

RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The

SPUR

AUTUMN TERM 1953



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THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. X, No. 6

Autumn, 1953

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SCHOOL OFFICERS, Christmas Term, 1953

Head of the School: D. J. Bevan.

Second Boy: D. A. Jackson.

Prefects: R. S. Betts, D. I. Cook, M. Cousins, R. N. Fash, R. A. Giles, B. E. A. Jacobs, R. Loveday, P. J. Parsons, M. A. Phillips, M. L. Smith, I. R. Wilson, C. C. Wright.

Captain of Rugby: M. L. Smith.

Secretary of Rugby: P. J. Bunyan.

Captain of Boxing: D. C. Shepherd.

Secretary of the Games Committee: D. J. Bevan.

Prefects of the Hall: M. A. Phillips, B. E. A. Jacobs.

Prefect of the Library: R. S. Betts.

HOUSE NOTES

Cobbs

Captain: D. A. Jackson. *Vice-Captain:* Shepherd, D. C.

Prefects: D. I. Cook, R. N. Fash, B. E. A. Jacobs, I. R. Wilson, C. C. Wright.

House Notes at the beginning of a new year must inevitably commence on a sad note: quite naturally the House is feeling the loss of the people who contributed so much to the most successful year Cobbs has ever had. Tanner, Brooke, Eales, Buckingham, and the rest, always gave themselves unstintingly to the House, and we cannot but feel their loss, yet the opening of a new year brings its hopes, too. The House is now represented by six prefects, a record number, and our new Juniors have fast proved themselves a lively bunch, and have been extraordinarily ready to approach the strange and perplexing mysteries of Rugby football with spirit and vigour.

Last year, as we have said, marked the highest point that Cobbs has ever reached. We obtained sixty-five points in the Cock House Competition—more than twice the number gained by our nearest rivals, and a School record. Much of this success was due to the excellent team spirit of the House, and eight trophies to display at the House Supper were a fitting reward.

We won the Cricket Cup after an exciting struggle with Miltons: Shepherd showed his usual brilliance, but it is to the Colts that our special congratulations must go, for under the able leadership of Francis (M.) they remained unbeaten throughout the competition. A strong team led by Tanner, Cook, and Brooke brought us the Tennis Cup without defeat, and a fine lead in qualifying—together with the efforts of Tanner, Talbot, Wilson and Eagleson—ensured us another Cup at the Swimming Gala. Our only disappointment in such a term was that we failed to break Halliwells' monopoly of the Athletics Cup and had to be content with second place. Our Juniors once again proved that our success was in no way due to the efforts of a few Seniors, and Ridge, Poynter and their team won the Junior Shield for the third year running without losing a match in either Rugby or Cricket. Then, finally, our great year was crowned by a magnificent success in the Dramatics Competition, when Hayter's imaginative production of Yeats' "Hour Glass" earned us first place with Miltons. Tanner, again, in his final appearance on the School stage, was outstanding; Hayter gave a polished performance as the schoolmaster, and our victory was in large measure due to the excellent lighting of Fash and Wilson.

Boxing.—We started the new year well by retaining the Boxing Cup for yet another year. Our congratulations go to everyone who had the courage to enter, and especially to champions Coney, Clark, Cook and Eagleson, and to our seeded boxers Francis (M.) and Shepherd.

Rugby.—The Seniors started well with a convincing victory over Miltons by 33-11 and, although we lost to Newsoms after a very hard-fought and

even game, we played much better against Gibbs and, despite Shepherd's absence through injury, held them to a draw. Shepherd has led the team well and has consistently run through any opposition; Francis (M.) has played a lively part at fly-half, and Fash as scrum-leader, Francis (P.) at wing-forward and Harper as hooker have all played consistently well. The Colts, too, have started well by defeating Miltons by 19-6 and by overwhelming Newsoms by 56-0, and, under the excellent captaincy of Hill (H. D.) and with such players as Ingram, Ridge, Cooper and Stone in the team, we stand a good chance of winning this section.

Finally, although it must be admitted that we are not as strong as last year, if we continue as we have begun we shall in no way disgrace the last traditions of the House.

D.A.J.

Gibbs

Captain: J. M. Davis.

Prefect: R. Loveday.

It was with much regret that after two weeks of this term we had to say good-bye to our House Captain, Alan Wright, whose keen enthusiasm and spirit will long be remembered. Even the Juniors whom we welcomed this term had already learned to admire and respect him. To Alan, to John Arnold and to all our other departed Seniors we tender our best wishes for every success.

Last term saw us placed third in the Cock House Competition. After a very successful start by the Senior Cricket Team, our expectations failed to materialize. The Seniors won two matches and lost two; the Colts won one, losing the remainder. Thus we were placed fourth in the Cricket Cup. The Juniors, after an admirable show, finished second in the Junior Shield Competition. Well done!

In Athletics we failed miserably. Booker, the captain, certainly tried his best, but the talent just was not there. By Sports Day we were placed third; at the end of the day, fifth. We do, however, congratulate Stracy on a grand discus throw, earning for him a new School record.

Disappointing, too, were the Tennis results. The team consisted of Stracy (captain), Elliott, Wearn, Fowles and Davis. All save Stracy lacked the skill required for a cup-winning team.

The Swimming Cup, once ours, seems to have slipped from our grasp. Fighting to the last, under the leadership of R. Loveday, we were placed third. Loveday must be congratulated on a very fine diving performance.

The term ended with the Dramatics Competition. With the previous year's cup-winning cast and "Badger's Green," our hopes were high. Unfortunately, third place was the best we could do. With John Arnold, the producer, and all concerned, we commiserate, and look forward to another keen competition next year.

This term's main events are Boxing and Rugby. We were a very good second in the Boxing Competition, only four points behind Cobbs. Heartiest congratulations to our captain, Jim Wearn, for performing his difficult task and coaching the team to such excellent results.

The Senior Rugby Team also has started the season very well. With only one member in the First XV, namely the captain, Stracy, we have, to date, beaten Newsoms (9-8) and Halliwells (17-12). Of the backs, Stracy and Elliott have been outstanding. To mention any one person in the pack would be unjust: they all work together, are fast in the "loose" and solid in the "tight," and it is to them that we owe the above results. Above all, great enthusiasm has been shown—I hope it will be an example to the Colts and Juniors.

Next term we shall be competing for the Hockey and Cross Country Cups. If we enter for these, and for all subsequent competitions, in the same spirit as the Juniors entered the Boxing, there is no reason whatsoever why more cups should not grace Gibbs House supper table.

J.M.D.

Halliwells

Captain: M. A. Phillips.

Vice-Captain: M. Cousins.

At the end of last term we said farewell to our vice-captain, A. J. Tillinghast, M. W. Dick (to whom we offer our congratulations on his State Scholarship), P. M. Childs, and many of our Fifth-formers, but before leaving they had helped to bring the House into second place in the Cock House Competition. We wish them god-speed in their future careers, and thank them most sincerely for all they have done for the House and School.

Athletics.—Sports Day did not see the House in its usual position of being at the head of the field on qualifying points, but lying in fourth position with a total of 458 points. However, we were fortunate in having some of the School's finest runners, and managed to win the Athletic Cup by the handsome margin of 195 points. Warmest congratulations are extended to M. Cousins (who is to be congratulated on becoming a School Prefect), Swinscoe, J. Higham, Creasey, C. Higham, Barry, Impey, and the three relay teams for winning their particular events.

Swimming.—Although we were last on qualifying points, our team managed to pull up to fourth, thanks to some plucky swimming by all members. This year qualifying can be done all the year round, so the House will have no excuse for not coming out on top by Sports Day.

Tennis.—The tennis team met with mixed luck, winning two and losing two matches, and were placed third in the competition. Congratulations are extended to M. J. Phillips on winning his Tennis Colours.

House Play.—We did not excel ourselves in this sphere, and were unplaced by the adjudicator. However, the House wishes to thank all who took part, and especially our producer, M. W. Dick, for working so hard.

This term sees the beginning of a new School year, and a fresh start to obtaining that elusive Cock House Cup. There are two competitions this term, Boxing and Rugby. We have always done reasonably well at Rugby and by the time these notes are read the destiny of the Rugby Cup will have been determined. At the time of writing the Senior team has lost both its matches, losing to Gibbs by 12-17 and to Miltons by 9-23. The Colts have played one match so far, beating Newsoms by 14-3, and we wish them the best of luck in their future matches.

So far the Juniors have not begun any competitions; their enthusiasm, we hope, will bear fruit next term when their House matches begin. This looks a lean year for the House, and will demand special effort by all if we are to succeed in the fight for the Cock House Cup.

M.A.P.

Miltons

Captain: R. S. Betts.

Last term we said good-bye to several of our Seniors, notably A. G. G. Law, our House Captain for two years, D. J. Ferebee, A. F. Cox, and D. L. Hall, who was instrumental in gaining the Debating and Dramatics Cups. We held a House Supper on November 16th to celebrate these wins, at which the new First Forms joined us. We hope that they will at once direct their energy to winning more cups for the House.

Among the many activities of last term, our most successful showing was in Dramatics. "Desert Highway," by J. B. Priestley, produced by David Hall, secured us first place, with Cobbs, in the competition. From the cast, Ferebee, Lavous and Murant, making their first appearance in this activity, deserve much credit, as do Bunyan, Drye, Swift and Burke, who provided us with excellent scenery. In Tennis we were at our worst, finishing last, but in Cricket the Seniors came first in the competition, though weakness among the Colts lost us our chance of the cup. Our lack of qualifying points and good athletes forced us into fourth place in Athletics, and although, through the efforts of the Seniors and Colts, we stood third in Swimming qualifying points, we were again beaten into fourth position in the competition.

