." Growth in letter writing, growth in newspaper reading, growth in thinking about local and world affairs, and the need to gain a greater satisfaction from life gives the answer to the title question. 240 million books were borrowed from the public libraries when a census was taken in 1938. But despite the widespread stirring of minds, there is no need for complacency. The millennium is still a long way off. In answer to the last of many questions, Mr. Lowndes said that the crowning aim of Public Education to-day was to equip the younger generation with powers to face any possibilities in the coming world.

G. C. W.

Education in France

E. L. HANSON, Esq.

Mr. Hanson's visit to France was arranged under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and its French equivalent. It was, therefore, inevitable that he should see France under something other than normal conditions, and the plentiful supplies of eggs and meat, fruit and cheese are thus explained. Mr. Hanson, like Mr. Basil Wright some months ago, emphasised that the improved conditions, the gaiety, the well-filled food shops are purely superficial. The so-called middleclass man is having a very difficult time.

This general background of life, in particular, contemporary Paris was a valuable and necessary preliminary to Mr. Hanson's subsequent remarks on education in the French capital. The Primary and Secondary branches are much the same as in England before the 1944

Act and, in some respect, before the 1928 Hadow Report [Primary education from five to eleven, then secondary education on passing an examination, otherwise primary to fourteen.] The standard in French *lycées* varies as between the provinces and Paris—largely because teachers are paid better in Paris.

A secondary school teacher's training is longer and of a higher standard than in England; their promotion is automatic, culminating in a post at a Paris *lycée* where conditions are very attractive. For example, a specialist teacher lectures twelve hours a week only; the equipment is excellent and teachers have none of the administrative work of their English opposites. The average number of pupils at a Paris *lycée* is 3,000 with a Staff of 130.

Mr. Hanson indicated that the actual instruction is done at such a speed as to make a visitor doubt its effectiveness. Schools have no corporate life, indeed, such activities as are encouraged "out of school hours" in this country would be excluded in France because of the almost full-time absence of most of the Staff. The lack of opportunity for self-expression is rendered virtually inevitable by this system. Yet, in fairness, it must be added that Mr. Hanson noticed the curious paradox that French boys are able to talk intelligently and display a greater maturity than most English boys of comparable ages.

Thus, while a certain inflexibility constitutes a major defect in the French system, nevertheless its breadth and scope renders it in many ways superior to its English counterpart.

In answer to a question, Mr. Hanson said he felt the need for punishment (if there ever is a need for something which is fundamentally anachronistic) is negligible, because misbehaviour just is not allowed. Besides, the speed of the lessons provides a somewhat baffling competition to potential recalcitrant schoolboys.

The informal manner in which this wealth of information and detail was given, the liberal sprinkling of anecdotes and personal experiences, made Mr. Hanson's one of the most enjoyable lectures of recent months.

J. A. E.

CRICKET

First Eleven

A narrow defeat by one wicket in the opening match at St. George's, and a draw very much in our favour against Kingston Grammar School, gave rise to an optimistic view of the First XI's prospects for the rest of the season. Unfortunately, inconsistent batting, particularly against pace bowling, has let the side down against Wallington and Whitgift Middle School, so that we have won two, lost three, and drawn one, of the six games played.

The Team has shown abundant enterprise, especially in the match against Wandsworth, but there has not been the sound foundation of solid defence, except in the case of Pike, who has batted consistently well. Holgate is obviously a fervent disciple of Wilfred Pickles, as he is much too keen to "have a go," for the rôle of opening batsman. Thompson played a good forceful innings against Epsom College, but his weakness for turning straight balls to leg has made him a frequent victim of the l.b.w. rule. Fry and Kohlbeck have made useful scores at times, but again defensive weakness has been their undoing. Constant practice in forward play is very necessary if fast bowling is to be faced with any success. At present the weakness of playing back to balls pitched well up to the batsman seems to be prevalent throughout the School.

The bowling, shared by Farmer, Kohlbeck and Phillips, for the most part has been steady and accurate, but greater use might have been made of Fry, who had a successful season last year. Farmer must

Our findings generally has been variable. Against White it was very keen, hacking up was good, but throwing in was too inaccurate to give the keeper a chance in close run-outs.

