

# THE SPUR

Vol. IX

No. 4



# THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.

*"To each his need, from each his power"*

Vol. IX., No. 4.

Spring, 1951.

## NOTES

### The Presentation of the Charles Wrinch Portrait

We now have portraits of both our former Headmasters hanging in the Hall. That of John Garrett was painted last year by Guy Rogers, the School's first art master, and was presented to the School last Open Night by the Old Boys Society. A second portrait, that of Charles Wrinch, has now taken up its place on the opposite side of the Hall.

During the ceremony in the Hall on 17th January, the new portrait was presented to the School by Mr. Wrinch. In a short address he entertained us with his usual delightful flow of words and wit, and recalled some of the experiences he had had at the School as Headmaster. The artist, Mr. Cooper, who is Principal of the Wimbledon School of Art, then told us of the difficulties he had in interpreting Mr. Wrinch's mercurial personality in terms of oil and paint pigment. After seeing the portrait we felt that he had performed his task admirably.

The two pictures differ widely in style and technique, but they afford a very timely and welcome addition to the Hall. We hope that this will mark the beginning of a new School tradition.

A. G. S.

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The cost of the magazine is becoming quite prohibitive. If prices continue to rise, we shall be forced to cut down the magazine so that it becomes a bare record of events or to reduce the number of magazines from three to two a year. Either choice is distasteful, but it is hard to see what else can be done. There are of course other difficulties in producing THE SPUR which goodwill and a little energy could surmount. The printers do a noble job, but even they are often defeated by the wretched, tattered rags of manuscript which they are too often given to decipher—and given so late. It should not be necessary to advise, to warn, to appeal, to urge, to threaten in order to obtain House Notes and Society Notes; but it is, and this inveterate tendency seems to be hardening into a disease. If it is, it is a disease caused by wilful neglect and culpable ignorance.

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We offer our warm congratulations to J. M. Hoare and A. Melmoth on winning open awards at Christ's College, Cambridge in December. Hoare gained a Minor Scholarship in English and Melmoth an Exhibition in Natural Science.

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The conditions of the Cock House Cup competition have been modified. It has been decided not to include the Debating Competition and to exclude the House Play Competition. These competitions will, of course, still take place.

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## SCHOOL OFFICERS, SPRING TERM, 1951

*Head of the School* : A. G. Simpson.

*Prefects* : A. G. Simpson, F. J. Atkins, I. B. Bullock, P. J. Casselton, G. C. Cook, J. W. Crichton, J. P. Hood Phillips, A. J. Hopkins, D. S. Jonas, D. Mackelworth, A. Melmoth, J. D. Shepherd, D. M. Spiers, B. R. Walters.

*Captain of Hockey* : D. Mackelworth.

*Secretary of Hockey* : J. D. Shepherd.

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

*Prefect of Library* : J. P. Hood Phillips.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editors acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following magazines and apologise for any inadvertent omissions:—Aldenharnian, Ashtedean, Bristol Grammar School Chronicle, Bryanston Saga, Caterham School Magazine, Dolphin, Fettesian, Kingstonian, Old Spur, Radleian.

*Editors* : William Walsh, Esq., J. D. Shepherd.

In future those who gain colours in any sports will be entitled to wear a colours tie. It will be of light blue silk with two dark blue stripes.

\* \* \*

The School had to bid a regretful farewell last term to Dr. T. W. Bamford, who left to become a Training College lecturer after supervising biology here since July, 1947, with liveliness and individuality. Outside the laboratory, boys will remember him on the Rugby field and at the Baths, and adherents of the Natural History Club and members of Cobb's House will think of him with the greater affection for this closer acquaintance with his kindness, modestly-carried learning and ungrudging help.

In his stead, we welcome, for the next two terms at least, Mr. G. T. Creber, who after taking his degree at London University in Botany with Zoology joins Raynes Park and the teaching profession. We hope he will find both it and us congenial.

## HOUSE NOTES

### Cobb's

*House Captain* : A. G. Simpson.

*Vice-Captain* : A. Melmoth.

*School Prefects* : A. G. Simpson, A. Melmoth, D. S. Jonas, J. D. Shepherd, G. C. Cook.

**This term has been one of success.** After a long period of "slack water" the tide has begun to turn; already we have had two cups washed up on our beaches and have sighted two more on the horizon! At the moment we have a substantial lead in the Cock House Competition which we hope to hold for the rest of the year.

At the beginning of the term we welcomed Mr. Pratt to the House as assistant House Master. Also at the beginning of the term we had the pleasure of hearing that John Hoare had been awarded a scholarship and Alan Melmoth an exhibition at Christ's College, Cambridge. The House will wish to congratulate them on their success. Our congratulations are also due to J. D. Shepherd and G. C. Cook on being promoted to prefects.

*Rugby.*

**This was a disappointment.** After having a promising start we were eventually beaten into third position and the Colts in to second position. The only gleam of hope has come from the Juniors, who have won the Junior Rugby Competition with Halliwell's equal.

*Hockey.*

In the only match played this season, the Seniors have beaten Milton's 7-1. We can only look forward, hopefully, to our future matches—weather permitting.

*Cross Country.*

**This was where we made our mark.** Our not very hopeful, but very determined team got off to a shaky start owing to the late arrival of some of its members. We were nearly beaten by Milton's at the finish, but we managed to get our last man in by No. 25 and so won the competition by 8 points. Once again we have proved that we can function as a team and not merely as a collection of individuals.

*Boxing.*

Here we scored our second victory. It was largely due to our number of School boxers that we accumulated a substantial lead in the early stages. This lead was maintained during the preliminary bouts and only flagged slightly during the finals. The whole team boxed well, and we can now boast six School champions. Our thanks are due to "Bill" Shepherd, who as captain of Boxing and Cross Country, has put in a lot of hard work in shaping our teams.

*Debating.*

We were fortunate here in having a bye to the semi-final where we met and beat Gibb's. We now look forward to meeting Milton's in the final.

A. G. S.

### Gibb's

*House Captain* : L. W. J. Bunch.

*Prefects* : F. J. Atkins, I. B. Bullock, D. M. Spiers.

The bad weather has allowed very little hockey this term, and it has been possible to play only one Senior House match. In this we were soundly defeated by a faster and more experienced Halliwell's team.

The Juniors are to be congratulated on their two fine wins in the Rugby competition. In the last two matches, however, they were handicapped by the heavy conditions and suffered two narrow defeats.

Again we found ourselves out of the hunt in the Cross Country Cup. In spite of M. Hamilton's fine effort we could not produce the runners to back him up.

In the first round of the Debating competition we gained a narrow victory over Halliwell's. Our progress in the next round was checked by Cobb's who received an unanimous verdict. The most noticeable weakness amongst the team was the failure to gather ideas precisely and deliver them fluently.

Our efforts in the Boxing Cup were indeed praiseworthy, and the House spirit demonstrated by the whole team can only be described as magnificent. Although we scored far more points than any other House we were handicapped by a lack of school boxers. It seems a pity that a system which was originally introduced to encourage boys to enter the competition should now prove a great disadvantage to a House with a team of inexperienced but eager boys willing to brave the horrors of the ring for their House. Our gratitude and admiration are due to all members of the team.

Next term a great effort is called for in qualifying for athletic and swimming points. This is an activity in which every member of the House has a chance to show his value. The importance of qualifying points cannot be over emphasised and we hope for a large total in both competitions.

L. W. J. B.

### Halliwell's

*House Captain* : P. J. Casselton.

*Prefects* : P. J. Casselton, A. J. Hopkins.

At the end of last term we surrendered Colin White, our House Captain, to the army. We wish him every success in this, and his subsequent life. We feel his loss deeply and many of the younger members of the house could take an example from his determination and great House spirit.

It is not often that the House Captain of Halliwell's has to report a lack of progress in the annual fight for the Cock House Cup. However, taking the sports in their chronological order, second in rugby and third in both cross country and boxing are not results which reflect the true capabilities of the House. There is at present, prevalent in the House a sense of apathy, "the others will win the cups, I needn't bother" feeling.

In the boxing championship, the few stalwarts who represented us gave of their best and deserve our congratulation. The team was ably led by Len Palmer who deserves the congratulations of the House on his Surrey Schools Championship. For the cross country race, certain members of the team refused to train, and now the whole

House suffers in consequence. We were unfortunate in losing the services of one of our best runners, due to injury, but this should have served as a spur to the others to do greater things.

In the debating competition, after a very even debate, we were adjudged the losers and thus have surrendered our claims to this cup which we held last year. We congratulate our team, ably lead by A. J. Hopkins on their performance. We also congratulate our Junior rugby team, under the captaincy of Higham, on trying for first place in the competition. We trust they will do great things in the cricket. In hockey we have only played once, when we beat Gibb's by five goals to nil, but here again it appears the Seniors will receive little support from the Colts as occurred in the rugby. The House Colts, with few exceptions, could undergo a complete change of outlook about the House and the School, and become better men as a result of it.

