

RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The

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NUMBER 1

# THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL

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

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## SCHOOL OFFICERS, Spring Term, 1954

*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 Hockey:* D. A. Jackson.

*Secretary of Hockey:* R. M. Beaumont.

*Captain of Cross-Country:* P. Francis.

*Secretary of Cross-Country:* J. M. Davis.

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

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

*Prefect of the Library:* R. S. Betts.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

Late though they come, *The Spur* must record its congratulations to the **Open Scholarship winners**. Last December, R. S. Betts was elected to an Exhibition in History at Sidney Sussex, and D. J. Britton to a Scholarship in Natural Science at Clare College, Cambridge; while at Oxford D. A. Jackson at Oriel College and P. J. Parsons at Christ Church gained Scholarships in Classics. These four awards were more than were then credited to any other County School—more than the great majority of Public Schools won, either. A message of congratulation was received from the Chairman, Mr. Hood Phillips, on behalf of the Governing Body, and among others who wrote were Mr. Garrett and Mr. Wrinch. The Chief Education Officer was able to add to his own kind words the consent of the Education Committee to a whole holiday in honour of these results. This was fixed for March 19th.

To these names we can now add that of B. E. A. Jacobs, who was awarded in February a Scholarship in Science at Imperial College, London. Five in a year establishes a record. May we before long emulate or surpass it.

\* \* \*

The County voted their Schools ten pounds each to buy some memento of the Coronation. Difficulties delayed our plans, but neat cases are now in the Hall to display henceforward the silver cups seen hitherto only on special occasions. The lists of previous House Cup-winners will be refixed round the Hall, making room on the end wall for an Honours Board. These improvements should be worthwhile; they will have cost the School General Fund several times the ten pounds originally allowed.

\* \* \*

An Ivory Knight, suitably mounted, is to take his place among our collection of cups. This pleasantly different trophy is initiated for competition in the Chess Club by Mr. Weightman, to whom we are much indebted.

\* \* \*

The term has been bare of lectures; instead, boys have been the visitors, mainly to neighbours the outsides of whose premises are familiar to us all. We have been indebted to Bradbury Wilkinson's, Senior's, Decca's, Air Pumps, Venner's and Rototherm's for opening their doors to parties from the School.

\* \* \*

House Plays are in preparation at the same time as this issue, and we look forward to their production on April 6th, and to Mr. Wrinch's visit for the occasion, which he has kindly promised to judge. Also future to the editor, past to the reader, is the Puppet Play of March 11th-13th. Those fascinated by space-ships will particularly have enjoyed it; others may hope that the puppeteers have now got it out of their system.

The Old Boys, at their Annual General Meeting last term, generously voted money to establish an annual prize of the value of about two guineas to be added to our list from this autumn. How this is to be awarded their Committee have yet to settle with the Headmaster. but we are in any case grateful for this handsome gesture.

\* \* \*

Old Boys at the Universities no doubt work hard; they earn other distinctions too. We have previously had more than one editor of the "Isis"; this term we boast our first producer for the O.U.D.S. in John Powell, and our first full "blue" (we believe) in A. G. G. Law. He appears in the Athletics match against Cambridge.

\* \* \*

A score or thereabouts of Sixth-Formers participated with Seniors from other local schools in an S.C.M. Conference at King's College School on the afternoons of March 1st and 2nd. They found it stimulating and rewarding; it is a pity others abstained.

\* \* \*

Welcome signs of human activity, as well as of spring, may have been noticed in the half-derelict area where the shelters stood, near our Bushey boundary. Honour is due to the stout-hearted pioneers who have opened up plots there in the past under Miss Woodhouse's encouragement, or who began the tough task of clearing weeds and rubble in wintry weather. Now, under Mr. Trinder's leadership, larger plans are envisaged, and for a start a stout hedge to enclose the area along the boundary, and a few ornamental trees, are planted. Transformations are not possible overnight, but gradually what has been an eyesore may become a pleasant place. Those with hearts and backs stout for the work should rally to help.

## HOUSE NOTES

### Gibbs

*Captain:* J. M. Davis. *Prefect:* R. Loveday.

With much pride I can now state the destination of the Parents' Rugby Cup. After ten years, it rests in Gibbs House, where I hope it will remain for many years to come. The Senior Rugby team continued its highly promising start by drawing with Cobbs (14—14) and by soundly beating Miltons (33—3). The Colts followed this fine example by winning three of four matches, so winning the cup. To date, the Juniors have played two matches and won two—Miltons (22—0) and Cobbs (3—0). In both these matches Wearn Jr. and Ayres have been outstanding. However, much more competition can be expected from Newsoms.

The major sport this term is Hockey. As the ground has been unfit only one match has been played, namely a Senior match against Halliwells which was won 5—0. A convincing victory, but if we are to win the other matches we must learn co-ordination, accurate passing and first-time hitting in defence. The potentialities of the Colts are yet unknown.

The two minor sports this term are Cross Country and the Gymnastics Competition. In the Cross Country run we were placed a very close third to Newsoms, Cobbs being the winners. As usual there was no shortage of Seniors willing to qualify by completing three training runs over the School course. Two of our Seniors plainly showed us that they are capable of becoming good runners. These two, Hulatt and R. Loveday were 8th and 11th, respectively. Elliott, too, proved his worth by running very well to gain a valuable 13th place. Davis, the captain, finished 5th. The House congratulates all concerned.

Qualifying for the Gymnastics Competition is now nearing an end, and the final result will shortly be known. Our chances of winning this competition for the third time since it started three years ago are very high indeed.

This term saw the introduction of an Inter-House Chess Competition. Unfortunately the House team has lost its three matches. It certainly tries hard, but the present standard of the opposition is proving too high for them.

Last but not least there is the House Play Competition. Though it does not contribute to Cock House it is one of the keenest competitions of the School year. This year we are presenting an excerpt from "The River Line" by Charles Morgan, a play portraying the "escape movement" for Allied prisoners in Occupied France. To Elliott, the producer, and the supporting cast of Fowles, Wright (C. C.), Lynch, Wearn and Davis, the House expresses its best wishes for success. The stage management is once again in the capable hands of Stracy.

At the time of going to press, we are placed second in the Cock House ladder. Next term will prove the most difficult. Cricket, Swimming and Athletics are the main events. Morrison, whom we welcomed this term, will be a great asset to the Swimming team. His keenness in qualifying has been more than satisfactory.

In the cricketing sphere we retain Ridgway, Elliott, Mazdon and Stracy of last year's team.

The future, while not bright, is by no means dull, for I am certain that everyone will do his utmost to keep up the high standards of the House.

J.M.D.

### Cobbs

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

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

This term, in spite of setbacks received from the weather, we have continued to make good our excellent start in the year's competitions. Our excellent house spirit has once again proved our greatest asset and thus far we have been first or second in every competition.

*Rugby.*—In spite of a disappointing last match against Halliwells, in which the Seniors were defeated by 8—6, the Colts rallied splendidly in their last three matches, finished first equal in their section of the competition and ensured us second place in the Cup.

*Hockey.*—So far the weather has prevented us from playing all but one game in each section. The Seniors gained a convincing victory over Newsoms and were leading 8—1 with twenty minutes to go. Unfortunately the defence lost control and allowed our opponents to score four more goals, but the issue was never seriously in doubt. Our Colts have been rather more unfortunate in only drawing with Halliwells, but with such players as Hill (A. D.), Hill (C. A.) and Ingram in the team, we should improve on this in the remaining games.

*Cross Country.*—Here was our greatest triumph of the term. On a very wet course Talbot ran magnificently to win, Francis was a close second, and Eagleson and Cook both ran well to finish 6th and 9th, respectively. As a result we won the Cup easily from Newsoms and our congratulations must go to a very fine team indeed.

*Debating.*—Here again we started on a high note by firmly beating Gibbs in a debate on the state of the Press. Unfortunately, in the final debate against Miltons, we could not keep up the extremely high standard of our former speeches and were unable to persuade either the audience or the judges that "History is Bunk." Hayter, Cook, Wright and Manning all spoke well from the floor, Wilson was reliable from the table, but somehow or other we all lost our poise and urgency against the experienced Miltons team.

*Chess.*—In this new competition the team has so far encountered no opposition, defeating Halliwells 4—0 and Miltons 3½—½. We look forward with confidence to our matches with Gibbs and Newsoms.

*Juniors.*—Last term our Juniors were unfortunate to lose their opening match against Halliwells, but this term they put up an excellent show against a very strong Gibbs team and only lost in the final minute of the game, 0—3. The team is rather small, but Mitchell and Coney of the backs and Foulsham of the forwards have been outstanding in an extremely hard-working team.

*House Play.*—This competition has been transferred to this term, and we have high hopes of Hayter's production of "Red Night" by James Lansdale Hodson. It has a large cast, but with plenty of rehearsal should make a strong bid to retain the Cup.  
D.A.J.

### Haliwells

*Captain:* M. A. Phillips. *Vice-Captain:* M. Cousins.

Last term did not see the House do as well as was hoped for in the Rugby Cup, even though the Senior team had a School three-quarter line. In spite of this lack of success we did manage to wind up the term on a triumphant note by completing the hat-trick over Cobbs in that all three teams won: the Seniors by 8—6, the Colts by 21—12 and the Juniors by 6—3. This however was the Seniors' only win and they duly finished fourth equal in their section. The Colts, under the excellent captaincy of Creasey, shared first place in their competition with Cobbs and Gibbs, and are to be congratulated on this valiant effort. Due to this effort we were finally placed third in the competition. Our thanks are also owed to Higham (C.), Ingram and Pickhaver (who, unfortunately, is leaving this term to join the Merchant Navy). We wish him godspeed and success in his future career.

The first House activity this term was the Michael Welby Debating Competition. This year we were once again knocked out by Gibbs, although we did manage to divide the judges. We must thank the team for putting up such a good fight.

Cross Country was our next engagement and in spite of the fact that we were the holders we only finished fourth. Bad luck dogged us in that two of our best runners were unable to run because of injury. Nevertheless, congratulations are due to Marriott and Swinscoe for finishing 3rd and 7th, respectively, and the rest of the team for such a plucky fight under the appalling conditions.

At the time of writing only one House match has been played in the Senior section of the Hockey Cup. The team was unfortunately deprived of its captain, M. J. Phillips, and M. Cousins because of injuries. Boyd, who took over the captaincy, played well, but must learn to encourage the rest of the team a little more. The team tried hard but could not overcome Gibbs, and so lost 5—0. The Colts have fared better in their only match, drawing with Cobbs 3—3. We hope both teams will improve in their remaining matches.

House Plays have been put forward to this term, and G. A. Young is in charge of our production. This year we are producing "Strife" by John Galsworthy. We hope to improve, by this ambitious production, on previous years' results, and wish Young and all his cast success.

The Juniors managed to win their first match, beating Cobbs 6—3. The match against Newsoms saw them overwhelmed by superior play plus physical strength and size. We hope they will not be disheartened but win their remaining games. The team has been well led by King, with good support from Higgs, Impey, Davidson, Crewe and Kingham.

Swimming qualifying is still not good enough, and greater efforts are needed if we are to have even the slightest chance of success on Sports Day. Juniors who are non-swimmers are urged to learn as soon as possible, while the Seniors must back up those enthusiastic Colts.

Next term sees many competitions which will determine the destiny of the Cock House Cup, and amongst these is the Athletics Cup which we have won more times than any other House. If we are to retain this cup the whole House must pull its weight, not only by qualifying, but by making a real effort to finalize. If this is achieved we need have no qualms on Sports Day.

M.A.P.

### Miltons

*Captain:* R. S. Betts.

*Rugby.*—Last term the Senior team, which on paper appeared so strong, did not beat Gibbs in their last game, and they thus had to be content with only one victory in the series. The Colts, however, who had lost three games, were, on the contrary, able to gain a convincing win in their last encounter, against Newsoms, by 18—0, thereby showing some of the talent they undoubtedly possess. The captains of both teams—Bunyan and Brugger—have been a source of great encouragement to their teams, and with only two victories to our credit, we came last in the competition.

