

THE

SPUR

Vol. IX

No. 6



# THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.

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

Vol. IX., No. 6.

Winter, 1951.

## SCHOOL OFFICERS, WINTER TERM, 1951

*Head of the School* : D. M. Spiers.

*Second Boy* : P. J. Casselton.

*Prefects* : L. W. J. Bunch, J. W. Crichton, F. M. Langton, I. B. Lawrence, D. Mackelworth, B. P. Price, R. J. Wells, T. G. Wolkenberg, A. F. Wright.

*Captain of Rugby* : P. J. Casselton.

*Secretary of Rugby* : J. W. Crichton.

*Secretary of Games Committee* : P. J. Casselton.

*Prefect of Library* : R. J. Wells.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

*Editorial Committee* : J. Money, Esq., H. E. Rudgley, Esq., D. Mackelworth, I. D. Barnett, J. W. Crichton, D. M. Spiers, R. J. Wells.

## STAFF CHANGES

THE SPUR had particular reason for sorrow last term in the departure of Mr. Walsh to become a lecturer at the University College of North Staffordshire. In his six years here he was the inspiration of many things—of a series of successes in his own subject, English, at Open Scholarship as well as at more ordinary levels, and of the beginnings of taste and style in many boys; of high standards in the Arts VIth generally, of the Library, of the Poetry Society, of the Library Review—and of this magazine. He will be long and affectionately remembered by us all for his serene integrity of purpose, his help and patience, his faith in the things of the mind. What he did here, and even more what he was, were high contributions to our life and standards.

We parted in the summer also with Mr. Svers and Mr. Creber, whose stay here was for a short, temporary duty only, but who in Classics and in Biology gave of their best to the School.

And we have serious losses to face and regretful farewells to say at the end of this term, too. Mr. Hanson has been here longer than any of us, since 1936, a year after the School opened, and now that he leaves us to lecture in Borough Road Training College will be very greatly missed—and nowhere more, perhaps, than in the Common Room. He has long presided over the Science side with very marked ability and success, and made it as happy as it was hard-working. Under him, Newsom's House was lively and united, with an eye to things more important than point-collecting in competitions, and its members particularly will be reluctant to lose him. It is not the most important thing, but one for which many owe him gratitude, that he has conjured through examinations a large proportion of those who deserved to fail. On grave and light-hearted occasions, he has been an unfailingly lively, stimulating and generous friend to both colleagues and boys. In whatever success the School has achieved, his has been a major part.

Mr. Shannon also leaves us for a Training College post, at Cheltenham, and all the societies centring round the vigorous life of the workshop will miss an indefatigable and inspiring mentor. He has made the craft department what it should be, a source of satisfaction in the skill of one's hands in a varied choice of crafts, a place boys use happily for their hobbies, and a school of critical taste in design. Under him the pioneer work here, which Mr. Moore had set on foot, in pottery, in printing, in the puppet theatre, has vigorously advanced.

We have welcomed this term Mr. Money, of Radley College and Jesus College, Cambridge, to take over Mr. Walsh's work, after two years with the Stratford Memorial Theatre; Mr. Gray, of Winchester College and New College, Oxford, to assist with the Classics; and Mr. Trinder, who since taking his degree from Downing College, Cambridge, has been teaching at Oakham School, Rutland, for work mainly in Biology. We are fortunate to have them, and wish them a long, happy and successful stay.

Mr. Strettan now takes over Mr. Hansom's former tasks. To assist in the department, we look forward to the accession of Mr. W. P. Foister, who after some years in the Civil Service has turned to teaching as his vocation, and recently graduated B.Sc. of London University. Mr. R. Archer, who took his Craft Training at Shoreditch Training College, and has had four years' experience, brings to Mr. Shannon's place in the workshop like tastes and skill and enthusiasm. The School looks forward to a happy and fruitful collaboration with them both.

H.P.

## HOUSE NOTES

### Cobb's

*Captain* : P. A. Tanner.

At the end of last term we lost a body of people who, since I have been at the School, have been untiring in their efforts to put Cobb's in its rightful position—on top. Their efforts were suitably rewarded last year when, after an all too long a period at second place, we ran away with Cock House Cup—winning seven out of the eleven cups. Here it is fitting that on behalf of the House, I put in a word of praise for our most able, modest and popular House Captain of last year, A. G. Simpson, who showed a great House spirit in willingly doing everything he could for the House, whether as No. 1 athlete or No. 11 batsman. To him and others like him must go much of the credit of our victory. Also to be mentioned is D. S. Jonas, whose cheerful, unflagging efforts in every activity were suitably recognised by the whole School when he was awarded the Eric Parker Cup. He has been a great credit to our house. Our congratulations are due to A. Melmoth, J. D. Shepherd, G. C. Cook and G. H. Pooley who, as well as being prominent on the sports field, showed their academic ability by gaining University places. One other name must be mentioned, that of W. Shepherd, who is **surely one of the best all round sportsmen the House has ever had.** To these, and to all our other old boys who served us so well this last year, we say—thank you and good luck.

From past to present: we realised right from the start that this year was going to be a tough battle, but remembering the last order of our recent House Captain—"Mind we keep that Cock House Cup"—we buckled to it and massed our forces. Inevitably the weight has fallen on a few individuals, but the spirit throughout the House has been good. Our Senior rugby team, only through the fault of circumstances, has been weak, and we expected no better than we got. Against Gibb's, although we lost narrowly, we never gave up, and the determination of most of us was exemplified in D. Shepherd, who played a grand game, and D. Brooke, who scored our points. Against Milton's we lost rather heavily, but against Halliwell's—our inevitable rivals—we were unlucky to go down 9-6. In all these games, A. D. Brooke has played a captain's game and throughout the rest of the team it is a case of the spirit being willing, though quite literally the flesh isn't there. **There is, however, a bright side to the term. We were the first to win a cup:—the Boxing Cup, under our captain A. D. Brooke.** We do appreciate all those who go in for the boxing. It takes pluck, and **it's a cup won by losers just as much as by winners.** Three of our winners worthy of mention are D. Shepherd, M. Francis and Boniface.

We have been well served by our Colts and Juniors last year, and this term our Colts, although losing their first two matches, have high hopes of success in the remaining two, under the captaincy of C. Wright. Having had much to do with our winning the Junior Shield, M. Francis has moved up to the Colts, where he is obviously going to be an outstanding help. The Juniors have much promising material, particularly

in A. D. Hill, and with more practice should weld into a formidable side in the contest for the Junior Shield.

We face next term with warrantable confidence, having a good hockey team and cross country team, if everyone pulls his weight. I consider this present term to have been satisfactory, if not spectacular, for we have not lapsed into a pessimistic apathy resigned to defeat, which was a danger at the beginning of term. This is undoubtedly a lean period for Cobb's, but we certainly aren't out of the running for Cock House yet and don't intend to be for a long time to come.

P.A.T.

### Gibb's

*Captain* : D. M. Spiers.

*Prefects* : D. M. Spiers, A. F. Wright.

At the end of last term, we lost several of our leading Seniors, including I. B. Bullock, F. J. Atkins and M. Hamilton. To all we wish **the best of luck and success in the future.** We were fortunate to have our House Captain, L. W. J. Bunch, with us for the first month of term, but the R.A.F. soon claimed him and our loss was their gain.

This term we welcome all new members of the House, and also Mr. Trinder as our Junior House Master. We hope they will be happy with us and will raise the House to the top of the School in future years.

Last year the House finished fourth in the Cock House competition and this showed a drop from the previous year. This year, however, the competition is very open and we hope to do great things.

*Dramatics.*—In producing "Hewers of Coal" we tried something new to the House by having a cast of only five. This paid dividends, as we improved on our position of the last three years by finishing second. Congratulations are due to all concerned with the play.

*Tennis.*—In this sport we again improved on our position in **previous years by finishing second.** Our team, though not outstanding on paper, was defeated only by Halliwell's and then by only 3 matches to 2. Our congratulations go to the whole team and especially the captain, M. Hamilton, who was undefeated throughout the competition.

*Swimming.*—To crown our success at the end of last term, we won the Swimming Cup for the second year running. Although behind on qualifying points our individual performances on the day of the sports won us the cup by over 100 points. **Well done! Let us make it a hat trick next year.**

*Boxing.*—In the only cup to be decided so far this year we finished second, only eight points behind Cobb's. This defeat was not due to lack of effort on the part of the House, but rather to the lack of experience of the contestants. We must thank Pratt, who took over the captaincy when Bunch left.

*Rugger.*—The Senior team this year has met with mixed success, having beaten Cobb's and Milton's and been defeated by Newsom's and Halliwell's. The Colt team has only played one match, as yet, against Milton's, which was drawn. If they can do well in their remaining matches we can finish second in the Rugger Cup. The Juniors have a very strong team and perhaps this year they can carry off the Junior Shield, which is so long overdue to us.

Finally, remember the Cock House Competition is very open this year, and a determined effort by all the House, especially the Colts, can bring to Gibb's the most important cup of all, which we have not held since 1944.

D.M.S.

### Halliwell's

*Captain* : P. J. Casselton.

*Vice-Captain* : T. G. Wolkenberg.

Our anxiety due to Mr. Smith's road accident last term has been partially relieved, and we are glad to see him amongst us once more.

Mr. John Money has honoured us this term by consenting to be our Junior House Master. We hope that he will have a long and enjoyable stay with us. At the same time our congratulations are due to Len Palmer, who gained a State Scholarship on his General Certificate of Education examination, and to Alan Hopkins, who was awarded a County Major Scholarship.

Turning to the affairs of the term, namely the Boxing and Rugby Cup competitions, I have to report that the House retained its position in School boxing by again coming third. Congratulations to all those concerned, especially the champions at their weights.

In the rugby, the Senior XV has played three matches and won two of them. The season has been marred by injuries to several of the more prominent players, but the team has been playing quite passable rugby. Against Gibb's we won convincingly by 28 points to 8 points, and against Cobb's we won narrowly by 9 points to 6 points. The match against Newsom's was lost by 27 points to 0, reflecting the skill and prowess of the Newsom's fifteen and the depleted condition of our own team. It may or may not be significant that the House had played 12 Senior matches running which had resulted in victories. The Colts have played well and won both the matches which they have played, against Milton's by 22 points to 6 points, and against Cobb's by 19 points to 6 points.