Next term we have Athletics, Swimming, tennis and cricket cup competitions, and I trust the whole House will go all out, and if we are to lose the Cock House Cup this year, let's go down fighting, and give the ultimate victors a run for their money.

P. J. C.

We have now our third House Captain of the year, but in Peter Casselton we have a very worthy successor in whom the House reposes entire confidence.

P. S.

### Milton's

*House Captain* : J. P. Hood Phillips.

This term has not, unfortunately, been marked by any outstanding success. We came last in the boxing. We suffered from that fatal lack of talent which is more essential in boxing than anything else. We must, however, congratulate Langton for organising his somewhat meagre team, and Gubb for being champion in his weight.

So far we have only played one game of hockey : against Cobb's. We lost 7—0. The game, however, was played by a ten men team with a gusto worthy of a resurgent House spirit. We feel confident of doing better next time, if the weather permits a next time.

In the cross country we started as negligible "outsiders" and gained second place. The whole team is to be congratulated on this. It was a noble effort and proves that by constant practice and by being inspired with a vicious House patriotism we can make up for poverty of talent and lack of genius.

We have won our first debate against Newsom's. We managed to persuade a bored and conventional audience that they "deplored the influence of convention in society." What is more important we persuaded the judges. The victorious team consisted of J. Hood Phillips, Farrant, Brooker, Horsnail and Hall. We wish them luck, and feel confident that they will be successful when they meet Cobb's in the final.

The ups and downs of this term have shown that the House is capable of improving its position in the School if all its members take an active part in doing this. We have too many passengers and "also rans" in the House, and until these cankers are uprooted we will never attain to success. The remedy is obvious. It is up to the whole House to uproot this canker which is slowly making us moribund.

### Newsom's

*House Captain* : D. Mackelworth.

*Prefects* : J. W. Crichton, D. Mackelworth, B. R. Walters.

Last term ended on a note of jubilation, as we had once more succeeded in winning the Rugby Cup. This was due mainly to excellent work by the Colt XV who won all their matches by an impressive margin.

The Senior XV did quite well in winning three matches and losing one. As some of the Senior members of the House are staying on for at least the beginning of the next School year, we can hope for quite an efficient Senior team next season. The Junior House have played quite well, but there is a tendency on the part of some of the lesser members of the side to stand back and watch the stalwarts of the team do the work. The Junior XV have won two matches and lost two. We began this term with a House Supper to celebrate our victory.

This term is reputed to contain the hockey competition, but so far neither Seniors nor Colts have played due to the condition of the pitches. The Senior team contains five members of the School 1st XI and so is really quite strong, and if the Colts play with their usual ability and enthusiasm we should see the hockey cup change hands this year. So far this term we have had the cross country and boxing competitions. We have come fourth in both, but congratulations are due to Reeves who came first in the cross country and to J. W. Crichton, Dorey and Spencer B., who are now School boxing champions in their respective weights.

To pass from physical to mental exertion we come to the debating competition. In this we were met by Milton's on the motion, "This House deplores the influence of convention upon society." Unfortunately the judges were convinced that they also deplored the effects of convention, and so we have no further interest in the Debating Cup. It would be a good thing, however, if more members of the House attended the meetings of the Debating Society and so gain experience for future years.

Next term is a full one, with cricket, athletics, swimming and House play competitions, and if we are to get the Cock House Cup we must exert all our efforts and abilities to the full.

## ARTICLES

### Notes sur l'éducation anglaise

Le cottage anglais s'offre au passant, dans la rue, sous un aspect bien moins hermétique que son équivalent français, le petit pavillon de banlieue ou la villa campagnarde. Aucune barrière, aucun grillage, pas de volets pour se dérober au monde extérieur. Et le carré de verdure à l'entrée du cottage est comme le symbole de la généreuse hospitalité qui vous attend au dedans. Toutes proportions gardées, la même différence se retrouve entre la Grammar School et le Lycée. Et non seulement dans les apparences extérieures (si l'on oppose par exemple l'accueil engageant de Raynes Park School, parmi la verdure et les arbres, à l'aspect souvent rébarbatif de nos lycées-casernes); mais aussi, et fondamentalement, dans les conceptions mêmes qui président à l'éducation en Angleterre et en France. Chez nous on se méfie de l'élève, de son exubérance et de sa vitalité. On s'efforce donc de réprimer ces dangereux penchants par une stricte discipline. Ici, au contraire, on fait confiance a priori à l'enfant, on ne cherche pas à l'accabler sous les contraintes, mais à lui permettre d'épanouir au maximum ses qualités latentes. Ce libéralisme dans la discipline a son corollaire dans la souplesse des programmes d'études proposés aux jeunes Anglais. Toute liberté est laissée aux candidats de choisir dans la masse des matières d'examen les quatre ou cinq sujets qui conviennent le mieux à leur tempérament et à leurs goûts. Alors qu'en France il n'est guère tenu compte des desiderata et des affinités particulières du futur examiné. La Baccalauréat est conçu comme un examen standard, à peu près identique pour tous, incluant une dizaine de sujets au minimum, avec la seule alternative d'insister davantage sur la partie classique (français, latin, grec) ou moderne (langues vivantes et sciences). Il est évident qu'un jeune garçon, doué en latin et en

grec n'excelle pas nécessairement en algèbre et en géométrie. Peut-être même aura-t-elles plus grandes difficultés à se maintenir aux alentours de la moyenne. Sans demander la suppression complète de cette partie de l'examen, on pourrait cependant fixer, pour ces deux matières, un programme restreint mieux adapté aux capacités de l'intéressé. En fait, le pauvre candidat n'aura parfois d'autre ressource que d'apprendre quasiment par coeur l'innombrable succession des théorèmes, diminuant ainsi les risques d'une trop mauvaise note. La réciprocité est encore plus vraie : que de malheureux élèves, aussi peu réceptifs que possible aux charmes de Cicéron et de Sénèque, obligés néanmoins de se perdre dans le dédale de ces sombres périodes, qui resteront toujours pour eux un secret !

Avec des élèves également doués pour toutes les matières, notre système permet à coup sûr d'obtenir des résultats remarquables. A chaque session, des dizaines de candidats réussissent à décrocher des mentions : *assez bien, bien, tres bien*, qui signifient qu'ils ont atteint pour l'ensemble de l'examen une moyenne minima de, respectivement : 12, 14, 16, sur 20 (il est pratiquement impossible d'obtenir une mention avec un 2 en physique et un 4 en maths). Donc, quand le candidat se montre ainsi à la hauteur des multiples connaissances qui lui sont demandées, il est certain qu'il peut arguer d'une formation intellectuelle théorique plus complète que celle d'un pupil anglais de sixth form qui aura limité le champ de ses études à trois matières, disons anglais, français, histoire. Les étudiants et professeurs français qui visitent les écoles anglaises sont souvent frappés de cette différence de standard. Et il leur arrive parfois de conclure, en dépit des charmes de la vie scolaire anglaise, que le niveau moyen du pupil est décidément bien insuffisant. Je ne suis pas du tout d'accord avec ce point de vue. Certes je reconnais que la discipline intellectuelle assez lâche imposée aux élèves a des effets un peu paralysants sur leur faculté de travail. Il est juste de ne pas vouloir surmener exagérément un garçon de 14 à 16 ans, en pleine croissance (chez nous, on ne se pose même pas la question, elle est ainsi plus vite résolue !). Cependant, parfois, sans nullement affecter l'équilibre mental et psychique de l'élève, on pourrait lui demander un effort supplémentaire, secouer davantage sa "laziness" traditionnelle. Si le professeur a raison de veiller soigneusement à ne pas surcharger ces jeunes cerveaux, il ne doit pas être dupe de l'inclination naturelle de l'écolier à faire le moins de travail possible. Par ailleurs, à âge égal, on constate une plus grande difficulté, chez le pupil, à développer logiquement sa pensée et à bâtir une dissertation. Même en tenant compte du fait que le Français a fait cartésien, il y a là néanmoins, me semble-t-il, une nouvelle manifestation de la répugnance de l'élève anglais à faire l'effort nécessaire pour assembler ses idées de façon cohérente.

