

THE SPUR

Vol. IX

No. 1



THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. IX., No. 1.

Spring, 1950.

SCHOOL OFFICERS, SPRING TERM, 1950

Head of the School : B. M. Jones.

Prefects : J. R. Wells, G. D. Pegrum, M. D. Holgate, I. B. S. Law,
A. G. Simpson, R. C. Simpson, J. B. Florentine, N. J. McDonald,
D. A. W. Marles, J. C. Powell, C. P. Tutt.

Prefect of Hall : D. A. W. Marles.

Captain of Hockey : G. D. Pegrum.

Secretary of Hockey : M. D. Holgate.

Secretary of the Games Committee : A. G. Simpson.

Librarian : J. P. Hood Phillips.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Editors acknowledge with thanks, the receipt of the following magazines and apologise for any inadvertent omissions:—Aldenhamian, Radleian, Kingstonian, Ashteadian, Wellingtonian, Fettesian, Bryanston Saga, Bristol Grammar School Chronicle, Caterhamian.

Editors : William Walsh, Esq., J. M. Hoare.

Committee : J. C. Powell, B. S. Jackson, D. T. Beardwell, D. Powell,
M. D. Holgate.

TWO FAREWELLS

We have reluctantly to part, at this end of term, with two members of the Staff. Mr. J. H. Hallam has spent four years here, energetic for him and fruitful for the School. Not only has he taught Geography, principally, both successfully and enjoyably; he started off the Geography Society and its magazine, he managed the Boxing Club (although no boxer himself), he has given vigorous help with all games, notably with the Colt Hockey, and he has been assistant Housemaster of Halliwells in their sequence of Cock-House victories. He has been prominent, too, in our stage productions, and perhaps his "Alice" of last Summer will be remembered as his masterpiece while with us. For a club, for a team, for a colleague or for a boy, he has never been asked for help in vain.

Although it is only a year since he came, Mr. Vincent also leaves us much to remember. He has shown zest and given life to many things—to his classical teaching and to the Classical Society, to the Chess Club by precept and example, to the present production of a Greek Comedy, in which he collaborates with Mr. Smith. We shall recall his "Greek Island" at Open Night, his lively scholarship and personality manifested in many ways.

Both go on to larger opportunities; our thanks and good wishes go with them, and we hope they are appreciated elsewhere as highly as they are at Raynes Park.

HOUSE NOTES

Cobb's

House Captain : A. G. Simpson.

Vice Captain : A. Melmoth.

A new term comes and once again we change our ways. Hockey sticks feel unusual in the hands of the wing threequarter. Cross country runners begin to make the frosty pilgrimage across the common. Boxers take to the gym and debates work up motions. So far the term has been far from unsuccessful and once more we hope that matches won will mean we shall emerge triumphant at the end.

Rugger.—After losing our first two matches we managed to beat Newsom's and Milton's. In our match with Newsom's we were playing against only 13 men and our opponents were handicapped still further by injuries, which was unfortunate. We played a slightly rearranged team against Milton's and won by a fair margin.

Our Colts had an excellent season and won all their matches. They scored over 100 points and the score against them only just topped the double figure mark. It is largely due to them that we attained second place in the rugger cup.

Hockey.—As yet we have played only one match. We held a strong Halliwell's team to a scoreless draw. We have made use of the intervening period by having dinner hour practices and hope to do big things in our remaining matches.

Here our Colts are keeping to the reputation that they have built up for themselves. In the two matches played they have Halliwell's 6—0 and Milton's 3—1. Well done Colts and keep it up! *Cross Country*.—This is not a popular sport but in spite of this most of our seniors disposed of the three necessary practice runs in good time. Due to this we were able to enter a team of ten for the race. Our captain, W. H. Shepherd, did some good work in shaping our team but was unfortunate in only coming 16th in the race. D. Jonas is to be congratulated on running an excellent race to come in second. It must be said that the team ran well and gained the House second place in the competition.

Debating.—This "sport" is the latest addition to our activities, and there was some difficulty in finding a team. Hoare and Beardwell, however, built up a team which in deciding that "Modern suburbia is not to be deplored" beat Newson's by 182—151. We now look forward to meeting Halliwell's in the final.

Boxing.—This year we have a bigger and more enthusiastic team which is being trained under the now experienced eye of Biggs. Biggs himself must be most heartily congratulated on his successes in the School's Boxing Championships.

A. G. S.

Gibb's

House Captain : B. M. Jones.
Vice-Captain : N. J. McDonald.
Prefects : M. D. Holgate, I. B. S. Law.

This term has seen no great change in our position; we have held our own, but unfortunately this appears to be the sum total of affairs. Our outstanding successes have been balanced by some lamentable failures.

During the last Christmas holidays we lost, without warning, both G. A. King and M. J. Collett, and to aggravate the losses, D. E. Dudley left early in the term. It is sad to lose some of our most promising juniors in this way; we thank them for their part in House activities and we hope that they will be happy and successful in their new schools.

Rugby

The senior team played its final match, against Halliwell's, last term but suffered from the absence of several members of the team, and partly on account of this, partly on account of the high standard of their opponents, lost.

However, the junior rugby this term has brightened the picture not a little, for in spite of losses from their team they have beaten quite decisively, Cobb's, Milton's and Halliwell's, and we look forward hopefully to the result of the Newson's game. We must congratulate particularly the captain, Jim Wearn and also Michael Baker, but indeed the whole team must not feel the congratulation less real because it is more general.

Hockey

The senior team suffers from the lack of a regular goalkeeper and some other positions cannot be said to be happily occupied. The team now has played two matches and won one of them. Michael Holgate has captained the team and been its mainstay, for he somehow manages to lead us to victory in our two remaining struggles.

Cross Country. Our cross country captain Ian Law managed to persuade a sufficient number of seniors to complete the course the requisite number of times but it is noticeable that many seniors failed to complete these runs with no better excuse than that they could not find sufficient time. We came third in the actual run and Ian Holden is to be congratulated on coming third in this event.

Boxing

Our prospects in this sport are indeed rosy. Lunch has proved an able captain and the House, when asked point blank, showed that there were few people who, in an emergency, would not be prepared to box. At present we have a good lead in this sport and every prospect of attaining the cup. We wish all of those who have reached the finals the very best of luck.

Luckily this year the debating competition does not count towards Cook House but the members of the House would be well advised to take any opportunities that may occur for speaking in public, as next year this competition may well be included in the cup.

We rest in hope.

B. M. J.

Halliwell's

Captain : J. R. Wells.
Vice-Captain : D. A. W. Marles.
Prefects : J. R. Wells, D. A. W. Marles, J. C. Powell.

This year has started in a most encouraging way. We have won back two cups that we had monopolised through several successive competitions until last year. They are the Rugby and Cross Country cups.

The senior rugby team finished off the season, as it had begun, in great style, beating Gibb's 15—6 and Newson's 31—0. Their line was only crossed once throughout all their matches. The Colts supported the seniors well by beating Gibb's and forcing Newson's to a draw by a try in the last minute.

As in the past we won the Cross Country cup by good team playing rather than by individual stars. Trezor Menzies came in first for the House at number five, and the rest followed hard on his heels. The same success cannot be reported in Hockey. The seniors have been playing consistently well, and have developed into a good team in spite of several injuries. They have, so far, drawn with Cobb's 0—0 and beaten Gibb's 4—1. The Colts though, have again won one match, that against Gibb's. They lost to Cobb's and again to Newson's. The seniors still have two matches to play and the Colts one. If these are all won we still may carry off the cup.

