

RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The

SPUR

AUTUMN TERM 1954



# THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL

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

Vol. XI, No. 3

Autumn, 1954

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## SCHOOL OFFICERS, Autumn Term, 1954

*Head of the School:* M. Cousins

*Second Boy:* R. A. Giles

*Prefects:* P. M. A. Corke, R. N. Fash, J. R. S. Higham, M. K. Jones, J. A. Pooles, D. C. Shepherd, B. A. Stracy, M. E. Talbot, J. L. Wearn, C. R. Weightman, G. H. Williams, B. Windsor.

*Prefect of Hall:* R. N. Fash.

*Prefect of Library:* B. Windsor.

*Prefect of Workshop:* M. K. Jones.

*Captain of Rugby:* R. N. Fash.

*Secretary of Rugby:* J. R. S. Higham.

*Captain of Cross-Country:* M. E. Talbot.

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

*Secretary of Games Committee:* J. A. Pooles.

### SCHOOL NOTES

We cannot but miss Mr. Raynham. That we do so far less than we might is one tribute to the vigour and judgment that Mr. Timpson has brought to the office of Deputy Headmaster, which he has taken over this term. It is an exacting combination of multifarious duties, but what matters most is the spirit in which it is done and the moral leadership shown to the School. On those grounds, we all welcome Mr. Timpson to the post, and hope that he will long sustain its heavy responsibilities.

In September we welcomed several additions to the Staff. Mr. D. S. Alexander, who holds a Master's degree of St. Andrews (as well as a Military Cross and an enviable list of distinctions in games), comes to share the senior Mathematics teaching, after a career which has included posts of high responsibility in South Africa. Mr. D. G. Lerpiniere, M.A., of London, comes from a post at the Roan School to share the work principally in History and in English. He has also taken over the Scout Group, which promises to flourish in his hands. Mr. B. L. Ayton comes direct from taking his B.Sc. and Education Diploma at Bristol, and besides taking over Mr. Foister's share of the Science teaching has gifts in music of which we hope to reap the benefit. In addition to these appointments, we have been allowed by the County the assistance of Mr. M. K. Esdaile, who has a degree in Classics from Oxford and interests and reading in a wider field, which enables him to give varied assistance on the Arts side. We hope that all will be happy and successful in their work for the School, and find at Raynes Park congenial surroundings.

The School's old friend, Mr. Basil Wright, paid us a visit on October 26th, and spoke to seniors about the film which he produced for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—"World without End"—which by his kind offices they were able to see earlier in the day. All who saw the film and heard Mr. Wright were left heartened by the demonstration that there is still fine work to do in the world, and fine people to do it. As a lesser legacy, he left in some of us an itch to see if we cannot do a small something in the way of film production ourselves. Possibilities are being explored, and in the preliminaries we are greatly obliged to the Headmaster of King's College School, Wimbledon, who has most readily put his advice and the experience of their Film Society at our disposal.

The frame on the rear wall of the Hall remains empty after many months. It is to contain an Honours Board, recording Open Scholarships, etc., and the lists of House Cup Winners, formerly displayed there, are to be in separate

frames round the side walls. The boards are ready; the delay arises over the inscriptions to be gilt thereon, a difference of opinion (shortly, we hope, to be resolved) between the Education Authorities and ourselves as to whether they or we have to find the considerable cost. In the circumstances, patience seems worth while.

The success of all this season's School XV's has been outstanding. Detailed accounts appear in later pages, but I should like to testify to the difference which keen and vigorous leaders have shown that they can make. R. N. Fash can feel a proper satisfaction in the record of the 1st XV and in the part in its success which he has played as Captain; so too can J. L. Wearn for the 2nd XV, which at the time of writing remains unbeaten. Both have done a thoroughly good job.

It is five years since a meeting of subscribers to the School War Memorial Fund decided to erect the Plaque in Hall. They postponed use of the £350 or so remaining in the Fund, but were then thinking of Memorial Gates as the ultimate objective. We are no nearer than we were then to possession of an entrance for which formal gates would be appropriate, and the costs which would be involved have considerably increased. The Committee, therefore, invited another general meeting of subscribers on September 22nd, 1954, to reconsider the position. At that meeting, the Old Boys urged that the balance be allowed to their Society as a nucleus round which they could raise a fund to buy a Sports Ground of their own. This would cost several thousands, but they were sanguine of success. Neither the gates nor any of the other merely decorative alternatives suggested appealed to the meeting, and they accepted the plan for a Memorial Field,—with a proviso; the money is to be invested, to provide from the interest in the meantime annual Memorial Prizes for boys who leave the School with outstanding University Scholarships. If within seven years the total needed to buy a field is within reach, the capital of the fund is available to Old Boys for that purpose. Otherwise, the Prizes could continue as the permanent object of the Fund. H.P.

### HOUSE NOTES

#### Cobbs

*Captain:* R. N. Fash. *Vice-Captain:* D. C. Shepherd.

*Prefects:* M. E. Talbot, M. K. Jones.

Mr. Foister left us at the end of last term to take up an appointment at another school. We are very sorry to have lost his valuable help in all House matters, especially his assistance to the swimmers, who this year succeeded in retaining the cup. We wish him every success in his new school, and hope that he makes as many friends as he did at Raynes Park. Our House Captain, D. A. Jackson, left us for Oxford University, and we wish him every success, and thank him for the hard work and enthusiasm he put into the House. Our best wishes also go with Cook, Wilson, Wright, Jacobs, Francis and the other departed Seniors who have given unstintingly to the affairs of the House.

At the end of last term we gained the Cock House Cup again. This was due mainly to the spirit in which our team played their games.

*Cricket.*—The Colts, under the leadership of Hill (A. D.), won all their matches, and the Seniors, with a nucleus of good players, Shepherd, Jackson and Cook, came third. This ensured us second position, only one point behind Gibbs.

*Athletics.*—The cup was easily won by Newsoms, but after a tough fight with Halliwells we finished second. In the Seniors, Talbot established a new record for the half-mile and finished second in the mile, and the Senior relay team ran a good race to come second. In the Juniors, Gibbons was outstanding, winning the 220 and 440 yards.

*Swimming.*—Before the beginning of the swimming gala we had a comfortable lead due to qualifying points. This lead was never lost, and we finished with a comfortable margin of 208 points. Out of twelve Senior and Open events we had eleven firsts and one second. Congratulations are due to Talbot, Eagleson and Hill (A. D.), who broke the medley relay record by 10.6 seconds. Other records were also broken, three by Eagleson, two by Hill (A. D.) and one by Talbot. Next year we shall have nearly the same team, and with an effort from the House as a whole, we should regain the cup and start the gala with a lead due to qualifying points. We would like to congratulate Hill (A. D.) on being awarded his Swimming Colours.

*Tennis.*—As was expected, our tennis team, ably led by Cook, won all their matches and the Tennis Cup.

*Rugby.*—This year we have not started as Cobbs should start. I only hope that the lack of attendance at practices is due to complacency and not to lack of spirit. The Seniors have lost their first two House matches, although we have four 1st XV players, but these players cannot win matches without the whole-hearted support of the rest of the Seniors. The Colts, however, have put up a fine show by winning their first match with a greatly weakened team. The Juniors seem very keen, and at the well-attended Junior practices there seem to be some promising Rugby players.

It only remains for me to urge the House as a whole to give its full support to all our activities, and once again win the Cock House Cup.

R.N.F.

## Gibbs

*Captain:* B. A. Stracy.    *Vice-Captain:* J. L. Wearn

We regret the loss of J. M. Davis, who captained us with vigour and efficiency and led us to the well-deserved position of second in the Cock House competition. We wish him every success in his career as a pilot with the R.A.F. We also extend our best wishes to A. D. Ridgway and R. Loveday, whose services to House cricket and swimming we have lost. To balance these losses, however, we welcome all new members to the House.

The end of last term brought us a welcome if unexpected success in winning the Cricket Cup. The Seniors, after beating Halliwells and Cobbs, lost to Miltons, but beat Newsoms, and, together with the Colts' good performance, this resulted in our narrowly beating Cobbs for the cup. It reflects on Gibbs' tradition of House spirit that in a team with so few star players each man can still do his best and the team can still win.

Although we held our own in the race for athletics qualifying points, we failed to justify ourselves on the day. In the swimming we were no match for Cobbs' swimmers this year and were placed third, but in the tennis we did well to come second to Cobbs. At the end of last term a House Supper was held to celebrate our success in the Rugby and cricket competitions, and we all enjoyed the film "The Thirty-Nine Steps" which was shown.

This term we started well in the Rugby competition by beating Miltons, but lost to Newsoms and Halliwells with a depleted team. The Colts have lost their first two matches against Miltons and Newsoms, probably because of a reluctance to tackle shown in games as well as practices. We hope they will be more successful in the next two matches. The Junior practices, however, have been more useful, and we have high hopes of our Juniors in all fields of activity in the future. In connection with Rugby, Nicholls must be congratulated on being chosen for the School 1st XV to replace Lavous, who was injured at fly-half.

Next term we look forward to competitions in hockey, cross-country, debating and to the House plays.

B.A.S.

## Haliwells

*Captain:* M. Cousins.    *Vice-Captain:* P. M. A. Corke.

*Prefect:* J. R. S. Higham.

As the new School year starts, we cannot but feel the loss of M. A. Phillips. In him we lose not only our House Captain during the past two years, but also a great friend, and we hope that the spirit with which he has led the House will bring him success in his future life. We also say good-bye to G. A. Young, M. J. Phillips and many of our Fifth-formers.

We have also lost Mr. Timpson, who has helped the House in every way during the past years, and we wish him every success in his new position as Second Master. His place, which remained vacant for over seven weeks, has now been filled by Mr. Ayton, and we know that he will soon feel at home among us. The speed with which Mr. Ayton became the head of one of the School's music clubs suggests that he will take a lively interest in House affairs.

A new School year also brings with it fresh House members from the first forms. To them we offer a hearty welcome, and we hope that they will help us in the struggle for the Cock House Cup.

It is with great disappointment that we read "Halliwells, fifth in the Cock House competition." On reflecting a little, it must be admitted that we have fallen far below the standard set by our predecessors, who won the competition eight times in nine years. Surely the House is not going to be content to act as a support to all the others above it. Admittedly, we do not possess the most outstanding sportsmen of the School, but these competitions are won by general House co-operation, so let us see what can be done this year.

Last year saw us placed fourth in the Athletics competition, although the Seniors, under the captaincy of M. A. Phillips, put up a game fight, winning almost every event. The reason for losing a cup which we had come to regard as our exclusive property was the apathy the House showed in obtaining the essential qualifying points. This was the result, not of a lack of athletic prowess, but of a refusal by many in the House to pull their weight.

The swimming competition brought us little consolation, as we came fourth, again due to our failure to gain enough qualifying points; and yet we must not pass by without giving due thanks to Dunn, our Swimming Captain, and to all those who did their utmost to aid the House in the competition.

In the House Play competition every one pulled together as a team, with almost thirty people in the cast, and even those not in the play helped by bringing the necessary stage props. The play, Galsworthy's "Strife," was ably produced by G. A. Young, and special mention must be given to Swinscoe, who put a great amount of work into the back-cloth and other stage scenery.

This term the House is in hot pursuit of the Rugby Cup, for it seems probable that the Seniors, under the captaincy of J. R. S. Higham (who is to be congratulated on being chosen as reserve for Surrey), will go throughout the season without losing a game. The Colts do not appear to be having the same success, but here's hoping that we can still pull through.

The Houses will be fighting for both the Hockey and the Cross-country Cups next term, and no doubt we will enter the competitions, not only with a keen House spirit, but also with a great amount of hope.

Finally, we wish to express our congratulations to Cobbs on holding the Cock House Cup, but in doing so wish to warn them that it is our intention to use every effort during the next year to wrest this treasured trophy from them.

M.C.

## Miltons

*Captain:* J. A. Pooles.

*Prefect:* B. Windsor.

At the end of last term we had to say farewell to several of our more prominent Senior members, in particular to last year's House Captain, R. S. Betts, to whom we all offer our heartiest congratulations on winning an Open Exhibition in History at Cambridge. Others who were outstanding in the field of sport included Bunyan, Beaumont, Tulett and Burns. We wish them all good luck and every success in their future careers. This term we welcome all the new-comers to the House, and hope that they will have a happy and successful time with us.

Although we failed to win any cups, last term was not altogether an unsuccessful one.

*Cricket.*—The Senior team had a good season. They began with two convincing victories over Newsoms and Gibbs, and, although beaten by Cobbs, finished joint leaders of their competition by beating Halliwells. The team was ably led by Beaumont, who was our most successful batsman, and of the bowlers, Tulett, Burns and Orme did well. However, the Colts were less successful, winning only one match, and as a result we could only finish third in the competition as a whole.

The Juniors had an average season, winning and losing two matches.

*Athletics.*—Here our team did exceptionally well to gain third place after starting well behind on qualifying points. This was due largely to the efforts of the Middle and Junior School members, a fact which seems to hold some hope for the future. Special praise is due to Hooper, Smith, Davie and the Colt relay team for winning their events.