Mais ces lacunes ne me paraissent pas décisives. Elles n'entament pas la valeur éminemment formatrice de l'éducation anglaise telle que je la vois en oeuvre à Raynes Park School. L'accent est mis, dès le départ, sur la formation individuelle de l'enfant, non sur sa soumission étroite aux exigences déformantes de l'examen. On cherche à préparer les hommes de demain, à éveiller ces consciences vierges aux exigences de la vie en société, bien plus qu'à créer des puits de science et d'inanité sonore. Il est notable de constater combien le "mauvais esprit," si en vogue dans nos lycées, le chahutage systématique, le cynisme déjà latent chez nombre de jeunes lycéens, sont pratiquement inconnus à Raynes Park. Je veux bien faire la part de la réserve naturelle propre au caractère anglais. Mais je suis convaincu que les élèves anglais n'ont pas besoin de ces exutoires bruyants, pittoresques parfois, mais souvent odieux (ces mêmes casseurs de nos lycées feront plus tard de parfaits bourgeois pantouflards), parce qu'ils n'ont pas à réagir contre des contraintes harassantes, qu'ils ignorent aussi bien le lamentable jeu du chat et de la souris avec le pion souffre-douleur (il n'y a pas de

surveillants dans les écoles anglaises, détail révélateur) que l'obsession envahissante de l'examen à passer coûte que coûte. Le pupil grandit ainsi dans l'atmosphère la plus favorable, la plus libre, qui se puisse concevoir. Il partage ses repas avec ses maîtres, avec qui d'ailleurs il reste toujours en contact étroit, que ce soit dans ses activités parascolaires ou sur les terrains de sport. Dans la perspective idéale, le professeur devient véritablement l'ami de l'élève, presque son confident. Et c'est là où notre éducation retarde de cent coudées. Chez nous, on a presque oublié l'homme en devenir, derrière l'écran trompeur des connaissances livresques. On ne voit qu'un être abstrait, détaché de la vie véritable. On prépare pour demain de parfaits égoïstes, des citoyens irresponsables. Il subsiste, et il subsistera toujours, quelques remarquables exceptions. On ne peut empêcher de jeunes créatures de rester jeunes, avides de vivre et de s'exprimer. Mais par la maladresse d'un système désuet, depuis longtemps divorcé de l'expérience, on laisse souvent se flétrir prématurément ces fleurs fragiles que sont de jeunes consciences en éveil.

Raynes Park School offre un bel exemple de ce qu'il faudrait faire, partout. Je ne sais s'il est donné à toutes les écoles anglaises d'atteindre un si parfait équilibre. Mais je suis convaincu qu'ici, à Raynes Park, on est sur la bonne voie. Seule une éducation adaptée aux besoins véritables de l'enfant nous préparera pour demain une société un peu meilleure.

Louis Marcorelles

### SITTING AN OPEN AT CAMBRIDGE

Last December six of us set off to try to compete at Cambridge for Open Scholarships. This meant staying for nearly a week in some of the venerable Colleges of that institution. Between us we visited four colleges which differed widely in character—from secluded Emmanuel to immense St. John's.

Christ's College offered us near-palatial rooms furnished with an exceedingly considerate student extending greetings over trunks and piles of homeward-bound clothing. These rooms, enjoyed by two of us, were equipped with Ascot heaters, pantries, gas-fires and gas-rings, table lamps and, in one case, a radio and electric alarm clock. A pleasant but rough gentleman cleaned shoes every morning and "knocked up" at the appropriate hour. Settee suites and carpets made life very comfortable.

At St. John's, or more correctly, at a building associated with the college, our companions were introduced into attics, in one of which the welcome was provided by a solitary rugger boot, together with a disproportionate quantity of mud, in the middle of the room. The sole items of comfort in these rooms, which had neither heat nor running water, were a curious but remarkably efficient system of strings and hooks for turning the light switch off from the bed, and a few cups and saucers in drawers and cupboards. There was a common-room provided but this aided little the general air of inhospitality.

Soon after our arrival we encountered our first "Hall" at Cambridge. At this evening meal the students, in this case the scholarship candidates, assembled, together with the college dignitaries, in the Dining-Hall. A large gong was struck and a pious latin grace was said. The solemnity of the occasion was not increased by the efforts of the student saying the grace to finish it before the sound of the gong had died—an interval, we were told, of about seventeen seconds.

Saturday consisted of six hours of exams. taken in odd corners of colleges at the other end of the town. Fortunately the novelty of the surroundings quelled the awful fear which might well have overcome us on so important an occasion. Novelty, however, could not withhold the evening's fatigue and as it was wet the radio or, for the more sociable, gossip passed the time.

Sunday brought a cold wind and a delightful feeling of levity; it was as though the burden of the examination had entirely disappeared, though only two of the seven or eight papers had in fact been taken.

By the evening we had all had interviews. These can be approached in several ways. One can rely on being lively and quick-witted while the ordeal is in progress or one can prepare answers to possible and probable questions beforehand. Interviews at Cambridge are very impressive; the atmosphere is compounded of the interrogator's boredom and your own fright. Everyone has at least one interview which may last up to twenty minutes. They are often preceded by a waiting period during which all self-confidence is effectively removed by other candidates with "three distinctions in Higher," rugby colours, important fathers, and other devastating qualifications. The interviews are seldom of the common question and answer type but more often depend on your making the conversation on such topics as religion, music, and National Service. However, Sunday brought relief from this burden.

Tuesday brought for the scientist the thankfully rare experience of Practical Physics in the Cavendish Laboratory. That establishment offered us not liquid air or electrons to study but a nasty little experiment which depended on the comparison by the eye of the brightnesses of two sources of light of different colours. After three hours of tedium we were glad to leave the shrine of atomic physics.

We were now looking forward to going home though we were more accustomed to the procedure of taking scholarships. We had realised by now that this was no game but a test of knowledge and ability. Thus the remainder of the time passed in work, and on Thursday evening we arrived home glad to return to our regular lives after a pleasant but exacting interlude.

## CYMBELINE

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

"Golden lads and girls all must  
As chimney-sweepers, come to dust"

### THE CAST

Cymbeline, <i>King of Britain</i> ... ..	M. J. Birkett
Cloten, <i>his stepson</i> ... ..	C. R. Brown
Posthumous Leonatus, <i>husband to Imogen</i> ... ..	R. J. Wells
Belarius, <i>a banished lord, disguised as Morgan</i> ... ..	R. A. Nuttall
Guiderius { <i>sons to Cymbeline disguised as Polydore and Cadwal, supposed sons to Morgan</i> ... ..	P. A. Tanner
Arviragus { <i>Italians living in Rome</i> ... ..	G. Mitchell
Philario { <i>Italians living in Rome</i> ... ..	D. L. Hall
Iachimo { <i>Italians living in Rome</i> ... ..	J. R. Wells
Caius Lucius, <i>General of the Roman forces</i> ... ..	D. S. Jonas
Pisanio, <i>Servant to Posthumous</i> ... ..	D. M. Spiers
Cornelius, <i>a physician</i> ... ..	F. M. Langton
A Roman Captain ... ..	P. J. Casselton
Philharmonus, <i>a Roman soothsayer</i> ... ..	A. F. Menzies
A Frenchman, <i>living in Rome</i> ... ..	A. C. Manifold
A British Lord, <i>toady to Cloten</i> ... ..	M. W. Dick
Another British Lord ... ..	J. W. R. Sanders
A Gaoler ... ..	L. W. J. Bunch
A British Captain ... ..	M. A. Philips
A British Soldier ... ..	D. M. Pratt
The Queen, <i>stepmother to Imogen</i> ... ..	J. H. Goodger
Imogen, <i>Cymbeline's only daughter</i> ... ..	I. B. Hayter
Helen, <i>her serving maid</i> ... ..	C. R. Weightman

The voice of Jupiter  
Singer ... .. C. C. Wright  
Flute Player ... .. R. Threlfall

### Roman Soldiers :

A. S. Jeapes, A. D. Brookes, C. W. Rodgers, R. J. McTeare,  
D. A. Burgess, K. H. Ayres, P. M. Brooker

### British Soldiers :

H. B. Smith, J. R. Stott, M. A. Rainbird, G. C. Cook, P. J. Bunyan,  
A. P. Redman

### Ladies and Gentlemen of the Court :

A. J. Dixon, J. Dunn, J. B. Farrant, K. R. Buckingham, A. F. Cox  
*Citizens and children in Rome :*

J. Arnold, L. D. Barnett, M. L. Bird, M. Burns, D. G. Hooper,  
B. H. Finch

Costumes and décor by Joan and Cecil Riley assisted by Mary Balshawe  
with the augmentation of the School wardrobe

### Set constructed by :

D. A. Beavitt, D. H. Dann, A. E. Gooding, B. G. Hope, D. C. Lewis,  
R. Mills, H. S. Sheath, M. J. Tutty, C. R. Weightman  
under the supervision of Dan Shannon

### Stage Manager :

D. C. Lewis

Lighting by P. Cheney and B. Jacobs

Music production by H. S. Sheath

Arrangement of Schubert's "Hark, hark, the Lark" by Robert Loveday

### Prompter and call boy :

J. Arnold

Extra lighting by Strand Electric

Wigs by Spaans

### Front of House Manager :

Alan Cholmondeley

### Production :

Peter Smith

"Experience, O, thou disprovest report" (Imogen)

Those who are acquainted with producers of school plays learn to expect from them, as the event draws near, a certain weariness of the spirit, darkening shadows under the eyes, a sharpening tongue and a tautening tension. These are omens that all is going to be well. But those who, taking a kindly interest in the progress of "Cymbeline," sought information as to its prospects from its producer, received nothing but dismal wailing, a pitiful wringing of the hands, tales of problems insuperable piling on. Did we not hear him mutter

"Gods, if you

Should have ta'en vengeance on my faults I never

Had lived to put on this."

