

THE

SPUR

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No. 6



THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. VIII, No. 6.

Spring, 1949.

SCHOOL OFFICERS, SPRING TERM, 1949

Head of School : D. P. White.
S. Priestman, since March 16th.

Prefects : D. P. White (Captain of Cobb's), S. Priestman (Captain of Gibb's), N. G. Colvin, J. R. Hopkins, G. D. Pegrum (Captain of Milton's), M. J. Welby (Captain of Newson's), J. R. Wells (Captain of Halliwell's), B. M. Jones, M. D. Holgate.

Sub-Prefects : A. F. Conchie, P. Fiander, I. B. S. Law, P. Phillips, A. G. Simpson, A. S. Warren, J. Wilkinson, F. Bagley, N. Macdonald, D. M. Marles, J. B. Florentine, R. C. Simpson.

Prefect of Hall : S. Priestman.

Captain of Hockey : C. D. Pegrum.

Secretary of Hockey : M. D. Holgate.

Secretary of Games Committee : S. Priestman.

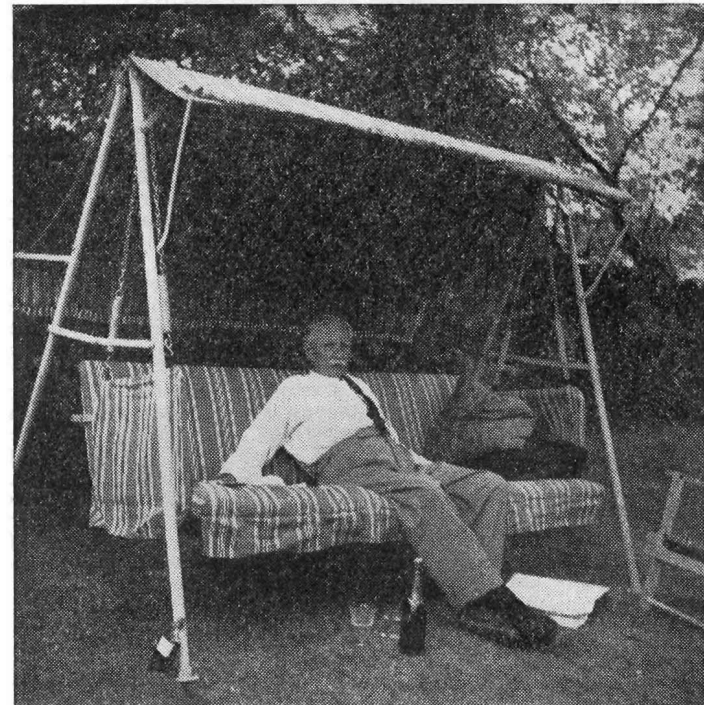
Librarian : A. S. Warren.

" THE SPUR " COMMITTEE

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

Committee : M. J. Welby, J. R. Wells, B. M. Jones, J. C. Powell.

DOCTOR J. E. C. BRADLEY



Member of the Governing Body as an original member, April 1935, until December 1947 ; Chairman 1936-40.

*" The world grows Lilliput, the great men go ; . . .
Men pert of brain, planned on a mean design,
Dapper and undistinguished—such we grow."*

Richard Le Gallienne's sonnet was written on Gladstone's retirement. It has its application to municipal politics as they have become, and I was forcibly reminded of the lines when I learned of the death of my old friend Dr. Bradley. He was incomparably the biggest personality I encountered locally in my seven years at Raynes Park. Like Raleigh in "1066 and all that", he seemed to have been left over from a previous reign. Remembering old days, before the golf course behind his house in Grand Drive became a warren of prim little houses, he never seemed at ease in the world between the wars. He was a buccaneering individualist, unorthodox in his methods, impatient, irascible, and impulsive, and withal infinitely lovable. Accustomed to keep open house with lavish hospitality, he found it difficult to understand a larder limited by rations. His house and himself were gracious survivals from more spacious days.

I remember a Socialist councillor once telling me of the blistering language in which the Doctor had attacked his politics. But his victim added that, although he would go to the stake sooner than admit it, Doctor Bradley was a Socialist in practical kindness. He told me of the bills that were never sent in to poor patients, and of the brandy which was left at necessitous houses for which no payment was ever asked. "There's no one in all this district who has done as many good turns as the Doctor." His kindness and generosity to me and to many members of my staff in those years was prodigious. One master contemplated recurrent illness because of the bottle of champagne which rewarded his indisposition.

Perhaps he never believed in popular and universal education. One is glad that he is spared the latest follies masquerading as advance in education. His roots were in Winchester, where he had learned to appreciate pure scholarship, and to look for it in schools of new foundation. But Raynes Park excited his interest, and no headmaster ever had more enthusiastic support from a Chairman than I enjoyed in those happy days when he brought unique distinction to that office. There were in truth moments of excruciating embarrassment. One such occurred when, in introducing Lord David Cecil at a Prize Giving, he said: "This school is to be congratulated on having masters who have been educated in the best public houses in the Kingdom." A horrified pause was immediately succeeded by a great laugh. But when my Chairman turned to me and said: "Damn it, what are they laughing at?", I had not the heart to tell him that an association of ideas, perhaps pardonable in those days, had betrayed him into speaking of public houses when he meant public schools. Then there was the awful occasion when a young schoolmaster was being interviewed for a post, and the Chairman asked him whether he thought he was old enough to teach other boys. And the time when a potential Geography master was bludgeoned with the enquiry: "How *can* you be a geographer if you haven't done aerial surveying?" But however startling his interventions, he always saw to it that I got the services of the master I wanted.

He struggled with his asthma bravely, and continued in the public service long after a smaller man would have given up. He had colour, cheerfulness, conviction and absolute integrity. At the bridge table and in the committee room, he fought to win, and sometimes showed more courage than judgement. But he was a loyal friend, a clean critic, and a generous opponent. Great personalities are rare birds in a standardized age, which esteems equality before quality, and he was one of them. It always seemed natural and right to address him as "Sir," perhaps because like Lear for Kent, he had that about him which "I would fain call master—authority." Public life will be the greyer now that he has gone. JOHN GARRETT.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BODY

The School offers congratulations and good wishes to its Chairman, Mr. G. A. N. Lowndes, M.C., J.P., B.Litt., on his appointment to take over the high responsibility of the supervision of education in Germany, which he does this month. The distinction of this office is some measure of the School's good fortune in having had Mr. Lowndes as a member of its Governing Body since 1941, and as Chairman since last June. Apart from many official visits, Mr. Lowndes has lectured both to boys and to parents, and his wise judgement and wide experience in education have been at many times and in many ways of enormous value to Raynes Park. We must be grateful to have enjoyed his help so far, and though sorry that he has to resign before completing his normal term in the Chair we can feel that the need of the Germans is greater than our own. We wish Mr. Lowndes success and happiness in his new opportunity.

HENRY PORTER.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

The resignation, now confirmed, of Mr. Cobb severs our last link with the beginning of the School in 1935, and means a loss to every aspect of our life. He had led and moulded his House for fourteen years, with zest for all its corporate activities, and personal understanding for its members; he was the focus round which the Old Boys' Society revived after the War; he was the author of the plan on which the gardens and surroundings have been so successfully developed; in these and many other ways he gave time, care and affection unsparingly to the School. Best of all, perhaps, he was a never failing exemplar of charm and courtesy. From his fastness in Austria he must visit us as often as he can. No one will be more welcome, for his contribution to Raynes Park has been real and great, and much of it, and of him, remains with us.

Mr. Balshaw, in his comparatively short stay, has made no little mark upon the School. Under him the Classical VI reached maturity, he has seen the Boxing Club through its first difficulties and triumphs, and founded and popularized the Chess Club. The Classical Society, more exclusive, owes its life to him too. Few school occasions have passed without his active and unselfish help, and we shall miss his gifts and his pleasant company.

With both of them go our best wishes for their happiness in wider fields.

The Staff is strengthened this term by the advent of Mr. Hazell, who has ably shouldered the burden of some neglected work in French, of Mr. Courtney, who brings high qualifications and experience to Mr. Robinson's work in Mathematics, and of Mrs. Barnett who on two days a week will help the Sixth with their German. They are all welcome additions to the Common Room, and we hope they will be happy and successful here.

HOUSE NOTES

Cobb's

Captain: D. P. White.

Vice-Captain: J. R. Hopkins.

Prefects: D. P. White, J. R. Hopkins.

Sub-Prefects: A. G. Simpson, F. C. Bayley.

This year is one of change for Cobb's. Last term we said farewell to Mr. Robinson, and this term has come the said news that Mr. Cobb has, for business reasons, felt compelled to resign. He was a founding house-master and one of the original staff of the school when it was opened in 1936. It is hard to express what his loss means to us. His interest and care for us—his House—was immense both individually and

collectively, and I am convinced that it was his influence that won for Cobb's a reputation for team spirit when the House achieved little distinction in the athletic sphere. The acquisition of this team spirit is, as Mr. Cobb always maintained, far more valuable than the fleeting possession of a piece of semi-precious metal. Every boy who has passed through this House owed something to Mr. Cobb; each one of us retains his own impression of him. For some it may be one of quiet efficiency, for others of his philosophy of life. For myself, as I write in my last few weeks at school, it is the impression of a true gentleman. Our consolation is the hope that he will be a frequent visitor to the House that bears his name.