Swimming qualifying can now be done all through the year, and it is to be hoped that some people, particularly Juniors, have already made an effort in this direction.

This term the main interests have been Rugby and Boxing. Despite the fact that we have so many Rugby-playing Seniors, we opened disappointingly with two defeats, against Cobbs (11-33), and Newsoms (6-16). As this was followed up by a convincing win against Halliwells by 23-9, we have hopes of more success in our remaining game. Bunyan has led the team with vigour; Beaumont has been brilliant, if unorthodox, at fly-half; and the three-quarter line, containing Tulett, Lavous, and Orme, has been consistently lively and efficient. In their three games so far, the Colts have also been unfortunate, losing by 6-19 to Cobbs, by 6-35 to Gibbs, and by 3-9 to Halliwells. They have not fulfilled our high hopes of them.

In the Boxing competition, the deplorable and apparently insurmountable repugnance with which the Seniors regard the sport robbed us of any chance of first place, but the efforts of the Colts and Juniors, especially Swatten, Stevens, Newman and Miller, who are champions in their weights, and Ekins and Cumes, who were runners-up, secured us third place. If these and others retain their interest in Boxing, the House should do well in years to come.

Next term, we must fix our attention on Dramatics, Debating, Hockey, Cross-country, and the new Chess Competition. We have good chances in the first two, and the Hockey teams should at least raise us from the lowly fourth position in which we found ourselves last year. But Cross-country, at least at the moment, appears a doubtful prospect, while we have few experienced Chess players. Yet if every boy with even the smallest aptitude for these activities would determine to practise regularly, we could look to the future with hope, if not with confidence. **R.S.B.**

Newsoms

Captain: D. J. Bevan.

Prefects: R. A. Giles, P. J. Parsons, M. L. Smith.

Inevitably at the end of the Summer Term we lost some of the Senior members of the House; we wish them all good luck and success in their future careers. In particular, the term saw the departure of Michez and Jordan, whose loyalty and devotion to the House will be sorely missed. At the beginning of this term, however, the House has been strengthened by the addition of some twelve new boys; to them all we extend a warm welcome, and from them all we expect much in the future. This term has also seen the addition of three new prefects to the House: R. A. Giles, P. J. Parsons, and M. L. Smith deserve our congratulations.

Last year we finished fourth in the Cock House Competition, an unspectacular result which must be improved upon this year. Our high hopes of winning the Cricket Cup were not realized; we finished the season third. After convincing victories over Halliwells and Cobbs, the Senior team suffered heavy defeats against Miltons and Gibbs. The Colts XI played consistently well: they lost, however, the vital match of the season against Cobbs. Thereby they finished second in their competition, and the Cricket Cup left our hands. A large measure of the Colts' success was due to Loible's 21 wickets and 39 runs.

In Athletics and Swimming our leads in qualifying points before the Sports Days enabled us to finish third and second in the respective competitions. For many years Newsoms had done poorly in the Swimming Competition; there had been a lack of enthusiasm to qualify and a real deficiency of able swimmers. This year was an exception; boys were eager to qualify, we possessed capable swimmers in Saunders, Steadman and Stevens (D.) and had a very able captain in Saunders. All who contributed to our final position of second are to be congratulated. In Athletics we were unlucky to be beaten to second place by Cobbs, after an exciting struggle. Michez and Loible are to be congratulated on breaking School records, and

Spencer (B.) and Stevens (D.) on winning their events. The Tennis team, beaten only by Cobbs, did well to finish second in the competition. In the Dramatics Competition, R. A. Giles' production of Ian Hay's absurdity "The Crimson Coconut" was unplaced, but we express our appreciation to the producer and cast for the hard work they put into the production. In the Junior Shield Competition we were placed third. This term the Juniors have shown considerable enthusiasm on the Rugger field and they should improve upon this position this year.

This term, the Senior Rugby XV, after a narrow defeat against Gibbs (8-9), has played well, convincingly beating Miltons (16-6) and Cobbs (21-13). Outstanding has been our captain, Mervyn Smith; his enthusiasm, his play and his captaincy have been of the highest order. He has been well supported by the scrum leader, Williams, by Loible, Weightman, Spencer—in fact by the whole team. The Colt and Junior XV's have not yet played any matches. The Colt XV is not strong, and unless its apathy soon changes to enthusiasm will win few, if any, of its matches. The Junior XV contains much talent, and should do well next term.

In the Boxing Competition this term, the team, enthusiastically and most ably captained by Weightman, had to be content with fourth place; this was, however, due in part to the action of the Surrey judges who cancelled half the finals. We appreciate the undaunted spirit of all who entered the ring, and in particular our winners, Townshend, Bray and Hayhoe.

Last year the House did not win the Cock House Cup; indeed we won no cups, although we gained points in every competition. However, in competition after competition we showed our worth. If every man in the House were to give of his best, and play as he had never played before, and qualify as he had never qualified before, the Cock House Cup would be ours this year! **D.J.B.**

PRIZE-GIVING

For reasons of economy, the School was compelled to hold its annual Prize-giving last year in two separate presentations—a Junior and a Senior presentation—in the School Hall. This year the School returned to the Wimbledon Town Hall for its Prize-giving, which was held on Tuesday, October 6th.

Mr. J. Hood Phillips (the Chairman of the Governors) presided. He opened the proceedings by introducing the guests, amongst them the Mayor of Wimbledon (Councillor Sydney Black) and the Mayoress of Malden (Mrs. C. H. Johnson). The Chairman hoped that parents would be given the freedom to send their children to the school of their own choice, regardless of whether or not the school happened to be the nearest. He hoped that Raynes Park County Grammar School might continue to serve parents from as wide a field as possible.

Giving his report of the School year, the Headmaster said that the School was proud of what had been done for boys from a complete cross-section of the community. The School, he said, could boast of eight State Scholarships and of six County Major Scholarships. He estimated that fifty-four boys from the School would be at University this term, including seven at Oxford, twelve at Cambridge, and twenty-four at London. The Headmaster urged parents to keep their sons long enough at School to complete the course, and not to take them away when they became sixteen. The Headmaster expressed his amazement at the proposal, considered by some to be progressive and democratic, to abolish Grammar Schools. "I feel bound," he said, "to publish my detestation of it, not as a party policy I happen to disagree with, but, as I deeply believe, a sin against the Light." In his survey of the School's extensive activities, the Headmaster described the Da Vinci Society as an example of its many out-of-class activities.

The prizes were distributed by Mr. Garrett, the Headmaster of the School from 1935 to 1942, and present Headmaster of Bristol Grammar

School. Mr. Garrett's address was forceful and sincere: it was a moving speech, that commanded the interest of all, and will be long and affectionately remembered. He recalled past incidents at the School: the 1st XV's first try, life at School during the hazardous war period, the invaluable co-operation which he had received from his staff, and from Mr. Hood Phillips and others at County Hall. He expressed his good fortune in having worked with a body of men who had regarding teaching at the School not primarily as a profession, but as a hobby: the best formula, he said, was to be in love with one's work, which lasted when many other things had failed. He expressed his pleasure in reading about the School in the *Spur* and the *Oberon*, and about Old Boys in the *Old Spur*. Referring to prizewinners, he said that the few who had broken through the crust of the mediocrity of the many deserved to be rewarded; that any boy who was not proud of his School and ceased to contribute his maximum effort to it was unworthy of membership of it. He urged us to be aristocrats in the old definition of the term: always to give more than we take, to serve without counting the cost.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Garrett was proposed by Mr. Billingham, and seconded by the Mayor of Wimbledon. The evening was concluded by singing the National Anthem.
D. J. B.

HOUSE PLAYS, 1953

After preparations more hurried and rehearsals more cramped even than usual, owing to the narrow interim between the examinations and the end of term, House Plays were presented on July 23rd. Mr. Basil Wright, nobly interrupting his final film-cutting for his UNESCO production, came to judge the five plays, spread as usual over an afternoon and evening session. For the first time, the new curtain and proscenium framed the productions, and the revised lighting set (albeit with some links still extemporized) illumined them. The effect was to the honour of all concerned; special tribute is due to those members of Cobbs House who, being still in process of installing the lighting, were alone masters of its intricacies, and agreed to place their skill at the disposal of other Houses equally with their own.