And so we took our seats on the first night to witness our first play at Raynes Park, with mingled expectations. And let it be here admitted that we find it hard not to be deeply moved by the schoolboy production. We easily excuse the immaturity, the lack of depth in portraying the stress of emotions never experienced, that are inevitable among the younger player. We are stirred more by the transformation from the everyday character met with in the classroom, we feel the mounting tension behind the scenes as the cue draws nearer, the utter determination to "give it all they've got," the sheer joy of dressing up and the catch in the breath as they find they're "on" for the first time. All this adds something, heightens our enjoyment of the school play, and quietens our critical instinct, more querulous with the professional performance.

Let us then frankly admit that we found I. B. Hayter's portrayal of Imogen profoundly moving throughout the play. The pathos of her parting from her husband, her stern rejection of Iachimo's advances,

her noble defiance of her father, the charm of her deference as Fidele, all were done with a poise and tenderness that were remarkable. Never finer perhaps, than in the closing lines of Act 1

" Accessible is none but Milford way."

J. R. Wells as Iachimo stood out at once as for his general maturity and ease of movement on the stage. The scene in Imogen's bed-chamber gave ample evidence of his dramatic skill. The iniquity of Iachimo's trespass upon the seclusion of the Princess was transformed into a scene of lyrical beauty, that grew upon us, like the slow movement of a symphony, with each performance. Even the offence of the mole was dissolved by the poetry of its description—

" cinque-spotted like the crimson drops  
I' the bottom of the cowslip."

Particularly entertaining was J. H. Goodger as the wicked queen-stepmother. Her lightly cracked voice and long skinny fingers were used to excellent advantage and she only failed to maintain her hideous dignity in the long political speeches in the middle of the play. R. J. Wells as Posthumous must be given every credit for a noble attempt at a difficult part. His diction was clear and the agony of his position was fully conveyed. If his gestures were a trifle awkward and his emotions somewhat stereotyped, he must still be granted a creditable achievement. M. J. Birkett made a dignified and stentorian King Cymbeline—never more so than in his first towering entry. His pitiful ditherings at the succession of discomfitures piling upon him towards the end of the play was well done. C. R. Brown was successful as the annoying and despicable Cloten, admirably toadied to by his lordly friend M. W. Dick. But one of the most lovable and naturally acquitted parts was that of Pisanio (D. M. Spiers). There was an unfeigned simplicity about his part that awoke keen sympathy with the melancholy of his situation.

Benign and paternal, if a trifle uninspired, R. A. Nuttall made an adequate Belarius, and father in their Welsh forest cave to the two princes P. Tanner and G. Mitchell, who, alone in the cast, were free to be themselves, and were so, pleasingly. The minor roles of Cornelius (F. M. Langton), Philario (D. L. Hall), A Frenchman (A. C. Manifold), A Gaoler (L. W. J. Bunch), were all ably filled and did not lower the standard, as so often happens in school Shakespeare. Special congratulations must be given to the musicians (C. C. Wright, treble, and R. Threlfall, flute) for their performance of "Hark, hark, the lark," which, grace à Schubert, is all the great majority of people would recognise in Cymbeline.

So much for the characters. What of the total spectacle? Frankly, it was magnificent; and in our enthusiasm for the rich pageantry of the court scenes, the sombre gloom of the Welsh forest, the colourful vitality of the Roman street, and finest of all, the exquisite delicacy of the bedchamber intrusion, we are not bothered by minor technical disturbances, which may have brought strange oaths from the producer's lips, but affected the performance not one whit.

Before we give the highest praise to Peter Smith, the producer, the contributions of Mr. and Mrs. Riley in their designing and costuming, the many labours of Mr. Shannon and the stage crew in setting the scenes, and the work of a host of other helpers before and during the production must be highly commended, for adding to the general excellence.

So, in conclusion, we must give full honours to him whose name appears insignificantly last on the programme—Peter Smith—for his courage, persistence and artistic skill, in conveying the " complex poetic imagery and fairy tale atmosphere " of Cymbeline in such a moving, striking and dynamic form. It is a play of beautiful lines, rather than noble speeches, and the complications of the plot, so miraculously resolved in the last scene, made it a play that needed to be seen more

than once to appreciate its full merit. The test of quality is repetition, and where appreciation grows and boredom tempts not—there, we submit, is dramatic art. Further, our praise is unqualified for the school that can regularly present to its scholars, by its scholars and primarily for its scholars, a sequence of Shakespeare so attractive and so artistic.

J. D. T.

## VERSE

### Gates

The first was of wicker, and through it  
Stretched the trail of the night,  
Below, the contracted limestone,  
And the river; coal barges  
Nose apart the isolated islands.  
I tried, I could not reach the key.  
And it was lost deep in the fleeting storm,  
Only cool and green, and dancing leaves,  
Rain soft and profound.  
They did not open it, and inside merriment,  
Intense deliberate merriment  
And sage exuberance on crackling ebony.

Another was of glass, and around it  
Iron girders, and the rush of morning,  
Smoke, and black iron music.  
Music of a train or an ancient tramcar  
Mud and music, and slowly  
The citadel cold, meaningless, yields  
Inside is peace yet none may enter  
Solitary splendour, high turrets  
Flowing crowds, and dogs  
Dessicated foliage on a darkening sky,  
One gate is open, all may enter,  
But all abstain and melt away.

The third is of wood, and around it  
Saltings, grey with migrating seabirds  
Marooned ships on the heaving sandbanks.  
Salt and sand, and smooth pebbles,  
A glimmer of land, then night:  
Music, plucked delicate music  
From flowing hands, an open window,  
Music of another age  
And then quiet, no wind, no sound  
And darkness cool in the night:  
The gate is locked and safe, jewels glimmer  
And fall, like pebbles on the deepening ocean.

D.C.B.

### After an Evening Reading The Early Mr. Eliot

The dawn wind wailed softly  
Down the deserted streets,  
Drifted into the alleyways  
Where rats creep among the bones,  
Sidled into doorways  
And muttered round the half-closed doors,  
Dawn.

The brown leaves twisted and whispered,  
Scatched along the pavement,  
And scabbled madly in the dusty gutters, muttering  
Dawn.

Around the chimney pots and eaves,  
 The darkness shook itself and yawned  
 And wandered wearily away  
 Through the grey misty air,  
 To shroud the sleepy remnants of another day..

J. D. S.

### Mill Wheel

I lingered at the mottled mill  
 The wheel moved, the wheel spun.  
 Across the violent hills I sped  
 And through the precipice of day  
 Into the chasms of the night,  
 With deep and darkened weeds  
 And rank deceptive undergrowth.  
 Here werewolves thickened  
 And danced and glistened  
 In perpetual enmity with night ;  
 And groaned the grunting griffin in his grief  
 In deep and dark degrading stones.  
 In brackish water of the depths  
 The octopus smiled with brindled spite.  
 And rose the phoenix with translucent wings  
 In fire, profound deliberate fire,  
 It turned again as I in peril swayed.  
 Demonic creatures laughed at woe  
 In denigrated hate.  
 I lingered at the mottled mill,  
 The wheel moved, the wheel spun  
 And sedges stood with spiked delight  
 And cool the river made its flowing way.

D.C B.

### THE 19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

Notes such as these which appear in each term's magazine and in our own "Elms" tend to turn the spotlight on the unusual and to illuminate the events and achievements of more than ordinary interest. It may be advisable, therefore, to deflect attention from the unusual in this instance to the usual. It is not that this term has found us with nothing of importance to report—we have visited Mount Pleasant Post Office, and, during the holidays, the former site of Charterhouse, and of course our site at West Hoathly, been represented at the County Music Festival and in an Association Hobbies and Handicrafts Exhibition, and been visited by the Assistant Commissioner for Education from Imperial Headquarters, Brigadier G. P. Crampton—but that most of the activities have been reported in our own magazine "The Elms," another edition of which will have appeared between the time of writing and the publication of THE SPUR.

The important part of a Scout's life, though not the most spectacular, is the Troop Meeting and the scouting activities which creep into his daily life, activities symbolized to the public as "tying knots" and rubbing two pieces of wood together to produce a fire—or is it rubbing two scouters together to produce sparks? These activities all form part, as games, as practice or as teaching, of training for Tenderfoot, Second or First Class badges, with some time spent after the Second Class stage on Proficiency badges. If you who read this are a scout, what all this means is familiar ground. But perhaps we owe it to the uninitiated to explain that these badges represent stages in a course of training, mainly by games—this is not another item in the school curriculum—which aims at developing in the scout an interest in the world outside, particularly in life in the open air and

a sense of the need for some public service. Scouting is not the only movement which has these healthy aims, nor can it claim, of course, 100 per cent. success! But where it is different is in its method. There is nothing unusual in rewards such as badges set at intervals along a road to mark milestones of achievement. But no one can understand the principles behind the scout troop unless he sees the patrol unit at work. Here is a method which lays on a scout the obligation not only of making himself proficient, but of handing on his skill to others, and anyone who has attempted to teach anything will realise the truth of the platitude that by teaching one learns.

All this is old news to the scout. Let him therefore ask himself where he stands on the road of progress. Let him consider not only his own position, but his relation to others in his patrol. If he is a Patrol Leader or a Second, is he doing his job of training others; if he is a Second Class scout, is he doing all he can to reach First Class, and at the same time helping his P.L. to train recruits; if he is a Tenderfoot, is he equipping himself thoroughly for the time when he will be called on to hand on his knowledge in turn?

