

RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL

"To each his need, from each his power"

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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 Cricket: D. C. Shepherd.

Secretary of Cricket: M. Lavous.

Captain of Athletics: M. A. Phillips.

Secretary of Athletics: M. Cousins.

Captain of Tennis: D. I. Cook.

Secretary of Tennis: B. A. Stracy.

Captain of Swimming: M. E. Talbot.

Secretary of Swimming: R. Loveday.

Secretary of Games Committee: D. J. Bevan.

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

Prefect of Library: R. S. Betts.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Mr. E. G. Raynham

Mr. Raynham has served Raynes Park since 1937, since 1946 as its Deputy Headmaster. In almost every field of school activities his contribution has been outstanding, and his loss will be keenly felt when he leaves us to become Headmaster of Lewley County School, Guildford, next term. He has indeed been one of the pillars of the School, on which everyone confidently leaned; not only in the teaching of Mathematics (and of much besides), not only in the Scout Troop to which he gave unstintingly of his spirit and time, but in many and multifarious ways he has supported the School—from binding up its broken legs to organizing its supply of sweets, from juggling expertly with its time-table to supporting it on the touch-line, from parodying Chaucer for its magazine to running its Garden Party; and in all these ways his help was always given as a matter of course. When others were tired or "could not care less" or were busy with their own affairs, with him the School came first; nothing was too much trouble, or not his affair. As the situation demanded, he has filled the popular role of organizer of summer camps or the hard one of manly discipline; he has taken trouble and responsibility to give boys full and free opportunities, been patient with the deserving and those in difficulty, intolerant of the slovenly or poor-spirited. Strict with those who were ready to lower the standards of the School, he has been strict with himself too and never willingly relaxed from his duty as he saw it. His faith and his good-will have not faltered; his justice and his integrity are unquestioned. Much of him is incorporated in the ways of Raynes Park, and we hope that his contribution will not fade with his departure. To him, his family and his new School we wish happiness and success, and hope that Raynes Park will be the friend of all three. We are grateful to him for seventeen years of devoted service.

* * *

We shall be sorry, too, to lose Mr. W. P. Foister this term, on his appointment to a science post at Heath Clark Secondary School, Croydon. Since January, 1952, he has given his time and energy wholeheartedly to his work here, alike in his duties in the Science teaching and in his contribution, a vigorous one, to life outside, and in particular to Rugby and Swimming. He has been an example of kindness and courtesy, and he has good wishes from us all for happy opportunities in his new post.

General School Fund

The accounts recently audited and submitted to the Governing Body show that again we spent more than we received. Two years ago we had £509 in hand; we reduced that to £437 last year and to £291 in April, 1954—plainly a process that cannot long go on. Income amounted to £492 odd, mainly from the terminal subscriptions (£303) and the half share of the 1953 "Coronation" Garden Party (£163). We derived also a sum of £38 from Tuck-shop profits, which with a balance from last year enabled us to pay Prizegiving expenses without a special appeal. On the out-going side, the biggest single item was £194 for the expenses of School teams—travelling, teas, etc. Printing of *The Spur* and of term diaries cost £120. But another £323 went in items too many and varied to detail here; among the larger items were £48 for the trophy cases in Hall, £48 for a tape-recorder which will shortly be in use in the School, £33 balance on the stage improvements mainly paid for in previous years, £16 on the garden, £10 for the duck-boards in the gym, changing-room, £29 for the shed for the motor mower, and the balance was composed of smaller sums spent on subsidies to various clubs, subscriptions, library periodicals, expenses on outings and visits, and so on. The result is a total expenditure of £637—£145 more than we received. As, thanks to the weather, proceeds from the Garden Party will be less this year than in the previous two, we shall have to watch expenditure more jealously in the next twelve months.

T.H.P.

HOUSE NOTES

Cobbs

Captain: D. A. Jackson.

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

Hockey.—Last term we went a long way to retaining our hold on the Cock House Cup by winning the Hockey Cup outright for the second year. Although the Seniors gave us some anxious moments by only drawing 2—2 with Gibbs, a good win over Halliwells by 3—0 and an even better one, 2—1, over the strong Miltons team ensured us first place in the Senior section, while our Colts played well to gain second position in their own section. Cook and Shepherd were outstanding in the Senior team, and Clark showed very welcome promise, while Ingram and Hill (G. A.) were the most consistent players among the Colts.

House Play.—Perhaps the less said about our production of "Red Night," the better. We had the misfortune to choose an unwieldy play, and although a lot of hard work went into this unrewarding piece, it was to prove of no avail on the day. Our commiserations go to Hayter who produced, and to all concerned.

Chess.—We had to be content with second place in this competition, and inconsistent play allowed the attractive new trophy to go to Newsoms. The main events this term are cricket, athletics, tennis and swimming, and we have every hope of a high place in all of them.

Cricket.—Backed by a very powerful Colt team which includes such players as Ingram, Ridge, Hill (A. D.), Hill (G. A.) and Stone, and which has easily won the only match so far played, we have high hopes of winning this cup, too. The Seniors, although liable to a slow start in the batting, have recovered sufficiently in both games thus far to amass a respectable score. Newsoms side for 32, against a powerful batting side like Gibbs we were unable to keep sufficient check on the runs.

Tennis.—So far the Tennis Competition is still in its opening stages, but our strong team has defeated Halliwells and Gibbs, and with Cook, Vennard and Shepherd all from the School 1st VI, should manage to hold its own.

Athletics.—Here we are not so strong as of late, but qualifying—with one or two notable exceptions—has been good, and the House has the one outstanding long-jumper in the School in Francis (M.), our captain. Whatever happens on Sports Day, I am sure our team will give of its best.

Swimming.—Once again, due almost entirely to the phenomenal energy of Mr. Foister, Cobbs are way ahead in swimming qualifying, and with Talbot, Eagleson and many others to swim for us, we should maintain that position at the Gala.

Juniors.—Our Juniors are all on the small side, and in Junior Rugby that is a considerable disadvantage, but they were keen and tried hard all the time, and a good win over Miltons revealed their potentialities. So, by and large, they need not be disconsolate about their fourth place. Cricket, under the able leadership of Griffin, looks to be a different story, but bad weather has so far hindered Friday afternoon cricket to such an extent that no matches have yet been decided.

And so it only remains for me to say good-bye to the House, to wish all those who are leaving every success, and to thank Mr. Atkin and his fellow house-masters for making my year as House Captain such a pleasant one.

D.A.J.

Gibbs

Captain: J. M. Davis.

Prefect: R. Loveday.

The second half of last term proved quite successful. The Junior Rugby XV played very well to win three of its matches, namely those against Cobbs, Halliwell and Miltons, but lost against a very strong Newsoms team. Hence they finished second in the Junior Rugby. Well done!

The Seniors and Colts came very close to sharing the Hockey Cup with Miltons. As it was, we had to be satisfied with second place. The Colts won three and drew one, and the Seniors won two, drew one and lost one.

For the third consecutive year we won the Gymnastics Competition, and again we owe most of our congratulations to our few agile Sixth-formers.

Last term also saw another keen House Play Competition. Unfortunately we only gained third place. Thanks are due to Stracy and his helpers on producing such a fine stage setting, and to Elliott, our producer. Perhaps we may win next year. Who knows?

The major sports this term are cricket, athletics and swimming.

Already athletics qualifying is well on the way, and if we are to justify ourselves on Sports Day, we must obtain, beforehand, as many points as possible.

To date the Senior cricket team has played very well indeed. They beat Halliwell by 50 runs and scored 85 for 2 in answer to Cobbs' total of 84 for 4. In the first match Elliott scored 42 and in the second, 46. Against Cobbs, Stracy made a valuable 19 not out. Unfortunately, Elliott will no longer be playing for the House, but I am sure the team can produce good results if they give Ridgeway their full support.

The Colts, too, won their first two matches. They beat Newsoms by 10 runs and then Halliwell by 7 wickets, scoring an admirable total of 109 for 3. Congratulations to Thompson and his team.

The Juniors lost against a strong Newsoms team but have an even chance of winning the remaining three.

Tennis, the minor sport this term, has produced mixed success. To date the team has beaten Newsoms 3—0, and lost to Cobbs 3—0. Stracy (Capt.), Davis, Fowles, Elliott, Brittain, Wearn (J.) and Lynch have all played.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to thank all the parents who gave up so much of their valuable time in contributing to the success of the Garden Party. To you, and all other parents, relatives and friends who patronized the stalls, the House expresses its sincere gratitude. J.M.D.

Halliwell

House Captain: M. A. Phillips.

Vice-Captain: M. Cousins.

The Summer Term contains several competitions in major sports, so that it has great importance in the annual struggle for the Cock House Cup. Fortunately, most of the competitions are not finished until after the examinations, which are also a regular feature of this term!