The plays provided a varied programme. This is a piece of luck we come to take for granted; where five producers have each a free hand and no one co-ordinates them, there is always a risk that the audience may be cloyed by five comedies or five tragedies in a row. Something of a House tradition is also becoming apparent—future producers will, of course, continue these or break new ground as they in their generation see fit. Newsoms tends to comedy, if not farce; Cobbs to the "problem" play with a touch of mysticism or the supernatural in it; Halliwells to a nice, stagey costume piece; Gibbs to a modern play with a clash of wills neatly resolved at the curtain; Miltons to the vigorous and vernacular. The Garrett Cup was awarded, by Mr. Wright's judgment at the end of the evening, jointly to Cobbs for their "The Hour Glass," by W. B. Yeats, and to Miltons, for their Priestley's "Desert Highway." I. B. Hayter and D. L. Hall were eminently deserving of the place of honour, in each case as the producer as well as principal player. Both these plays were substantial and worth doing, both were within the compass of the cast, both had an effective set well-adapted to our difficult stage. Third came Gibbs, with Sherriff's "Badger's Green." This was an entertaining effort, but it bore traces of the stresses which are inevitable when a full-length play is cut throughout to bring it within the one hour which the rules allow; the set and its changes, and the addition of a crowd to the cast, gave difficulties greater than those of the two winners. J. F. Arnold and his team had coped well with these problems, and were well in the running for the Cup. If the other two Houses were perceptibly behind, it was due less, perhaps, to their weaker production than to their choice of an inferior play, which gave them inadequate scope. Ian Hay's "Crimson Coconut" enabled Newsoms' players, especially perhaps their producer

R. A. Giles, to have their funny moments; but the characters were too palpably dummies, the devices too mechanical, the end too flat to carry conviction on the whole. A farcical atmosphere is one of the most difficult to sustain. Halliwells' choice, the little melodrama "Alison's Lad," was very different, but in its own way also so thin a play that it would have needed the *bravura* of a Donald Wolfitt to "get away with it,"—and it would have been a fustian affair, at that. Within these self-imposed limitations, M. W. Dick and his cast did their best; the Commonwealth period was economically but sufficiently suggested, and the attack was good. But the point was so slight, and the play so short and jejune, that some junior members of the audience may well have been still mystified at the final curtain.

Only those behind the scenes can have much idea how much hard work, hard thinking, ingenuity and feeling produces the day's entertainment. Being the work exclusively of boys, with no staff guidance (or interference) at all, this undertaking is both the more valuable for the School itself and, so far as it succeeds, the more to its credit. Those who had a share in the present occasion, many of whom (besides the five producers whose names are given here) deserve honourable mention, succeeded worthily to the tradition of their predecessors. Mr. Wright paid them all high compliments in conclusion, and we may allow ourselves to believe that he meant sincerely what he said, and that the level was high, by any standard. By reflection, the rest of the School shares in the glory.

THE DA VINCI SOCIETY

This term marks the beginning of the second year in the life of the Da Vinci Society and I think we can now claim to be fairly well established. The average weekly attendance at our meetings shows that there is a sustained interest in the aims and ideals of this society.

The main burden of running the meetings still rests on the shoulders of the Staff, and the Society will not be truly healthy until a balanced division of responsibility between the members and the Staff is achieved.

The Headmaster graciously mentioned our activities in his speech at Prize-giving and rightly endorsed my sentiments in calling for a more active effort on the part of the members. With this aim in view a Competition was arranged this term, open to all members of the School, on the theme "Winter" as a basis for a painting, sculpture or model. The entries were to be divided into three groups, Senior, Middle and Junior. Owing to the restricted number of entries the groups were reduced to two, Senior and Junior. On Monday, November 16th, a criticism of the exhibition of entries was given by Mr. Rudgley, Mr. Archer and Mr. Riley at one of our best-attended meetings. This was most encouraging, and it is to be hoped that those who attended will be exhibitors in the new Competition next term. In the opinion of the Judges, B. H. Smith's painting was considered the best entry in the Senior Class, and Venison's in the Junior Class.

The following lectures were given this term:—

- September 28th. "Rembrandt," by Mr. Riley.
- October 5th. "Rembrandt," part II, by Mr. Riley.
- October 12th. "The Old Oak Chest (History of Furniture)," by Mr. Archer.
- October 19th. Films on "Matisse" and the "Drums of Manipur."
- October 26th. "George Cruikshank," by Mr. Rudgley.
- November 9th. "The Old Oak Chest," part II, by Mr. Archer.
- November 16th. Criticism of "Winter" Competition.
- November 30th. "Cactus," by How.

As an experiment, this term the Society presented the full-length film "The History of Mr. Polly." This film was well attended, and we propose to have further full-length films next term, if we can be guaranteed sufficient support.
A.C.R.

SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

Last year the Sixth Form Society was given a new lease of life. After years of apathy, Sixth-formers once again took an interest in their Society, meetings were arranged, and attendances increased. Last term, after a short introduction by Mr. Smith, the film "Kind Hearts and Coronets" was shown to an audience of our own Sixth-formers and our welcome guests from Wimbledon County School. The film was very popular, and the meeting highly successful. The Flannel Dance, held on the last day of term, was not well attended, but it was most enjoyable, and satisfactory financially in spite of the small attendance.

Programmes have been arranged for this term and next: the Society is looking forward to two film evenings, when the films "Odd Man Out" and "The Lady Vanishes" will be shown, to a Beetle Drive, to a Mock Trial, and to a talk on American magazines. The future success of the Society will depend on two factors: the support given to its meetings and a supply of interesting and original ideas, Sixth-formers should be proud of their own Society and should be zealous to support all its activities: there are never more than three meetings in a term. Meetings in the past have been most enjoyable, but have usually lacked originality. New ideas would be most welcome, from Junior and Senior Sixth-formers alike. D.J.B.

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

There seems oddly little to say about this Society's doings since the last publication of the *Spur*. Our last meeting, held at the end of the summer term, consisted of a reading of "The Wasps," which proved, for Aristophanes (a personal opinion this), highly entertaining; though one couldn't help feeling that it was due to the hitherto unsuspected talent of certain members of the cast, and to the literary foibles of Everyman's translation, rather than to Aristophanes. As at previous play-readings, we obtained a rather quaint effect from using a wide variety of translations, and whatever was lacking in Aristophanes, was amply made up by the excellence of Mr. Cholmondeley's hospitality. One never ceases to wonder how he and his wife manage to supply such a magnificent spread so regularly, and I am sure every member of the Society would wish me to take this opportunity of thanking them both for the endless trouble they take in supplying the terminal banquet.

By the time these notes are read, this term's meeting will no doubt have taken place, but at the present time neither the date nor the programme has been decided. D.A.J.

LITERARY SOCIETY

The departure of Mr. Money and P. A. Tanner at the end of last term was a sad loss for the Society. We remember gratefully their powers of enthusiastic appreciation and highly-developed critical faculties. Both were an inspiration to us. This term we welcome Mr. Townsend to our select ranks. The future of the Society is entirely safe in his capable hands.

On October 22nd, for the first time, we held a play-reading, which in spite of only a small attendance proved extremely successful. The play, "Ring Round the Moon" (Fry's translation of Anouilh's "L'Invitation Au Chateau"), described as a charade with music, is at once startlingly original and sparkingly witty. The reading was of a very high standard, with the portrayals by Windsor and Wilson of elderly feminine gentility particularly amusing. We hope to hold more of these meetings in the future.

Original verse is, to use a governmental *cliché*, in short supply. The remedy for this would appear to be a set title, as the main difficulty lies in choosing a subject. For while we tread the well-worn tracks of great literature, we must remember that personal creativeness, in either poetry or prose, is our ultimate goal. R.S.B.

The other major event of the term was a talk given after school by R. S. Betts on the poet Keats. The few people who were finally persuaded to stay enjoyed an extremely strong and personal talk, followed by some discussion. One felt that the speaker was dealing with a poet especially sympathetic to him, and, while he never let his zeal overcome his critical judgment, the personal and almost subjective nature of his approach to Keats led him to present Keats in what was a new light for most of us, and saved his well-prepared lecture from falling into monotonous erudition, the fate of so many well-prepared lectures. The second great merit of his talk was that the speaker's evident love of Keats has roused many of his hearers to approach again, or for the first time, the rich and sensuous store of beauty and sadness that was Keats'. D.H.J.

DEBATING SOCIETY

The School fixture against Surbiton last term proved to be highly diverting. Accustomed as we are to a strict order of speaking, we were taken aback by the strange methods used. Our opponents delighted in cutting into both their colleagues' and our speeches with witty cracks, a habit which we were unable, at that time, to cultivate; also, we discovered that floor speakers could make two speeches if they so wished. But the most interesting phenomenon of the whole debate was the speech of the second of their main speakers, who declared that what he was saying was not worth our attention—certainly an original and accomplished oratorical trick.

Three debates were arranged this term. The first is reviewed below; the second was a return match with Surbiton, and the third was provisionally fixed for December 4th. The Debating Society has, unfortunately, still only few members, but the zest of these more than justifies its existence. R.S.B.

On Friday, November 6th, we held a debate in which R. S. Betts and C. C. Wright proposed that "This house views the future with alarm," a motion opposed by I. R. Wilson and A. J. Fowles. Wilson replied to Betts' usual mixture of firm cynicism and half-relevant flippancy with a sound, if uninspired, speech on the comforts of modern science. Wright did his best to continue the spread of alarm and despondency by complaining about Russians being shown over Buckingham Palace and Americans watching films without getting out of their cars, but if he said anything further relevant to the motion it has escaped the present writer. Fowles wound up the speeches from the table with a clever and amusing speech of complete confidence in the future. The most pleasing thing about the whole debate was the number of speakers from the floor, and we heard, among other things, that there are still a number of classical authors walking round, and that Mr. Cholmondeley has never been seen leaning on a spade. A more serious, but none the less welcome, note was struck by Phillips and again by Mr. Cholmondeley: both agreed that only when one had lost all faith could one view the future with alarm, and, thank God, we had not reached that state yet. The motion was, as might have been expected, rejected by eight votes to three, but in spite of the small numbers everyone seemed to feel the debate had been a success, and certainly it proved a lively beginning to the term's debating. D.A.J.

GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

Despite the departure of many of our regular supporters at the end of last term, the Gramophone Society continues to flourish: indeed, there are still a number of those devoted souls who are willing to carry the crushingly heavy School gramophone up and down stairs, without complaint, every Tuesday. We owe them our constant gratitude, and would offer them comfort by reminding them that, as Carlyle said, "Genius is the infinite capacity for taking pains."