*Swimming.*—Here again we lagged behind on qualifying points, and although Crierie gained places in three events, the team was unable to make up the leeway.

This term our attention has been focused solely on the Rugby competition. The Senior team has been a little disappointing, having won only one of the three matches played so far. The first match against Gibbs was lost 18—11, but in the second, against Cobbs, the whole team played exceptionally well to win by 33—13. Orme scored four tries, and Keeble kicked five goals and a penalty. Against Newsoms we were weakened by the absence of Lavous, who sustained an injury while playing for the 1st XV, and we lost the match 19—5.

The Colts have done extremely well. They beat Gibbs by 17—6 and trounced Halliwells 35—5. Their outstanding players have been Stevens, the Captain, Hornsby and Morley.

Next term's principal activities are hockey, cross-country and dramatics. Swimming qualifying will also continue, and it is hoped that, after last term's experience, all members of the House will seize every opportunity to qualify. The same applies to the cross-country competition, where we have several promising School runners, who, if they are well supported by the other Seniors, could well win us the cup.

J.A.P.

## Newsoms

*Captain:* R. A. Gils.

*Prefects:* G. H. Williams, C. R. Weightman.

The end of the Summer Term saw the departure of many boys at the top of the House, notably D. J. Bevan, our Captain and Head of the School, who is doing national service before entry to Cambridge, P. J. Parsons, already at Oxford, and M. L. Smith, also doing his service. We wish them and all the other boys who have left us good fortune, and we welcome to the

House twelve new boys who seem to be settling in well. Congratulations are due to G. H. Williams and C. R. Weightman on their appointment as School Prefects.

When these notes were written last term we had had a rather unsuccessful year, achieving places only in Junior Rugby and chess. The last four weeks of term provided a change, however, for they saw the completion of cricket and the athletic and swimming sports.

In cricket the Senior XI lost to Gibbs due to pitiful batting, but finally notched a victory over Halliwells. This win did not help our position in the competition: we came equal last, because our Colt XI fared even more miserably than the Senior XI, losing all matches. Stevens (A. J.) was unfortunate in having only one strong cricketer to call upon; indeed, all Colt captains were faced with the same problem of having a group of Third- and Fourth-formers of no special merit. We hope that the Colts will gain heart on being joined by some of the successful Juniors, and the new Seniors gain confidence on being in teams with a fair all-round performance. Our hopes for cricket in the future were considerably brightened by the Juniors, who won all their matches and secured the Junior Shield. Well done, Thorpe and his team!

In Athletics we stood high up in qualifying points, and our team, under C. R. Weightman, proved strong. Good individual performances on Sports Day were given by Stevens (D. C.), first in the 100 yards and 440 yards major, Loible, placed first in the open javelin, and the major relay team. Places were obtained in sixteen out of the twenty-one events, and we scored one hundred points more than our nearest rival to take the cup.

Swimming, with Loible as captain, showed again the wisdom in amassing qualifying points, because at the Sports we managed to take second place after a long and close battle with Gibbs. Good performances were given by Judge and the Juniors. Qualifying has already started for swimming, and athletics qualifying will soon be upon us. To succeed, everybody who can swim and run must pull his weight and gain as many points as he can; we cannot afford to rely on a few stalwarts on Sports Day, as has been the habit in the last few years.

The less said about tennis the better: we did badly and came last.

The only sport this term is Rugby, and to date our teams have done well. The Senior XV has beaten Gibbs and Miltons. Spencer (B.) has worked hard as captain, and has been ably supported by C. R. Weightman, Loible and G. H. Williams, all to be congratulated on playing for the 1st XV. The Colt XV has only played one match, beating Gibbs easily, and promises to win two of the three remaining matches, the games with Miltons and Cobbs being the hardest. Wyatt, the Colt captain, unfortunately has appendicitis and will be unable to play again this term. Dawton has been appointed captain for the rest of term. The position in Rugby is good, and for the first time for two years we are in the running for the cup. Junior Rugby does not begin until next term, but Brookes (R.) has been active as captain, and, with Mr. King, has held practices in preparation.

Next term sees five House competitions: hockey, cross-country, debating, chess and the House plays. Preparations for the cross-country are in hand, Spencer (D.) has held training runs and we have a strong team. February brings the trial examinations which are important to the Upper School. We must remember that success in the form room is at least as important as success on the games field.

R.A.G.

## PRIZE-GIVING

The Raynes Park County Grammar School Prize-Giving has traditionally become a very pleasant occasion for both parents and scholars. This year maintained the very high standard to which we have become accustomed.

The Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr. Hood-Phillips, in opening the proceedings, congratulated the School on a record year of outstanding academic successes. The gathering of parents was reminded by the Chairman of the wonderful opportunities for educational advancement which were provided by a County Grammar School. This School in particular had shown a fine example of the results which could be secured.

The Headmaster followed this introduction by giving his annual report on the School activities during the past year. Mr. Porter told parents that in a debate in the House of Commons some years ago, a Member described Raynes Park as one of the finest schools in the country. With five Open Scholarships secured during the academic year, the Headmaster felt that the School as a whole could look the "Old Boys" squarely in the face. The Advanced Level passes were also above average, but it was felt that a more serious approach was required for the Ordinary Level examinations. The latter examination had become more exacting, and those boys who merely jogged along in their school work found that they were failing in subjects in which, in the older system, they would have passed.

In dealing with the societies of the School, it was noted that their life continued to be vigorous and varied. They were concerned with activities ranging from the playing of recorders to the development of the art of boxing.

The academic successes of the year had been followed by similar outstanding achievements in the field of sport. Not only had the School beaten the "Old Boys" in their annual Rugby game, but the Athletics team had gained the Surrey Grammar Schools Senior Athletics Trophy for the first time. The latter team should be specially congratulated, for they represented one of the smallest schools in the competition. The report was concluded by the Headmaster declaring that the School was in general a good-hearted one, with occasional naughtiness, but without malice.

Mr. Wilfrid Noyce, a member of the successful British Everest Expedition of 1953, presented the prizes. After doing so, Mr. Noyce, who is a master at Charterhouse, gave a very interesting and inspiring address. The co-operation necessary for the success of a school such as Raynes Park County Grammar in its various fields could be compared with that necessary for a team tackling such a task as the climbing of Everest. The speaker was impressed by the number and diversity of the societies, greater than in other schools he had visited. He pointed out that even a Cactus Society had been mentioned as flourishing in the School. Most of these activities depended on team spirit, and this was the same spirit displayed by the Everest Team, under the leadership of Colonel Hunt, in which all worked together for a common purpose.

Mr. S. W. Billingham, Vice-Chairman of the Governors, in proposing a vote of thanks to the guest-speaker, hoped that the boys would emulate the spirit of the Everest Expedition in seeking the highest point of whatever they might be attempting.

Amongst the most distinguished guests present were the Mayor and Mayoress of Malden, the Town Clerk, and representatives of the Education Authorities.

M.C.

## FORM PRIZES

IA: P. J. Gadsby, A. J. Burke, M. D. Ross.  
 IB: P. J. Venison, K. H. D. Hopper.  
 IIA: J. Davie, D. J. Clark, M. J. Jeffreys.  
 IIB: L. W. Bray, G. C. Howsden.  
 IIIA: J. A. Colmer, B. R. H. Doran, R. J. Young.  
 IIIB: R. K. Stevens, B. G. W. Morley.  
 IIIC: N. McCartney, J. M. Bader.  
 IVA: S. J. Cohen, M. Loveday, B. H. Finch.  
 IVB: E. R. Bray, P. Gent.

*Fifth Forms: for performance in "Ordinary" G.C.E.*

J. R. S. Higham, M. J. Lavous, M. R. Burke, A. J. Fowles, R. M. Pevy, C. C. Wright, D. J. McLean, A. R. Dyer, P. R. Johnson.

*First Year Sixth*

Arts—M. K. Jones. Science—D. L. Carver. Economics—J. A. Pooles.

*Upper Sixth*

Arts—R. S. Betts, D. A. Jackson, P. J. Parsons, M. L. Smith. Science—Norman Prize: D. J. Britton; Whitman Prize: G. A. Young, D. G. Rayns, B. E. A. Jacobs, M. Gordon, J. A. Richmond, B. A. Stracy, R. Loveday, A. D. Ridgway, J. A. Gatley. Economics—D. J. Bevan, D. I. Cook, P. Francis.

## GENERAL PRIZES

Effort outside class—M. A. Phillips, J. M. Davis, D. O. Lloyd, H. C. Ketley, G. C. F. Robson, B. W. Rowling, K. R. Lett, B. G. W. Morley. Hobbies—C. J. Brett, S. J. Hall. Art—J. Eagleson, B. W. Rowling, P. J. Venison. Art Competition—D. J. Swinscoe. Craft—M. K. Jones, C. E. Feather. Ian Hudson Puppet Prize—R. S. West. General Knowledge—D. A. Jackson, M. A. Sutcliffe, J. Davie. Beaverbrook-Bennett Prizes—1st R. A. Gamble, 2nd D. A. Dowden. Old Boys' Prize—R. S. Betts. John Robbins Essay—Junior: D. Clay; Senior: A. J. Fowles; D. A. Jackson, P. J. Parsons, C. R. Weightman; M. Gordon, C. C. Wright, R. S. Betts. Leaving Prize to the Head of the School, 1953-1954—D. J. Bevan.

## ADVANCED LEVEL CERTIFICATES

VI Arts: *a*R. S. Betts, P. M. A. Corke, *b*D. A. Jackson, T. F. Lynch, *c*P. J. Parsons, M. L. Smith, I. R. Wilson, G. A. Young.  
 VI Economics: D. J. Bevan, D. I. Cook, *e*P. Francis, B. G. Hulatt, J. G. Page, M. A. Phillips, G. H. Williams.  
 VI Science: R. M. Beaumont, D. J. Britton, P. J. Bunyan, M. Cousins, J. M. Davis, J. A. Gatley, R. A. Giles, *f*M. Gordon, I. B. Hayter, *g*B. E. A. Jacobs, R. Loveday, D. G. Rayns, *f*J. A. Richmond, A. D. Ridgway, *h*B. A. Stracy, *j*D. J. Swinscoe.

*Distinctions:* "*a*" Ancient History, "*b*" History, "*c*" Latin, "*d*" Greek, "*e*" Geography, "*f*" Physics, "*g*" Pure Maths. "*h*" Applied Maths., "*j*" Art.

## UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

R. S. Betts—Open Exhibition in History, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

D. J. Britton—Open Scholarship in Science, Clare College, Cambridge.

D. A. Jackson—Open Scholarship in Classics, Oriel College, Oxford.

B. E. A. Jacobs—Open Scholarship in Science, Imperial College, London.

P. J. Parsons—Open Scholarship in Classics, Christ Church, Oxford.

R. Loveday—R.A.F. University Cadetship.

## STATE SCHOLARSHIPS

D. J. Bevan (Economics and History).  
D. I. Cook (Economics and History).  
M. Gordon (Chemistry and Mathematics).  
J. A. Richmond (Pure and Applied Mathematics).  
B. A. Stracy (Pure and Applied Mathematics).

## COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIPS (in addition to the above)

P. J. Bunyan (Chemistry and Physics).  
M. Cousins (Mathematics and Science).  
J. A. Gatley (Mathematics and Physics).  
R. Loveday (Mathematics and Physics).  
D. G. Rayns (Botany and Zoology).

## Trophies

From Open Competition. 61 Group A.T.C. Aircraft Recognition Trophy (Sgt. Loveday); Wimbledon Schools Athletics Association, Senior Cup; Wimbledon District Schools Swimming Association, Senior Cup; Surrey Grammar Schools Athletics Association, Senior Cup.

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

## JUNIOR PLAY: "THE GHOST TRAIN"

In the early part of last term, members of the Staff who stopped late to do their marking began to doubt their ears. Class-frayed nerves were set tingling by the sinister sound of an express train coming down the corridor. A few weeks later, of course, we all knew what it was: the *Ghost Train*. And at this date there can be no harm in everyone knowing what the *Ghost Train* was: a garden roller, a sports-ground marker, several drums, an amplified human voice, miscellaneous whistles, part of a step-ladder, and other percussion instruments which a long experience of teaching had made familiar to the producers, Messrs. Timpson and Cholmondeley.

But knowledge of how the noise was made in no way spoils the impression we still have of it. We were thrilled as the train thundered past the murky windows of the waiting-room at Fal Vale Station. And the waiting-room that Messrs. Riley and Archer, with their assistants, gave us was the real thing; ill-lit and shabby, with peeling notices and deadened fire, it was enough to make the two husbands assert themselves rather noisily and the one middle-aged lady take to the bottle.