Last term saw the House wind up on a very satisfactory note by at last regaining the Dramatics Cup. Heartly congratulations are extended to all concerned—whether acting or back-stage—and especially to G. A. Young. Bearing in mind that he made his debut on the School stage and produced the play as well, we feel he achieved a most noteworthy success. However, we must not forget the hard work put in by M. Cousins—back-stage as well as in front—Higham, Corke, Dunn, Hudson, Boyd and all the others concerned. Due to the very large cast we had, I think this can be called a real House effort, and just shows what can be done if we join together in all-out effort.

We did not excel ourselves in the Hockey Cup last term. The Senior team did not win a match, though came very close in the final match against Newsoms, which we lost 3—4, after a disputed goal had been awarded against us. The Colts, however, fared better, and won two out of their four matches, beating Miltons and Newsoms.

The Juniors finally finished third in their Rugby competition, beating Cobbs and Miltons, and losing to Gibbs and Newsoms. The team was well led by King, with good support from Higgs, Impey, Davidson, Crowe, Kingham and McLean.

At the time of writing we have only played one house match in the Senior section of the Cricket Cup. The team is not very strong, possessing no School players, and consequently lost its first match. The Colts, however, brightened the picture by beating Miltons by 10 runs and Newsoms by 4 wickets. Congratulations are due to them for this excellent showing, and we hope they will gain further successes. The Juniors have also done well in their competition by beating Cobbs in a replay after the first game was washed out by rain. The whole team is full of enthusiasm and is led by an enthusiastic captain, Kingham.

Our strong point still seems to be athletics, and though the qualifying has not been very good this year—especially in the Junior School—we still hope to do well on Sports Day.

The House still seems to be extremely allergic to wetting its feet, and at the time of writing we are lagging behind in qualifying points. If we fail to win this cup it will be mainly due to the fact that qualifying has not been up to previous standards.

Tennis does not see us well off for players, but we wish our team, under the captaincy of M. J. Phillips, success in the tournament. At the moment the team has played two matches, beating Newsoms 2—1, and losing to Cobbs 1—2.

Finally, on behalf of all boys in the House, I would like to thank all those parents who helped in the House's effort in the Garden Party, and achieved such a wonderful result, despite the appalling weather. M.A.P.

The House joins me in wishing Godspeed and every good fortune to M. A. Phillips, who leaves for the Forces and who has so faithfully served as its Captain for these last two years, and to all its other members who will be bidding us farewell. P.S.

Miltons

Captain: R. S. Betts.

Chess.—In our last match last term the team put up a very good fight against Newsoms, the eventual trophy winners, although they lost 1—3. Our final place in the competition was third, which was good considering our lack of practised hands at the game.

Hockey.—In this competition Miltons showed a great improvement over last year's results: in fact, due largely to the efforts of our captain, Beaumont,

we made a strong bid for the cup. A powerful Senior team, containing seven members of School teams, scored convincing victories over Newsoms and Halliwells, also managing to beat Gibbs (1—0). Unfortunately in our last match against Cobbs, though leading 1—0 at half-time, we were unable to avert a 1—2 defeat. Thus, although the Colts secured second position in their section with two fine wins to their credit, we had to be content with third place. We congratulate Keeble on being awarded his School Colours.

Dramatics.—Our ambitious production of Ivan Turgenev's comedy, "A Provincial Lady," not only afforded a little light relief in a programme of plays weighted rather heavily by drama, but also gained us second place, close behind Halliwells. Great credit is due to Drye, who was a most efficient stage manager; to Windsor (B.), who, on his first appearance on the stage, sustained a long part with competence, and to Read, Lavous and Faint, for naturally effective characterizations. We have done well in this competition for several years now, and it seems a pity that it does not count towards the Cock House Cup.

Junior Rugby.—The Junior team lost all its games, never recovering from a disastrous start. The best thing we can do for them is not to publish the scores, and to urge them on to better things next year.

Cricket.—The Senior team made an excellent start to their programme, winning convincingly against Newsoms. Making 95 for 6 (Beaumont 39), they dismissed their opponents for 16 (this was chiefly due to Tulett, who took 7 wickets for 5 runs), and they thus won by the very respectable margin of 79 runs. The Colts have not been so successful, losing their game to Halliwells.

Athletics.—Qualifying has been proceeding at a reasonable pace, but with so few athletes in the House our total does not seem large enough to gain us any renown on Sports Day.

Swimming.—After a slow start, qualifying has been speeded up, and we should have built up a satisfactory total by the time of the competition: enough, we hope, to raise us from fourth position, in which we found ourselves last year.

Tennis.—As yet, no matches have been decided in this competition: the team, at the time of writing, is engaged in a game with Cobbs, from which we have high hopes of a favourable result. But miracles can happen.

All those who have worked hard in House activities should be reasonably satisfied with this year's results so far: only in Rugby and Cross-Country have we done really badly. On the other hand, those "passengers" whose contribution is infinitesimal should determine to pull their weight next year. Only if they do this can we hope for real distinction. **R.S.B.**

Newsoms

Captain: D. J. Bevan.

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

The winning of the Junior Rugger Competition and the Chess Trophy in the Spring Term were duly celebrated by a House Supper on May 25th. Indeed, it is the present Junior section of the House that we challenge to win the Cock House Cup in the years immediately ahead. In the Junior Rugger Competition they excelled, and gave other houses a taste of their future potentialities. Victories of 70—0 over Halliwells, of 36—0 over Gibbs, of 49—0 against Cobbs and 57—0 against Miltons testify to their abounding power and relentless determination. A Newsoms team of eleven players then defeated the rest of the Junior School (16—6) and added to their blaze of glory. Triumphant last term on the Rugger field, they now continue their zealous march to the Junior Shield on the cricket pitch with a crushing victory over Gibbs by 9 wickets. If the Junior Shield should be Newsoms' this year, eminently deserving of credit will be Stevens (D. C.) and Thorpe, in each case as an efficient captain as well as a leading player.

Last term the Chess Trophy found its way into Newsoms' hands. The team of Britton, M. L. Smith, Weightman and Page (J. G.) not only suffered no defeat, but moreover conceded the modest total of only two points to its

opponents by beating Miltons 3—1, Cobbs 3½—½, Halliwells 4—0 and Gibbs 3½—½. In the Dramatics Competition, Newsoms' presentation of G. B. Shaw's political extravaganza, "The Apple Cart," was unplaced. However, the cast—and in particular R. A. Giles as producer and principal actor—acquitted themselves with distinction. P. J. Parsons as Amanda was hilariously funny. The required atmosphere was sustained quite well, but at the same time much of the play was inaudible. The House fared disappointingly in the Hockey Competition: with only one victory to our credit we were placed fourth. The one victory of the season—against Halliwells 4—3—was the result of a flash of inspiration afforded to Mervyn Smith within ten minutes of the final whistle. The score stood at 1—3, and in those last ten minutes we were given an exhibition of his old dribbling-shooting prowess, which produced three quick goals to give us victory.

This term the cricket and tennis teams have met with failure upon failure. The Senior Cricket XI has suffered two devastating defeats—by Cobbs and by Miltons. The devastation suffered at the hands of Miltons was due in large measure to the unfortunate arrangement of House matches on the same day as the Wimbledon and District Sports. Denied the invaluable services of three key players in Weightman, Loible and Spencer (B.) we were destined to unavoidable defeat. The captain, Loible, and Smith have played intelligent cricket, and have been a boon to the side. The Colt XI has lost heavily its three matches played to date. Stevens (A. J.) alone has batted with any consistency, and with Wyatt he shares the bowling honours. The Tennis team has lost its matches to Gibbs and to Halliwells. The team possesses capable players in M. L. Smith, Loible and Williams, but its advantages have not been made good and its chances of victory have not been seized.

The picture of our achievements at hockey, cricket and tennis has been painted black, and rightly so. The athletics-swimming picture, however, is considerably brighter. Last year's lively enthusiasm to qualify for these events seems to have been maintained. Further, teams containing much talent have been entered for the Sports Days. Consequently, the likelihood of Newsoms acquitting itself creditably in these sports is great. **D.J.B.**

HOUSE PLAY COMPETITION

Returning to the House Play Competition after an interval of eight years, I was delighted to find that little, if anything, had changed. Once again I lunched in Hall with the feeling that it was only a dining room on sufferance and that stage-hands were impatiently waiting to sweep us all away. There was the same sense of urgency in the air and the same happy anticipation of impending holidays. The only real difference was that this time I should not be able to sit down and enjoy myself, having undertaken the always invidious task of judgment.

An adjudicator, I believe, should look for certain qualities above all others—imaginative choice of material, clear-headed and sensitive direction, the provision and employment of opportunities for all available talent and, finally, the participation of as many members of a house as possible. In all these Halliwells clearly excelled.

"Strife" is a good play in itself; it has a large preponderance of men in the cast; it offers opportunities of varying importance to many people. The need for abridgement gives a fine opportunity for anyone interested in dramatic construction. All these chances were seized. The adaptation was skilful and effective. The scene-painters did a first-rate job in the second scene. The leading actors were very good indeed, and the small-part men keen and co-operative. The Edwardian atmosphere was well conveyed, especially by the "period" telephone—though less satisfactorily by the curious fire-screen and omnipresent hat-stand. Make-up and costume were very good, even if they had the effect of loading the dice rather too heavily against the company directors.