At length we have come to the end of our long series of twentieth-century music. This term the composers represented have included Ravel, Walton,

Khachaturian and Elgar. We began with Khachaturian's Piano Concerto, played by Moura Lympany (not a very inspired work), and his Symphonic Suite "Masquerade," strident and invigorating. The Mazurka and Polka from this suite proved so popular that they were included again in a programme a fortnight later, when Ravel's "Daphnis and Chloe" Suite was the main work. Elgar's Cello Concerto and Walton's Viola Concerto completed the series; the former recalling the nineteenth century, the latter definitely modern in concept.

There have been a number of good "personal choice" programmes during the last few months. J. F. Arnold introduced an exceedingly diverse selection, ranging from an aria from "The Marriage of Figaro" to a rendering, with balalaika accompaniment, of the "Song of the Volga Boatmen." M. Cousins confined himself to a more orthodox programme: the Overture to "The Italian Girl in Algiers" by Rossini, Beethoven's "Turkish March," and works by Mozart. A. J. Faint at the beginning of this term introduced songs from "The Messiah," and among other piano works, Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2. B. E. A. Jacobs chose a suite from the "Music for the Royal Fireworks," as well as "Finlandia," and a movement from Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony." These programmes are always enjoyable, but it is noticeable that the choice seems limited to well-known works by well-known composers. We should specially welcome someone who wished to play for example, a symphony by Mahler, or a cantata by Buxtehude.

After half-term we held several programmes of concerti by Bach (Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Brandenburgs), aiming to start, after these, a series tracing the history of the symphony. Records are difficult to obtain, but we shall have several sources on which to draw. We hope that the new project will be popular, and reiterate that the Gramophone Society always welcomes anyone seriously interested in the music that is presented there.

R.S.B., D.A.J.

CHESS CLUB

I must hereby place it on record that the Chess Club has, at last, beaten our bogey team, Surbiton—and by the handsome margin of $7\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{2}$; and I feel that in doing so we have passed a milestone in the Club's history. Later results have not been so encouraging, though I hope for some improvement to follow.

Mr. Weightman has offered to contribute thirty shillings towards a House Chess Trophy and I take the opportunity to thank him on behalf of the Club for his generous gift. The competition, which has been approved by the Headmaster, will be played off next term. The rules applying to it appear on the notice board. I suggest that House Captains organize some practices for their teams, which are in most instances in need of them.

Of the players, Hayter and Britton remain unbeaten, and I can only attribute this to lack of concentration, particularly at the end of a long match, which is evident below board 4.

A brief analysis of the players may be useful:—

Hayter. P4. W3. D1. L0.

Jackson. P4. W1. D1. L2. An unfortunate start, but he still plays well and his clear thinking is invaluable in adjudication.

Weightman. P4. W1. D0. L3. He has been disappointing this term and will have to improve if he is to hold his position at 3rd board.

Britton. P4. W2. Q2. L0. Unbeaten. The most reliable member of the team. He plays quiet, steady chess but lacks the imagination for a forceful attack.

Page. P2. W1. D0. L1. Plays a fair game with flashes of real understanding.

Smith. P4. W3. D0. L1. A valuable asset to the team, he has a ready eye for attack and improves steadily.

Beaumont. P4. W0. D1. L3. A puzzling player who plays a high standard of chess in informal games, but forgets the very elements of the game in matches—hence his results.

Lynch. P4. W0. D1. L3. He has played better than his results show—once at 1st board—but still makes crass blunders in the simplest positions.

Fash. P2. W1. D0. L1. A player who could be good.

A seconds match (against Kingston, lost $3\frac{1}{2}$ — $4\frac{1}{2}$) involved Shepherd, Cohen, Ritchie, R. S. Betts, Wilson and Gordon.

Full details of all matches played will appear next term.

THE SPUR MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Nationalization has at last overtaken us; we have now a "Silver King" engine in British Railways' livery, and this new engine has been running with great success, and has proved a very useful addition to the Club track.

The proposed goods line and siding has now been laid and connects the Goods Station with the Main Terminus, and then, via that, goes to the two main tracks. This addition of track permits us to have our three engines and trains in motion at the same time, giving added interest to the lay-out.

Membership has been up to our average, and a very useful amount of track work has been put in by the members concerned. Several parents of our members have visited us at times during the term. We were very glad to see them and would extend a welcome to others at any of our meetings.

I have been trying to arrange a film show in the School Hall one evening. British Railways have some very interesting films they send out on loan, but up to date I have not been able to get any, as the waiting list, I understand, is a long one. I have our name on the list, and I hope it will reach the top before long, and that the School Hall will be available when that time comes.

S.J.Y.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

The Society, although a very interesting one, does not now get the support that we might hope for. Last term very few meetings were held, and at the time of writing, there have been no meetings held at all this term. However, an evening of films has been arranged for Monday, December 7th which, it is hoped, will prove attractive. Of last term's members, several had rather interesting holidays on the Continent. Of these, D. J. Bevan and M. A. Phillips spent three weeks in France, Italy and Switzerland; Patrick toured Spain; and J. F. Arnold and D. L. Hall toured France on the latter's motor-cycle. Lastly, I do appeal on behalf of the Society for more members—and I hope that by next term the Society will be an active one again.

D.I.C.

CHRISTIAN UNION

Every term the writer of these notes is forced to begin with the same comment: numbers, let us admit it, have been small, though perhaps we may take encouragement from the fact that those who do come are keen and willing. Still, it does seem almost unbelievable that in a school of our size so few have any interest in our Faith, so few ever think of coming to the Union. Many more there must be, and I would like to say at the start of these notes that we would welcome them at any time: the Christian Union is nothing pretentious, it is simply a place where Christians can meet together during the week, and if you are a Christian it needs you.

For a true Christian, the acceptance of a set of beliefs is not enough, it is merely a beginning; we must go forward from there; that is why there is a Christian Union in the School, so that we can go on to bring our faith closer to our everyday life in school and to make the living presence of Christ felt in the School. After Paul had met Christ on the Damascus road, he didn't leave it there—he went on. and by talking to people and, more important still, simply by being a true follower of Christ, he was able to rouse people

to interest in and acceptance of what he had to offer. It's what we *are* that matters, and if we can say with Paul—"I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith," then other people *will* notice—but we can do nothing by ourselves; we must have Christ's help and His power within us before we can do anything.

So as we go away for Christmas, let us remember the true reason for rejoicing and celebration, that nearly two thousand years ago God "emptied himself of all but love," and came to earth. The name they called him was Emmanuel—God with us, and by this supreme act of sacrifice in Jesus Christ, He gave to us, living so long after, His power. Now it is up to us: we have the choice whether we accept his offer, the choice whether we become something worth while, or whether we remain where we are. We believe that the only hope for a world in distress is the peace and love of Jesus Christ: and it all depends on each individual one of us. D.A.J.

CRAFT NOTES

At the end of this term, when the School play is produced, we shall be seeing for the first time the results of many months of hard work by the Stagecraft Guild on the new lighting system. It is some considerable time since this improvement was started, but the work has been held up by delays with supplies. At last, however, these difficulties have been overcome, and at the time of writing the new switch-board and wiring systems are almost completed. While our project of twelve months ago is now fulfilled, it will no doubt be some time before we have experimented sufficiently to make full use of the possibilities at our disposal. It is most gratifying to see the enthusiasm with which the members of the Stagecraft Guild work, and the obvious enjoyment they gain from planning a new phase of operation and following it through to its conclusion. There will always be plenty to do in this branch of craft activity, and it is to be hoped that there will be a steady stream of interested people to keep alive this aspect of the School drama groups.

The Printers, as always, have been busy printing the many things needed by the School during a term, together with one or two jobs for people outside the School who pay us the compliment of admiring our work. In addition to the large amount of work done this term, there have been two visits to local firms; the first, to the fabric printing workshops of Liberty's at Merton Abbey, and the second, to the New Merton Board Mills. They were both worthwhile visits and equally interesting in their own ways. A greater contrast would be hard to imagine. In the first instance we saw a factory devoted entirely to hand production, where an air of leisure and pride in individual craftsmanship prevails, whether it be mixing ink to any required shade or tone of colour, making the intricate blocks or printing the fabric itself. This contrasted with a board mill, where every operation is carried out by machine from the mixing of the pulp, the making of the board, the cutting of the shapes and printing the labels, to the finished box, case or drum.

While the printing and dramatic activities are kept well to the fore by their very nature, it is well to give a thought to the core of the craft activities of the School, woodwork and pottery. These offer scope to the individual who derives pleasure from creating, and benefits from pride in personal achievement. They provide opportunities for intelligent use of leisure time as well as valuable activity in School. This unfortunately is all too short, and in order to achieve any satisfactory standard it is necessary to spend some time after school on the finishing stages of pottery or in gaining further practice in the manipulation of tools.

We are now in possession of a reasonable amount of book-binding equipment (supplied in the same manner as the pottery materials from the School Fund) and recently a few boys have been trying their hand at manipulating paper and card, which, when covered with paste, appear to do everything except what is required of them. As time goes on I hope this addition to the craft department at Raynes Park will develop and provide a new interest for some members of the Senior forms. R.G.A.

A.T.C.

Since our last contributions to *The Spur* the Squadron has continued to have success in various fields. If it may be said that the chief purpose of the Squadron parades is to enable Cadets to gain their proficiency and advanced training certificates, then indeed the Squadron may be said to have had a good year.