Doran, as the station-master, loth to wait a moment longer in his haunted station, did well in creating suspense right from the start. Cooper conveyed the nervous bluster of the older married man, while Colmer, as his wife, was notable for the convincing way he walked in female costume. This settled pair provided a good foil for the young honeymoon couple, played by Feather and Impey. Feather, as the bridegroom, gave just the right impression of being somewhat uneasy in his Sunday best, and Impey, his wife, responded to his solicitude with commendable shyness. Ridge showed considerable talent as a *comédienne*, giving us an elderly lady rediscovering her youthful good spirits in a brandy bottle, while Partridge, as that sort of detective who hides his cleverness by pretending to be a well-bred ass, acted with verve and showed he knew how to get the laughs. Partridge shows sufficient promise as an actor to make it important for him to learn restraint—he is given to over-acting.

Of course, the train was real after all, and what started as a ghost story ended as an affair of cops and robbers. Partridge was joined by the more obvious cop, Morley, and French and How, who had given an impression of raincoated villainy all along, turned out to be two of the robbers. A greater surprise was the unmasking of the distracted girl, who had told a tale of obsession and persecution and bid fair to win our sympathy earlier in the play. She was nothing less than a gangstress, and Adams gave her an accent which would have put to shame that Annie who got her gun.

The main names on the programme (itself in the best tradition of British Railway printing) have been mentioned. All the other hands concerned, however indirectly, in a very good production deserve congratulation—even, perhaps, the six assorted hands that played the National Anthem on the three nights with such a range of glittering harmonies. P.A.T.

## CHRISTIAN UNION

This term we have relied entirely upon meetings within our own C.U. We have been very glad to welcome two new members, and even if we are not a large group we can at least boast of full attendance at every meeting. This term has also seen a revival of the sadly-lacking prayer meeting within our group—and this step has proved a great success and blessing right from the start.

We have heard several speakers from the various denominations, and we have also been addressed by Mr. Liversidge, the General Secretary of the Japan Evangelistic Band. All these gave of their best to provide us with food for thought and inspiration for the future.

Next term, under a new leader, we look forward to an interesting series of talks, and we hope to visit Tom Rees when he speaks at the Albert Hall. There will also be conferences and the usual terminal rally; this term's was held at Kingston Grammar School.

We should be more than pleased to see any new members who would like to join us at any of our meetings, for we know that there are many boys in the School who could come if they would: this is an invitation to all, for there are no barriers of age or denomination in the C.U.

I leave the C.U. this term with the conviction that God's richest blessing will continue to rest on us as I believe it has done in the past. Should we have any cause to doubt, however, we can be comforted by Paul's assurance to the Church at Rome, an assurance as certain now as it was then:

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ our Lord." B.W.

## SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

So far this term we have had only one meeting. This was a Film Evening on which we showed "The Man in the White Suit," starring Joan Greenwood and Alec Guinness. Judging from the acclamation of members present, this was a very popular choice, but members clamouring for more films must remember that the Sixth Form Society is not solely a Film Society. It is up to all members to make such events as Personal Choice Evenings and Mock Trials just as big a success, even if it does mean more effort on their part.

Our End of Term Dance, which has become a local social event, will be held on December 22nd. Music will be provided by the Fox Four Five Band, and the full support of the Sixth Form will, I hope, enable us to maintain our usual high standard of organization and entertainment. J.L.W.

## LITERARY SOCIETY

If the Society were to be rechristened the "Dylan Thomas Society," it would not, perhaps, be entirely inappropriate, for up to now the works of this brilliant Welsh poet have completely monopolized the meetings of the Society, and, with the pursuance of more ambitious schemes, seem likely to do so for some time to come. Due mainly to the suggestion of Wright, to whom we are now very much indebted, a meeting was arranged for Thursday, November 4th, when Thomas' best-known work, his radio play "Under Milk Wood," was read. The humour of this "glorious, bawdy, uproarious and compassionate work" is so infectious, that the meeting was an unqualified success, and such was the regret that this, like so many other good things, had to come to an end, that a second meeting was arranged for the following Thursday.

This time, three of Thomas' poems were read and discussed. In point of fact, they were read and read again several times over, for Thomas in a serious mood is extremely difficult to follow, and only yields to patient reading. Much still remains hidden and obscure, but other points became clear, and if sections of the poetry were hard to appreciate fully, there was always Thomas' scathing and devastating account of the American Lecture Circuit to provide light relief. However difficult some of Thomas' deeper work may be, it did not dampen the enthusiasm of those who attended, and a meeting to pursue this side of his work was arranged for the next week.

Meanwhile, at the suggestion of Mr. Townsend, a scheme to produce a "broadcast" version of "Under Milk Wood" on the School tape-recorder has been taken up and is being developed. For this project it is hoped the co-operation of some of the girls from a local school may be obtained to produce the female voices. At the moment, the idea is still in its infancy, but there seems to be no serious obstacle to prevent a recording being made. "Under Milk Wood" is essentially a play for voices, and consequently there is no better medium for presenting it in than sound. Thomas' words require no visual aids. Whether or not this recorded version will ever be "broadcast" to a School audience depends on several factors (including results!), but it is to be hoped that some of the School at least will be able to hear it. It is not really at all important that an audience should hear it; the great thing is that it should be produced for its own sake. But, believe me, it is too good to be missed!

A. J. F.

## DEBATING SOCIETY

The fact that all the uses of advertisement have not yet been exhausted was demonstrated earlier this term, when, attracted by some judiciously positioned posters (and, one hopes, an interest in debating), a large audience assembled in the Library on Thursday, October 28th, to hear Hayter and Wright propose that "This House considers a Radical Reform of Male Dress is Desirable" against the opposition of Fowles and Gordon. The speeches from the table were not, perhaps, all that might have been expected, but all were sufficiently light-hearted to entertain, and, indeed, the evening was characterized by a pleasantly informal atmosphere. The exception to this was Gordon, who spoke lucidly and attractively and was therefore, perhaps, mainly responsible for the motion being fairly easily defeated. For the proposition, Hayter spoke fluently and Wright was amusing (though not, one felt, without the aid of trusty wireless set), but both failed to put forward a really telling argument. There were many welcome contributions from the floor, notably from several members of the Staff, whose speeches were all above criticism, and from Wearn and Rust. The former made his points well, and was wisely content with that, while the latter, one thought, lent the proceedings something of a professional air. As stated, an adoption of a sweeping sartorial reform was rejected—despite an appeal to brighten the Headmaster's morning!

To follow this debate up, a second has been arranged, which it is hoped will provide a "meatier" subject for those who attend, and if enough support seems forthcoming, it is hoped that a debate featuring (or should it be "starring"?) certain members of the Staff may be arranged to follow that. As yet there have been no definite plans made, but let me say it should prove an admirable opportunity for boys to improve their debating technique, and, in addition, thundering good entertainment.

A. J. F.

## CLASSICAL SOCIETY

*President:* Mr. A. Cholmondeley. *Vice-President:* The Headmaster.

*Secretary:* M. K. Jones.

First on the agenda at the meeting held at the end of last term was the official business: Mr. Cholmondeley was re-elected President, and, on the resignation of D. A. Jackson, M. K. Jones was elected Secretary.

D. A. Jackson then gave us a most informative and instructive talk on "Classical Architecture." He first of all explained the general shape and structure of a Greek temple. Then, making good use of a film strip on the subject (and we must extend our thanks to Mr. Strettan for the use of the projector), he went on to show the development of the classic Greek temple, from the first Doric temples, the columns of which were of wood, through the later Doric and the graceful Ionic, down to the ornate and over-decorated Corinthian style. He compared a temple of Hera at Olympus, where the columns seem to have been made of wood, and then, as they decayed, to have been replaced by stone ones, with the Parthenon at Athens, the ultimate in Doric style. He added that in the latter building there was not a single straight line; each side of the temple, the columns, and the base were all curved slightly outwards to counteract the curving effect of the clear Mediterranean air.

As the Parthenon displays the beauty of the Doric style, so the Erectheion shows the grace of the Ionic, a style that originated in the East. The Ionic style began to flourish in Greece at about the same time that the Parthenon was built. The speaker then passed quickly over a later development of Ionic, the Corinthian, an extremely ornate style which never came into such general use as the Doric and Ionic, and turned his attention to a consideration of Rome's contribution to ancient architecture. He stressed the fact that the Romans were not so artistic as the Greeks, but were more practical and more advanced in engineering skill.

The Romans seemed to have had a passion for arches, of which they built endless numbers. Some of their finest building achievements, however, were constructed with the arch as a basis. The Colosseum is a good example of this. The film strip illustrated the Colosseum, and also the aqueduct at Nimes, a superb engineering feat constructed of arches on three levels. The Romans also introduced the triumphal arch and memorial column. Jackson ended an extremely interesting talk by showing us the Pantheon, an amazing circular building roofed with a wide, flat dome of brick and cement.

This term we hope to have a paper on "Food in Classical Times" presented by P. J. Parsons.

M. K. J.

## DA VINCI SOCIETY

This term there has been a distinct increase in numbers at the meetings which is most encouraging. The enthusiastic and imaginative co-operation of my colleagues on the Staff has made this a memorable term, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their generous gift of time and thought in the interests of the Society. We have covered a wide field which has included Painting, Mobiles, Archæology, Music, Weaving, Architecture, Metaphysics, and Anthropology.



— This term's programme started with a film on the work of Alexander Calder, the inventor of Mobiles. This was followed by a talk by Mr. Riley on the work of the important contemporary British artist Stanley Spencer. Mr. Trinder gave a talk entitled "Down among the Deadmen," in which he told us some of his experiences as a practising archaeologist, illustrating his talk with actual "finds" that he had dug up himself.

Our next talk might have appeared to be out of our field. The subject was "Rhythm in Music," and the speaker was Mr. Ayton. We felt justified in including this Muse in our ken, for Leonardo Da Vinci was a man of many parts, and it is recorded that he was no mean musician. This talk was admirably illustrated by examples of Classical, Jazz, Popular, and Native music. For examples of the latter we are indebted to the School of African and Oriental Studies, and in particular to Father Jones, for the loan of some interesting recordings of Bantu drum music. We look forward next term to a talk by Father Jones himself.

This talk was followed by a film on the work of "Grandma Moses," a remarkable American lady who took to painting at the age of seventy and is producing the most virile work. Mr. O'Driscoll, a practising weaver, gave a very informative talk on weaving and illustrated his lecture by practical demonstrations. "Two Cathedrals" was the title of the following talk by Mr. Esdaile, in which he took us on a personally conducted tour of Hereford and York Cathedrals.

At the time of writing we are eagerly awaiting a talk entitled "Hands," by Mr. Alexander, in which he proposes to discourse on the correlation between the hand and the mind. This is to be followed by a picture of Greece by Mr. Townsend, who will be giving us his first-hand impressions of that ancient centre of culture. Reports of these talks will be given in the next issue of *The Spur*.

It is obviously not necessary for me to reiterate the debt the Society owes to my colleagues in providing such an interesting programme this term. I do feel that there is a moral to be learnt from it all, and it is this. We have seen that Art and Life, which go together, are matters of real importance covering a wide field, and that an awareness of a multitude of subjects is a real factor in the development of a full personality. This is perhaps the real aim of the Society, and it is encouraging that it is continuing to command a large following in the School. As I have said before in my terminal reports, I shall not be really satisfied until I see a really healthy mixture of talks by both Staff and you, the members of the Society, and I look forward to further contributions from you to give the Society a whole, healthy body. A.C.R.

## GRAMOPHONE CLUB

The Gramophone Club is now not the only society listening to music in the School since, during the latter part of the first half-term, the Jazz Club came into existence. Like all new clubs it experienced rapid growth, but this did not have a detrimental effect on our attendance as one might have expected; indeed, our numbers have remained steady and have even shown signs of increase. We hope that more of the Thursday jazz devotees will come to the Tuesday meeting and find out what we really do play. They will be well rewarded by such a move. We also hope that more of the Middle and Upper School will come and join us and let their dormant interest in music be awakened.

The term started with a Personal Choice programme introduced by C. R. Weightman, who presented a pot-pourri of fine music consisting of a Brahms' overture, the famed slow movement from the Seventh Symphony of Beethoven, the grim Sibelius tone poem "Finlandia," and three vocal records—"Miserere" from "Il Trovatore," "M'appari tut amore" and the anthem from Handel's oratorio, "Zadok the Priest."

The following week we reverted to our main theme, the development of the symphony, and in successive weeks we heard the Second, Fourth and Seventh Symphonies of Beethoven, and these concluded the section devoted to this great master. After half-term Nicholson presented his Personal Choice and played for us the "Caprice Italien" by Tchaikowsky and the suite, "The Water Music," by Handel. The remainder of the term is to be devoted to the symphonies of Schubert and Mendelssohn, and for the end of term a popular opera concert is planned. This type of programme has always been well received, and this one should waken interest because many of the records are collectors' pieces. These are lent to us by Mr. Roe, who has offered his collection to us. Our thanks are also due to Mr. Swinscoe, who has been a constant aid to us and allowed us to use his records, and last, but by no means least, to Mr. Riley for the use of the Art Room, where the gramophone is now permanently kept. This move has ended the weekly battle of wits we used to have attempting to carry the machine upstairs.

The record problem is still very real, but may be reduced, since an application has been made to Sutton Record Library for a borrower's ticket. This should help us a great deal in the future. R.A.G.