*Junior Rugby.*—The Juniors have also been most unlucky, losing disastrously to Newsoms by 57—0, and to Gibbs by 22—0. It is to be hoped that they are not discouraged by what are undoubtedly only temporary set-backs.

*Cross Country.*—The less said about this activity the better. There are no School runners in the House; indeed, there are few people who can even run. This fact, together with the bad luck of our captain, Howard, who lost by accident at least thirty yards at the start, put us in a hopeless position. Howard ran so well that he was our first man home, but we had floundered hopelessly, and were inevitably last.

*Chess.*—In spite of the fact that we have few good players, the House has done well in this new competition, considering that the teams of two other Houses are entirely made up of School players. We beat Gibbs by 2½—1½, and Halliwells by 4—0; but played badly against Cobbs, losing by ½—3½. Thus, although we cannot win the trophy, we have by no means disgraced ourselves.

*Hockey.*—The weather—such a favourite topic of conversation—has been such that after two months of this term only one match has been played. This was the Colts game against Newsoms, whom they beat 7—0. We hope this is a happy omen for both teams in the other seven matches, when at length they take place.

*House Play.*—Rehearsals are well under way of Ivan Turgenev's "A Provincial Lady." It is a good play, and we hope for success.

*Debating.*—This year, having lost two valuable debaters last summer, we were forced to find new talent, and to recast the team. This problem was successfully overcome, and we won the Cup for the second year in succession, receiving a 2—1 majority of judges' votes in the semi-final against Newsoms, in a lively debate about the value of monarchy; and a unanimous verdict against Cobbs in the final, when we opposed the motion that "History, as Mr. Ford alleges, is bunk." Bunyan, Read, Cohen and Faint certainly worked together as a team, and they thoroughly deserved the congratulations which were showered upon them after their performance.

Next term come the Tennis, Cricket, Swimming and Athletics Competitions. It is as yet too early to guess how we will shape in the first two, but we must definitely speed up Swimming qualifying. In the past, we have suffered from a shortage of qualifying points not only in Swimming but also in Athletics. Now we have recently heard with delight that our last House Captain, Alan Law, has been awarded a "blue" for Athletics at Oxford. Let us, on this account, determine to do our utmost in this activity next term. Then, with any luck, our enthusiasm will spread, and the Debating Cup will not be the only one we hold.  
R.S.B.

### Newsoms

*Captain:* D. J. Bevan.

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

Fourth was Newsoms' position in the Rugby Competition of last term. Sound teamwork, a co-ordination between forwards and three-quarters, aggressive attack and sound defence characterized the Senior XV. Unfortunately, however, these qualities were sadly lacking in the Colt XV, which

suffered a series of stunning defeats, explained in part by a lack of talent, but essentially by a marked deficiency in determination. Before Newsoms can achieve any definite degree of success, the Colt section of the House must shake off its present lethargy and realize the vital contribution that it has to make. To date the Junior XV has gained two most decisive victories in the Junior Rugby Competition, of 70—0 against Halliwells and 57—0 against Miltons; victories due to a wealth of talent and an abundance of enthusiasm. The leadership of the team has been in the worthy hands of Stevens (D. C.), whose firm example has been wisely followed by the rest of the team. Provided that their remarkable enthusiasm is carried into the Cricket Competition of next term, their chances of winning the Junior Shield will be high.

**This term the main interests are Cross Country and Hockey.** In the Cross Country run Newsoms' team ran extremely well to finish second (with 127 points) to Cobbs (116 points). That the team contained only two School runners made the result particularly satisfying. Credit is due to the captain, Spencer (D. C.) (16th), in particular for his efficient organization of the team, to Weightman (4th), to Loible (10th), Judge (12th), Britton (19th), M. L. Smith (21st), Tabor (25th), and to those who defied the appalling conditions of the race and yet failed to score. Unfavourable weather has permitted few Hockey matches this term. Both Senior and Colt teams have made an inauspicious beginning in the competition with defeats of 5—8 by the Senior XI to Cobbs, and 1—2 by the Colt XI to Miltons. Of the Colt XI Stevens (A. J.) has played intelligently and has led his side with determination. Outstanding of the Senior XI have been the captain, Mervyn Smith, Loible, Spencer (D. C.) and Weightman. If the XI had concentrated more on attack, and had relied less on defence, Cobbs' deserving win might well have been turned into defeat.

The Michael Welby Competition has been held this term. Proposing the motion, "This House regards the monarchy as of little value in the modern world," the team of Weightman, D. J. Bevan, R. A. Giles, Williams and P. J. Parsons suffered a narrow and most unfortunate defeat to Miltons. Weightman led the team with creditable zeal; P. J. Parsons, although charged by Miltons' principal speaker with half-relevant flippancy, was particularly impressive. The debating section of the House will be severely depleted next year. I do, therefore, urge more members of the House to speak at meetings of the Debating Society, and thereby gain experience for future years. In the Chess Competition—a new competition inaugurated this term—Newsoms team has played consistently well to beat Miltons, Gibbs 3½—2 and Halliwells 4—0, and seems to have ensured winning the Chess Trophy. The House is most fortunate to possess four of the School's best chess players in Britton, M. L. Smith, Weightman and Page (J. G.). The Spring Term programme also contains the Dramatics Competition: we wish R. A. Giles and his cast every success in their production of G. B. Shaw's "The Apple Cart."

The award of Major Open Scholarships to P. J. Parsons in Classics at Christ Church, Oxford, and D. J. Britton in Natural Science at Clare College, Cambridge, caused general satisfaction. We extend to them our hearty congratulations. D.J.B.

## CHRISTIAN UNION

Unfortunately our meetings this term have been disrupted to a considerable extent by other activities; Monday always seems to be the day chosen for debates, conferences and half-term holidays, to name but a few of the distractions. However, and this is the most important thing, we have continued to meet and so to proclaim our witness.

In an age of indifference and apathy, an age of apartheid and racial discrimination even in our own country, it is of the utmost importance that every Christian should give everything he has and is to proclaiming the gospel of Christ. That is why we have a Christian Union: we believe quite sincerely that

"Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands our soul, our life, our all."

After all, in a school of our high standard, there is a terrible danger of thinking that intellectual achievement or sporting ability will carry us through life, of coming to believe that God is all right for down-and-outs and reformed criminals, but that we, being respectable men of considerable intellect, can rely on ourselves, and have no need of Him, need grant Him no place in our lives.

Yet approximately 1,925 years ago this Easter, God knew that men had become so self-satisfied, and had brought the world to such a pitch of confusion, that the only way He could bridge the enormous gulf between God and man was to die a human death for the sins of the world, and then to rise again in triumph over death. We cannot fully understand *how* He became "the general saviour of mankind"; we only know that He did, that this His spirit lives on, and is still powerful to change men's hearts. And yet men have not seized the opportunity of redeeming their world; people, as Studdart Kennedy said, are content to leave their Saviour longing for the pain of Calvary rather than the total apathy of a modern city. Mr. Stephen Spender has stated that in his opinion Christianity has no place in the modern world, because it is out of touch with everything that goes to make up our age: it is up to each and every one of us to prove him wrong. D.A.J.

## DA VINCI SOCIETY

"Portraits of Plants" was the title of the first lecture of the term, given by Mr. Riley, on January 25th. In this talk a wide variety of examples of painting and engraving of plants was shown, from early Egyptian to contemporary floral arrangements. Stress was laid on the beauty and strength of design to be found in plant form, and both Eastern and Western approaches were presented. Beauty was shown to be found in both the subtle arrangement of a single branch or stem and the flamboyant compositions of the Eighteenth Century Dutch masterpiece.

On February 15th Mr. Rudgley gave a lively and informed talk on the "Picturesque in Art" in which he compared the rustic approach to landscape with the classical, and pointed out that the picturesque viewpoint was not necessarily a natural way of looking at scenes, but had been subtly imposed on the lay mind by artists who practised this particular angle of vision in the Eighteenth Century. Without knowing it most people to-day look at views in just this picturesque way because of this artistic imposition. In order really to appreciate beauty in its many diverse forms it is vital that one learns to look for oneself. The artist can help only part of the way.

Due to illness, Mr. Archer was unable to give us a talk this term, as was also Mr. O'Driscoll, who had intended to explain the intricacies of the art of weaving, of which he is an exponent. We hope that we shall have the pleasure of hearing this talk next term.

At the time of writing the following lectures are to be given:—

"Leonardo da Vinci," by Mr. Bruce, March 8th.

"The Art of the Greek Theatre," by Mr. Cholmondeley, March 15th.

"Hogarth," by P. J. Parsons, March 29th.

This term we are holding the second Art Competition, open to the whole School. The subject chosen is an interpretation of the poem "Order to View" by Louis Macneice. A criticism of the entries will be given on March 22nd, and the Headmaster has kindly offered a prize should the work be of a sufficiently high standard. Mr. Archer, Mr. Rudgley, Mr. Townsend and Mr. Riley will form the panel of judges. Considerable interest was shown in the last competition and there is every indication that a larger number of entries are to be expected this time.

Architecture is as yet a subject little touched upon in our lectures, and it is proposed next term to have a number of talks on this subject followed by visits to places of architectural interest.

Thanks to the willing co-operation of my colleagues the Society continues to flourish, and does, I feel, play a most important part in the life of the School. A.C.R.

The fog which has been known to black out the Society's autumn meeting failed, on this occasion, to appear: so it was a full gathering—though our Secretary was unfortunately unable to attend—which met to hear Alan Hopkins talk about his expedition to Italy. He had taken a bicycle with him; had he been Hannibal with a troop of elephants, he could hardly, it appears, have had more forms to fill in.

With the aid of some photographs and the faithful epidiascope, he took us first to Rome itself, a small city curiously compounded of old and new. On one side, a Roman building "in a highly picturesque state of semi-dilapidation"; on the other, a complicated and "classical" Baroque fountain; while between the two the modern Italian runs riot on his Vespa, under the benevolent gaze of a Coca-Cola advertisement.

Leaving Rome, after a visit to Ostia, once a great port, now also a lido, he turned south along the Appian Way, over the Alban Hills and the Pontine Marshes, and so to Naples, then in the grip of a religious festival. This is the region of Lake Avernus, of the Sorrento Peninsular and Capri, and of Vesuvius. A train journey took him to the twin cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum which were buried in the great eruption of 79 A.D. Both have been largely excavated. At Herculaneum, some of the houses revealed stand two stories high; while Pompeii has to show a theatre, amphitheatre, forum and shops. In the museum at Pompeii may be seen plaster casts taken from the impression left by writhing bodies in the engulfing mud. In this area also, we were told, roams that dangerous creature, the Englishwoman Abroad.

Alan Hopkins returned, finally, to Rome; and thence set off via Switzerland towards home, our President's hospitality,

'epulaeque ante ora paratae  
Chumifico luxu." P.J.P.

## LITERARY SOCIETY

On January 21st the Literary Society broke new ground by holding a reading of James Elroy Flecker's "Hassan." There is a large cast in this poetic play, and the number present was small, but this did not prevent us thoroughly enjoying the evening—indeed, the doubling, and even trebling, of parts served to heighten our pleasure at this delightful work, in which the limpidity of the words is one of the greatest attractions.

A fortnight later we discussed the merits and defects of "Hassan." Someone attempted to explain the fact that the story seems to tail off after the opening scene by suggesting that Flecker was not so much concerned in telling a story as in pointing a moral—that in this world, power corrupts. However, it was pointed out that the author's obvious delight in beautiful words precluded any idea that he had an important moral at the back of his mind. The conclusion finally reached was that "Hassan" like "Twelfth Night" is, first and foremost, a play with the idea of delighting its audience. This, it was agreed, it succeeds in doing.

