

RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The

SPUR

AUTUMN TERM 1955



VOLUME 11

NUMBER 6

"To each his need, from each his power"

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL

THE SPUR

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SCHOOL OFFICERS, Autumn Term, 1955

Head Boy : J. A. Pooles.

Second Boy : J. R. S. Higham.

Prefects : A. T. Boyd, D. J. Creasey, D. J. Drye, A. J. Fowles, M. Francis, D. J. Holden, M. J. Lavous, K. J. Loible, M. F. B. Read, D. C. Spencer, M. E. Talbot, P. A. Tatlow, C. R. Weightman, C. C. Wright.

Prefects of Hall : M. E. Talbot, C. R. Weightman.

Prefect of Library : P. A. Tatlow.

Prefect of Stage : D. J. Drye.

Secretary of Games Committee : J. A. Pooles.

Captain of Rugby : J. R. S. Higham.

Secretary of Rugby : D. J. Creasey.

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

Secretary of Cross-Country : D. J. Stewart.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Mr. H. Dennis Jones and Mr. D. F. High, who joined us in September to teach primarily Classics and Mathematics, are already very much members of the community. We hope that they are as content to be here as we are glad to have them.

"The Film", after preliminary publicity, proceeded rather in secret, but proceed it did to within sight of completion. A new and organised film club will take over this and inaugurate new ventures of its own, and with the aid of the original begetters, when they come down from the universities, hopes to bring it to a première before the end of the winter.

The School has never before chosen a Shaw play for its main production of the year, and "The Devil's Disciple" should be a brisk change from our usual Shakespeare. There is, however, no intention of departing regularly from the Shakespearean repertoire.

Thanks to the leadership of Mr. Townsend and the support of Mr. Vyse, Mr. Ayton and others, orchestral playing should have begun before this magazine appears. The violinists, properly, will be first in the field, but all being well smaller brass and wood-wind sections shall follow. Enough volunteered for the trumpet to drown the B.B.C. strings, had they all been equipped, let alone our own modest group. The cost initially will be heavy; but fortunately Mr. Sweetland and his henchmen of the Tuck-shop have volunteered from their reserves a large enough fund to launch the venture. It is a good cause, and both the musicians and the tuck-shop men deserve the respect of the rest of us.

Among the summer's university class-lists were First Classes won by D. Powell-Evans in Mathematics at Oxford and by D. J.

Britton in Natural Science at Cambridge. The School congratulates them cordially.

A new addition now graces our Trophy Cases. Mr. and Mrs. Wearn have presented a handsome cup for the annual winners of the House Gymnastics Competition, and by their desire it is to be named after Brian Michez (1948-53), a leading gymnast in his day. We are all grateful for this welcome and appropriate gift.

Our only State Scholarship this year went to D. L. Carver. County Major University Awards were won by M. Cousins, R. A. Giles, I. B. Hayter, M. K. G. Hudson, M. K. Jones, D. O. Lloyd and G. H. Williams. Congratulations and good wishes accompany them all. We confidently expect three or four additions to this list shortly from among those continuing at school. To name them beforehand might be tempting Nemesis.

PRIZE-GIVING

The first and possibly most important function of the school year is the Prize-giving. Held at the Wimbledon Town Hall, it is the only occasion on which the whole School appears together in public. It was therefore very gratifying to see so many parents and other friends of the School there to support us.

The proceedings were opened by Mr. Hood-Phillips, the Chairman of the Governors. He reminded us that the School was now twenty-one years old, and said that it was perhaps fitting that the Education Committee should have just recently passed plans to enlarge it. The first job will be the extension of the kitchen and the provision of a new dining-hall. Then the School itself will be expanded to hold six hundred boys, instead of the present four hundred. Experience has shown that six hundred is the most economic size for a grammar school of this type: it is not too big to be unwieldy, but is yet large enough to have a staff to teach advanced sixth-form courses.

The Chairman was followed by the Headmaster, who gave his annual report on the activities of the School during the past year. He began by referring to last Summer's G.C.E. results: these were "frankly disappointing". In seeking reasons for this, he suggested that over-indulgence in radio and television might be well to the fore; the remedy was simple — just "switch it off!" "It has become increasingly obvious," he continued, "that the certificate does not come to those whose effort is a jog-trot affair." (This might well be taken as a gentle hint to those sitting for similar exams in a few months' time.) However, although we only gained one State Scholarship, for which D. L. Carver must be congratulated, some

twelve boys were given places at universities last year.

The Head went on to announce that a new experiment in the School's academic programme was to be introduced. Instead of taking five years to reach G.C.E. standard, half of last year's entrants would be rushed through in four years. This meant that they would take their Ordinary Level examinations in 1958 instead of in 1959; they would thus enter the Sixth one year earlier.

Turning to out-of-school activities, the Head made special mention of our successes in the field of sport: he particularly congratulated the Rugby XV, which only lost one game last season. He also spoke of the new Film Club, whose first film is in the final stages of completion. "If I don't have to give it an 'X' certificate we will invite you to see it later on," he said.

The prizes and trophies were presented by Dr. Peter S. Noble, the Principal of King's College London. In his address afterwards, Dr. Noble stressed the importance of English Literature in any real education. He urged us not to forget, in the materialistic world in which we will find ourselves when our schooldays are over, our "most priceless, imperishable possession — English Literature." Many subjects fade from one's mind after five or ten years away from school, but, he said, "The truest and most vital factor in education is what is left behind after you have forgotten what you were formerly taught." English Literature is supreme in both range and quality, and Dr. Noble advised us to maintain an interest in it whatever else we might forget. He suggested that we might cut down the time we spend listening to the radio and reading the popular press, and instead pay more attention to cultivating the arts — particularly to reading poetry. Poetry is not "namby-pamby," nor is it only for girls or weaklings. Many great men, past and present, never disguised their love of this particular art. Thus he asked all of us to learn one poem every week, and "in one year you will have fifty-two poems, and they will become part of you." (By now everyone should know at least two poems.)

Among those who heard Dr. Noble's address were the Mayor and Mayoress of Wimbledon (Ald. and Mrs. Alick Withall), the Chairman of Merton and Morden Council (Mrs. L. A. Doel), and Mr. Humphrey Atkins, M.P. for Merton and Morden.

J.A.P.