## JAZZ CLUB

After gaining the approval of the Headmaster, who expressed a wish that we might later gravitate to the serious side of music, it was next necessary to obtain sponsorship from a master. This was readily provided by Mr. Ayton, who has put forward some excellent suggestions for the running of the Club. At the first meeting, activities were suggested and proposals put forward for the running of the Club, and naturally the great question of Traditional and Modern Jazz was raised.

It was decided by vote that a mixed club would meet the requirements of the majority. Owing to the large attendance and small size of the Art Room, the Club was regretfully closed to members of the School outside the Fifth and Sixth Forms. Programmes this term have included a personal choice, an excellently illustrated history of jazz, and a rather controversial programme of music by Mulligan and Kenton. It has only been possible to arrange programmes for alternate weeks, owing to the lack of programme material, which in turn is the result of members either having no records to illustrate their topic or being too shy anyway. It is to be hoped that more people will come forward in future and that next term we may have a programme weekly. More ambitious projects for the future include the formation of a band (although this seems doubtful owing to the lack of musical talent in the School) and visits to jazz clubs and concerts. M.K.G.H.

## GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

I am happy to say that there seems to have been a great revival of interest in the activities of this Society. On November 9th, we held a film evening, our only meeting of the term, which was attended by some fifty boys of the Upper School—although the Society is open to all members of the School.

Four films were shown: "A Story of Achievement," the history of the margarine industry; "New Pastures," the story of a mammoth Polish sheep-drive; "Spun, Woven and Finished," the story of cotton, from the preparation of the raw material to the finished product; and "Mille Miglia 1953," a filmed account of what is regarded by many as the most exacting of all motor-races.

It is now to be hoped that the newly-revived interest in the Society will be maintained at future meetings held next term, and that the Society will continue to flourish as it deserves. P.M.A.C.

Although the membership is still low, the Cactus Society had an active Summer Term. A visit was made to Kew Gardens. This was mainly to discover the names of plants from the extensive collections there. On Open Night the Cactus Society staged a show of over 250 plants, ranging from the very common to the most rare species. Many of the visitors asked questions about the cultivation of cacti, and it is obvious that this hobby is becoming increasingly popular.

This term the Society has missed Mr. Raynham, whose knowledge of this subject and advice were invaluable. We hope that he will find fellow cactus growers at his new school.

If there are any members of the Junior School, and especially new boys, who are interested in growing these fascinating plants, they will be made most welcome in the Biology Laboratory at 4.15 p.m. on Mondays.

C.J.H.

### MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

The attendance of members at our Monday night meetings has been very regular this term.

The finances, we are glad to say, are just keeping pace with our expenses.

Many members have been bringing along their own rolling stock and building up quite long trains, and it is amazing the number of coaches our engines can haul without showing any decrease in speed. Good old Hornby!

We are now constructing a high-level track, and very good progress has been made to date. There will be two long ramps with a row of brick arches over which the trains will run. At the moment the brick arches are in place, with the rails ready for the trains to run, and the ramps are made and ready for siting in their correct positions and gradients in relation to the tracks already in use. This will give added interest to our track when we put it on exhibition at the next Garden Party, where we hope to see many of our old members.

S.J.Y.

### CHESS CLUB

The results of the year's inter-school matches have been, to say the least, disappointing; indeed the only match that did not result in a crushing defeat for us was a 4—4 draw with Surbiton.

The failure of the team as a whole is due to the difficulty in replacing last year's boards 2, 3, 5 and 6. At board 2 Weightman has not been playing at his best. Fash has tried hard at board 3, but finds the extraordinary complex positions which his unorthodox openings lead him into a little beyond him. If Cohen will temper his ambitious moves at board 4 with a little care, he may develop into a very good player. At the lower boards, although Loveday has yet to record a win, the shock tactics of Gordon and Shepherd have undermined the confidence of many a superior player, whilst Richmond, Weston and Reeve have played well at times.

By the time these notes are read, the result of the annual competition will be known; as yet only the first round has been completed, but this has yielded its usual surprises with the elimination of both Hayter and Fash. The House competition will take place next term, and I hope this will encourage more players to improve the standard of their play.

Before I close these notes I should like to call attention to the very real debt the Club owes to the energies of Mr. Pratt. His work upon our behalf is ever unobtrusive, but he does give up much of his valuable time on Friday evenings and his efforts do not go unnoticed.

Finally, the old perennial plea for the care of sets, which in many cases are once again in need of repair!

I.B.H.

### CRAFT NOTES

The pace of activity in the craftroom continues as hot as ever, and the diversity of work sustains the interest of a large number of people. Uppermost in our thoughts at this time of year is of course the School Play. In preparation for this the Stagecraft Guild has been hard at work making the scenery necessary for "Romeo and Juliet," from our point of view no mean task as the complete play requires twenty-four changes of scene. In planning for this it has been necessary to reduce this to a workable number of different scenes which lend themselves to rapid changes. The results of our ideas you will all have seen and judged for yourselves by the time you read this, and you will have realized that one basic set was used throughout the play with a number of minor changes. Structurally the set posed a number of problems, the main one being to provide the necessary different acting levels and to continue the policy of making as much scenery as possible a permanent addition to the stage equipment. To fulfil both these main requirements three towers have been constructed, all of which are collapsible (we hope at the right time) and can therefore be stored easily. In addition we are hoping to try our first attempt at scene changing by the use of a trolley to move large pieces of scenery. At the time of writing all this, construction work is well under way, and we are eager to see if our plans will come up to expectation.

In order to see how the stage-work is carried on in a theatre the Guild recently paid a visit to Wimbledon Theatre, where Mr. Allen, the Stage Manager, gave us a most interesting morning examining in great detail the various parts of the stage, on, over, under and behind.

The Printers have been as active as ever this term, although little of the work done has been seen in the School. As always, production is rather slower at this time of year as we have a number of new members to introduce to this craft who replace those who left in July. We have, however, tried a new scheme recently to initiate these new members, whom we welcome most heartily to our number, into the mysteries of the Printer's craft by forming a **team of their own which works each lunch time.** Under the guidance of Jameson and Rogers they have made good progress and are now fully fledged members taking a full part in the working of the Guild.

For the first time, at the last Open Night exhibition of craftwork, you saw some examples of the most recent venture—that of book crafts. Activities in this field have been going on for some months now, and some very pleasing results have been produced. Most of you will have seen the new magazine covers in the Library, and it is hoped that in time, as the standard of achievement improves, more ambitious examples of binding will become evident on the shelves. A few well-bound books have already been made, and I hope the exponents of this craft will find many opportunities for giving useful service to the School.

R.G.A.

### A.T.C. NOTES

Since the last edition of A.T.C. Notes the Squadron has travelled far and **grown in numbers.** The most outstanding event, of course, was Sgt. R. Loveday's trip to the United States as part of an international exchange scheme arranged with the Civil Air Patrol of the United States. His adventures on that memorable occasion are recorded elsewhere in this volume, in his own words. Not, however, content with that achievement, and indeed at times it sounded like a feat of endurance, so thick and fast came the entertainments, he at once started out on flying training as soon as he returned home. The result—in three weeks he obtained his Private Pilot's Licence and gained his "Flying Scholarship Wings." But that is not all. The day School reopened this term came news that Sgt. Loveday had been appointed to a Royal Air Force University Cadetship, which will lead to an Honours Degree Course at a British University and a regular commission in the Technical Branch of the Royal Air Force. At the time of going to press, he has already completed his

first half-term at the R.A.F. Technical College at Henlow, and was able to attend a special parade held for the purpose of presenting him with his Wings at the School on November 12th.

But to get back to the Squadron and its activities. In terms of "boy-miles" the Squadron has totalled something over 60,000 miles in the past three months—an average of over a 1,000 miles per boy. The biggest part of this was, of course, our journey to R.A.F. Dyce, a few miles outside Aberdeen. On this adventure we started out from Raynes Park on a Friday evening in early August, to catch the night train from King's Cross which was to take us straight through to Aberdeen, where we arrived twelve hours later. To our surprise, our arrival preceded that of Her Majesty the Queen, whom we were able to greet the same afternoon, when her plane landed at Dyce, the nearest aerodrome for Balmoral.

From the very start it was apparent that we were taking part in a camp which demonstrated the very best the R.A.F. had to offer in terms of organization, energy and efficiency. The Commandant had clearly gone to a great deal of trouble to make sure that the boys got the very best out of their week on the Station. Flying was given a priority and went on until 8 p.m. at night for those who were keen enough to go for it. Many of our Cadets were given opportunities of handling planes in the air, and all logged more than two hours' flying. Regular trips to Aberdeen and a day's outing on the moors, together with the more usual form of training programme, made it a most profitable and enjoyable week for all Cadets.

Regular training is now in full swing this term, and seven more Cadets have obtained their Proficiency Certificates. New recruits aged 14 years or over will still be welcome to the Squadron, and any Old Boy or Parent willing to come along on Friday evenings and assist with classes in Navigation will be more than welcome.

J.D.T.

### 19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

This term has seen a welcome influx of nearly twenty new boys into the Troop; we hope that they will soon be invested as Scouts and will thenceforth take a full share in continuing the very high traditions of scouting at Raynes Park. Regular weekly Troop meetings have been held, and the Den has been well used; I feel grateful to the Seniors for making my gradual introduction to the Troop so easy and pleasant, and for their able assistance with the weekly programme.

The Summer Camp near Dartmouth was a very successful one, and has been commended as such in respect of camp lay-out and scouting activity by the A.D.C. of the Local Association in Devonshire—all credit to the Seniors, who ran the Camp. We are most grateful to Mr. Bellis, to Mr. Pollard and to M. Langton, who gave up their time and services, so that the Camp could go on.

Our task this winter must be to build up and weld together the Troop in preparation for next year's camping and open-air activities. It is a task which calls for the interest and full effort of all.

D.G.L.

### SPORTS DAY

Despite the intermittent rain, which generally caused slow times, two new records were set up when the Athletic Sports were held at Oberon on July 3rd. The two records were set up by M. Talbot in the Open Half-mile and B. Stracy in the Open Discus. But the slow times, however, did not lead to an uninteresting afternoon, for most of the races provided close and exciting finishes, resulting in Newsoms winning the John Garrett Cup, with Cobbs second, the order of the remaining Houses being Miltons, Halliwells and Gibbs. The above result has at last broken Halliwells' monopoly of the

cup. The success of the Sports was largely due to the efforts of Mr. Bellis and Mr. Loveday, who besides doing a lot of work on the day, were also responsible for the organization of qualifying. The afternoon was made complete by tea being served in the pavilion.

M.A.P.

### RESULTS OF THE ATHLETIC SPORTS

#### OPEN EVENTS

	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>	
100 Yards	Phillips (H)	Francis M. (C)	Bevan (N)	10.8 secs.
220 Yards	Cousins (H)	Weightman (N)	Francis (C)	24.4 secs.
440 Yards	Phillips (H)	Bevan (N)	Francis P. (C)	56.2 secs.
880 Yards	Talbot (C)	Barry (H)	Weightman (N)	2mins.7.4secs.*
1 Mile	Barry (H)	Talbot (C)	Howard (M)	4 mins. 54 secs.
Long Jump	Swinscoe (H)	Francis M. (C)	Bevan (N)	18ft.5½ins.
High Jump	Weightman (N)	Stracy (G)	Shepherd (C)	5ft.2½ins.
Shot	Stracy (G)	Spencer (N)	Higham (H) & Lavous (M)	41ft.2½ins.
Discus	Stracy (G)	Howard (M)	Spencer (N)	128ft.4½ins.*
Javelin	Loible (N)	Lavous (M)	Shepherd (C)	132ft.8½ins.
Pole Vault	Loible (N)	Shepherd (C)		8ft.6ins.
Relay	Halliwells	Cobbs	Gibbs	47.3 secs.

\*Record.

#### COLT EVENTS

	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>	
100 Yards	Hooper (M)	Finch (G)	Wyatt (N)	11.4 secs.
220 Yards	Hooper (M)	Thomson (G)	Rogers (H)	26.7 secs.
440 Yards	Thomson (G)	Rogers (H)	Tabor (N)	59.6 secs.
880 Yards	Smith (M)	Fowles (G)	Tabor (N)	2mins.22.4secs.
Long Jump	Wyatt (N)	Ingram (H)	Finch (G)	16ft.5ins.
High Jump	Gough (G)	Gent (M)	Atkins (C) & Gamble (H)	4ft.7½ins.
Shot	McCartney B. (H)	Morley (M)	Nicholls (G)	36ft.11ins.
Discus	Stevens (M)	Hickford (G)	Currie (N)	103ft.8ins.
Javelin	Stevens (M)	McCartney B. (H)	Kearsey (N)	114ft.
Relay	Miltons	Gibbs	Newsoms	53.7 secs.