Another play-reading was planned for this term—either "The Wild Duck" or "The Cherry Orchard." Also, D. A. Jackson has promised to address us on Edward Thomas. Those who remember his talk on Francis Thompson will await this event with eager anticipation.

Last term original poetry was scarce, but now the fountains of the poetic Muse have dried—or, more topically perhaps, frozen-up. Thus, although it has been the Literary Society's custom to supply a Folio of Verse each year, it appears that this year's will be decidedly thin, if it comes out at all. Next term we will have an out-and-out drive to get some. R.S.B.

At the time of writing, there have been no meetings of the Debating Society, owing to the Michael Welby Debating Cup Competition. It should be pointed out, however, that there were several new speakers in the series: we hope that they, together with others who may have to represent their Houses next year, and those who feel that their talents were neglected by their House Debating captains, will take the opportunity of attending the Society's future meetings to gain practice and recognition.

We have, up till now, been unsuccessful in trying to arrange another inter-school debate against Surbiton. Negotiations are going on, however, for a fixture with the motion "The British are a Sentimental Race." If this takes place, it should be both amusing and interesting.

The Debating Society has never had a large membership—and the number of people willing to speak for their Houses is decidedly limited. When one considers the present Sixth Form, this appears most surprising. During their private study periods in the Library, they are often by no means unwilling to air their views, forcefully, loudly, and at length, on a wide variety of subjects. Why they cannot transfer their ability to the Debating Society is a question they alone can answer, and a matter they alone can remedy.

R.S.B.

## SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

Since the publication of last term's edition of *The Spur*, the Sixth Form Society has held three evening meetings, to which we have been pleased to welcome girls from Wimbledon County School. The film "Odd Man Out," shown on November 3rd and introduced by Mr. Rudgley, proved to be most popular, particularly perhaps to those who at a previous meeting of the Society had seen Basil Wright's film analysing its narrative construction. As a novel form of light entertainment for the Society and in complete harmony with the festive spirit of Christmas, a Beetle Drive was held on December 3rd. The small, but select, gathering of supporters agreed that this must surely have been one of the most enjoyable and socially successful meetings held by the Society. The Rugby Dance held at the end of last term was again a great success, both socially and financially. The colourful decorations, for which we are largely indebted to Tulett, transformed the appearance of the Hall from one of gloom to gaiety.

"Ninotchka," a film of the late 'thirties and recommended by Mr. Rudgley, was shown at the meeting held on February 25th. Ninotchka is an earnest young woman who comes from Moscow to Paris on official duty and whose interests are aggressively statistical. She finds, however, that there is more in Paris than diagrams explaining the construction of the Eiffel Tower. She finds that champagne is drunk in Paris, that love is experienced there, and in general that life in a "capitalist" country is not altogether distasteful to her. To explain to her the subtlety of those jokes in which Scots are always meeting Scots in streets, the Count, who quite naturally in Ninotchka's eyes is a counter-revolutionary, might have reason to find difficulty. He has no difficulty in making her laugh, however, when he slips backward over his chair. And he certainly had no difficulty in making us laugh. D.J.B.

## GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

Last term we began a series giving a chronological survey of the symphony, which will last at least until the end of the year. It has so far proved popular, and we hope that in the future surveys of the concerto and the sonata will be arranged.

We should, of course, have started the series with Haydn, but it was not until this term that records of his works became available to us, in the form of four symphonies representative of both groups of his English symphonies.

and the "Surprise" (No. 94), which belongs to the Salomon symphonies of 1791, also owes much of its renown to the slow movement, particularly because the rustic simplicity is interrupted by a deafening bang! calculated to rouse the female portion of a concert audience out of its lethargy. These were played on January 19th and February 16th. Haydn's second visit to England, in 1794, produced two masterpieces in Nos. 100 and 101, known, respectively, as "The Military" and "The Clock," which were played on January 26th and February 9th. The pomp and circumstance of trumpet and drums make the former perhaps Haydn's most brilliant work, while the latter, more wistful, includes one of the most beautiful melodies ever written—the serene andante with its tick-tock accompaniment, and a trio of a most engaging simplicity.

Last term we played two symphonies by Mozart, Nos. 39 and 40, the first two of the three composed in the summer of 1788. We hope to be able to play the third—No. 41 ("The Jupiter") and also No. 37 ("The Linz") before passing on to the works of Beethoven. We feel that it would be unforgivable to omit any of his nine symphonies—if we are lucky we will be able to get records of them all.

Owing to the production of "Zanatoc," we have recently been unable to hold our meetings in the Art Room and have consequently had to seek accommodation in the Physics and Biology labs. We are grateful for the hospitality in these places, but the rattling scales' cases in the former, and the animal and vegetable matter in the latter, make us pine for our return to the Art Room. There, we hope, we will have a large audience for the Beethoven symphonies. Certainly nobody should miss them.

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

## CACTUS SOCIETY

Towards the end of last term the Cactus Society was formed. The idea was inspired by a special exhibition of plants in the corridor show-case and by the discovery that several of both boys and staff had this common interest. The object is, by talks, displays and visits, to enlarge and improve individual collections and learn more of the correct treatment.

Last term there were three events of importance. The first was an epidiascope lecture by J. D. French. Then followed an exhibition in the Art Room, supported by boys and staff, showing cacti and succulents in great variety. The third was the first step of a project, a large-scale map of South America and the Panama area, and this will eventually show the natural habitat and distribution of many kinds of cacti. Members also visited the shows at the Royal Horticultural Hall.

In January, C. J. Howe gave a talk on "Re-potting Cacti," and in February J. D. French spoke on "Raising from Seed." In March the members will visit the nurseries of Mr. Hepworth, a professional grower of Streatham, and later they will visit together the Botanical Gardens (and Cactus House in particular) at Kew.

Cactus seeds have been distributed among members already this term and for most of them it will be the first experiment in cultivation from seed. Results from this, and mature specimens from the quite large collections of members, will take their place among the Summer Open Night displays. The Society is small but developing and it is grateful to Mr. Trinder for the use of the Biology Lab. and microscopes, and to other masters who have encouraged and advised.

C.J.H.

## 19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

The Christmas Term ended quietly. Even the holidays were quiet, for the all-day walk to the Runnymede Memorial and Windsor Park attracted only a few, and the night wide game on Wimbledon Common, in a very different sense, laid the emphasis on silence. It is rumoured that the Seniors who saw the New Year "in" at the Cabin at West Hoathly were also very quiet. Asleep?

The new term began very noisily however. Parents, friends and scouts assembled in Hall for the annual "Peruga." The inner man was satisfied, the troop welcomed visitors by sending them on further trails by "train," signalled to them, threw balloons at them, fed them and quenched the thirsts. Jerks took them all the way to Widdicombe Fair and Koko sent them on their way with a song in their hearts. It was an enjoyable evening and the Scouters found themselves glad that scouts really had parents.

The term's meetings have proceeded much as usual. Many of the Troop have passed the Second Class hurdle, and it is hoped that we may see more First Class Scouts about at summer camp this year. Pollard has gained, and well deserves, his Naturalist Badge. At Half-Term the patrol leaders departed for Bentley Copse for a training camp. Sunday was spent with Tiger, lighting fires, building screens against the rain and satisfying appetites. Koko arrived at last, on Monday after flying round the area for an hour before making contact; and then cooking came in for treatment and criticism. Bevan came down on Tuesday to render assistance. The success of the weekend had best be judged by the patrol leaders' proficiency at the Easter and Summer Camps.

The immediate diary of events includes another Parents' Meeting, the Crafts and Hobbies Exhibition, Easter Patrol Camps, Bob-a-Job activities, the annual St. George's Day Service and Parade (April 25th) and preparations for the annual Garden Party. The present tentative plan for the summer camp is to hold this from July 26th to August 6th at a place about three miles along the coast south of Dartmouth and facing Start Bay. It will be new ground for us and there is much in that area that will be of interest. If present links with a local River Pilot can be nursed in a friendly way, the camp might find itself "off-shore" as well.

E.G.R.

## CRAFT NOTES

"For whereas all works of craftsmanship were once beautiful, unwittingly or not, they are now divided into two kinds, works of art and non-works of art: now nothing made by man's hand can be indifferent: it must be either beautiful and elevating, or ugly and degrading; and those things that are without art are so aggressively; they wound it by their existence, and they are now so much in the majority that the works of art we are obliged to set ourselves to seek for, whereas the other things are the ordinary companions of our everyday life."—*William Morris*, 1880.

"Traditional" rather than "Contemporary"; "Hand-made" versus "Machine-made"; the "Modern" trend. What are these? Do they affect me? Do they make any difference to the way I live and the things I see about me? These words are commonplace, we see them time and again in numerous magazines and daily papers and hear them bandied about wherever art and craft is discussed in relation to everyday life. In London recently we have had the British Furniture Trades Exhibition and at the time of writing are being exhorted to go to the Ideal Homes Exhibition. Both these are very much concerned with our everyday lives and bring forth a great deal of comment involving the use of the words already quoted.

As a craftsman perhaps I am not so much concerned with words as many other people, but like all technicians, craftsmen have technical terms, which because of the nature of their products are very much part of everyday parlance. It is disconcerting for example to read in the daily press of light, pleasing furniture in the "Contemporary" style and dark treacle-coloured furniture with bulbous legs and sham carving in the "Traditional" style.

This one example shows a rather dangerous trend and serves as an illustration of how the meaning of a perfectly good and honourable word can become synonymous with all that is bad. "Tradition" is something which is handed down from generation to generation, something in which this nation is particularly rich, and of which, by and large, we can be justly proud. All the true crafts have a long and interesting history and have become known as "Traditional Crafts," traditional because the best in them has been handed down as generation succeeds generation and, in spite of changing social



## SPUR MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Since our last report our new branch line has been in use a great deal by both passenger and goods traffic and has proved a very useful addition indeed, and has relieved the other two lines for the fast main-line trains.

The Silver King engine recently added has been another welcome addition and has been running well and pulling quite long trains at a good average speed.

Our membership has been well up to average during the term, but we could find room for a few more members.

We hope to continue our building programme during the coming months, adding more houses, farms, animals, trees, etc., and also road transport such as petrol lorries, vans, a bus or two and a fire engine.

We are now experimenting with a device which will give a warning light, indicating the section where a fault takes place, enabling us to go to the spot right away instead of wasting time and trouble, tracing through each section at a time as at present. These faults cannot be avoided we know, because our track has to be assembled each night we use it and dismantled again when we have finished, then moved to the cloakroom for storage for another week. This puts a strain on the baseboard, which in turn twists the track and sometimes breaks it and the electric wires connected to it.

The track will again, we hope, be in action this year for the Garden Party. With the alterations and improvements we have made to the track we hope it will give added interest to those who come to see our trains in motion.  
S.J.Y.

## P.T. CLUB

The increasing numbers of boys attending have made it necessary to revert once again to last year's method of dividing the Club into two groups, Junior and Senior. This decision had to be made just before Half-Term when at least forty boys, both large and small, demanded entrance to the Gymnasium. It was a hopeless task trying to fit in First to Sixth Formers at the same time, as they tended to squabble over the use of the apparatus, but now everyone is happier in the greater amount of freedom, which, of course, has resulted in a higher standard of work.

At the time of writing, the result of the House P.T. Competition has not been decided as the Sixth Forms have still to take part. Last year Gibbs House won the competition, mainly through the help of their Senior members, and it is hoped that there will be a sustained effort from the Sixth in all Houses this year.  
N.H.B.

## OLD BOYS' SOCIETY

Perhaps it is unfair to suggest that many people at School are unaware of the Old Boys' Society, that they have at best only a vague idea of its existence and aims. I feel, however, that a brief outline of the Society's activities and achievements would not come amiss as a kind of reminder or as a spur to action at the present time. To those who will be leaving School this summer, in particular, I hope this may come as timely and useful information.