As our new house-master, we welcome Mr. C. J. Atkin. We have already tasted of his whole-hearted enthusiasm; it is up to us to justify that enthusiasm by an all out effort for the Cock House Cup. We also welcome Dr. T. W. Bamford who will look primarily to the needs of the Junior House.

We started this term on a high note; we had won the Rugger Cup and, on paper, our senior hockey team looked very strong. Unfortunately this promise, so far, has failed to be realized, but this year's experience should stand us in good stead for next year. In dramatics nevertheless we have high hopes of once again winning this coveted Cup. J. R. Hopkins is producing "The Dark Tower" by Louis Macneice, which should maintain the high standard we have always kept in our dramatic productions.

Rugger

Our success in the Rugger Cup was almost completely due to the performance of our Colt team. They were not only unbeaten, but gave consistently a team performance which was in a class by itself for Colt Rugged. This was due largely to team spirit; they played always as a team, never as a set of clever individuals. The Senior Rugged team also gave good performances on occasion. They confounded all the so-called prophets by defeating Halliwell's 6-3, and that without J. R. Hopkins, our Rugged captain. This gave us third place in the Senior competition which with our first place in the Colt competition won us, by a clear margin, the Rugged Cup. May we win it again for many years to come.

Cross Country

In the Cross country race we gained third place. All those who took part in the race should be heartily congratulated, particularly as this year three qualifying runs were necessary to compete in the race. F. C. Bagley (4th), D. Jonas (9th), D. Gray (15th) were our first three runners home.

Hockey

Senior hockey this term has been most disappointing. We started off well enough with a 4-3 win over Halliwell's after a scrappy game, but against Gibb's and Newsom's we played badly. Gibb's fully deserved their 5-1 win, although with a little more support from behind the forwards might possibly have scored another goal or two. The match against Newsom's was of poor quality on both sides. Our defence muddled badly on occasion and was slow in clearing; even Bell, usually a consistently good goalkeeper, seemed affected by this, and Newsom's scrambled in a couple of goals. Our forwards played moderately well in mid-field and showed some power of penetration and speed, but in the circle, were completely goal shy and were too easily robbed of the ball by a competent, if not brilliant defence. These faults can, and must, be remedied. The team, particularly the younger members, would do well to remember that the clue to success in House hockey is not brilliant stickwork or even clever positional play. Rather it is the ability to snap up every chance that comes along. Too often these House matches are games of missed chances. We have missed enough chances this season to last for many seasons to come. Perhaps in our

last match—against Milton's—and next season we can take a few for a change. **Colt hockey, however, is rather better.** The team has few outstanding individuals, and its promise is not so great as the Senior team, but it has played as a team and has never given up trying. Undoubtedly regular Saturday morning practice against a Senior side has done much to foster this. These games have given much pleasure (and hockey) to people who otherwise would have had few chances of a game. Cook and his fellow Seniors are to be congratulated on their keenness and enthusiasm. **But to return to the Colt matches: we were unlucky only to draw with Newsom's.** Most of the time we were pressing hard in their half but could only score once, a late equaliser in the second half. **Their goal was the result of a penalty bully.** Milton's we beat 2-0 with a good display of team work.

Dramatics

Rehearsals are now well under way for our production of "The Dark Tower." By the time you read these notes, the result of the competition will be known; this has, we hope, never been in doubt.

This year we have the talent to become Cock House; we must see we make the best use of it.

D. P. W.

Gibb's

Captain : S. Priestman.

Vice-Captain : N. J. McDonald.

Prefects : S. Priestman, M. D. Holgate, B. M. Jones.

Sub-Prefects : N. J. McDonald, I. B. S. Law.

The congratulations of the House are due to M. D. Holgate and B. M. Jones on their election to the prefectorial body, and to N. J. McDonald on his becoming a sub-prefect.

By winning the two remaining rugby matches against Milton's and Cobb's, the Seniors tied for first place with Newsom's; but owing to the lamentable failure of the colts we only managed to get 4½ points towards the Cock House Cup.

The Senior hockey team, has already won its four matches most convincingly. So it rests with the Colt team to pull their weight, that we may carry off the Hockey Cup once more.

In the Cross Country Running Competition, Gibb's reverted to its almost traditional position of fourth; and it was due to the stalwart seven that did run that we did not do even worse. Let us hope that in the Athletic Competition, the House will gain a higher place by pulling its whole weight.

This year we are doing "Androcles and the Lion" as a House-play. Although the cast will only just fall short of forty, about half have had the invaluable experience of appearing in a school-play. As a foot note, I think B. M. Jones should be particularly commended for the part he played so brilliantly in Henry IV, part 2.

Halliwell's

Captain : J. R. Wells.

Sub-Prefects : P. Fiander, A. Conchie, D. Marles.

At the end of last term the House rugger team finished the season with varied success. Against Cobb's we played on the school field, on which, traditionally for this match, "mud and water strove for mastery" sufficient to say that we lost 3-0. In our match with Newsom's, however, the team played magnificently, and after a good game, in which some fine rugby was played, we managed to win 6-3. Our Colt team lost most of its matches, so we failed to gain a position in the competition.

The Cross Country Cup has already been decided this term. We had the largest team running, and had the number of runners to count remained at 10 as in previous years, instead of being reduced to 6 we should have won the cup with a comfortable margin since we had 9 men

in before the winners completed their 6. In fact any number down to 7 would have given us the award. As it was we came second, losing to Newsom's by 3 points. This shows that the House still retains its spirit, though our run of complete success seems to have come to an end. Individually we must congratulate our Cross Country Captain, Peter Street, on obtaining second place, David Breach on coming in fifth, and Jock Mason on being eighth in the race.

For the Hockey Cup, both Senior and Junior teams have played two matches. The Senior team lost to Cobb's 4-3 and to Gibb's 6-1. The main fault of the team is that it lacks cohesion. The forwards are weak in attack, and tend to bunch together. The defence is better, but is easily torn open by forward passing movements. The whole team would be better if it were quicker on the ball and more thrustful. We have not yet lost hope of obtaining a place since our Colt's record is a definite improvement on the Senior's. They have so far beaten Milton's and drawn with Gibb's.

Last, but certainly not least, there is the Drama Cup to be accounted for this term. Under our producer, John Powell, a large proportion of the House is working on a production of Hamlet. We hope that the ambitiousness of the choice will succeed, and that both John Powell and the House will have another triumph to add to their collections.

J. R. W.

Milton's

Captain : G. D. Pegrum.

Vice-Captain : J. H. Wilkinson.

Last term ended with a surprise in the Rugger competition. After losing all our Senior matches and hope, we were informed that if our Colts won their final match we would win the cup. We looked blank, and enquiring from higher authority found this was perfectly true, as no Senior team had won outright. Our Colts had up to this point won all their matches and House interest was intensified in their last match with Cobbs who also had won their previous matches. Miltons gained an early success when a forward touched down after a kick ahead. Cobbs drew level with a determined run by their wing three-quarter. The match became fiercer with solid defending and some brilliant touch finding by our full back. But alas Cobbs at last forced their way over the line for another try. Oh well!

Turning to this term, we began with great hopes of retaining the Hockey Cup but in the first match with Gibbs we were rudely shaken—and lost. Our weakness lay in attack where we lacked thrust and finishing power in the circle. In the second match we only just lost to Newsom's where again weakness in the forward line was the chief cause of our downfall. Our Colts showed promise but this promise did not fulfill itself on the field when they played, for they lost. Still both teams are determined to fight in their remaining matches and we wish them good luck.

The less said about the Cross Country the better; Milton's never shine at this sport. Congratulations are, however, due to Hobbs who put up a fine show in running sixth.

In the House Play competition, we are producing "One Night in November," by Vincent Waite. The cast have already begun reading their parts, and have been threatened with dire consequences if they do not learn their parts within the next week. The production is in the able hands of Alan Forward and we wish him every success with his play and the cast he has chosen.

Our Juniors succeeded in winning two of the inter House Rugger matches at the end of last term, after the disastrous season the year before.

This term Juniors have no House competition, but the occasional sight of cricket bat and ball shows that they are ready for next term when cricket matches begin.

Newsom's

House Captain : M. J. Welby.

Vice-Captain : N. G. Colvin.

Sub-Prefects : P. Phillips, R. C. Simpson, J. B. Florentine.

We had no opportunity last term to record, in THE SPUR, our deep appreciation of the friendship and work that Mr. Atkin put into the House. He has our gifts which can only minutely indicate our thanks, but, beyond our sorrow of losing him, we extend to him our good wishes as he becomes House Master of Cobb's.

Rugby. Captain : M. J. Welby.

We were second in the House Rugger contest and might well have won the Cup but for our long continued failure to beat Halliwell's. However, the Seniors beat both Cobb's and Milton's—the last by the almost astronomical score 48-0. The Colts were physically weak and small and whatever promise they may show for the future were easily overpowered in their last match against Milton's. The Juniors having confidently beaten all their opponents are to be congratulated on sharing the Junior Shield.

Cross Country. Captain : B. M. Matravets.

Once more Matravets came first in the race and his magnificent running inspired the whole team to win the Cup. We are the first House to wrest the Cup from Halliwell's since it was inaugurated. Much to his surprise Phillips came third with Reynolds seventh, Colvin eighth, Simpson fourteenth and Munday twenty-second.