#### MAJOR EVENTS

	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>	
100 Yards	Stevens (N)	Impey (H) & Davie (M)		12.6 secs.
220 Yards	Davie (M)	Millington (C)	Cottee (N)	29 secs.
440 Yards	Stevens (N)	Hodgson (H)	Golden (M)	61.4 secs.
Long Jump	Impey (N)	Millington (C)	Townsend (N)	13ft.11ins.
High Jump	Partridge (N)	Coney (C)	Edwards (G)	4ft.
Shot	Rolt (C)	Yeldham (N)	Frank-Keyes (G)	23ft.4ins.
Relay	Newsoms	Miltons	Cobbs	58.1 secs.

#### MINOR EVENTS

	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>	
100 Yards	Foulsham (C)	Redshaw (N)	Standish (M)	14.8 secs.
220 Yards	Gibbons (C)	Cumes (M)	Redshaw (N)	30.9 secs.
440 Yards	Gibbons (C)	Kingham (H)	Venison (G)	69.2 secs.
Long Jump	Brookes (N)	Burke (M)	Kingham (H)	12ft.6½ins.
High Jump	Cumes (M)	Foulsham (C)	Brookes (N)	3ft.10½ins.
Relay	Gibbs	Cobbs	Miltons	62.5 secs.

## SWIMMING

Sports and Galas usually take place in the Summer Term, and we might, therefore, be excused for thinking that our swimmers were active for a part of the year only. But swimming is a sport that knows no seasons, and from last September onwards boys were engaged in scoring points under the new qualifying system. Changes had been made in the system for a two-fold purpose. First there was the desire to encourage better styles of swimming, not only because speed develops from good style, but because doing something well is worth while for its own sake. Secondly, there was the need to prepare School teams for outside competition. Accordingly the qualifying standards were raised considerably. Apart from faster times being required, longer distances were set. Those ready to win points for the House were not, however, unduly deterred, and during the school year more than 160 boys qualified. This figure compares favourably with the 190 gaining points in the previous year under the easier system. Two boys, Eagleson and Hill A. D., each scored the possible maximum of 24 points.

Similar to our qualifying schemes are the Proficiency Awards offered by the English Schools Swimming Association. We had, unconsciously perhaps, been training for these Awards, and when 27 of our boys entered for them 26 were successful. The following 24 boys gained the Medallist Award, given for Diving, and good style swimming in each of the strokes, Breast, Back and Crawl: Talbot, Cerie, Steadman, Courtier, Roberts, Shepherd, Dunn, Brooks J. C., Howard, Morrison, Loible, Judge, Smale, Hiscock, Ingram B. S., Hall S. J., Harvey, Stevenson, King, Swatten, Crocker, MacDonald, Cooper A. J., Stevens D. C.

There are several other boys quite capable of winning this Award. Perhaps they will try next year.

The Advanced Award which is granted for Diving and for Swimming in good style 100 Yards Front Crawl, 100 Yards Back Crawl and 100 Yards Breast Stroke, within an aggregate of 270 seconds, was won by Eagleson and Hill A. D.

Our main external effort in the Summer Term was at the Wimbledon and District Gala. We entered teams for the Junior, Intermediate and Senior events, totalling 27 boys in all. We came away with 14 certificates, as compared with last year's eight, and our Senior Team won the Association Shield for the Champion Senior Boys' School. We are proud of the ten members of that team, who had the satisfaction of bringing the shield to Raynes Park for the first time. How necessary it was for each to give of his best was shown by the narrow margin of victory—one point ahead of Pelham!

### Results

#### JUNIOR

Millington, 2nd, 1L Breast Stroke, Under 13.

#### INTERMEDIATE

Stevens D. C., 1st, 1L Back Stroke, Under 15.

Stevens D. C., Nicholls R. M., Crocker—3rd, Medley Relay, Under 15.

#### SENIOR

Edwards M., 1st, 2L Free Style, Under 16.

Talbot, 1st, 2L Free Style, Under 17.

Hill A. D., 1st, 2L Breast Stroke, Under 18.

Hill A. D., 2nd, 2L Butterfly, Under 18.

Eagleson, 2nd, 2L Back Stroke, Under 18.

Brooks, Dunn, Edwards, Morrison—2nd, 4L Team Relay, Under 18.

Before passing to our own Sports, mention must be made of the Surrey Grammar Schools Swimming Sports. Our entry here was small—three relay teams, and two individual races. We were unsuccessful in the relays and,

owing to an unfortunate confusion in the organization, Eagleson was barred from the race for which he had legitimately been entered. Our other competitor, however, Stevens D. C., deserves warm applause for winning the Junior 2L Back Stroke Race.

The School Swimming Sports, held as usual on the last Monday of the Summer Term, saw all our prominent swimmers in action, and to very good effect. A keen afternoon's racing produced ten new records! Eagleson achieved fame by winning three events, two being in record times. His swimming partner, Hill A. D., won four events, his record in the 100 Yards Breast Stroke being a fine performance. It was good to see a 1948 record broken by the smooth crawl of Talbot, the Captain of Swimming. Perhaps next year he will lower the figures for the 100 Yards Free Style.

Stevens D. C., our best Junior swimmer, not only handsomely reduced the time he set last year in the Junior Back Stroke (when he broke a record which had stood since 1940), but he also scored the best individual triumph of the day when winning the Junior 2L Free Style in a time 8.9 seconds faster than the previous record. A pleasant surprise was B. S. Ingram's new time for the Colt Back Stroke. The team performance, however, which was really outstanding, was the victory by Cobbs' Senior Medley Team. Their excellent swimmers, Eagleson, Hill and Talbot, won by nearly three-quarters of a length, improving the previous best by 10.4 seconds. Unless they themselves break this record next year, it is likely to stand for a very long time. One concluding comment on records: congratulations to R. Loveday on being the first to plunge more than 50 feet. Thanks are also due to him in his capacity of Swimming Secretary for much sterling work done quietly and well.

The programme of events in the Sports had been further expanded by a separate 2L Butterfly Breast Stroke Race, and a 3L Open Back Stroke Race. With the usual able assistance of masters and boys the proceedings ran exactly to time. At this point it might be useful to observe that the programme now has all the events it can comfortably carry, both in respect of time available and the efforts demanded from the competitors.

Prior to the Sports, Cobbs had established a long lead in qualifying points, the positions being: 1st, Cobbs, 287; 2nd, Newsoms, 209; 3rd, Gibbs, 190; 4th, Halliwells, 181; 5th, Miltons, 174. Gaining first places in fifteen of the twenty-four events, Cobbs added heavily to their points, and finished worthy winners of the Sports. The final placings were: 1st, Cobbs, 617; 2nd, Newsoms, 409; 3rd, Gibbs, 385; 4th, Halliwells, 296; 4th, Miltons, 234.

## RESULTS OF THE 1954 SPORTS

### Open

Event	First	Second	Third	Time in Secs.
3L Breast Stroke	Hill A. D. (C)	Crerie (M)	Brooks (C)	80.8*
3L Back Stroke	Eagleson (C)	Crerie (M)	Hulatt (G)	81.7*
2L Butterfly	Hill A. D. (C)	Eagleson (C)	Lavous (M)	51.9
Plain Dive	Hill A. D. (C)	Loveday R. (G)	Loible (N)	—
Springboard Dive	Hill A. D. (C)	Loveday R. (G)	Loible (N)	—
Plunge	Loveday R. (G)	Betts B. P. (G)	Tucker (H)	*51ft.3ins.

### Senior

Event	First	Second	Third	Time in Secs.
1L Free Style	Talbot (C)	Morrison (G)	Dunn (H)	18*
1L Back Stroke	Eagleson (C)	Crerie (M)	Steadman (N)	22.7*
2L Breast Stroke	Eagleson (C)	Loveday R. (G)	Higham J. (H)	51.9*
3L Free Style	Talbot (C)	Morrison (G)	Dunn (H)	70.8
3L Medley Relay	Cobbs	Gibbs	Newsoms	64.9*
4L Free Style Relay	Cobbs	Halliwells	Gibbs	82.7

		Colt			Time in
Event	First	Second	Third	Secs.	
1L Free Style	Judge (N)	Edwards (C)	Bray A. (G)	20.5	
1L Back Stroke	Ingram B. (H)	Winstone (N)	Hickford (G)	24.5*	
2L Breast Stroke	Crocker (M)	Nicholls D. (G)	Nicholls R. (N)	61.6	
3L Free Style	Edwards (C)	Judge (N)	Bray A. (G)	83.5	
3L Medley Relay	Halliwells	Gibbs	Newsoms	76.2	
4L Free Style	Newsoms	Cobbs	Miltons	91.4	

		Junior			Time in
Event	First	Second	Third	Secs.	
1L Back Stroke	Stevens D. (N)	Coney (C)	Bond (G)	24.6*	
1L Breast Stroke	Millington (C)	Cottee (N)	Wearn D. (G)	29.6	
2L Free Style	Stevens (N)	King (H)	Cooper A. (C)	49.9*	
3L Medley Relay	Newsoms	Halliwells	Gibbs	88.2	
4L Free Style	Cobbs	Newsoms	Gibbs	112.1	

		Minor			Time in
Event	First	Second	Third	Secs.	
1L Free Style	MacDonald (C)	Frank-Keyes (G)	Cottee (N)	27.8	

\*Records.

On the results of the Sports, and by virtue of his other meritorious performances, School Colours were awarded to Hill A. D.

In closing I would wish Talbot and his teams, both School and House, continuing success. Theirs has been the present honour. May they have worthy successors.

Swimming, of course, is only one of many fine sports. Should you be a champion at any one of them, welcome your talent with humility. Should you—and this is more likely—be quite ordinary, you can still derive pleasure from participation. But whatever your standard, remember the things that are highly valued in sport: the ability to lose one's identity in a team, to contribute one's own gifts for the common good, to recognize the other fellow's merit, applaud his victory, and accept one's own defeat graciously. Above all, fight hard and fairly, and show, as Milton has it, "th' unconquerable will . . . and courage never to submit or yield." W.P.F.

Mr. Foister's departure at the end of last term was indeed a sad blow to all swimmers, and on their behalf I would like to extend our sincere thanks to him for giving so much of his time to us. The fact that more than a third of the events in last term's Swimming Sports were won in record time is proof that his sound advice (coupled with the example of his flawless swimming) and friendly encouragement had a direct effect on the standard of our swimming. I am convinced that it is due to his tireless efforts that we have had our first real success against other schools. We hope that his energy and interest are appreciated at his new school as much as they were at Raynes Park.

Early this term, on Friday, September 24th, the Surrey Schools Swimming Association Championships were held at Mitcham Baths. Four boys from the School, M. E. Talbot, Hill A. D., Stevens D. and Edwards, were chosen to swim in the Wimbledon and District Team. Their efforts, though not outstanding, helped the team to win the Senior Boys' Shield, which it will hold until next year's Championships, when, it is hoped, boys from the School will again be asked to swim. Hill's superb swimming, however, did not pass unnoticed by the selectors, and he is to be congratulated for receiving his County Colours, awarded to him for swimming in the Surrey Team against Kent. M.E.T.

## CRICKET

The general standard of play did not rise as expected after the publication of last term's *Spur*. Tulett never really regained the command of pace and accuracy that won his colours during the previous season, nor did his forceful batting realize many runs. Weightman showed a marked improvement, but he too was inclined to be erratic.

The keenness of the fielding was the most notable characteristic of the team, and Shepherd, Jackson and Lavous were the most successful batsmen, Jackson perhaps to a greater extent than the others.

The match versus the Staff resulted in a fine win for the School; left to score 97 runs in a little over the hour we won with time to spare due to the brightest display of batting produced by the team over the whole season. The main run-getters were Mr. Foister for the Staff, with 34, and Shepherd for the School with 65 not out.

The Old Boys' fixture resulted in an uninteresting draw in which the only bright point was the batting of Mr. Bellis.

During the holidays, we received as guests a team from Priory School, Shrewsbury, and found them to be a crowd of fine, sociable fellows, especially their captain, who strove to cement a good relationship between the two schools and to arrange for a return fixture next season. The result in a fixture of this nature is, I feel, of only minor importance, but, for the record, the School won comfortably after a match fought throughout with a spirit of sportsmanship to be admired and recommended to all sportsmen.

Colours were awarded to D. A. Jackson and M. Lavous. D.C.S.  
M.L.

## RUGBY

It is said that a team can be judged by its reserves, and this year's Rugby results show that we have outstanding reserves in the 2nd XV.