"What *does* the Society do?" somebody asked me in a rather truculent voice, when I returned to School recently. In the first place, obviously, it is the means of maintaining friendships and interests that originated at School. "That's very well," said my inquisitor, "but it's awfully vague." Well, to be more concrete, the Society has several flourishing groups under its name, which, while they are distinct entities, nevertheless merge their interests in such social occasions as the Annual Dinner and the Christmas Dance. Most active of all is the Sports section of the Society. The Rugby section has for every week of the past season fielded two XV's. Against a formidable list of opponents, both teams have recorded more victories than defeats (the "A" XV was especially successful), and their points' aggregate over the season is

conditions, has been able to adapt itself to serve the community. Surely that which is known as the best in "Contemporary" design is that which perpetuates the best in traditional craftsmanship and has been adapted to "Modern" conditions. Why label that which is good "Contemporary"? I suggest because it is contemporary with bad craftsmanship, which perpetuates the craft but does not adapt itself to existing social conditions and is, therefore, as William Morris says, a "non-work of art."

**Craftsmanship; "Hand-made" and "Machine-made."** I feel there will always be a place for the hand-craftsman, for he is able to combine conception with construction and conclusion, and his work (assuming it to be of high quality) has a unity and artistry unknown in a machine-produced article. If however we are to perpetuate our crafts for all to appreciate we must modify them to work for us in present-day conditions. The craftsman's products of pottery, woodwork, weaving, printing, bookbinding, leatherwork, and the host of other crafts are essential to us all and therefore must be adapted for machine methods of production to enable us all to share in their benefits. If we think of what is best in "Contemporary" work as being the knowledge gained by "Tradition" adapted for the "Machine," and what is bad as the machine attempting to emulate the "Handcraftsman," then "Modern" is that which is of our time, therefore without tradition, as yet untried; something in fact that we as Englishmen find uncomfortable and of which we are very shy.

Although man has not wholly learned to use his crafts properly, let him not abuse them by another and more recent form of expression—that of language.  
R.G.A.

## CHESS CLUB

Towards the end of last term, the closing rounds of the Knock-out Competition provided (as usual) plenty of surprises. A double reverse occurred in the semi-finals when Weightman beat Hayter and Britton defeated Jackson. Britton went on to beat Weightman in the final.

Mr. Weightman's generosity has enabled us to purchase a chess trophy, which will be held by the winners of the Inter-House Chess Competition. The trophy takes the form of a small but beautifully carved white ivory knight.

Thus, after being foreshadowed for many years (House matches were first suggested early in 1949), the first Inter-House Chess Competition was able to begin this term. It has revealed some unsuspected talent in the Middle School, and it is a curious fact that many players tend to play better in House Matches than they do for the School.

At present, with three rounds played, Cobbs and Newsoms (each W2) are neck and neck at the top of the table. Each has conceded only a single draw in eight games. Third are Miltons (W2, L1), fourth Gibbs (L2) and fifth Halliwells (L3). Halliwells are in the unfortunate position of having yet to win or draw a game. The final table will be published next term.

A new system of lending boards and sets has been introduced this term in an attempt to prevent destruction and disintegration of sets. So far this has been highly successful. The system of signing for boards has revealed a commendable enthusiasm in the Lower and Middle Schools, but a regrettable lack of it in the Fifth Forms.

The results of last term's School matches were as follows:—

1st VIII		2nd VIII	
v. Tiffin's ...	Lost 3—7	v. Kingston Grammar	Lost 3½—4½
v. Surbiton ...	Won 7½—2½		
v. Kingston Grammar	Lost 3—5		
v. King's College ...	Lost 2½—5½		

So far this term only one School match has been played. This was against Bec and resulted in a comfortable win for the School (5—3).  
D.J.B.

nearly double that of their opponents'. Such success speaks a lot for the skill and enthusiasm of the teams and the hard work of the organizers. A regular mid-week training evening has done a lot to maintain teamwork: an obviously difficult thing to achieve with members at work, at college, living at a distance, and pursuing scattered interests throughout the week: a difficulty that scarcely exists at School.

The Cricket section, which, to quote the statistics-happy team secretary, "would have done better had our increased number of fixtures been accompanied by a commensurate increase in regular membership," nevertheless lost only three of its eighteen matches. The Hockey section thrives in spite of, or perhaps because of, its appearance as a mixed team last term, and is at the moment fulfilling a heavy list of fixtures. There is a Tennis section of the Society, but it has a fluctuating, scanty membership, and is rather erratic (one might say, startling) in its activities and performance.

That, briefly, is an account of the very vigorous sporting life of the Society. It must be mentioned, for the benefit of anyone who suspects that he "won't know a soul" in the Society, that the composition of the teams includes members who have just left School, some who left as long ago as 1940, and representatives of practically every year in between. That they function happily together, the sports record amply witnesses to. This unity does not cease after the match, as anyone who has observed the determined and single-minded exodus from the sports-ground will acknowledge.

Other regular activities of the Society include an enthusiastic Music Club, a Discussion Group (informal and wide-ranging in subject-matter and procedure) and the Whist Drives, of which you already know. The Society has its own magazine, "The Old Spur," which appears three times a year. It summarizes the achievements of the Society and acts as a centre of information and interest for Old Boys, many of whom are literally hemispheres apart. (I have recently received one letter from a "young" Old Boy at the moment in Tasmania, and another from a contemporary of mine now living in Winnipeg). Original contributions to the magazine have so far been very few, but it is hoped (with a desperate optimism, and an eye to those about to leave School) that they will increase in number very shortly.

The two big annual social occasions are the Old Boys' Dinner and the Christmas Dance, always well attended. At the former meet Old Boys of every generation, and masters past and present. It is no exaggeration to say that everyone who has attended the Dinner has retained the happiest memories of it, for, apart from the excellence of the dinner itself, it serves as a focus of the Society's aims and achievements throughout the year, and for the tradition that has accumulated over many years.

There, briefly, is a summary of the activities of the Society; it is not a complete one, but I have tried to make it indicative of the spirit and actions of the Society. If it is truly to be an Old Boys' Society we have need of the new "generation," and the new generation will surely derive benefit from membership: the School motto does not cease to have meaning once school is left behind.

J.M.H.

P.S.—For information, the Secretary is Geoff. Osmint, who will welcome all enquiries, at 79 Westway, S.W.20.

## RUGBY

The 1st XV finished the season with only a moderate record:—

P	W	L	D	Points	
				For	Against
12	3	8	1	89	169

This does not truly represent the high standard of football the team was capable of playing, but does show how spasmodically they played it. So inconsistent was the team that we defeated, or lost only narrowly, to the better teams, and yet lost badly to many of the poorer.

At the time of writing last term, we had seen a considerable improvement in the side, which had defeated Surbiton and Reigate in successive games, and looked forward to a successful season. This was not to be, however, and the next three games saw a very disappointing fall in the standard of our play. Wallington, Tiffin's and City Freeman's defeated us soundly, and Wallington, in particular, demonstrated how easy it is to score, if the ball comes quickly out of the loose and tight "scrums," catching the other side's backs out of position. Throughout the season our own forwards seemed loth to heel the ball, and often, in the loose, appeared not even to be bothering to look for it. We were unfortunate to lose our full-back, Beaumont, against Tiffin's, early in the second half. Since we had held them up to this point, this, coupled with the fact that Spencer also was injured, may in part account for our heaviest defeat of the season. Against City Freeman's we were heavily hit by injuries and we were defeated easily by a side which gave our backs, mostly 2nd XV players, an object-lesson in running and handling. At Wandsworth, after a disappointing first half, the team livened up and in a storming finish we almost pulled the game out of the fire. We lost more through a lack of co-ordination than through any superiority of our opponents. At home we lost, unnecessarily, to a very moderate Mitcham side, again due to lethargic play on our part.

The last two games we played showed what the team was really capable of. We had an even game against Bec and the draw was a fair result. Against the Old Boys the team played magnificently, and it seemed we could do little wrong. The pack played splendidly, and held and often pushed a far heavier Old Boys' pack off the ball. The backs, M. L. Smith and Shepherd (D. C.) in particular, showed how safe the handling could have been throughout the season, and in this match their true penetrative power was in evidence. Loible, at full-back, was an excellent substitute for the injured Beaumont. If only the 1st XV had shown this form earlier!

P.J.B.

Colours have been awarded to Bevan, Beaumont, Fash and Higham.

M.L.S.

## Results

1st XV				2nd XV			
v. Wallington	...	Lost	8—23	v. Wallington	...	Drawn	9—9
v. City Freeman's	...	Lost	3—15	v. Tiffin's	...	Lost	3—11
v. Tiffin's	...	Lost	3—32	v. Mitcham	...	Lost	0—37
v. Mitcham	...	Lost	3—6	v. Wandsworth	...	Lost	3—23
v. Wandsworth	...	Lost	6—13	v. Tooting Bec	...	Won	11—0
v. Tooting Bec	...	Drawn	3—3	v. Old Boys	...	Lost	5—26
v. Old Boys	...	Won	15—14				

## Junior Rugby

This term has not proved a happy one for Junior Rugby as School and House matches have had to be either cancelled or postponed owing to frozen, and then waterlogged, pitches. So far the Under Fourteen team has played only one match, against Balham School, which they drew six points all, and it was very noticeable in that game that both sides were badly in need of practice.

In the House Competition Newsoms appear to be cantering home to victory. They are fortunate in having a big set of Juniors who seem to take it in turns to score, but, at times, it is a pity to see so much individualism when there is great opportunity to develop team play. Nevertheless they have passed the half-century mark in both of their matches. Gibbs are undefeated, too, and we look forward to a battle royal when these teams meet later on in the term.

N.H.B.

## HOCKEY

### Results

v. Surbiton H.C. 3rd XI	...	...	(A)	Lost	0—6
v. Kingston G.S. 2nd XI.	...	...	(A)	Won	1—0
v. St. George's College 2nd XI	...	...	(A)	Drawn	2—2
v. Spring Grove G.S.	...	...	(H)	Won	5—1
v. St. Mary's College	...	...	(A)	Won	5—1

### 2ND XI

v. Banstead	...	...	...	(A)	Won	3—0
v. Kingston G.S. 3rd XI	...	...	...	(H)	Lost	0—3
v. St. George's College 3rd XI	...	...	...	(A)	Lost	0—3
v. City of London School 2nd XI	...	...	...	(A)	Lost	0—3

### 1st XI

It will be obvious from the results above that these notes must begin with the customary moan of all hockey captains that would have a really first-class hockey eleven if only . . . First of all we have had to cope with the fiendish nature of the weather which has been even more freakish than usual. Snow, frost and rain, added to the unsuitability of "Oberon" for playing hockey on, have all played their part in the cancellation of some five 1st XV fixtures to date, and consequently the Eleven have had little or no experience in playing as a team.

Apart from a disastrous ten minutes against Surbiton, in which the opposing forwards scored four goals, the defence has been generally sound—indeed, in the second half of the same game it played magnificently to concede only one goal and to earn the well-deserved compliments of the Surbiton team. Wearn in goal had an excellent game against Kingston Grammar School, but otherwise has not quite lived up to last year's promise. We were unfortunately deprived of the services of Beaumont for the first game, but he has rapidly settled down into his usual imperturbable self at full-back. Cook has played well in a new position, but perhaps the return to half-back in the St. George's game indicates his true position, where his ball sense can be put to its best advantage. Keeble, in his three appearances so far, has given us a steady display of positioning and firm hitting, and may well become a permanent asset to the team. Loible has made an excellent début in 1st XI hockey, and his mobility and positional play have done much to make the left wing as strong as it has ever been. At right-half, Pooles has been steady, if rather slow on the ball. Of the forwards Smith and Shepherd have been outstanding, but although they have such brilliant ball control and dribbling ability, they must learn to pass instead of trying to beat a man too many. An excellent compact defence such as we have come to expect from Kingston Grammar can never be broken by individual dribbling, and in the end it was only an excellent first-time shot by Phillips from the edge of the circle that gained us our narrow victory. Lavous has used the ball more intelligently than most of the other forwards, and when Phillips has been able to use his speed, the right wing combination has been at least satisfactory. Finally, it is pleasant for a hockey captain to be able to say that we have at last a natural left wing. In past years, this position has often proved the weak spot of our team, but despite a bad start at Surbiton, Corke has played with vigour and precision in this most awkward of all positions.