It is now ancient history that the Cock House Cup was not won by Halliwell's last year. We have the consolation of knowing we could not keep it indefinitely, but perhaps this year . . . ?

P.J.C.

Modesty forbids the writer of this article from stating it, but we can also account ourselves fortunate in retaining P. J. Casselton as Captain of our House, with the addition of T. G. Wolkenberg as a prefect and vice-captain.

P.S.

### Milton's

*House Captain* : A. G. Law.

*Prefect* : F. M. Langton.

The standard of Senior House rugger has improved this term and was shown when we gained our first victory for three seasons. We beat Cobb's 28-8, a surprising result and a surprising game, during which the team experienced a hitherto unknown joy, that of the scrum and three-quarters working together and not as two separate forces. We have suffered two defeats, an unlucky one of 11-14 against Gibb's and the other, through very bad play, against Newsom's. The Colts have not enjoyed a successful season, although they drew with Cobb's, and the Juniors have won one game of the two played.

The Boxing, however, showed us that with a little more effort from those in the middle school we could gain valuable points towards the Cock House Cup. A close fight for the third place ensued between ourselves and Halliwell's which we lost by the close margin of two points. We must congratulate Howard for winning his bout and Langton, Burns, Gubb and Hooper for being runners-up.

In spite of the disappointments this term we can justly sing the praises of those who gained us a noble victory in the House Play competition. The producer of Shaw's "Press Cuttings," J. P. Hood-Phillips now serving in the R.A.F. before going up to Oxford, drew out the latent dramatic talent from those who had not realised that they possessed such gifts. Individually we must congratulate Betts, Hall, Copley, Lovick, Hood Phillips and Patrick for appearing on the stage and Bunyan, Young, Burns and Langton for giving support behind the scenes. It was unfortunate for us that the Dramatics did not count towards the Cock House Cup, but we hope that this will be the first of a long run of successes similar to those which we enjoyed before the war.

We occupied fourth place in the swimming, which also took place last term. There are some members of the House who for too long have been relying on a small minority to gain swimming points. The enthusiasm (what little there is) comes from the Juniors and a few Seniors, while the middle school seems content to sit back and deride the efforts of those in charge to raise our status. How can we expect to hold our own with other Houses until the majority gain a few points each to augment those gained by the minority? Nevertheless Young, Gubb, Crerie, Roberts and Smith did well in their respective events.

Hockey will be the main sport next term and we shall be able to field a team capable of regaining the Hockey Cup if the Seniors have a strong backing from the Colts. There are a surprising number of cross country runners and the team should not be content with second place again.

A.G.L.

### Newsom's

*House Captain* : J. W. Crichton.

*Prefects* : D. Mackelworth, J. W. Crichton, R. J. Wells,

B. P. Rice, I. B. Lawrence.

At the end of last term, as usual, we lost some of the Senior members of the House. B. R. Walters has gone up to Oxford; D. Mackelworth, however, has managed to remain with us for much of term, while awaiting an unduly deferred call-up.

Towards the end of last year the House met with no great success. Our hopes for the cricket went when the Colts lost their final game, but we did manage third place. In the House Plays no great success rewarded the efforts of R. J. Wells and his cast, but the "Invisible Duke" at least afforded a relief from the quasi-intellectual strain prevalent in some Houses.

This term had an inauspicious start with the Boxing Cup, but our prestige is being redeemed by progress in the Rugby. For once, both the Senior and Colt sections of the House seem to be meeting with the consistent success due to them. So far the Senior team have beaten Milton's 35-5, Gibb's 32-0, and have avenged last match defeats, by Halliwell's during the past few years by a 27-0 victory. The success of the team is not only due to the members of the School Rugby teams in the House, but also to the efforts of members of the House who have not previously played regularly. The Colt team has played but one match, versus Cobb's, with considerable success, which should be repeated in matches to come.

So far the Juniors have not begun any competitions and we can do little but wish them luck and hope that from among them will come those who will gain, not only odd cups, but the Cock House Trophy, which has now resided so long in the enemy camp. It is not in one particular sphere that the Cock House Cup is won, but in all activities—swimming, as we well know, in addition to rugby.

It is with great regret at the end of this term that we say goodbye to Mr. Hanson. For as long as any of the present members have been in the House, Mr. Hanson has been House Master. This has greatly assisted in creating a unified House under his direction, which, although it has not gained supreme success, has been able to reap its measure of rewards year after year. We can only hope that under his successor, Newsom's will be able to continue with equal success in years to come.

J.W.C.

### THE PRIZE-GIVING

As usual the first event of the School year when the School appears in public as a body, was the Prize-giving held at Wimbledon Town Hall in October.

The proceedings were opened by the Chairman of the Governing Body, Mr. J. H. Hood-Phillips. He spoke of the difficulty of having only one board of Governors to preside over several schools, as is the case in our district. However, he reassured us that whatever happened the Governors were not going to sit in a large room and make the Headmasters of the various schools file in one by one to present their problems.

After the Chairman, it was the turn of the Headmaster to tell the parents (members of the School presumably already knew) exactly what their sons had been doing for the past twelve months, both in the field of sport and, more importantly, in the examinations. This year the fifth and upper sixth forms were faced with the General Certificate of Education for the first time and the results, on the whole, were very satisfactory.

Then came the presentation of the Prizes and Cups by our guest Mr. J. F. Wolfenden, C.B.E., Vice-Chancellor of the University of Reading. This onerous task over, the Chairman introduced Mr. Wolfenden to us and told us of his achievements not only in Scholarship but in the field of sport, where he gained an International cap and a Blue at Hockey. Our guest told the members of the School that to succeed in future years they would need three things: imagination, courage and hard work. The latter suggestion was met, rather surprisingly, with a round of applause from the Junior School. We can only hope that they will strive to match enthusiasm with achievement.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Councillor Billingham and seconded by the Head Boy. This ended the proceedings, and the parents departed happily to ponder on what they had seen and heard.  
D.M.S.

## PRIZE LIST, 1950-1951

### University Scholarships, 1950-51

Open Scholarship in Modern History (St. John's College, Oxford) ... ..	J. P. Hood Phillips
Open Scholarship in English (Christ's College, Cambridge) ... ..	J. M. Hoare
Open Exhibition in Natural Science (Christ's College, Cambridge) ... ..	A. Melmoth
State University Scholarships in Science ... ..	F. J. Atkins and L. E. Palmer

### COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIPS

I. B. Bullock	J. W. R. Sanders
L. W. J. Bunch	J. D. Shepherd
G. C. Cook	W. H. Shepherd
A. J. Hopkins	D. M. Spiers
A. G. Horsnail	R. J. Threlfall
F. G. H. Pooley	B. R. Walters

### "Advanced" Level Certificates

VI Arts	VI Science	VI Economics
I. D. Barnett	F. J. Atkins	P. M. Brooker
R. E. Bennison	I. B. Bullock	A. G. Horsnail
L. W. J. Bunch	P. J. Casselton	R. A. Nuttall
J. W. Crichton	G. C. Cook	F. G. H. Pooley
D. L. Gillard	L. E. Palmer	B. P. Price
A. J. Hopkins	W. H. Shepherd	J. W. R. Sanders
D. S. Jonas	A. G. Simpson	B. R. Walters
D. Mackelworth	D. M. Spiers	
A. F. Menzies	R. J. Threlfall	
J. D. Shepherd	T. G. Wolkenberg	
R. J. Wells		

## Form Prizes

IA—M. A. Sutcliffe, M. Loveday	IB—S. J. Cohen, D. J. Creasey
IIA—M. R. Burke, A. J. Fowles	IIB—D. J. Drye, C. C. Wright
IIIA—P. A. Tatlow, C. E. Brittain	IIIB—R. D. Manning, A. E. Gooding
IVA—P. J. Parsons, G. M. L. Terdre	IVB—M. Gordon, J. M. Davis

### FIFTH FORM PRIZES

D. J. Britton	P. S. Hughes	D. A. Jackson
D. V. Patrick	D. A. Burgess	M. W. Dick
D. N. Salter	G. A. Young	J. A. White

### FIRST YEAR SIXTH

Arts: J. R. Hobbs	Science: A. P. Redman	Economics: P. J. Bennellick
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### UPPER SIXTH FORM

F. J. Atkins ( <i>Norman Prize</i> )	A. J. Hopkins	F. G. H. Pooley
R. E. Bennison	A. G. Horsnail	J. W. R. Sanders
L. W. Bunch	D. S. W. Jonas	D. M. Spiers
G. C. Cook ( <i>Whitman Prize</i> )	A. Melmoth	R. J. Threlfall
J. W. Crichton	A. F. Menzies	B. R. Walters
J. P. Hood Phillips	L. E. Palmer	

## General Prizes

*General Knowledge*: T. G. Wolkenburg, P. J. Parsons, A. J. Fowles  
*Craft*: M. W. Hamilton, D. L. Hall, J. M. Stringer, D. H. Dann  
*Art*: A. S. Jeapes, R. K. Jackson, B. G. Hope  
*"Personal Effort" Prizes*: I. B. Bullock, I. J. R. Chalmers  
*Headmaster's Photography Prizes*: A. G. Simpson, T. G. Wolkenberg, D. M. Pratt  
*Mr. Hanson's Hobbies Prizes*: P. Cheney, M. K. G. Hudson  
*Verse Speaking Prizes*: R. S. Betts, M. F. B. Read, C. C. Wright (2B)  
*Beaverbrook-Bennett Empire Prize*: P. A. Tatlow  
*Headmaster's Poetry Prize*: D. Powell Evans  
*"John Robbins" Essay Prizes*: A. J. Hopkins, J. W. Crichton, L. W. J. Bunch  
*Leaving Prize to the Head of the School, 1950-51*: A. G. Simpson

## Trophies

The Parents' Rugby Cup ... ..	Newsom's
The Governors' Cricket Cup ... ..	Cobb's
The Spur Society's Hockey Cup ... ..	Cobb's
The Cray Swimming Cup ... ..	Gibb's
The John Garrett Athletics Cup ... ..	Halliwell's
The S. H. Marshall Cross Country Cup ... ..	Cobb's
The T. W. Powys Cobb Tennis Cup ... ..	Halliwell's
The S. B. Phillips Boxing Cup ... ..	Cobb's
The Junior Shield ... ..	Cobb's
The B. T. King Cock House Cup ... ..	Cobb's
The Eric Parker Cup ... ..	D. S. Jonas
The Michael Welby Debating Cup ... ..	Cobb's
The P. W. Garrett House Play Cup ... ..	Milton's

## HOUSE PLAYS, 1951

When the Dramatics Cup was removed from Cock House competition there was considerable difference of opinion as to what effect this would have on the house plays themselves. Many thought that when the incentive of Cock House points had been removed the standard of productions would suffer, and that the consequent decline would also affect the excellence of School Plays. All will agree, however, that no such unfortunate results could be detected in the House productions staged at the end of last term. We were regaled with humour, both the brilliant wit of Shaw and the slapstick of the farce with drama and excitement, sociological and religious thought.