		Results			
1ST XV				2ND XV	
v. Bec School	... .. W 8—6	v. Bec School	... .. W 42—8		
v. Wimbledon College	... W 13—3	v. Wimbledon College	... W 27—3		
v. Beckenham C.G.S.	... W 10—5	v. Beckenham C.G.S.	... W 13—5		
v. St. George's College	... W 19—8	v. Sutton C.G.S.	... W 17—8		
v. Surbiton C.G.S.	... L 3—6	v. Surbiton C.G.S.	... W 8—5		
v. Reigate C.G.S.	... W 14—8	v. Reigate C.G.S.	... D 3—3		
v. Wallington C.G.S.	... W 11—6	v. Wallington C.G.S.	... W 9—8		

### 1st XV

v. BEC SCHOOL.—Playing away we gained a hard-won victory over a strong team. The ground was firm and this helped the open game the captain had planned. Unfortunately the pitch was not as wide as usual and our threequarters were hemmed in. Bec scored a try after ten minutes' play and a penalty fifteen minutes later, making the score 6—0 at half-time. After encouragement from Mr. Bellis the team restarted with a great effort which resulted in a try by Swinscoe after an orthodox threequarter movement. Twenty minutes later Weightman, scrum-half, after a slow heel, dribbled the ball round the blind side and caught their defence out of position, scoring between the posts, and Shepherd converted. Bec came storming back and our defence was well tested during the closing minutes.

v. WIMBLEDON COLLEGE.—Playing at the Coombe Lane Ground the 1st XV beat a Wimbledon side which was not as fit as last year. The side was encouraged by strong School support (especially parents), and scored after ten minutes. Cousins ran down the wing and slipped the ball inside to Shepherd,

who saw an opening and sprinted through to touch down between the posts. He converted, and fifteen minutes later, after a quick heel from the loose, he scored again after beating three men with his side-steps and swerves. This, too, he converted, and the half-time score was 10—0. In the second half there were several anxious moments, during which one of their men dropped a goal. Later in the game, however, Stracy went over in one of his traditional "tank crashes." This was not converted. This was a hard, good match which we deserved to win after losing for so many years.

v. BECKENHAM.—As instructed by the captain, members of the team turned up early and spent fifteen minutes warming up. It is felt that this gave us an early supremacy, and led to our first try by Cousins after a tight heel and an orthodox movement. Francis is here to be praised for giving his wing a magnificent opening. Shepherd converted. Fifteen minutes later, following another tight heel, Stracy crashed over, and Shepherd again converted. The tide turned, and much inter-passing led to their scrum-half going over in the corner, and a wonderful kick gave them two more points. The half-time score was 10—5. The second half was tough. Terrific marking by their threequarters rendered our men almost useless, and our threequarters scared their opponents into fumbling and kicking for touch. In the forwards it was all individual effort, and both sides were near to scoring several times. Loible missed a dropped goal by inches, and Fash is to be congratulated on fine leadership in a first-class match. In the last ten minutes the School came back with a terrific effort, but the deserved score did not come. We were content to win what the Society Referee declared was the hardest game he had ever seen.

v. ST. GEORGE'S COLLEGE.—Our early warming up did not bring the hoped-for try, as St. George's, urged on by a coach-load of supporters, scored first and were successful with the conversion. Ten minutes later, however, Cousins picked up the ball after a clever kick ahead by Shepherd, and raced past all opposition to score. The conversion was missed owing to the awkward wind conditions. Later, the ever-dangerous Beckett scored with a dropped goal. Half-time score 3—8. With the wind behind us we scored early in the second half, Lavous going over from a pass from Swinscoe. A few minutes later Shepherd picked up and scored after a long upfield dribble from the forwards. St. George's College then began to play hard for twenty minutes, and our line was only just defended by excellent tackling and backing up. When they had "shot their bolt," we came back and scored twice, once by Shepherd after an inside pass by Swinscoe (converted), and then by Lavous, who distinguished himself by managing to run through the opposing scrum and score a wonderful try which was converted. Final score 19—8. One of their priests was stated to have said, "I have had two heart-attacks, your threequarters' tackling, and your full-back's safeness."

v. SURBITON.—Here must be recorded our first defeat. Lavous's injury in a House match caused our team to become rather disjointed and, although winning 3—0 at half-time, we lost by a try and a penalty to a penalty. The forwards seemed to lack cohesion in this game, and although they fought hard as individuals, they did not work as a team. The threequarters seemed to fumble the ball when in attack, and consequently any chance of a movement was lost.

v. REIGATE.—The team for this game had three changes, two of them to stay for the next few games. The ground was very muddy, and at the beginning their scrum was superior and scored (converted). We replied with a try after an orthodox threequarter movement. Half-time score 3—5. In the second half, playing down-hill (steep for a Rugby pitch), Shepherd scored in the corner, and Spencer failed to convert a difficult one. A few minutes later Shepherd scored again, and this time he converted it himself. Back came Reigate and after some faulty play and hesitation in falling on the ball on our part, their stand-off scored a try, which was not converted. All through this half the scrums were rushing up and down the field with foot dribbles, and

towards the end, after such a dribble, Fash picked the ball up and made a long kick ahead which Boyd followed up very quickly, crossing the opposing line to score. Final score 14—8.

v. WALLINGTON.—This was a very tough match. To oppose our three Surrey players, Fash, Shepherd and Francis, they had five in the Surrey team, including the captain. Potentially they had the better scrum, but we rose to the occasion and beat them. We were 0—6 down at one time (try and penalty), but soon we scored from two penalties. Just before half-time Nicholls cut through on the blind side, after a quick heel, and scored; Shepherd converted, and the half-time score was 11—6. In the second half there was no further score, and in some respects we were lucky, but after all it is the points that count.

### Characters of the Team

*Fash* (Wing-Forward, Colours '53).—His fine captaincy has been the main factor in the success of the team this year. He has inspired every player to give of his best in matches, and it is through his keenness that members of the XV have been only too willing to turn out for practices whenever possible, which, of course, have given skill and understanding to the side. As a wing-forward he is very good: he is a tireless worker, and his positional play is enviable; but of all his qualities the one of leadership is outstanding.

*Higham J. R. S.* (Lock-Forward, Colours '53).—He is a sound, brainy player who never lets the side down. He has a very hard tackle and his falling on the ball is first class. In the line-outs our success is usually due to his tireless jumping and efficient method of heeling the ball. Off the field he has performed the thankless job of secretary excellently.

*Loible* (Full-Back).—He has a fine sense of position, and also the excellent hands and kicking ability to get the best out of that sense. He never waits for somebody else to do the job, but gets on with it himself. In fact, he is a thorough football player.

*Cousins* (Wing).—This season his Rugby sense has improved tremendously; he does not hesitate to run with the ball, and his tackling is fearless.

*Francis* (Centre).—When at his best he is very nimble off the mark, with brains, pace, defence, a good pair of hands and a peach of a pass to his wing.

*Shepherd* (Centre, Colours '51).—He is the spearhead of our attack, and seems to have little difficulty in spotting the gap or beating his man. His defence is excellent and his kick ahead has often led to a try. His place-kicking is first-rate, and in some of our games this has made all the difference.

*Stracy* (Wing).—He has had a chronic back injury during this season, and has only played in four matches. However, we will be pleased to see his combined weight and speed on the wing again when he has recovered.

*Swinscoe* (Wing).—He has shown himself to be a player worthy of the 1st XV, and when he has replaced Stracy his swerve and deceptive run have often led to a splendid movement.

*Nicholls* (Stand-Off).—He has made a worthy substitute for Lavous, and with a little more experience will become a brilliant player.

*Weightman* (Scrum-Half).—He has acquired a stylish pass to his stand-off that is a joy to watch, and as soon as he overcomes his slight hesitation he will be a faultless player.

*Creasey* (Wing-Forward).—He is the fastest player in the scrum, and a sound substitute for nearly every position. His pace has helped him greatly in his ceaseless following-up, which is a strong feature of his game.

*Howard* (Forward).—He has become a very hard-working forward, and has at last acquired some good Rugby sense which enables him to be relied upon in all situations.

*Spencer* (Forward).—He is a very good scrummaging player and uses his weight to the best advantage. He has a useful unorthodox place-kick which is sometimes successful over long distances.

*Hill* (Front-row Forward).—For his first season in Senior Rugby he is a great success. He is a dashing and tireless forward in the loose, and to him no match is ever lost or won until "no side" sounds; in fact, he is an example to all other forwards.

*Williams* (Front-row Forward).—He makes up for his rather slow speed by being a non-stop working forward who has good defensive ability, and since he has been playing front row has met with much success.

*Higham C. F. W.* (Hooker).—At the beginning of the season he did not seem to be taking much of the ball in the tight scrums, but since the front row has been changed he has had no difficulty in hooking the ball from any opposition. In the loose he is a sound and active player, and for his size a very plucky tackler.

*Boyd* (Wing).—Has also played, and he played an outstanding game against Reigate C.G.S.

This year we had six members of the 1st XV in the Final Surrey Trial, and of these, Shepherd, Francis and Fash were chosen to represent Surrey, and Higham J. R. S. to be a reserve.

Much of our success is due to Mr. Bellis, who has corrected and advised us, and made us into a skilful team full of confidence. We are deeply grateful to him for the time he has given us, and we hope that the results obtained fully justify his efforts.

Our thanks, also, go to the spectators, especially parents, who have encouraged the team and made the matches so much more enjoyable.

N.H.B., R.N.F. and J.R.S.H

## 2nd XV

Not for several seasons has a School team so convincingly proved their prowess. The 2nd XV is undefeated this season, and the draw against Reigate would probably have been turned into a win if we had been able to field a team of full strength. To what must we attribute this success? First I should like to thank Mr. Alexander for his tireless effort in coaching the team. He has spent countless evenings with us explaining tactics and, what I consider more important, has been on the touchline every Saturday shouting encouragement in no uncertain manner.

As to the team itself, Orme has supplied a useful turn of speed which time and again has split our opponents' defence just when we needed it. Keeble has added to our points by some very fine place-kicking, while of the rest of the forwards, Bray has worked very hard in his first year of Senior Rugby. Ingram has proved himself a notable all-rounder, filling nearly every position on the field from week to week.

We still have some difficult games to play, but with such a spirit in the team, only over-confidence will cause us to spoil the fine record so far set up.

## Characters of the Team

*Nicholls* (Full-Back).—Played five games, and then went into the 1st XV. Executed some very fine tackling, and kicked well for touch. He was rather inclined to link up with the threequarters before we were out of trouble in defence.

*Carver* (Wing-Threequarter).—Runs very hard and straight for the line. His handling was suspect at the beginning of the season, but he has now settled down very well.

*Thompson* (Inside-Threequarter).—Runs hard and straight, but is inclined to kick ahead when a pass would be more useful.

*Swinscoe* (Inside-Threequarter).—Has a natural body swerve, and makes some fine openings. He is also very good in defence, and tackles well.

*Boyd* (Wing-Threequarter).—Tackles very hard, and runs hard. He makes excellent use of any opening that he has.

*Orme* (Fly-Half).—Takes the ball well when moving at top speed. Tackles well, but at times has held the ball too long.

*Dyer* (Scrum-Half).—In his first season of School Rugby, he has shown a natural skill in the long pass from the base of the scrum. He has quickly learnt when to make an opening before passing.

*Holden* (Wing-Forward).—Has been outstanding in general forward play, but when moving alone has tended to lower his head and run into trouble.

*Keeble* (Middle Back Row).—Besides his fine kicking, he has been outstanding in line-out work.

*Bray* (Second Row).—A fine forward with good Rugby sense. Always ready to pounce on the loose ball.

*Paxman* (Second Row).—A hard-working forward who is always one of the first on the ball.

*Hudson* (Prop Forward).—Another player in his first season of School Rugby, he has proved to be a hard-working player with some natural Rugby sense.

*Brittain* (Hooker).—Has hooked well throughout the season, and his speedy following-up has been excellent.

*Kent* (Prop Forward).—Has been a hard-working forward, but is inclined to panic when in the van of a forward rush.

*Ingram*.—Started off the season as a forward, but has since played full-back, fly-half, wing- and inside-threequarter. His standard of play has been surprisingly high in all these positions.

*Pooles*.—Another all-rounder, he has played as a forward and as a back. His efforts have been magnificent, and he has shown a fine Rugby sense.

Also played: *Talbot, Wilson.*

J.L.W

*Wearn* (Wing-Forward and Captain).—I feel sure that without his leadership the team would not have reached its present standard. He has put into his team a spirit that has never been known before in any 2nd XV. He is a player who plays the game in the right spirit, and with the necessary ability to play it well. His tackling is an example to his team-mates, and his clever dribbling is always a danger to the opponents. **R.N.F.**

## Colts

In spite of the loss of last year's key players the Colts XV has proved, if anything, rather better than average. Although there have been difficulties in the way, the team has worked well together and has shown few weaknesses either in defence or in attack. The points inviting criticism are the tendency of the mid-field backs to hold on to the ball too long and thus spoil good openings, and the failure of the forwards to pack down in the loose scrums so that they cannot fully utilize the weight which helps them to gain the mastery in the tight.

The pack, and the team, has been lead with some skill by Ridge, while Cooper, Morley, Hickford, Edwards, Stevens and Stevenson have all at times showed unusual dash and strength. Clark and Gamble have opened up well at half, while Stone and Hornsby have shown thrust at centre, with Thomas, Stevens and Wyatt (before his illness) proving fast and penetrative wings. Wearn D. has been steadily gaining in experience at full-back.