So far I have only mentioned individuals; and yet this is how the team, for the most part, has played. Lack of cohesion, the inability to shoot hard and first time, and, above all, the unwillingness to follow up has proved the team's downfall time and time again. At St. George's, against a team much weaker than ourselves, a few well-placed through passes could have split open the opposition defence, but instead of coasting to an easy victory we were held to a draw. If the whole team was a yard quicker on the ball, results would inevitably follow. Still, the picture is by no means all black: we have played four games of fast, enjoyable hockey, and we can only hope that the rest of the season will bring no more cancellations and a rich crop of victories.

*Team (from):* Wearn; Beaumont (R. M.), D. I. Cook, Keeble; Pooles, D. A. Jackson, Loible, M. A. Phillips, Lavous, Shepherd, M. L. Smith, Corke, Phillips (M. J.).

### 2nd XI

The 2nd XI, as always, has never been allowed to settle down into a stable team, as demands for the 1st XI are always weakening its strength, and there are no adequate players to fill the places so left. In particular the defence has suffered in this way, and the continued absence of Phillips and Keeble in the 1st XI has taken away its foundations. Fash has captained the team well at centre-half, and has played consistently there, but only Williams has otherwise been reliable, so that Burns in goal has often been called upon to bear more of the brunt of attack than goalkeepers have a right to expect. Under these conditions he has stood up manfully, and has produced some really excellent saves; his kicking is beautifully timed, and were it not for him the total of goals against would have been much higher. Of the forwards, only Weightman and Tulett have shown any consistence, and even they have found a strange inability to shoot that seems to affect all our forwards. Cousins is fast, but as yet lacks the skill to make him the first-class winger he will one day be, and Elliott and Bunyan have combined well at times on the left wing. Indeed, on the whole, the forwards have been more satisfactory than the backs.

Whether it be the pernicious infiltration of a Rugby cult I know not, but there is less hockey talent among Fifth-formers than of late, and consequently the number of players of 2nd XI standard is few. Let us hope that an improvement in playing conditions will bring a new revelation of talent and a triumphant end to the season for the 2nd XI.

*Team (from):* Burns; Keeble, Williams, Fowles; Ridgway, Fash, Pooles, Boyd; Cousins, Weightman, Tulett, Elliott, Bunyan, Francis (M.). D.A.J.

### Colts Hockey

Out of five matches on the fixture list the weather has only permitted one to be played. This, against the City of London on March 6th, the Colts won by 3—2. It was in its way a notable victory. Fifteen minutes before the end of play the score was still 2—0 against them. The City team got away to a quick start and scored in the first five minutes. Nicholls (captain) seeing that Creasy (left-back) was playing up vigorously behind the forwards, while Avery (left-half) was hanging back and playing an excellent defensive game—anticipating and tackling well—wisely changed over their respective positions with good results. Shortly after half-time the City scored again. This, far from depressing our team, called forth a lively co-operative effort which resulted in a win. Brugger led the forwards with vigour and Geoff Hill, who played well, was lucky to push in two goals in succession from scrambles just outside the goal-line. Ingram and Pickhaver, playing on the wings, had been rather starved, but in the last few minutes a combined effort starting with a pass from Nicholls to Pickhaver, who shot the ball right across the centre with a first-timer, gave Ingram his chance to score the winning goal. Stevens kept well for Raynes Park.  
H.A.P.

### CROSS COUNTRY

With great regret we said goodbye to our captain, Braine, in mid-October. We thank him for his great services to the School team and wish him the best of luck in his career. His absence has been keenly felt in this season's remaining fixtures. On Braine's departure, Francis became captain and Davis became secretary.

On Wednesday, November 25th, the annual "Quadruple Match" was held over a course of 2½ miles in Richmond Park. We were placed 4th with 55 points Tiffin School being the winners, and Kingston Grammar School the runners-up. The shorter course did not suit the School runners, and from a field of 24, Francis was 10th (14.3), Talbot 13th (14.23), Davis 14th (14.24) and Eagleson 18th.

On December 12th the Junior Team defended "The Simmons Trophy" over a 2½-mile course at Nonsuch Park. Although we did not retain the trophy, the team must be congratulated in obtaining 3rd place from 11 teams, and especially Barry who was 3rd.

The first match of the Spring Term was on Wednesday, January 13th, against a very strong and well-trained R.A.F. team at Chessington. In treacherous muddy conditions an unfit School team was deservedly beaten by 26 points to 52 points. Marriott (4th) ran splendidly for the School but, alas, he was alone and had no real backing from the other School runners. He completed the 3½-mile course in 23 mins. 44 secs. Our other scorers were Francis (7th), Davis (8th), Swinscoe (10th), Eagleson (11th) and Osborne (12th).

On Saturday, January 23rd, we met Wallington C.G.S. and R.G.S. (Guildford) over 3½ miles on the "Densham Cup" course at Coulsdon. The team race was won by Wallington with 21 points, Guildford were 2nd with 30 points, and we were 3rd with 37 points. Our position is creditable as we were not outclassed by two of the strongest schools in the county. Barry, who is not yet 16 years old, ran an excellent race to finish 4th from a field of 20, in a time of 22 mins. 44 secs. Francis (7th), Davis (10th) and Talbot (16th) were our other scorers.

On Saturday, February 6th, the Senior team had its first victory of the season by beating Surbiton C.G.S. by 15 points to 23 points over the home course of 3½ miles. Thorpe of Surbiton, the individual winner in 18 mins. 15 secs., broke the course record. In hard and cold conditions, times were generally fast; Barry 2nd (18.35), Francis 3rd (18.40), Talbot 4th (18.50) and Eagleson 6th (19.00) were the School's scorers. The Junior race, run on the same course, had unfortunately to be abandoned as several runners lost the course, but encouraging times were returned by Stewart (1st in 19.30) and Osborne (2nd in 21.00).

On Tuesday, February 16th, we defended the Kingston G.S. Relay Cup with a team of Osborne, Smith (B.), Mellor and Barry. We were placed 3rd from five teams. Our runners were handicapped by running alone throughout most of the race. Barry, running the final leg, ran the fastest lap of the race.

On Friday, February 19th, 80 runners took part in the Inter-House Race over our 3½-mile course on Wimbledon Common. The times (the first six runners returning in 18.26, 18.38, 18.45, 19.40, 19.44 and 19.45, respectively) were exceptionally fast on a very muddy course. The winner, Talbot, led from the start and ran a fine race on his own in front of the rest of the field. The result of the race was:—

<i>Cobbs</i>	<i>Newsoms</i>	<i>Gibbs</i>	<i>Halliwells</i>	<i>Miltons</i>	
Talbot 1st*	Weightman 4th*	Davis 5th*	Marriott 3rd*	Howard 14th	
Francis, (P.) 2nd*	Loible 10th*	Hulatt 8th*	Swinscoe 7th*	Keeble 28th	
Eagleson 6th*	Judge 12th	R. Loveday 11th	Corke 18th	Pegram 38th	
D. I. Cook 9th*	Spencer (D.) 16th*	Elliott 13th	Halls 26th	Orme 42nd	
Osborne 17th*	Britton 19th	Fowles 15th	Young 27th	Lavous 43rd	
Havter 22nd*	D. J. Bevan 20th	Lynch 23rd	Roberts 32nd	Welland 50th	
R. N. Fash 29th	M. L. Smith 21st	Phillips (J. D.) 24th*	Higham 33rd	Pooles 54th	
Shepherd 30th	Tabor 25th	Yorke 31st	M. A. Phillips 37th	Swift 55th	
<i>Points:</i>	116	127	130	183	324
<i>Position:</i>	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th

\* School Runners, 1953-54.

The "Judge Cup" was held on Saturday, February 27th, in Richmond Park. The combined total of points in the Junior and Senior races gave us 5th place from eight schools. In the Senior race over 2½ miles we scored 221 points (Talbot 18th, Francis 25th, Hulatt 34th, Loible 45th, Weightman 46th and Cook 53rd from a field of 60). The Juniors did much better on a 2¼-mile course and scored only 127 points. Barry was 1st in a field of 60 in a record time of 14 mins. 55 secs. and was well backed up by Stewart (12th), Mellor (13th), Smith B. (26th), Warren (36th) and Bailey (39th). In recognition of his performances this season, Barry was awarded his School colours. P.F.

## SCHOOL PLAY: "THE RIVALS"

It is almost four months since the last curtain fell on "The Rivals"; and for all I know, Mr. Smith is already wondering whether he can cast Lydia Languish as King Lear. Inevitably, the review of a school play has an obituary quality; the production has, so to speak, to be disinterred for inspection, when the belated judgment passed upon it can have little more than an academic interest. Nevertheless, and despite the ghoulish metaphor, this production—by Mr. Smith, assisted by Mr. Townsend—still lives vividly in the mind.

To begin with, the sets, both interior and exterior, were remarkably effective. It was a major achievement on such a small stage to convey the solidity and spacious comfort of Eighteenth Century Bath, without at the same time hopelessly cramping the actors. Mr. Riley's sets were solid without heaviness, and elegant without fuss. They were perfectly in period; and they never restricted the movement of the performers. The costumes, too, were all that could be desired.

The production moved throughout at a fine pace, despite the many scene changes. "Acting is nine-tenths reacting"; and the Raynes Park Company were very well together, reacting rapidly and firmly to one another, and coming in quickly on their cues. This is the way to achieve and to maintain a lively pace—not by speaking quickly but by coming in quickly on cue; not by individual, high-speed histrionics but by teamwork and interplay.

This was a robustly humorous production, always vigorous and alive. There was, of course, a lack of polish here and there, a lack of style, a lack of repose; so that we missed at times the studied elegance and "exquisite nicety," in search of which Bob Acres put his hair "in training." But the vitality of the whole performance was irresistible, while the speaking, almost without exception, was beautifully clear.

As for the various performers, the first thing to say is that this was an Eleven which batted right down the order. There were two first-class performances—from Hayter and Elliott; and two which fell only just short of being first-class—from Fowles and Cousins. Everybody, as it were, reached double figures.

It needed an actor with Hayter's romantic quality to carry off the part of the infuriating Falkland. This was a most sensitive performance, marred slightly by a sloppy stance and some indecisive gesturing, but always well-timed and well-spoken. Hayter has, moreover, the actor's gift for "feeling" his audience. This is a form of sympathetic perception: the actor is instinctively aware of the reaction and response of an audience, and instinctively he exploits that response. Without this gift even the most sensitive person will never become an actor.

In recent years we have had an American Elliott and an Italian-Cockney Elliott. Now "The Rivals" presented us with a noble Irish Elliott, in the person of Sir Lucius O'Trigger. Through all his transmogrifications Elliott displays the complementary theatrical virtues of attack and repose. Attack is the dynamism that drives a character across the footlights, that makes it "go over" and "get across." Elliott possesses this quality; he is a confident,

vital actor, and a good mimic, too. But attack without repose soon becomes just so much sound and fury. Repose is the ability to "beget a temperance" even in the "whirlwind of your passion"; a central stillness in the midst of violent action; a perfect relaxation at the height of tension. The power of an actor's attack is directly dependent upon the extent of his repose. All this, let me hasten to say, is only apparently irrelevant to O'Trigger. Of course, this is not a difficult part; all the same, Elliott's performance was wholly admirable, and remarkable not least for its unselfishness.