Hockey. Captain : M. J. Welby.

Of the five matches played so far no team has lost, and although there have been two draws (the Colts against Cobb's and Milton's) there seems no reason to suppose that the position need be changed. In fact we may well win the Cup for the Seniors have beaten both Cobb's and Milton's. While there is no player of individual brilliance we have a team in which each position is filled by a competent player.

The Colt team is similar and while its forwards do not possess that very necessary thrust and bustle of hockey, the defence is rarely ruffled. They have beaten Gibb's and should do well against Halliwell's.

Athletics. Captain : J. B. Florentine.

The wonderful running of Matravets gives us confidence that he will win the mile once more, and last year's nearly victorious team can still be called on. But our greatest effort was with the qualifying points which enabled us to have a strong lead before the sports started. We must see that that feat is repeated.

For the House Play competition, B. S. Jackson is to produce "Kings in Judaea" which is the first part of Dorothy Sayers "The Man born to be King." He faces the B.B.C. producer's problem in reverse in that he has to put a radio play on the stage, but we look forward to an interesting and thoughtful production.

As a result of a collection at the recent House Parents' evening, the House funds were increased by nearly £2. This will be used to provide part of the House Supper to be held early next term and a donation is to be made to the School Charity.

M. J. W.

"HENRY IV, PART II"

Chronicle history, in "Henry IV," becomes no more than an appurtenance, a pattern which imparts a dramatic discipline to scenes and personages conceived in a spirit of actuality quite different from that in which the intemperate Lords, and uneasy Clerics were made. Life of the town and country, life in the taverns and on the roads, life as Shakespeare must have known it, obtrudes from this play so importantly, that the principal dramatic issue is obscured; people, recognizable as people, have taken over, whether the dramatist intended

it or not. That the play is artistically balanced cannot be critically defended, but that the play is a wonderful play to see and hear is undeniable.

As a choice for boy actors, "Henry IV, Part II" is excellent. It contains much of ordinary life that is observable by boys, and its emotions are restricted, avoiding neurotic peaks, always maintaining an unsophisticated mean. A boy will not, in his daily experience, encounter a Falstaff or Shallow, yet he will know someone who has about him *some* of the traits of either character. The same contention is obviously not applicable to, say, Hamlet or Lear; these, by their mental vastness, are quite beyond the powers of any boy, and of most men, to reproduce. But I believe it does not matter how nearly a boy can approach the orthodox portrayal of any character: it is the attempt that is desirable, and experience has shown that boy actors will not fall so far distant of the accepted interpretation as to make the attempt unjustified.

The value of School Plays has frequently been debated in these pages, and the desire for productions of a more "homely" (I quote the word, from memory) standard has been expressed. Defeatist nonsense! One is aware that perfection will not be attained: that a boy's limited experience will limit his acting; but please let the attempt be made. A critic (whose massive erudition, tactful insight and impeccable prose I can only envy) writing in this place, has said of boy actors) that:

"Striving, in unremembered attitudes,
Their pose is theoretically theatrical."

However unremembered, however theoretical, it is the striving that matters. And let us not condemn the school play (rather, praise) because it may be emotionally disruptive: such upheavals make a boy's life worth while. If we advocate the suppression of plays in schools, then we lay the sure foundations of "a world made safe for mediocrity."

But in "Henry IV, Part II," at Raynes Park, there was nothing that could be described as "homely"; the highest was aimed at, the highest was achieved.

Peter Smith's production was superb. The whole illusion, to eye and ear, was a constant delight, falling only in those places where the text itself falls. I have nothing but admiration for a Producer who, confronted with so vast a task, could make of it an experience at once so graceful, so talented, and so inspired.

The acting, throughout the cast, kept a sustainedly high level; the chief fault of most of the actors was the "vowel-pinching" that is a common fault on many stages, both amateur and professional, but which should be ruthlessly and systematically eradicated. The first duty of an actor is to speak his lines distinctly. B. M. Jones (Rumour) moved with grace, but was indistinct; it was this inaudibility which might have made the opening mime unintelligible to anyone who was seeing the play for the first time. J. R. Wells (Falstaff) created, with astonishing success, the illusion of a gross, bibulous old rascal some forty years his senior: the picture he gave us of Falstaff mounting the tavern stairs, about to leave for the wars, had everything of the man weighted with years and good living, and nothing of the boy about him at all. But this Falstaff seemed unable to laugh convincingly, and his too frequent *gasping* became faintly irritating; his movements of head and eyes were excellent. J. B. Baldwin's 'Doll Tearsheet' was probably the best performance of the evening: the sluttish tirade against Ancient Pistol was superbly delivered. Where he picked it up, I can't imagine! There is a certain personal, undesirable colour lent to the part of "Doll" when it is played by a woman, but a boy, it seems, can be quite abandoned in it, yet remain sufficiently aloof to rob the portrait of its particularity. M. J. Welby

was beautifully hen-like as Mistress Quickly, another very good performance. J. C. Powell had a difficult task with that annoying (because inadequately conceived) young man, the Prince; however perfect the actor is, the audience will always feel like kicking the callow heir very hard. But Powell was gracefully accomplished in the rather colourless part.

R. E. Ayres ('King Henry') spoke his lines with polished elegance, though it was difficult to see in him the strong relentless Bolingbroke of the previous play; rather, he seemed another Richard. B. M. Jones as 'Pistol' was suitably volatile, but here, again, the performance was marred by indistinct pronunciation. B. S. Jackson (Justice Shallow) was a convincing weak, old fool; it was unfortunate that he used only one gesture. P. Fiander (Poins) was a little too pedestrian, not quite as deft and sophisticated as one would have liked. R. A. Mumford (Earl of Northumberland) was prominent, by reason of his good voice, among the many Earls and Lords in which the play abounds. Space does not permit me to deal with each performance separately, and I must end by including the rest of the cast in general commendation. An especially grateful word must be given to the choir: their entrance from the rear of the auditorium, and the solemn procession towards the stage, to a chanted accompaniment, was most expertly contrived and completely effective. It was an unforgettably beautiful experience; even the jack-boots worn by one of the choristers could hardly be said to have detracted. Mr. Cholmondeley must have been amply rewarded for his obviously painstaking training.

The whole production was amazingly free from minor faults; the business must have been meticulously rehearsed, though the number of times that Justice Shallow's hat fell off *intentionally* was not clear. Goblets might have been more congenial than the rather secular tankards from which the Archbishop invited the Lords to drink: but it was a refreshing reminder that even Archbishops are ordinary men beneath their frocks. King Henry's bed creaked, without, I feel, contributing to any realistic effect. But these are mere quibbles.

The costumes were sumptuous, Mrs. Henderson and Mr. Lintott must be congratulated again upon their invariable success. Sets were admirably executed and painted: in themselves, they were a magnificent spectacle—especially the interior of the "Boar's Head," and the garden of Justice Shallow. The lighting was unobtrusively efficient. One defect must be cited: make-up, with the exceptions of Falstaff and Doll, was uniformly inadequate. Lines on faces were noticed where no lines should have been; and the faces of middle-aged and old men were quite unwrinkled.

Thanks must be extended to Mr. Riley who designed all the sets, to Mr. Shannon who supervised their construction, and to the innumerable stage-hands, electricians, and other unnamed helpers, who made this performance the success it was. But (invariably and deservedly) the largest meed of applause goes to Peter Smith, who created and co-ordinated all that we saw on the stage; his production, as ever, was inspired and inspiring.

ROBERT ROBINSON.

SOCIETIES

PARTISANS

President: The Headmaster.

Secretary: Antony Evans.

Members now at School: Mr. W. Walsh, Mr. E. A. C. Balshaw, S. Priestman, D. P. White, J. R. Hopkins, M. J. Welby, B. M. Jones, D. T. Beardwell, B. S. Jackson, J. C. Powell.

Partisans is the School society which suffers most at the end of the academic year because by its nature the membership is small and, as a result, there is a tendency to lose all the members at once. It is a source of some satisfaction that Old Boys as well as present ones are welcome at the meetings. One of the unfortunate features of this society is that unless elected to membership while at School an individual cannot, at the moment, become a member after leaving. It might be a good idea for the present members to consider the advisability of electing some Old Boys who are not, at the moment, of the company. The policy in the past has always been to restrict the number of boys, still at school, in the group to about half a dozen and, manifestly, if Partisans is to remain a happy hunting ground for those who feel more at home in discussion group than in the Debating Chamber, then membership must be small—nevertheless we must be careful not to miss an opportunity of bringing in any who do enjoy serious discussion of, it must be confessed, very often abstruse subjects.

The largest gathering of Partisans (which included several Old Boys) to meet for many months assembled at the home of the new Secretary on the 4th of January, to hear a paper on *The Aesthetic Experience*, from Mr. Walsh. Mr. Walsh began by indicating that the claims of science rendered necessary a definition of an aesthetic experience. He held that, contrary to the belief of I. A. Richards, Art is not merely a matter of emotion; that Art should not be attributed exclusively to the affective part of the mind, feelings and emotion. Art, and therefore an aesthetic experience, must embody "valuable meaning." Mr. Walsh, continuing his distinction between Art and Science, declared that generally Science was a collection of "intellectual abstractions," remote and aloof, but that in aesthetic knowledge there was inevitably a personal involvement. Mr. Walsh admitted that this involvement was largely caused by the emotional element in Art; that thus was created an identification of Art with Life but he maintained despite it that Art was different from Life, being, for the most part, merely a distortion of certain aspects of Life.