In this mood of introspection, we might well ask how this Patrol system works in the 19th Group. This term the system has been at work more successfully than for some time. If it has a fault, however, it is that it leaves the choice of the speed at which he progresses to the scout, and most weaknesses in the troop can be traced to the failure to realise the need for training until the day when responsibility falls on an unprepared scout. A Scouter can train a P.L. when he has been appointed, but at this time the P.L. needs to direct most of his attention to the welfare of his Patrol and little to himself. The important people in the troop are at the beginning of the road; and those are the most successful camps and activities in which a S.M., Senior, or P.L. finds himself with time to share a job with a tenderfoot. A scout's service to another scout is not to do the job for him, to make his life easy and his bed one of roses, but to show him how to overcome difficulties for himself, and to tackle work in the way most economical of effort.

With this approach to the task of training, the enthusiasm of a recruit would have no chance to wane. A troop would be so healthy that the highlights of achievement would demand publication in notes such as these as well as in "The Elms."

### ART NOTES

From time to time we have enjoyed exhibits of particular interest in our showcase this year through the kind co-operation of members of the Staff who have each month lent us some object or picture to display, which, in their opinion, has some artistic merit. Here is a list of the members of the Staff and the work they have exhibited to date.

Mr. Rudgley ...	An oil painting	"Narcissus" (artist unknown).
Mr. Lyle ...	Typography	Page from Lawrence of Arabia's translation of the Odyssey published by the Oxford University Press.
Mr. Hanson ...	Pottery	Two pieces of Honiton Pottery.
Mrs. Herdman ...	Lace	Examples of knitted lace, a rare craft these days.
Mr. Pratt ...	Sculpture	Photographs of a statuette of the Virgin and Child assigned to Antonio Rossellino.

The short resumé's by the Staff on their exhibits were most illuminating. We should like to take this opportunity for thanking them for their kind co-operation. The Model Theatre Club flourishes and work on the large Model Theatre is progressing; it is to be used both as a Model Theatre and a Shadow Theatre, and it is to be hoped that we should be ready by next term to produce a play. The screens in the

Art Room have been put to full use and a very interesting exhibition of Christmas Cards has been held in which the boys were asked to vote on the three best and the three worst cards in the exhibition. We are indebted to the Economics Sixth for their valuable work with the voting. It is hoped that in the near future we may be able to arrange some exhibitions of other school's work. It should be a stimulating experience to see how our contemporaries fare in other schools.

A. C. R.

## MOBILES

The Art Room has a new occupant, gliding, turning in delicate silent poetic movement, full of iridescent jewel-like movement; of crystal shapes and of great subtlety of balance. This new object, almost alive in its infinite variations is a Mobile. What is the fascination of these gentle objects with their power of calling a poetic response to motion? Is it that they awaken an increased awareness to delicate precision to be found in nature, the beautiful rightness of the structure of plants, trees, insects; that intrinsic balance so fine and only complete, of full meaning when so correctly organised? The parallel is indeed significant when we stop to admire the great beauty in nature around us, when we consider how delicate is the structure of a plant with its thin stem, its outstretched leaves and blooms all beautifully counterbalanced, or again the majestic solemn movements of clouds, gliding in the vastness of heaven. Surely then here is the value, the essence, of these Mobiles, that they are the means of reawakening this sense of beauty so often latent due to a lethargy of observation caused no doubt by a dull familiarity with so much in life. We should try continually to observe all around us with an excited awareness, as though we had just discovered something new, in this way further facets and beauties of familiar things will be revealed to us in all their inspiring creative vigour. This is one of the values of the work done in the Art Room, for here we try to develop this true way of observation. This quality is to be found in all great art, this correct and particular observation. How many people have really stopped to look at the real colours to be found in a landscape, a portrait? There is an indescribable range of colours to be discovered and each one of us can see them if we only stop and really look. Even if one does not feel the urge to paint pictures infinite satisfaction can be acquired from this heightened critical faculty of observation and such dull periods in one's life as waiting at the dentist's can be turned into a stimulating pleasure by indulging in the analysing of the effects of light and colour falling on the objects in the room. Think then how exciting a wall in the streets, in the country, can become.

A. C. R.

## LECTURES

### The Antarctic

By MR. PAWSON

Shortly before half-term the sixth form received a most interesting lecture on the Antarctic from Mr. Pawson, a member of the team sent down in 1947 in the "John Biscoe." Mr. Pawson commenced by giving us a vivid description of his journey, in the small ship, through the terrifying storms of the South Atlantic. The Expedition's object was the collection of geological, botanical and meteorological data and further mapping of Antarctic. Mr. Pawson gave us detailed accounts of some of his expeditions and besides showing us a remarkable collection of photographs gave descriptions and explanations of all the equipment used. We were shown an actual ice-axe, crampons, dog harness, sun goggles and many other pieces of equipment. Mr. Pawson's photographs, in themselves are a complete pictorial record

of his experiences, and amongst the many memorable pictures of mountains, glaciers, sunsets, huskies and sled teams, was one remarkable one taken inside a snow tunnel, connecting two buried huts. Mr. Pawson's lecture will long be remembered for its intensely interesting content, remarkable photographs and amusing anecdotes of life in the Antarctic.

## Modern Israel

By MR. SINCLAIR-THOMPSON

Mr. Sinclair-Thompson gave us a vivid description of modern Israel. Its political, its economic, and its cultural strengths and weaknesses. Most of his lecture was devoted to a discussion of "Communalism." He attempted to show how different this was from "Communism" yet one felt that he, himself, did not realise how alike they were. The chief difference seems to be one of means rather than aims. The communal villages which have sprung up all over Israel are in fact living examples of pure Communism. There is no personal property of any kind. Everything belongs to the village; cottage, plough and money, all these are communally owned. These villages are economic unities. There is, therefore, as can be imagined, a profound lack of unity between town and country. The country is populated by these tough idealists who live a rough life in the communal villages. The towns, however, are full of new settlers. These are war-weary Europeans who have undergone the horrors of Warsaw Ghettos and German concentration camps. Their idealism has long changed into rude cynicism. Other factors contribute to this disunity in the country. There is continual quarrel between the conservative church and the socialist government. It is amazing that with so much cause for provincialism Israel manages to show a firm front to the world.

Mr. Sinclair-Thompson concluded his lecture by showing us a film; it was unfortunate that the film broke repeatedly and that the sound track was unreliable. It was a documentary film but it had a hero: the village. It is the story of the growth of a village in the Jordan Valley, on saline soil and in one of the hottest places in the world. It is an amazing story.

Mr. Sinclair-Thompson's lecture was interesting and invigorating and was good enough for one to be able to disagree with it.

## THE SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

Last term, this Society suffered an extensive attack in *THE SPUR*, and on the whole the criticisms offered were justified, and the complaints reasonable; but this term I feel we may console ourselves with the fact that our meetings have shown marked improvement, though they still deserve critical examination in the light of the notes in the last issue. It has been suggested this term that the Society is degenerating into a youth club, and this again seems to be a justifiable criticism; dancing classes, though they may serve a useful purpose, reveal a tendency which must not be allowed to dominate future meetings.

So far this term, we have held only two meetings, of which the first was a personal choice, and the second a film evening. The first meeting, though not altogether a success, revealed a characteristic and immensely valuable quality of such an occasion, which is, of course, variety; the readings and records showed that the members' taste was commendably extensive, though neither of the extremely bigoted camps exhibited that tolerance which is the sign of maturity. This was, I feel, a loss for both, and a reflection on the Society as a whole.

The second meeting, which was by far the more successful of the two, proved indeed to be a memorable evening. We were shown two films, the first of which was "Plow that broke the plains," an American

documentary film dealing with the problems of the Dust Bowl and its inhabitants; this can only be described as a clever film with all that that implies, both good and bad. This was only a short film, however, and the main film, which was "Earth," a Russian silent film of peasant life, followed after a short introduction by Mr. Anderson, who is the editor of the film magazine "Sequence." We were very fortunate indeed to have him with us, and he proved to be both a witty and a lucid speaker, who added immensely to the value of the evening. After the film, he led a discussion which was both instructive and entertaining, so much so that it continued with animated vigour long after the formal meeting had been closed.

During the remainder of this term, there will be three more meetings: an illustrated lecture on Jazz, a play reading, and another film show. I can do no more than wish them as much success as attended our last film evening.

J. D. S.

### THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

*President*: Mr. Cholmondeley.

*Vice-President*: The Headmaster.

*Secretary*: A. J. Hopkins.

At the meeting held at the end of last term Mr. D. P. White read an interesting paper on Plautus. Mr. White told us how Plautus, being essentially Italian in his keen observation, and possessing a share of the native turn for farce, was not afraid to outstep the limits of the New Comedy. The Italy of his day, far more than Greek reading taught him how to put flesh and blood on the boards. Plautus relied on carrying his piece through with the help of scenes ludicrously dove-tailed and on the strength of his excellent dialogue. His plays were full of puns and innuendoes as well as such Munchausen-like characters as the "Miles Gloriosus." His characters may have had Greek names but they were absolutely Roman in spirit. Mr. White concluded by lamenting the fact that Plautus was not still alive to make use of radio.