The adjudicator, Mr. Eyre, was a former master at Raynes Park, who has subsequently made his name as a theatre critic. After he had given his decision as to the order of merit: Milton's, Gibb's, Cobb's, with Halliwell's and Newsom's sharing last place, Mr. Eyre gave a detailed analysis of each production, including concise reasons why he had placed them in this order and with comments on suitability of play and cast, standard of acting, stage management, lighting and sound effects.

In order of the awards, first came Milton's "Press Cuttings" by Bernard Shaw, produced by J. P. Hood Phillips, who exploited to the full the possibilities of Shaw's satirical wit and himself played General Mitchener, the leading part. He was admirably supported by a cast which had none of the sad weaknesses which so often mar house plays. Suffragettes, politicians, and especially the orderly (J. C. Cobley) were all excellently cast and played. The set, however, was unoriginal, while the lighting often lacked the polish which characterised the rest of the performance. In this play the dialogue and acting were the main attractions, so these minor faults were relatively unimportant.

Gibb's production, "Hewers of Coal," was placed second. This mining tragedy was efficiently produced by L. W. Bunch and D. M. Spiers, but lacked the speed and enthusiasm which was evident in Milton's play. There was a degree of tension, which while in harmony with the themes sombre mood, prevented the audience from feeling completely sympathetic towards the action. The sound effects were startling but convincing and achieved a really terrifying effect when combined with some powerful acting by the cast. It was unfortunate, however, that much of the latter part of the action was played in almost complete darkness, which prevented the audience from appreciating both acting and scenery. The final scene was also a trifle ambiguous, with the unfortunate men entombed and only an impressive series of thunderous crashes to explain to the audience the fate of the unhappy men. Even the adjudicator was left under the misapprehension that all were saved at the last minute, while the majority of the audience were left completely puzzled. Finally, however, it must be said that Gibb's play was impressive and moving, with competent acting backed by an imaginative production and impressive scenery, and marred only by inadequate lighting.

Third place, Mr. Eyre gave to Cobb's production of Ronald Duncan's "This Way to the Tomb," a dramatic poem in modern verse with a religious theme. This was a very ambitious choice, but was justified by J. D. Shepherd's admirable production and personal performance as Father Anthony. He was very adequately supported by the rest of the cast all of whom had parts difficult enough to test any young artist's talent. Staging and production were excellent, with clever use of lighting and of the depth of the stage to change the focus of attention without a change of scenery. The only criticism the adjudicator had to make was concerning the monotonous sameness of tone which each character used. This did, however, seem to fit admirably the sombre tone of the play and did not, in my opinion, detract in any way from the excellence of the play, or give the impression of monotonous regularity of which Mr. Eyre complained.

Mr. Eyre refused to commit himself by saying which of the last two plays should be fourth and which fifth. Of Halliwell's "Old Man at the Wheel," he praised the acting and the production, but criticised choice of play and staging. The play itself was an as yet unpublished work by Falkland L. Carey, the dialogue was weak, spoilt by unpleasant puns and pedestrian phrases. The plot was hackneyed and at times incomprehensible. The curiosity of the audience was aroused by the spectacle of a robed figure in the background rotating a large disc; this interesting phenomenon remained silent throughout the greater part of the action and only came to life to read a tedious

diatribe on the ingratitude of man, and to threaten the extinction of life if immediate improvement was not forthcoming. Cast and producer tried vainly to overcome the poor material provided by the author and, at times, almost succeeded in creating atmosphere and bringing the play to life. The effort proved too much, however, and despite a startling performance by Vogado as an American film star, the production remained incomplete and unsatisfying.

Newsom's play, "The Invisible Duke," by F. Sladen-Smith was in their now accepted tradition of farce and bloody melodrama. The play was immensely amusing: the audience and cast both enjoyed it, but the acting was ragged, and lighting and scenery poor. Once again it may be said that there were no weak links in the cast, and that, the production, while competent, lacked the break-neck pace and correct painting of improbability which must typify "farce," a play form much esteemed by young producers without recognition of its inherent technical difficulty. It was unfortunate that between those parts of the play which were most entertaining there were considerable portions of tedious dialogue which held up the action and proved tiresome to the audience. Admirable performances were given, however, by Giles as a dwarf, Crichton, whose principal forte is in farce, and the rest of the cast, who were all well chosen.

One overall comment which might be made on the House Play Contest of 1951 is this: success went to those who observed two maxims—the first, "choose a play which stands on its own merits"; the second, "keep a severely practical eye on whether you have in your own house, at the time, the players adequate for the parts in that particular play." Milton's House deservedly won the competition because it most successfully observed both.

D.M.

## THE SCHOOL PLAY

The School Play has had to be postponed until next term. It is hoped that the Easter term production will give some scope to actors in both the Senior and Junior Schools.

## THE 19th WIMBLEDON SENIOR SCOUTS

### A Continental Tour and Mountaineering Expedition

This account must commence with an appreciation of the financial help of the Group without which the tour would have been impossible, and especial thanks to Tiger for his enthusiastic support and interest. Our thanks too, to Mr. Cowie, I.H.Q. Commissioner for Senior Scouts, who led the climbing in the Alps. It was not one, but several tours. Hopkins and Hood Phillips cycled through France, Italy to Switzerland and back through Germany and Belgium. Simpson undertook a solo hike in the Bernese Oberland and Casselton rolled across the continent by train. We all met for a fortnight's climbing at Mallogia, at the Italian end of the St. Moritz valley.

Torrential rains came in the first two days, the heaviest rains since 1889, and in these conditions we lived in bivouac tents before drying out in the golf house of a monstrous uninhabited hotel. Letters we received from home showed press cuttings of the disasters which befell towns just after we had passed through them. Of our separate journeys more will be said later, but we did meet at our rendezvous within an hour or two and were soon away on our first "training" walk to a height of 8,000 feet! Becoming used to the atmosphere on the following day, we conquered our first Alpine Peak, Piz Lunghin (9,124 ft.), and again on the following day we climbed Piz della Margua (10,374 ft.). We prospected the Forno glacier and returned two days later to sleep in the Forno Hut. Crowded into a small apartment and wrapped in blankets, we looked rather like the mummies of an Egyptian tomb...



mummies however, who stir at 2 o'clock in the morning and begin to climb at 2.30 !

Practice climbs led on to the main ascent, the finale to the fortnight, on Piz Corvatsch (11,134 ft.). It meant a 2.0 a.m. start and considerable movement on snow, but ropes were seldom used (they had been essential on earlier climbs). This movement is unbelievably more tiring than on glacial ice. Glissading down a steep snow slope in a crouching position is invigorating, and much quicker than walking. Our time in the Alps ended, and as we came, so we parted into our travelling groups and varied plans. Casselton took a train tour stopping for a while at Chur, Basle and Paris. Simpson "strode" over the mountain to stay a few days at the Scout Chalet at Kandersteg. Hopkins and Hood Phillips took the unique opportunity to tour six countries and see all they could in the next two weeks, and of their journeyings, they write jointly as follows.

Dieppe. All we could see was the darkness. The railway coaches were dun green : the bombed buildings were charred. The paths were of ashes, and dust swirled about. Dieppe at two in the morning was awake, the porters were shouting, engines were steaming, capstans squealed and flood-lights burst into dazzling glares. Paris at six was only just waking. Gare St. Lazare was empty : the Customs men were bleary eyed and had not awakened to their customary rudeness. In the streets were only cleaners and fruit lorries. Then it became hot. The glass of the windows was hot, the metal coaches were hot, the wheels and rails were hot, and as we scorched through the countryside our throats were hot and dry. Dijon. "L'eau, l'eau" someone said and we stumbled after him across the tracks, bustled and jostled to get just that water and drink. Then the loudspeakers, "Allo, allo, Dijon, montez en voitures . ." and we scrambled back again. In the evening we left the train and cycled.

As darkness fell, we leant our bikes against the poplars and slept by the lake which reflected the lights and castle of Annecy. Next morning we washed in the lake and then took the long dry road to the Petit St. Bernard Pass. It was sixty miles of uphill cycling punctuated by chimes of cow bells. Rest at night came in an inexpensive hotel overlooking Mt. Blanc and the next day we crossed the border into Italy. We freewheeled for hours down gravel roads, flew round tortuous hair pins, burrowed into road tunnels, and into the Val D'Aosta. Here was the arch of Augustus and here also were garlic sausages. The country we found dull but the Italian towns are attractive : palaces with their courtyards, grand churches and cathedrals, and shopping arcades. In Italy the shops sell anything, to anybody, at anytime, at any price . . . above what we could afford. There were factories and gardens and fountains : and there were barrel organs and beggars. Then on to Milan brighter and more beautiful than any other place, and we found Leonardo da Vinci and Coca-cola. The cathedral was shining magnificently in white stone : inside there was incense, mixing mellow colours and vast dimness. A night in Como and then on to Lugano where it was Sunday and noisy—there were coaches and steamers, ice-cream and streamers. We crossed the border into Switzerland and with us climbing through the pass, were buses spurring dust in our faces, the Chevrolets and Volkswagons breathing out poisonous gases : we pushed up slowly, drank icy water, wiped the sweat from our eyes. We reached Mallogia, or is it Maloya, and thankfully discarded our cycles to find our climbing feet and our companions.