The discussion which followed the paper, ranged over a wide field but eventually became centred around the question of the difference between emotion and intellectualism in Art. The *Eroica* Symphony was quoted as an example of a work of Art combining deep emotional power and philosophical meaning. The point of demarcation between the two elements was one of the problems that the Partisans were modest enough to consider beyond their power to decide.

J. A. E.

ARTS SOCIETY

The activities of the Arts Society have been somewhat curtailed this term, and, at the time of writing, the two principal events to be recorded in the annals of the society are the "Contemporary Theatre Exhibition," held in the Art Room at the beginning of the term and, later on, the visit to "Rigoletto" at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

The Theatre Exhibition, which included designs, posters, programmes and photographs collected together from all parts of the world was a great success and was planned as the first of a series. Future exhibitions include "Fashion and Architecture" and "Films." This exhibition has also seemingly inspired several other similar ventures, notably those on "Book Production" and "Staff Hobbies."

The production of "Rigoletto" was not undistinguished. The performance of Marko Rothmuller in the title role shone perhaps from lack of competition. The sets, by James Bailey were good, but poorly lit, it seems a thousand pities that the Covent Garden Opera Trust maintains almost without exception its policy of performing operas in, in most cases, downright bad English translations. Nevertheless the production was enjoyed by all those who went.

Further plans include a visit to film studios, a play reading, a lecture on the Ballet by an old boy. It is to be hoped that members will come forward with suggestions for future activities; on their imagination and initiative the life of the Society must largely depend.

J. C. P.

SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

Strenuous as this term may be proving by way of those candid comments upon our academic powers, namely the trial examinations, we have succeeded in holding two meetings this term.

The Personal Choice was a particularly pleasant function and stood out above similar occasions in that either the ability or the confidence of those who attended it has increased. The ever present desire in our inmost souls to display, with pardonable pride, something of our own tastes and prejudices is amply satisfied by such an evening. But hitherto members have mingled their pride with some trepidity and have confined themselves to the rather passive choice of a gramophone record with little or no introduction, and it was therefore with some surprise that we found that not only were nearly all of those present contributing in some way but that there were more readings than could be balanced by records.

The film show provided the uninitiated with a short education upon the art and practice of documentary film production. The three films were introduced by J. Hopkins, whose talk, amongst other things, contained a mild censure of the "powers that be" for the withholding of the film "North Sea" from the Sixth Forms. His talk did elucidate considerably the three films which followed. They consisted of two Russian films, one with an English commentary and the other with a stentorian commentary in American, and a British documentary. It is to be regretted that many members made a rather bovine stampede for the exit on the termination of the final film, but those remaining enjoyed a short discussion upon what they had seen.

We hope to arrange several more meetings before the end of term.

B. M. J.

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

President: Mr. A. Cholmondeley.

Vice-President: The Headmaster.

Secretary: A. S. Warren.

At the end of last term, a meeting of the Society was held, at which the Headmaster delivered a paper on "The Palestine Problem in Antiquity". He outlined the history of the Jews from Alexander until Hadrian, showing that during most of this period, Palestine made trouble for its occupier. There were Macedonian, Egyptian, Seleucid and Idumæan kings; there were High Priests and Roman procurators, but all the time the ruler found that this meeting place of east and west was a centre of unrest. The religious beliefs and scruples of the people, who were the first to approach the truth about God, but also the first to reject His Saviour, were a stumbling block to Gentiles and no easy path for the Jews themselves. Riots and risings produced massacres but only once any freedom, and they continued as long as there was domination by foreigners, even when those governed by methods which seemed to most people to be all too tolerant. No one ever seemed to be able to satisfy the race of Israel, which all people find is somehow different from other races.

N. Godwin will read a paper on Epicureanism at the next meeting, which will unfortunately be the last at which Mr. Balshaw can be present. It was he who proposed the formation of the Society in 1947, and he became its first president. His hospitality and work during the first year of the Society's existence was deeply appreciated by all the members; but we owe our thanks to him not only on this account, but

also because he has helped to guide many through the varying mazes of the classics from Chapter 1 of "Latin for To-day," to Chapter 40 of Plato's "Protagoras." We are very sorry to lose him, but we wish him the very best in his new surroundings, although they will be so different. Next term we shall be welcoming to the school and the Classical Society, Mr. Vincent, and we hope that he may be happy and successful in our midsts.

A. S. W.

CHESS CLUB

The record of two matches drawn and one lost this term gives no indication of the great improvement which has taken place in the general standard of play. For the first time we have played matches of 12 boards and, while it was not surprising that in the first match against Bec we scored five of our six points on the first six boards, it was remarkable that in the match against Surbiton four days later we won four of the games played on the last five boards. Last term we relied heavily on Hobbs, Wilkinson and Powell Evans who have played consistently well and failed only once, against Surbiton, to hold their own. Weightman at No. 4 has the distinction of being the only unbeaten player this term, while there is now a very respectable array of talent which can claim to have won games for the School team, R. Betts in particular having an impressive record.

As the majority of the team come from the fourth form, there is every prospect of having a really formidable side in a year or two. Meanwhile the knock-out competition has revealed at least two players of promise in the first form.

Details of Matches:—

v. BEC. Hobbs $\frac{1}{2}$ Coleman $\frac{1}{2}$, Wilkinson $\frac{1}{2}$ Jenkins $\frac{1}{2}$, Powell-Evans 1 Ward 0, Weightman 1 Cave 0, Inglis 1 Pearce 0, Breach 1 Sutcliffe 0, Grant 0 Tebbut 1, Lawrence 0 Sawyer 1, Betts 0 Bevan 1, Richardson 0 Hampton 1, Marles 1 Barclay 0, Knowles 0 Thompson 1. Result: Drawn 6-6.

v. SURBITON COUNTY SCHOOL. Hobbs 0 Langton 1, Wilkinson $\frac{1}{2}$ Skinner $\frac{1}{2}$, Powell-Evans 0 Rice 1, Weightman 1 Hughes 0, Ingles $\frac{1}{2}$ Hyde $\frac{1}{2}$, Lawrence 0 Swift 1, Marles 0 Sheppard 1, Betts 1 Hiller 0, Grant 1 Claydon 0, Tralls 0 Zissman 1, Richardson 1 Shearlock 0, Knowles 1 Hudson 0. Result: Drawn, 6-6.

v. WANDSWORTH COUNTY SCHOOL. Hobbs $\frac{1}{2}$ Dobrowolski $\frac{1}{2}$, Wilkinson 0 Lawrence 1, Powell-Evans 1 Lewis 0, Weightman 1 Barton 0, Inglis 0 Dore 1, Ferebee 0 Krasnodebski 1, Grant 0 Haydon 1, Betts 1 Thorpe 0, Marles 0 Johnson 1, Richardson 0 Nunom 1. Result: Lost, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

THE GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

President: The Headmaster.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. J. H. Hallam and P. O'Driscoll.

Chairman: A. J. Forward.

Secretary: D. Powell.

At the first meeting of the Society this term, plans were discussed for **future meetings**. Last term the majority of the meetings were devoted to lectures by members and by visitors but it was felt that the Society should undertake more practical activities. Whilst lectures are both valuable and enjoyable the Society thought that its meetings should be of more lasting value. From this general feeling, originated the Society's ambitious programme for the term.

It was decided that a historical survey should be made of the district. This survey consists of a series of maps illustrating the growth of the area from Norman times to the present day. By the end of the term it is hoped that a model showing the relief of the area will be completed.

The scope of this programme is so wide that it can never be definitely **finished**. A survey of this kind can be enlarged and the field expanded so that its completion will rest with the younger members of the Society.

The Society will be pleased to welcome new members if they are prepared to support the Society's meetings and contribute to the plans outlined above.

A. J. F.

THE GRAMOPHONE CLUB

To those of the newer members who have presented "Personal Choice" programmes this term, congratulations are due for an entertaining and successful series. We have in the past been inclined to drift away from the established favourites into rather more esoteric fields, and it is refreshing to be reminded of music which some of the older members have tended to disregard. It is easy to seem contemptuous of those works which, because of their popularity have suffered in the past from too many performances, and there is a temptation to rush to the opposite extreme and neglect much worth-while music once its novelty has faded.

However, not all the music of this term's programme has been familiar, and there has been abundant proof that the taste of the newest members is not restricted or unimaginative. We have had a plentiful and varied selection from operas, symphonies, concertos and other orchestral music. The only noticeable omission has been chamber music of which there seems to be an almost universal neglect. We badly need someone to fill this gap in our musical appreciation.

We continue to enjoy—gratefully—the hospitality of the Headmaster's room for our meetings and hope the numbers attending our recitals, which have exceeded thirty and averaged twenty or so, will have justified our weekly invasion. On only one occasion have we met elsewhere, when a recital of theatre music (Swan Lake) was arranged during the Theatre Exhibition of the Arts Society, a very successful experiment.

There has been an increase in the borrowing of records from the School collection and those interested who have not availed themselves of this facility are invited to do so, subject to the rules which have been agreed, on Mondays at 12.30.