Our juniors have been playing for the rugby section of the Junior Shield this term. They spoil their chances of winning by losing one match, but they have won two and have one left to play. Also this term we have the newly instituted debating competition for the Michael Welby cup. We opposed Gibb's in the second round who were proposing that certain forms of printed matter should be banned. It seems that we persuaded both the audience and the judges that this was a mature civilisation, and people were able to think for themselves! Anyhow we come up against Cobb's in the finals.

This term we have to congratulate John Powell on his appointment as a school prefect. We also congratulate him on the way in which he carried his success as a producer to higher planes than the House play. But a report on "Macbeth" will appear elsewhere in *The Spur*.

J. R. W.

Milton's

Captain : G. D. Pegrum.

Vice-Captain : C. P. Tutt.

In reporting House activities in the past two years we have had a long and dreary story of defeats to tell. We hope this period has ended, and with the beginning of the new year we are looking forward to successes.

Last year we finished very badly ; our results in Rugger were very disappointing for injury and lack of initiative robbed us of vital points in games which we should have won. The juniors, too, were unable to win games, but they must be commended on holding Cobb's to a draw in a game which was considered to be lost before it commenced.

The new year brought two disheartening results. In the debating cup we were narrowly outpointed by Gibb's. This is a new competition and both sides entered with a slight hesitancy as to the mode of procedure and adjudication. As we lost this first round, we have no other chance to vindicate ourselves. Our second calamity was in the Cross Country, where I must admit several members of the House showed a lamentable lack of spirit in their manner of completing the course. On turning to Hockey, the major sport of this term, the House has a much better record to show. We hope to win this competition and regain that confidence which the House at the moment lacks. The seniors have won their first matches by convincing margins, that against Newsom's by 8—0 and against Cobb's by 2—0. The team has the ability to maintain this performance and should win all its remaining matches. The colts however lost their first matches but have improved gradually during the season and in their last match they drew 1—1 with Halliwell's our chief rivals at this sport.

Boxing has come to the fore again in these last few weeks and many of the House have been induced to enter the ring in the preliminary bouts. Their task is difficult ; we have few good boxers, and cannot hope to win many bouts, but we wish them all the best of luck.

G. D. P.

Newsom's

Once again our House notes cannot open with a jubilant topic. Our House captain, J. B. Florentine is absent from us. He is ill, but fortunately not seriously, and we wish him a speedy recovery, and hope to see him back among us very soon.

This term has again seen the departure of a senior member of the House. National Service has claimed Matravers, and with him we have lost an energetic member of the House and a very fine athlete. He rose to be School Cross Country captain, and our own House team captain, both positions he well deserved. There is not a House activity in which he did not take part and the army's gain is indeed our loss. We wish him God Speed and good luck in his future teaching career.

Two old 'Sams have visited us this term. They are N. G. Colvin and P. Phillips. Both are now potential officers, of the R.A.F. and the Army respectively, and as such deserve our hearty congratulation.

Rugger.

Two senior games were not reported in last term's notes. These were against Cobb's and Halliwell's and both were lost by a margin of points well known to all. The team had bad luck. Injuries to Florentine and Mackleworth deprived us of their much needed services. Considering this the team played well, and deserve congratulations.

The juniors show a brighter light. They have beaten Cobb's 33—0 points, Milton's 18—3 points and lost to Halliwell's 6—8 points after a very close game that might have gone either way. The House congratulates them, and we expect much of them in the future.

Hockey. Captain : J. B. Florentine.

The senior House team lacks experienced players, and as a result has not done well. We have lost to Gibbs 1—2, to Milton's 0—8, and to Halliwell's 0—4. The game against Gibb's was very close and enjoyable. However, we were unlucky, and lost in the last few seconds of the game. The team spirit in the Gibb's game was never found in the other two games, and the results can be seen. The final game is against Cobb's and all concerned hope that we may finish as we started.

Once again the younger members of the House show a brighter picture. Our Colt XI is unbeaten. They have to their credit victories over Gibb's 5—0, Halliwell's 4—0 and Milton's 4—0—13 goals for, with nil goals against. This must be a record for any 'Sams hockey team. Well done Colts ! Beware other Houses of the future all-conquering Newsom's !

Cross Country. Captain : R. J. Gough.

It is fast becoming a tradition that Newsom's provide the individual winner of this race, and this year, despite our loss of Matravers proved no exception. We must all congratulate Reeves upon his brilliant win, and Beard in backing him up with fourth place. Unfortunately, the rest of the team, whom Gough managed to cajole into running the three qualifying runs, did not fare so well. The individual placings were 17th Gough, 20th R. C. Simpson, 33rd Bennelick, 39th Wells, R., 40th Price, and Gillard 42nd. In House positions we were placed fourth. This was unfortunately inevitable due to the small number of senior House members. Let us hope that our colts and juniors will produce a cross country team in the future that is worthy of their present standard of sport, and thus win back the cup for Newsom's.

Debating.

This term has seen the first competition for the Michael Welby Public Speaking Cup. As you all know this cup is in memory of Michael Welby whom we all knew personally, and whose gift for public speaking was well known. We would have liked very much to have brought this cup home to his own House, and it would have been a fitting tribute to him. Unfortunately however, that was not to be.

In the competition we were drawn against Cobb's. The motion agreed upon was " This House Deplores Modern Suburbia." We were the proposers. Unfortunately our team of speakers comprising, Walters, proposer, Jackson, seconder, and Gough, Price, and Simpson, speakers from the floor, was unable to convince the judges of the evils of modern suburbia, and Cobb's were victorious. Thus we were put out of the competition.

Again we appeal to the younger members of the House to become accustomed to this competition, and bring the cup home to its rightful place, Newsom's House, at some future date.

Boxing. Captain . Mackleworth.

At the time of writing this competition has just begun. As holders of the cup we have fielded a good team, and we expect much from them. It is fitting that a word of praise should be given to those members who have volunteered to fight for the House. It is no small sacrifice to enter a ring and know that one might be injured in a small or large way, and we would like the team to know that the House appreciates their courage.

Thus we come to the end of the spring term. Next term is a very busy one both academically and otherwise. The public examinations occur, the House play competition, cricket, athletics, swimming and tennis competition also. Let us think about these competitions during the holidays and return to school with a determination to wipe away our setbacks of this term. This can be done if every boy returns with the intention of qualifying for every event in the athletic qualifying, determined to learn to swim, attain histrionic ability, bowl googlies and

serve aces. That certainly is food for thought, which reminds me, we haven't had a House supper for a long time!