Prize List 1954-55

FORM PRIZES

1A	K. D. R. Hanson, R. S. Davis
1B	C. C. Parish, C. M. Hopper
2A	M. D. Ross, D. R. Thompson
2B	R. W. Lee, P. J. Venison
3A	J. Davie, M. J. Jeffreys
3B	D. J. Coney, R. A. Willis
4A	J. A. Colmer, B. R. H. Doran
4B	B. G. W. Morley, R. K. Stevens
4C	A. Schuster, A. E. Bourne
FIFTH FORMS for performance in 'Ordinary' G.C.E.	
	J. H. Brugger, S. J. Cohen, D. J. Creasey, G. W. Davis, M. Loveday, M. A. Sutcliffe

LOWER SIXTH

Arts — A. J. Fowles, M. R. Burke, P. Seaman, C. C. Wright,
J. R. S. Higham
Science — D. J. Drye, P. R. Johnson
Economics — J. C. Davey

UPPER SIXTH

War Memorial Prizes — M. Gordon, B. A. Stracy, D. Carver, J. Richmond
6 Arts — P. Tatlow, M. K. Jones
6 Science — R. A. Giles, D. O. Lloyd, M. A. Sherwood, I. B. Hayter
Norman Prize — D. L. Carver
Whitman Prize — M. K. G. Hudson
Economics — J. A. Pooles, G. H. Williams

GENERAL PRIZES

Effort outside class — H. C. Ketley, D. J. Drye, B. H. Finch, G. C. F. Robson, V. E. Bown, G. Boiling, T. G. Ayres, P. H. Newman, S. F. Partridge, M. A. Yeldham
Hobbies — C. A. Rowntree, D. F. W. Pollard, J. A. R. Higham
Art — J. S. Carlow, A. R. Beavitt
Craft — B. T. Holyman, D. A. Rolt, J. M. H. Chambers
Ian Hudson Puppet — B. W. Rowling
General Knowledge — A. J. Fowles, B. J. McCartney, J. Davie, J. A. Bull
Verse Speaking — C. C. Wright, J. A. Colmer, S. F. Partridge, I. Corbett
Beaverbrook Bennet — R. M. Stevenson, R. Impey
Old Boys' — A. J. Fowles, J. Manning
John Robbins Essay — **Junior** N. E. Cole, P. B. Withey
Senior M. Gordon, A. J. Fowles, C. C. Wright, I. B. Hayter, R. A. Giles, D. H. Dulieu
Head of School Leaving — M. Cousins

ADVANCED LEVEL CERTIFICATES

6 Arts — M. K. Jones, M. F. B. Read, D. J. Swinscoe, P. A. Tatlow, J. L. Wearn, J. C. Welland
6 Economics — C. E. Brittain, M. Gordon, J. A. Pooles, G. H. Williams
6 Science — D. L. Carver (distinction in physics), D. O. Lloyd, P. R. Courtier, D. F. Page, R. N. Fash, R. A. Giles, I. B. Hayter, M. Howard, M. K. G. Hudson, H. F. Roberts, D. C. Shepherd, M. A. Sherwood, P. G. Stevens, M. E. Talbot

Trophies

FROM OPEN COMPETITION

The Wimbledon and District Schools Swimming Association Senior Shield.
The Wimbledon Schools Athletic Association Senior Cup.
The Wimbledon and Merton Senior Scouts Cyril W. Black Senior Shield for Athletics.

SCHOOL

The Eric Parker Cup	J. L. Wearn
The Michael Welby Debating Cup	Gibbs
The P. W. Garrett House Play Cup	Gibbs
The Chess Trophy	Gibbs
The Parents' Rugby Cup	Miltons
The Governors' Cricket Cup	Cobbs
The Spur Society's Hockey Cup	Cobbs
The Cray Swimming Cup	Cobbs
The S. H. Marshall Cross Country Cup	Newsoms
The John Garrett Athletics Cup	Halliwellis
The T. W. Powys Cobb Tennis Cup	Gibbs
The Junior Shield	Cobbs
The B. T. King Cock House Cup	Cobbs

TOAD OF TOAD HALL

We enjoy some reputation, not we hope undeserved, in dramatic production, and not only in senior plays. From the ranks of those who make their mark in junior plays the casts of senior productions will in time be largely recruited. But these junior occasions are testimonies not only of promise but of achievement. Lest the remarks that follow seem to some unduly captious let it be said at once, first that complacency is of small service to a tradition, and second that to comment on faults is not to disparage an evening's entertainment well up to standard and often delightful.

The play was off to a slow start: under the handicaps of too large a blonde wig and too familiar a background of dingy curtains, Marigold was able to do little towards establishing the mood and milieu of what was to come. A backcloth of the river and the willows might have given her a better chance and the players a better send-off. The fault lay in part with the author. Once we had met the quartet of principals, however, the initial failure to arrest attention was soon redeemed. No-one could have suspected, without the programme correction, that Brooks had taken on Mole at such short notice. He was well inside the part and knew his words. As Rat, Vickers gave a sympathetic and winning performance. Yeldham had a more difficult assignment as Badger. If he did not wholly succeed in putting over the crustiness of age or get the full effect of its tedious habit of reminiscence, enough was achieved to

establish a character irritating but endearing. Together the three provided well-differentiated and admirable support to Toad.

On him of course everything depends: here Partridge was a "natural"—effervescently boastful, fickle, irrepressible except briefly and irresistible. He has an instinctive feeling for the stage and the invaluable gift of making his words appear spontaneous. In an enormously zesty performance he was not least effective in moments of quiet when the bubble of his exuberance had been temporarily pricked. His mime of driving the car of chairs was extraordinarily accomplished and earned the ovation it got.

The court scene, on the whole the high spot of the evening went with proper gusto. High marks for Cogan's Judge, Oakley's Policeman and Stevenson as a "different sort" of rabbit, though, with his proboscis and grater voice, a not-so-different Schnozzle Durante—highly effective here and in the banquet scene. One would have liked to see more of the Usher: in two senses, for his face—which I am certain was well worth study—was almost continuously lost in the shadow cast by his hat. The lighting throughout left something to be desired, in part, I understand through hitches (technical and other!) back stage. But if producers must conform to the current vogue that bans floats they must ensure by other means that players' faces are visible when necessary. The expensive lighting equipment is surely capable of something better. Despite this undeserved handicap, Davie made a fine comic début: he will surely be seen often on the School boards.