By all the rules, Cousins should have failed abysmally. He was never still, no matter what anyone else was doing or saying; he scarcely ever stopped speaking; he moved like a man in an advanced stage of St. Vitus' Dance; and he spoke in the irregular staccato of a defective machine-gun. And yet, with all his insane jiggling and muttering, he captivated everyone. It is true that by the third act one became conscious of a lack of variety. It is also true that this nervy, teetering, finical "cit" was palpably *not* Bob Acres, the countryman and would-be gallant. But what a delightful fellow he was!

Fowles as Mrs. Malaprop was a daring piece of casting. Perhaps because he was unhappy in the part, and so afraid to let himself go, Fowles never really gave us the "weatherbeaten old she-dragon" we had expected. Instead, his peculiar qualities of sincerity and pathos combined to produce a nervous, bewildered, ridiculous and yet oddly moving old woman. It must be noted, too, that Fowles did not make the mistake of "plugging" the malapropisms; the "allegory on the banks of Nile" and the rest of the "parts of speech" slipped out, as they should, quite naturally.

In fact, the fair sex was very fairly represented. Finch's Lydia had a rather Victorian air of moral earnestness. This lady was a mistress of reproof and reproach; at the same time, she was, perhaps, a little too suspicious of the more tender emotions. In contrast, Impey gave us a sweetly appealing Julia; while Colmer's bird-like pertness was exactly right for Lucy.

The Absolutes, father and son, as if anxious to disclaim their recent triumphs as female impersonators, both threw themselves into action with great gusto. Absolute *père* (Christopher Wright) might on occasions have shown a little more restraint; and Absolute *fils* (M. F. B. Read) might have cut out a guffaw or two. But, after all, they were Absolutes *tous les deux*, and be damned to you!

We had a nicely contrasted couple of gentlemen's gentlemen. On the one side was Manning's Fag, a servant in name, but in fact a glibly insolent master of all the "refrainments" of polite society; and on the other side, Wearn's David, crude, credulous, and engagingly cowardly. Finally, for good measure, there was Minty as the trusty Thomas. This was a natural performance of some charm; and it helped to get the play off to a good start.

So for the second time within three years the world of Sheridan was brought to life on the Raynes Park stage. Our thanks for this achievement are due to Messrs. Smith and Townsend, a distinguished cast, and a most efficient stage-management. It only remains for me to add that the efforts of all concerned worthily won, in Sheridan's own phrase, "the warmest and truest applause from a number of judicious audiences." J.M.M.

## CAROL SERVICE

Last term's Carol Service was held on December 21st. The Chairman of the Governors, the Headmaster and the Second Master read the customary passages from Isaiah and the New Testament; Mrs. Bellis and Mr. Loveday were the soloists; a small four-part choir, trained and conducted by Mr. Vyse, sang several traditional carols, and the congregation sang the more familiar ones. All the items were enjoyed, and not least the secular relief provided by Mr. Smith, who read selected heart-warming passages from "Pickwick Papers."

It would be a fair indication that the object for which this cup was presented was being realized if the writer of these notes could be more concerned with the high-lights of the debates in the competition rather than the weaknesses. This is not to say that the debates were without their brighter moments, but the series was marked in particular by two failings; the first on the part of principal speakers, the second on the part of speakers from the floor. In many contests the former seemed to show a reluctance to come to grips with the implications of the subject under discussion, to shun fundamental issues. One example will suffice. In the debate on the motion "That the School is going to the dogs," one speaker stated that a school should be judged by its products but no one asked what its product should be. In proposing motions which seek to deplore something, it does not suffice to enumerate evils or weaknesses unless reference is made to criteria by which the "something" is to be judged. Speakers from the floor too frequently fell into the error of attempting to make too many points. It is better to make one point lucidly and forcefully than to hint at a large number.

At the first debate, on January 18th, Gibbs proposed that "This House considers that the School is going to the dogs." Fowles led Gibbs into an attack on apathy and indifference, and gave the credit for recent scholastic successes to the past rather than the present. Phillips, for Halliwells, countered with examples of public esteem, while Elliott cited hockey as a sign of decadence and invited us to look at the Games Committee. Young, seconding for the opposition, begged us not to look at individuals, but to look at the good qualities which he believed on the increase. Floor speeches were enlivened by an amusing speech from Gordon who found much canine resemblance in habits of the schoolboy. Of other speakers Wright and Davies attempted to turn their backs on their own natural style of speaking in search of the conviction of fervour, but succeeded only in appearing hot under the collar. Cousins was convinced that boys will be boys, and Higham that Quintilian was a poet. Fowles summed up well, and the verdict of judges and house went to Gibbs with the voting 18—12.

The second debate, between Newsoms and Miltons, was taken more seriously. The motion "That this House regards the Monarchy as of little value in the modern world" was proposed by Weightman. He is a speaker who has an unhappy knack of making his hearers feel uncomfortable, and would do well to cultivate a calmer, more thoughtful technique. He was seconded by Bevan, perhaps the most improved speaker of the year, who suggested that Monarchy was an outlet for fetishism and idolatry. The opposing team from Miltons was ably led by Betts, whose forceful manner will be yet more effective when he has learned to vary the pace and colour of his delivery. He is inclined to overwhelm his audience with the torrent of his words. Bunyan, who seconded for Miltons, should be heard more often: he spoke of the crown as a stable symbol. From the floor, Giles showed a taste for alliteration, Cohen found a value in negative quantities; Williams appeared to reject all other speakers' acceptance of the intention of the word "monarchy" and spoke of absolute monarchy; Read, fortissimo, thought that the proposer had been to a pantomime; Parsons, *mezzo forte et tempo rubato*, sang to us, and Faint objected to the previous speakers' long words and descended to brass tacks. The motion, after a vigorous summing-up by Betts and some ju-jitsu with a chair by Weightman, was lost by 11 votes to 18, and the judges also gave the verdict to Miltons.

Gibbs returned to the fray to oppose Cobbs' proposal that "This House deplores the present state of the Press." Jackson proposed the motion; he is a speaker whom personally I find disappointing. Despite obvious conviction he often sounds unmoved and his speeches consequently colourless. He turned the spot-light on the bad taste and vulgarity of the Press. Fowles, in opposition, valued the diversity of the Press, and denied that it pandered to the people; it only gave them what they wanted. Wilson seconded for Cobbs and Elliott

for Gibbs. From the floor Gordon was in more serious vein, and left the stories to Hayter; Cook deplored the headlines and offered some amusing examples, but he is himself too much tied to his notes; Davies informed us that education was the "more disgusting side of British affairs"; Manning criticized the critics, and Wright seemed under a misapprehension about the late Mr. Duff Cooper. In summing-up Fowles used a metaphor from the screen, and Jackson complained that editors showed little appreciation of real ability—his letters to them were never published. The motion was lost by one vote and the judges passed on Cobbs to the final round.

**Here they met Miltons.** Cobbs proposed that "History is, as Mr. Ford alleges, bunk." Jackson seemed to be guilty of the vice he attached to history, over-simplification. 'Betts, leading the Miltons' team, believed that history illuminated life to-day, and added value to doctrines and teaching, and that Mr. Ford was in need of education. Wilson thought that attention to history was likely to stifle originality, and denied that the stock-in-trade of history was fact if the interpreters could disagree. Bunyan could find no argument for removing history from the School curriculum. Speaking for Cobbs from the floor Hayter pointed to History masters as an evil before us, held them responsible for war and juvenile delinquency, and ended with a syllogism about the *Daily Mirror*. But he sounded too weary of life to convince us of his concern. Read appealed to the human interest of history, and would have had us go to museums to find it; Wright, "breathing bonhomie, as usual," said that historians were lost to the realities of the present and turned Rowse into a Twentieth Century Mrs. Shipton. To Cohen, seeking to blind us with science, history was the storeroom of the sciences, and his imagination saw the Honourable Proposer on—or rather falling off—a bicycle and in a Rolls-Royce. Cook lent the weight of the Economics Sixth to the motion, but it was defeated heavily and the verdict of the judges gave the cup to Miltons.

If this summary of the debates is dull, it is fair to blame their compiler rather than those who spoke in the debates. Dullness was not their failing. If criticism must be levelled it must point to an overall lack of sureness of touch apparent in an over-confidence displayed in unsupported generalizations or superficiality, or in an astonishment at their own voices that left speakers in mid-air in a sentence, uncertain how to finish it. Such faults are generally signs of inexperience, and I can here only reiterate my plea that speakers should seize every opportunity to widen their experience, and to take preparation in this skill as seriously as they take training for athletics or rehearsal for a play. But if the standard of speaking rises but slowly from year to year, and the competition produces no spectacular results, yet if the existence of the trophy encourages some to speak whom otherwise we should not hear, then to some extent at least the purpose of the donors of the trophy is finding fulfilment. A.C.

## WORCESTER PARK ORCHESTRA

On Saturday, February 27th, a concert was given in the School Hall by the Worcester Park Orchestra, under Mr. Alfred Swinscoe, and a group of soloists. The audience included a disappointingly small number of boys from the School itself.

**The resources of the Orchestra are varied.** Our stage seemed unduly small for an ensemble which has 'cellos and bass clarinet; while the lack of heavy brass made the strings sound very ragged in the mastodontic lumber of "God Save the Queen." The first items, however, presented much more congenial ground as the instrumentalists got into their stride. Mr. Swinscoe conducted, first, the bouncing minuet from Haydn's Symphony No. 85 ("La Reine"—a favourite at one time with Marie Antoinette), and then the gavotte from Thomas' Mignon.

The Orchestra's two pianists next gave our twin pianos an outing from their usual struggle with hymns, ancient and modern. They played, as real

duets—not, as sometimes happens, as a hotly-contested race to reach the end first—Bach's soothing if soporific "Sheep may safely graze" and the spritely "Entry of the Queen of Sheba" from Handel's "Solomon." Equally spritely was the clarinet concerto, arranged by Arthur Benjamin from the music of Cimarosa, which Mr. Paul Vaughan played to us. This Italian music is delightful but flowery, and does not lack its pitfalls. Mr. Vaughan, however, travelled the road with admirable skill, and reached his final bow without falling by the way-side.

After an interval, the concert was resumed with the main work of the evening—a concert version of Mozart's operetta "Bastien and Bastienne" (K.50), written when the composer was twelve years old. The plot is flimsy, but has the merit of being fairly intelligible so that no listener can be withdrawn from the charm of Mozart's music by the necessity of poring over his synopsis. It is a tale of true love, running less smoothly than usual, between the shepherd Bastien and the shepherdess Bastienne. Some mock-magic, and some elementary psychology, by the wizard Colas, serve to bring the pair together again. Bastienne was sung charmingly by Mrs. Bellis, who kept her flock of vocal fireworks well under control, even in face of Bastien's (Mr. David Vaughan's) passionate, decorative and ever-pleasing bravura. Mr. Loveday, deserting the higher realms of Oratorio, sang Colas' mock-horrific incantation with equal verve and enjoyment. The Orchestra accompanied with enthusiasm, though, perhaps, in some places over-zealously.

With the opera the concert ended. We have to thank the Orchestra, Mr. Swinscoe and the soloists not only for giving us an entertaining evening, but also for enabling us—an all too rare opportunity—to see music being made, without having to go to the Albert Hall. We, at least, have not so notorious an echo. P.J.P.