R. C. S.

MACBETH

The Production designed, staged and produced by
JOHN C. POWELL

Associate Producer—JOHN HOPKINS

Technical Production—COLIN TUTT

Art Director—MICHAEL ABSALON

The production lit by MAURICE TRIMMER
and KENNETH MACKENZIE

THE PLAYERS

Duncan, <i>King of Scotland</i>	John Hoare
Malcolm } <i>his sons</i>	John Mason
Donalbain }	David Gray
Banquo } <i>Generals in the King's Army</i>	Colin White
Macbeth }	John Hopkins
MacDuff }	Brian Jones
Lennox }	Bryan Walters
Ross } <i>Noblemen of Scotland</i>	Neil Macdonald
Menteith }	David Hall
Angus }	John Shepherd
Caithness }	John Sanders
Fleance, <i>son to Banquo</i>	Michael Edwards
Siward, <i>Earl of Northumberland</i>	Michael Birkett
Young Siward, <i>his son</i>	Roger Wells
Seyton, <i>officer to Macbeth</i>	John Shepherd
Boy, <i>son to Macduff</i>	Ian Hayter
A Doctor	James Chrichton
The Porter	Barrie Florentino
1st Murderer	Donald Spiers
2nd Murderer	David Bennett
3rd Murderer	John Sanders
The Archbishop	David Bennett
1st Weird Sister	Robin Betts
2nd Weird Sister	John Gough
3rd Weird Sister	Colin Brown
Dwarf, <i>attendant on Lady Macbeth</i>	Martin Last
Hecate	John Hoare
Lady Macbeth	Richard Mumford
Lady Macduff	Roger Wells
Gentlewoman, <i>attendant on Lady Macbeth</i>	John Arnold

Masquers, Apparitions, Lords, Ladies, Pages and Attendants :

J. Sanders, D. Bennett, C. Brown, I. Hayter, J. Dunn, M. Edwards,
D. Marles, M. Talbot, P. Corke, G. Cook, A. Simpson, A. Tanner,
N. Blackwell, M. Biggs.

CREDITS

The fights arranged by John Wells

Additional Electrical Equipment by the Strand Electric
Swords and Daggers by Robert White and Sons

Music : Brian Price *Prompter :* Derek Mackelworth

Additional Costume Supervision :

David Beardwell, Michael Holgate, Brian Jackson

Effects : Malcolm Cumberlidge

Production Staff : P. Miles, J. B. Lavender, J. G. Rowe, A. Melmoth,
A. Sirman, R. Nuttall, I. D. Barnett.

The producer is indebted to all those friends and parents of the School without whose assistance this production would not have been possible.

HEADMASTER'S NOTE

This production is the first here, I believe one of the first anywhere, to be entrusted entirely to members of the School. Without the direction or intervention of any of the Staff (apart from some financial control), the boys named as responsible in this programme have on their own initiative cast, designed and produced the play, conceived all the stage mounting and effects and carried out the necessary work. I make this clear in no spirit of anticipatory apology, nor with any idea of deprecating criticism on as severe a standard as ever, but merely to place the credit for this considerable undertaking where it justly belongs—on J. C. Powell, J. R. Hopkins, and their collaborators.

HENRY PORTER

PRODUCTION NOTES

This production is essentially non-realistic. In the Spring of hope, the Summer of fulfilment, the Autumn of disillusion and the Winter of death, we have seen Macbeth's rise and fall; his rise to the height of manhood and his fall to old age and finally to death.

"Macbeth" is a palpable thriller, relating the usurper Macbeth's rise to kingship, his murders, plots and fall at the hands of the true heir. In this production neither hero nor villain really appear on the stage, for the hero is Good and the villain is Evil. In the atmosphere of darkness, nightmare and confusion which constitutes the first half of the play, we have tried to create the show of evil—the malignant presence always at Macbeth's side. In the latter half, we have tried to present the overwhelming of darkness as the sun of Goodness rises, driving Evil from the scene and leaving, powerless before Macduff's sword, Evil's pitiful minion, Macbeth. His tragedy lies not so much in his death as in his world weariness and despair. We have set the play in a medieval gothic Scotland to emphasise these points, which we have portrayed with imaginative conception and some exaggeration.

J. C. P.

REVIEWS

Not the least quality of this stimulating and provocative production was its pace. From first to last it moved, never hurriedly but always smoothly and purposefully, with admirable co-ordination of action, lighting, stage manipulation and musical support. The disciplined rules of those whose unseen co-operation achieved so exact a synchronisation must consider it their testimonial that they remained so completely unnoticed. It was easy to forget—as it is difficult to over-praise—the back-stage organisation that made this possible. An ever-changing lighting-plot was carried through without hitch, a vital factor since it was integral to the production. The music, chosen with catholic if romantic taste and wedded to the action with good judgment, was managed with movie-like slickness.

One weakness threatened from time to time the general tautness of pace. Minor characters in possession of the stage tended to wooden gestures and colourless delivery: tension sagged and pace flagged. More attention could have been paid to their schooling. I felt too that the horror of Duncan's murder, which his venerable goodness should heighten, was minimised by depicting the aged King as a senile Pantaloon. And did not the final climax suffer from allowing a softening-up of Macbeth which seemed to make the accumulation of forces joined to overwhelm him appear superfluous? "Sick at heart" he may be, but still "bloody bold and resolute." Unlike Banquo's, Lady Macduff's ghost comes not to haunt him and we may suppose confidence in his own invulnerability to have exorcised the former: a horrifying Dali-esque apparition this, so boldly imagined that it might easily have achieved only the ridiculous.

John Hopkin's Macbeth was impressive within its chosen limits, though not free of some irritating mannerisms, always intelligent and poetically sensitive and laudably clear in diction. Nevertheless, few would dispute that the performance of the night was Richard Mansford's Lady Macbeth. Regal, dominant, steeley, perfectly controlled in action and diction, this was an interpretation so mature and complete as to silence criticism. Something undoubtedly went out of the play with her last appearance—she should have died the earlier. By comparison, Brian Jones was manly, forthright, without overtones but at his best when most was called for, in a genuinely moving moment when Malcolm learns the fate of his family. The only other character that emerged in the round was, to me, the Porter—good casting was here seconded by clever acting. The weird sisters were indeed "secret, black and midnight hags" skillfully managed and properly relevant to the whole. As Hecate, John Hoare atoned for a rather egregious Duncan.

The producer's note told us "This production is essentially non-realist," I quarrel with this only in questioning its entire truth. The degree of non-realism was variable and in general decreased as the action proceeded. Even then, the fights were out of key in measure as they were so convincingly, so alarmingly, realistic. For the rest, several imaginative and daring innovations were introduced to which response was necessarily largely a personal matter. The mixed prelude was, I must confess, charged with no significance for me. For a "palpable thriller" can one get off to a better start than "Thunder and lightning—enter three witches?" The "freezing" of the non-speaking players during some longer soliloquies I found logical, justifiable and wholly effective, an example of imaginative production of rare quality. Whether the soliloquist should have been allowed to move around among the other players, I am not sure; this seems at odds with its own logic. More daring and less successful was the duplication of Macbeth's in one scene. I was not able to penetrate the inner logic of this device, nor, interesting and provocative though it was, did it serve to make any dramatic point for me. But this may be the measure of my obtuseness and I would not have had the experiment cut.

It would be unfair to leave any suggestion that this was made the occasion of a producer's holiday. What emerged was unmistakably Shakespeare, seen it is true, through an intensely vivid and personal imagination. The sincerity justified the liberties. The admirably simple and effective décor, the gruesome gate-columns of uniformly sombre hue, were a fitting setting to this tragedy of blood. The pageantry was appropriately regal and not excessive. Such faults as I found did not interfere with my enjoyment or lessen admiration of a production, always fully under control, carrying the hallmarks of style, authentic hair for theatre.