Cpl. Loveday has gained us another advanced certificate, and last June, 15 out of 16 cadets who sat for the Proficiency Exam, passed; our special congratulations to Cadets Hulatt (78%) Dyer (70%) and Elliott (70%) who gained Credits.

Sgt. H. B. Smith has done particularly well in his last year with the Squadron, successfully completing the qualifications for a Private Pilot's Licence under the Flying Scholarship scheme, and also being selected for a four-day trip to Berlin with the R.A.F. Transport Command. Wing-Commander Black, the C.O. of Surrey Wing, honoured the Squadron by coming down personally to present Sgt. Smith with his "wings" at the completion of his flying training. He inspected the Squadron at the same time and expressed his satisfaction at the turn-out.

The main event of the summer, of course, was the camp, which took place once again at R.A.F. Thorney Island. Here we were joined by one of our ex-Cadets, P/O Allen, who, having left the Squadron only two years before, is now flying Washingtons and has had experience in Rhodesia, the Middle East and the United States. The Cadets soon settled in to their life "under canvas (de luxe)," and knowing their way about the camp and neighbourhood had some advantage over the others. The weather was exceptionally kind—just about the driest week of the summer—and all cadets got in some flying, which varied from trips along the coast in Valettas and Ansons, to "shooting up" the *Queen Mary* and H.M.S. *Vanguard* in Tiger-Moths. Reference to shooting reminds us that Cadet Hope won a prize for doing some of the best work in the camp with a .303.

Since School reopened in September, we have been pleased to welcome a number of recruits, and we have had to apologize to a number of others who would have liked to join, had we not been obliged to enforce the "NOT under 14" rule. (One or two Cadets were discovered at camp a few days under age.) Just recently we have had our Annual and Pre-Annual Inspections, both of which went off very smoothly, except possibly for the one or two cadets who did not get a high enough polish on their shoes!

Our great "Aircraft Recognizer," Cpl. Loveday, has been winning more distinctions, not only for himself but in his training of others. At a recent District Contest we won 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th places, and we have every hope of doing the same at the Wing Contest shortly.

Although we have lost Mr. Hope on his leaving this district, we have been very pleased to welcome, in his place, Mr. Mitchell, who comes to us from Air Ministry, and who has already put in a lot of time for the Squadron. We always tend to be short of instructors, but somehow or other an Old Boy always seems to turn up at the right time to fill the breach. We are particularly indebted to P/O's Allen, Price and Mackenzie for this. J.D.T.

THE 19TH WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

It did not, at first sight, seem very adventurous to visit our own cabin and site for the annual camp. There was no long over-night journey, no thrill in finding the attractions or disadvantages of a strange place, no distant view of the sea to make us itch to unpack our swimming trunks. But if this year the 19th missed these things, its camp on its own ground at West Hoathly had many compensations. We were a small group, but we had with us the great-hearted "Jerks," and we learned much about the possibilities of the surrounding countryside which it had not been possible to do at the numerous but short week-end camps. There were several good hikes, including a mystery

one which gave an opportunity to explore paths marked on the map, and even sign-posted, but which no other foot had trod for many years.

On one occasion when the programme indicated merely "long cross-country" and expectations were not very high, the party had only just left the immediate camp surround when they were "arrested" by Tiger and Jerks, blindfolded, and thrust hastily into the waiting cars. It was a queer load that travelled at no uncertain speed through village, uphill and down dale, stopping finally after a rough ride across the heath into the forest. Still "blind," the party was manhandled through scrub and over streams. Tiger was then heard saying to Bevan, "That's all, we're off, get them back to camp for supper at eight." Oddly enough, or was it a tribute to their leader, the party did arrive back at eight, very tired, hungry but in excellent spirits.

From the start of camp, propitiously inaugurated by the kindness of one parent (Boy, what a pie!) to the finish, we had good food . . . as long as Badger did not put his foot in it: there was a new drink called "Koko," some very good meat—Lloyd seems to have a way of getting on the right side of butchers—and fresh greens straight from the garden. In fact, catering, entirely in the hands of Lloyd and Co. with no interference from scouters this year, was excellent.

Between meals, while we were in camp, with short intervals for indulging in a kind of table tennis and activities on rope, rope ladder and trees which gave a measure of support for Darwin's Theory, we worked. And we enjoyed working. With paint-brush and sandstone we improved the appearance of the front of the cabin, removed much debris, and by the excavating in earth and stone at the back, made it a drier building than it was before. With pruning hook and saw, we let daylight into the orchard where our tents were pitched, and cleaned out the ditches. And yet still had time to introduce variety into the diet of the ducks, to join the local worshippers in the parish church, and to help a little on the farm. Pollard seems to have left no stone unturned, and revealed a wealth of knowledge on plants and living things. Surely too, we all learned something which will raise our camping standards when we go further afield next year.

While we were in camp, R. N. Fash went to assist a local scouter at a three-week camp in the Channel Islands. It was a good piece of service well done and appreciated, and he enjoyed it all. Bevan, after camp, joined hands with Phillips to wander abroad into France and Italy. And that recalls the activities of some "old scouts." Hopkins, very much the long distance man while with us, cycled into Spain—he appears to have gone abroad each holiday since he left us. One time Troop Leader C. Hill now runs a troop in Bristol and took his first camp as S.M. last August. There are now three old 19th Scouts who have been ordained in recent years. Terdre and Ditchburn enjoy life at Dartmouth and write very cheerfully of its life and discipline. Collins is a senior structural engineer in a large London firm, and intends to get married soon. Tutchell too, is married and (he always was a little odd) teaches at Willesden and lives at West Hoathly. Pip Thomas, also recently married, works at Coutts and lives in a charming caravan at Ripley. John Ashley teaches at Croydon and is a week-end farmer at Stonelands.

Of the Troop itself at home, it can be said that it is quiet (when not in the gym) and pleasantly active. Pollard has been awarded his Natural History Badge and well he deserves it. Bevan, our troop leader, is Head of School, and Fash becomes a Prefect and spends much time on the stage reconstruction. Our numbers are down for we have weeded out many who were neither helping nor progressing, and for the first time for many years we have had room for recruits. But neither numbers nor badges are our prime concern if the spirit is right, and there is health, happiness and a wish to serve as brothers.

E.G.R.

CRICKET

1st XI

Measured purely upon results the 1st XI's fortunes were mixed. We lost heavily to Tiffins, Wandsworth and, mainly due to Mr. Bellis, we lost to the Old Boys and the Staff. Against this we gained a fine win over K.C.S. and narrowly beat St. George's, two of our best fixtures. In addition we gained moral victories over Wallington, Bec and Surbiton. However, the season was a good one for personal prowess. Tulett was awarded his colours for two excellent performances—8 for 31 and 5 for 10. Colours were also awarded to Tillinghast for consistently good batting, and to Smith for steady play at wicket-keeper. The old colours, A. F. Wright, D. J. Ferebee and Shepherd, again distinguished themselves, and Beaumont was most unlucky in not gaining colours.

A glance at the averages will show that the burden of batting and bowling was borne by a small number. The School's great need is for a good spin bowler, a steady stock bowler, and also aggressive batsmen who will be prepared to go for runs at all times. If last year's Colts can supply some of these requirements, and if those who could not find their footing last season do so this coming Summer, then we should definitely have a good season.

M.A.E.

1ST XI AVERAGES

BATTING					
	Inns.	Runs	Highest Score	Not Out	Average
D. C. Shepherd	9	214	46*	2	30.57
D. J. Ferebee	11	225	60*	3	28.13
A. J. Tillinghast	11	227	46	0	21.55

BOWLING					
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Day	27	9	46	7	6.57
Tulett	119.3	36	280	28	10.00
A. F. Wright	93.4	35	204	18	11.33

1st XI.—Played: 11, Won: 2, Lost: 4, Drawn: 5.

TENNIS

The tennis season is now ended except for the most enthusiastic of our members, who continue to play the game throughout the damp and cold months of the winter season. The tennis season as far as the School Team was concerned was a fairly successful one, for of the 5 matches played, 3 were won and 2 lost. We are unfortunate in losing two of our players (both of whom had earned their colours and had played for the team for the past three seasons), P. A. Tanner, our captain, and A. D. Brooke. The term finished with the two School Tournaments; the Singles Tournament was won by P. A. Tanner; the Doubles by L. R. King and P. A. Tanner, who defeated J. M. Money and M. L. Smith in an interesting final. M. J. Phillips gained his colours by consistently good performances in School fixtures; A. D. Brooke as mentioned above gained his also. Phillips, Vennard, and Stracy were all newcomers to the team last season; Phillips kept his position as partner to P. A. Tanner as the second pair, Vennard and Stracy on the whole played promisingly and were kept together as third pair for the complete season. In the return fixture with Beckenham, the team won by 6—3 to make amends for its earlier defeat. We defeated Purley by 5—4 in a close match, and were defeated by Badingham College by 4—5 on some rather indifferent grass courts. The 2nd VI in its only fixture of the term defeated Purley by 7—2 in a fairly convincing manner.

The Inter-House Tennis Tournament was won by Cobbs, who won all of their four matches, with Newsoms second, Halliwells third, Gibbs fourth and Miltons fifth.

The Tennis Club appears to be one of the most popular societies at present operating in the School; but members must not forget to observe the rule that white and white only must be worn at all times on the School Courts—which means no grey flannels and certainly not ties either! I hope also they will begin to respect the use of School tennis balls, of which over twelve dozen were lost last term, all costing about two and sixpence each; and also to respect the wire, what there is left of it!