If there was another ground for faulting here and elsewhere it was that less care and feeling seemed to have been given to gestures than to words. Too many abrupt and repetitive movements of hands and arms expressed nothing and created an air of restlessness that was distracting and fidgety. The banquet scene was an exception. The difficult feat of simulating festiveness was achieved as much through action as by voice. The fight which followed, where one expected to find the players in their element, seemed by contrast almost perfunctory—partly because the stage was cluttered with furniture which Toad and his allies were too concerned in avoiding to give adequate attention to the congenial job of striking home, partly because the blows they got in produced too obviously papery a sound, but chiefly from want of the operation's being conceived and drilled as a unified whole.

Some action, too, was lost through failure to take into consideration the defects of the auditorium which put the sight-line of most of the spectators at somewhere around the players' thighs.

There was a time, not so long ago, when School plays (house plays in particular) became so vertical as to raise doubts as to whether the proscenium would continue to be lofty enough. These idiosyncrasies of production at least made for visibility. If we are to have so much action at ground level—prone picnickers, scrapers and mats (secured no doubt at great expense) to be tripped over—it should not pass the ingenuity of producers to arrange that it shall be in view of the audience.

The charming set for the "Wild Wood" was accorded a spontaneous round of applause, a welcome compliment paid in my experience to no other of the many excellent sets that have adorned School productions—not even my own. But might not Badger's and Rat's homes have shown a larger infusion of fantasy, have been earthier and more Potterish? And while Partridge's costume was delightfully right (but why, especially in view of Mr. Money's recent strictures, did his neck display a whiteness surprising in a toad—or for that matter a schoolboy?), Rat and Mole were too everyday-human in their outfits.

While some general slackness of tempo was aggravated by longish intervals, no small part of the audience's enjoyment derived from the players' so obviously enjoying themselves and from the many moments of triumph. Some have had mention, others not easily forgotten were the incorrigible Toad towards the end with a new circle of eager admirers and clearly on the threshold of new escapades, the procession with which the whole might more effectively have concluded, and the Hymn of Hate with word and action so nicely matched, the most successful of a number of pleasing musical items. Those responsible for the latter will be rewarded by the knowledge that they inspired renewed talk of assaults on higher musical targets, the very Everest of opera being hinted at—Gilbert and Sullivan.

H.E.R.

CAST

Marigold	C. Mottershead
Nurse	M. McLean
Mole	D. Brooks
Rat	P. G. Vickers
Badger	M. A. Yeldham
Toad	S. F. Partridge
Alfred	T. G. Ayres
Back Legs of Alfred	D. A. Rolt
Chief Ferret	P. B. Withey
Ferrets	L. W. Bray, R. M. Foulsham
Chief Weasel	R. M. Stevenson
Weasels	P. B. Loryman, P. C. Redshaw
Chief Stoat	G. V. Frank-Keyes
Stoats	M. R. Cox, M. C. Flack
First Field-Mouse	R. B. Boiling

Second Field-Mouse	M. Barker
Field-Mice	C. D. Braine, C. J. Steer
Usher	J. Davie
Policeman	A. Oakley
Jury	J. A. Bull, J. J. Causley, I. Corbett, P. L. Davies, K. D. R. Hanson
Judge	D. V. Cogan
Phoebe	C. R. Goss
Washerwoman	C. J. West
Barge-Woman	V. E. Bowern

DEEP WATERS

The Puppet Club was most certainly not out of its depth when it presented Mr. Riley's charming little pastiche "Deep Waters" this term. We have come to expect a very high standard from the Puppet Club, and so far we have never been disappointed. All who contributed towards this most successful production must be heartily congratulated.

In this play there is a little of something for everyone: glamour, excitement, enchantment, terror and amusement are all skilfully built into a simple tale of thieves who set out to rob a small Polynesian island of the fabulously valuable jewelled eye of its sun goddess. The thieves are chased and overpowered and the jewel is recovered by a detective and his assistant after many adventures. A highly moral end indeed!

The sets were excellently conceived and executed, and the lighting effects were both original and successful. The penultimate scene was the most outstanding—set under water, it gave me the feeling that I was in fact in "Deep Waters"; fish and jelly fish swam past in a most realistic way and the play of waves on the surface was reflected on to the rocks at the sea bottom.

There was excellent co-ordination between action and speech, but it must be admitted that it was difficult to hear the voices from the back row of seats where I was sitting. This was probably due to the very poor acoustics of the hall, however.

I am sure that all who saw this play will be looking forward to next year's production.

P.D.T.

I should like to add to the above report by thanking Mr. High and his assistants for their invaluable work in selling the tickets and arranging the hall for the performances.

A.C.R.

CAST

Detective-Inspector Blair	Partridge
Tim, Blair's Assistant	Stickley
Vosper Martinez	Barker
Larkin, Martinez's Men	Gough
Slug, Lolita, Martinez's Daughter	Mottershead
Landlord of 'Chat Noir'	Foulsham
Captain Curtiss	West
1st Mate Bates	Vincent
2nd Mate Rodgers	Bailey
King Kihua	Ross
1st Native	Gough
2nd Native	McLean

Manipulators

Beavitt, Groves, Sanford, Venison

HOUSE NOTES

Cobbs

Captain: M. Francis

Vice-Captain: M. E. Talbot

The House finished the Summer Term triumphantly by winning the Cock House Cup for the fourth time in five years. Many of our Senior stalwarts left at the end of the School year. The absence of our House Captain, Fash, and Shepherd, Hayter, Manning (J.), Hill (A.D.) and Eagleson, will be felt in the weeks ahead. Thus weakened, we start the year fully aware of our limitations. We have only a few members of the Upper Sixth, but we feel that with able leadership from them, and with unstinted support from the other members of the House, even if we do not win as many cups as last year, we can fight our way into second or third position in most competitions.

Talbot, Hill (A.D.) and Eagleson formed the mainstay of our swimming team, but despite excellent performances from these, the margin by which we won the Swimming Cup was narrower than we expected. Both the Senior and the Colt teams played well to win the Cricket Cup. Shepherd, Ingram and Hill (A. D.) played major parts in the Seniors' success, and Ridge led the Colts to victory in all their matches. Despite a lack of winners we came a close third to Newsoms in the Athletic Sports. Our only winners were Talbot in the Senior 880 yards, and Francis in the Senior long jump. Thomas (D.), Stone, Gibbons and Carlow also put up good performances.