G. A. Young is to be congratulated not only on his firm and carefully-considered direction, but also on having avoided the danger of taking the chief part. As *Edgar Anthony* he was quietly effective and in an ideal position to hold the play together. The acting of M. A. Phillips, as *Roberts*, was of a very high order, strong, passionate and sincere. J. C. Dunn as *Harness* struck precisely the right note and made a splendid exit in the first scene and a good speech in the second. *Old Anthony's* part suffered from curtailment, and it was too long before J. R. S. Higham could establish himself as one of the two most powerful personalities. I do not really see how in the first scene, as it stood, he could have shown us that he was a lion *dormant or couchant*; a heavier and older make-up might have helped. When his moment came he gave a distinguished and perceptive performance. Smaller parts were well played, apart from an occasional tendency to stop acting when not actually speaking. But it would be wrong to go on singling out individuals in this harmonious and sustained production, which brought out so many virtues in so large a company.

I was prepared to be severe with Miltons for choosing "A Provincial Lady." Only six actors were required; two of them in very small parts. Anyhow, I thought the play might easily be killed by its own *longueurs*. Yet the opening music and the arresting picture which the parting curtains revealed made me realize that this was likely to be a production in the best Raynes Park tradition. R. S. Betts, both as producer and as actor, forced me to abandon my prejudices and salute his achievement. The play sagged a little in the middle but it came through. Opportunities were perceived and used—as when *Apollon* proudly showed us every aspect of his livery, when we saw the dust flying and when *Darya* idly toyed with the piano during her long soliloquy. M. F. B. Read, in this difficult part, was one of the few actors in the competition who let us see his eyes and acted with them, bringing a degree of life to this production which was missing in some of the others. *Stupendiyev* (B. Windsor) managed to look extremely Russian; but neither he nor *Mischa* (M. J. Lavous) were always easy to hear, though they acted with sincerity and had taken pains to enter into the spirit of the play. The cook and house-boy (A. R. Murant and A. J. Faint) were delightfully grotesque. But it was R. S. Betts who carried the day—a triumph of vitality, artistry and appreciation of the absurd.

Gibbs set themselves an even harder task. Here again were the actor-producer (in a crucially dominant rôle) and the small cast, though this time the majority of the actors had important parts to play. M. A. Elliott, as *Marie*, acted beautifully and gave one of the best performances of the day, but, as producer of this difficult scene, he failed to make the most effective groupings in the confined space at his disposal and was unable to relieve a tendency for the action to become entirely static. *Heron* (A. J. Fowles) was badly placed for his long speech. He wrestled grimly with an almost impossible part but needed more technical assistance. The play opened at too fast a pace and the audibility was weak, with the last words of sentences constantly fading away—including even such important remarks as "although she loves you." *Philip Sturgess* (T. E. Lynch) lessened the tension through insufficient reaction. *Julian* (J. L. Wearn) was rather too fierce for my liking, and *Chassaigne* (C. C. Wright) seemed to have little in reserve. Yet the right feeling was there all the time. Producer and actors knew what they wanted. The simplicity of J. M. Davis in the easiest of the parts made one realize the complexity of the emotions felt by the others. Although the lighting was not always convincing, the setting was superbly painted.

In "Red Night" Cobbs employed a splendid troupe of actors, most of them in small parts. But it is fatal for an abridgement to have as many as six scenes and to try and cover in one hour an episodic chronicle of the events occurring during more than nine months. The actor-producer (Ian Hayter) undertook the largest part and gave an attractive performance—though for greater realism he should have had a more military hair-cut. But the adaptation of the play (and perhaps some weakness in the original) proved too much for him and the effect was bewildering and uneven. The actors were

well cast and worked hard, though they were not consistently audible. David Shepherd as *Hollingswood* was particularly convincing. Michael Francis showed a talent for comedy and David Jackson was undefeated by a difficult and rather sententious part. A long interval increased the sense of scrappiness. The staging was good and the effects were suitably frightening, though the noise tended to drown the speakers. The music was very sentimental. Much work must have gone to the production, but the play failed to stand up to abridgement.

Newsoms, on the other hand, found in "The Apple Cart," also abridged, dialogue and situation which force their brilliancy through any obstacles. It might have been equally entertaining if the words had been delivered without action, costume or scenery. *King Magnus* (R. A. Giles) spoke his lines with respect for their content and acted with easy dignity. His co-producer, P. J. Parsons, delighted the audience as an improbable and self-conscious *Amanda*. The production relied on excellent Shaw and pleasing scenery. Apart from the king there was very little acting. At the end of a long series of plays it was good to listen to this flow of wit, audibly delivered. Shaw himself loved to supervise the production of his plays. Perhaps he alone knew how to bring his static debates to life.

C.W.

CASTS

Cobbs

"Red Night," by James Lansdale Hodson.

Privates: S. Summers, M. Francis; J. MacLaggart, J. Manning; J. Hardcastle, I. B. Hayter; R. Whitman, D. A. Jackson; C. Hollingswood, D. C. Shepherd; Thorndike, C. C. Wright; Morton, P. Ingram; Corporal Haslam, I. R. Wilson; A Sergeant, M. Talbot; A Runner, R. E. Atkins.

Scenery, R. N. Fash, M. Francis. Painting, J. C. Davey. Effects, B. E. A. Jacobs. Lighting, I. R. Wilson, R. N. Fash. Stage Manager, R. N. Fash. Producer, I. B. Hayter.

Gibbs

"The River Line," by Charles Morgan.

Marie, M. A. Elliott; Chassaigne, C. C. Wright; Heron, A. J. Fowles; Commander Wyburton, J. L. Wearn; F/Lt. Dick Frewer, J. M. Davis; Philip Sturgess, T. E. Lynch.

Stage direction and scenery, B. Stracy. Producer, M. A. Elliott.

Halliwells

"Strife," by John Galsworthy.

John Anthony, Chairman of Board, J. R. Higham; Edgar Anthony, his son, G. A. Young; Wilder, Director, M. K. Hudson; Wanklin, Director, A. T. Boyd; Underwood, Director and Manager of Works, P. M. Corke; Harness, Union official, J. C. Dunn; Roberts, Men's leader, M. A. Phillips; Members of Men's Committee—Bolgin, R. H. de Gunten; Thomas, M. Cousins; Rous, M. R. Halls; Evans, B. J. McCartney; Jago, a striker, P. Roberts; Enid Underwood, wife of Underwood, J. A. Colmer; Madge Thomas, daughter of Thomas, R. Impey; Maid, C. Mottershead; Crowd, J. Nicholson, D. J. Creasey, C. F. Higham, T. A. Paxman, D. J. Maclean, A. J. Palmer, N. McCartney, C. B. Thrasher, R. D. Jordan.

Scenery, D. J. Swinscoe, M. Esau. Lighting, M. J. Phillips. Producer, G. A. Young.

Miltons

"A Provincial Lady," by Ivan Turgenev, translated by Constance Garnett and adapted by Mikhail Vorontsov.

Alexey Ivanovitch Stupendiyev, a district government clerk, B. Windsor; Darya Ivanovna, his wife, M. F. B. Read; Vassilyevna, his cook, A. R. Murant; Apollon, his house-boy, A. J. Faint; Mischa, a distant cousin of Darya Ivanovna,

M. J. Lavous; *Valeryan Nikholaevitch, Count Lyubin*, R. S. Betts; *his valet*, M. R. Burke.

Stage Manager, D. J. Drye, assisted by E. Swift. *Designer and Producer*, R. S. Betts.

Newsoms

"The Apple Cart," by G. B. Shaw.

Vanhattan, American Ambassador, D. C. Spencer; *King Magnus*, R. A. Giles; *Proteus, Prime Minister*, C. R. Weightman; *Pliny, Chancellor of the Exchequer*, M. A. Trayler; *Nicobar, Foreign Secretary*, E. R. Bray; *Crassus, Colonial Secretary*, B. Spencer; *Balbus, Home Secretary*, R. M. Pevy; *Boanerges, President of the Board of Trade*, G. H. Williams; *Pamphilus, Secretary to the King*, D. J. Bevan; *Queen Jemima*, S. F. Partridge; *Lysistrata, Power-Mistress General*, P. G. Vickers; *Amanda, Post-Mistress General*, P. J. Parsons.

Stage Manager, D. H. Dann. *Producers*, R. A. Giles and P. J. Parsons.

PUPPET PLAY

Those who saw the Puppet Club's production of "Metra" last year may well have come away wondering whether to travel is not better than to arrive. Yet the sequel, "Zanatoc," which ran successfully for three performances at the end of the Spring Term, yielded nothing to its predecessor and lived up to the promise of a well-chosen name.