H. E. R.

Reviews of School Plays do, I am afraid, tend to become a little tedious. Praise is distributed with a lavish hand; there is often a very blurred distinction between the generosity of intention and the merit of the result. The lighting is brilliant, the costumes sumptuous, the scenery exquisite, the acting splendid, the production superb. Even the audience is charming. A person often longs for a little lemon on his buttered sole. How refreshing to read that the acting was dull, the décor undistinguished, the music humdrum, the production a trifle absurd. And probably how much nearer the truth. In case this introduction has a sinister ring I must hasten to add that honesty forbids me to act on it in this brief note on John Powell's production of "Macbeth." On the other hand I shall not go about seeking whom I may devour with praise. I shall confine myself to the concept of the play, the production and to the performance of a few players.

"Macbeth" is fundamentally a religious play. The tensions which vibrate in it are those which act between Sin and Grace in its Christian meaning. Macbeth is much more than an Aristotelian hero whose nature is tainted by the results of Original Sin and finally corrupted by actual sin; and it is "sin"—the presence of his own will to the will of God, symbolised by the holy claims of hospitality and loyalty. His crime is not merely the breaking of the moral law in the Greek sense, but a sin against the Holy Ghost which hardens into despair, the unforgivable sin. Through-out the play we are constantly presented with the dazzling images of goodness and the foul and terrifying symbols of evil. It is this central religious concept, so much wider than a psychological study, however perceptible, of one particular character, which the producer grasped so unerringly and expressed so felicitously, that gives a pattern to the play. It dispenses into a coherent order the chaotic elements in Macbeth. The producer stressed again and again the vivid contrast between the light of God and the darkness of evil. The beginning and end of the play, Macbeth at the gates of hell and the final coronation by the Archbishop (attired rather surprisingly in the Pope's tiara) supported this view of the play, although it is questionable whether it was necessary to introduce external imagery of this kind, since it exists already so powerfully in an implicit manner in the actual words. The producer's action was probably justified by the need for simplification and by his delight in visual splendour.

This note of delight in exciting the eye with brilliant colour, dramatic contrast and positional design was remarkable throughout the production. On the whole it was subordinated to the text and used rather to illustrate rather than to obscure it. It cannot be too often repeated that in Shakespeare the vitality, the significance, the beauty reside in the words. It is the words which must come first; it is to their elucidation that the producer's every effort must be bent; the appeal is first to the auditory imagination. Clearly John Powell has a fine visual imagination and he used it generally with tact to elicit and point the significance of the words. Although there was so much that was visual, this was not a jumpy production. Details submitted to the pressure of the total design which was firmly based on a sure grasp of the religious structure embedded in the play. Quite rightly the producer allowed himself a free use of stylisation. It was noticeable that the formal element dominated in the first, the realistic in the second half of the play (and what an immensely exciting and physically convincing battle it was! One of the most vigorous I have seen on the stage). In the much commented-upon division of the Macbeth character into two, one formal and stately, the other nervous and realistic, there was some unsteadiness in the balance, the reason, of course, being that the actual text is all of a piece, woven into a seamless cloth. But the idea of separating out these elements had more than the merit of novelty. It did concentrate attention on the struggle in Macbeth's soul between the forces of good and evil, and once again emphasised the essentially religious nature of the play. I was impressed by the purely technical use of a rather cramped and difficult stage. The cunning use of lighting and a delicate fact for every nuance of position and movement enlarged the area enormously, and convinced the imagination that it looked not upon a "narrow O" but upon immense, receding vistas. Macbeth's "Dark Night of the Soul" was given a fitting environment.

I found the acting uneven. There was some rather mechanical and coached gesturing, actions which did not flow out smoothly from any instinctive movement. Macbeth, I thought, offended in this respect. Some of the minor characters were wooden and dull, and devoted less attention to these than they needed. In Mr. Smith's

productions one remarks how much he always makes of these less prominent characters, and success here does solidify the universe of the play, whereas failure weakens it disproportionately. One character was played out of keeping with the general pattern : Duncan should have been a regal symbol of hallowed spirituality, but he was an exaggerated caricature of semic oddity. I can find no justification for this at all. The witches and Hecate were horrible and compelling, fit symbols of that dark world of vicious evil, to which the King should have provided a sharp antithesis. The Porter admirably presented the solid, happy, uncomprehending world of ordinary life. Macduff used his resonant voice, fine presence and a deep sincerity to show a good man and a commanding ruler : the glowing rhetoric sounded with tortured side of his nature and clearly loved the cadences of his poetry, conviction and a moving power. Macbeth communicated the nervous, but he found it beyond his power to give us the awful, the searing, Lucifer-greatness of Macbeth. It was a competent and imaginative performance ; to ask for grandeur is to ask for too much. Lady Macbeth's was one of the best performances I have seen on a school stage. It had the stamp of authority, the sweep and force and the agonising sorrow that come from complete imaginative identification and the technical equipment to express it. It was an amazing achievement for actor and producer.

To the producer I offer my deep and lasting gratitude for an experience both vital and significant which I shall not easily forget. He has a rare and authentic talent which I devoutly pray he will be enabled to develop.

LOST PROPERTY

W. W.

Last September a large cupboard in the waiting room was taken over for Lost Property. The stock in hand had become too large for the accommodation provided for it in the Common Room, and we wished to put an end to the long queues outside its door each day. In this we have only partially succeeded since there are still many boys who have not yet realised the change.

When the cupboard was first shown to me I did not expect to use more than half of it ; but all four shelves are now so full that it is difficult to close the doors on the numerous boots, shoes, shirts, underpants, socks, games kit, caps (thirty of them, at least), raincoats and jackets *plus a few which remain unclaimed.*

A few of the articles are marked, and in such cases I try to let their owners know, though it does not always follow that they come for them even then. Most of them, however, have no distinguishing marks at all in spite of repeated reminders. It would make our work very much easier if parents would co-operate with us by seeing that their sons mark all their clothing and personal possessions, and by refusing to replace lost articles until they are sure that all possible enquiries have been made. Most boys are careless about their belongings, and the thought that "there is another where that came from" does not encourage them to go to any great lengths to find their lost property.

One boy has admitted to me that he has lost twenty-five fountain pens since he entered the school three and a half years ago, and an unknown boy lost a watch on the school premises last term and has made no effort to discover if I have it—and I have !

At present we charge 2d. for unmarked articles, and 1d. for marked ones, and as a result of these things we have collected over £4 since September, 1948. Of this, the General School fund has benefited by £2 10s. 0d., the Library by 10s. 0d., and when the 1st Hockey XI found itself with only ten shirts on the eve of its first match this term, the Lost Property came to the rescue and provided the necessary 19s. 5d.

It seems a long time since the end of the Autumn Term and our notes for the last Spur had gone to press before the festive season. But our record would be incomplete without mention of the entertainment provided by the B.P. Guild of Old Scouts for the Troop just before Christmas. We ate, we drank, we sang and we played—mainly in French, though a translation of the menu was not accepted as a test for the Interpreter's Badge—we travelled from Omsk to Tomsk via sandy, other impronounceable railway stations, two Scouts were seen heading for the kitchen with a strange gait, and far more interesting things came out. The Troop is indebted to the Guild and their wives and friends. To quote The Elms, which appeared soon afterwards, "we hope the word annual means what it says."

Early in January we met, in inclement weather, for a cycle ride and set off in my fettle for Westerham and the Sevenoaks district of Kent. We collected much mud and many punctures, we learned that Tiger believes in tramping cross-country even with a cycle, and we effectively lost one another.