Admittedly, our Senior Rugby this year is in a shaky state. The spirit which is certainly there cannot alone win matches. The team lost to Halliells (52-3) in its first match, and after a spirited fight went down (23-17) to Gibbs. In this match Ridge was outstanding for his work in the scrum, and was well backed up by Thomas and Feather. The Colts beat Halliells (27-3), but lost to Newsoms, the strongest of the Colt teams (31-0). The score in this match by no means does justice to the high standard of play by the team. Led by Millington, whom we congratulated on being selected to play for the Surrey Colts team, they should be successful in their remaining matches. There has been a great deal of keenness shown by the Juniors at Rugby practices, and the First Formers

are quickly adapting themselves to the change from the other game. The team is shaping well under the captaincy of Seymour.

The House Supper was the enjoyable and informal occasion that it always is in Cobbs House. After the meal and some games, a film show, which included the film "The Boy who Stopped Niagara", rounded off a successful evening. Our thanks are due to the parents who kindly helped with the preparation of the meal, and the detestable job of washing up.

We look forward to a successful Hockey season next term, with the basis of a good team in the Seniors. Next term the competitions for the Dramatics Cup and the Debating Cup will also be decided. It will be necessary in both to call on boys who have not yet represented the House in these activities. I hope there will be no lack of volunteers so that we can be confident of giving of our best in these competitions.

M.F.

Gibbs

Captain : A. J. Fowles

Prefects : D. J. Holden, C. C. Wright

It is relatively easy to predict the outcome of any given house match; everybody knows everybody and the form of each individual can be assessed; H—s have six School players when M—s have only two . . . with one exception there are few giant-killing feats performed today. That exception, I am proud to say is Gibbs. It may be stubbornness, it may be pure luck, it may even be house-spirit, but we possess something which time and time again has helped us field a team able, whatever its paper-strength, to win against superior odds by sheer honest-to-goodness grit. Spectacular example of this was the eighth-wicket partnership of Brittain and Thomson against Miltons. This stand, apart from pulling the game round from a seemingly hopeless position, notched us a respectable second place in the Cricket Competition—the Senior XI earning the greater credit. Equally creditable was the final third position of the Juniors; but if present talent and enthusiasm is a reliable guide, we can well expect to capture the Junior Shield this year. A united effort is essential if we are to aim at Cock House, and we are fortunate to have such bright youngsters.

To dwell upon our performance on Sports Day does not do, for a lack of star performers completely nullified our earlier quite adequate efforts in the qualifying. However, by extending his own discus record, Brian Stracy, our Captain, achieved the best individual win of the afternoon. The swimming team was similarly handicapped, but a sound workmanlike nucleus, ably led by Betts, by no means disgraced us in gaining third place. Betts' own effort in the plunge was positively breath-taking. The Tennis saw the positions reversed: our strong V, though making rather heavy weather of it, eliminated Miltons in the semi-final, thus qualifying to meet the very fine Cobbs side. The loss through injury of Bray, who deservedly won School Colours this year, seemed to destroy our chances, but, despite the annihilation of our second pair, Fowles and Roe just snatched victory at the end of a long and appallingly bad match. This left the singles between Vennard and Stracy, the School's two best players, as the all-important game. Though lacking match practice badly "Stras" rose to titanic proportions and, after the finest three sets of the term, eventually subdued a brilliant opponent. We had won the cup!

The term closed, then, on a highly successful note; in all, that year we had won four cups. Yet on reassembling in September, we found that our staunchest Seniors—Stracy, Wearn, Brittain and Gordon—were con-

spicuously absent. People who win the Eric Parker Cup are few and far between, and we could be pardoned for wondering if our future was going to detract from our past. These feats were, I am glad to say, groundless: already, the Senior team has secured first place in its division and we remain one of the two houses still interested in the Rugby Cup. The season began badly: our Colts, in what is to date their only match were faced by the superlative Newsoms side. Against such opposition the defeat (0-35) was by no means a disgrace, and indeed we can be reasonably sure of gaining the vital (if we are to win the cup) position of runners-up in the Colt section.

The Seniors, too, started on the wrong foot. In what has proved the most keenly fought competition for years, we allowed Newsoms to gain an invaluable victory. Holding them against the wind for the first-half we snatched a slender lead at the start of the second; almost simultaneously we lost our scrum-half. In such a close match this was a crippling loss and robbed us of a grand climax, but praise must be allowed to Newsoms for being incisive enough to push home their advantage. This was hardly encouraging, and our chances against Halliwells seemed hopeless. However, the combination of team spirit and a torrential rain-storm paved the way for a hair-line win of 10-9. Aided by the heavy ground, we deserved to win, if only for adapting ourselves to the conditions better: in a scrum game Halliwells' fine backs were given little chance to run and our own pack was superb: a goal in the last minutes just swayed the game. On the same day welcome news came that Miltons had overcome Newsoms. As Cobbs had recently suffered a crushing defeat, we were somewhat complacent when meeting them in our next game. This attitude was soon shaken out of us by a determined and much improved side; forced to struggle for every point we nevertheless enjoyed a slight superiority and the score of 23-17 was a just result. It was now obvious that a win over Miltons would earn us first place: equally obvious was that man for man they were probably a more complete side. In fact, the heavy pitch did much to cancel this disadvantage, for rendering top-class play impossible it gave more scope to our spirit. In our element, we gradually wore down the opposition and achieved a 14-6 win. Like all our games it had been a very hard one. I have purposely made no mention of any individual in order to emphasise our team-work; while School players have naturally tended to stand out, all—and this is more important—have done their best.

It is usual to end house notes with a burst of flag wagging: I should like to tell a true story. After our win over Halliwells against all the odds, Higham, their House Captain, remarked, "Yes, they're good at that sort of thing." This "plug" was, so to speak, quite unsponsored. I feel it is a lot more eloquent than any words of mine.

A.J.F.

Halliwells

Captain : J. R. S. Higham

Prefects : A. Boyd, D. J. Creasey

Halliwells House Report must of necessity start on an unhappy note this term, for the sudden death of Jones, late of the Fifth Form, is still fresh in our memories. We mourn his loss, and share the grief of his parents, to whom we offer our sympathy.