THE FRENCH CLUB

The French Club which came into being last term continues to meet **regularly**. Its aim is to provide something more than a text-book interest in the learning of languages, and its members so far have been taken from the third and fourth forms, since it is at this stage in learning a language that some extra stimulus is most needed. Other forms will no doubt disagree! Our meetings are informal in the extreme, and we adopt no set programme of instruction. Anything French (with obvious limitations) is acceptable at our weekly or fortnightly sessions.

Last term we were fortunate in being able to benefit from the services of a number of visiting members of the Staff. Mr. Allen gave us a lively and interesting account of a camping holiday in France, and from Monsieur Bourquin, we had a first-hand description of life in his own home town in the Massif Central. Mr. Lillington's lecturette on French slang, though necessarily modified, was much appreciated, as also was Patrick's brief but graphic description of his experiences as the guest of a French family.

This term, Mr. Hazell has given us two most enjoyable recitals of gramophone records. The French of crooners and cabaret artistes is

not always easy to follow, but the diction of some of these was so clear that many of us were able to derive both pleasure and instruction from hearing them.

Play readings, card games and Lotto (in French), and even grammar quizzes have occupied our attention from time to time. Many members have enjoyed reading "The Young World," a French newspaper for school use which makes welcome, though irregular, appearances during the term. Foster in 3A, is to be congratulated on the 10s. price he obtained last term from a competition held by this paper.

Some of us are looking forward to the Paris trip at Easter, and Wise, of 4B, is to have an even longer stay abroad. He will spend a whole term in France and will no doubt have much to tell us on his return. All members who go to France are urged to collect as many small items of interest as they can, so that they may be pasted in the scrap-book, so ably compiled and maintained by Stringer.

G. J. A.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

The School Group continues to be active each Monday morning of term, but it became obvious during the Autumn term that the number of boys who used the Group for regular savings was a small one. The co-operation of parents was sought in a circular letter at Christmas, with the result that their encouragement has produced a marked increase in the number of boys using the Group, and the total for Autumn term savings, £45 3s. 6d., had already been passed at half term.

Form 3A who headed the savings list in December now have close rivals in the other forms of the middle school, and many forms which before had no savers now collect regularly.

565 SQUADRON A.T.C.

As a result of the initiative of a nucleus of keen cadets our downward path has been checked; dead wood has been cut out and fresh shoots are appearing. We now number 21 cadets, all at School, and therefore more regular in attendance than Old Boys with outside commitments.

Training has gone ahead with greater purpose, especially as H.J. Cdt. Bagley has passed the Proficiency Examination; our three N.C.O.s. have recently taken the paper and hope to have passed by the time this report is published. In January Mr. Manning found that his Territorial training prevented him from continuing as our drill instructor. His cheerful enthusiasm will be missed but he has been replaced by Mr. Ancombe, an ex-member of the Squadron with R.E. experience.

The annual training camp will be held in Easter week at R.A.F. Tangmere. Two officers and ten cadets are looking forward to an interesting attachment at one of the leading fighter stations in the country. Flying will be resumed there after being in abeyance since Christmas.

L. D. L.

THE CHRISTIAN UNION

The overall programme for the Christian Union was formulated along very different lines this term. Instead of relying upon outside speakers each week, we started a wholly internal Bible Study series. We felt a need for such a series, but having no older Christian to guide it, we have to read the selected portions (this term from Paul's letter to the Ephesians) and try to crystallise out one or two thoughts about

them for ourselves, during the week. At the Friday meeting, we all present these thoughts, and hold an informal discussion. In this way, we try to gain a greater knowledge of our text-book, the Bible.

To give interested persons a chance to come to the Christian Union, we included two Open Meetings in our programme. The first of these was on Friday, 11th February, when Mr. A. (Quintin Carr, Honorary Secretary of the Inter-School Christian Fellowship (to which the School C.U. is affiliated) gave us a talk containing some enlightening definitions of a Christian. The other Open Meeting was on March 4th, when the Travelling Secretary of the I.S.C.F., Mr. Bransie Burbridge, came down from London to speak, giving a challenge which went home very personally to everyone there. Several people outside the C.U. came to both meetings, which shows that at least our efforts are not in vain. We hope to have two more similar speakers next term, and we invite anybody interested to the meetings.

Even as you read this, there is still another event to come with which the Christian Union is concerned. This is to be held on the last day of term, the 8th April, at 6.45 p.m. in one of the School halls. These regular rallies do much towards acquainting us with members of other schools.

D. P.

FILMS

The New Projector

The following films have been shown in the School this term.

- New Earth.
- How a Bicycle is Made.
- North Sea.
- U.S.S.R at War.
- A Defeated People.
- A Soviet Village.
- University of Flying.
- Transmission of Rotary Motion.
- New Town.
- Medieval Village.
- Latitude and Longitude.
- God of the Atom.
- Atomic Energy.

Our old projector was bought by subscriptions from the parents in 1936. At that time there were very few schools in the country equipped with a sound projector. Twelve years of wear and tear have had their effect on the sound reproduction and this term we have acquired a new B.T.H. 16 mm. sound projector with greater light and sound output. General School Fund has had to provide half the cost (£120) of the new projector. We hope that it will last as long as its predecessor and add much to the enjoyment and variety of life here.

VERSE

The Window

Light, perhaps, of the sunset colours
 Dipping a lurid flag in salute
 To a ship behind the sky,
 A flaming pervarsity,
 A painted mockery?
 Or humble homage to an Argosy of Omnipotence
 Horizon elms fore-mast and main-mast?
 Can we remember, or can we forget.
 A hidden answer, or shall we find
 That answer doubt?

II

Light of no light. The moon
Drooping on dejected curve.
A furrowed field
Gleams perspective of silvered earth.
Our days hard ridges,
Our nights soft furrows
Parallel ridge, parallel furrow
A corrugated landscape : mountain and valley
To us who crawl upon it.
A bird may see the pattern, but a mouse may not.
We are the mice.

D. T. B.

On the Birth of the Child

Quiet the murmuring dove and still the sound
Of leaf clashing on leaf, and let an unbroken
Tissue of silence wholly cover the ground
When the Word is about to be spoken.

Compel the sun now to vacate the sky
And trample his glittering footsteps ; let the turning
Planets, the glancing stars and the bright moon die
As the Light prepares for its burning.

Let the lion cramped in his cage, the lamb and ewe
Folded upon the plain, reject anger
And terror, and man imprisoned or free, subdue
Violence of rage, fear's clangour

In this moment, bell-like and lucid, which imparts
Significance to time and point to history
When among the casual gear, the beasts and carts
The straw cradles a mystery.

W. W.

CRAFT NOTES

This term seems to have been even busier than ever. In the first week of our return from the holidays the Puppet Club immediately set to work to make the final preparations for their New Year show which was to be presented in the school hall on two occasions. They worked with great enthusiasm and after carrying out several intensive rehearsals, they performed their final dress rehearsal before a young and very enthusiastic audience of ninety from a nearby school. Meanwhile, the Printers' Guild had been busily preparing handbills announcing the performances, tickets and very distinctive programmes. Word must be mentioned of Mr. Riley's excellent designs for the puppet scenery and his delightful cover for the programme. Both public performances were played before capacity audiences who left no doubt as to their appreciative interest. Regular followers of the Club were able to laugh once again at the antics of that old Mummings' Play *St. George and the Dragon*, and the Club also presented a new play in three scenes entitled *The Magic Ring* which had been written specially for the occasion. The whole thing went off smoothly in a friendly atmosphere and reflected credit on the many boys who were connected with it.

The six final recordings of the Puppet Operetta, *The Press Gang*, were also made within the first month of returning to school. Once again the stage became the recording studio and the choir, together with the five soloists, worked very hard to complete the work. We now have the entire music, dialogue and sound effects recorded on ten sides, and the next stage of the production has already begun with the making of the puppets, so that we hope to have this very original work completed and in rehearsal before the summer has passed. No small credit for the

great success of the recordings must go to the engineer, Mr. R. G. Jones, who worked in a most cheerful and painstaking manner throughout the whole proceedings and the Puppet Club is deeply grateful to him for all that he has done for them.

The long awaited new printing press has been installed at last. It has a much larger printing area than the old hand press which has performed such valiant service in the past. The new press which has been provided by the General School Fund, is treadle operated and easily capable of a thousand copies an hour ; another interesting feature is that it has an automatic inking device. The printing of attractive Christmas cards by the printers last term, for sale within the school, enabled us to add more type to our new range of Eric Gill's *Perpetua*. The printers' corner is now being fitted with proper racks and shelves which will accommodate various items of equipment which we are gradually acquiring. This term's *Library Review* has proved to be as effective a production as ever. By the time you read these notes you will have seen yet another result of successful team work from within the school.

We have also been favoured with a visit from Mr. Cooper of the Curwen Press who gave an informative lecture on printing to the middle school. A small party were able to visit the *Evening Standard* offices in London, where they were privileged to see the entire production of this famous evening paper from the receipt of news in the editorial room, through its many stages, to the completed edition. They learned that the entire preparations of each edition can be accomplished within twenty minutes, and inspected the gigantic printing presses producing newspapers at the rate of 35,000 every hour. Another party spent an enjoyable Saturday afternoon seeing the production of the *Sunday Express*.