In the Christmas holidays the Senior Scouts were privileged to be taken over the new river wall site and works, a part of the 1951 Exhibition plan on the south bank of the Thames. It took some time to satisfy the curiosity of the gatekeeper and we then met Mr. Lederer, one of the engineers, and he explained with maps and drawings, the theory and design of river wall building. We saw steel sheet piling being driven by steam hammers to form the coffer dam in which the wall is built. We were taken out on to a couple of narrow planks some thirty feet above the Thames to view the process more clearly. We were surprised to hear that one gang of men were all but drowned at a flood tide and another just escaped being flattened by a thirty-metred weight block of granite. The surprise lessened when we saw the method of lifting the stone—two steel pins and friction ! Many thanks to Messrs. Costain Ltd. and to Mr. Simpson who made the contact. All stages of the work and design will be in our minds as we view the finished wall gracefully holding the Thames.

THE 19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

T. H. P.

I can only join parents in depicting this state of affairs and the financial loss to them which it represents—and in thanking Mrs. Herdman for the even greater loss which her help saves them.

M. H.

One last word. At last summer's fête a few articles on the second-hand clothes stall were from the Lost Property Cupboard. In view of the fact that two of our guests were overheard to remark that all the Lost Property was there for sale, I would like to assure all parents that no article is disposed of until it has been kept for one term.

The monthly Church Service at Christ Church serves to remind us of the central canon of our ideals but we could wish that more, particularly the younger members of the Troop who have no ties with any other church, would join us there on the first Sunday in each month.

The Senior Scouts met for an all night hike on January 28th, and the weather offered one of the coldest nights of the month. The route has reached first class standard and several others are now enquiring about first class journeys. A hearty welcome to Michcz, Creary and Roberts as recruits.

The patrol remains ahead in the patrol competition. P. L. Christmas and the Kingfisher Patrol have passed the Messenger Badge Four scout of the out-of-doors again as the evenings become lighter. Tiger's brain to improve their knowledge of trees and tree lore. It is good to think of the out-of-doors again as the evenings become lighter.

In Troop meetings this term, competitive activities have filled up much of the programme and a number of scouts have been glad to pick up Tiger's brain to improve their knowledge of trees and tree lore. It is good to think of the out-of-doors again as the evenings become lighter.

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The Puppet Club have spent a comparatively quiet time steadily preparing for their new show, which we hope will be a worthy successor to *The Press Gang*. They, too, held a new year party and produced an amazing array of gables. It was a thoroughly deserved relaxation following the previous term's hard work and great success. We had the pleasure of a visit from fifty tiny children from a nearby school during the term when they came behind the scenes of our Puppet Theatre to see some of the secrets. They have promised us a return visit to see their glove puppets one of these days!

The other many and varied activities of the workshop have continued unabated. Much has been accomplished but still more remains to be done—which is as it should be.

D. R. S.

VERSE

The Rut

Salt from spoons spills to the table,

Falls on the whiteness below,

Dying with descent, tired and unable

Further to rise, reap, feed, and sow.

From the hollow to the precarious edge

The distance is slight almost timeless,

Bars the tempting serpent's death press.

Like shakes, the air is too uncertain

To hold all those moving strings,

But the sole relief is the black curtain,

The end of time and of all things;

Crouch in the grey, nestle in the valley,

Dismal warmth before the last sally,

Is life the rush over the brink

Or rest in the undredged murky sink.

Salt spilling on to the table

Falling as fast as it is able,

Die on the fall,

Descends dies all.

P. P.

Poem

The dark yews are black against the sky,

Trimming the mass of the church;

Over it a solitary kestrel hovers,

And is gone.

The owls cry in the wood,

The death of their notes leaving silence,

The only light comes from the stained windows,

There the two saints look pale,

Their hand raised,

Their white feet protruding from their rich robes,

Their golden beards and hair

Encircled in their halos;

Reward for earthly suffering.

The agony on the cross,

The shattering stone,

The persecution finally rewarded.

Here their mortified flesh is whole,

The scars, the weals no longer seen.

The sweat, the tears, the blood, the screams

Lost in the glass, the pain forgotten.

Only their perfect bodies

Are utilised

To give us faith.

C. M. W.

led from Lpsom across the downs to Headley, to Birtford Bridge, Box Hill and Camilla Lacey. Work at night needs food, and the mid-night meal was taken around a fire with all ceremony, before the ascent to Kammore. An effort to sleep was a chilly one after lighting a fire to ward off the icicles. A hay stack was equally disappointing, and the route continued over to Westcott and circuitously to Lorking, While still dark we met a farm hand on his way to work and some one said, "Fancy being up at this hour on Sunday morning."

Two seniors, A. J. Hopkins and J. Hood Phillips, spent a fortnight of the Christmas holidays walking in the Lake District. Although rain and cloud sometimes restricted visibility, it did not adversely affect their activity. Their planning was an independent move and therefore welcome: the journey itself was gladly financed by the Group. The spirit of self-reliance and initiative shown by the venture is one of the qualities we want to foster in the seniors and exemplifies the meaning of their motto, "Look Wide."

Seniors and Patrol Leaders have also been active at West Hoathly and on several occasions have put in some real spade work. Progress has been a little slower than was anticipated because the roof timbers which were to have been used again in the reconstruction, were found to be rotten. This involved another licensing problem over again as well as cost increases. A recent visit has shown the cabin to be almost complete and the finished appearance is as charming and mellow as in the designs of Mr. Macdonald. Tree pruning, hedging, ditching has gone on in the camping ground itself and here again, Hopkins has put in much time and energy. After twelve years of dreaming, our house-warming party is in sight—we might even be reading this SpPr in the alcove of the fireplace.

Parents have met twice during the term and will now be busy planning for this year's Garden Party on June 3rd. Probably different in form but it must be as happy and successful as in past years and above all, it must represent an effort on everybody's part, scouts as well as parents. The achievement of one object of our ambitious outlook, the cabin and site at West Hoathly, must not overshadow the other things we wish to do, and the desire to camp well equipped and adventurously in more distant parts.

CRAFT NOTES

With the streets of ancient Greece arising around us, the groups of purposeful boys armed with hammers, glue pots, yards of hessian, pounds of nails to say nothing of tons of energy; work on this term's stage set has proceeded very smoothly. The band of willing volunteers always seems to be growing and it is a real pleasure to find so much enthusiasm centred around the workshop.

A few weeks after the beginning of each term our shelves become overcrowded with a range of pottery which always attracts our visitors and does credit to our keen potters. The two power wheels seem seldom still all through the day—and long after lessons cease. However, let us beware of being completely satisfied with our present standards. They are good, but can be much better—there are many avenues of exploration and a wealth of wonderful possibilities which have still to be experienced.

The Printers have added another found to their family of type and continue to improve their workmanship. The *Library Review* bears a four-colour block apart from the usual illustrations and articles. There have been many other products from the presses, including tickets and programmes for the *Rape of the Locks*, and several pieces of printing for the Old Boys Society. Nor must we forget the first Printers Party which was held early in the new year. The tables were loaded in a quiz which they organised later in the evening!

Only the alley-cat walks
In the safety of ignorant sin.

Why does the steel of the hook

Of the finger of the warth

Tear at the prostrate brain ?

Why do the bones lay impotent

In an immovable destiny

While the stranger rubs at the stubs

Of the severed argument ?

Whose is the cunning finger

That picks at the unexpected tumour

On the margin of awareness ?

Only the indivisible mind of the mole

Ploughs a single furrow.

And is there no balm

For the mad tarentula of the feet

On the prostrate soul ?