Early in the term we greeted two new prefects, Boyd and Creasey: our congratulations are due to them both. Rugby Captains were the next positions to be filled, and Burgess proved a popular selection for the Juniors, Higgs became Colt Captain, and Creasey was chosen to lead the

Seniors. With an unbeaten record in the Senior section last year, confidence was high after the match against Cobbs, who had not yet struck the form shown later in the season. But against Gibbs the team went down fighting, losing in a muddy scramble by 9-10. It was a close match, as was the next and last to date, with Miltons, where the score (10-9) shows the narrowness of the victory. The standard of play throughout has been very satisfying, Seaman showing great keenness, and Palmer playing safely at full-back. With this team we have only Newsoms now to meet, and with the possibility that this will decide who will win the cup, it should, as always, be a first class match. Our position in the competition is, however, only of secondary importance, as the Colt XV has not fared very well, losing both their matches so far. Against Cobbs the score was 3-27, and against Miltons 0-33. But in the Juniors, spirit is in no way lacking, and in the practices held so far, persuading boys to attend, usually a difficult task, has been very easy. Getting them back into the changing room has at times proved almost impossible. It was during one such practice that Cox had the misfortune to break his leg, but it is now on the mend, and time will see him an active participant again. It is as well, perhaps, to assure Juniors that broken bones are the exception rather than the rule.

In games and other House activities we feel the loss of many of the more energetic Sixth-Formers: Cousins, last year's School Captain and House Leader, managed, by doing well in the Latin examination he took last summer, to claim his place at Selwyn, Cambridge, and we congratulate him. Swinscoe, whose scenery for House plays will long be remembered, and whose efforts on the Rugby field and athletics track were outstanding, has left. We have lost Dunn, whose acting career reached a climax in the School play, when he took the part of Romeo, Hudson, whose performance at Advanced Level enabled him to enter the Royal Free Hospital, and Barry, whose cross-country reputation was always very high. All these we miss.

We are lucky to welcome a newcomer in Emmerson, who has come into the Science Sixth from Pelham School. He has already made his mark in School Rugby, playing now as a regular wing three-quarter in the second XV, and as centre for the House. The School chess team has reason to welcome him as well: he plays now at fifth board. We look forward to seeing him on the cross-country run and on the athletics track, and wish him success in both sporting and academic fields. Llewellyn and Carson, newcomers into the Third and Second Forms respectively, we also welcome.

We look forward next term to hockey, swimming, and debating, cross-country and dramatics. In all, the House must pull together, and not leave it to the sturdy but overburdened few. With effort we can certainly do well.

J.R.S.H.

Miltons

Captain : J. A. Pooles

Prefects : M. F. B. Read, M. J. Lavous, D. J. Drye

For the first time for many years it seemed possible that Miltons had a chance of winning the Cock House Competition. That was last year. As you all know we failed to pull it off; in fact, we only finished third. Nevertheless, this is better than we have done for the last eight years, and this year we have a chance of doing even better. We certainly have the talent, but in the past there does not seem to have been sufficient urgency about our endeavours. It is time that our attitude as well as our luck changes.

Of those Seniors who left last term, our heartiest congratulations must go to D. L. Carver, who was the only member of the School to win a State Scholarship last year. He left us to go up to Cambridge. Our only other University entrant was J. A. Richmond, who is now at King's College, London. To replace these and others, we welcome all the newcomers to the House, and hope that they will have a happy and successful time with us.

Last term I feel we failed to do ourselves justice in any of the major competitions. The Senior Cricket team recorded good wins against Newsoms and Halliwells, but were unfortunate to lose to Gibbs. Lavous with the bat and Orme and Gent with the ball were our most consistent players. The performances of the Colts and Juniors were not outstanding, each side winning only one game.

The Tennis team, however, did surprisingly well. Without any outstanding players they beat both Halliwells and Newsoms to finish third in the competition.

In both athletics and swimming our experiences were very similar. Our competitors in both were ably led by the respective captains, Howard and Crocker, but in neither could we do better than finish fourth. The reason was, as in past years, the lack of qualifying points. Qualifying has already started for next summer's Swimming Sports. The moral should be obvious. (We have to congratulate Crocker on being awarded his Swimming Colours last term.)

This term the only house activity is Rugby. The Senior team, after a good start, have been disappointing. They began with a good win over a strong Newsoms side by 8-3. Tries were scored by Brugger and Gent. Then in an excellent game against Halliwells we were unfortunate to lose by 9-10. In the first half Orme scored two tries to give us a 6-5 lead at half-time, but although Gent added a third try, the kick failed and we went down by the odd point. Against Gibbs the team was not at its best, losing by 14-6. Lavous scored both tries. On the whole the team has played well together. Howard has led the forwards brilliantly and been well supported by Stevens and Morley. Lavous, the Captain, has been the main spearhead of the attack, being ably backed up by Orme and Gent. Hornsby has played well at full-back.

The Colts also began well, trouncing Halliwells by 33-0. Our leading scorers were Golden (5 tries) and Davie (3). However, against Gibbs we received a similar trouncing, losing 5-33. The Juniors were beaten 0-11 in their first match against Halliwells.

J.A.P.

Newsoms

Captain : C. R. Weightman.

Prefects : P. A. Tatlow, K. J. Loible, D. C. Spencer

As Mr. Cholmondely departed, taking with him our best wishes, and more tangibly, the impressive ashtray we had given him, we also had to say goodbye to Robin Giles, David Lloyd and Graham Williams. May they all prosper in their future careers. As our new housemaster we welcome Mr. High, who has already shown willingness to give up his time and has taken over several School activities. In all respects he deserves the support of the House, especially as it is to him we shall look for our hockey revival. The House must also congratulate P. A. Tatlow, K. J. Loible and D. C. Spencer on their appointment as School Prefects. With

these changes we look forward to what could be a bumper year for Newsoms.

Pot-hunting is inglorious. Trophies won should be looked upon as symbols of inward quality rather than an end in themselves. With this in mind let us turn our eyes from vain inspections of the trophy case to ourselves. In what way may this abstract 'House-spirit' produce tangible results? The first is by turning House meetings, in spite of our crowded quarters, into more pleasant and attentive affairs—their demands on us amount at most to a mere five minutes each week. The second is by driving from our dinner tables those less becoming elements which appear to beset the School. Only after these come the more obvious attendance at practices, the low tackle in matches and qualifying in swimming and athletics. All are members of the House, not only those who play Rugby.

Our progress towards the Rugby Cup has not gone unimpeded. The Seniors beat Gibbs but lost to Miltons. The Colts have, however, won both their matches convincingly. In this respect we must congratulate Vickers, Yeldham and Stevens (D.C.) on final Surrey Rugby trials. Whatever the outcome of the Rugby Cup, our deepest thanks must go to Barry Spencer and Stevenson for their inspired leadership. Our strength lies mainly in our Colts and even they must realise whose guiding hand has led them to victory.

Junior Rugby is encouraging, and Cottee, ably backed by Tibble, is creating a keen and energetic team. Whatever measure of success they achieve, however, will have been mainly due to the willingness of Mr. King to give up his time to coach.