Pottery work has continued successfully during the past term. Several more boys are beginning to master the difficult art of throwing pots on the wheel and we hope that within a few weeks we shall take delivery of the new pottery wheel which is being provided by the generosity of the John Garrett Trust Fund. The Denby Pottery Works lent us a copy of their new sound film illustrating the many processes in the manufacture of stoneware at their works near Derby. The sequences depicting actual throwing were beautifully photographed and very clearly displayed the most skilful operation in the potter's art. Most of the school were able to see this excellent film which was all the more interesting to us as we could compare the industrial pottery processes with our own.

Several attractive pieces of furniture and small useful articles are in the making in the workshop, and some unusual glazes have come from the kiln since Christmas. Altogether it has been a very full and satisfying term's work and we can all look forward to the time when we shall have sufficient tools and materials to carry out the many plans we have in mind.

D. R. S.

MUSIC NOTES

Two concerts deserve mention—the Annual Carol Concert held at the end of the Christmas term, and a more novel venture (the first of its kind for seven years)—a Staff Concert given for the school on February 15th of this year.

The former, although not as ambitious as former Carol Concerts, to judge by past programmes, nevertheless maintained a fair standard, and as far as the Choir is concerned, was an advance on the more tentative programme performed on the evening of the Annual Garden Party. Several carols were sung, of varying styles and periods, one of them in French ; and Mr. Loveday gave us a delightful interpretation of Michael Head's "The Three Mummings." Despite the coldness of

the hall, the audience joined vigorously with Choir in the more popular carols, and the musical sections were interspersed with well-selected readings—among them, original poems by Mr. Walsh and an old boy, Paul Pringle. The concert was repeated for the school on the last afternoon of term, with the exception of one or two items.

The Staff Concert was a medley of various types of entertainments, and had the virtue of being fast-moving. Piano duets opened the programme; a number of excerpts from light opera provided amusement at various points; Mr. Loveday sang four songs (all settings of Shakespeare, including one by Mr. Rudgely); there were also a piano solo and two bold ventures into dialect (in one of which Mr. Hazell made his début). The hour and a quarter of entertainment seemed to be well received.

The choir could do with more support, both from those outside it, and one or two of those who count themselves as members. Are there really NO boys with tenor voices and a sufficient interest in singing for its own sake, in a school of four hundred which is already deficient enough in music?

L. W. V.

STAFF CONCERT

At last it has happened. For too long now the talent of our Staff has been concealed, if not under a bushel, at least behind the common-room door. This term, however, the Staff excelled themselves. Not only have they staged an exhibition of their artistic talent, but we have also had ample demonstration of their vocal talent in the concert which took place on the Tuesday before half-term. The more observant of us had noticed the entry "Staff Concert" on the calendar, and had speculated. The less deaf of us had heard various Gilbert and Sullivan songs practised regularly most afternoons in the early weeks of term behind locked doors in the hall. There was even one report (unconfirmed) of Mr. Hazell practising his Lancashire accent in the Common Room.

The total result was a first-class light concert, which was enjoyed without exception by the whole school. Apart, moreover, from this positive enjoyment there was also at the end a purely negative delight in the fact that we had not been called upon to endure the ultra highbrow music by composers with ultra foreign names which has in the past been thought so suitable for school boys.

And now, I suppose, we must pass to individual performances. It is indeed an invidious task mentioning individuals, but neither, on the other hand, do I want to fall into the habit of the reporter of a local paper who ends his review of amateur theatricals regularly with "I will not single out individual performances except . . .," and then proceeds to drag in the whole cast, stage hand, pianist, box office and all. Instead I will set down what, three weeks later, I remember. Much no doubt I shall omit—*quorum ne doleant auctorse*; they were not unappreciated.

The proceedings opened with a piece for two pianos, a Bach Chorale "See what his love can do," played by Mr. Cholmondeley and Mr. Vyse—at least we could only see one piano from the back, but the volume of noise seemed too much for Mr. Vyse alone so presumably there were two. Mr. Loveday then sang settings of four Shakespearean sonnets. The last was of particular interest, being a setting by Mr. Rudgely of "Blow, blow thou winter wind." This setting fairly caught the spirit of the poem. We should like to hear more of Mr. Rudgely's compositions; it is rumoured that he has set one of Mr. Walsh's poems to music.

Being forewarned some of us knew that Mr. Walsh was to perform, and when he mounted the stage most of us were resigned to ten minutes of T. S. Eliot. But no, Mr. Walsh had evidently left behind, or possibly mislaid, T. S. Eliot, and instead he read us a W. W. Jacobs story. Most

of us previously had only heard Mr. Walsh read poetry or the lesson in assembly, but he showed by this that he is almost equally adept at the difficult art of storyreading. The chief characteristic of W. W. Jacobs stories is the atmosphere, and Mr. Walsh managed successfully in infusing a tang of the sea into his reading. Mr. Hazell gave the other "reading," a Lancashire monologue à la (or should it be au?) Stanley Holloway. Even if at times the rhymes were very, very doubtful, nevertheless spirit and a Lancashire accent carried it through.

But with all justice to the rest, the high spot of the concert was undoubtedly the songs from "Pirates of Penzance," "Iolanthe" and "The Mikado" sung by a trio of Messrs. Loveday, Cholmondeley and Vyse. We are fortunate in having here a trio of such vocal talent, and one moreover that recognises that there is no pleasanter introduction to serious music than through "Gilbert and Sullivan." To round off the concert this same trio assisted by Mr. Stretton sang "Les Beaux Gendarmes" and followed it with a parody by Mr. Vyse, "We are Prefects Puritannical." This of course, was by kind permission of the Prefectorial Body who supplied the costumes. The school nevertheless is still under control. Elsewhere in this issue of THE SPUR you will find the Prefects' reply. Meanwhile preparations are afoot for a gigantic, stupendous, soul-shattering Prefects' concert. Any sounds emerging from "behind the Prefects'-room door" should be regarded as rehearsals for this.

In conclusion I would like to set down the School's appreciation of a very enjoyable, instructive and entertaining concert. It was one more proof, if we needed it, that at Raynes Park there is no barrier between master and boy; we laugh with, and not at, one another.

D. P. W.

EXHIBITION OF MASTERS' HOBBIES

Such an exhibition as this is bound to have great interest for the boys of the school, for often school-masters are regarded as something rather more than human, and we tend to forget that such men have an existence beyond their work at school. Therefore to show how they spend their leisure outside school, is a necessary and desirable step towards correcting the somewhat casual and unconsidering attitude towards them, which is normal in the school. They make it part of their work to be interested in us; surely it is our duty to take a respectful interest in them.

The exhibition has certainly helped to correct this particular fault for it seems to have stimulated considerable interest, and appreciation of the work exhibited; much admiration was expressed for the skill of the masters concerned. Some people regarded the surrealist paintings of Dr. Bamford and Mr. Riley with horrified astonishment, but others were vehement in their praise. About the other exhibits, however, there was little controversy: no one ventured criticism of taste or execution. The piece which earned the most universal amazement was the miniature chess set made by the Headmaster with chessmen only about $\frac{1}{4}$ " high and contrived with extraordinary ingenuity.

Of the others, judgment is more difficult. We were, perhaps wisely, forbidden to touch anything, and we could only witness, and not examine. Therefore one can only report that what was seen was approved. The excellence of the paintings of Mr. Riley and the carpentry of Mr. Shannon was to be expected, and goes without question. But most of us were unaware of the woodworking skill of Mr. Hanson and Mr. Raynham, or Mr. Stretton's interest in stage photography. Mr. Rudgely displayed a remarkable versatility in painting and drawing, and his cartoons, particularly the one in the manner of the eighteenth century were especially admired. Mrs. Herdman suffered to some extent from a lack of appreciation, for no school boy can be expected to appreciate the ability she showed in her work.

There was considerable speculation as to the possible hobbies of the masters who were not represented and this is indicative of a certain incompleteness in the exhibition. Only about a quarter of the Staff were represented. Possibly the exhibition was not designed to be comprehensive, but surely some effort should have been made to indicate the hobbies of the rest of the Staff. Of course, not all hobbies are so easy to display as painting or woodwork, but some indication at least could have been given of what recreation other masters favoured. Even if examples could not be shown, some sort of information as the hobbies of these other masters would have been welcome.

D. T. B.

ANALYSIS ON FIFTH FORM

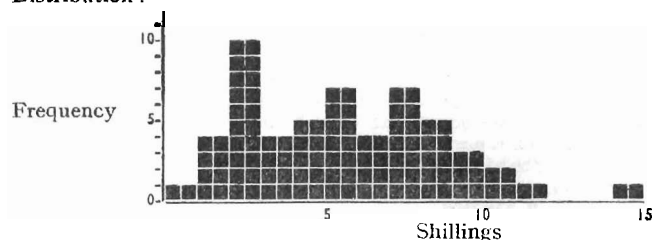
"Cost of Living"

On Mr. Robinson's suggestion, the second year Economic Sixth, D. J. Harris and J. F. Cammack, undertook the preparation of a questionnaire for determining how the fifth forms spent their pocket-money. The questionnaire was issued to 60 boys of the fifth forms who were asked to state the amount per week that they spent on sport, entertainment, travelling expenses, reading matter, subsidiary nourishment, saving's and sundries. Saving's were to include all money not actually spent. These details were to include only expenditure from their own money, thus omitting such items as school dinners, and the whole of their weekly allowance was to be accounted for under one heading or another.