I can hear the passage of the spheres

In the sharp, mechanical click

Of the beetle,

While, quiet, through the sawdust

Of the charnel-house

Moves the soft, bulky death

Of the ox.

But the earthworm has no explanation

For the horror of the final partition.

What can it know

Of the red hot nerves lashing, loose

In the celluloid skull

And the deft, persuasive muscles

Which squeeze at the lobes of the brain ?

B. S. J.

The Voices of the Sea

There are two voices singing from the sour depths of the sea,

Howling free through the moon-broken rocks.

One is soft and curls in a hollow tunnel

Songing through the dusk on autumn channel

Of watery memory and numbered ghosts

Of chilly shadows and forgotten feasts

And starlings on a winter's evening,

Of cloudy stars and the warm west wind.

The other voice is deep, sings down and deeper

Things swiftnly and crows a dark-eyed secret,

Beats brokenly a sudden note of awful moment

And then is swallowed in its own suspicion.

These voices of the sea

Sing stronger in the eyelless crags,

And the salt-edged song howls

Like the lonely telegraph wires

On a sullen western moor,

A song that drops, takes courage

In the creeping wind and thinly

Cries aloud

A high pitched scream of drowned ships

The metallic whistle of a demented soul

Sodden in the evening light.

West

The gushing stream overturning by the ash,

Black and twisted stream overman and tree,

Come down by the granite garr

And the gashed quarry in its lee.

The wild hills perverse and harsh

And the wracked spurs running down to the sea.

The lonely islands and the toothed rocks

Tossing the spray high in the air

And the winds like witches in the

Ragged cliffs

And the wild gulls calling and the

Lonely curlew harshly warning through the false mists.

C. M. W.

Developments

A welt of energetic wheat-stalks

Is marching down to the road.

Long straight rows they are,

They do not mar

The methodical onrush of men.

The are planted and fed by machinery

And they sympathise

With the concrete, the dust and the bricks.

Slanting down the bright hill-side

The sunshine and pylon-wires

Are hunting in partnership

And chasing the elm-trees and oak-trees,

Unwanted, untidy,

Into a corner,

To shadow the private barbed-wire.

Down to the road and the workmen,

Grey stubbled old men, and young men

In relics of khaki,

And hopes for the future,

Come the lorries, dirty, and bouncing

Over the stones and the cart-ruts

Of the lane between the wheat-fields.

They bring the bricks

With which we shall mix

The white, heavy slabs of new roadway.

To form a new synthesis,

Spread on the face of this

Muteley obedient earth.

Soon we shall see,

And not be surprised to see

Shop-blinds and kerb-stones with cars

Soon we shall have

Whist-drives and cinemas,

Road-deaths and burglaries

And no more of the softness of earth.

D. T. B.

Poem

Who walks across the corner of the heart ?

Who strains the narrow nerve strings

Into a hard, discordant symmetry ?

Damp fury and an unheard longing
For the proud cliffs and the silent distant hills.
A song that men have heard and wondered at,
And we will hear the voices in the night
And we will never answer.

J. M. H.

MICHAEL WELBY PUBLIC SPEAKING CUP

In the annual competition Gibb's defended and Milton's opposed the proposition that "The Trade Unions have too much power and should be controlled"; Newson's defended and Cobb's opposed the proposition that "Modern Suburbia is to be deplored"; and Gibb's defended and Halliwell's opposed the proposition that "Certain forms of printed matter should be banned." In the finals Halliwell's defended and Cobb's opposed the proposition that "Culture does not become mean when it becomes common."

The three judges working independently unanimously awarded the victories in the first debate to Gibb's, in the second to Cobb's, in the third to Halliwell's and the final victory to Halliwell's. Here the verdict was given on a majority vote.

The delivery of the speakers was good. No doubt this is due to the School's high standard of dramatic production. It was also good to notice the absence of more debating tricks and windy rhetoric; the arguments generally turned upon real issues and avoided misrepresentation of opponents. The elections this year have shown that people are politically mature and less violently partisan than formerly and than in many other countries. This may have been reflected in our debates or is it rather that this more serious attitude among British people is the result of the kind of education and experience which modern British youth gets? If our debates were typical, as they probably are, it argues well for democracy.

On the other hand, this quality that I have called maturity has dangers which showed themselves in every debate. Speeches generally lacked humour. What laughter there was mostly derisive, and the speakers were not able to turn it to their own advantage. There was no heeking—which is good—but also there was no chance for repartee—which is a pity. There was plenty of sincerity but little punch. The fire was saucy-hot when it might have been, perhaps should have been, crucible-hot considering the issues involved. Did these fellows really care whether we had a controlled press or an absolute free one? Did they really dread the dangers of either? Those dangers they spoke of did not seem to me the more formidable ones. It was the same with the other subjects.

Some of us felt that little was to be got out of an annual debating competition unless there was plenty of opportunity in the months beforehand for public discussions of important issues and for practice in the difficult art of expressing oneself clearly, economically, vigorously and convincingly before critical audiences. After each debate a vote was taken. These votes have, of course, no relation to the marks awarded by the judges, and it may be guessed that house loyalties entered into them to some extent.

This house believes that Trade Unions have too much power; carried.
This house believes that Suburbia is deplorable; defeated.
This house believes that printed matter should be censored; defeated.
This house does not believe that if culture is to become common it must become mean;

B. W. V.

The Christian Union has found, like all the clubs and societies which meet on a Friday, that this day is the one of all the week-days which is most often sacrificed to other activities than ordinary school, Christian problems, study of a Bible passage, prayer, or individual views on a large number of subjects.

One very interesting and profitable discussion was on the responsibility of a Christian to tell others of what he has experienced and lives now through those who have given themselves to Him, in return for His love. We decided immediately that this perfectly simple, yet so wonderful and important set of facts seems one of the most difficult things in this world to-day to make others believe. That the atom-bomb will blow the world into tiny pieces, that the Russians are a race of barbarian sadists, that so-and-so's coloured water will cure even the most fatal of diseases, are examples of the claims which various persons have a vested interest in propagating, and in which, consequently, others have a great yet often quite unfounded faith.

Yet to believe simple, straightforward truths which the Bible states, which have been proved by ordinary folk the world over, and which are proclaimed by Christians who want only to give others the satisfaction and happiness which they themselves know, is something that, incredibly, people claim they could never do. In spiritual matters, they strain at a gnat, while in their every-day material existence, they swallow a camel. "I'm too bad . . ." or, more often, "I'm too good . . ." It costs too much . . . How many are the excuses offered! There is one excuse that it is up to Christians to see that no one can give: "I don't know how . . ."

I wonder, and we all wonder in the Christian Union how many secret Christians, how many "cul-de-sacs" there are in our school, who never allow Christ to use them as a means of reaching others. The Christian Union is the first and easiest place to start following on Lord. Each member finds that he can help and be helped. We try to remember that saying of Jesus, "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them," and thus to feel Him with us at school on weekdays, as well as at church on Sundays. D. P.

565 SQUADRON A.T.C.

With three more proficiency certificates to our credit in the November examination we now feel that training is now going ahead more purposefully. Mr. Hope is helping us with armament and the N.C.O.'s aspects of the squadron is the keenness and progress shown by the recruits.

On March 3rd the Squadron was inspected by S./Ldr. Greenaway from H.Q.61 Group. He thoroughly investigated our administration, inspected the cadets on parade and was evidently pleased with our turnout generally.