We look forward to next season, which should be a very successful one for the School team. Four of last season's team remain and there are also one or two other promising players now in the fifth form, of whom I hope and expect Fowles in particular to be a success. D.I.C.

SWIMMING

As a result of the trials held early in the year we approached the Summer Term with some confidence. We might not carry away the trophies, but at least we would be represented by the best available talent. Those selected to swim for us attended the coaching periods regularly, and showed themselves ardent in training and eager to improve.

We entered a team of twelve boys for the Wimbledon and District Gala, held in July, and won eight Certificates, an improvement of five on the previous year's attainment. Pride of place goes to Talbot, who won the two-lengths free style (under 16) race in 44.4 secs. At the beginning of this Autumn Term, Talbot represented Wimbledon & District over the same distance in the Surrey Schools' Association Championships and, against seven other districts, came fourth in the final in 44 secs. Other meritorious results at the District Gala were:—

Stevens, D. C.	...	...	Second, 1L Back-stroke (under 13).
Hill, A. D.	...	...	Second, 2L Breast-stroke (under 18).
Judge, B.	...	...	Third, 1L Free Style (under 15).
Knight, Dorey,	}	...	Third, Team Relay (under 18).
Talbot, Crierie			

On the following day we faced the sterner competition of the Surrey Grammar Schools Championships. We were outclassed, but not too noticeably, and had the satisfaction of winning scoring places in two events. Out of nine competing schools, Stevens D. C. came third in the Junior two-lengths back-stroke, and our Junior free-style team occupied fourth place in its relay.

And so to our own Swimming Sports, held during the last week of the Summer Term. The programme was expanded by the introduction of five new events, namely, three medley relays, a one-length race for Minors (under 13), and an Open three-lengths breast-stroke race. Thanks to the co-operation and good sense of the School, and to the efficient service of the masters acting in various capacities, the Sports went smoothly, and finished within the allotted time.

The qualifying points gained by the Houses prior to the Sports placed them in the order Newsoms 363, Cobbs 362, Miltons 308, Gibbs 290, Halliwells 286. The final order and points were Cobbs 1022, Newsoms 843, Gibbs 530, Halliwells 456, Miltons 438.

RESULTS OF THE 1953 SPORTS

Seniors					Time in secs.
Event	1st	2nd	3rd		
1L Back-stroke ...	Burns (M)	Tanner (C)	Tyler (G)		28.9
1L Free Style ...	Talbot (C)	Knight (H)	Owen (G)		19.5
2L Breast-stroke	Saunders (N)	Loveday (G)	Wilson (C)		55.8
3L Free Style ...	Talbot (C)	Steadman (N)	Hulatt (G)		74.0
3L Medley Relay	Newsoms	Cobbs	Gibbs		75.3
4L Free Style Relay ...	Cobbs	Gibbs	Halliwells		91.1

Colts

Event	1st	2nd	3rd	Time in secs.
1L Back-stroke ...	Eagleson (C)	Hickford (G)	Swatten (M)	25.8*
1L Free Style ...	Dunn (H)	Edwards (C)	Winstone (N)	21.5
2L Breast-stroke	Hill (C)	Higham (H)	Howard (M)	54.6
3L Free Style ...	Edwards (C)	Judge (N)	Cooke (G)	84.5
3L Medley Relay	Cobbs	Newsoms	Miltons	75.5
4L Free Style Relay ...	Cobbs	Halliwells	Newsoms	91.8*

Juniors

Event	1st	2nd	3rd	Time in secs.
1L Back-stroke ...	Stevens (N)	Coney (C)	King (H)	27.4*
1L Breast-stroke	Nicholls (N)	Brugger (M)	Coney (C)	29.4
2L Free Style ...	Stevenson (N)	Way (C)	Gamble (H)	59.5
3L Medley Relay	Newsoms	Cobbs	Miltons	84.0
4L Free Style Relay ...	Newsoms	Cobbs	Halliwells	109.4*

Minor

Event	1st	2nd	3rd	Time in secs.
1L Free Style ...	Stevens (N)	Vincent (M)	Frank-Keyes (G)	25.8

Open

Event	1st	2nd	3rd	Time in secs.
3L Breast stroke	Eagleson (C)	Saunders (N)	Nicholls (G)	88.5
Plunge ...	Tanner (C)	Loveday (G)	Betts (G)	45'4"
Plain Dive ...	Loveday (G)	Hill (C)	Saunders (N)	
Springboard Dive ...	Hill (C)	Loveday (G)	Dorey (N)	

*New record.

Congratulations to Cobbs who effectively displaced Gibbs from the leadership they had held over the six previous years, and to the individual and team winners who set up four new records.

As a result of his performances at the Sports and over the year, School Colours were awarded to Eagleson.

Turning to the present term mention might first be made of the beginners' class which is held for those who are non-swimmers. Instruction has been given on Thursday evenings at Wimbledon Baths, and 28 boys have attended. Of these, 5 have now swum the beginner's width.

Before closing these notes, attention must be drawn to the new qualifying system. It is printed in full here for two reasons. First, boys do not seem to read the copy which has been on the sports' notice-board since early in the term; and secondly, knowledge of what precisely is required from them may encourage them to obtain points for their Houses next term—and not leave their qualifying until the Summer. At the time of writing the points gained are:—

Cobbs 153, Newsoms 97, Miltons 75, Halliwells 68, Gibbs 39.

NEW QUALIFYING SYSTEM FOR SWIMMING

All Boys						
Beginner's Width ...	...	...	...	...	...	2 points
1L Breast-stroke ...	...	...	...	...	...	1 point
1L Back-stroke ...	...	...	...	...	...	2 points
1L Crawl-stroke ...	...	...	...	...	...	2 points
1L Butterfly stroke ...	...	...	...	...	...	2 points
13L Free Style ...	...	...	...	...	...	5 points

Juniors—under 14

	3 points	1 point
1L Butterfly-stroke	under 35 secs.	under 45 secs.
2L Breast-stroke	under 80 secs.	under 95 secs.
2L Back-stroke	under 75 secs.	under 90 secs.
2L Crawl-stroke	under 70 secs.	under 85 secs.

Colt—under 16

	3 points	1 point
2L Butterfly-stroke	under 75 secs.	under 85 secs.
3L Breast-stroke	under 120 secs.	under 140 secs.
3L Back-stroke	under 115 secs.	under 135 secs.
3L Crawl-stroke	under 110 secs.	under 130 secs.

Senior—over 16

	3 points	1 point
2L Butterfly-stroke	under 65 secs.	under 75 secs.
3L Breast-stroke	under 110 secs.	under 130 secs.
3L Back-stroke	under 105 secs.	under 125 secs.
3L Crawl-stroke	under 100 secs.	under 120 secs.

Your status will be required for the timed events: please calculate and remember it. Whether it is Junior, Colt, or Senior will be decided by your age on the 1st April, 1954. W.P.F.

RUGBY

1st XV

Smith M. L. (Centre, Colours '52). He has made an excellent Captain of the fifteen, and by his thrust and eye for an opening, the threequarter line has been moving with speed and determination. Shepherd and he have linked well, but occasionally Smith's wiliness baffles his colleagues as well as the opposition.

Bunyan P. J. (Back row, Colours '52). He has played well throughout the season, and has led the pack to good effect by the example he has set. He has been an efficient forward leader and he has been an even better Rugby Secretary. This job is a thankless one, but Bunyan's organizing ability has been so first-rate that everything has passed off smoothly.

Beaumont (Full Back). He has played consistently well this season. His kicking has been uncanny in its accuracy, and in tackling he has excelled. He has the ability to know when to join up with the threequarters, and his support has often led to a try.

Cousins (Wing). He has used his speed to good purpose, but, after beating his man, he has the tendency to cut in towards the centre and loses contact with supporting forwards and threes. He has tackled effectively, if not low.

Shepherd D. C. (Centre Threequarter, Colours '51). He has made a welcome return to the 1st XV. He has added thrust to the whole line, and his tackling has lost none of its fire. His only weakness is in passing—he tends to pass at, not in front of, his man.

Stracy (Wing Threequarter). He has used his weight and speed to great effect, and he has linked up well with his centres. His tackling and falling have been sound.

Francis (Stand-off). He has made a fair start in 1st XV rugby. He tackled well and his handling has been safe, but he has a habit of running towards the centre of the field, instead of straightening up his threequarter line, which he must cure.

Weightman (Scrum Half). He has developed a sound understanding with Francis, and his long passing has helped Francis to avoid marauding wing forwards.

Phillips, M. A. (Wing Forward, Colours '51). He has been, as always, excellent in his covering, and quick to back up any threequarter movement. His falling has been an example hard to equal.

Fash (Wing Forward). His tackling this season has improved almost beyond recognition. He has covered well from lines-out and he also has backed up the threequarters well.

Keeble (Forward). He has been useful in the line out, although he could jump higher than he does. He is always among the first on the ball in the loose.

Williams (Forward). He has been the dominant figure in the line-out work and he makes very good use of his height. He must, however, learn to tackle and fall on the ball more regularly.

Higham (Front row). He has been the best of the Colts to reach 1st XV status. His tackling and falling have been courageous, and he is a tireless worker in the loose and line-out.

Bevan (Hooker). He is by far the best hooker in the School and it is unfortunate that an injury will keep him out of the 1st XV for the rest of the season. His tackling and hooking will be sadly missed.

Spencer (Front row). He has not fulfilled the promise he showed in the Colts. There is, as yet, no real fire in his play.