That opened the bowlering with fire and hostility. The three valuable early wickets that fell to him were the reward of good length and direction against batsmen who clearly had some ideas of correct stroke play. In addition, he made two very fine catches close in which showed, the difference between the batsman who takes, and the bowler who makes chances. In each case the result may well have been decided by those catches.

The best win, at the time of writing, has been the defeat of White-girt Middle 2nd XI, which triumphed with the strength and weakness of our Team. In batting Whiggit was much superior to us in stroke play, but by aggression—*it* often unorthodox—attack our batsmen exploded the short boundaries and easily passed the hundred. Never-exploded the basic defensive strokes and learn to pick out the balls that need defensive treatment. Rummaging between the wickets has often been bad, and calling hesitating and faulty. The batsman must know when it is his call, call promptly and decisively, and run on the wicket individual abilities or team qualities. In the few fixtures fulfilled we have been reasonably successful.

Seriousness Bad weather and the lack of a home ground on Saturday has have precluded the Team playing sufficient matches to develop to the full

v. <i>Whistler Middle</i>	(H) 45-69 lot 8	(A) 84-17 (Kohlbeck 5 for 9; Phillips 4 for 5)	v. <i>Epsom C.G.S.</i>
v. <i>Lost</i>			v. <i>Won</i>

v. Wilson College 2nd XI (A) 167 (H) 167 (Thompson Tl)—61
v. Williamson C.G.S. (A) 31—84 (H) 31—84 (Wan
Lost

v. Kimgeston G.S. (H) 125-70 for 8 (Farmer 3 for 11)
Lost
v. Wandswork G.S. (A) 138-16 (Wolhbeek 5 for 11)
Drawn
v. Wandswork G.S. (A) 138-16 (Wolhbeek 5 for 11)
Drawn

1st XI. Results V. St. George's College (a) 79-83 for 9 (Kohlbbeck 6 for 18)

There is an abundance of keenness, and team spirit in a side which has emerged as a greater desire to learn than some of its predecessors. Newcomers like Bacon, Horne and Parkhurst have done well in their first season, and, given more determination now in training, we should end the year with a good record.

otherwise must have been a rich harvest in overthrows for the opposition.

In the first period, the picking up and scattering have shown a steady improvement in last year's standard, but there is still much to be done in this respect. The returns to the workers have been good, but the scheme has not been able to meet all the demands.

RESULTS

IX and

although Lewis bowled steadily at one end, Good, Pratt and Tillinghast at the other failed to strike a length, and the total mounted rapidly. After an expensive first over, Cook bowled some well-pitched leg-breaks which baffled the batsmen, and Rose too kept the runs down. St. George's finally won in the last over with six wickets in hand, their captain having carried his bat for a delightful 71.

In the House matches, Newsom's started favourites with a very strong side, Halliwell's appearing the most likely team to stand in their way. At the time of writing Newsom's have won both matches played, though hardly with the ease expected, and Halliwell's and Cobb's have both won their only match played. In each case the bowling has been better than batting, and chancy hits have accounted for most of the runs scored.

TENNIS CLUB

In every respect this, the second season of the Tennis Club's existence has been extremely successful. The standard of play is generally high; there are in the Club a good sixteen players who know both what to do with the ball and are capable of doing it. Moreover, there is much promising play among the younger members. Davis, Withers and Mason in particular should, with more experience and confidence, develop into good players. At the moment they are rather lacking in accuracy, particularly in serving. Accuracy, rather than an ability to hit the ball hard, is one of the first essentials of Tennis; it is the accurate player who wins.

We have this season so far played three matches, all of which were won by substantial margins. The first—an informal one against the Common Room—was closer than the score (6—1) suggests; several sets mounted to almost marathon scores. The second match against Beckenham was won with little difficulty. We had a marked all-round superiority—all the more creditable because it was the first time four of the team had played on grass. In the third we had another easy victory over Tiffins.