After our two weeks of climbing, refreshed in mind and limb and saddle, we cycled down the Engadine to Innsbrück in Austria and up the unmetalled and badly graded road to Seefeld and Mr. Cobb's hotel. He gave us a wonderful welcome, filled us with food, and took us for a most energetic run (it was no walk !) up the Gehrenpitze from where we looked out over the Bavarian Alps. Back through Basle and the rolling

pine forests of Bavaria—the man here wear embroidered shorts and braces while the women dress in richly decorated skirts and blouses. In the villages, houses are covered with paintings often religious, and every one is swept away by a welter of gaiety. At Shaffhausen, the wide and fast flowing Rhine dives over a hundred feet of sheer rock face, a spectacle which amazes the eyes and stuns the ears. We returned via Brussels and Bruges and the latter seems to have remained unchanged for hundreds of years. From its canals one gets sudden glimpses of medieval towers and squares which are still as quiet as they were when they were built. From this we plunged into the turmoil of the Channel crossing, and Dover, and home.

### Summer Camp, 1951

We are becoming confirmed night travellers, and it seemed quite a natural thing to be eating breakfast early in the morning after the last day of the summer term, on a railway station overlooking a Cornish valley. We watched the 11th Wimbledon, who had been our travelling companions, depart southwards and we waited for the local train, one with iron gates for doors and which we suspected had some kinship with Stephenson's Rocket.

Life in camp was easy. Water flowed at our own doorstep—though Denton wondered if the Order of the Bath had something to do with the number of buckets required to fill one—and timber was easy to find across the river. Collecting this timber was the excuse for a swim and the cause of strange echoes of Gilbert and Sullivan heard among the trees on the rocky slopes. The weir formed a natural swimming pool, and if Koko claims the record for early morning immersions, Badger made the greater splash and Dick measured the greater distance. The latter too found natural history specimens even as he swam, and it is rumoured that Davis and Stringer found some interest in local flora.

Rain drenched the party which toured Plymouth and the Devonport Dockyards, and some patrols had damp tours of duty in the kitchen. But rain cannot damp the spirits of patrols with a sense of fun like that of the Woodpeckers, and the somewhat dull chores of the kitchen, even in pouring rain, proved enjoyable with patrols that were prepared to share their jokes with all around. Our greengrocer kept us well fed. He was also talkative, so persuasively so that we found ourselves as "policemen" at the village carnival, not to mention the prize we won by decorating a lorry on which we later toured the countryside.

In camping standards we had in some ways improved only to be less efficient in others. Cooking was better this year but not, clearly, as the result of patrol methods so much as that of central direction. Some new dishes appeared including a Kokoe version of macaroni cheese. Even if the final barriers against wandering cattle were erected only in time to be demolished, the kitchen never failed to produce a satisfying meal when it was needed. P.L.s prefer it not to be known too widely how often this, as so many other things, was due to Bruin's timely and unobtrusive help. It was certainly the higher standards in the camp kitchen that spared us any internal disorders or other casualties.

The camp had its drawbacks. Wasps nests enabled Spencer to reach an unusual century : we missed the camp fire, but the occasion did not really present itself : perhaps we spent too much time in the valleys and too little time on the hills : patrol activities were not as many or varied as they might have been ; the cattle were a nuisance and Stoa failed to catch a chicken, and Howard fell in the grease pit. Many thought it was a short camp—perhaps because the time they had enjoyed had passed too quickly.

### The 19th Wimbledon at the World Jamboree

It was a wonderful experience to attend, as three of our Group did, the World Scout Jamboree. It was more than a mass camp of boys from

all countries, classes and creeds. It was a joy of a lifetime to live with fifteen thousand lads like yourself, walking the same paths, seeing the same sights, cooking the same meals the same way, and sleeping in similar tents. Above all this, it was so surely heartwarming to feel that in this world of such unfriendliness, we could live here together as brothers and obey to the full the Fourth Scout Law.

It was at the end of July that three thousand of us from these islands set off across Europe for a fortnight amid the mountains and lakes of Austria. The scenery, the friendliness of the people, the towns, the local tours, the grand time we had with each other, are all too incredibly brilliant memories to be given justice in these few words. We can say, and with all emphasis, that this experience was so well worth while and that Jamborees justify all the cost and organisation. Here I can only enumerate some of the memories from this unique international gathering: the mountain walks, the lads from over fifty countries, the languages, the huge camp fires, the stirring songs, gherkins, gherkins and more gherkins, badge swapping, bathing in mountain lakes, the camp market, the souvenirs, thunderstorms, the Salsburg visit, camp gateways, brass bands, little Klaus, the opening and closing ceremonies, the many visitors . . . and new memories keep coming to mind at unexpected moments.

Whatever happens in world politics, we shall never forget the air of peace and happiness that reigned over the whole camp, the great feeling of brotherhood which made the word "international" take on a new and deeper meaning. Dare we think that the world can be influenced by lads such as those who shared with us this grand experience at Bad Ischl? The Jamboree atmosphere is one in which strife could not prevail.

## SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

In the past the Sixth Form Society has been characterised by a certain lack of organisation. This term, however, a General Meeting was held at which a committee was appointed to control the affairs of the Society. Another new departure this term was the institution of a subscription, so that the Committee could run the Society without incurring a debt with the General School Fund.

So far this term we have held three meetings, to which we had our usual visitors. The first meeting was a "personal choice" evening. "Personal choice" evenings, at present, suffer from a lack of originality and the Committee would welcome practical suggestions for an alternative form of meeting. Following this there was a play reading. "While the Sun Shines," by Terence Rattigan, was the play selected. The play, although having no great literary merit, made the evening a very pleasant one.

The most popular meeting in the past has always been the "Film Night" and this term was no exception. Members of the fifth form were invited and, in all, about eighty people attended. We were shown three films, the first of which was "Drawings that Walk and Talk." This is an English film outlining the development of the cartoon film up to 1936. The main film of the evening was "Paris qui Dort," a classic French silent film, made by René Clair. The story concerns a mad scientist who invents a ray which temporarily paralyses life in Paris. As in all subsequent variations on this theme, several people escape the effects of the ray and succeed in restoring life to the city. Finally an early "Charlie Chaplin" film, entitled the "New Janitor," was shown. Usually after the showing of the films we hold a short discussion, but on this occasion, due to the length of the programme, the discussion had to be omitted.

One further meeting is planned for this term. Looking ahead to next term it is to be hoped that the Sixth Form Society can truly boast

that it lives up to its name, when *all* boys in the sixth form (and not a mere three-quarters), become members.

P.J.C.

## THE DEBATING SOCIETY

*President* : The Headmaster.

*Chairman* : J. W. Crichton.

*Secretary* : R. J. Wells.

We began this term with a completely reorganised committee: J. P. Hood Phillips and J. D. Shepherd, our only experienced debaters, had left, so the first meeting was called to elect new members into the Committee, J. W. Crichton and A. C. Manifold became Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively; J. R. Hobbs, P. A. Tanner, J. R. Weightman and D. L. Hall made up the new Committee, with R. J. Wells as secretary.

The first debate of the term was held on 27th September, when the motion debated was: "That the cinema is bringing about a deterioration of morals." We had hoped for a large audience for this debate which promised to be interesting, but the main speakers found themselves facing a very small, if select, audience. We were perhaps a little disappointed to hear no fiery harangues or passionately vehement speeches, but only the calm, deliberate and assured tones of Hobbs and Hall's cheerful, yet serious, speech proposing the motion. Opposing it were Tanner and Manifold, whose joking and slightly cheeky method of approach combines with their astuteness to make them a formidable opposition. And, indeed, they proved more than a match for the Proposers, and the motion was defeated.

On 20th October, we held an "away" meeting when we debated against speakers from the West Wimbledon Society at Avenue Hall. We opposed the motion: "This house deplores the State interference in education." Again we heard from Messrs. Hobbs and Hall who showed both strength of argument and equanimity of approach. But our opponents too had strong arguments and, in their several ways, forceful styles of speaking. The battle began in earnest when the debate was thrown open to the floor, but our floor speakers sustained the attack and, backed up by many residents of West Wimbledon, we succeeded in defeating the motion.

Here, I think, we should pay tribute to the West Wimbledon Society for inviting us to debate against them and proving such charming hosts; and especially for giving our speakers the chance to gain experience by taking part in a public debate. Incidentally, the Society have invited us to visit them again in the New Year—this time to debate against a Wimbledon Girls' School.

On 1st November, a very small gathering debated the motion: "This house believes that the Churches fail to solve modern problems." None of the speakers was outstanding, but we were able to hear voices new to the Society, those of A. J. Tillinghast who with Crichton proposed the motion, Wells and Weightman. Unfortunately not one of the main speakers had a very carefully thought out argument and the audience seemed a little reluctant to enter the contest, so that the vote, by which the motion was defeated, counted for little.

The latest debate showed a little more liveliness when, on 15th November, a more thickly populated house debated the motion: "That the best things in life are free." Again we heard new voices, this time those of I. D. Barnett (who supported the proposer, Tillinghast) and P. J. Bennellick who assisted Crichton. All four speakers took the wording of the last part of the motion to mean "free from monetary cost," but the floor speakers objected to this restriction and gave it a wider scope by including happiness and the experience of mystical revelation as two of life's "best things." The motion was eventually carried.



Next term, the Debating Competition will be held, so of course the **Society's meetings will be fewer.** The School General Election, dealt with elsewhere in these pages, was a product of the Debating Society. Originally conceived, in order to raise the standard of public speaking in School, it is to be wondered whether the Election succeeded fully in its purpose.

Our thanks go to those masters who attend our debates and raise the standard of the speaking, and especially to Messrs. Cholmondeley and Rudgley to whom we are indebted for their guidance at committee meetings as well as for their lively speeches at debates.

Our plans for the future must have in view a policy to attract not only the Sixth Form but also the rest of the School. As debate follows debate, our range of new speakers is becoming increasingly limited and our membership tends to duplicate that of the Sixth Form Society. Reform, if needed, is in the hands of the Committee, but, unless the School shows more enthusiasm for this much neglected part of its life, all the reforms in the world will be useless and the Society will become too exclusive. There is only one remedy: that boys of the school should keep themselves informed of the Society's meetings, attend them, and train themselves in public speaking by playing an active part.