A. J. H.

### POETRY SOCIETY

Last term we received into the Society a large number of new members, and now it seems, they have adapted themselves to our mode of behaviour, while several have become active both as writers and critics. Meetings continue to be lively, and though the invigorating presence of C. M. White no longer threatens to turn all the meetings into sessions of general abuse, the spirit of controversy remains, and argument, and even strenuous altercation seem to thrive in the Library.

Several critics of the Society will probably be pleased to hear that the new members have brought with them verse of a more straightforward kind than was usual in the past; Betts deserves a mention for having, apparently, already developed his own style. J. P. Hood Phillips, in his rather curious effusions, has revealed a characteristic jumble of romanticism, cynicism and mysticism; indeed, religion, and especially the Roman Catholic religion, has proved a popular source of verse throughout the Society. Imitation has, fortunately, proved less popular, and where it has occurred accidentally, the writers have covered up by claiming it to be deliberate, which is, I suppose, the best way out of the difficulty.

The general standard of verse has been fairly high, and I feel optimism for the future is justified, for the new members, who have already started writing, show promise of producing verse well up to the Society's highest standards.

J. D. S.

### THE GRAMOPHONE CLUB

This organisation, though it offers the unusual qualities of regular weekly meetings, and no financial demands, still fails to attract more than a handful of enthusiasts; apparently this school has not shared the increased enthusiasm of the general public for serious music during the post-war years. There seems to be a demand for the lighter kind of music which requires no effort on the part of the listener, and a disregard for the more serious type of music which calls upon both performers and audience to do their part.

The programmes of the first half of this term may have been partly responsible, for they aroused adverse comment from several sources; the theme of these programmes was modern European composers, who seem to have a very limited following indeed. Only two composers were dealt with—Sibelius and Strauss—and though the former may be to some extent acceptable, the latter seems to be generally undesired. The unpopularity of these programmes was by no means relieved by a performance of Walton's Symphony, a somewhat difficult work which requires several hearings for reasonable understanding. A temperamental machine and somewhat worn recordings have not assisted appreciation.

But the new series of programmes on Classical composers, which will occupy the remainder of the term, should prove to be more generally acceptable, and we may hope for a considerable increase in our numbers. Our scope is limited less harshly than usual by the records available for our use, and we anticipate a varied and successful series.

J. D. S.

### THE CHRISTIAN UNION

There is at present a vigorous attempt being made by active youth leaders and energetic churches to re-establish Christianity as a vital influence in this country. The churches themselves are trying hard to regain the position they once held as the centre of social life; the organisations of school and student societies run camps and conferences outside their normal courses; evangelists like Tom Rees conduct lay services in public. They all attempt to escape from the atmosphere of dutiful churchgoing, and they emphasise that as religion is an integral part of life it can be gay and vigorously joyful. So choruses partly replace hymns, because they are a more primitive, brief and lively expression of feeling. Several features of this revival are objectionable. Many choruses are mush; many public testimonies do little more than reveal the guilty and timorous attitude of the witness towards say, smoking and dancing, two common "sins," but since most of those who are converted by these examples share these attitudes, they are probably quite effective.

This energetic onslaught does not directly influence the Christian Union to loud publicity. It has the effect of giving to individuals a clearer picture of the extent of active Christianity, difficult when it appears so small in immediate practice. It becomes possible to see its application to people differing widely in nature and environment. The importance of this is simply that boys outside the Society may be deterred by the kind of people they find members: they have very different tastes from me; how shall I find enjoyment and relief from

the same things as they? In fact, there are no official attitudes as creed; it is widely varied and entirely tolerant.

The only difficulty it has is the relations of seniors and juniors. The seniors, with a more mature attitude towards Christianity have no inclination to explain their beliefs, but they are conscience-stricken lest by some careless word they should upset the personal theology of some junior, or leave the impression of an irreligious and cynical Sixth Form.

Its activities are such that age is no deterrent. It is an excellent thing that juniors and taciturn seniors should argue with more practised talkers in the discussions; and that these should be so vehement and still civil. If nothing is determined they are an effective schooling in diplomacy, since personal beliefs are delicate matters if you do not share them. Most of the time is apparently spent in talking and speculating: highly intellectual pursuits; but only the tastes of the members determine the activities. As a finale to this term the Union is holding a ceremonial Supper, for members and their guests, when several distinguished speakers will address the diners.

J. R. W.

### RADIO CLUB

This Club was formed during the term with a view to bringing together those boys in the School who are keenly interested in the theory and practice of radio. The programme so far envisaged consists in a series of weekly meetings on Wednesday afternoons at 4.15. each of which commences with a discussion on some aspect of radio theory and is followed by practical work. The latter up to the moment has been devoted largely to the operation of the Hallicrafter Communications receiver of which the Club now has the use.

It is hoped also to proceed with the construction of a small amplifier, the parts being donated by the members themselves. A commission from the Physics Department to build an audio frequency oscillator should help to stimulate the interest of those members who wish to develop their skill in constructing apparatus.

Further, it is expected that the Club will act as a means whereby members will be able to exchange radio spares in order to build up complete kits of parts. In this way membership of the Club will not only confer the benefit of interchange of information but also the possibilities of obtaining accessories.

G. C.

### CHESS CLUB

*President* : Mr. Syers.  
*Secretary* : I. B. Lawrence.  
*Captain* : J. Weightman.

This has been the first term of a revised fixture list, which includes matches against two schools that we have been somewhat afraid of challenging before, for they have had considerably more match experience than our first team. Thus it is not surprising that our record is less successful than in other terms. The second team has experienced fluctuating success, beating Wandsworth over all five boards, and losing to Surbiton over all six boards. It has been unfortunate that individual successes have not occurred simultaneously. The following list shows individual results in the 1st team during this winter season.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
Powell-Evans ... ..	11	7	4	0
Lawrence ... ..	11	4	4	3
Betts ... ..	10	4	1	5
Ferebee ... ..	8	2	5	1
Inglis ... ..	10	2	3	5
Hamilton ... ..	10	1	5	4
Hobbs ... ..	11	1	4	6
Weightman ... ..	7	1	2	4

*Match Results, Spring 1951 :*

1st VIII v. Sutton 1st VIII	3 — 5	Lost
1st VIII v. Tiffins 1st VIII	2½ — 5½	Lost
1st VI v. Surbiton 1st VI	3 — 3	Drew
1st X v. Bec 1st X	5½ — 4½	Won
1st VIII v. Wandsworth 1st VIII	3 — 5	Lost

1st VIII v. Kings 1st VIII	4½ — 3½	Won
2nd VI v. Tiffins 2nd VI	2 — 4	Lost
2nd VI v. Surbiton 2nd VI	0 — 6	Lost
2nd V v. Wandsworth 2nd V	5 — 0	Won
2nd VI v. Wimbledon Tech. 1st VI	½ — 5½	Lost

I. B. L.

### MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Despite the labour difficulties which seem to be so prevalent with modern nationalised transport organisation, we are glad to be able to report that the "Spur Railway" continues to make progress. Whether or not this can be claimed as a triumph for free enterprise, is a point we leave the readers to decide. It is gratifying to observe, however, that the Club has now a credit balance in hand, despite the extensions to permanent way now being carried out.

In view of our happy position it is proposed that the subscription should be reduced from sixpence to threepence per week. It is hoped with this reduced subscription, that new members will come along to join us, and that former members who left us owing to the weekly strain on their resources, will return to join the happy circle, where no strikes persist, and where "working to rule" is quite unknown!

The shortage of materials has had its impact on us already. We find it difficult to procure the track we need, and we learn that other items of metal will be unobtainable when existing stocks run out.

**Our immediate plans are not yet threatened.** We hope to offer a brave show for the garden party in June, where we shall welcome friends and visitors. Our "Town and Country Planning" scheme will be well advanced, and many buildings will be finished. It is too much to hope that a licence will be granted by then, to the "Spur Railway Hotel," but we believe that ample refreshment will be available to all party visitors, in the tea room!

And as we still press forward with our interesting hobby, grateful for accommodation and opportunities afforded us. We are also thankful for the help as gladly given us by Messrs Yardy and Phillips.

J. W. B.

### THE DEBATING SOCIETY

*President* : The Headmaster.  
*Chairman* : J. P. Hood Phillips.  
*Secretary* : A. J. Hopkins.