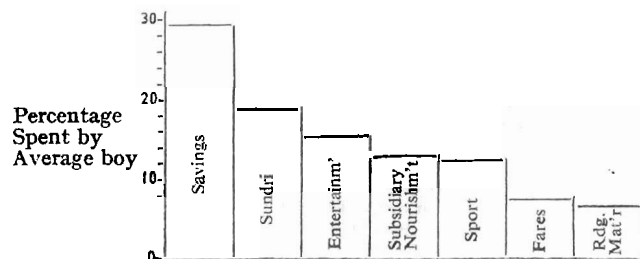
From the results the following analysis was made :

Arithmetic Mean (common average) of Pocket Money 5s. 9½d.
Range (lowest 6d. ; highest 15s.) 14s. 6d

Distribution :



From this histogram it can be seen that the most commonly occurring amount is between two and three shillings (this is the mode of the distribution). It is worth noting that although the arithmetic mean is five shillings and ninepence halfpenny, this measure has the disadvantage of being too much influenced by extreme values and thus the geometric mean, although complicated, would have given a true picture of the average pocket money ; it would have been smaller.



20

Although saving's are large (28.71%), they include unspent money and it is also reasonable to expect sundries (18.18%) to come next. There is little to choose between preference for entertainment (14.52%), subsidiary nourishment (13.15%) and sport (13.11%). It is surprising, though, that fares are more than reading matter (7.28% and 6.56% respectively).

An Index for the "cost of living" can be prepared. The percentage spent by each boy on each item was taken and the mean of these percentages was found for each item. These means were used as weights. The average amount spent, in pence, on each item was then computed and the result multiplied by its appropriate weight. This was then divided by the sum of the weights. The final result was 12.17. At a future date, when conditions have altered, another calculation can be made and expressed as a percentage of 12.17 thus showing the change which will have occurred.

D. J. H.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of THE SPUR.

Dear Sir,

I have now read P.P.'s letter in your last issue, and to show that I am not narrow-minded I append a poem of my own in the modern manner.

Modern, modern, modern modern,
Tomato
And just as shushy.
Squash !

Moving, moving, moving, moving
Football crowd
And just as packed.
Squash !

Dinking, drinking, drinking, drinking
Beer.
Mine's a lemon.
Squash !

I would ask the readers of THE SPUR to note the extreme pathos (or is it bathos ?) of the opening line. It is best repeated four times when gargling. And then what a picture the second line conjures up ! In it I have worked the idea of fruit, greengrocers, school dinner, political meetings, second-rate theatres, ripeness, activity, autumn, etc. It is the highlight of the poem. We may omit the third and pass to the final line of the first stanza. This is really the connecting link in the poem. To appreciate the full force of it, forget the first three lines and repeat in the middle of Piccadilly Circus. Note in the next stanza the onomatopœia of the first line. The last line also has a rather different significance. And now for the third and final stanza. How effective it is ! What depth of sentiment ! What profundity of thought ! In it is involved the whole of our social problems today. In the first line is portrayed the drunkard, imposed upon by brewers, steadily moving to eternal damnation. You will get the full effect of these lines after closing time. In the third and fourth lines are the essence (lemon) of temperance reform. Please note the last line has another significance from that of the previous stanza. !

This, I think, gives you some idea of how to appreciate my poem. By it I think I lay claim for inclusion among the Modern Poets. No doubt the Poetry Society will welcome me with open arms.

I am, etc.
D. P. W.

21

LOWER BARN,
WEST HOATHLY,
SUSSEX.
March, 1949.

To the Editor of THE SPUR.

Dear Sir,

It has occurred to me that although one of Raynes Park's proudest boasts is to cater for almost all tastes through its School Societies, this does not reflect itself entirely in the matter of the Cups that are competed for by the Houses. True it is that all the major athletic activities are now well endowed in this respect but I think you will agree, Sir, that the weight, literally as well as metaphorically, of cups that may be won by virtue of individual or team physical prowess is wholly disproportionate with those available for the, surely equally important, prowess in matters intellectual which is displayed by a fewer but, I hold, equally deserving group in the School.

I acknowledge that there is the Drama Cup but is that enough to set against those for Rugger, Hockey, Swimming, Tennis, Cross Country, Boxing, Cricket and Athletics? Surely not.

My suggestion, which I throw out merely to test general reaction, is that the time has come when there should be a Public Speaking Cup to be competed for by individuals or by Houses—preferably the latter. I feel that a House Debating Competition would be less, not more, difficult to arrange than, for example, the House Play Competition. I feel, Sir, only when a competition similar to that which I have suggested forms part of the general contest for Cock House Cup will that contest be truly representative of all the varied activities that school boys might reasonably be expected to follow.

Yours etc.,
ANTHONY EVANS.

THE 19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP The Scout Troop

Winter conditions have restricted the activities of the troop but little. During the Christmas holidays a hike and a cycling expedition were supported by comparatively small numbers, but both proved most successful. The hike, a few days before Christmas, represented juniors, seniors and parents. They met at Leatherhead, followed the River Mole to Norbury, ascended to Ranmore Common for lunch, passed Polesden Lacey and by cross country paths, returned via Bookham and Leatherhead. The cycle ride took the form of a surprise with clues issued at certain spots en route. These led from Kew to the London Air Port, thence to Stoke Poges, Iver, Eton, Windsor, Runnymede . . . a five county tour in fact.

Our regular Tuesday meetings have been varied by evening meetings on two occasions. At the first, Mr. L. H. Smith of the Metropolitan Police, came to speak on the right and wrong side of the law and of our part as citizens in the work of the police. At the second, the District Commissioner presented warrants to the G.S.M. and S.M. Some time has been spent on second class badge work both indoors and outside in spite of somewhat chilly conditions of the latter. We have appreciated the help of Mr. Courtney in morse. We have welcomed to the troop this term Terdre, Keeble, Tillinghast, Croft, Baskett, Burns and Lloyd.

Hearty congratulations are due to P. L. Casselton on the award to him of the Meteorologist's Badge and the Bushman's Thong. Second Napier and Second Langton are now awarded their All Round Cords, and P. L. Hopkins has passed the First Aid Examination of the St. John Ambulance Association. In the main body of the Troop a drive

is necessary on the 2nd and 1st Class Badges and greater efficiency in outdoor activities. This is particularly important since our present patrol leaders will soon be joining the Senior Scouts.

The 19th Group

The Annual Peruga was held on Saturday, 15th January, when we were "at home" to parents, friends and Old Boys. The gathering was fully representative, the supper table well laden and the toasts numerous, reminiscent and amusing. Our guests shared troop activities in the gymnasium and the camp fire. There have been separate meetings of the Guild of Old Scouts, Senior Scout outings, and evenings for Parents.

Preparations are now in hand for three major events next term. The Garden Party, now to be a joint affair with the School, will be held on 28th May. Such events only succeed when carefully planned and organised and above all, when enthusiastically supported. At the Whitsun weekend some four thousand scouts from all parts of Surrey will gather together on Ranmore Common for the biennial rally. It becomes a special occasion this year for the Surrey scouting brotherhood since the Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, will be in camp with us. Our annual summer camp is still uncertain and varies from Cornwall to North Wales. It will probably be the latter since we are anxious to include climbing in our programme. In any case it will take place in the first fortnight of the summer holidays.

We are glad to announce that Mr. W. G. Dick has been appointed and will accept office as Honorary Treasurer to the Group as from 1st March.

Cecil William Elliott, Esq.

Mr. C. W. Elliott died suddenly on 25th January. Father of one of the first boys in the School, he was of that fine group of pioneer parents which did so much for the School in the first few years of its life and took no small part in shaping its healthy tradition of parent activity and co-operation. He was father to the first Committee of the 19th and in 1937, when Scoutmaster Courché left, Mr. Elliott became Hon. Treasurer to the Group. In this office he served faithfully to the end, combining efficiency and sound advice with that cheerfulness for which he was so well loved by a circle wider than our own. Indeed it was with affectionate respect that he was known to boys as well as parents as *Uncle Cecil*. He and Mrs. Elliott visited our camps when they were not too distant, they stayed with us at Meldreth; he had a charming way of introducing outside help to our summer fêtes and took sheer delight in making his final count of the proceeds on the following Sunday morning. In him the group had a shrewd advisor and close friend who truly deserved the Scout Association "Thanks Badge" presented to him a week before his death. He died as he lived, still working, quietly and cheerfully.

HOCKEY

Paradoxically the record of the 1st XI this season is the worst for years, in spite of an abundance of match practice. Unfortunately match practice in itself is not enough; the odd hours between games make all the difference. This is most obvious in the case of schools like Caterham and St. George's College, whose stopping, hitting, general stickwork and conversion of corners into goals bear the hall mark of consistent and continuous practice.