R.J.V.

## THE CHRISTIAN UNION

This term the C.U. has tried to present to its members a more **entertaining programme than discussion and Bible study.** A full term's programme was worked out in the holidays and "fixture" cards were printed. The results obtained from their sale showed that a considerable number of boys were interested enough to buy one.

So far, we have had one film meeting, and have another booked for later in the term. "We too Receive," told a very moving true story of an airman shot down over Jap-held Borneo jungle, and how through the miraculous workings of God, he found his way back to his comrades. "Arctic Pioneers in Baffinland" should prove an interesting film, describing the work of missionaries in the far north. The film strip, "Christianity and Postage Stamps," was enjoyed by all philatelists present, and we hope to gain similar knowledge from "Background to India."

Three missionaries gave us fine pictures of their work and surroundings in Africa, in Putney as a London City Missionary, and in China. Mr. Purchas held us with his many beautiful colour slides, and told us a great deal about the present situation in China and the prospects of missionaries in the other countries of S.E. Asia. Our other meetings have been a visit from a local minister, a talk on Lord Shaftesbury, and one meeting where discussion ranged from the Pope's latest edict to the matter of Christ's personal sacrifice. We still look forward to the end of term when we hope to have our annual Christmas celebration, this time in the form of a "Dinner." During this term we have put the emphasis on missionary work: as you see, we have heard and seen something about Africa, India, China, Borneo, Baffinland and London. We hope to have made the meetings as interesting and as varied as possible with this programme.

The motto of the Christian Union is taken from James 1:22—"Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only." This term we have heard a great deal about work all the world over by men trained for the job. But we, in the C.U. try to be practical Christians here, by leading a life, in and out of school, of which Jesus Christ would not be ashamed. He, I am sure would have served his Father vigorously, both at work and study, and on the sports field. We all know that it is impossible to be a "saint" by ourselves, and so we who are Christians allow our Master to work and play through us to make us more like Himself.

F.M.L.

## GRAMOPHONE CLUB NOTES

With the acquisition of a number of permanent sources of records, the Gramophone Club has been able to set out on a long series of Beethoven programmes with some degree of certainty that it would not break down through lack of materials. The conventional division of Beethoven's works into three parts has some disadvantages, as have all sweeping generalizations, but it will help to identify the relationship with each other of the works we have performed.

The first period includes the works which most show any influence exerted by Haydn and Mozart on Beethoven. Of these works we have heard only the C major Piano Concerto and the G major Sonata [Op. 49]. This is unfortunate and a result of the craving for orchestral works almost to the exclusion of all else, for of the fifty or so published works of this period the only orchestral works are the first two symphonies and piano concertos.

The second period includes the "Appassionata" sonata, the symphonies we have heard, the Emperor concerto, the great overtures, and the Violin Concerto. Of works in our concerts, only the A flat String Quartet belongs to the last period. Only lack of time has prevented the playing of more of the last quartets, or of any of the last piano sonatas, the Missa Solemnis, or the Ninth Symphony. I can only hope that our members will take any opportunities of listening to these sublime works when they are performed elsewhere.

We have tried to increase our membership. A publicity department was set up, and we had hoped that our effort would enlarge our audiences. Popular programmes were arranged, and we were often pleased to address over thirty people.

It is to be hoped that these increases in our membership will remain, and that subsequent series will receive the same support as this one.

B.P.P. and I.B.L.

## POETRY SOCIETY

The Society welcomes the succession of Mr. Money to its leadership **in the place of Mr. Walsh.** But the lack of genuine interest on the part of many members of the Sixth Form has inevitably led not only to a decline in membership, but more seriously to the absence of original verse, for hitherto productive members have found it a waste of time to bring their verse to meetings of only two or three persons. The object of this Society is to stimulate the appreciation of poetry, as it were, from the inside, in order that members may not only take part in the actual writing of verse, but also in a livelier understanding of the intricacies of its creation.

I.B.L.

The poem included here is the prizewinning entry in the Headmaster's Poetry Competition, it was submitted by D. Powell Evans.

### Clouds and Habitations in Revolt.

A damp cold mist hangs on the thorny hedges  
And the silent trees.  
Swirling granite turrets break the mist  
As ocean surges and jut through grey flowing foams  
Below the tumbled rough stones rabbits dart,  
Bobbed white that scurries on the stiff cropped turf,  
While hollow loopholes cough the patched fog out  
Or gently roll it round cold fingered trees.  
Anead the solitary fullness of a seagull's echo  
Rises from a damp mud bed and makes the stillness tremble  
To the slap of wings.

The salt sea creeps across the marshy flats,  
 As morning's low breeze stirs the wisps away  
 Up to the early blue.  
 The yearling clouds drift grazing through the sky,  
 And dissipate their whiteness in a vast high waste  
 Of hazy dark blue day.

## THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

*President* : The Headmaster.

*Chairmen* : Messrs. P. O'Driscoll and J. D. Timpson.

*Secretary* : B. P. Price

*Librarian* : P. J. Vogado.

The Geography Society, which was formed in the Autumn Term of 1946, appears to have enjoyed a precarious existence, which came to a somewhat mysterious end in the same term three years later. This term we have taken our lives into our own hands again, and re-organised under a new (if unoriginal) title. With old objects in our minds, we are endeavouring to make Geography more than a three-period per week subject in the School curriculum.

On 1st October, a general meeting was called, but the attendance was not all that it might have been. Those who were present, came to the decision that for the first term we should hold only two meetings.

At the first of these, on 22nd October, four members of the Society gave talks on various geographical topics. These varied from "The South West Peninsula" to "The Cuckmere." The latter of these was by far the most intriguing talk of the series, and was the only one which provoked any discussion, but even that turned into a specialists' dispute over the formation of levées. The other subjects dealt with were "Austria" and "The Geological Aspects of the Western Highlands of Scotland."

The other meeting has yet to be held. It is to be a Film Evening, at which we hope to show that classic documentary of the 1930's, "The River." It will be supported by three other films about America, and it is to be hoped that the fact that it is to be an evening meeting, will not deter members from attending.

It may be said that we have not returned as a School Society in a grandiose style. That is not our intention. We exist to improve geographical knowledge and to branch out into new spheres, but not to reproduce subjects covered during school hours, in glorious technicolor. Our activities are limited in the winter, but with the lighter evenings our scope will increase.

B.P.P.

## CHESS CLUB

The following are the results of the matches played so far this term :

1st VIII	8	Pelham	0
1st VIII	6	Kingston	2
1st VIII	2	Surbiton	6
2nd VI	2½	Surbiton	3½
2nd VI	3½	Bec	2½

The Chess Club survives this term without any active support on the part of the staff. Nevertheless more or less regular weekly meetings have continued so far this term, but the need for regular coaching is evidenced by the meagre results of the second team, and by the first team's feeble play against Surbiton.

I.B.L.

## THE SPUR MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

We are glad to report that we have not yet been Nationalised, and are still running as a free enterprise railway, although we are experienc-

ing many difficulties. Shortage of materials is one, but by far the worst is the time we have to spend making good damage and locating faults in the wiring caused by prying fingers. Nevertheless we do manage to get the trains moving.

The new control panel is now completed and wired up, and the new wiring of the track section well under way. This, when completed, will allow us to run two trains at one time and each under separate control. When the new by-pass track is laid we shall be able to have our two trains running in different directions at one time.

Our Town and Country planning is still held up by shortage of building materials and the granting of a licence, but we are all hopeful that we shall get something moving before long.

We are glad to welcome the many new members, but sorry to report we have lost a number of our older members, because of their studies. Their presence is missed because much of the work now falls on the few founders who now remain, but we hope that before long we shall find among the new members a few who can undertake some of this work.

S.J.Y.

## A.T.C.

We have been very pleased to welcome nine recruits this term, and we hope that this renewal of interest in the A.T.C. will continue to grow. Reports continue to reach us of the great advantages boys have had when called up for National Service, if they have already gained qualification with the A.T.C., even when they have gone into Services other than the R.A.F.

During the summer vacation, the Squadron spent its period of Annual Training at R.A.F. Wyton in Buckinghamshire. Both the R.A.F. and the United States Air Force on the station did a great deal to make the camp interesting and instructive, and the cadets very much appreciated the opportunities given them. It was unfortunate that flying was very restricted on two or three days, and that the full complement of flying could not be fitted in. However, various Cadets went on trips ranging from Yorkshire to Oxfordshire. Off duty there was most pleasant boating on the River Ouse, while Cadets were not slow to avail themselves of the rare dishes offered by the American P.X. It was rather fortunate that, as last year's camp gave opportunities for a visit to Oxford University, the location of this year's camp should have permitted the more enlightening opportunity of a visit to Cambridge.

J.D.T.

## L. A. G. STRONG

Once again the School had the enjoyable privilege of hearing Mr. L. A. G. Strong read selections, mostly of his own short stories. Both Seniors and Juniors found the readings entertaining, life-like and artistic—a most refreshing interlude in the midst of the routine of the daily round.

Undoubtedly the largest laughs and greatest entertainment came when Mr. Strong read the now famous story from his own school days, when the vividness of the narrative, combined with his skill as a reader, achieved the distinction of converting the spoken word into the medium of olfactory sensation!

We shall eagerly look forward to another visit from Mr. Strong and hope that an even larger proportion of the School may have the opportunity of hearing him read.

J.D.T.

## "THE SONG OF CEYLON"

In the middle of October, one dinner hour, about a hundred boys and masters went to the Physics Lab. to see the film, "Song of Ceylon." When we had seen the film, some of us came away greatly disappointed, others found the film pointless and tedious, but there were a few who felt themselves drawn to it, perhaps without fully understanding it.

Although ostensibly made for the Tea Marketing Board, this film does not tell the story of tea manufacture in Ceylon, nor is it a travelogue of Ceylon. It tries to capture the very spirit of the land, a spirit derived from countless sources which make up a climate, mental, social and spiritual, that is almost incomprehensible to the Westerner.