## DRAMATIC CRITICISMS

### "Coriolanus"

Coriolanus—oh yes, one of Shakespeare's off days—after all, he was near the end of a long career; you can't expect the man to produce a masterpiece every time. So runs the usual attitude to the last of Shakespeare's Roman plays, yet one cannot but feel that it is the opinion of those who have only read the play, at least of those who have not seen Michael Benthall's production at the Old Vic. It may be a one-man play, but when that man is Richard Burton, who can complain of that? Whatever part this versatile actor plays, he seems to make one feel that it was written for him; his speaking of Shakespeare's maturest verse in the moments of magnificent and tempestuous pride can hold a vast audience in awe and silence, yet this performance has more than heroic pride, it has a pathetic quality—in the hero's bewilderment at the need for involving himself with the "slippery people," and most of all in the relationship with his mother. Fay Compton's portrayal of the possessive and domineering Volumnia proves an excellent foil to Burton's Coriolanus, and the two scenes of pleading cannot help but refute those who say that Shakespeare had lost his sense of theatre. If we need any confirmation of the merits of this production, we have only to look at William Squire's excellently live performance as the sardonic Menenius, to Claire Bloom's almost silent characterization of Vergilia, and to the end of the great scene where Coriolanus blusters out to meet the people "mildly," roaring at the top of his voice. Drama there is in plenty; anything that cloy in the reading of the play comes alive in the playing, especially when the direction is as lively as in this performance; the whole production is slick and fast-moving, and the remoteness and grandeur of this Coriolanus would almost persuade us that this is no "off-day" play, but a masterpiece of the theatre. D.A.J.

"Dear Charles," the extravagantly witty and somewhat *pygmalion* comedy recently at the New Theatre, was originally written in English by one actor, English in his own vein by Alan Melville. Consequently it has both sick English wit and spicy French gaiety. The plot is ingenious—a portrait of a distinguished gentleman hangs over Denise's mantlepiece. This is Dear Charles. She bought him at Brighton for four pounds (although, as she says, like the frame is worth double) because "that was the sort of face I would have liked for the father of my children." She has three children—one the son of an English baronet, the second the daughter of an effervescent Polish pianist, the third the son of a fascinating Frenchman. All three men are part of her Past. A crisis develops: Denise tells her children the truth—that Charles is not their father—and needing a real husband, because of legal difficulties, she calls on the three Papas with hilarious results.

Much depends on the part of Denise, but since it fitted Yvonne Arnaud to perfection, she romped through it, squeaking like a vicious bat, bubbling like a soda siphon, making the audience helpless with laughter merely by the intonation of her voice. Of the three Papas, Garry Marsh suggested the good old English huntin', shootin' and fishin' type, don't you know; Gerard Heinz embodied French fascination, but Theodore Bikel as the Polish pianist with his violent gestures, his frantic enthusiasm and his frenzied playing of the Appassionata, created the most vivid character. Indeed, one would say, both by virtue of its wit and its playing, "Dear Charles" should not be missed. Unfortunately, however, a little while after we saw it, Yvonne Arnaud became ill, and consequently the play was withdrawn. But if a provincial tour is arranged, everybody should certainly beg, borrow or steal a ticket to see it.

R.S.B.

"Someone Waiting"

"Someone Waiting" is a revenge play written by Emily Williams—the author of "The Corn is Green"—and at present appearing at the Globe Theatre, Piccadilly Circus. It is a play with a psychological twist and a shock of surprise every few minutes. These play thrillingly on our nerves and tension is high: the house is bound as though by a paralytic spell.

Emily Williams plays the part of a seedy law tutor returning from a visit to Australia to find that by a miscarriage of justice his son has been wrongfully hanged; those innocent words, "Daddy, I didn't do it," pitifully ring in our ears. A pompous and flirtatious businessman he suspects to be the real murderer. This man is viciously hated by his adopted son, who becomes the wronged father's confederate and accomplice. It is on this ineffectual little man—a man who had failed hopelessly in life at everything except chess—changed as though by the stroke of a pen into a killer, into an icily calculating killer, that interest is focused and emotions are projected. Our sympathy for this man balances on the finest of pivots. With remarkable skill the author swings first our sympathy towards him, then swings it away from him. The part is played with adroitness. At one moment Mr. Williams is movingly disconsolate, at the next sinisterly terrifying.

We are first shown the murder as planned by the avenger and his accomplice; the plan seems to be flawless. We are then shown the plan in action. Things are constantly going wrong. The innocent secretary marked down for death does not appear when expected. Her place is conveniently filled by the partour-maid who unexpectedly appears at the opportune moment. The plan then springs a devastating flaw; the plan had depended on the absence of the victim's wife and her sudden arrival poses a serious problem. Their nerves are tested. The young man has a moral breakdown, which he is doomed not to survive; the older man has a passing fit of madness. The final victory is the avenger's, a victory wrought by a flash of ingenuity and at the expense of his own life.

Cambridge! For months the whisper of the name had been enough to increase the heart-beat and respiratory rate, the flow of adrenaline to the dermal tissues, and give a general feeling of disruption in the abdomen. Moments of fatigue and indecision, however, only serve to make more sweet the Nirvana of the unlimited rest afterwards—or so we imagined. Unhappily we were to learn that the ideal rarely exists, or if it does, it has slipped past us. Everyone is so perfectly cognizant of the false impressions of leave-taking and train catching, which can be just as easily read in any novel, that we can pass to the arrival. It was disappointing. One could hardly grasp that the mass of rails, sidings and trucks, and the depressing station road was not, as one first believed, Oxford or some other industrial city, but, in truth, Cambridge. We were thankful that the town was far from the station, or, at least, the more opulent were; those who walked also realized the fact, and in no uncertain manner, but in all hearts, the landmarks recognized from memory or photograph served as a prologue to the first sight of our colleges. We admit that we are probably innate, and could be looked at with scorn, for no self-respecting barrow-boy would admit to any sense of feeling at all, but we experienced a sensation of awe and determination. Awe that we were to enter such a place; determination that we would do our best—and it is always easier to be determined when the results are easy to see than if the result would be of tentative value after doing five years under some tutorial body.

The first dinner was the most impressive meal, all the more so as we were the more impressionable. It is certainly the time in which one gauges the opposition, which, as usual at first glance, appeared insurmountable. The rigid glances and mutters of "electricians' union," if one was hardy enough to wear a blazer, tempered the determination. The butler was an interesting example of mental breakdown, his tongue voting his opinion of present candidates, his eye carefully inspecting each pocket for hidden spoons, his mind questioning the apparently disarranged orbit of the world.

The common road of examinations, of disappointments, of exhilaration are known to all and best forgotten as past. It is the time outside these which comes more easily to the mind, the impression of Cambridge as a place. One finds, though, that however much one waxed enthusiastic about some sphere or place, it is difficult to transfer this enthusiasm to outsiders. It is only for those who have tasted of the cup that memory can function with nostalgia. The Backs, King's Chapel, Trinity, the Round Church, Sydney Street, the Market—to all those who have not been to Cambridge, they are but half-remembered photographs. Indeed, to many of us, they are still badly-formed impressions of the tours, carefully sandwiched between tea and dinner; but all obtained sufficient to become impatient of the years between them and the University. And superimposed upon these, the more distinct and more individual memories. The bang of the gates at eleven, the lights of the hall reflecting on the clock, the sun on the struggling ivy. All brought one into personal contact with a separate world, a world in miniature, an effect heightened by the inter-dependence of the present town and University. Just as they used to struggle, so at this time do separate, diverse and numberless societies wax, fight and fall. To every undergraduate they appeal for support. He is welcomed by part and by whole. To us also was the welcome forwarded, G.A.Y.

THE RECKONING OF TIME

1. Introduction

Early civilizations measured their time in days, months, and years. The time of day was first discovered by noticing the position of the sun or moon in the sky.

The history of the reckoning of time can be considered, then, in three parts. First, the calendar, or the measurement of long intervals of time.

Second, the "clock," or the measurement of short intervals of time. Third, the measurement of geological intervals of time.

## 2. The Calendar

In modern times, three different types of year are generally recognized.

The solar year (365 d. 5 h. 48 m. 46 s.) is the length of time necessary for the noon sun to make a complete revolution with respect to the earth. This is the civil year. The sidereal year (365 d. 6 h. 9 m. 9 s.) is the length of time required for the earth to return to its position relative to the fixed stars. The anomalistic year (365 d. 6 h. 13 m. 53 s.) is the length of time which elapses between the planet being at perihelion on two successive occasions.

The earliest calendars were based on astronomical observations. For instance, at Stonehenge the sun rises above the altar on the day of the summer solstice. The first periodic natural events noticed were probably those caused by the moon, such as spring tides and neap tides. This is probably the reason why most primitive calendars were based on the motion of the moon.

Since there are twelve complete "moons" in a year, the primary division of the year was into twelve months. The same process produced the zodiac. The earliest year contained 360 days (cf. the number of degrees in a circle), but it is claimed that a 365-day year was established in Egypt by 4000 B.C. The Egyptian year was based on the fact that Sirius rose with the sun at the time of the flooding of the Nile.

The Chinese and Sumerian years, like the Egyptian, consisted originally of 360 days. The Babylonians used a year of 354 days, with the addition of "intercalary" months in order to make the mean length of the year 365 days.

Before long, solar observations replaced lunar ones. At a very early period, the eclipses of the sun were observed and predicted. Since an eclipse was a sign of the anger of the gods, it is probable that the priests (who were always the national timekeepers and astronomers in early times) found eclipses useful in increasing their annual revenue.

As time went on, calendars increased in accuracy. By 2000 B.C. (about the time of Abraham) the Egyptians had introduced the "leap year." The Greek calendar, introduced in 433 B.C., was a year of 354 days (12 moons), with the addition of intercalary months seven times in nineteen years. This calendar, which resembled that of the Hindus, involved an error of about one day in 200 years.

In 45 B.C. the Julian calendar was introduced. At the same time the beginning of the year was moved from March to January 1st. By A.D. 1582 the error caused by the Julian calendar had reached "astronomical" dimensions. As a result the Gregorian calendar was introduced. The New Year was transferred from March 25th to January 1st, and it was decided that century years not divisible by 400 should be common years. Although the Gregorian calendar was quickly accepted in Catholic countries, religious opinion opposed it in other countries. Great Britain accepted it in 1751, Alaska in 1876, Russia in 1918, and Rumania in 1919.

In 1929, Russia announced that the internal division of its year was to be altered. The year was divided into 360 working days and five holidays. The working days were divided into twelve 30-day months, each consisting of six 5-day weeks.

In recent times, it has been discovered that the error in the Gregorian calendar amounts to one day in four thousand years. It has been suggested that millenia divisible by 4,000 should not be leap years, but this suggestion has met with little approval.

It is commonly believed that the Gregorian calendar is the most accurate yet devised, but this is not so. In the years when Christianity was struggling for life, about A.D. 200, a mysterious race of people, the Mayas, came to South America. Whence they came is an archaeologist's nightmare, but we do know that they brought with them the most accurate calendar that human ingenuity has yet devised. This calendar, which is by far the most complicated one known, is one of the things that mark down the Mayas as one of the most civilized races among the early civilizations.

## 3. The Clock

(i) *The Sundial.* Without doubt the sundial was the first time indicator to be used. Herodotus, writing in the Fifth Century B.C., said that the sundial originated in Babylonia. Independent evidence indicates that the sundial was in use in Babylonia by 2000 B.C., although we do not know in what form.

The earliest sundials were anything but portable. Cleopatra's Needle and other large obelisks were almost certainly gigantic sundials. It has even been suggested that the pyramids were used as enormous sundials, although, of course, they were not necessarily built for this purpose.

The sundial can never be truly portable, however easily it may be carried about. This arises from the fact that both the marking on the dial and the angle of the gnomon depend on the latitude in question. Moreover, unless the style is parallel with the earth's axis, the sundial will only be correct on two days of the year.

Let us now return to the history of the sundial. The first mention of a particular sundial is in the Bible: "Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz (c. 700 B.C.), ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down" (Isaiah 38, v. 8.). This dial was probably a vertical rod surrounded by a flight of steps.