Swimming qualifying has started, so let us be the first to break the ice. A great effort last year left us only 33 points behind the winners: let every member of the House now do his best to assure complete success this year. Our disappointment at the athletics results was lightened when K. J. Loible, chosen to pole vault for Surrey, came 5th in the All-England Sports. To him for his swimming and athletic triumphs the House must give its congratulations and also help him by doing the swimming qualifying, which is so vital.

When, next I have to write these notes may results have come, the noise of House meetings have subsided and our tablecloths be clean.
C.R.W.

CRICKET

Last season was completed satisfactorily, and ended pleasantly with our customary fixture with the Gentlemen of the Staff. Shepherd, our Captain, making his final appearance for the School in this game, distinguished himself with the bat, and it is with great regret that we lose him from School cricket.

Some of our results appeared in the middle of the season, in an earlier number, but now that the season is finished a complete list may be published.

Opponent	Result
Hampton G. S.	Drawn
Wallington C. G. S.	Abandoned
Wandsworth C. G. S.	Won

Salesian College	Drawn
City Freeman's School	Won
St. George's College	Drawn
Bec School	Lost
K.C.S.	Drawn
Old Boys	Drawn

Unfortunately it is difficult, in the time allowed, to arrive at a decisive result, and hence the spate of drawn games. However, with one exception, we were in a winning position in these games.

The play of our younger members, Ridge, Hill, Stevens, Thomson and Ingram (who must be congratulated on his appointment as Secretary) was especially encouraging last season and they should provide a solid foundation for next season's side.

At last the cricket square at Oberon has received some careful attention, a fact that should make all cricket a deal more enjoyable and less dangerous. Also there is now some hope that we shall be having efficient "grass nets" at Oberon in place of the old one at School, which in its time has been used as a background for a coco-nut shie as well as for its more orthodox function. These new nets should provide better facilities for practice, one aspect of the game which has been sadly neglected, due not so much to lack of keenness as to inadequate means.

M.J.L.

ATHLETICS

As a result of being placed second in the County Sports, Loible was chosen to represent Surrey in the Senior pole vault in the All-England Championships at Belle Vue, Manchester. In a stiff competition he was placed fifth at 10 ft. 3 ins., which earned him an England Standard Medal. We give him our warmest congratulations. Two Old Boys have been making names for themselves at their respective universities. We congratulate Stracy, who left last year, on gaining first place in the discus in the Cambridge Freshmen's Trial, and Law, who was placed first in the Senior 100 yards at Oxford.

During the year five new School records were established, all by Seniors. I hope that next season some Colts and Juniors will make improvements on the best performances in their age groups. This can only be done if they train conscientiously and really work hard at perfecting a modern style that has been proved to be the most efficient and not be content with an old "scissors jump" or "sail-jump". The new School records established last season were:-

Discus	Stracy — 142 ft. 1 in.
Long Jump	Francis — 20 ft. 9 ins.
Javelin	Loible — 148 ft. 10 ins.
Pole Vault	Loible — 10 ft. 6 ins.
Relay	Halliells House — 45.9 secs.

As a result of their activities this year, School Athletic Colours were awarded to Loible and Weightman.

The annual Athletic Sports were held at Oberon on July 2nd. The strong wind proved to be an added opponent of the competitors, who were unable to put up many fast times, especially in the shorter races. But this did not detract from the keenness of the competition. The result was a run-away victory for Halliells, who, by winning all the relay races that finished the Sports, amassed a total of 1,256 points. Newsoms were second with 936 points and Cobbs third with 903 points. At the end of the meeting the John Garrett Cup was presented to the Captain of Halliells, Cousins, by the Vice-Chairman of the Governors, Mr. Billingham.

M.F.

RESULTS OF THE ATHLETIC SPORTS

OPEN EVENTS

<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
100 yards — 1st Cousins (H), 2nd Francis (C), 3rd Weightman (N)	10.9 secs.
220 yards — 1st Cousins (H) and Weightman (N), 3rd Francis (C)	25.1 secs.
440 yards — 1st Swinscoe (H), 2nd Stevens (M), 3rd Tabor (N)	55.2 secs.
880 yards — 1st Talbot (C), 2nd Barry (H), 3rd Fowles (G)	
	2 mins. 10.6 secs.
Mile — 1st Barry (H), 2nd Howard (M), 3rd Stickley (C)	4 mins. 54.0 secs.
High Jump — 1st Weightman (N), 2nd Swinscoe (H), 3rd Stracy (G)	5 ft. 1 in.
Long Jump — 1st Francis (C), 2nd Swinscoe (H), 3rd Wyatt (N)	20 ft. 9 ins.
Shot — 1st Stracy (G), 2nd Spencer (N), 3rd Higham (H)	37 ft. 9 ins.
Discus — 1st Stracy (G), 2nd Higham (H), 3rd Wyatt (N)	142 ft 1 in.
Javelin — 1st Spencer (N), 2nd Lavous (M), 3rd Higham (H)	140 ft. 9 ins.
Pole Vault — 1st Loible (N), 2nd Shepherd (C), 3rd Creasey (H)	9 ft. 6 ins.
Relay — 1st Halliwells, 2nd Cobbs, 3rd Newsoms	45.9 secs.

COLT EVENTS

<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
100 yards — 1st Stevens (N), 2nd Thomas (C), 3rd Higham (H)	11.8 secs.
220 yards — 1st Stevenson (N), 2nd Higham (H), 3rd Brugger (M)	26.6 secs.
440 yards — 1st Stevens (N), 2nd Thomas (C), 3rd Hornsby (M)	57.2 secs.
880 yards — 1st Hornsby (M), 2nd Whitehouse (G), 3rd Coney (C)	
	2 mins. 16.1 secs.
High Jump — 1st Gamble (H), 2nd Stone (C), 3rd Partridge (N)	5 ft. 0 ins.
Long Jump — 1st Gamble (H), 2nd Stone (C), 3rd Clark (G)	17 ft. 0 ins.
Discus — 1st Ayres (G), 2nd Morley (M), 3rd King (H)	94 ft. 0 ins.
Javelin — 1st Willis (N), 2nd Whitaker (H), 3rd Weston (G)	106 ft. 0 ins.
Shot — 1st Morley (M), 2nd Beattie (C), 3rd Stevenson (N)	38 ft 10 ins.
Relay — 1st. Halliwells, 2nd Newsoms, 3rd Cobbs	51.4 secs.