I say "almost incomprehensible," because Basil Wright, who made this film, has in fact caught the spirit that is Ceylon and (an even more amazing achievement) he has managed to transfer the elusive spirit of Ceylon on to the celluloid.

It is an old film, having been made in 1934, but it has not aged, for it deals with matters that are timeless, and principally with Buddha. Though many scenes from the film are soon forgotten, there are some which cling to the fibres of memory, even though we do not fully understand them, for example, those which showed the ascent of a holy mountain in long and splendid procession and the contrasting simplicity of one traveller's meagre oblation to a wayside god. The film points throughout to the central figure in Ceylonese life: the Buddha who, be he regally adorned in gilt or merely a daubed wooden idol, is nevertheless the most important part of the life of Ceylon.

Basil Wright directed the film and was its cameraman; the whole weight of praise or blame must therefore fall on him. I think a discussion of the film's technical merits would necessitate much film jargon and would make the reader, uninitiated in the mysteries of film production, little wiser. Let it be sufficient, therefore, to say that this is a film difficult to follow, but thrilling as an experience, thoughtfully conceived and cleverly put together. I must also tell you, although this fact should not materially affect one's judgment of the film, that "Song of Ceylon" gained first prize and Prix de Gouvernement at the Brussels Film Festival, in 1935.

R.J.W.

## THE RIVER

Although this film is of the documentary school, much of its success comes from divergencies from the usual style. It is pleasantly devoid of statistics and diagrams. The subject of the River Mississippi is approached in a general manner which nevertheless manages to cover most of the modern history and present day activities. The river valley is shown as containing many and varied resources and supporting both agriculture and mining.

The opening shots show the picturesque and rugged upper reaches and then the broad stretch of the main stream. Thus a striking impression is created at the very beginning. This vast expanse of flowing water emphasises the idea of power and resource which lies behind the film.

Two thirds of the streams of W. America flow into the Mississippi and on the slopes down which they flow, once existed extensive forests. The commentary says, "we cut the top off the Alleghanies and sent them floating down to the Gulf." Yet this fact is not conveyed to the audience by graph and statistical comparison but by the direct visual contrast of the dense wooded slopes: the piles of cut logs, and minor stream jammed with floating logs: the bare hills covered only with stumps with desolation starkly symbolized by icicles formed on a tree root.

Again the devastation of soil erosion and floods is not conveyed by anything more than pictures alone of the half submerged homesteads or barren gullies. When the vocal commentary is not required to augment the photography it ceases and does not inflict itself on the audience. During the flood scenes no irrelevancies are included, but all the sound effects are either fog horns and sirens or directions to relief teams, all of which conveys atmosphere far better than any semi-dramatic musical accompaniment.

Throughout, the spoken commentary is excellent and attention is paid to the sound, and not only the factual meaning of the words. Periodically the commentary consists of an almost poetical repetition of phrases or lists of names of towns and rivers. This above all emphasises the absence of stress on numerical assessment in the film and the object of presenting aspects of life and conditions in this great river valley rather than a detailed account. Especially is this the case when the film deals with the T.V.A. We see the results on the life of the valley and the work being done without detailed estimates for the future. "The River" shows the dams which have been built and the water flowing through the generators: the achievement not the dream.

J.W.C.

## CRAFT NOTES

It is with very real regret that I write my last Craft Notes. The past four years have gone all too quickly, but in a most rewarding way, and I hope that the standards we have set ourselves will be maintained—and improved—in the future. We have a large body of keen craftsmen in the School, but it is only by constant endeavour and untiring enthusiasm that the crafts will flourish and make a worthy contribution to the full life of our community.

This term has seen the completion of our long-awaited kiln, designed and built by ourselves. It reflects great credit on a small band of keen boys and is a most handsome addition to our pottery facilities. Approximately half-a-ton of reinforced concrete went into the foundations and over one-and-a-half thousand bricks, not to mention mortar, timber, asbestos, firebars and so on. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Mitchell for his valued assistance and to the parents of the Pottery Group who made a substantial donation. In other words, this kiln has been provided by *our* labour and at *our* expense—like most of our special equipment (three wheels, the two presses, the lathe, and the gas kiln).

The Parents' Pottery Group was most enjoyable—and fruitful. Twenty mothers and fathers forgot their daily worries and for four sessions experienced a few of the delights of this wonderful craft. The finished work quite astounded me, both in its variety and its finish. No doubt proud *parents* will be telling certain sons how it should be done, now! I hope it will be possible to organise similar groups in the future.

The Puppet Club is busily putting the finishing touches to the new production, "Aladdin", which is to be presented at the end of term. Mr. Riley is now taking over the direction of this activity and I shall look forward to seeing the Club's contribution to the next E.P.A. Festival in London. It is a pity that in this particular activity so many boys seem to lose their initial interest after a year or so—just as they are becoming useful members of a team. Is this because they are accustomed to having so many things *done for them* that it is too much trouble to sort out difficult problems themselves or to work away quietly for the good of the Club, without expecting praise and rewards for doing so? I sincerely hope I am wrong about this, but the fact remains that, apart from a small band of really staunch supporters, too many boys lose interest too soon and for no apparent reason.

Fine traditions take years to build up, but can be demolished all too easily by an apathetic attitude.

The Printers' Guild, however, continue to attract keen and reliable people to their ranks. There is always a waiting list and the standard of work is really first class. This term will see the publication of the latest *Folio of Verse* and the customary *Library Review*, which promises to be as lively and original as ever, under its new advisory Committee.

Visits have been paid to Liberty's Fabric Printing Works (where the fascinating processes were clearly explained, and where we were glad to see this fine traditional craft still flourishing), and to a modern colour printing works in London.

So much for a few of our activities. Much remains to be done, but this is surely as it should be in an ever-changing community. There are few things more important in life than the appreciation, creation and maintenance of high standards of craftsmanship and design; and it is certain that in our modest way we can make a valuable contribution to these aims.

D.R.S.

## CRICKET

### Results

FIRST XI				SECOND XI			
v. Mitcham	...	...	Lost	v. Mitcham	...	...	Lost
v. Old Boys	...	...	Lost	v. St. George's College	...	...	Lost
v. St. Georges	...	...	Drew	v. Epsom	...	...	Lost
v. Staff	...	...	Lost				
v. Epsom	...	...	Won				

Not enough importance was attached in last term's notes to the effect that the state of the Oberon wicket (and the School nets) had on the results. There were batsmen in the School who were capable of scoring very many runs on a good wicket, but whose opportunities of gaining confidence were restricted to occasional away fixtures, on the perfect wicket at St. George's College, for example. Many of the School batsmen, while failing persistently on the Oberon, were scoring very many runs for other clubs whose standard of cricket is generally accepted to be higher than that of the School.

The results of these later games have proved that the only way to get runs on the Oberon is to hit hard. Smith (G. H.) made 57 against Mitcham, 47 against the Old Boys, and finished easily at the top of the batting averages, because he was willing to go down the wicket and attack the bowlers. Again, Mitcham and the Old Boys beat us because they hit hard and accurately.

If the state of the wicket has improved by next year, a combination of the members of the first XI who are staying from last season, and the batsmen who are coming up from this year's strong Colt XI, could provide an exceptionally powerful batting side. There is an experienced and varied spin attack, but not yet a sound fast bowler.

## TENNIS CLUB

Since the last SPUR was published, the Tennis Club completed its season with the First VI winning one match against Sutton 6-3, and losing another against the Old Boys 2-7. The Second VI, however, was more successful, winning both its matches against Purley, and against Sutton, the score in each being 6-3.

The School Singles Tournament was won by A. C. Manifold, and the School Doubles Tournament by Mr. O'Driscoll and Mr. King. An American Tournament was also held with the Old Boys, a School pair losing in the final.

P.J.B.

## RUGBY

### First XV

This term the School Rugby has suffered considerable losses from last year's 1st XV and as a result many who have not hitherto represented the School have found themselves on Big Side: indeed some have met with considerable success. Yet it is to this dearth of immediate 1st XV players that much of the lack of success which has dogged the School teams may be traced. So far there has been lacking any trace of the drive and "go" which wins matches and makes its own openings where none are offered. This has been especially evident in the matches against St. George's and Bec C. G. S., when we pressed our opponent's line during the closing minutes, needing only a try to win: yet it has not come. There has been lacking in such circumstances a disciplined shove and heel among the forwards; as well as a distinct reluctance of even the larger backs to run hard through the opposition. Three games out of the six so far played have been lost by three or less points which seems to indicate not a complete incompetence but a lack of sustained cohesion and a lack of resolve in a last all-out effort.

The first game of the season against Reigate Grammar on the Oberon, which was lost 13-11, reached no great standard and did not succeed in reversing our 8-6 defeat at Reigate last season. Yet this did not amply foretell our collapse in the opening stages of the Wimbledon College game. Some 20 points were scored against us during the first quarter hour. Once again we had no remedy against forwards who backed up with the three quarters. Yet in the second half there was a considerable evening up, with each side scoring once. Even at this time the defence was not good, although successful according to the score book.

In the match with Surbiton again, even in our third consecutive home match, although we scored well enough, once by a concerted passing movement among the forwards which is only too rare, we let our opponents through to score more, which negated any glimmer of aggressiveness in attack.

Versus Beckenham, the three quarters were weakened and the defence was very poor. Thus it was that, whilst we should have taken advantage of the slope of the pitch in the second half, our opponents were still able to attack and cross our line. With due respect, our opponents were not so far above us that strong running in the open could not have carried the day: always provided that a pass can be given and received.

The match against St. George's did show signs of better running among the outsides, but once again the forwards pressed during the closing minutes, but were unable either to take the ball over themselves or to get it cleanly back to secure a winning try. At a time like this any fault in handling is only too costly. Even with relatively light three quarters our opponents still managed to penetrate our defence.

Against Bec, one player was allowed to pierce the defence continually, and with a further chariness of aggressive three quarter play, even allowing for the heavy ground, we left the field having no idea if our opponents could have held a vigorous attack in the open.

J.W.C.

### First XV Characters

SHEPHERD, D. C. (Full-back). Possesses a very effective and strong tackle. His kicking and catching are fair, but he tends to be flustered when gathering a loose ball closely followed by opposing forwards. He should develop into a sound full-back.