The following have also played:—Burns; D. A. Jackson; Pegrum; Boyd; Swinscoe; C. C. Wright; Francis; Tulett; Pevy.

In the first three matches this season there were only two serious weaknesses—the inability of the forwards to heel the ball quickly and bad passing by the backs. Against Wimbledon College these faults were especially apparent and were mainly responsible for our defeat. The Wimbledon backs were allowed so much of the ball that it was only a lack of thrust on their part that kept the score within reasonable bounds, and when our "threes" did gain possession their passing was, on the whole, so wild that no ground was gained. In the next two matches, against Beckenham and St. George's College, there was a slight improvement, especially in the latter, and it was more through a lack of co-ordination between threes and forwards than through any superiority on the opponents' part that we did not win either of these two games. The style of the team against Surbiton and Reigate showed a remarkable improvement. What a change to see the ball coming smoothly out of the scrummages and moving rapidly across the threequarter line! It was in these matches the true penetrative power of the backs was first demonstrated, and it was due to fine opportunism on their part that we beat Surbiton. The high scoring against Reigate was the direct result of first-class teamwork, and it was fitting that the scoring should be evenly distributed among forwards and backs.

If the 1st XV continues in its present style, it does not, at the time of writing, seem unduly optimistic to prophecy that we shall have a successful season.

2nd XV

It would be true to say that the forwards have, so far, been the Second's main asset. Though light, they have equalled, and at times surpassed, forwards who have been heavier than they. This has been due to their toughness and speed on the ball, and they have seized every opportunity offered. It would not, however, be fair to attribute the success of the team solely to the scrum: there is also a great deal of talent in the back line. But as the majority of the games have been played on days not suited to open play, they have had

no real chance to show their true worth. On the whole, they have tackled without hesitation. Carver at full back tends to run across the field when in possession, but otherwise his play has been sound.

The Seconds have been severely handicapped by the fact that they have not yet played two games with the same team. Against Reigate G.S., for example, they were unlucky in losing Tulett, Pegrum and Burns to the 1st XV, and their victory was thus more commendable. The inspiring leadership of Davis has fostered a spirit to be found in few other 2nd XV's, and it is due in no small part to him that they have played so keenly.

The team has been selected from:—Davis (Capt.); Loble; Orme; Tulett; Boyd; Lavous; Elliott; Burns; Lynch; Holden; Wearn; Francis; C. C. Wright; Carver; Pevy; Harper; Pegrum; Howard; Williams; Keeble; J. Page; Swinscoe. M.L.S. and P.J.B.

Results

1st XV						
v. Wimbledon College	...	...	...	Lost	0—11	
v. Beckenham C.G.S.	...	...	...	Lost	8—28	
v. St. George's College	...	...	...	Lost	8—16	
v. Surbiton C.G.S.	...	...	...	Won	11—9	
v. Reigate C.G.S.	...	...	...	Won	22—0	
2nd XV						
v. Wimbledon College	...	...	...	Lost	0—19	
v. Beckenham C.G.S.	...	...	...	Won	15—5	
v. Sutton C.G.S. 1st XV	...	...	...	Won	12—11	
v. Surbiton C.G.S.	...	...	...	Lost	0—32	
v. Reigate C.G.S.	...	...	...	Won	17—8	

Colts

The 1953 Colts have been singularly unlucky in being unable to turn out at full strength for almost all their matches. This has made team work difficult, but performances have not been disappointing. Team spirit has been good, particularly in defence, not always an attribute of R.P.C.G.S. teams.

The pack has been very well together in the set scrums, but has not reached the same standard in the loose, where they fail to bind tightly and allow their opponents to break through. Hill, A. D. has been outstanding, well supported by Bray, Ridge and Paxman.

The backs have been vigorous if unpolished, their best work occurring individually and in defence. Nicholls and Creasey have proved best here, while Ingram has successfully made the change from forward to back. As a unit the backs do not impress, because it is difficult to have the constant group practice which gives polish and perfection. P.O'D.

Juniors

The Junior team has had only three matches so far this term—all of which have been lost, but its members are not despairing, and they are confident that victory will come their way in the near future. Unfortunately, a few boys tend to lose their nerve on meeting opponents larger than themselves, but if they would simply remember that the bigger the person the heavier would be his fall if tackled properly, then they need have no fear. Tackle low and hard, Juniors, and make the heavier fellows treat you with respect! At the moment hesitation prevents strong tackling and gives the opposition too much room to move, and it only needs more determination on your part to counteract this.

It is pleasing to see so much keenness amongst the first year boys this season. The change from Soccer to Rugger is a big one for them, but, except for a few hefty kicks here and there, they are mastering the difficulties very swiftly. Next year these boys will form the backbone of the Junior team, and it is certain that they will do everything to keep the Rugger flag flying high at Raynes Park. N.H.B.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Colours: Braine, Talbot, Davis, Francis.

So far this term the Cross-Country Team has had only three fixtures, and so there is no knowing the true powers of our runners. What few results we have had forecast a very keen season.

On October 3rd we had our first match of the season at Strawberry Hill with St. Mary's College as our hosts. As they always field a strong team, we had no great hopes of winning, and our fears were realized when the result was announced—St. Mary's won by 29 pts. to 51 pts. Individual positions were: Francis 4th, Barry 6th, Braine 8th, Marriot 9th, Talbot 10th, Cook 14th.

On October 21st we welcomed R.A.F. Chessington to the Oberon. Led by Sergeant McCoy, an old International runner, they appeared to be a formidable team; but, as the results showed, they were not exceptional. Nevertheless, McCoy led after half a mile and no one could catch him: he covered the 3½ mile course in the record time of 18 mins. 20 secs. The School won by 36 pts. to 44 pts., the individual positions being: Braine 2nd (18.43), Francis 3rd (19.5), Davis 5th, Talbot 6th, Cook 9th, Eagleson 11th, Phillips (J. D.) 12th, Spencer (D.) 13th. It is interesting to note that the whole of the School team finished before the visitors' sixth runner arrived home. In recognition of his good performances in these two matches, Francis was awarded his cross-country Colours.

The School entered a team consisting of Braine, Francis, Davis and Talbot for the new Sutton and Cheam Harriers' Senior Schools Relay Race for the "Herald" Shield. The race entailed four laps of 2½ miles each. In very heavy conditions, the School started well, but was finally placed fifth out of nine teams. This result is quite meaningless, as six of the teams went off the course on the third lap. The Shield was eventually won by Sutton C.G.S., but Braine (17 mins. 20 secs.), Talbot (17 mins. 23 secs.) and Davis (17 mins. 31 secs.) deserve congratulations for their times which were the fifth, ninth and thirteenth best of the day. R.B.

BOXING

The only School match to be held this term was a triangular fixture versus Ewell Castle School and King Edward's School. All the bouts were closely contested, and it gave an opportunity for a number of boxers without real experience to show their paces. School boxers were entered in nine bouts, and won four of them. It was particularly satisfying to see the younger members of the School team acquitting themselves in such a splendid manner.

The chief event of this term was the House Boxing Championships, and, once again, Halliwells withdrew through lack of support. After the preliminaries had been fought off, the fate of the Championship wavered between Cobbs and Gibbs, with the odds slightly favouring Gibbs. Nevertheless Cobbs, with many extra points in hand, allowed for their two seeded boxers, Francis and Shepherd, were confident of winning. The final result was something of an anti-climax: Gibbs discovered at the last moment that, through uncertain methods of weighing-in their boxers beforehand, some of their men were in the wrong weight divisions, and were forced to withdraw them. Cobbs took advantage of this and finally won the Cup by a very small margin of points, and may be considered to be lucky in doing so. D.C.S.

Results of House Boxing Championships

Junior	Intermediate	Senior
4½-5 st., Round (G)	6-6½st., Mackenzie (G)	7½-8 st., York (G)
5-5½st., Miller (M)	6½-7 st., Swatten (M)	8½-9 st., Weightman (N)
5½-6 st., Edwards (G)	7-7½st., Bray (N)	9-9½st., Wearn (G)
6-6½st., Coney (C)	7½-8 st., Clark (C)	9½-10 st., Davis (G)
6½-7 st., Newman (M)	8-8½st., Burge (G)	10-10½st., Harper (C)
7-7½st., Townsend (N)	8½-9 st., Stevens (M)	10½-11 st., Cook (C)
	9-9½st., Eagleson (C)	

"THE MAN ON THE BEACH"

The crowds had left Brighton: all through the day coaches had filled the roads, and emptied the trippers on the beach like so many lorry-loads of gravel. Now these people were gone: the paper bags with stale sandwiches in them, the ice-cream cartons lying round the breakwaters, a child's pail with a portrait of Mickey Mouse on the side, a milk bottle with sea water in it, probably deposited by its would-be collector because Mum had threatened to "Pay'im" when he got home, were the only remains. Only the sea remembered them. The same sea which played the dumb benefactor during the war, the same sea on which the Romans came to invade Briton, the same sea which surrounded the island a thousand years ago, would probably be here in another thousand years time. It would be here to-morrow, when more holiday-makers would stream out of the towns to the coast.

The solitary man on the promenade pondered these thoughts as he stood staring out to the horizon. The tide was out, and the sea-weed lay dead on the sand waiting for the water to give it life again. The sand was wet, and cold, and the familiar sand-flies had disappeared. The sea was so quiet and still; within an hour it would be up here, slapping the backs of the granite slabs which formed the promenade.