Altogether it has been a creditable season with four easy wins to set off against two defeats, neither in any way decisive, and a points tally of 95 to 37. It seems that more good material lies in wait for future 1st XV's. **P.O'D.**

## Juniors

The Juniors have had only three matches up to the time of writing, against Beckenham, Surbiton and Sutton. In the first two we were beaten decisively by 28—0 and 23—0, respectively, and there we had the same old trouble of "a good big 'un beating a good little 'un." It is a pity that some of our opponents seem to be of an older age group, for an extra year in the Junior School makes all the difference to a person's build and play, and, obviously, both teams would be happier if more equally matched. The game with Sutton was a pleasant exception to this as the score of 8—8 suggests, and here, if the 'bus strike had not deprived us of a player, we might have won. We showed more rigger ability than our opponents.

House matches will soon be under way, and from them it will be interesting to see how the new boys have progressed with the skills this term. Good luck to all Houses in the competition!

N.H.B.

## CROSS-COUNTRY

It was with great regret that we said goodbye to our captain, Francis, and the secretary, Davis, at the end of last term. They, together with D. I. Cook, who has also left, set an example of keenness in races and willingness to practice that we would do well to follow. We thank them for their untiring support and we wish them the very best of luck in their respective careers. On their departure, M. E. Talbot became captain, and Barry was elected secretary.

Considering the team's lack of experience the results so far this season have been very satisfactory. Our first match was on Saturday, October 2nd, at Strawberry Hill against St. Mary's College. As they always field a very strong team, with an average age of 22 years, we did very well to win by 37 points to 41 points. Barry was the first School runner to pass the finishing-line in second position (19.21), M. E. Talbot was fourth (19.37), and Stewart was fifth (20.2). The other scorers were C. R. Weightman (7th), Loible (8th) and Eagleson (11th). Hayter, Fowles and Spencer also ran.

On Wednesday, October 6th, we welcomed R.A.F. Chessington to the Oberon for our first home match. We were represented by two teams, "A" and "B," of nine runners each. First home was M. E. Talbot (18.37), with Barry, Stewart and Howard tying for second place (18.54). In fifth position came the first R.A.F. runner, followed by Smith, sixth (19.30), Eagleson, seventh (19.39), Bayly, eighth (19.44), Loible and Weightman, ninth equal (19.51). Note that all runners of the "A" team finished before the second R.A.F. runner. The "B" team was nearly strong enough to bring off a double victory for the School, the scorers being Warren, twelfth, Gardiner, fourteenth, Reeve, fifteenth, Fowles and Cooper, seventeenth equal, and Hayter, twenty-second. Spencer, P. M. A. Corke and Denton also ran. The School "A" Team was first with 23 points, R.A.F. Chessington was second with 84 points and the School "B" Team was a close third with 98 points.

On Saturday, October 16th, we met Surbiton C.G.S. and R.G.S. (Guildford) at Surbiton's Sports Ground at Hook. The Juniors started first on a 3½-mile course. Reeve and Mellor ran strongly to gain third and fourth positions, but their colleagues found the course too far and too fast, and their rivals were too good for them. Surbiton won the Junior event and we were second. Guildford did not enter a Junior team. The Senior team race was run over a 4½-mile course and was won by Guildford with 44 points. We were second with 57 points, and Surbiton third with 72 points. M. E. Talbot was second, Barry was third and Stewart fifth. Eagleson, Bayly and Warren were the other scorers. Hayter and Hiscock also ran. Our displacement from first place was probably due to the fact that three of our runners were playing Rugby for the School, and two (for medical reasons) were unable to run for us. Also, owing to the 'bus strike, all except two of the School team cycled against a very strong wind in order to turn up.

Sutton and Cheam Harriers were our hosts on Saturday, October 23rd, for the second annual Senior Schools Relay Race for the "Herald" Shield. Eagleson, Smith, Stewart and Barry each received medals as members of the team returning the second fastest time (71 mins. 11 secs.), and Barry was also presented with a gold medal for the fastest time of the afternoon (16.41). The holders, Sutton, were again the winners, having the same team as last year. Their time for the course was (68.12). A second team of Warren, Hiscock, Bayly and Gardiner was placed sixth out of a total of eight teams.

M.E.T.

## "I KNOW WHERE I'M GOING"

### The Old Boys' Society Letter

Ambition is a trait to be discovered in people of all ages but in none is it more evident perhaps than in those still at school: I have no desire to hazard a guess at the number of expressed ambitions actually achieved, but to those who teach us in our youth and do so much to help mould our characters, it must prove a source of constant interest, tracing the paths their pupils have taken since leaving their care. With this in mind, and in a desire to point to the vastly varied equipment for later life provided at Raynes Park, I will point to the activities and achievements of a few Old Boys and I wish to offer the help of the Society in advising present boys of possible careers on leaving school.

Two Old Boys who secured First Class Degrees at Oxford are in America on Research Scholarships; thus Brian Bannister has left his tutoring at New College for two years and Michael Brown is away prior to taking up a post at Winchester. Old Boys are, of course, widely scattered around the globe, and while Aubrey Pengilly is Civil Engineering in Canada, Derek Cooper has been in hotter climes organizing programmes for Radio Malaya in Singapore—further north Eddie Styles is a Police Officer in Kuala Lumpur. In a completely different field Eric Wells is a District Veterinary Officer in Uganda, where he occasionally sees Derek (D. P.) White, who is also there in the Colonial Audit Service.

At home the Society can boast a member of almost every profession, and has Alan Overell and Noel Godwin, among others, in the Church. If one looks to more unorthodox lines one may find Robert Robinson staring at his television screen for inspiration for his next "criticism" in a national newspaper; his first novel should soon be ready for publication. Leslie Fielding, the second boy to leave the School, runs a well-known "sea food" restaurant near Leicester Square. Another whose work is well known, although his name strange, is Adrian de Potier, who wrote the script for the film "The Ascent of Everest"; Bruno Schrecker, on the other hand, was given publicity for his great achievement in gaining a year's scholarship to study under the greatest of all 'collists, Paul Casals, in his native village in the Pyrenees. Also in the field of music is Ian Mackintosh, following his father by playing trumpet in the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra.

I could continue for many pages in this strain but clearly "the line must be drawn somewhere": Jim Mylam and Ken Richards, both Sales Directors in their respective Printing and Optical Instrument trades, nevertheless come to mind, and we should surely not forget Norman Poulter's first attempt, albeit unsuccessful, in a Parliamentary By-election at Sutton and Cheam in early November. Among those training from the younger generation are Tony Jeapes at Sandhurst and Tony Lee preparing to go in two years' time to India as a tea taster.

This rather compendious list has, of course, been far from exhaustive, if alas it may have proved exhausting; I can only hope that it has served to show the vast field that is open to anyone fortunate to be educated at a school where all natural inclination is given sufficient encouragement to thrive and blossom in later years. The benefit of the Old Boys' experience is there for the "tapping"!

DONALD THOMPSON.



From the deepest recesses of the Library or labs, where the Sixth Form skulk at the earliest opportunity, that seething world down below represents rather an enigma. What is hidden in the dark corners of the First Forms' Annex? What incentive propels the Staff at a rapid pace towards that mysterious sanctum of theirs known as the Common Room, at every break between periods? What causes that regular clonking noise coming from behind the new curtains shielding the Prefects' Room? What does go on in that little room called "The Headmaster's Study"? These questions, and many others too, puzzle, if they do not unduly worry, the Upper School in some of its rarer moments of semi-identity between classes, and after examinations. To some of the questions they know the answers, but nevertheless, it is a mysterious world downstairs, and one that calls for a little investigation. To those that value both physical and mental health, entrance into the Annex, especially during break or lunch hour, is a proceeding which entails no small amount of risk. A seething, bubbling, screaming mass of humanity, never still, never asleep, except when asleep, greets the unwelcome intruder with a sort of dismay. Though order of a sort is gained, the atmosphere is one of passive resistance against law and order. A hasty retreat is beaten, as some poor unfortunate wreath succumbs to the ungentle attentions of his comrades amid a cacophony of howls and yells. It is no wonder that the comparative quiet and peace of the Library be infinitely preferred to that Bedlam.

Passing across the asphalt entails dodging, or attempting to dodge, the unseeing footballers, eyes fixed avidly on the little brown tennis-ball, rushing madly about, quite regardless of life and limb. If it be a games afternoon, the landscape inside the main building is a little hazy, especially around the changing rooms. Nude or semi-nude bodies rush backwards and forwards amongst the wreaths of steam, shouting to each other or singing at the tops of their voices under the showers.

In contrast to the noise and hubbub of the changing rooms, the Hall always seems to be "far from the madding crowd." During the periods when it is not being used for lunch or assembly purposes, or being occupied by the Economics Sixth, it is as quiet and as still as a tomb. It seems cold and unfriendly, and yet it seems to harbour the ghosts of those who have departed, in the honours boards being prepared, in the cups, and in the war memorial over the quad doorway. How many people have stood within its walls and roared, "And did those feet . . ." ? How many have stood upon the platform and read the Lesson in the mornings? How many in years to come will follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before, will fight the same battles, win the same trophies and go out into the world better men for it?

From the Hall it is only a short step to the Prefects' Room. Stopping outside the door, those of inquisitive mind can hear again that regular clonking noise remarked upon before. It is not right to penetrate the veil that hangs behind the door, however, but it is possible to guess what is happening. That noise sounds suspiciously like a table-tennis ball bouncing upon wooden desks, and that subdued cry for help and the ensuing scuffle suspiciously like a member of the prefectorial body submitting to the same kind of treatment that the First Forms practised in the Annex. Over the door should hang the motto, "Abandon hope all ye who enter here"; even the Headmaster knocks first, and waits a few moments before entering.

Lastly on our tour of the part of the School downstairs, though certainly not below-stairs, we come to the Masters' Common Room, the Secretary's Office and the Headmaster's Study. The first is the holiest of holies to all but the *most* favoured; the second a resort for every member of the School on business, official or unofficial; the third is an inner sanctum entered only by the very good or the very bad.

It is around the Common Room that most of the mystery in the School lies; nobody seems to know quite what *does* go on behind its door. The only signs that show that the inmates are at all human are the occasional appear-

ances of senior members of the Staff surreptitiously carrying teapots or kettles across the corridor, obviously on tea-making errands, trying to make it look as if they are going for a saunter on the Headmaster's lawn; and hideous-sounding gunfaws, no doubt arising from that peculiar phenomenon known as the schoolmaster's joke. The little office is the hub of Raynes Park. It is the place where everyone goes when they want to borrow something, buy something, pay for something, or when they feel ill. The Secretary is vendor, lender, sender and mender for the whole School.

Of the Headmaster's Study, the least said the better. It is here that the man who controls the destinies of so many works, and smokes—and works some more. It is an unceasing, but, we hope, a rewarding labour. It is up to the School to follow this example (except for the smoking).

A. J. F.  
(Alumnus, 1947-54.)

### THE RECKONING OF TIME

(Continued from the Spring number)

(iii) *The Clepsydra, or Water Clock.* The earliest type of water clock consisted of an earthenware or metal bowl with a hole punched in the bottom. This was floated in water, and slowly filled until it sank. In another form the water was allowed to run out of the bowl. The time was read by noting the water-level.

In the fully-developed form of this type of clock (about A.D. 800) water was allowed to drip into a cylinder containing a float. The float was connected by gear trains to the hand of the clock, and to various auxiliary mechanisms which came into operation hourly.

Although the clepsydra was eventually very highly developed, its dependence on water power foredoomed it. It was large, clumsy, and certainly not portable. In dry countries, sand replaced water, giving us the common sand glass.

(iii) *Weight-driven Clocks.* A falling weight is a fairly obvious source of motive power for a clock, but such a clock could not be built until some form of escapement had been devised. The "verge and foliot" escapement was invented about A.D. 1300. The first clock of this type was built by De Vick for Charles V of France, while one of the last to fall into disuse was removed from Dover Castle in 1872, and is now in the Science Museum.

These clocks were hardly accurate. One which gained only two hours a day could be considered a good clock. It is scarcely surprising that no minute hand was fitted.

(iv) *The Pendulum.* No progress could be made in the direction of time-keeping accuracy until the pendulum was introduced into the regulating mechanism. The most important property of the pendulum is that it is isochronous, i.e. the time of swing depends only on the length. Since the length depends on the temperature to some extent, it was necessary to minimize the expansion or contraction of the pendulum due to changes of temperature. One method was to use a thin rod of dry Pine, while to-day we often use a rod of Invar Steel. Several self-compensating pendulums have also been invented. The first clock known to have incorporated a pendulum was built by Richard Harris in 1642 for St. Paul's Church, Covent Garden. The anchor escapement, which is usually used in modern pendulum clocks, was invented in 1680 and greatly improved in 1705.

It is amusing to note that, at a time when clockmakers were struggling to correct major inaccuracies, they proved (correctly) that the accuracy of the clock is affected by the gravitational attraction of the driving weight as it approaches the pendulum.

(v) *The Spring and the Watch.* The mainspring was invented shortly before 1500. Soon, the fusee was invented to compensate for the decreasing force exerted by the mainspring as it ran down. This device is still used in modern chronometers, and the chain used is a miracle of modern engineering. The chain is built up in the same way as a bicycle chain, yet is less than a thirtieth of an inch across.