Seven cadets have been flying this term, cycling over to Henley on a windy Saturday morning and eventually becoming airborne after flying had been temporarily suspended. We look forward to a good deal of flying, however, at the Easter camp to be held at a Bomber Command station in East Anglia.

L. D. L.

SOCIETIES

THE CHRISTIAN UNION

THE SPUR MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Although this is only the second term of our establishment, we are pleased to report that good progress has been made. Our members are keen, and it must be said, very patient. There are several weeks to go before even a preliminary run can be made. This does not dishearten us, because progress, if slow, is sure. The two first base-boards have been completed and work on laying our track is well in hand. The first circuit should be completed by the end of term, leaving the electrification to be commenced after Easter.

Our scenery may be of a temporary nature at first until the essentials have been bought and carefully applied.

As in many hobbies, finance is a restraining factor, for although our members are enthusiastic enough to pay up promptly, the cost of the equipment we have to buy keep the balance of funds in hand at a precarious level!

The possibilities of "Stud-contact" in place of the more orthodox "Third-rail" system are being investigated. This scheme gives a more realistic appearance to the track, without the complication of the "Two-rail" method. We hope our trials will be successful.

Just a note to the uninitiated: Let no one think that we are "playing at trains"! Our aim is to produce a miniature railway with all essential functions retained—points control, signalling, train making and control will, we aim, be as near to railway practice as our diminished models will allow. Our problems are many, but all difficulties will be surmounted. "Per ardua . . ." you know the motto. Let us hope that the stars, when we reach them, will not prove to be a mere handful of short-circuiting sparks!

G. J. A.

THE GRAMOPHONE CLUB

This has been a relatively uneventful term. For one reason or another there have not been many meetings this term. At least, in retrospect there do not seem to have been. Nothing of great significance has befallen us; and, the new radio-gram now being in working order, we have led a relatively peaceful existence.

This is as it should be. We seem to have survived as a club because we do not make any great demands on our members. By preserving an informal constitution, eschewing rules and conditions, and by keeping a flexible membership, we have contrived to preserve a fairly consistent level of support. I believe I am justified in thus elucidating a cause and effect. We have at various times contemplated conducting a campaign to attract more members, but it seems that our continued existence is the best advertisement we could look for. Nevertheless I would hasten to add that our members should not take advantage of our informality to become slack in their attentances when the programmes do not seem attractive to them. Surely only by continual exploration can one hope to extend one's enjoyment of music?

But to return to the chronicling of events: we began the term with a programme of the music that had been used in last term's production of "Macbeth." The producer had been most successful in blending a diverse assortment of music into a unified whole, in which every part contributed to build up the atmosphere of the play. It was an atmosphere hard to define: certainly it was not the blood-and-thunder we associate with orthodox "Macbeth." It was rather an atmosphere of mysterious, almost supernatural, nobility and exaltation, which underlined in an unexpected but truly effective manner, the tragic history of Macbeth. The use of "Tintagel" and Clifton Parker's "Seascape" in particular contributed to this effect.

The other significant event of the term's programmes was a series of three programmes on "Programme Music." The scope was somewhat restricted by the records available: one gained the impression that a large subject was being treated too superficially. However, we feel it to be desirable to arrange a series of programmes of this sort, rather than to persevere eternally with disconnected weekly programmes. D. T. B.

THE LIGHTER MUSIC SOCIETY

President: M. Robert Labare.
Programme Committee: A. J. Hopkins (Chairman), D. M. Spiers, G. Wickes, I. Holden.
Secretary: R. A. Nuttall.

In his prize-giving address, the Headmaster commented upon the rise and fall of School Societies and associations. New clubs spring up, only to be eclipsed by a new Cepheid, while older societies fade temporarily into obscurity. The Lighter Music Society is new; but there is ample reason to suppose that it has gained an immediate foothold. Nevertheless, it is impossible to surmise how the Society will fare after its nucleus of first-year sixth-formers has left.

The aim of the society is "to listen to anything that does not tread on the toes of the Gramophone Club, as long as the records played have some musical value"; this idea has long lurked at the back of several minds, and when this conception happened to be voiced independently by many voices at the same time, the obvious thing to do was to hold a meeting as a tentative fete. This meeting attracted a very large and interested public, and one week later, the first meeting for the purpose of appreciating "Lighter Music" was held.

Up to the time of writing, the Society has enjoyed four record sessions, but the two "general" meetings of these four have been unnecessarily limited in their scope by the apparent reluctance of members to let the Programme Committee know what records they own. Apart from these two "general" meetings we have also held a "feature" on the Grappelly-Rheinhardt Quintet of the Hot Club de France, which was very interestingly prepared by our president, M. Labare, and a personal choice programme by Wickes. By the time this appears in print, we hope to have heard a feature on Stan Kenton's controversial "Progressive Jazz," a personal choice by Volkenburg and two general meetings.

R. A. N.

POETRY SOCIETY

This term has seen the usual prodigious output of verse from the members of the Poetry Society. There have been many new poems, and occasionally old ones were re-read and discussed. The standard of the new verse is, however, limited to a great extent by the continued gloom and morbidity which it expounds. We seem to have fallen into a well-worn rut of disillusion, more from the guidance of the host of modern poets, I fear, than from personal instinct. There have been, inside the small circle of the Poetry Society, revolutionary outcries, or rather mummings for a more happier, more constructive policy in our verse, but we find little or no change in the verse of the most prominent objectors of this nature. The one general improvement, in most cases, seems to be that the verse is more comprehensible than it used to be and seems to have a more settled rhythm. Perhaps, next term, we shall have a minor revolution in the verse produced by the Society, or perhaps we shall continue as we are.

J. M. H.

THE SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

This term the usual activities of the Sixth Form Society have taken place: a Personal Choice Evening, a Play-reading, and a film. We have had only these three meetings owing to the several calls made upon members' time out of school, not the least being preparation for the H.S.C. Trial Examinations.

The Personal Choice Evening was on Tuesday, January 24th, and some forty of the Sixth Form arrived, armed with their personal choice (in many cases, choices). Wimbledon High School was invited, and approximately one and a half sides of a gramophone record per capita were played by them. Brian Jones, as the chairman, contrived to weave such a vast number of items into a very enjoyable evening, which, after Mr. Hanson's two readings as a suitable finale, sent us away both contemplative and amused.

After a break of five weeks in our programme, we held our Play-reading on Friday, March 3rd. Wimbledon High School were again invited, and Sheridan's "A Trip to Scarborough" afforded much amusement to all (was it the text, or the foppish draws and naff tones of some of the readers?).

By the time this Spur is in print, the Sixth Form Society will be looking back, no doubt with pleasure, on the Film-show. It is due for March 16th, and the film is Fritz Lang's "Metropolis." This masterpiece of German cinematographic art should prove a worth-while and satisfying choice. It is virtually impossible, I believe, to go to a commercial cinema to see it, but that members of the Sixth Form may have this unique opportunity through a society of their own is a tribute to the extraordinary facilities for a wider education which it offers.

Two visits have been made to Wimbledon High School. One was a play-reading of "Strife," by Galsworthy. Later, a very enjoyable evening was spent in discussion on the subject of co-education, which developed into the more particular sphere of the relations between our two schools. The Sixth Form Society, we hope, does its best to promote these relations.

D. P.

CHESS CLUB

The number of players who attend regularly and who may also be seen playing chess during the dinner hour, is steadily increasing, so that the club has been obliged to buy more sets. The proportion of junior and middle-school members who play a good game is most encouraging for the future. Our first team, which holds its own against other schools, as will be seen from the figures below, consists entirely of members who will remain at school next year or longer.