The man shivered and wrapped his coat tightly round him. A chill wind had sprung up, the sun had slipped gracefully on to the horizon, slowly darkness came, and the sea crept in.

The beach attendant finished strapping down the waterproof covering on the pile of deck chairs, and disappeared. The man was all alone now. He lit a cigarette, and looked at his watch; it had stopped. He waited patiently until somebody strolled by. It was a quarter past nine.

The sea was restless now, and the gathering clouds overhead indicated an approaching storm. The gulls from the nearby cliffs were wheeling and swooping and crying sharply. The sea had already covered the flat stones.

The man looked round; he was quite young, and his fair straight hair and pale blue eyes made him look even boyish. He wore a light brown overcoat and his collar was pulled up well round his neck. He looked at Brighton, a happy mass of wrinkle stalls and pubs and cars and people. The fairy lights, stretching along the pier, skipped and danced with their reflections in the water.

Whether it was the stinging salt spray or the flashing slogan "Brighton welcomes you," we will never know, but the young man had wet eyes. He blinked, and turning round, took off his coat. He laid it neatly on the promenade, and unstrapped his watch. He brought his wallet out next and looked at it longingly.

The rising waves were well up by now. The young man stepped off the promenade to the beach. He walked to the water's edge, and carried on walking. The water line rose swiftly, and then a large wave soaked him completely. He carried on walking. His face was wet with water. He carried on; he was out of his depth. The water, black and oily, closed in on him. He offered no resistance, but remained bravely silent as the oncoming waves overpowered him. C.C.W.

SHANE, THE MAN

The film "Shane" is remarkable, not only for its beautiful photography, but also for producing a character the like of which probably never existed, and getting away with it. For Shane is definitely a person more to imagine than touch. In the film he is a gun-fighter trying to live down his past, but he has to take up and use his gun again to help his new friends, and then go, to evade the law. Around him all the time is the air which has surrounded no other previous Western hero—an air of mystery and wandering, each adding to the other in a kind of vicious circle. He stands on his own, a man in millions.

Clad in skins like the trapper of old, wearing one ivory-handled gun on a belt adorned by miniature steel wagon wheels, Shane is the apotheosis of

the Western writer's imagination. His speed in both drawing and firing his revolver (*forgotten skills in these modern times*) are uncanny, and in a saloon brawl his fists fly with a spirit worthy of the great traditions of saloon fighting. His manner is never brash, but quiet and confident. But his is not the regular life of the cowboy. He is a gun-fighter. He lives by the speed of his arm and hand and eye, his ears ever open for the click of gun mechanism.

But why all this fuss about one Western character? Because Shane arises from the dust and gunsmoke of thousands of Westerns, and is probably their first near-classical hero, beside whom Hopalong Cassidy is a mere bow-legged cow-hand. For that mystery around him has never been equalled. Where he has come from and where he is going to next are known only to him.

But these are really only superficial details. The more one writes about Shane the more difficult it is to know him. It is much, much easier, and probably more profitable to an imaginative mind, to think about Shane. The mystery around him will last even after that day when he will meet his superior in speed of hand and quickness of eye. J.M.

MORS ARBORIS

It was a pinewood, grassless, timeless, cool,
Where lone owls flew; the trees yearned to the sky
Like arches in a dim cathedral;
And set apart in lonely dignity
Stood one great pine, whose giant branches bore
The weight of long eternities of days and nights.
Then came a day, when whistling through the wood,
Treading with heavy feet the needled earth,
A band of men marched with their glittering tools.
The saw began to purr, the axe to strike;
The long hours passed in toil; then as the sun
Sank to the west, and stars began to glow—
The last axe struck apart the ancient tree,
Which, rustling painfully its dying leaves,
Stood poised in time: at last the trunk inclined
And from its airy height crashed to its doom.

R.S.B.

FOREVER FELINE

Have you ever considered what a detestable creature the cat is? Ugh! I have. The more I think about them the more I shudder with disgust. It has been my misfortune to encounter cats from all stations of the feline social ladder, and there has not been one for whom I have not felt the utmost revulsion and loathing. The pseudo-aristocratic throughbreds are smug and complacent; the middle-class cat is a confirmed "crawler," ever whining or mewling, oh so piteously, for that one last scrap; while the lowest form of the species is, if you will forgive the contradiction, a lone wolf (in every sense of the word) nursing a deep hatred for the world. All cats have, however, a deep contempt for the human race's attitude to them, and the thing which rankles is that it is quite justified.

Throughbreds fall into two odious categories (Ouch!): Persian, who habitually wear an oily grin, and Siamese, who when relating anecdotes always begin, "The King and I . . ." To a cat, these animals belong to fat old complacent, condescending dowager Duchesses, and the ugly creatures spend their lives sitting on fine silk cushions lapping up saucers of milk and as many whittings (they would prefer caviare) as they can lay their bloated paws on. This sentence may appear ambiguous—it was meant to. Now let us go on.

The middle-class cat is always being "put out," and a Government survey states that 47% of the divorces in the West Riding of Rutland originate from this phrase (pp. 64, 65, para. 2, Subsec. IIc). Once "put out," these cats

form an uneasy alliance with those who never go in but live in a dustbin. Having congregated, they set out to render hideous the night by a constant, well-rehearsed catawalling (sorry!). From this choral effort, it is rumoured that Mr. Kenton draws inspiration for his minor key chromatic tone scale phrases. **I wouldn't know; it seems reasonable.**

Gentlemen, the time has come to face facts: **the cat must be abolished.**
But thereby hangs a tail. A.J.F.

GREETINGS FROM GRUB STREET

II. The Lay of the Last Geysir

Shiver! who hear this dreadful tale!
Even a bucket might turn pail.

It was a learned domini
Of wisdom academic,
Who Latin Verse could well rehearse
Or Cicerone polemic.

He was, as I have said before,
Of all the wisest scholar;
His mouth appeared amidst a beard;
He never changed his collar.

Alas, he had one sad defect:
Although his cribs for Caesar
Were well received by boys relieved—
HE COULD NOT MEND A GEYSER!

Abstracted once he had proposed—
This domini was married
(Unhappy lot! the stupid clot!)
And by a missus harried.

"Theodemir," said she one day
(Theodemir—it was his name
By a parent made inherent
—He was not at all to blame)

"Theodemir," said she again,
For he was hard of hearing,
"Leave your Caesar, mend the geyser—
Its inner works want clearing!"

That domini, Theodemir,
He took a bag of tools;
Probed the geyser with a tweezer
—All agin' the rules.

.....
It was a learned Domini
Arriving in the Hall,
Upon a stream of eau and steam,
Domestic waterfall.

His missus swimming in the flood
Cried, "Get back to your Caesar!
It's you who need your workings freed—
You obsolete old geyser!"

P.J.P.

"AS YOU LIKE IT," OR:— AS YOU KNOW IT.

All the school's a cage,
And all the boys are merely prisoners:
They have few exits and many entrances,
And one boy in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages. **First the New Boy**
Comes running to his older brother's arms.
Then the Junior, with his satchel, and his
Sleepy morning face, creeping like Tortoise
Unwillingly to school. **And then the Lover,**
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ode
Made to his girl friend's pigtails. **Then the Cadet,**
Full of strange oaths, and garbed in clothes too big,
Seeking the sergeant's stripes with polished boots,
If not by bribery. **Then strolls the Senior,**
In fair long trousers and with good food filled,
With eyes severe and slight moustache, new trimmed,
Full of wisecracks and witty sayings too;
And so he lives his life. The sixth age moves
To the lean and greatly revered Prefect wise,
With glass in eye and cigarettes by side,
His youthful hose well-darned—a world too small
(After the laundry); and his manly voice
Booming out loud across classroom and hall,
And through the corridors. Then, last of all,
The age that ends this strange, eventful tale,
The Old Boy, parted long ago with nought
But memories and sad Reunions.

G.L.

LETTERS

DEAR SIR,

I am amazed at the low standard and slackness of speech among the members of this school. I have now reached the fourth form and so far have experienced little or no form of elocution training at all.

This is a subject upon which my own parents, among many others, feel very strongly, and they would welcome an improvement in their son's diction.

Surely, if a school is to be proud of its name, then it should teach its pupils to be worthy of that name and tradition. In this school's particular case, speech training is given, but, I think, too late to be of real benefit.

It is generally agreed that a man seeking an appointment is judged primarily by his appearance and speech, and, however brilliant he might be, he could very well lose the position through not having had sufficient speech training.

May I suggest that the English masters spend less time on drilling into their pupils the difference between a noun clause of Subject and a noun clause of Object, or how many "feet" there are to a line of Shakespeare, and concentrate more on the fundamentals of the English language; namely, how it should be spoken. They might then teach the construction of the language afterwards.

I therefore suggest that elocution training should commence at least in the second form. In my opinion this would go far towards improving the standard of the School, which is at present being lowered by the many examples of slovenly speech which, in some cases, amount to basic "cockneyism."

Yours, etc.,
FOURTH-FORMER.

SIR, I know that it is no use complaining to *you* about the poor response to Mr. Riley's poster asking for "original (sic) contributions" to the *Spur*. Nevertheless, I write because the School ought to be made aware of that poor response, and should be determined to make amends next term.

Further, I am sure you will agree with me that all contributors should realize the importance of a neat manuscript (written on one side of the paper) and of respect for spelling, punctuation, and so on. It seems strange that in a school so preoccupied with the finer points of the gentle art of cr.....l.....g no one should have thought of such an easy road to favour.

Yours faithfully,

SIR.

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The Editors apologize for any inadvertent omissions.