T. G. WOLKENBERG (Wing three quarter). Marks his man and tackles well. He can run hard and straight and has been missed from

the 1st XV during his weeks of injury. His handling, as is the case with the other backs in the senior school, would improve if a keener interest was taken in practice.

**BROOKE** (Centre and Wing three quarter). Must remember to mark his own man. On the wing he has been too frequently drawn by an opposing centre to see his own man go by. He has developed a prodigious kick, but must not starve his wing. He should use his weight more when tackling, as well as in attack.

**D. M. SPIERS** (Wing and centre three quarter). Has been moved to the wing because of injuries to Casselton and Wolkenberg. If he catches the ball he runs well but must curb a tendency to kick ahead unnecessarily. He must gather the loose ball and die with it rather than fly kick into the hands of the opposition.

**BENNELICK** (Reserve Wing three quarter). Is able to run fast and straight. He must now learn to hand off effectively and to accelerate rather than to hesitate when about to be tackled.

**SMITH, M. L. (Fly-half)**. Has many rugby talents and possesses considerable ability, but allows an over-nonchalant attitude, especially to tackling his opposite number, to spoil much of his play. He could be a very good player with a moderate effort on his part.

**CLAYSON** (Scrum-half). Has proved a very sound player, with a strong defence and a good service.

**P. M. Langton** (Scrum-half). Played several games as scrum-half, for the 1st XV and courageously filled the gap until Clayson's appearance. His defence and tackling is good, but under match conditions his service proved too slow and erratic.

**GOLDING** (Wing-forward). Keen and works hard. He is not very heavy and must tackle and treat the opposition with less restraint. He allows himself to be pushed aside too easily. Otherwise his falling tackling and line out work are good.

**JEAPES** (Pack-forward). Has proved invaluable in the line out but must get the ball back more cleanly. He must listen to the pack leader. His defence has been good.

**LEE** (Second row forward). Much resembles Golding in his play and makes up for his lack of weight with a good all round standard in defence and in the line out.

**LEWIS** (Second row forward). Must realise that to get to the other end of the field it is essential to remain on ones feet. Yet in spite of his affinity to the turf he has done more bustling than any other new forward. **His defence again is good.**

**LAW** (Front row forward). Has the speed and weight to do well as a back, if he showed more determination. He usually plays a moderate game in the forwards, without actively looking for the ball in the loose. Occasionally he does gather the ball and outdistances any opposition: but this is unfortunately an infrequent happening.

**PHILLIPS, M. A.** (Front row forward). A hard working forward. **He must fall on the ball more readily in defence.** His height could be used to better advantage in the line out, if he timed his jump better and did so more vigorously.

**BEVAN** (Hooker). Although very light for the 1st XV he has met with considerable success in the set scrums. Unfortunately the rest of the scrum has not allowed the ball to pass back at all well. His general play is sound.

**BUNYAN** (Reserve front row or hooker). He is very useful in the line out and backs up well, but is not consistent throughout the game.

**A. F. WRIGHT** (2nd XV Captain. Back row forward). Has proved himself a knowledgeable player, but lacks the speed which would establish him in the 1st XV. He has led the 2nd XV pack with vigour and has been an example to the rest of the team.

**D. MACKELWORTH** (Colour, 1950-1. Wing forward). Has played consistently well. As wing forward, he set an example in all

aspects of play to new members of the team. Making his 1st XV debut as a centre-three quarter, he proved his all round rugby ability and was the most thrustful and vigorous centre we have fielded this year, whilst his defence was all that could be desired.

J.W.C and P.J.C.

**P. J. CASSELTON** (Colour, 1950-1. Captain. Wing three quarter). Has appeared once only this season, then in an unaccustomed position, and not at his best. His few appearances in House matches have proved that he has not forgotten how to run hard and straight. It is hoped he will be able to appear in the remaining five matches and reproduce his promising form of last season.

**J. W. CRICHTON** (Colour, 1950-51. Secretary, Wing forward. Pack leader). **Has proved himself an able deputy for the captain.** He and Mackelworth, as the only remaining representatives of last year's pack, have been outstanding among the forwards. His determination when leading a take from the line out is very commendable, but he must be less loth to release the ball when held on these ferocious occasions.

R.W.F.F.

## Results

1st XV v. Reigate C.G.S. ...	...	H	Lost	11-13
1st XV v. Wimbledon College ...	...	H	Lost	3-29
1st XV v. Surbiton C.G.S. ...	...	H	Lost	10-17
1st XV v. Beckenham C.G.S. ...	...	A	Lost	14-34
1st XV v. St. George's College ...	...	A	Lost	6- 8
1st XV v. Bec C.G.S. ...	...	H	Lost	5- 8
A XV v. Ottershaw School...	...	H	Won	22-14

## Second XV

The basic reason which has prevented the 2nd XV from developing into a really good team is the fact that it has never been allowed to settle down. There was material in the team chosen for the first match, which, with the addition of teamwork, could have developed into a balanced side. Unfortunately it had to be reorganised and subsequent injuries entailed sweeping changes, so that the same team has never been fielded twice.

After taking the whole of the first half to settle down as a team, the 2nd XV beat Reigate by 11-3. Brooke, a devastating kicking machine, held a rather shaky set of backs together, and the pack had learnt how to get possession in the tight and break through in the loose. After this game, both Brooke and Law, who had dominated the line outs went into the 1st XV and a completely inexperienced team was put into the field against the well-drilled and almost mechanical Wimbledon College team. We were beaten by 47-0. Without any chance to reorganise the team we were beaten 24-0 by an exceptionally large and unbeaten Beckenham XV. The score does not show how hard the game was. Once again the pack settled down and pushed in the tight, but team work, which we lacked, was the deciding factor. After a break we beat Bec on a very muddy and heavy ground by 12-3. On a day when hard work and stamina rather than good rugby decides the issue, the pack never slackened and the three quarters were always keen in covering in defence.

A.F.W.

## Colt XV

The Colt XV has had a season of mixed fortunes, due mainly to an unusually long list of casualties through illness and injury. Particularly good performance against Reigate G.S., Wimbledon College and Bec School were balanced by disappointments against St. George's College and Ottershaw School.

Of the backs, Michez, when at his best, has been outstanding, but Jordan has been more consistent. Burns has been reliable at full-back, and the half-backs, though small, have blended well and provided that essential link. The Pack has been the chief sufferer through changes and has been slow to settle down; the heeling, from both tight and loose scrums, has been far from good, and there should certainly be more support in defence for the backs, who are not by any means strong in tackling. Wearn, Stringer, Higham and Spencer (selected for the Surrey Colt XV) have maintained a good standard of play throughout, while Charles has been painstaking and efficient in his captaincy.

G.J.A and P.O'D.

## Results

v. Reigate C.G.S.	...	...	H	Won	15-0
v. Surbiton C.G.S.	...	...	A	Lost	11-14
v. Wimbledon College	...	...	A	Drawn	3-3
v. Beckenham C.G.S.	...	...	A	Lost	8-17
v. St. George's College	...	...	A	Lost	6-30
v. Ottershaw School	...	...	A	Lost	6-14
v. Bec C.G.S.	...	...	H	Won	20-6

## Junior XV (Under 14) and Bantam XV (Under 13)

JUNIORS	Beckenham C.G.S.	...	...	Drawn	9-9
	St. George's College	...	...	Lost	3-12
	Ottershaw School	...	...	Drawn	6-6
	Bushey S.M. U. 14½	...	...	Drawn	3-3
BANTAMS	Beckenham C.G.S.	...	...	Lost	6-5
	Bushey S.M. U. 13½	...	...	Won	9-3

Great keenness has been shown by all members of the Junior School, and matches have been well supported. A healthy sign is that there is not a little competition for places in the teams, particularly in the under 14 group. R. Higham, Spencer, Howard and Francis have played for the Colts on most occasions. They would have doubtless turned the scale in our favour in the Junior XV matches.

What has been lacking in skill has been more than made up for by the great eagerness of all, and play has been pleasantly vigorous. Lack of experience has of course been apparent especially in the loose, where the tendency to fly-kick, in spite of frenzied exhortations from the touch line, remains.

Weightman, Howard and C. Higham have proved able captains and have done much work, checking their teams and ensuring their prompt arrival wherever they have played.

R.W.F.F.

## CROSS-COUNTRY

Last term we said good-bye to many of our stalwart runners—Reeves, Shepherd, Rogers and J. P. Hood-Phillips; and it appeared at the beginning of the term as though a lean season was in front of us. Practices have been held on Mondays and the attendance, especially among the Juniors has been promising.

Our first fixture was the Sutton and Cheam Harriers' Race, in which we surprised ourselves by finishing second to a very strong Wallington team, beating Cheam County School, Kingston Grammar School and Wallington "B." The positions of our runners were:—

4th—Golding	12th—Hall.	29th—Powell-Evans.
6th—P. J. Casselton	14th—Childs.	30th—Hobbs.

Our next fixture was a Senior and Junior match against Sutton County School. The Junior Race, which started first, developed into a battle between Smith of Sutton and Golding, the former winning

narrowly in a record time for the Junior course of 15 mins. 26 secs. The School runners, packing well, won the match by 32 pts to 46. Individual position were:—

2nd—Golding.	4th—Marriott	7th—Gates.	14th—Spencer,
3rd—Braine.	5th—Spencer.	11th—Yardy.	15th—Booker.

In the Senior Race a group of Sutton runners took an early lead, and although they filled first and second places at the finish, once again the superior packing of the School runners in the later stages of the race enabled us to gain a narrow win by 39 pts. to 42. School positions were:—

3rd—P. J. Casselton.	8th—Powell-Evans.	11th—Whittaker.
4th { Childs.	9th—Brooke	13th—Hooper.
Hall.	10th—Young.	15th—Hobbs.

The fixture against the R.A.F. Chessington was held in the most appalling conditions, and the superior stamina of the R.A.F. runners enabled them to win, but only by four points. Their "A" team was third. In a field of thirty runners the positions of our runners were:—

4th—Golding.	11th—Childs.	18th—Whittaker.
6th—P. J. Casselton.	12th—Hall.	19th—Hooper.
8th—Braine.	15th—Eales.	20th—Smith.