As one might expect from a club whose guiding spirit happens to be the tutelary deity of the Art Department, it was the beauty of the sets that made the performance so rewarding. Some of these were quite memorable, and all made use of the exciting opportunities offered by the discovery of a new planet. The lush vegetation of "The Court of Zanatoc" contrasted admirably with the poisonous atmosphere of "The Spinosian Marsh" and the moon-like landscape in which "The Battle of the Plants" was fought out. One was a little disconcerted to find that the inhabitants of this brave new world themselves preferred to be flora rather than fauna, but they possessed an added insect-like quality which differentiated them adequately from their surroundings. As for the first human beings to set foot in this unearthly paradise, they appeared most at ease in the relative intimacy of the spaceship, together with their robot attendants, who were even more at home in a mechanical milieu. It was good to see this set again and to enjoy the skilful effects of back-projection which contributed so largely to the success of "Metra." In all the scenes great credit must go to the scene-painters who interpreted Cecil Riley's imaginative designs in terms of the small theatre.

There was a noticeable improvement this year in the speaking of parts. The cast were uniformly good in this respect, and special praise must go to B. G. Barker for his expressive and quite powerful characterization of Joseph Snythe. The manipulation of this part was also good, since it contained some telling gestures and—most important of all—moments when the puppet was allowed to remain quite still even while supposed to be speaking. This might serve as a model to all would-be manipulators, who tend to feel that their puppet must always be on the move when speaking, whereas to the audience the effect is slightly disturbing. The dialogue usually makes things clear, and a well-planned gesture here and there can be all the more telling by reason of its contrast with the general stillness of the puppet.

The script of the play was perhaps mostly intended to set off the spectacle, and began to wear thin precisely where the latter was at its height, namely, in the battle-scene, where, after the amusing and well-managed entry of the rival armies, narrative took the place of action and resulted in a lack of movement. With their return to Earth, one feels that the Puppet Club should now turn its attention from Professor Hawkins and Co., and attempt something more ambitious in the way of drama, for puppetry is capable of sustaining quite weighty themes.

Finally, one should add a word of praise for the lighting and music which were excellent throughout. The latter was especially interesting, did not

confine itself to "The Planets," and even continued *sotto voce* during the interval, with most agreeable effect. L.W.V.

Production written and designed by Cecil Riley.

Cast: R. S. West, B. W. Vincent, J. J. Stickley, B. G. Barker, J. A. Castle, D. H. Dulieu, D. A. Groves, A. N. Bailey.

Manipulators: G. Way, M. Reeve, B. W. Rowling, A. R. Beavitt, D. E. Sanford.

Music, C. J. Brett. *Lighting*, B. G. Barker. *Back Projection*, A. N. Bailey. *Stage Manager*, R. S. West.

GARDEN PARTY

One thing can be said about this year's Garden Party with all due emphasis: it was *wet*.

Mr. Bevan was running the Archery Stall and complained that the rain was spoiling the feathered flights on the arrows. He did not complain of the rain trickling down his back! Mr. Mann, at the Coconut Shies, said that the balls were slipping: he said nothing of being soaked himself. Scout Pollard in his Zoo on the Reservation changed, with a broad grin, the name to "Aquarium." On the Garden Stall Mrs. Parsons stimulated selling by calling out "Lovely planting weather," and sold even more. Some excellent posters on the stalls of juniors became all-over colour washes, but these undismayed artists shouted their prices instead of displaying them. On the golf course one lady held an umbrella aloft while *putting* her way round the course with the other hand. One Halliwells parent was heard saying, "Keep out the damp—visit the bottle stall and splice the mainbrace." Meanwhile the Sutton Model Engineering Club bravely carried on making train journeys across the field. One of the team, no doubt remembering earlier years in another place, shouted, "All aboard for *Manchester*." Mr. Chiddick, drenched to the skin, merely said that his money was too wet to leave in his pocket.

That was the prevailing spirit, and it was admirable. We had been so lucky for so many years; who were we to grumble now? There was no depression, no last-minute panic. Some activities came indoors, some quietly ceased, many others carried on cheerfully. The overall number of visitors attending was undoubtedly smaller, but those who came supported us well. Tribute must be paid to the many who subscribed by gifts and by running the stalls and activities. Mrs. Clark was most successful in taking over the kitchen and tea service, and indeed, this service in Hall was as unhurried and pleasant as we always like it to be.

Gross takings were near £340, from which the General School Fund and Scout Funds will, between them, benefit by approximately £260.

The evening ended with a concert in Hall and the exciting announcements of many prizes. These were so charmingly presented by Miss Jessica Porter. The Conjuror, Mr. George King, entertained a packed hall for nearly an hour. He amused, surprised and produced the unexpected from the unexpected. But one act must be recorded, whether he intended it or not. The famous hat was placed on the table, he waved his hands, looked up at the windows—the rain stopped and the evening sun shone. E.G.R.

CHRISTIAN UNION

The Summer Term, and all the interruptions of examinations, of athletics and of cricket practices are upon us again, and the Christian Union, like everything else, is momentarily diverted from its even course. And yet the very fact that our meetings continue, that our membership remains constant and faithful is ample testimony to our belief in the value and the power of the Christian Union.

One event of last term has still to be recorded here. Under the auspices of the Christian Union, a coachload of us went to hear Dr. Billy Graham at Harringay, and, I think, most of us received a considerable jolt; inspiring is

too weak a word to describe the strange atmosphere that was there: it was, and of this I am convinced, the Holy Spirit of God working in men's hearts as He did at Pentecost and as He has done through the ages. If Billy Graham has done nothing else, and I believe he has done much more, he has brought the name of God and of His Messiah back to the lips of ordinary men and women—he has made Christianity a topic of everyday conversation. It is the duty and privilege of each one of us to use that opportunity as God would wish.

Next year the initials at the foot of these notes will be different, and I ask you to support Brian Windsor as he carries on the work. Two years is a long time, and as the time draws near for me to hand on the leadership of this Christian Union, my thoughts naturally travel back over the joys and disappointments, the days of nervous strain, and the moments of great gladness that have marked those two years. At first sight, leading the Christian Union might seem an unrewarding job, and yet I know that I leave the job a fuller and richer person than when I began. It has not been easy, sometimes it has been almost cruelly difficult, yet I have gained an abiding sense of God's presence, of His purpose for me, and of a security which I had never dreamed existed. I have quoted before the ancient promise of God, and I am now even more convinced of its truth and relevance to our world to-day: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." There is the only security for the world. There will be meeting this summer in Evanston, U.S.A., the World Council of Churches, and they have chosen as their theme: "Christ, the Hope of the World"; the Christian Church is recognizing its responsibility and its unique position in being able to make that claim, and it behoves us all to think very seriously whether its claim be not true. D.A.J.

SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

In view of the general acclaim that was accorded last year's Mock Trial, the experiment was repeated in the latter half of last term. "William, called Rufus" (played by R. N. Fash) stood accused on indictment that he did, on sundry occasions between 1087 and 1100, *Anno Domini*, either alone, or as an associate of, or companion-voyager with, certain traitorous and ill-disposed persons, conduct himself lawlessly, feloniously and maliciously, and to the peril of the tranquillity of this Realm, being, in vulgar parlance, a RED. The Counsels—R. S. Betts for the Prosecution and P. J. Parsons for the Defence—must needs have practised rare ingenuity in surmounting the barriers of time and space in their search for witnesses. Witnesses were borrowed from the pages of history, were wrested from the grandeur of thrones and drawn from the realms of imagination. They included King Henry VIII (J. L. Wearn), apparently an associate of the Duke of Cambridge, the Red Scout (B. E. A. Jacobs), His Imperial Majesty Go Soochi Mikado (M. A. Elliot), Signorina Lucretia Borgia (I. Hayter) and a Zanatocian (M. Cousins) as witnesses for the Prosecution; and for the Defence, Senator Joseph McCarthy (P. J. Bunyan), Lenin (D. J. Bevan), Dr. Strabismus of Utrecht (M. Gordon) and a Blasted Oak (G. A. Young). The prisoner was found guilty and duly sentenced by Justice Rudgley, who gave freely of his native wit and, together with the Clerk of Assize (A. J. Faint), maintained a modicum of order in the court. The evening proved a success, a success due in no small part to those girls from Wimbledon County School who kindly acted as witnesses and Members of the Jury.

School dances continue to flourish, their attendances and popularity to increase; that of April 9th, with music played by the Fox Four Five Dance Band, was exceptionally well attended and yielded £15 to G.S.F. One meeting—a film evening—has been held this term. On May 20th, "The Lady Vanishes" was shown to an audience of Fifth- and Sixth-formers and girls from Wimbledon County School. Although at first the film projector was obstinately unco-operative, it later proved to be more amenable and the film was greatly enjoyed. D.J.B.

LITERARY SOCIETY

This term has chiefly been notable for the long-awaited talk on the poet Edward Thomas, given by D. A. Jackson on May 27th. Few people know much about this poet, but the speaker was so completely at ease among the details of his life and work, that each member of the good-sized audience went away with at least some idea of how this man, the son of a railway worker, who studied at Oxford, who remained for several years in the artistic wilderness, found sudden inspiration in the First World War, and wrote poetry with a perception of nature missing in English verse since the Romantics. The greatest merit of the talk, however, was not that it was educational, but that it was interesting. We anticipate this quality again in the address promised by P. J. Parsons for the end of term on W. S. Gilbert, who, though his work is not of the same literary distinction as Edward Thomas', can at least be credited with the same command of words.