In this match Thompson and Winter played good aggressive tennis for a 6—1, 6—1 victory over Tiffins first pair who were by no means a weak combination. Indeed, there is no serious weakness in the team. Winter and Gardiner, if a little erratic, are both fine attacking players with a powerful first service. Their one fault—and this has not been much in evidence this season—is an inability to realise that there are times when it is absolutely essential to play carefully. It is usually useless to try to hit a outright winner on a hard-won set point. Fry is a natural ball player, and is particularly good at the net. He must, however, curb a tendency to run in to the middle of the net, and his service does not reach the standard of the rest of his play. Herbert is also a steady player with a long reach at the net. Thompson and White, playing with Winter and Fry as 1st and 2nd pair respectively, have played their usual accurate tennis. Thompson as a volleyer now uses the wood much less frequently, while White still continues to get the ball into court with a service that is as unorthodox as it is sometimes effective.

The result of the matches were:—v. **Common Room** Won 6—1
v. Beckenham Won 9—0
v. Tiffins Won 3—0

The VI was comprised of:—D. Thompson and W. G. Winter; D. P. White (Capt.) and P. G. Fry; N. S. Gardiner and R. Herbert.

D. M. Cheatle and Horne played as third pair in the first match.

During this term Mr. Cobb very generously presented a Cup for an Inter-House Tennis Competition. Appropriately enough, the first winners were Cobb's, who beat Halliwell's 4—2 in the final.

The entry for the tournament this year was a record one, and there should be some good matches in the later stages.

The future of the Tennis Club is, I think, ensured. We ought—and indeed can—maintain the reputation which we have established this season. Finally the Tennis Club once again owes a very deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Cobb and Mr. Robinson for their assistance and encouragement.

D. P. W.

ATHLETICS

The School Sports, Thursday, 27th May

Enthusiasm for qualifying was as keen as ever this year, and the points gained by Houses in this way were:—

Newsom's, 457; Cobb's, 427; Halliwell's, 418; Milton's, 406; and Gibb's, 382.

Sports Day itself developed into a hot competition between Newsom's and Halliwell's, the former fighting desperately to maintain their lead and the latter working equally hard to make up their deficit. It was not until the Relay Races began that Halliwell's got in front, but by the end their victory was completely decisive, the final points being:—

Halliwell's, 564; Newsom's, 526½; Cobb's, 508;
Miltons, 466; Gibb's, 423½.

		First.	Second.	Third.	
Putting the Weight	Senior Colt Major	Pegrum (M) Simpson (C) Tillinghast (H)	Phillips (N) Marles (H) McTeare (H)	Gibbard (H) Law (M) Eales (C)	36' 7½" 36' 8½" 24' 7"
Long Jump	Senior Colt Major Minor	Blight (N) and H Simpson (C) Grove (N) Phillips (H)	Holgate (G) — Tie Trails (H) McTeare (H) Golding (N)	Marles (H) Goodyer (N) Welland (M)	18' 10"† 18' 7½" 13' 3½" 12' 9"
High Jump	Senior Colt Major Minor	MacDonald (G) Birkett (G) McTeare (H) Burrage	Welby (N) Blackwell (C) Grove (N) Beaumont	Pegrum (M) Powell (N) Arnold & Pratt (G) Tullett	4' 11½" 4' 8" 4' 0" 3' 6"
100 yds.	Senior Colt Major Minor	Pegrum (M) Marles (H) Eales (C) Phillips (H)	Welby (N) Trails (H) Brookes (C) Welland (M)	Florentine (N) Law (M) Phillips (H) Croft (C)	11 sec.† 11½ sec. 12½ sec. 13¾ sec.
Mile	Senior Colt Major Minor	Matravers (N) Charles (H) Brookes (C) Phillips (H)	Ayling (M) Bullinaria (C) Fry (N) Young (H)	Holden (G) Crichton (N) Jeapes (G) Yardly (M)	4 m. 44 sec.* 2 m. 20½ sec.* 1 m. 6¾ sec. 1 m. 12½ sec.
880 yds. 440 yds. 440 yds.	Senior Colt Major Minor	Halliwell's	Gibb's Newsom's Halliwell's Halliwell's	Milton's Cobb's Milton's Gibb's	4 m. 2 sec. 1 m. 51 sec. 59½ sec. 63¾ sec.
Tug-O'War		Cobb's	Milton's	Halliwell's	* Record. † Equal to Record.