Match results are as follows:

Versus Surtiton G.S.; home ... Lost 3½—4½
 Versus Pelham G.S.; home ... Won 7—1
 Versus Wandsworth C.H.; home ... Lost 2—8
 Versus Dec School; away ... Won 7—3
 Totals: For—42½; Against—39½.

The new Junior Team has played one match this term, against Wandsworth Juniors. Although we lost 1½—4½, good match practice was provided.

Many further fixtures have been made for both teams.

A Game of Chess

The following game was played by Powell-Evans (black) against the first board of another school team. At the 24th move the other man made a mistake but it will be seen that Powell-Evans had a won game in any case. We suggest that school chess players will find the

game interesting and instructive even though the players cannot yet be called "masters."

13. P—K3	B—K3	B—Q2
14. P×P	P×P	B×P
15. N—Q3	P×P	B—Q2
16. P—Q3	N—K3	O—O
17. P—Q4?	P—Q3	B×QNP
18. B×N	P—Q3	Q×Q
19. N×O	N—Q3	P×B
20. R—N1	P×N	B—Q4 ch.
21. K—R1	P×P	QR—N1
22. N—Q3	P—Q4	B—Q5
23. N—K2	P×P	B—K4
24. N—KB4	B—K2	B×N

*For B×P ch. wins the exchange and a pawn.

FILMS

The following films were shown in the school during the Winter term:

Life Cycle of a Plant.	La Famille Martin.
Seed Dispersal.	War Under the Microscope.
How Plants Feed.	The Life of a Rabbit.
Water in the Air.	Taken for Granted.
Water Cycle.	The Fight Against Disease.
Story of a Disturbance.	Elimination.
Limestone in Nature.	Limestone in Nature.
Uses of Limestone.	Output for Christopher.
Water Power.	Microscopy of Opaque Objects.
Ammonia.	Houses in History.
Sulphuric Acid.	Breathing.
Steel.	The Blood.
Precise Measurement for Engineers.	Three Men Made History.
This term various forms have been seen:	Life Cycle of a Moss.
	Night Mail.
	Discovery of a New Pigment.
	Elimination.
	Life Cycle of a Moss.
	La Famille Martin.
	War Under the Microscope.
	The Life of a Rabbit.
	Taken for Granted.
	The Fight Against Disease.
	Hydraulics.
	The Story of Penicillin.
	Extraction of Penicillin.
	Breathing.
	The Blood.

HOCKEY

First XI

Of the seven matches played, four have been won, two lost, and one drawn, the goal average being thirty to eleven—a somewhat flattering figure, due mainly to the fifteen-nil win over St. Mary's College 2nd XI. This improvement was to be expected, when it is remembered that nine of this season's team had first team experience last season. In the defence, Egerum's steadiness and sense of positional play have been an admirable foil to Jones's dash and enthusiasm. Both Blackwell and Macketworth have done so well in goal that it is a pity both cannot be included in the team. The former's main faults are two great a tendency to rush out, and a seeming preference for the horizontal rather than the vertical position in goal, which prevents quickness of

10 to 38 and 15 to 28 points respectively. Our first three in each team were :

Seniors
8th. Childs
9th. Hobbs
10th. Shepherd

Unfortunately we were defeated by Beckenham County at Hayes in both Senior and Junior sections by 16 to 20 and 13 to 23 points. The individual results were :

Seniors
3rd. Shepherd, W.
2nd. Golding
7th. Shepherd

Although our results have not been outstanding, we have laid a sound foundation for a very good team in the future. I think that with practice, the criterion of a good cross-country team, they should make their mark in future fixtures.

Juniors
1st. Smith, M.
8th. White
9th. Gubb

I. B. S. L.

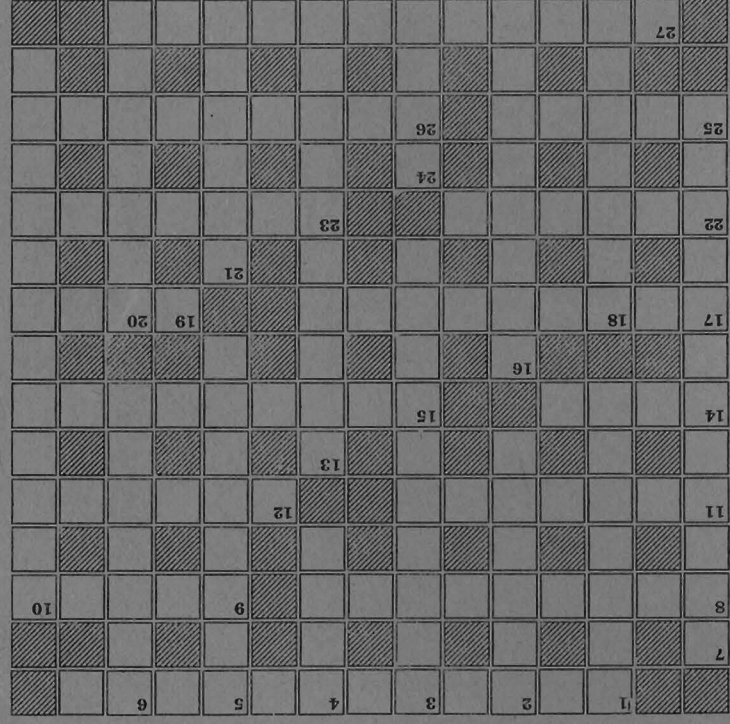
CONTENTS

School Officers	1
Two Farewells	1
House Notes	2
Macbeth :	
Cast and Notes	6
Two Reviews	7
Lost Property	10
Scouts	11
Craft Notes	12
Verses	13
Public Speaking Cup	16
Christian Union	17
565 Squadron A.T.C.	17
Model Railway Club	18
Gramophone Club	18
Lighter Music Society	19
Poetry Society	19
Sixth Form Society	20
Chess Club	20
A Game of Chess	20
Films	21
Games	21
Crossword	24

Inside back cover

CROSSWORD

By J.M.H.



Clues

- ACROSS**
- This is just what the doctor ordered.
 - Hopeful new language (9)
 - Payable to the water-board (5)
 - Six in some complicated reels—
How low! (7)
 - So, Pope! (anag.) (6)
 - Permit (4)
 - Military command on crossing a
bridge (5, 4)
 - A chastened company in reversed
and improved circumstances (9)
 - Musical key (4)
 - Creed (6)
 - The Moor, repulsed, seeks space
and is servile at the end (7)
 - "Christ stopped at —" (5)
 - Compensation (9)
 - The first half of this is an approach,
but I must fit in the end. Is this
accidental? (12)
- DOWN**
- Fore-runner of paper (7)
 - Insect for bald spikes of corn? (6)
 - This town starts off with a gallop,
in Kent, but finishes funereally in
Suffolk (10)
 - Pressing appliance (4)
 - Toll-gate (8)
 - Put soot in the advance guard (7)
 - Tenacious determination (12)
 - "For in that — what dreams
may come must give us pause"
 - "Hamlet" (5, 2, 5)
 - Lame wolf-cub? (10)
 - "Fast falls the —" (8)
 - Wronged partner (7)
 - Editorials or magazines (7)
 - City of Spain and U.S.A. (6)
 - Hypocrisy in 3 down (4)