Play readings have continued this term with Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard." This has proved extremely amusing due, sad to say, not only to the nostalgic wit of the play itself, but also to some of the ridiculously bad translations from which we have been reading. We hope to arrange a trip to John Gielgud's production of the play at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

The last Secretary of the Literary Society never lost the hope that more members of the Sixth Form would feel the "itch of literature." At the moment, literature barely tickles the palate of even the Arts Sixth. It appears that more and more people are content to sit back and absorb the opinions of others, rarely making any creative effort themselves. The lectures and play-readings we have are an evidence of this. Until there is a positive effort by a large number of people, created by the genuine "itch," the Society will merely pass the time: it will have little lasting value. R.S.B.

DEBATING SOCIETY

At the end of last term, over-anxious to arrange a return debate with Surbiton C.G.S., we allowed ourselves to be given the weaker standpoint in the motion that "This House believes that the British are a Sentimental Race." It is obviously useless to deny that any race is sentimental—all are to some degree—and this we discovered. On an evening when House play rehearsals reduced our supply of supporting speakers, the team was led by Young and Wright; the speech of the former was flurried and disjointed, that of the latter good-humoured and pointless. The floor speakers floundered in varying degrees of sheer inadequacy. Thus the Surbiton team, exploiting with skill their bounty of favourable facts, were easy winners.

The Society Committee has tried to persuade some Fifth- and Sixth-formers to lay aside for a moment their pre-examination panic and speak in a debate this term, but with negative results. Nor has the Fourth Form been any more forthcoming. Thus the oratorical gifts of the School, which at the time of writing are blushing unseen, will, unfortunately, remain in this state till the end of term. R.S.B.

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

President: Mr. A. Cholmondeley. *Vice-President:* The Headmaster.
Secretary: D. A. Jackson.

Our meeting for the end of the Easter Term consisted of a paper given by Mr. P. Smith on Greek Science. After complaining that he had been given the wrong kind of education, and had been barred from the delights of classics by the calls of something called engineering, he proceeded to give an entertaining paper on the Scientists and Thinkers of Ancient Greece. He said that theirs, generally speaking, was not experimental science as we know it, but rather an argument from premises and the verification of those premises. The

Greeks had not always arrived at reasonable answers to the basic questions of science such as "What is the universe?", "What is life?", "What are things made of?" and so on, but it was to their immortal credit that they had been the first to ask such questions. He pointed out, with the aid of some amusing examples from Aristotle and from the mediæval "scientists," how far the Greeks were ahead of any of their successors for well-nigh two thousand years. He ended a valuable and thought-provoking talk by saying that England had produced only one Newton, Germany one Einstein and Italy one Galileo, whereas the Greeks within the short space of three hundred years had produced the "Father" of nearly every branch of science from medicine to atomic physics.

D.A.J.

GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

We are now returned to the Art Room, to continue our survey of the Symphony under the benignant gaze of Mr. Riley's Dinosaur. Lack of records has made this term, so far, rather a disappointing one; for we have been able to play only two Beethoven symphonies amidst a number of novelties. One such piece, played too late to be included in last term's notes, was the "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" by Rachmaninov, the main work in the personal choice programme of G. Robson. The work appealed to admirers of Tchaikovsky and Liszt alike, and we hope to hear it again soon.

Our recording of Beethoven's Sixth was unfortunately incomplete, but this enforced cut could hardly detract from—Philistines might say it added to—the lazy beauty of "By the Brook" and the serene calm of the "Hymn or Thanksgiving." The symphony was preceded by Beethoven's overture to Goethe's "Egmont"—surely an epitome of this composer's art. We have also played the anything-but-pastoral Fifth—"popular" if you will, but nonetheless great for that—and Schumann's Symphony in B flat. The former needs no comment; the latter seems to the present writer unjustly neglected, faulty scoring or not. Surely its spring landscape is preferable to the much-praised mud flats of Brahms?

Among this term's novelties we must class Walton's music to incomprehensible and inaudible poems by Edith Sitwell ("Façade"); Beethoven's glorious song-cycle "An die Ferne Geliebte"; and two songs by Mr. Rudgley to words by Mr. Walsh, sung by Mr. Loveday. The recording was in places unfortunate; but if any expected a super-modern poetical and musical idiom, they were pleasantly surprised.

We have some more Beethoven records within our grasp; so we may yet attain to the incomparable Ninth. Its great length makes a complete performance impossible at a normal meeting, and it would be sacrilege to dissect it; it would, however, form a fitting end to the term.

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

RECORDER CLUB

The Recorder Club is still in its infancy. After the usual mushroom-like growth which accompanies the beginning of many societies, and during which it numbered seventeen members, it now enjoys the support of seven real enthusiasts, who are prepared to work at the instrument, and give every sign of remaining interested. One member enjoys the possession of a treble recorder, and it is hoped soon to take advantage of the School recording apparatus to enable boys to hear themselves singly and in combination. Several members are already showing evidence of a fair degree of proficiency, and one hopes that their initiative will enable them to give this much-misunderstood instrument a chance of showing its true character, by playing music written for it, and by persevering in the endeavour to attain something more than the average pupil's shrill and insensitive performance.

L.W.V.

Two camps during the Easter holidays made good use of the cabin site at West Hoathly. The Seniors divided their time between cabin maintenance and local explorations, with some time helping by driving tractors on the farm. The Junior camp appeared fully occupied in local natural history. And what a wealth of animal, bird and insect life there is on the very doorstep! The Group should see to it that this site is fully used, with, quite apart from scouting, all its opportunities for field work in local nature study and geological interest.

With no Scoutmaster to direct the Troop's weekly programme, the Senior scouts, led by D. Bevan, have come into their own and carried out a prepared plan to preserve interest and continuity. Badge work, too, has been seen going on in the Den. But warm commendation is given to this Senior team as a whole for their determination to carry on at all, and for the unanimous refusal to go dormant for a term, when faced with that extreme possibility. In this, too, the Parent Meetings have made it abundantly clear that this was also a parental wish. In September we shall have with us a new member of the Staff, and one who, with a Wood Badge Course behind him, has expressed a willingness to take over the Group and further its work. Any fresh outlook and personality of this kind will surely prove a great tonic in time of need.

The Annual Garden Party received a large measure of support from our parents: a very large measure, in fact, when we consider the relative number of Scout to School parents. The weather certainly did not damp their ardour even if it penetrated their clothing.

The Summer Camp this year will be held on a site overlooking Start Bay, on the coast a few miles south of Dartmouth. The final blow on the already tentative arrangements came with the news of "Tiger's" impending departure from Raynes Park. But Mr. Bellis has nobly placed his services at our disposal for the camp period, and by so doing has avoided bitter disappointment among the scouts and, incidentally, avoided a break in the nineteenth year of the 19th's record of summer camps in widely differing and adventurous parts of the country. We are indebted to him, and the attendance is likely to be one hundred per cent. **M. Langton, an Old Boy who is now at the University of North Staffordshire, is coming in with our large Senior section in camp and, with Bevan, will run the camp. Even if there is to be no "Tiger" in camp, one would like to feel that his imprints on standards are deep and lasting.**

A.T.C. NOTES

Since our last appearance in print we have successfully negotiated the hurdle of the Annual Inspection carried out on behalf of A.O.C. No. 61 Group, R.A.F., by one of his Staff Officers, who later put in a most complimentary report on the work of the Squadron. The number of Cadets in the Squadron has continued to rise slowly, and we have been most fortunate in securing the services of Flying-Officer Jeffs to help with our Armaments Training, and Pilot-Officer Mitchell to teach Meteorology and Survival. Both officers are now part of the permanent Staff of the Squadron. Throughout the year most valuable assistance has been given by Old Boys who have visited us when possible, and have greatly helped the training. We have also now got our own Warrant Officer in Mr. Cox, who, while studying at London University, is able to help us out on Friday evenings.

Several of our Cadets have managed to secure distinction either by winning competitions or by being chosen to represent Surrey Wing in various ways. Special congratulations go to Sgt. Loveday who retained the Archer Trophy for Aircraft Recognition, and not content with that, secured his Advanced Training Certificate, a Flying Scholarship, and now is chosen to join a party of Cadets, selected from the whole country, to go to the United States in the summer as the guests of the U.S. Air Cadet Organization.

Cadets Brittain, Boyd, Spencer (B.), Cpl. Elliott and Sgt. Phillips have represented Surrey Wing at Rugby, and Spencer and Phillips have also played for No. 61 Group.

This year the Squadron is going farther afield for camp, for from August 9th to 16th we shall be in camp at R.A.F. Dyce, near Aberdeen. Whether we shall be going on air rescue work in the Grampians or flying out over the North Sea remains to be seen, but at all events it should be an interesting experience for the Cadets, few of whom will ever have been North of the Border.