MAJOR EVENTS

<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
100 yards — 1st Lee (H), 2nd Bowern (C), 3rd Slater (M)	12.6 secs.
220 yards — 1st Lee (H), 2nd Gibbons (C), 3rd Hopper (N)	29.0 secs.
440 yards — 1st Kingham (H), 2nd Gibbons (C), 3rd Redshaw (N)	65.2 secs.
High Jump — 1st Cumes (M), 2nd Daborn (H), 3rd Clay (C)	3 ft. 11 ins.
Long Jump — 1st Hopper (N), 2nd Kingham (H), 3rd French (M)	14 ft. 4½ ins
Shot — 1st Frank-Keyes (G), 2nd French (M), 3rd Clay (C)	
	and Brookes (N) 27 ft 6½ ins.
Relay — 1st Halliwells, 2nd Cobbs, 3rd Gibbs	56.2 secs.

MINOR EVENTS

<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
100 yards — 1st Heaver (M), 2nd Thomas (C) and Causely (H)	13.9 secs.
220 yards — 1st Causely (H), 2nd Thomas (C), 3rd Brown (G)	32.2 secs.
440 yards — 1st Dollery (H), 2nd Deed (G), 3rd Eatough (M)	71.2 secs
High Jump — 1st Westall (G), 2nd Carlow (C), 3rd Evans (M)	3 ft. 6 ins.
Long Jump — 1st Huggins (N), 2nd Carlow (C), 3rd Dollery (H)	12 ft. 1 in.
Relay — 1st Halliwells, 2nd Miltons, 3rd Gibbs	62.5 secs

TENNIS

Until next season tennis has finished on the School courts, although I believe and hope that those likely to form next year's team will keep in trim through the winter. I am sorry to say that, mainly owing to very few fixtures, it was not a very noteworthy season, although the team, headed by Stracy and Vennard, both of whom we have now lost, was quite a good one. After the last "Spur" was printed there were no more matches, so the record remained as one win and two losses with the team having no chance to prove itself. However, we must look forward to more fixtures next year.

The House Competition was keenly contested as usual, with the standard of play, especially from Cobbs and Gibbs, surprisingly high; it also unearthed a prospect for next season's Tennis VI in Roe, who played an important part in winning the cup for Gibbs. Another slightly younger tennis hope in the School is Kingham, who put up a very praiseworthy performance in getting to the final of the under fifteen section in the Surrey Tennis Tournament. Taking everything into account we should be fairly successful in next season's competitions. Bray, (A.J.) was awarded his Tennis Colours.

The Tennis Club itself this year was, I am afraid, not so popular and not so successful as in previous years, though perhaps the condition of the courts had something to do with it. Some improvements have been made, however, in the form of new side netting, and we must hope for more in the future. Finally, let us hope that we won't see hockey being practised on the courts during the close season, nor, during the season itself, Juniors playing in shirt sleeves and grey flannels.

A.J.B.

SWIMMING

Qualifying was carried on all through the Autumn, Spring and Summer Terms to enable boys to improve upon their times and thereby score more points for their houses. It was evident, however, that there was a tendency on the part of everybody to leave their qualifying far too late, with the result that many boys did not score as many points as they could have done.

The School Swimming Sports were again held on the last Monday of term, but in the evening, for we were unable to have the use of the Wimbledon Baths in the afternoon as in former years. The qualifying points obtained prior to the Sports were:-

Newsoms	273 points
Cobbs	261 "
Miltons	175 "
Gibbs	173 "
Halliwells	172 "

The points awarded at the Sports were:-

	1st	2nd	3rd
Relays	30	20	10
Other events	15	10	5

RESULTS OF THE SWIMMING SPORTS

OPEN EVENTS

<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
3L. Breast Stroke — 1st Hill (A.D.) (C), 2nd Eagleson (C), 3rd Crocker (M)	86.9secs.
3L. Back Stroke — 1st Eagleson (C), 2nd Stevens (N), 3rd Hill (A.D.) (C)	87.7 secs.
2L. Butterfly — 1st Eagleson (C), 2nd Hill (A.D.) (C), 3rd Northway (N)	53.2 secs.
Plain Dive — 1st Swatten (M), 2nd Hill (A.D.) (C), 3rd Loible (N)	
Springboard Dive — 1st Swatten (M), 2nd Hill (A.D.) (C), 3rd Hiscock (G)	
Plunge — 1st Betts (G), 2nd Loible (N), 3rd Lavous (M)	*54 ft. 9½ ins.

SENIOR EVENTS

Event	Time
1L. Freestyle — 1st Talbot (C), 2nd Higham (J.R.S.) (H), 3rd Courtier (M)	18.5 secs.
1L. Back Stroke — 1st Ingram (H), 2nd Eagleson (C), 3rd Cooke (G)	23.1 secs.
3L. Freestyle — 1st Talbot (C), 2nd Hickford (G)	75.7 secs.
3L. Medley Relay — 1st Cobbs, 2nd Newsoms, 3rd Halliwell	67.4 secs.
4L. Freestyle Relay — 1st Cobbs, 2nd Newsoms, 3rd Gibbs	87.1 secs.

COLT EVENTS

Event	Time
1L. Freestyle — 1st Gamble (H), 2nd Hall (N), 3rd Crocker (M)	20.8 secs.
1L. Back Stroke — 1st Stevens (N), 2nd Higgs (H), 3rd Coney (C)	*24.1 secs.
2L. Breast Stroke — 1st Crocker (M), 2nd Nicholls (G), 3rd King (H)	57.6 secs.
3L. Freestyle — 1st Harvey (N), 2nd Swatten (M), 3rd Spall (H)	86.4 secs.
2L. Medley Relay — 1st Newsoms, 2nd Halliwell, 3rd Cobbs	76.3 secs.
4L. Freestyle Relay — 1st Newsoms, 2nd Miltons, 3rd Halliwell	*88.4 secs.

JUNIOR EVENTS

Event	Time
1L. Back Stroke — 1st Goddard (M), 2nd Bond (G), 3rd Williams (H)	30.0 secs.
1L. Breast Stroke — 1st Cottee (N), 2nd Davey (M), 3rd Tribute (G)	*27.6 secs.
2L. Freestyle — 1st Frank Keyes (G), 2nd Clay (C), 3rd French (M)	68.8 secs.
3L. Medley Relay — 1st Gibbs, 2nd Miltons, 3rd Newsoms	90.1 secs.
4L. Freestyle Relay — 1st Gibbs, 2nd Cobbs, 3rd Halliwell	110.8 secs.