Wimbledon District School Sports, Friday, 4th June

After a very close struggle with Wimbledon Technical School, we shared the Senior trophy and retained the Junior trophy by a comfortable margin. In track events Simpson (100), Marles (220), Knowles (440) and Wells (880) of the Seniors, and Wolkenberg (220) and Tralls (440) of the Juniors were winners, but our only field event winner was MacDonald in the Senior High Jump, while our failure to compete in the Hurdles is a weakness which must be remedied. The above boys, together with Law (220 Junior) and Powell-Evans (440 Junior) have been selected to represent Wimbledon District at the Surrey School Sports on 26th June.

The Surrey Grammar Schools' Athletic Meeting

The standard of the competition at Imber Court on Monday, 14th June, was higher than ever; seven records being broken and one equalled. It is not surprising, therefore, that our hopes were not fulfilled, the School finishing eight out of seventeen in the Senior Competition and seventh in the Junior. We congratulate the Colt Relay Team, consisting of D. A. W. Marles, A. G. G. Law, T. G. Wolkenberg and A. G. Simpson, on gaining a very good second place, and A. G. Simpson again for being second in the Colt Long Jump. Other individual placings were:—

B. E. Matravers 4th in the Open Mile, N. J. Macdonald 4th in the Open High Jump, M. D. Holgate 6th in the Open Long Jump, M. J. Birkett 6th in the Colt High Jump and G. H. Tralls 6th in the Colt Quarter-Mile.

THE 19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

A record of a new kind has been made in the troop—eight Scouts, quite apart from the Patrol Leaders who already have passed the First Class Badge, have attempted the First Class Test Journey within the last two months. The successful candidates so far are P. L. Harding, and Scouts Dick, Langton, Napier, Salter and Wise. As most of these have almost completed the other sections of the test, the term will end with the highest number of First Class Scouts the 19th has had at any one time. Senior Scouts MacDonald and Simpson have successfully passed the new Venturer Badge for the over 15's. Proficiency Badges have been gained as follows:—

Athletes ... Langton, Harding.

First Aid... Casselton, Napier, Christmas, Langton.

Designer ... Langton.

Swimmers ... Langton and Grindrod and MacDonald (over 15 tests).

Campers ... Harding, Napier, Hopkins, Casselton.

Philatelists Hood-Phillips, Wise.

A. Hopkins becomes the Patrol Leader of the newly formed Eagle Patrol, with Dick as his second. The Seagulls, who hold the Silver Medal for the term's competition, will have a hard fight to retain it from the very active Kingfishers.

Messrs. Atkin, Cholmondeley and Newman helped on organising the field day, with Seniors Macdonald and Simpson as very mobile umpires. It was a new and exacting form of cycle and cross-country trail, covering some 25 miles and 50 questions. The Seagulls and Woodpeckers finished the course more or less evenly, but the Curlews and Kingfishers lost themselves en route, failed to find the umpire at the beginning of the second stage and eventually turned the day into an independent picnic.

In the Local Association Inter-Group Sports, the under 15's came third with some good work by Hopkins (440), Beard (100), Wise (880), Christmas (High Jump), Hopkins (Long Jump), Langton (220). The Seniors came first in spite of a last minute decision on the part of the Committee to disqualify Ashley and Thomas as over age. They are, of course, quite properly Senior scouts according to P.O.R. Successes included Simpson (220, 100, Long Jump), Law (220, 440), Grindrod (Mile, Cricket Ball), MacDonald (High Jump, Long Jump, 440, Cricket Ball). The 19th will contribute strong teams when local scouts compete in the Wimbledon and Merton Youth Athletic Contest.