J.D.T.

CHESS CLUB

The final table in the first Inter-House Competition is as follows:—

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Games for</i>	<i>Games against</i>	<i>Points</i>
Newsoms ...	4	4	0	0	14	2	8
Cobbs ...	4	3	0	1	11	5	6
Miltons ...	4	2	0	2	8	8	4
Gibbs ...	4	0	1	3	5	11	1
Halliwells ...	4	0	1	3	2	14	1

When last term's *Spur* was published, three rounds had been played, and at that time Miltons, Newsoms and Cobbs jointly led the table. In Round 4 Newsoms met Miltons, and Cobbs played Gibbs. Miltons had the distinction of being the only team to deprive Newsoms of a full point. They lost 3—1. Cobbs beat Gibbs 3—1.

The last round was generally expected to be very closely fought. Newsoms and Cobbs were to fight it out for first place, and Gibbs and Halliwells for last place. In the event, Gibbs and Halliwells drew, which seemed a fair result on current form, while Newsoms crushed Cobbs 3½—½, which did not. In the Newsoms-Cobbs match, at least two Newsoms' players obtained decisive material advantages. At the top board Hayter and Britton drew after a hard-fought game, in which Hayter sacrificed a knight for a strong attack and then faltered at the crucial moment.

A few notes on the actual teams might be of interest.

Newsoms and Cobbs.—There was little to choose between them, although Newsoms were decidedly better equipped on the lower boards. We congratulate Weightman on being the only one to win all four games.

Miltons.—Betts made the best of a team that was, to some extent, inexperienced. Beaumont, their leading player, exhibited startling form. Having drawn with Hayter, he lost to Weightman in nine moves.

Gibbs.—Lynch was undoubtedly their best player. Loveday (M.) was probably the best "discovery" of the tournament. He obtained a 50 per cent. record, and his two losses, against Jackson and Page, were hardly discreditable.

Halliwells.—They were outclassed. Only Hudson and Corke were able to obtain points for them.

D.J.B.

HOCKEY

1st XI

RESULTS

<i>v.</i> St. Mary's College ...	...	(A)	...	Won	5—1
<i>v.</i> Maori H.C. ...	...	(A)	...	Drawn	1—1
<i>v.</i> Beckenham C.G.S. ...	...	(A)	...	Lost	1—7
<i>v.</i> Cheam H.C. 3rd XI ...	...	(A)	...	Lost	0—3

Record: Played, 8; Won, 3; Drawn, 2; Lost, 3.

So the season ended all square. The 1st XI had only one real lapse, and that in a sea of mud in a driving drizzle. Although there was little to choose between Beckenham and ourselves in mid-field, in defence they always had

an extra man to rob us, and in attack their hard first-time shooting brought a goal almost every time they entered the circle. Apart from this one unfortunate match, the season can reasonably be accounted successful. Against the Maori H.C. we failed to win in a fast game where we were superior in almost every department, and at Cheam in the final match, against a vastly more experienced team, we in no way disgraced ourselves. All the team gave of their best, and selection of colours was a difficult task, but they have been awarded for 1954 to Corke (P. M. A.), Keeble (D. J.) and Wearn (J. L.).

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

*Colours.

2nd XI

RESULTS

<i>v.</i> Epsom H.C. 4th XI ...	...	(H)	...	Won	4—0
<i>v.</i> Beckenham C.G.S. ...	...	(H)	...	Won	2—0

Record: Played, 7; Won, 3; Lost, 4.

A vastly improved 2nd XI concluded the season in a burst of glory by winning their remaining two games. A very strong defence, led by Fash and Pooles, and ably backed by Weightman, Williams and Howard, with Burns in goal, kept out all our opponents could bring against them, and improved form from the forwards assured us a comfortable victory in both cases. The victory against Beckenham was all the more commendable as our opponents had drawn with Kingston's 2nd XI, whose 3rd XI had already beaten us!

Team.—Burns; Howard, Williams; Pooles, R. N. Fash (capt.), Weightman; M. Cousins, Francis (M.), Tulett, Elliott, Bunyan. Also played: Boyd, Fowles.

D.A.J.

CROSS-COUNTRY

The last two matches of the 1953-54 season were not reported in last term's edition of *The Spur*. Both of these were highly successful and showed a great improvement on earlier matches.

The first was on the evening of Thursday, March 18th, against Caterham School, and was run on the home courses on Wimbledon Common. The Juniors started first on the shorter course of 2½ miles, and this race resulted in an overwhelming victory for the School by 21 points to 67 points. Home runners occupied the first 7 positions, Barry being the individual winner in 15 mins. 17 secs. He was followed by Stewart 2nd (16.02), Hornsby 3rd (16.11), Mellor 4th (16.24), Warren 5th (16.25), Bailey 6th (16.38) and Hill (A. D.) 7th (16.44). The Senior Race over 3¼ miles was very much closer, the School just winning by 27 points to 28 points. Talbot was the winner in 18 mins. 40 secs., and was followed by Francis (P.) 3rd (19.03), Eagleson 6th (19.18), Hulatt 7th (19.20) and Davis 10th (19.42). Howard also ran.

The last match of the season was on Saturday, March 27th, against Ottershaw School over a 4½-mile course at Ottershaw. After a gruelling race in brilliant sunshine, the School came out victors by 34 points to 44 points. Talbot and Barry continued their fine running of recent matches and finished 2nd and 3rd, respectively. Hulatt, a much-improved runner, was 5th and the other scorers were Stewart (6th), Davis (7th) and Francis (11th).

Prospects for next season are very hopeful, although several members of the present team are leaving. Our two strongest runners, Barry and Talbot, will form the backbone of the team, which will probably consist of many of next year's Fifth-formers because of the calls of Rugby Football on many of the team.

P.F.

Captain: M. A. Phillips.

Secretary: M. Cousins.

The beginning of the season saw the School enter a small contingent in the London Athletic Club Schools' meeting at the White City and, although we did not win any events, we were redeemed by a fine effort by Stracy, who threw the discus 134ft.10ins.—a new School record. On this excellent performance he was chosen as reserve in the annual London *v.* Paris match.

At the time of writing the School has had two inter-school meetings. The first, against Wallington and Whitgift Middle, was not very successful in that we ended up in third place with 118 points, as against Whitgift Middle's 147 and Wallington's 135. Notable performances in this match were the firsts gained by Stracy in the discus—with a new School record of 136ft.—and, first equal with Weightman, in the high jump, and also M. Cousins' first in the 100 yds. In the Intermediate Ingram gained first place in the high jump. The second match, against Surbiton and Sutton, proved to be more successful, in that we finished second with a total of 89 points to Surbiton's 130 and Sutton's 79. Stracy once again took first place with a throw which landed in the long jump pit. M. Cousins ran very well to win the hurdles and the 100 yds., while M. A. Phillips won the 220 yds. In the Juniors Stevens came first in the 100 yds. On analysing the results it appears that the weak spot in athletics at the moment is in the lower half of the School. If the School is to keep up the high standard it has reached at the moment, it is up to the Juniors to get down to some really hard training.

Once again the School competed in the Wimbledon District Sports, winning the Intermediate Cup, and coming second in the Junior event. We must congratulate many of our boys who ran in this meeting on gaining places in the Wimbledon Team for the Surrey Schools Championships at Motspur Park on June 26th.

On comparing the results of last season with this, our prospects for the Surrey County Grammar Schools' Sports did not look very promising, but we went along determined to do our best. As the meeting progressed, we found ourselves steadily gaining points, and in the end we succeeded in winning the Senior Trophy by the narrow margin of 2 points with a total of 33. This victory was totally unexpected, and congratulations are due to all members of the Senior Team, and especially to those who gained valuable points by reaching the finals of their various events. The extraordinary feature of the competition was that we gained only one first place; thus emphasizing how well the team pulled together by making sure of second and third places.

Individual Results

Open.—Stracy, 1st, Discus; M. A. Phillips, 2nd, 220 yds.; M. Cousin, 3rd, Hurdles; Loible, 3rd, Javelin; Talbot, 4th, 880 yds.; Stracy, 5th, Shot; Barry, 6th, Mile; Relay Team, 2nd (Francis, Creasey, M. A. Phillips, M. Cousins).

Junior.—Stevens, 4th, 220 yds.

As a result of this season's athletic matches, colours have been awarded to B. A. Stracy and M. Francis. M.A.P.

CRICKET

1st XI

The 1st XI started the season well, beating a Malden Wanderers team, this being the first fixture with a club, apart from the Old Boys. Malden Wanderers were dismissed for the meagre total of 75, mainly due to some fine bowling by Elliott, who, satisfied with figures of 7 for 36, left the tailer lers to Shepherd. The School innings started badly, Shepherd being bowled by the first ball. For a time hereafter a procession to and from the crease ensued. Elliott stood alone, supported first by Cook, and later in a most able manner by Tulett. Runs now came at a steady rate and we scraped home by two wickets.