The invention of the hairspring by Hooke in 1658 made the pocket watch a practical possibility. During the next three hundred years the watch contracted and improved, until to-day there are watches only a quarter of an inch across, and watches that tell you not only the time, but the day of the week, the day of the month (not forgetting that the months are of uneven length), and they can even allow for the extra day in leap-years. Incorporate a stopwatch and a sweep second-hand (which involves three minute concentric spindles) and mechanisms to show the phases of the moon and the state of the tides, and you have some idea how far watchmaking has progressed in 300 years. Incidentally, the watch just described was built by American craftsmen, and when complete measured a little over 1½ inches across. The consequences of forgetting to wind it up are appalling to contemplate.

(vi) *"Modern" Clocks.* The ordinary household electric clock is merely a synchronous electric motor whose speed depends on the mains frequency. A less common type employs a small electric motor as its motive power, and a pendulum in its regulating mechanism.

By far the most accurate type of clock is the quartz clock which is used as the master clock by all observatories. The master clock is kept at constant temperature in an evacuated glass case in a deep cellar, and drives a number of slave clocks which can be placed where needed. The idea behind the quartz clock is that correctly-cut quartz crystals can be used to produce Alternating Current whose frequency can be accurately predicted.

#### 4. Measurement of Geological Time

The most accurate method (although still highly inaccurate) is probably that of measuring the lead content of radio-active minerals. The heavier radio-elements (Uranium, Thorium, etc.) slowly change into Lead and Helium at a perfectly constant rate. Thus the amount of Lead in a radio-active ore gives an indication of how old it is. A similar process is being developed for vegetable remains, based on the radio-active Carbon content. D.J.B.

### EXTRACTS FROM R. LOVEDAY'S DIARY OF HIS U.S. VISIT

#### OUTWARD BOUND

We went to R.A.F. Station at Uxbridge, on Wednesday, July 21st, 1954, and met there the twenty-five American Civil Air Patrol Cadets who were visiting this country. On that and the following evening we went out with them in Uxbridge. On the Thursday we were told that we should not be leaving until Saturday mid-day. On Friday the Canadian Cadets arrived. We went to London Airport about 10 a.m. on Saturday and, after much fuss and bother, and several disturbing rumours about the aircraft we were to fly in, left at 3.15 p.m. B.S.T. in a Military Air Transport Service (M.A.T.S.) DC-6 operated by the U.S. Navy, with the Dutch, French and Belgian Cadets. We flew via Lajes Air Force Base in the Azores where we landed about 9.45 p.m. B.S.T. and stayed two hours during which time we had supper. The civilian (Portuguese) police there carry a truncheon, bayonet and revolver, and wear jackboots!

We left Lajes about midnight B.S.T. and flew on to Washington National Airport where we landed about 11.45 a.m. B.S.T., i.e. 6.45 a.m. E.D.S.T. (Eastern Daylight Saving Time). During the flight, which was very smooth and comfortable (with rearward-facing seats), I got about seven hours' sleep. We had a nice Wave Stewardess to look after us and also a Navy Steward. The Waves are the U.S. equivalent of our W.R.N.S.

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#### WASHINGTON

On Monday, July 26th, we arose about 6.30 a.m. and, after breakfast, went by bus to the Washington Monument, which is an obelisk 555 feet 5½ inches high. We ascended it by elevator (for those who feel energetic there are 800 steps or so). After that we visited the National Airport for a luncheon party with Vice-President Nixon, General Beau, the National Commander of C.A.P., several other important people and the 180 Cadets from twenty different countries. The afternoon was free and so I went swimming.

Supper was served about 4 p.m. and then at 8 p.m. we saw a Cinerama, a new system developed by Warner Bros., using three projectors and a wide, curved screen. It impressed us tremendously, especially a film of a ride on a roller-coaster which makes you feel so much part of the picture that you leave your stomach behind when you go down quickly.

After breakfast on Tuesday, July 27th, we went to the Base PX (Post Exchange), which is rather like our N.A.A.F.I. but on a much larger scale, and then later to the swimming pool. Here we met some C.A.P. girls and we were photographed with them for publicity purposes. After lunch I went swimming again and then after supper we travelled 15 miles to Andrews A.F.B. for an "International Party." The C.A.P. had arranged for an adequate supply of partners, so we had a fine time dancing to the band which played in "The Glenn Miller Story" and partaking of a buffet supper. The party broke up about midnight. The girls had to go home first in our buses, and while we were waiting in the bar I got into conversation with a U.S.A.F. lieutenant and his civilian friend. He flew Salves and he told me his crew had just won the base Soft-Ball Championship and were celebrating. He asked me to get a couple of friends and bring them along in his friend's car to the "party" just outside the airfield. We went along and after a thoroughly enjoyable time were taken back about 3 a.m. to Bolling. This is a typical example of the hospitality shown to us by everyone.

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We travelled by A.F. bus into Boston, a distance of about 20 miles. On the way we passed a large notice which read, "In the event of an attack on this city, this highway will be closed to all except military vehicles." We also passed a couple of open-air "Drive-in Theaters" where you drive in and park your car next to a parking meter, put your money into the slot and then watch a movie from your car.

#### BOSTON

In Boston we stayed at the Myles Standish Hall, one of the Boston University Hostels. Three of us were put into an eighth-floor apartment which in normal term-time accommodates five. After supper, Don and I set out to explore the city. We travelled to the centre by subway and this cost us 20 cents (about 1s.6d.) each way. It is the same fare for any distance. Our journey, had it been on the London Underground, would not have been more

than 3d. each way. The following morning I spent in writing cards and taking my uniform to the laundry. In the afternoon we travelled by A.F. bus to Otis A.F.B., near Falmouth on Cape Cod, about 80 miles away. Here the Mass. Wing of the C.A.P. Cadets was in camp. There were 200 boys and 70 girls, and we were to stay there for the night. After supper we went by bus to a "Melody Tent" about 25 miles away and saw "Oklahoma" in a very large marquee. I enjoyed it very much and after the show we had photographs taken with the cast on the stage. It was midnight when we arrived back in camp.

On Saturday, July 31st, after reveille at 6 a.m., we were told to wait OUTSIDE the girls' quarters, and at 6.50 a.m. we all went by A.F. bus to the mess for breakfast. The A.F. buses are very large. After breakfast we took part in the morning parade with the C.A.P. Cadets and then went on to one of the base theatres for a kind of "passing-out parade" of the C.A.P.—they were returning home the following day. We then went with the C.A.P. girls to a fresh-water lake for a bathing party and picnic. We left for Boston after supper and were given a really marvellous send-off by all the Cadets.

\* \* \* \* \*

On Monday we went on a boat cruise to Provincetown, which is right at the end of Cape Cod. On the way there, which took about four hours, we had a sing-song. Nearly everyone on the lower deck joined in, around the piano, with "Taffy," our Welshman, playing. On arriving we had lunch, which had been ordered by radio, and then a look round Provincetown. The first settlers are supposed to have landed here. It is an old-fashioned town with narrow streets and swarming with artists. On the way back we had a bit of a dance. I learned to do a "Bunnyhop" and Mexican Hat Dance, and in return taught several people to waltz and foxtrot.

The following morning we were presented to the Mayor of Boston. He holds extremely anti-Communist views and expects to be at war with Russia in the near future. Every preparation is being made. There are air-raid shelters everywhere, and at Otis A.F.B. all-weather interceptor squadrons are at the alert twenty-four hours a day. The pilots stand by in flying kit ready to take off at a moment's notice if unidentified aircraft are reported.

On this Tuesday afternoon I went into town with Penn Virgin, a C.A.P. photographer who accompanied us everywhere, and we visited a couple of newspaper offices. In the evening we went to see "The Little Hut" at a theatre in Boston and afterwards I had my photograph taken with Marie Wilson, the movie star of "My Friend Irma" fame, who was playing the lead.

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#### NEW YORK

On Saturday we were up at 6 a.m. and, after breakfast, left at 7 a.m. for Bedford Airfield. We were due to leave at 8 a.m. for New York, but due to the airfield using Eastern Standard Time and everyone else using Daylight Saving Time (one hour ahead) it was 9.20 a.m. when we left—again in a C-119. We landed at Providence, Rhode Island, and picked up the Swedes and then flew on to Mitchell A.F.B., Long Island. On the way we flew over New York City and the back door of the aircraft was opened for taking photographs.

After lunch I went for a swim on the Base, then I watched the Empire Games Mile on T.V. (N.B.C.'s first Telecast from Canada, I believe) and in the evening I went to the cinema with an A.F. Corporal whose conversation was most interesting.

Next morning, at 8.30 a.m., we went by bus to the Waldorf Astoria Hotel which takes up a whole block between Park Avenue, Lexington Avenue and E49th and E50th Streets, and is forty-seven stories high. I was on the ninth floor with two other Cadets in my room. After unpacking I called Mrs. Reed, in Chappaqua (up State), and we arranged to meet for cocktails the next day. Mrs. Reed is a pen-friend of Mrs. Ellis of 9 Hillbrow, and she wrote to me in D.C. inviting me to meet them for dinner in New York City. Unfortunately, our programme was too full.

On Sunday afternoon we went to Ebbets Field, Brooklyn, and saw a baseball game between Brooklyn Dodgers (National League Champions) and the Cincinnati Redlegs. After dinner I went with a friend and two Canadians for a walk around Broadway and Times Square. The lights certainly put Piccadilly in the shade. Theatres, dance halls, soda-bars are everywhere, and they stay open until the early hours of the morning. The theatres seem to start their last show at midnight and close down about 3 a.m. We returned to the Waldorf about 12.30 a.m., but sat up talking to some Canadians until 2.30 a.m. One of them was a C.B.C. Radio Announcer in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

The following morning I was called by 'phone at 7 a.m. and I got up! We went by bus to the City Hall for a reception by the Acting Mayor of New York City, with General Beau and other important people, together with the N.Y. Wing C.A.P. Band. The speeches were made to an accompaniment of wailing sirens because, I think, an air-raid practice was in progress. Afterwards we went to the Automat for lunch. This is a restaurant where you buy everything from machines by putting nickels or quarters in slots. In the afternoon we went to the United Nations Building, which is on 1st Avenue by the East River. It is most beautiful, both externally and internally, and in the office building every office has windows down one side. This means that it is only two rooms thick although it is 39 stories high. Everywhere we went there were six bus-loads of U.S. Cadets preceded by a "Speed Cop" with siren going who took us straight through all the traffic and traffic lights.

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In the evening we went on a cruise up the Hudson River and down again past the Statue of Liberty accompanied, as usual, by a crowd of C.A.P. girls. I think the view you get of Downtown, Manhattan, from the river is even more impressive than that from the Empire State. The cruise finished about 1 a.m. and then we went by bus to Mitchell A.F.B. We got there at 2 a.m. and finally went to bed about 4 a.m.

#### HOMEWARD BOUND

We were up again by 7.30 a.m. as we were to fly at 9.30 a.m. As usual, however, we made a late start (in an R6D) at 11.10 a.m., this time due to a faulty door. We had to fly low and unpressurized to Westover A.F.B., Mass., where it was put right. We then flew to London via Stephenville, Newfoundland, and arrived at 10.45 B.S.T., without having had much sleep on the journey. We went to Uxbridge for lunch, handed in our kit, and I arrived home very tired at 5 p.m. on Thursday, August 12th, so very tired in fact that I went to bed and slept until 3 o'clock the following afternoon. R.L.

## A LETTER TO THE EDITORS

To the Editors of *The Spur* :

DEAR SIRs,

I am confident that I speak for many when I express my disgust at the atrocious table manners of certain members of this School. Personally, I am well acquainted only with Senior lunch, although I have experienced the Junior session, and I am appalled at some of the nauseating incidents that are not infrequently to be witnessed at the dinner table. I will grant that the offenders are, perhaps, in the minority, but the obvious displays of mirth at the sometimes intentional spilling and upsetting of food are inexcusable. The unruly behaviour that accompanies the fight over the potatoes may evoke a reprimand from a nearby master, but the culprits are little deterred. Surely, sirs, some stronger disciplinary action must be taken if we are to eat our meals in an atmosphere that reminds us less of a kindergarten, and which truly becomes a grammar school.

Yours, etc.,

Pro bono ludi,

D.J.M., VA.

## FILMS SHOWN DURING AUTUMN TERM

Seed Dispersal, Uses of Limestone, The Steam Engine, Water Cycle, The Steam Turbine, Water Power, Distillation, Breathing, The Refrigerator, Introduction to the Heat Engine, Blood, Vision, Circulation of the Blood, Digestion, Malaria, A Thar Desert Town, Timberlands of Canada, The Blast Furnace, Draining the Fens, Mexican Children, Great Cargoes, Horseman of the Pampas, Wheat Supply of Canada, Tropical Mountain Island, Wheatlands of East Anglia, Rig-20, Atoms at Work, A Tall Order, Out of the Night, Warm Welcome, Routine Job, Atomisation, Wonders of the Deep, Journey into History, A Harbour goes to France, Alexander Calder, Grandma Moses.

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## EDITORS

*P. A. Townsend, Esq., J. R. S. Higham, M. K. Jones.*

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