On May 1st and 2nd, we were pleased to entertain the two-day Conference of Surrey Scouters and in particular, to welcome the Deputy Chief Scout, Sir Percy Everett, to the School. It was a happy reminder

of the International Week-end Rally of 1944, when scouting personalities of many countries came to Raynes Park. In August, Tiger is acting as representative of the Scout International Bureau at the World International Youth Conference.

Soon after his return from America, Jerks called together the Senior scouts, and has since helped in his able way with the evening meeting of the Troop. To have him in camp with us, if only for a few days, will be grand. The summer camp will take place on the Devon Coast, a few miles west of Lyme Regis, from the end of term to 10th August. Last year's method of depending on the patrol system will be intensified, and the general organisation and control will largely be in the hands of Senior scouts.

Seniors Thomas and MacDonald have been selected to join an Alpine Climbing Expedition in August, with expenses met from Group Funds.

The Scout Fête and Garden Party

It may have been Derby Day, there may have been a Forty Years of Scouting Demonstration on Wimbledon Common, there may have been a Sanger's Circus in the neighbouring village. But Charles Wrinch was at Raynes Park, and even the weather became fine for 12 hours. Mr. Wrinch was given an undoubted welcome at the opening ceremony, and it was a clear tribute to him that a large crowd attended, and not for one moment during his stay was he able to break from happy recollections with boys and parents. In his opening speech he recalled the part that the 19th Scout Group had played in the life of a growing school, and particularly during the war years. He emphasised the importance of co-operation in all spheres of activity, and added that since his departure he could see so very clearly that Raynes Park was lucky in its parents and wise in its use of them. Scouting here had set the example in this direction. He apologised for holding our attention at the very moment when the Derby was being run and in so doing, dare we add, revealed an unsuspected knowledge of racing and its terminology. The Chairman of the Governors voiced the thoughts of all in expressing pleasure at Mr. Wrinch's presence, and our thanks for his service in supporting the Garden Party in so happy a way.

The programme contained some variations, and new items in the Fun Fair, a dancing display by pupils of Miss Strickland and a demonstration of scouting activity by the Troop. Miss Whitman and her team of hard working mothers provided an excellent tea service. Patrols of scout parents converted the gymnasium into a bazaar of stalls selling almost everything, from balloons to bicycles, from perambulators to coffin handles. Mr. Collins was again the Director of Ceremonies, and a hard working universal provider. Mr. Elliott and his assistants became quietly efficient bankers, and took great care of the proceeds when visitors failed to have further control. In the evening there was a delightful concert of choral and solo pieces by the School Choir and assisted by Messrs. Cholmondeley, Loveday and Vyse. The evening closed with a more intimate beetle drive arranged by Mrs. Collins. At the prize distribution Miss Penny performed, and assisted by Mr. Loveday gave away a bicycle, an electric iron, several parcels of groceries and boxes of eggs, an electric alarm clock and tea maker, and the usual fete cake presented by Mrs. Burton. As last year, the event was a joint event in order to supplement the General School Fund as well as Scout Funds. Undoubtedly, the main burden and enthusiasm was that of the Group, and it remains essentially the scout fete of earlier years.

A REUNION DINNER

For us who have known Raynes Park only throughout the years of the War, as well as for those who have been with the School since its inception and infancy, April 16th, 1948, was an occasion of great significance. It was called "A Reunion Dinner of the Old Boys' Society": but it was more than this. It was a sign and a testament that the work started in September, 1935, by Mr. Garrett and six assistant masters has come to fruition.

The Dinner was more than a social gathering of Old Boys. It was a rite in honour of a School which we felt had grown to early maturity, without long tradition, but with genuine character and purpose, formed by the personalities and industry of those who began the work of teaching and learning, and of those who carried it on.

Among those present was Mr. Garrett, the founding headmaster; Mr. Wrinch, his successor; Mr. Porter, the present headmaster; Councillor Billingham, the Chairman of the Governors; Mr. Basil Wright and Mr. Hood-Phillips, both most respected friends of the School. Also Mr. Halliwell, Mr. Cobb and Mr. Newsom, who were founding house-masters; and Mr. Oates who was a member of the original staff.