The next match, against Hampton C.G.S., resulted in a draw. Having won the toss, we decided to bat first, and scored 71 for 6 wickets against some very steady if not dangerous bowling, and succeeded in claiming 8 Hampton wickets at the close for 48 runs.

We now approached the Wallington fixture with high hopes of a win, but loose bowling, which allowed Wallington to score 165 for 6 wickets, ruined our hopes. A draw seemed inevitable, and finally proved to be the result.

The following Saturday brought the K.C.S. fixture, and here we really expected to win, but a general loss of form in both the batting and fielding spheres lost the game as handsomely as it had been won last year.

The St. George's College match was played in the rain on a difficult pitch and, although Jackson and Smith batted well, we were all out for 58. Our opponents scored the runs for the loss of 5 wickets.

The low scores of the 1st XI may well be accounted for by the weather. No batsman relishes the task of repeatedly performing on rain-affected wickets, although Lavous at times has looked promising. Smith, behind the stumps, has improved considerably upon last year, although he now has an erratic Tulett to keep to. We can only hope that the remaining matches will show an improvement in the standard of play, and bring the victories which I am sure the School is worthy of.

2nd XI (*Captain*: Pooles)

RESULTS

74 all out*—Badingham College 1st XI: 33 all out. Won.

99 for 9 dec.*—Wallington C.G.S. 2nd XI: 37 all out. Won.

70 all out—K.C.S. Colts: 136 for 6 dec.* Lost.

*First innings.

D.C.S.

Colts

In this summer of uncertain weather it is a feat to have played even one match. The Colts have had three, against Badingham College, K.C.S. Wimbledon, and Bushey (a practice match). The first of these was won, and the others drawn, slightly in our favour.

We have some promising batsmen in the side. Ridge and Stevens have so far proved most reliable, though Hill, G. A., Thomson, Loveday and Poynter have shown that they can score, and score quickly, when required. Of the bowlers, Thomson is the most hostile, though he tires quickly. Eley has bowled well at times and Wyatt is developing into a very steady stock bowler. On one occasion we were very glad to have the benefit of Ingram's all-round ability.

Nicholls started well as wicket-keeper and batsman, and was unfortunate to be kept out of action by an early injury. In his place Stevens has kept wicket well and has improved with every match. As captain, Hill G. A., has shown initiative, organizing ability, and a willingness to work hard, for which he deserves every credit.

There are two main weaknesses in this side. The first is flat-footedness in the field, which allows the batsman the initiative in running. The second is slowness in running between the wickets. When these two faults are remedied the team should settle down into a workmanlike and effective combination, well worthy of comparison with its predecessors in recent years. G.J.A.

TENNIS

At the time of writing the School Tennis Team has played only two matches. Of these one has been won and the other lost. We opened the season with a match against Tiffin School in the first round of the Rootham Shield Competition. Unfortunately we lost—by four matches to one. The team, consisting of Smith M. L., Cook, Stracy and Vennard, found the Tiffin singles players too strong, and all the singles were consequently lost. The

second match proved to be a little more successful: we defeated St. Mary's College by six matches to three. Stracy and Vennard, playing as first doubles pair, won all their three games, Davis and Cook won two, and Beaumont and Shepherd won one.

Of this year's players, possibly Vennard is the strongest: he has a good service and good ground strokes, but he must develop his net play in order to become a really good doubles player. Stracy, secretary of Tennis, has a reliable service and makes good use of his height at the net. Smith, though a good player, is a little erratic, Shepherd should improve with practice, while Beaumont tends to be rather casual.

The tennis tournaments are now well under way. As yet, the only surprise has been the defeat of seeded pair Williams and Davis by Welland and Elvidge in the doubles tournament. In the House Tennis Competition, Cobbs appear to be strong favourites to retain the T. W. P. Cobb Tennis Cup. At the time of writing they have won three matches quite comfortably.

Stracy and Vennard are to be congratulated on the award of Tennis Colours. D.I.C.

BRITISH TELEVISION

"Running Wild," "Gravelhanger," "Why?". These are some of the more gruesome failures which the B.B.C. Television Service has turned out in the last year. Since the impetus given to T.V. receiver sales by the Coronation there has been a drop in sales due to a lowering of the standard of the programmes.

In 1953 there were the first definite steps towards a new competitive television service run on a commercial basis, which would challenge the B.B.C.'s long-established monopoly. Far from fearing this threat, the B.B.C. entered into a period of appalling mediocrity. Viewers were entertained by a long string of miserable Sunday plays, equally miserably repeated on Thursdays. No-one will forget quickly the way the B.B.C. rose to the occasion of the Royal visit to the studios by giving what must have been the worst variety programme ever, and which was brightened only by the Queen's presence.

It was in this Royal variety show that the B.B.C.'s greatest fault showed itself—the absence of good material. The programme had the names, Norman Wisdom, Jimmy Edwards, Terry Thomas, but they were given such limp material that the show sagged as a result. One has only to remember the Bob Monkhouse Show to have an example of what a really good script will do.

Not only the variety programmes fail because of poor material. "Gravelhanger," one of the Wednesday night serials, had a script so puerile that one wondered whether Val Gielgud, an experienced playwright, did not write it as a joke.

Pat Kirkwood's Show demonstrated the fact that though a good script has an immense effect, it must be accompanied by a production of fast pace and efficient direction. It would be of immense help if they eliminated the man who drops everything in the middle of a quiet scene, shattering the illusions presented by good scenery and camera-work.

As if to show up the defects in their productions the B.B.C. have been showing a series of American comedy films of the programme "Amos 'n Andy." This programme, though probably not one of the best shows in America, does show the immense superiority of American productions. The programmes are filmed and then shown to the public, cutting out delays and thereby giving the show pace. The whole series has shown a slickness which we encounter very rarely on our home screens.

The programmes are not wholly bad, however. To balance failures like "Running Wild" and "Friends and Neighbours" we have successes such as the "Bob Monkhouse Show" and the new programme, "Emney Enterprises." To balance the farcical "Gravelhanger" we have "The Little Red Monkey" and, more recently, "Johnny, You're Wanted." There are also the Television

Newsreels, an excellent example of up-to-date vision reporting. And there are the fine outdoor broadcasts. Everyone remembers how, by brilliant photography and commenting, the pomp and magnificence of the Coronation and the tenseness of the Test Matches were captured.

Eurovision is unlikely to help, for we are ahead of all other European countries in the standard of programmes. But there has been a faintly perceptible improvement, for "What's My Line?" is finishing soon, taking, one hopes, Ron Randell and Gilbert Harding with it. If they would only take Peter Martyn, Peter Wilson, Benny Lee and Victor Sylvester with them, then perhaps the extra pound for the licence would be justified. But programme planners must rouse themselves and begin an intensified hunt for new ideas, new scripts, worthwhile plays and producers who realize the possibilities of the medium. Only by doing this will they raise the reputation of the Variety and Drama side to the high level which the Outside Broadcast Department has attained. M.A.E.

"AND ARE FOR EVER DAMNED WITH LUCIFER"

A Novel begun and ended

I do not remember where it was—perhaps it was in New York or even in one of those little pubs in Soho—but I do know I was at that age when men cease wondering at life and realize the futility of it all, the way men are torn in the endless conflict between God and the Devil. That is what first made me notice the old man at the bar. He seemed a human battle-ground, although he was a powerful six feet in height and stooped but little. I remember thinking I might find a story there.

I write stories for a living. I have the trick of writing down a man's stories by adding the small parts he can not tell honestly himself, but which he shows in his little gestures, his expression and his pauses. It is hard for a man to pour out his hopes, frustrations and life history to a stranger, so what he tells is a fiction he has invented himself in which he is always either the wronged person or the man in the right. Not exactly lies, but a story that he has perfected to save his pride, and far more pleasant than the truth, which might affect his sanity.

I believe I gave the old man a drink to open conversation. "You're a big man," I said.

"Sir," he answered, "I am a king of a man, name of Patrick O'Donovan and descended from true Irish kings. Why, in my prime I could bend a crowbar as easily as you could a hairpin, but I am the same as my ancestors: I have their curse."

Thinking of my story, I asked him to tell me about it. "Perhaps I will," he replied. "All my life I have fought the Devil—in all his forms. Sometimes I have conquered, sometimes not, for the Devil has the advantage of cunning and experience to pit against my strength. Perhaps my weakness lay in my strength, the one place he could hit me below the belt (and the Devil fights foul). I used to be a great fighter. Men made fortunes out of me—far more than I made out of them, but that is the way with fighting. A horse wins a great race, but what does he get for it? Fine oats and hay, perhaps, but a cut from the whip, a prick from the spurs and a sore mouth when they pull him too hard. That is what I got."

"But the story," I pleaded as he wandered from the point.

"Oh, the Devil, you mean. The Devil has always harried me, perhaps because I am so big and easily seen, perhaps because I am so vulnerable. He has tempted me in many forms. Sometimes there he was hiding behind the girls, or else in a bottle—there is a devil in every bottle, you know. Once he came to me in the form of a bald old man offering me the world to throw a fight. That round I won."