As the Inter-House Debating Competition is being held this term **only two meetings of the Society were planned.** The first was held on the 19th January when P. A. Tanner and A. C. Manifold proposed the motion, "This house considers Jazz to be a creative art." P. A. Tanner commenced by showing how the current looseness of expression affected Jazz, dismissing Ragtime, Swing and Bop as unworthy excrescences. He emphasised the fact that Jazz was New Orleans folk music—music of the heart as opposed to intellectual bop. The opposition led by J. D. Shepherd pointed out that elegance was a desirable characteristic in music and failed to see any complexity in Jazz music. Speakers from the floor included R. A. Nuttall, who gave us an interesting five minute analysis of the structure of Jazz; N. Marcorettes, who cast some anthropological light upon the subject; and Mr. Rudgley, who delivered a pointed attack on be-pop. The motion was then voted upon and the results was, Ayes 9, Noes 5, abstentions 5. A successful debate, whose motion merited more attention than it received from the School.

We look forward, not without some trepidation, to a debate against a University Old Boy's team on 16th March. It has not yet been decided who shall propose the motion, "This House regrets its American cousins."

A. J. H.

## DEBATING CHARACTERS

J. P. HOOD PHILLIPS has perhaps the most attractive style of our present speakers, but his speeches often suffer from inadequate preparation. He trusts too much to wit and mother wit.

R. A. NUTTALL, often glibly persuasive, seems to suffer from the rare vice of over confidence. On one occasion he was successful in maintaining his point in spite of appearing to demolish most of the case built up by the principal speaker he supported.

A. G. SIMPSON descends from Olympus to bring us a breath of common sense, but we could wish that he found it invigorating.

A. J. HOPKINS is rather gruffly terse, and gives little thought to the balance and total effect of his speeches, but has a flair for the weaknesses in his opponent's defence.

J. R. HOBBS has an attractive style and a lucidity of which we wish we had heard more.

P. A. TANNER on the one occasion he has been heard impressed by the thoroughness of his preparation and his firm grasp of his subject—and produced at least one fair retort to a questioner.

D. L. HALL views the world through more than rose-coloured spectacles, but seems the victim of disillusionment.

J. W. CRICHTON is rather too brusque, more preparation would give smoothness to his style.

L. BUNCH has qualities of sincerity and a certain rough fluency that make him an effective spokesman of the "common sense" "man-in-the-street" point of view.

J. D. SHEPHERD has a quietly persuasive manner and subtlety of thought, but lacks force.

A. C. MANIFOLD has shown ability to master his dialectical forces and speaks fluently. His stance should be corrected or at least varied.

## NATIONAL SAVINGS GROUP

The occasional appearance of notes on this subject is not an indication that the activities of the Group are to be considered unimportant, but rather that its valuable work goes on unobtrusively, without sensational achievements or failures. This is as it should be. The habit of thrift in itself is a quiet and steady one, not a thing of fits and starts. The fact that the weekly totals collected from the School during the Autumn term of 1950 has an average which differs little from that of the corresponding term of the previous year indicates a constancy that is somehow symbolic of the purpose of the Group.

Nor is there a striking change in the habits of the School. Last year's V.A. made more use of the Group than this year's, who rarely purchase stamps, but the other fifth forms who were previously "abstainers" now have a few boys who save regularly. But the bulk of the savings still come from the lower School, and the economics sixth, practicing what they preach, alone of the sixth forms believe in this trend of financial stability.

Last term 3L headed the list of form totals with 3S, 1A and 2A close behind them, and savings from the Junior school far exceed those of the Seniors. Perhaps the mature influence of parental guidance (and financial pressure?) has more weight with our younger boys.

But this unobtrusive activity is not carried on without the care and quiet enthusiasm of those sixth formers who carry out the routine work each Monday of term and we were fortunate to find as successors to J. B. Florentine, D. True and A. G. Horsnail. The latter holds the reins at the moment, with some assistance from J. B. Farrant, and we must take this opportunity to acknowledge our debt of gratitude to them.

A. C.

## HOCKEY

### 1st XI

Heavy snow during the Christmas holidays, followed by exceptional rainfall made ground conditions almost impossible for hockey at the beginning of this term, so that the first practice, played in a downpour on a gluepot pitch, was of little use for the assessment of new players. The loss of nine of last season's team made practices doubly imperative, yet the weather continued to be so bad, that the selection of the team for the first match against Beckenham was based mainly on pious hope and colt reputation.

The experienced Beckenham side, which included five boys who played for Kent schoolboys last season, overran us in the first half, and led by six goals to nil at the interval. After the first shock, however, the "probationers" managed to reduce the margin by three in the second half. Our main faults were too much pottering on a pitch totally unsuited for dribbling, careless marking, flabby tackling, too many examples of blind passing, and the unintelligent use of free hits.

The second match against a seasoned Caterham team again resulted in a defeat by four clear goals, but we did succeed in drawing with a St. George's team, which like ours was composed almost entirely of new-comers.

To pronounce judgment on individual players on such slender evidence would be premature, if not futile, but general criticism should not come amiss. The backs must clear first time, constructively if possible, the wing halves should try to achieve greater mobility so as to assist the forwards more in attack, the forwards should vary their tactics by more subtle distribution of the ball and once inside the circle, their motto should be, "shoot at once, shoot always, and keep on shooting."

The Inter-House competition has suffered as much as the School programme through the record breaking weather, which has already cut down our activities by a half, in a very short term. Let us hope that March will be kind enough to enable us to play a few matches in preparation for next season.

## ATHLETIC SPORTS

Halliwell's retained the John Garrett Cup on 15th July last, and never lost the lead they had gained in the qualifying.

This year the points in the final will be adjusted so that, the total number of points which can be scored then, will be equal to the total number of points which will have already been scored in the qualifying. Points for places will be in approximately the same ratio as previously.

### Results of the Athletic Sports.

100 Yards					Secs.
Minor	Roberts	m. Judge	N. McCartney	H.	13.6
Major	Michez	n. Price	H. Yardy	M.	11.7
Colt	Eales	c. Phillips	H. Smith	N.	11.1
Senior	Law	m. Simpson	c. Spiers	G.	11.0
220 Yards					
Minor	Roberts	m. McCartney	H. Tabor	N.	32.9 R
Major	Booker	G. Michez	N. Price	H.	27.2 R
Colt	Eales	c. Taylor	H. Smith	N.	26.0 R
Senior	Wolkenberg	H. Law, A. G.	M. Law, I. B.	G.	24.7 R
440 Yards					
Minor	Atkins	c. Boyd	H. Tabor	N.	75.0 R
Major	Booker	G. Marriot	H. Braine	C.	64.0 R
Colt	Brooke	c. Golding	N. Jeapes	G.	61.1 R
Senior	Casselton	H. McDonald	G. Shepherd	C.	56.5 R

880 Yards				Min. Secs.	
Colt	Rodgers	c. Smith	N. Hall	M.	2 13.3NR
Senior	Wise	c. Wells	H. Tones	G.	2 11.5 R
Mile					
Senior	Holden	G. Childs	H. Shepherd	C.	5 8.3
Relay, 4 x 110				Secs.	
Minor	Newsom's	Halliwell's	Cobb's		63.6
Major	Halliwell's	Gibb's	Milton's		59.0 NR
Colt	Cobb's	Halliwell's	Newsom's		51.0 R
Senior	Halliwell's	Milton's	Gibb's		48.0 R
High Jump				Ft. Ins.	
Minor	Russell	c. Boyd	H. Halfnight	N.	3 8½
Major	Michez	N. Booker	G. Swinscoe	H.	4 5½ NR
Colt	Brooke	c. Ayres	G. Goodger	N.	5 2 NR
Senior	MacDonald	G. Pegrum	M. Blackwell	C.	5 3½
Long Jump					
Minor	Boyd	H. Osborn	C. Tie Nicholson	H.	12 9½
Major	Michez	N. Booker	G. Burns	M.	16 4½
Colt	McTeare	H. Eales	C. Stott	G.	16 6½
Senior	MacDonald	G. Simpson	C. Marles	H.	18 4
Pole Vault					
Senior	MacDonald	G. Shepherd	D. C. Tutt	M.	8 10½
Shot					
Major	Michez	N. Booker	G. Phillips	H.	30 7½
Colt	Brooke	c. Taylor, J. B. H.	Parsons, J.	N.	37 10½
Senior	Law, A.	M. Law, I.	G. Wells, J. R.	H.	36 10½ NR
Javelin					
Senior	Birkett	G. Shepherd	C. Pegrum	M.	129 8½ R
Discus					
Senior	Wells	H. Pegrum	M. Crichton	M.	95 4 R
Tug of War					
Senior	Milton's	Halliwell's	Gibb's		

R Record established by virtue of the fact that it was the first time the event had been in the competition.

NR Old record broken and new record established.

Qualifying points were :

Cobb's	424
Gibb's	442
Halliwell's	504
Milton's	371
Newsom's	442

Final positions and finishing scores were :

Halliwell's	654
Gibb's	545
Cobb's	539
Newsom's	522
Milton's	450

## LIFE SAVING

Interest in the work of the Royal Life Saving Society has been reviewed in the Winter term. Ten Bronze Medallions and two Intermediate Certificates were gained and three boys are now instructing classes for the Bronze Medallion with a view to also gaining for themselves the Instructors Certificate. There is also a class running for the

Intermediate Certificate and Langton and Hamilton are training hard for the Award of Merit and should be ready to take the examination before the end of this term.