When the time came for talking, Mr. Garrett rose to propose the toast to The School, and Mr. Porter, the headmaster, replied. The health of The Guests was proposed by Charles Honeker, and Mr. Wrinch replied on their behalf. "Absent Friends" was proposed by Kenneth Mason, and the toast to the Society by Mr. Newsom. Bernard Meade replied for the Society.

Throughout the evening the quality of feeling and eloquence in all the speeches was such as to make the listener feel that here must be a School of remarkable worth, and most egregious spirit, capable of evoking these tributes to its positive value and vital character, the experience of which was attested by all who spoke.

The speeches, however, did not end where the printed programme demanded. One by one, Mr. Halliwell, Mr. Oates and Mr. Cobb were compelled to their feet; the general atmosphere demanded that the cycle of reminiscence and tribute to old friends should never cease, but already the servitors were nodding around the walls, and when the company finally rose from the table after 11 o'clock, no-one but felt that the time had been only too short in which we were allowed share the memories of so much.

CAMBRIDGE LETTER

Cambridge,
June, 1948.

THE EDITOR,

Dear Sir,

I hope you will accept my sincere apologies for not sending you a letter from Cambridge in time for last term's *Spur*. But I read with some self-satisfaction that our darker hued brethren also suffered from the "I'll do it to-morrow," and only just managed to scrape in at the end.

I suppose it would be seemingly fit to give you, Sir, a short summary of what has happened in Cambridge during the last year.

Our members were exceedingly low, and as a consequence we very seldom met. It is with sympathy for Clifford Salter that I tell you that he has been the only one whose position in town was static. In bed in hospital with a mauld and broken thigh, he has endured the pain and discomfort heroically. We welcome him back for the Michaelmas term and wish him luck in his career of Medicine.

Ronnie Forward, when last I saw him, was busy working at Selwyn—a most comfortable college, having Newnham at its back door. Ronnie, it appears, can only be seen for very short periods, as he always has to be dashing off to one thing or another.

Gordon Stark and Courtenay Liddle are sharing Christ's College, the former reading Medicine and the latter Maths. Both, I believe, are working hard.

But do not let me convince you that life in Cambridge is all toil and sweat. The host of University and College Societies still flourish, and daily the news is spread of somebody trying to form a fresh society. The Union has its usual weekly debate with the usual result—the blues are triumphant.

The Granta, more god-like than the Egyptian Isis, has not encouraged over-zealous suitors to cool themselves in her silvery arms. However, her serenity and poise attracted hundreds to listen to the Madrigals on the Backs behind King's. Further down the river the strong and virile among us, in groups of eight, temper their energies in the May Bumps.

And during this last term, Sir, we have celebrated the Quincentenary of both Queen's and Christ's Colleges, visits being paid to the town and respective colleges by H.M. Queen Elizabeth and Field Marshal Smuts. Ritual and ceremony were also displayed at the inauguration of F./M. Smuts as Chancellor of the University and the awarding of honorary degrees to Mr. Winston Churchill and Sir Stafford Cripps.

I leave behind those enjoying the climax of the undergraduates' academic year—the May Ball with breakfast in Grantchester—to join you in the homeliness of Raynes Park.

Yours sincerely,
TEMSIK.

P.S.—The Mays and Tripos examinations should not be ignored for they did take place last term as most of us only too well did realise.—T.

CONTENTS

Your Money ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Vale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
House Notes:										
Cobb's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gibb's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Halliwell's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Milton's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Newsom's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
House Play Competition, 1948										8
Societies:										
Poetry Society	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Geography Society	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Christian Union	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Music Notes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Craft Notes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Verse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Blast and Counterblast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Shakespeare off the Stage--Records	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
—Film	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Plea for World Government	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Covent Garden Opera Season	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Lectures—										
G. A. N. Lowndes, Esq.	Public Education	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
E. L. Hanson, Esq.	Education in France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Games—										
Cricket	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Tennis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Athletics	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
19th Wimbledon Scout Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Old Boys—										
Reunion Dinner	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Cambridge Letter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30