The team is indebted to Mr. Loveday for his support and encouragement, and also to all boys who acted as markers thus making possible home Cross-country fixtures.

P.M.C.

## BOXING CLUB

Club boxing, as such, has given way to the House Boxing competition this term, but it is hoped that matches against Sutton County and Ewell Castle Schools will bring about its revival.

Many of the planned seventy bouts in the house competition failed to take place because of the non-arrival of one or both of the boxers. In future points will be scored only by boys who enter the ring, unless they are seeded as champions.

In the twenty-two age weights at which School championships are boxed, only eleven finals took place. There were four walk overs, two non-appearances, two "no competition," two medically excused, and one boy was seeded champion.

The final points and placings of houses gave Cobb's a very narrow lead over Gibb's and enabled them to take the Phillips Cup for the second year in succession.

## Individual Results (Champions)

1st Cobb's	122 points	7 champions	2 runners-up
2nd Gibb's	114 "	5 "	4 "
3rd Halliwell's	82 "	4 "	3 "
4th Milton's	80 "	3 "	6 "
5th Newsom's	32 "	1 "	1 "

### JUNIOR

Under 5 stone	No Competition
" 5½ "	Boniface (C)
" 6 "	Gough (G)
" 6½ "	Clarke (C)
" 7 "	Beavitt (G)
" 7½ "	Warren (M)
" 8 "	Fowles (G)

### INTERMEDIATE

Under 6 stone	No Competition
" 6½ "	Dunn (H)
" 7 "	Gallagher (G)
" 7½ "	Eagleson (C)

### INTERMEDIATE

Under 8 stone	Francis (C)
" 8½ "	Braine (C)
" 9 "	Howard (M)
" 9½ "	Price (H)

### SENIOR

Under 8 stone	Cumner-Price (C)
" 8½ "	Rose (H)
" 9 "	Smith, M. L. (N)
" 9½ "	Shepherd, D. (C)
" 10 "	Pratt (G)
" 10½ "	Childs (H)
" 11 "	Law (M)

R.W.F.F.



## SWIMMING

The sports now being over, with the cup going to Gibb's for the second year running; the emphasis this term has been on life saving. Jeaper is taking a class for the Bronze Medallion in order to obtain his Instructor's Certificate and we wish him and his class success in the examination to be taken before the end of term.

Next term we hope to arrange a Saturday morning training scheme in order to mould a team which we hope will achieve greater success in District and County competitions than in previous years.

D.M.S.

### Results of Swimming Sports

1 LENGTH FREE STYLE :					
Colts	Croft (c)	Charles (H)	Baker (G)	20.9 secs.	
Senior	Spiers (G)	Shepherd (c)	Young (M)	19.8 "	
2 LENGTHS FREE STYLE :					
Junior	Cooke (G)	Hill (c)	Smith (M)	68.0 "	
2 LENGTH BREAST STROKE					
Colt	Shepherd (G)	Saunders (N)	Wilson (c)	52.6 "	R
Senior	Wolkenberg (H)	Hamilton (G)	Tanner (c)	61.3 "	
1 LENGTH BREAST STROKE					
Junior	Hill (c)	Cooke (G)	Roberts (M)	29.5 "	E.R.
1 LENGTH BACK STROKE					
Junior	Ingram (H)	Russell (c)	Swatten (M)	31.6 "	
Colt	Baker (G)	Creve (M)	Day (H)	29.6 "	
Senior	Phillips (G)	Gubb (M)	Vogado (H)	26.5 "	
3 LENGTHS FREE STYLE :					
Colt	Shepherd (G)	Charles (H)	Shepherd (c)	79.2 "	R
Senior	Melmoth (c)	Bunch (G)	Vogado (H)	83.2 "	
RELAY :					
Junior	Milton's	Gibb's	Halliwell's	121.0 "	
Colt	Halliwell's	Newsom's	Gibb's	99.7 "	R
Senior	Cobb's	Gibb's	Halliwell's	92.6 "	
PLAIN DIVE :					
Open	Shepherd (c)	Hamilton (G)	Bunch (G)		
SPRINGBOARD DIVE :					
Open	Hamilton (G)	Shepherd (c)	Bunch (G)		
PLUNGE					
Open	Bunch (G)	Melmoth (c)	Wolkenberg (H)		
POINTS :					
Relays :	1st 60 pts.	2nd 40 pts.	3rd 20 pts.		
Other Events :	1st 30 pts.	2nd 20 pts.	3rd 10 pts.		
	Cobb's	Gibb's	Halliwell's	Milton's	Newsom's
Qualifying points	368	359	218	175	158
Sports points	300	440	240	150	70
Final points	668	799	458	325	228
Position	2	1	3	4	5

D.M.S.

### "ZOOLOOSE"

It was a dull, rather depressing November morning when eleven members of the Junior section of the Natural History Society, together with member of the staff, pushed their way through the turnstiles of the London Zoo. This was the first outing of the Society, a momentous occasion.

We were greeted most heartily just inside the turnstiles by a very vocal Asiatic Goose. The party, with but one exception, cackled back in reply, this proved too much for the goose and it walked sadly and silently away.

Our first call was to be the "Temporary Rodent House," a house so named because it has hardly any rodents in it at all, and it is anything

but temporary. On our way there we passed the Owls sitting blinkingly upon their perches. We blinked back. This proved to be rather a dull occupation so we stopped and watched the Squirrels which were far more active. Then a quick glance at Brumas, now no longer the white teddy-bear she used to be and there we were at our first port of call. Upon entering we were somewhat overcome by the natural yet pungent aroma of this place. Here we saw and stroked, and observed various small mammals, from giant fruit bats to tree sloths, and from bush-babies to pottos. The keeper was most helpful with his remarks concerning the unique anatomical characters of his various charges. At least one member of the party was determined to buy a bush-baby at the first opportunity.

Next we stood and watched the great apes enjoying themselves, or at least appearing to do so. The gibbons swung from branch to branch on their much exaggerated arms. The old men of the woods played gently with a motor car tyre, and the gorilla made strange primitive noises as a request for food. Others simply spent their time extracting parasites from one another's hair, and the chimpanzees shrieked, leaped, clapped and fought for the various articles that were thrown to them.

The aquarium proved to be very popular and much time was spent watching the doings of the inhabitants of the dim watery world. Much excitement was caused by two garpike who were trying to make a meal of some minnows, but their noses were so long that they found it most difficult to get anywhere near their prey and although we watched for a long time no minnows were caught. The "Sea Water Hall" was of greatest interest and voices were raised loud and often here at the sight of stingrays and sea-horses, turtles and lobsters. We left the aquarium and to our pleasure found that the weather had greatly improved during our aquatic journey.

After lunch we visited the "Antelope House" and here we looked at, stroked and were licked by the various charming, gentle and graceful animals whose large sad eyes would melt even the hardest of hearts.

Feeding time at the Lion House was as interesting as it was exciting and most of the party had a good view of the proceedings. Upon leaving this house it was found that one member of the party was missing and it was generally agreed by the remainder of the party that the lions must have been very hungry to eat our absentee. Eventually he was discovered unchewed and uneaten.

A quick visit was then paid to the penguins who we watched walking in sombre and silent procession around their pond, rather like benign University dons returning home after an evening out.

The feeding of the sea-lions was something that will not be quickly forgotten. These creatures so drastically modified by nature for life in water can move nearly as fast on land, and their agility in catching the fish that were thrown to them was most amazing.

Then to the Bird House with its many highly coloured inhabitants and considerable noise, and after this the Parrot House where the noise was completely overwhelming. Here much time was spent trying to encourage these ancients of the feathered world to speak, and some obligingly said, "Pretty Polly" or something equally profound and some did not.

We then proceeded towards the "Primate Nursery" and most members of our party, undaunted by the inclement weather, purchased ice-cream and ginger-beer on the way. The nursery proved to be so entertaining and interesting that we stayed there far too long. We then visited the Insect House and saw the various creatures, nice and nasty, and just as we emerged a hooter sounded which announced that closing time had arrived.

The party was counted again and still, miraculously eleven members were present. The goose that greeted us when we entered was nowhere

to be seen so we left in silent dignity. As we filed out, our visit over, we were determined to return again at the first opportunity to meet old friends and to make new acquaintances.

### THE GENERAL ELECTION

This term the Debating Society, under the guidance of Mr. Rudgley, decided to hold a General Election within the School. There were five constituencies, consisting of the five houses, and each of the three main political parties was represented in each division. As the more reactionary political groups were banned, to the disappointment of many of us to whom they promised welcome entertainment, the issue remained clear. The final result was a sweeping victory for the Conservative party which won all five seats by comfortable majorities.

At first the contest was of interest to only those few of confirmed political opinion, but gradually the rest of the School began to show interest in the posters which lined the hall by the stage and which grew in size and brilliance as polling day drew near. The standard of speakers varied from the inarticulate, who did not speak at all, to the verbose, who missed no opportunity to accost and batter verbally those who weakly betrayed interest. Often the substance of the speaker's remarks was lost in the cheers or jeers of his audience, which might have been a good thing. Junior meetings were especially chaotic, with entertainment rather than education being the order of the day. There were those candidates, however, who knew what they were talking about and provided a degree of seriousness to the entertainment.

On the 25th October, the library was taken over as the polling station during dinner break. There was a steady stream of voters, while those who were disfranchised as "criminals" were conducting a vigorous protest. There was only one untoward incident during the polling and that was the attempt by a member of the Upper House to vote while disguised as a member of the middle school. Fortunately sharp eyed polling clerks recognised his unshaven state and he was firmly prevented from voting.

At four o'clock counting started and by four-fifteen the result was announced in Room 1. Cheers and countercheers greeted the final figures, but perhaps the loudest of all was for the Liberal, who in order to keep in line with his party's National policy, forfeited his deposit. Mr. Rudgley was responsible for the comprehensive figures which appeared shortly afterwards, giving numbers of voters, majorities and percentages. Finally our thanks are due to the Debating Society for sponsoring the election and to Mr. Rudgley for the considerable time and trouble which he spent in organising the interesting and entertaining event.

D.M.

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