I felt considerably elated by now, for at last I seemed to be on the track of a substantial story. I offered him a cigar, one of those nice expensive ones with a gold band round it. He refused, and continued his narrative.

"It's funny," he said, "how the Devil tries most of his tricks through women. I often think the Devil gives a girl her riding instructions like a trainer does a jockey. Oh, it's a long, tiring life, but I remember. . . ."

Once again he drooped over the bar. He sighed and said, "Of course, do not run away with the idea that there are only devils in the world. There are some angels, somewhere. Women you see in the 'bus or children sucking a sweet on a street corner—they bring the best out in one at times, but they are a pitiful few—a damned pitiful few!"

Once again his morose thoughts claimed his attention and he lapsed back into his old state of stupor. So, edging closer, I said, "But the story!"

"The story?" he murmured.

"Yes, the story," I replied. Then, swearing softly at my bad luck, I rose and left. There was no story there. He had fallen asleep. M.F.B.R.

NATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN EDUCATION

It is after teaching for a year in your school that I have been able to appreciate the differences that exist between it and the school where I went as a pupil in Bordeaux.

First, the buildings are different. We had barred windows—indeed, my school was a barrack-like building, and it retains something of a military aspect even now. We were two thousand five hundred juniors and seniors, and the classes (especially the Sixth) were larger than yours. In mine, for instance, there were thirty-two pupils.

The life at my school was harder than it is at Raynes Park, where the pupils may consider themselves very lucky. In my Lycée, school used to begin at eight in the morning, with four periods of an hour each up to mid-day. Then came a break of two hours for dinner, followed by work from two till five. We used to go to school all Saturday morning, and we had much work to do at home for the ten subjects we had to study.

The discipline was very strict indeed. Our English master was very hard on us (perhaps too much so), but nevertheless we carried on and saw it through.

The Government examinations in France are very hard, and we had to work a good deal, especially in the Sixth Form. I have a clear impression that the Baccalauréat (first part) is far more difficult than the Ordinary Level examination. We had no less than ten subjects to sit for at the oral examinations. And the examiners were pretty stiff, especially in the Philosophy class.

On the whole, I think the English pupil is very lucky indeed. I am sure that a short stay in a French school would rapidly convince him of that. In French schools there are no clubs: French pupils would have but little time to spare for them.

All that I hope is that there may be a diminution of work in French schools—to the infinite pleasure of both pupils and teachers. M.B.

Note.—We are pleased to have these final observations from M. Berdoues, who has been very welcome, both as colleague and teacher, at Raynes Park. For the sake of his future happiness we can only hope that his last wish may come true.

PARIS SUPPLEMENT

Paris, 1954

Let me begin by saying that Paris certainly lived up to all my expectations and even gave a little more than I had bargained for. I imagined coloured lights, large buildings, wide boulevards and small wayside cafés with business men sipping cognac beneath the hot sun: all of these sights I found in plenty.

The language problem, which before had been my main source of apprehension, was nothing like so great an obstacle as I had at first believed. At the beginning, I trusted myself solely to monosyllables, but as my confidence grew, I was more easily able to express myself in more-fluent, yet less accurate, French.

The French transport system is not as good as that in London. The buses look terrible from the outside, worse from the inside, and yet considering their age and deterioration, they are quite comfortable. The Métro is the same. In each Métro station is a machine which, if you push a button, illuminates the required route. It's very ingenious, and saves time and trouble. But, on the whole, the Métro and the omnibus system are far inferior to London Transport.

But Paris has its buildings: Notre Dame, Sacré Cœur, Eiffel Tower, Les Invalides, Arc de Triomphe, Palais de Chaillot, etc. Blackpool has its well-famed tower, Exeter has its cathedral, but Paris contains Blackpool, Exeter and many others town rolled into one. London alone compares favourably with Paris.

Then there are the bridges; plain, simple bridges, but each one adding charm to Paris. And beneath the bridges flows the Seine; a wonderful, clean river, with magnificent, streamlined boats travelling up and down stream with a cargo of passengers and sightseers. And on the quays sits the older Parisian, rod in hand, while, with a little, black beret on his head and a pipe on his mouth, he fishes in the waterway of Paris.

These are my impressions of Paris, and I believe I speak for the others of the party when I say that Paris is a wonderful city; a city of which one cannot tire, and next year, if there is another Paris party, I will make sure that my name is on the list. B.S.

Sight-seeing in Paris

To the sightseer, Paris must seem an ideal city. For touring Paris, which has such a diversity of places of interest within such a short walking distance from each other, has many advantages over touring sprawling London town. The walks are made pleasanter because the capital is subjected to very bright sunlight, and it rains only infrequently; in fact, it is so dry that water is sent cascading down the gutters in an attempt to keep the streets fresh and clean. There is also little smog about; Paris is not a great industrial city. For transport there is the very popular, cheap and highly efficient Métro, and in addition a regular single-decker bus service and schools of taxis.

Anyone interested in churches, indeed, anyone with the real tourist spirit, will visit the greatly differing Madeleine, Sacré Cœur and Notre Dame, the former unique in Paris, being styled on the old Roman and Greek lines. From the summit of the latter a fine view of the Seine may be obtained.

Of sentimental value is the Arc de Triomphe, symbol of French Nationalism, where burns the eternal flame in honour of the Unknown Soldier. From this, down the broad Champs Elysées, one comes into the Place de la Concorde, which can be described as the nerve-centre of Paris. This is reputed to be the largest square in the world, and is situated on the north bank of the Seine. In its centre is L'Obélisque, which in far-off days served as a sundial. The square is of historical interest, because the notorious guillotine stood there, working hard, executing the enemies of France. On the opposite side of the river is L'Assemblée Nationale, the French Houses of Parliament, and not far from this Les Invalides, where can be seen Napoleon's tomb, and where there are displayed all sorts of weapons, including two German tanks captured in World War II.

There are many monuments situated all over the place, but the most famous are those in the Place de la Bastille and the Place Vendôme. The former is dedicated to the aspirations of the French Revolution; the latter was made under Napoleon's orders from the cannons he captured at Austerlitz, and was erected in memory of his "Grand Army."

For the scientist is the magnificent Palais de la Découverte, where even the mathematician may spend a joyful afternoon midst π to 7,007 decimal places, and three-dimensional graphs. Those of a more æsthetic temperament should be satisfied with the Louvre, biggest museum existing, which contains some of the world's most famous paintings and sculptures. But perhaps their opinion of French taste will drop when they go home in the Métro, for all the

way along the tunnel, every few yards, appears the single word "Dubonnet," in uninspiring repetition. Not a single other advertisement to break the monotony!

But no description of Paris is complete without mention of that world-famous feat of engineering, the Eiffel Tower. This is the landmark of Paris, towering high above all other buildings, so high in fact that from many miles away in the train one knows one is approaching the capital. We do not all, however, enjoy mountaineering, and if all this visiting is rather tiring for the tourist, he can always go boating on the lake in the Bois de Boulogne, or spend a quiet afternoon strolling round the Vincennes Zoo. S.C.

The Eiffel Tower

As we ascended the Eiffel Tower on that dull, misty day in April, I could not help feeling more than a little overawed at the sight of Paris steadily dropping away below us. It hardly seemed possible that a steel tower of such immense height could be scaled in so smooth and safe a way as this. I think when we found ourselves on the first platform, nearly two hundred feet above the ground, most of us felt a little apprehensive about what it would be like at the top. From the first stage we made our way, by lift, to the second platform two hundred feet higher. At this point, the presence of the wind became more apparent, and the chill in the air was also not unnoticed. Perhaps, though, the thought of another six hundred feet to go contributed to this uncomfortable feeling. Another six hundred feet to go, up the longest and thinnest part of the structure, six hundred feet of virtually uninterrupted network of steel girders, gradually growing thinner until they became as a gossamer web in comparison with the rest of the tower. And then we had arrived. Stepping from the lift, on to a platform enclosed by glass, we entered a new world, blinking our hitherto unopened eyes at the sight around us. It seemed as if we were severed from all civilization as we gazed in wonderment at the vast city spread out below us like a map. Then, looking round, we saw the stairway leading to the very top of the tower. It was quite an ordinary staircase, but what awaited us at the top was not so ordinary. We stepped out into a veritable gale: then we stopped—for here was nothing but a balcony little more than four feet high; nothing but that to save us from a sheer drop of nearly a thousand feet. Cautiously we advanced towards this flimsy barrier and looked over. Here we had a better view than before, for we could look in any direction we wished. Here, also, was the chance a photographer could not miss, and here the awe of being atop a thousand-foot pillar of steel. On this balcony, we spent a pleasant ten minutes, until we noticed that our hands were blue with cold and it was starting to rain, so we decided to catch the next lift down.

When we arrived at the bottom, and gazed up at the summit of this mountain of steel, I could not but admire the genius of Gustave Eiffel, the creator of this marvel of engineering, the man who gave to Paris one of the most famous landmarks in all the world. D.J.M.

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