The team's most serious faults have been a tendency towards over-elaboration, and excess of individual play, and a most pronounced weakness in front of goal. Because of this woeful lack of finish, Holgate was moved from his favourite position at outside left, first to centre

forward, then to inside left, but in consequence the wing position was not adequately filled, and our troubles continued as before. Pegrum was obviously unhappy at centre-half and has played much better since returning to the full-back position. Priestman's enthusiasm was his undoing, when replacing Pegrum, as he was much too prone to wander. It is to be hoped that Tutt's stopping tactics will prove the answer to the centre-half problem. Bell has played consistently well in goal; Jones has proved that rugged determination is an adequate compensation for lack of polish, and Colvin's direct tactics have been successful on the right wing. **In Mason we have a much improved player who is developing into a capable wing-half.**

Apart from the heavy defeat by St. George's, most of the games have been evenly fought. We lost twice to Caterham by one goal to three and once to Kingston Grammar School by the only goal scored. By far the most entertaining match was that against Kingston Technical College away, when a fast open game, played on a dry even surface, ended in our sole win by the odd goal in eleven. This was a personal triumph for Holgate, who scored five goals.

There is still time to improve the season's dismal record, but this can be done only by more direct tactics, better finish, and much more determination on the part of every member of the team.

The Colt XI has had quite a satisfactory season on the whole. Few of last year's team were available and the problem of playing fields was at its worst, necessitating the use of the School Rugby pitch twice each Thursday afternoon. In such circumstances it was surprising that the team played as well as it did, and that individual players steadily improved in spite of unfavourable playing conditions.

Manifold, in goal; Budgen, at full-back; Lavender, as centre-half and captain and Arnold a scoring centre-forward, were consistently good, and received sound support from Wise, Biggs, Brooke, Aldham and Whiteland. The standard of play amongst the third forms augurs well for the future.

CROSS COUNTRY

The main event of this seasons Cross-country was the Inter-House Competition, run over the school 5 mile course on February 18th.

The result was as follows:—

1st Newsom's	55 points
2nd Halliwell's	57 points
3rd Cobb's	96 points
4th Gibb's	149 points
5th Milton's... ..	169 points

The first five runners finishing were B. Matravers, in 28 mins. 5 secs. followed by P. Street, P. Phillips, F. C. Bagley and D. Breach.

Of the twelve matches that we have run this term, I think the most interesting was the Surrey Schools Race for the "Judge Cup," this year held in Richmond Park by Tiffin's School on March 5th. The Senior team attained second place in a run over 2½ miles and the Juniors fifth place over a 2¼ mile course.

The team result being:—

Seniors	Juniors
2nd Matravers	23rd Blackwell
9th Street	29th Bennison
10th Breach	30th Allen
17th Phillips	34th Hobbs, J. R.
18th Bagley	35th Beard
35th Hobbs, J. W.	40th Langton

Up to March 5th our Senior team has won matches against Wandsworth and Kingston School of Art, but lost to Wallington, Tiffin's and Latymer Upper.

Our captain, B. Matravers, gained distinction for the school by finishing fifth from a very strong field in the Southern Counties Championship at Sandhurst.

I. B. S. L.

BOXING CLUB

The only school match to report was a junior fixture with Bushey which we lost by 4 bouts to 6. All the bouts were closely contested and it gave an opportunity for a number of boxers without experience to show their paces, Green and Dorey in particular showing promise. In addition to Green, Rose, Mitchell and Forster won their bouts.

The chief event of the term is the Surrey Schools A.B.A. Championships and this year we have improved on last year's performance. We had six entries and this year boxed with the newly formed Wimbledon Association. In the area finals, Hooper was narrowly beaten by Sawyer but our other five entries went through to the Surrey finals. Davies put up a good performance to win his semi-final bout and Biggs was unlucky enough to have to box twice on the same evening but dealt confidently with both opponents. **The others drew byes.**

In the county finals at Mitcham, Palmer and Davies were both narrowly defeated but Colvin, Tutt and Biggs won excellent bouts and brought us the Surrey titles. We also had the greater share in bringing the senior shield to Wimbledon and breaking what had become a Surbiton monopoly.

OLD BOYS' SOCIETY NOTES

President: The Headmaster.

Chairman of the Committee: Mr. R. Loveday.

Treasurer: Arthur Thompson.

General Secretary: Charles Honeker.

Other Members of the Committee: P. S. Hill, A. Pengilly, P. E. Pritchard, R. Kohlbeck, R. Phillips, R. A. Doyle.

At last we can boast that the sun never sets on the Old Boys' Society. Donald Thompson has hoisted our pennants in Hong Kong and Basil Edwards stands sentinel in Singapore. Then there is the impressive spectacle of John Carter in charge of a cattle farm on a high Nigerian plateau, where Gerry Billingham, now serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps, visited him recently. A murky rumour comes to our ears that "Jesse" Taylor has been sighted "in the vicinity of Suez." We send our condolences, being convinced that it is better to be right in Suez or as far away from it as it is humanly possible to go. **R. F. Pegg has got married "down under," and nearer home, but no nearer than the Palace Chapel of Schönbrunn, Dr. Bernard Meade has crept quietly into wedlock.** He is by no means our only representative in Austria these days! Basil Amey is there too, and Tom Cobb, our late Chairman, has succumbed to the instincts of Peter Wanderwide and responded to that country's call. We are sad to lose his help and company, but are delighted that we have managed to persuade Mr. Loveday to take his place at our Committee meetings.

At home the Society's activities go on. The Rugby match against the School was drawn 11-11. The Old Boys were confident of victory against the Southern Railway but frost stepped in, a tough competitor, and defeated both sides. The University Vandals could find no such agent, however, to save them from humiliation: we beat them 16-3. Old Boys who want a game next season will have plenty of opportunity because Peter Pritchard, the Secretary of Rugby, has already produced a complete fixture list. We would like you to give him your most energetic support. With rather more difficulties to contend with the Hockey Secretary, P. S. Hill, is making a herculean effort to build up a sound Hockey team. **Help him if you can.**

Social activities have been limited recently to Whist Drives. These have been cheerful and not unsuccessful affairs bringing in small but welcome profit. We will attempt to hold an evening of this kind in most months during term when there is no major conflicting event in the School Diary. The last two were held on February 24th and March 24th. It is hoped to have another about the same time in May. As we write, the biggest shape on our horizon is the Society's Second Reunion Dinner. We feel confident that we will be able to report, in the next edition of THE SPUR, a very high attendance and a splendid evening's entertainment.

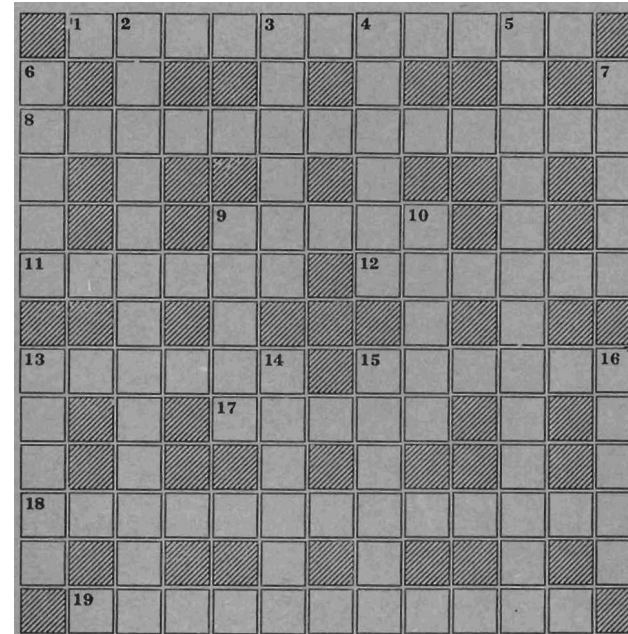
Our report should end on a bold frank note. To say that the Society was flourishing would be an over sanguine view. Societies thrive on subscriptions and the active help of their members in all their endeavours. If every Old Boy would lend a hand one way or the other our Society could leap into vigorous life: as things are, it is merely stretching its limbs.

CONTENTS

School Officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Inner Cover</i>
Obituary (with photograph)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chairman of the Governing Body	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Hail and Farewell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
House Notes :									
Cobb's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gibb's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Halliwell's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Milton's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Newsom's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
School Play : " Henry IV, Part II "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Societies and Clubs :									
Partisans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Art Society	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Sixth Form Society	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Classical Society	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Chess Club	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Geography Society	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Gramophone Club	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
French Club	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
National Savings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
565 Squadron A.T.C....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Christian Union	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Films	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Verse :									
The Window	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
On the Birth of the Child	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Craft and Music	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Staff Concert and Masters' Exhibition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Statistics	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Correspondence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Scout Notes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Games	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Old Boys' Notes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Crossword	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Inside back cover</i>

L.D.L. 1/6
 W.B. Coatsway

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Prime Minister of the U.S.A. (6, 5)
8. Dissimilar Gears (13)
- 9 & 17. Horobod's (5, 5)
11. Small Stake (6)
12. Added Spores make Puzzles (6)
13. American Storks ? (6)
15. More than Potty (6)
17. See 9
18. Gamp Dump (8, 5)
19. Top-rank Council Worker (4, 7)

DOWN

2. The best way to score (3, 4, 3, 3)
3. The Cornish Crag belongs to us (3, 3)
4. Divided Bathing in these Hills (6)
5. Social Evening at the Baths (1, 5, 3, 4)
6. It is in the Middle of the Little Editors (5)
7. Laughing Jacks ? (5)
9. Sickness on the Broads (5)
10. They end the Mornings (5)
13. Disentangle French Courts to clean Pots (5)
14. The Dole is Tainted (6)
15. Ladies make Standards (6)
16. Streets ahead of the Broads (5)

D. J. H. and J. M. H.