Points towards the Swimming Sports will be gained by holders of these awards.

Award of Merit	10
Bronze Medallion	7
Intermediate Certificate	5

Bronze Medallions

Melmoth, Wilson (Cobb's)  
Loveday, Hamilton, Jeapes (Gibb's)  
Shepherd, R. J. (Halliwell's)  
Langton, Farrant, Gubb, Patrick (Milton's)

Intermediate Certificate

Spiers, Owen (Gibb's)

R. W. F. F.

## BOXING CLUB

In the absence of any outside fixtures, interest in the Boxing Club has not been very great this year. A little interest was aroused by the successes of a small number of boys in the District and County Championships. Pratt, Bannister, Croft and Shepherd, D. C., were Wimbledon champions, but only the latter had to prove his worth, which he did in good style. Shepherd, W. H. and Palmer were Surrey champions without stepping into the ring. They have trained hard and we can only wish them every success when they box for the first time at Luton in the quarter finals, and hope that lack of ring experience will not count for too much.

The interest shown by several houses in the House Competition is to be applauded and their keenness has been rewarded. Final scores and placing were as follows :

1. Cobb's	186 points
2. Gibb's	171 points
3. Halliwell's	145 points
4. Newsom's	74 points
5. Milton's	26 points

Of the twenty-four weights at which championships were decided, Cobb's won 6, Gibb's 8, Halliwell's 5, Milton's 1, and Newsom's 4. Gibb's were best represented in the actual competition, but Cobb's and Halliwell's were harder hit in that they lost five boxers and four boxers respectively in the seeding out of School boxers. The points awarded to these boys eventually gave Cobb's the Phillips Cup, with Gibb's and Halliwell's not too far behind.

## SCHOOL CHAMPIONS

Junior :	Intermediate :
Under 5½ st., Warren (c)	Under 8½ st., Dovey (N)
Under 5½ st., Dyer (H)	Under 9 st., Madgett (H)
Under 6 st., Dunn (H)	Under 9½ st., Eales (c)
Under 6½ st., Eagleson (c)	Under 10 st., Baker (G)*
Under 7 st., Loible (N)	Under 10½ st., Stott (G)
Under 7½ st., Spencer, D. (N)	Senior :
Under 8 st., Muggidge (G)	Under 8 st., Hamilton (G)
Under 8½ st., Hill (c)*	Under 8½ st., Phillips, P. V. (G)
Intermediate :	Under 9 st., Lynch (G)
Under 6 st., No Competition	Under 9½ st., No Competition
Under 6½ st., Tordre (c)	Under 10 st., Spiers (G)
Under 7 st., Gooding (G)	Under 10½ st., McTeare (H)
Under 7½ st., Mitchell (H)	Under 11 st., No Competition
Under 8 st., Gubb (M)	Under 11½ st., Brooke (c)
	Under 13 st., Crichton (N)*

\* Overweights.

Schools boxers and boys seeded because of their ability as boxers are :

Croft, Francis, Shepherd, W. H., Shepherd, D. C., Bannister of Cobb's; Pratt and Gallagher of Gibb's; Palmer, Taylor, Rose and Hooper of Halliwell's.

Mr. Metcalfe of Bushey Secondary Modern School kindly consented to referee the finals and presented the Phillips Cup to the winning House. We are also indebted to other masters, members of the Surrey S.A.B.A., and London S.A.B.A. who acted as judges.

Here is a summary of the rules for entries to the House Boxing Competition.

#### ENTRIES

1. Each House may make up to 25 entries.
2. No boy who is seeded may box in the competition.

#### WEIGHTS AND AGES

*Junior.* Under 5 st. by  $\frac{1}{2}$  st.—8 st. Under 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  years 1st January in the year of competition.

*Intermediate.* Under 6 st. by  $\frac{1}{2}$  st.—9 $\frac{1}{2}$  st. Under 16 years at 1st. January in the year of the competition.

*Senior.* Under 8 st by  $\frac{1}{2}$  st.—under 11 st.

"Overweights" may be entered, but will not be accepted unless entries at the same "overweight" are received from at least two Houses. Overweights are matched off in  $\frac{1}{2}$  st. intervals continuing the series in each age group.

#### SCORING

1. School boxers score as many points as the Champion at his weight, plus two points for every bout in which he has represented the School, during the current School year.

2. In preliminary bouts: Winners score 2 points, losers 1 point. Finals: Winners 10 points, Runners-up 5 points.

#### CROSS COUNTRY

*Captain:* W. H. Shepherd.

*Hon. Secretary:* M. J. Reeves.

Our first match took place in the Christmas term when we competed against Kingston Grammar School, Upper Latimer and Tiffins School in a Quadruple fixture over the Tiffin's course. Unfortunately we were unable to choose a strong team and were placed last.

The next fixture of the season and the first this term was against Wandsworth School on Saturday 27th January, and took place over their course. Both our Senior and Junior teams competed and both were defeated; the Seniors by 33 points—23 points, and the Juniors by 44 points—36 points. Smith, M. L. was individual winner of the Junior event.

After these two defeats our fortunes began to improve and for the third fixture we were able to choose both a strong Senior team and a strong Junior team. The match on 10th February was a triangular one, against Sutton G. S. and Wandsworth School and was held over our own course. The Senior team was just beaten into second place by a very strong Sutton VI; the Juniors suffered a similar fate, but at the hands of the Wandsworth team that had already beaten them earlier in the season. When the two results were combined we were placed first and so recorded our first victory of the season. The individual placings in these events were:

*Seniors.*—3rd Reeves. 4th P. J. Casselton. 5th Childs, P. 9th J. P. Hood-Phillips. 11th Rodgers. 12th Shepherd, W. H.

*Juniors.*—2nd Golding. 4th Braine. 8th Marriot. 11th Eales. 16th Wearn. 19th Shepherd, D. C.

and the team placings were:

- 1st. Raynes Park—50 points. 2nd Wandsworth—59 points
- 3rd Sutton G. S.—60 points.

On the following Thursday, the Annual Inter-House Cross Country race took place. It was run over a new course as it was felt that the original 5 mile course was too long and contained too much road. The finish was not as close as it was last year, Reeves being some 200 yards in front of Casselton who was second. The first 10 placings were:

1st Reeves, M. J. (N)	6th J. Hood Phillips (M)
2nd Casselton, P. J. (H)	7th Rodgers, C. (C)
3rd Shepherd, W. H. (C)	8th White (M)
4th Menzies, A. F. (H)	9th Jonas, D. (C)
5th Childs, P. (H)	10th Hamilton (G)

Reeves time of 18 mins, 1.4 sec. has been accepted as a record for the new course.

The team placings were:

1st Cobb's—120 pts. 2nd Milton's—129 pts. 3rd Halliwell's—132 pts. 4th Newsom's—206pts. 5th Gibb's—242pts.

On Wednesday 21st February, our Senior team ran against Badingham College over their course. The team of six which was made up of the first six runners in the Inter-House race, won easily by 19 points—36 points. The placings were:

1st Reeves, M. J.	6th Shepherd, W. H.
2nd { Childs	7th Menzies, A. F.
{ Casselton, P. J.	11th J. Hood Phillips

The next fixture was on Saturday 24th February, when we ran against Beckenham at Beckenham. Only our Senior team competed and we were placed first with 18 points—29 points, Selhurst also ran and were placed last, individual placings were:

3rd Reeves	5th { Childs	8th J. Hood Phillips
4th P. J. Casselton	{ Golding	12th Braine
		14th Rodgers
		W. H. S. & M. J. R.

#### RUGBY

##### 1st XV

The following are the results of the matches played after the Rucker notes for the last SPUR were written.

v. Tiffins School	Won	14—0
v. Wandsworth School	Won	8—0
v. Old Boys	Lost	11—0

The matches against Tiffins and Wandsworth were won with more ease than the scores would suggest. Against the Old Boys, we were unfortunate in having to field two reserves, but we offer our congratulations to the O.B.'s on their victory. The above results give the following record for the 1st XV:

Playd 14, Won 9, Lost 5.

Points for 155, Points against 94.

J. W. Crichton, W. H. Shepherd and P. J. Casselton played in the Surrey Schools Rugby trials and reached the final trial, as a result of which P. J. Casselton played for Surrey against Kent.

P. J. C.

## CONTENTS

School Officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Inner Cover</i>
Notes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
House Notes :								
Cobb's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gibb's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Halliwell's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Milton's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Newsom's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Notes sur l'éducation anglaise	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sitting an Open at Cambridge	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
School Play								
Cast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Review	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Verse :								
Gates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
After an Evening Reading The Early Mr. Eliot	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Mill Wheel	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
19th Wimbledon Scout Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Art Notes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Mobiles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Lectures :								
The Antarctic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Modern Israel	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Societies :								
Sixth Form Society	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Classical Society	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Poetry Society	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Gramophone Club	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Christian Union	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Radio Club	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Chess Club	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Model Railway Club	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Debating Society	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
National Savings Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Games :								
Hockey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Athletic Sports	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Life Saving	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Boxing Club	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Cross Country...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Rugby	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25