By 400 B.C. the sundial reached Greece, and in 293 B.C. the first sundial to reach Rome was placed in the temple of Quirinus. The second was brought during the first Punic War (264 B.C.), and after that their numbers increased rapidly. During the course of time, the enormous number of Roman sundials has been whittled down to half a dozen. Sundials fell from favour in the Renaissance. Most of those to be seen to-day belong to the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries.

D.J.B.

(To be continued in the next issue of "The Spur.")

## NEWSTEAD ABBEY

Newstead Abbey, once the home of the famous English poet, Byron, is set right in the heart of Nottinghamshire, "embosomed in a happy valley," as Byron himself so very aptly phrased it.

The Abbey was originally built for "Canons Régular of the Order of St. Augustine" by Henry II, but passed into the hands of the Byron family at the time of Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. The first Byron to own the Abbey, or Newstead Priory, to give it its official name, was Sir John Byron, who bought it in 1540, and after that the Byron family retained it for ten generations until it passed out of their hands at the death of the "Bad Lord Byron" in 1824, when it was sold for £94,500.

The front of the Abbey, which is about ninety-five yards long, has at its west end the front of the ruined Priory church, the only part of the church to remain, the rest of it being thought to have been used for material in the building of the gardens, and at its east end the Sussex Tower, named after the Duke of Sussex. The whole Abbey is surrounded by many acres of well-kept gardens, containing about seven ponds. The architecture is very ornamental, and is one of the most beautiful examples of its period. During the centuries of its existence, the Abbey has undergone many structural alterations, carried out upon it by its many owners. New windows have been put in, steps removed, walls added, and many other such changes have taken place.

The back of the Abbey is immediately surrounded by a miniature maze, and the "Eagle Pond." This long, rectangular pond owes its name to the brass eagle lectern which is said to have been thrown in there by the monks when the Abbey was dissolved in 1539, and which was recovered, together with two brass candlesticks, in the middle of the Eighteenth Century.

In the centre of the Abbey is a quadrangle, or cloister garth, in the middle of which is a large stone fountain, magnificently carved. The aged stone walls of the quadrangle are, like most of the rest of the Abbey, partly covered with ivy.



Although the exterior is a magnificent piece of architecture, the interior is, in its own way, equally beautiful. All Byron's furniture has been carefully preserved, and is on show in the appropriate rooms. A very notable feature is the wonderful and highly decorative carving of the ceilings, many of them being Italian work. Such a building could not be complete without a ghost, and it is reputed that a small room, called the "Prior's Oratory," is haunted.

Perhaps the most beautiful and touching object in the whole of Newstead Abbey and its grounds is Byron's memorial to his beloved Newfoundland dog, Boatswain. His devotion to the animal is shown in his intention to be buried in the same tomb, an intention that could not be realized. The tomb is about seven feet high, and is topped by a carved stone urn. On one face of the plinth is the poem written by Byron, again showing his devotion to Boatswain, which ends:—

"To mark a Friend's remains, these stones arise;  
I never knew but one—and here he lies."

D.J.M.

## A CALM EVENING AT THE SEASIDE

The cheerful sounds of merry holidaymakers gradually die away until the beach is deserted, save for a lone boy who sits on a breakwater, looking into a deep pool. Above this beach, nestled in the "Fairy Crag," is the village of Gatley. Though it is very small, Gatley is renowned for its beauty, a fact of which the inhabitants are very proud. With its thatched cottages and pleasant surroundings it enjoys the custom of a large number of people every year, and on this particular evening the few shops in the village have full tills.

**The sun is setting.** Throwing out long slivers of primrose light, the incandescent ball of flame dips into the very sea and, as the villagers say, fizzes out. Purple ribbons of satin hang over the globe's burial place, surmounting the brilliant red and orange sky around the sun. The beach darkens as clouds move over the death-bed and cover the remaining arc of light, as consolingly the moon appears, silver and cold, but always guiding and comforting. Shining down on the village it casts its light in a thousand crannies, illuminating the customs of night life. Perhaps a courting couple, gaily chatting on the way home, or a fox returning from a raid on a farm, is caught in the spot-light of the moon. The waves, dancing to the tune of the wind, lap gently against the breakwaters and run on to the beach, pushing around the rocks and stones, receding down the sand again. Across the water, on a ruffled surface, a silver path is traced by the moon, sailing sedately in the heavens, disappearing now behind the clouds, but always reappearing, benevolent and large.

Now there comes running along the beach a figure, a boy's figure. Boots rattling against shingle, he gradually approaches. Just then there comes a shout from the boy on the breakwater, and his friend greets him:—

"C'mon, Charlie; father'll tan our hides if he knows we're out fishing!"  
"Yes, but I've caught one, a big brown one!" replies the other. "And perhaps we can have it for supper!" he adds, proudly displaying a gigantic brown crab, and off go the two boys, laughing and chatting, so leaving the beach really calm and deserted; that is, until the next day. E.R.B.

## A LETTER TO THE EDITORS

To the Editors of *The Spur*:

DEAR SIRS,

It has recently come to my notice how newspapers and periodicals are increasingly insistent on thrusting irrelevant details down the throats of the unfortunate public. We have all of us read about 63-year-old 'bus conductors, people with hair ten feet long, and women who use four and three-quarter packets of soap flakes a week, when these facts are both unamusing and unnecessary.

I received yesterday a copy of that dreary journal, the *Wigan Evening Star*, which was loaded with such superfluous nonsense. Here is an excerpt: "Mr. Ezekiel Hollowitz, a 79½-year-old Indonesian night-watchman, an inhabitant of a four-roomed flatlet with two reception rooms in an alley off the fourth road to the right towards the north of the town, was, last night, at 11.39 p.m., sitting reading the second half of column four, page two, of yesterday's *Star*, in front of his brazier, which has three wrought-iron smoke ducts and a capacity of ¾ of a cwt. of coke a day (thus consuming 136.9 cwts. a year), combing his hair, which covers half his head, with an egg-shell pink comb, when he heard six successive growls from his 9½-year-old black and white spotted dog, which had seen, out of the corner of its green right eye a 39-year-old woman approaching, walking on 5½-inch high black heels and swinging her 5½ft.-long peroxidized blonde hair in the N.W. breeze. She was carrying a suspicious-looking pale green, 6-inch long iron bar, which, after a sudden movement, she was just about to apply to the white-haired 79½-year-old night-watchman, when the 9½-year-old dog, jumping up on all four of its legs, bit the 39-year-old woman on her nylon-covered leg. (The Wigan police say this is the 33rd occurrence of this type since 1909.)"

Hoping your magazine will never sink to this level, I remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

"MACAULAYESQUE."

## PRIZE LIST, 1952-53

### FORM PRIZES

IA: J. Davie, D. J. Clark.  
IB: R. M. Stevenson, T. G. Ayres.  
IIA: J. A. Colmer, R. J. Young.  
IIB: A. T. Rogers, J. Barfoot.  
IIC: D. Shefras, B. L. Hickford.  
IIIA: S. J. Cohen, M. Loveday, B. H. Finch.  
IIIB: E. R. Bray, P. Gent.  
IVA: J. R. S. Higham, D. J. Drye, A. J. Fowles.  
IVB: R. M. Pevy, J. Eagleson.

### Fifth Form and General Certificate Prizes

VA: D. L. Carver, P. J. Ditchburn, M. Howard, M. K. Jones, J. A. Pooles  
P. A. Tatlow.  
VB: M. K. G. Hudson, J. M. King, D. C. Shepherd.  
VC: A. G. Saunders.

### First Year Sixth

Arts—P. J. Parsons. Science—M. Gordon, B. A. Stracy. Economics—B. G. Hulatt.

### Upper Sixth

Arts—R. S. Betts, D. A. Jackson. Science—Norman Prize: D. A. Burgess; Whitman Prize: M. W. Dick, G. A. Young; D. J. Britton, A. F. Cox, J. A. Gatley, B. E. A. Jacobs, D. N. Salter. Economics—D. J. Bevan.

### GENERAL PRIZES

Art—R. R. Knight, M. Francis, G. Way. Craft—P. B. Hauffé, B. G. Barker, S. J. Hall. Ian Hudson Puppet Prize—B. G. Barker. General Knowledge—D. V. Patrick, B. J. McCartney, J. A. Howlett, J. Davie. Verse Speaking—R. S. Betts, C. C. Wright, J. A. Colmer. John Robbins Essay—Junior: R. S. West, M. Loveday; Senior: 1st A. J. Fowles, 2nd D. A. Jackson, and R. S. Betts, P. J. Parsons, C. R. Weightman. Outside class effort—R. N. Fash, B. A. Stracy, I. R. Wilson (Stage); G. Boiling, A. I. Roe, P. Gent, E. R. Bray for "Province" essays; D. L. Hall for Plays. French Essay Prize—D. V. Patrick. Beaverbrook Bennett Prize—1st D. R. Avery, 2nd M. Loveday. Leaving Prize to the Head of the School, 1952-53—A. F. Wright.

## ADVANCED LEVEL CERTIFICATES

VI Arts: *a*R. S. Betts, D. J. Ferebee, H. K. Gubb, *abc*D. A. Jackson, D. V. Patrick, P. A. Tanner, A. J. Tillinghast, A. F. Wright.

VI Science: *def*D. J. Britton, A. D. Brooke, K. R. Buckingham, P. J. Bunyan, *def*D. A. Burgess, *f*A. F. Cox, M. W. Dick, J. A. Gately, B. E. A. Jacobs, A. G. G. Law, R. Loveday, D. G. Rayns, A. D. Ridgway, *g*D. N. Salter, J. M. Sturman, *g*G. A. Young.

VI Economics: J. F. Arnold, *h*D. J. Bevan, D. I. Cook, D. L. Hall, M. A. Phillips.

*Distinctions: "a" English Literature, "b" Latin, "c" Greek, "d" Pure Mathematics, "e" Applied Mathematics, "f" Physics, "g" Zoology, "h" Economics.*

## UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

### *State Scholarships*

D. A. Burgess; University College, London.  
D. J. Britton; Clare College, Cambridge.  
A. F. Cox; Imperial College, London.  
R. S. Betts; Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.  
D. N. Salter; University College, London.  
D. A. Jackson; Oriel College, Oxford.  
M. W. Dick; Queen Mary College, London.  
G. A. Young; Trinity College, Cambridge.

### *County Major Scholarships*

D. J. Bevan; Trinity College, Cambridge.  
K. R. Buckingham; Reading University.  
D. I. Cook; Caius College, Cambridge.  
D. J. Ferebee; Reading University.  
B. E. A. Jacobs; Imperial College, London.  
R. Loveday; Christ's College, Cambridge.  
D. V. Patrick; University College, Oxford.  
A. D. Ridgway; Imperial College, London.  
P. A. Tanner; Jesus College, Cambridge.  
A. F. Wright; Worcester College, Oxford.

## Trophies

### INTER-SCHOOL

The Wimbledon and District Senior Boys' Athletic Cup. Kingston Grammar School Cross-Country Cup. The Simmons Cross-Country Trophy, awarded by Sutton and Cheam Harriers. Surrey Wing, A.T.C., Aircraft Recognition Trophy, 565 Squadron (Cpl. R. Loveday).

### HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Parents' Rugby Cup, Halliwells. The Governors' Cricket Cup, Cobbs. **The Spur Society's Hockey Cup, Cobbs.** The Cray Swimming Cup, Cobbs. The S. H. Marshall Cross-Country Cup, Halliwells. The John Garrett Athletics Cup, Halliwells. **The T. W. Powys Cobb Tennis Cup, Cobbs.** **The S. B. Phillips Boxing Cup, Cobbs.** The Junior Shield, Cobbs. The B. T. King Cock House Cup, Cobbs. The Eric Parker Cup, P. M. Childs. The Michael Welby Debating Cup, Miltons. The P. W. Garrett House Play Cup, Cobbs and Miltons.

## EDITORS

*P. A. Townsend, Esq., R. S. Betts, D. J. Bevan, D. A. Jackson.*

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