MINOR EVENT

Event	Time
1L. Freestyle — 1st Westall (G), 2nd Iles (H), 3rd Seymour (C),	*24.5 secs.

* denotes new record

The final positions of the Houses were:-

1st Cobbs	501 points
2nd Newsoms	468 "
3rd Gibbs	333 "
4th Miltons	320 "
5th Halliwell	297 "

It was good to see Mr. Foister with us again. He took a keen interest in the swimming and kindly consented to present the Cup to the captain of the winning house.

It was with real regret that we had to say goodbye to Hill (A.D.) and Eagleson. In my opinion they are the finest swimmers the School has ever seen. They broke records quite unconcernedly and were always willing to turn out to practice and give advice to Juniors (and most Seniors!). It is, perhaps, interesting to note that in the past four years they have between them won seven out of eight events. We wish them well and hope they have as much success in their careers as they had in the water.

M.E.T.

RUGBY

1st XV

Results

v. Purley C. G. S.	...	...	...	Won	18—0
v. Wimbledon College	...	...	...	Won	14—0
v. Beckenham C. G. S.	...	...	...	Won	8—0
v. St. George's College	...	...	...	Won	19—3
v. Surbiton C. G. S.	...	...	...	Won	3—0
v. City Freeman's School	...	...	...	Won	50—0
v. Reigate C. G. S.	...	...	...	Won	20—0

A very imposing record, gained only so far by determined play. For it is not a collection of stars that makes a team, least of all in Rugby, where understanding is essential, and mutual confidence the basis of team spirit. It is this quality which has, with few lapses, characterised School Rugby over the past two years. House Rugby too has gained much from the spirit in which it is played, and, if always liable to be a source of injuries, it is yet the cradle of constructive School play. In a year when no team may be looked upon as an underdog, competition has been very high, and looking back over the last few games it is encouraging to note the competence of five three-quarter lines, and five very even scrums, a feature hitherto unknown.

The first XV opened the season at home to Purley C.G.S., where a hard ground made tackling uncomfortable, and enabled Creasey and Weightman to add two tries to the long penalty Loible had landed in the opening minutes of the game. In the second half Nicholls added the final touch to a long run by Boyd, and Loible brought the final score to 18 points with two penalty kicks. It was a good game: in it the team got into its stride before meeting Wimbledon College, also at home. The first half saw no score either way, but in the second half, with a wind and slope advantage, Nicholls scored once, Creasey twice, Francis dropped a well-judged goal, and Lavous' conversion brought the score to a 14-0 win. Beckenham were the next opponents, and, playing away, 8 points were scored in the first half, one try from Bray, another, which Lavous converted, from Weightman. The second half was a defensive battle, in which the scrum rose to the occasion with line-out breaks and covering, keeping away all attempts to score. From there the first XV went on to meet and beat St. George's College. To their penalty goal, the only points conceded so far this season, our scrum replied with a push-over try. With scores level at half time, an all-out effort brought another scrum try, this time converted by Nicholls, tries from Lavous and Stevens, and as a final effort, a brilliant individual score by Francis, which Nicholls converted. Surbiton came to a water logged Oberon for the fifth match of the season, and held their own against a heavier team, but their scrum broke down after sixty-five minutes of unceasing brilliance, and were pushed back over their line to suffer a scrum try. The 3-0 win was a good result for an off day. Against City Freeman's School, the scrum so outplayed their opposition that the backs had a field day, and thirteen tries and the odd conversions brought fifty points. In the last match to date, played against Reigate C.G.S., at home, Howard opened the scoring with a good try, and by half time the score was brought to 9 points by two good penalties, kicked by Loible. Stevens, Nicholls and Boyd all scored in the second half, bringing the final score to a 20-0 win.

Such has been the reward of hard play, and of individual contribution of a very high standard.

Higham (J.R.S.). The team owes its success in no small way to his fine leadership. By his unfailing energy in organising practices he has been able to knit together a more happy and formidable XV, and, by his own hard and intelligent play, he has set an example for all to follow. As a line-out specialist he is excellent and rarely meets his equal in schoolboy rugby; he is fast in the loose, and a forceful and determined tackler. Yes, a good captain and a good player.

Loible. Two years ago, Beaumont's broken shoulder was the occasion for Loible's introduction, at full-back, into the first XV. At once he showed a shrewd sense of positioning, a clean pair of hands, and a reliable kick, abilities which earned him Colours last year, and a great reputation. His soundness is a source of confidence to the team as a whole, and he is to be congratulated on a good season.

Boyd. Anyone watching the game against Reigate last year would have found deep satisfaction in the play of Boyd at wing-threequarter. The hard following up which brought him two tries then has been characteristic of his play, first as a centre, later as a wing, this year. His tackling is of the first order, and his running very determined.

Francis. Boyd's centre, Francis, who is undoubtedly the fastest man in the team, has played as well this year as during the last two: he runs and tackles with great heart, and has an eye for a gap which enables him to serve his wing well. We remember with pride his drop goal against Wimbledon College and his remarkable try against St. George's College, flashes of brilliance set in a background of all-round reliability.

Nicholls. Brought in to replace an injured Lavous last year, Nicholls at once showed great dash: his blind side try against Wallington should long be remembered. This season he has played with equal ability in the centre, and has served the team well with long penalties and conversions.

Holden. Normally a forward, it was found necessary to play Holden on the wing, where he has undoubtedly proved the wisdom of what started as a long shot. He has forced a way down the wing in a way similar to Stracy's determined rushes, and shown an ability to tackle welcome to any team. When brought back to replace an injured forward, he has played with great dash and spirit.

Thomson. He has come in to replace Holden for his three games in the scrum, and has used a jinking run to advantage, and kicked far and accurately with his left foot, an ability well suited to his particular wing.

Lavous. Lavous' record as a School Rugby player started last year, when natural ability found him a place at stand-off half, but injury soon prevented his playing. This year has brought back his abated vigour and determination, and his safe handling and touch-finding have delighted spectator and player alike.

Weightman. At scrum-half, Weightman has had a record of seven years School Rugby, three of them for the first XV. Periods of brilliance, such as his blind side score against Beckenham, blemished occasionally by uncertainty, have characterised the play of this hard player and elusive runner. His long pass gives Lavous room to move, and a flare for breaking through the opposition himself and then feeding his backs has been the basis for many three-quarter runs.

Stevens. Coming from the Colts, Stevens immediately caught the eye of all concerned with Senior Rugby. He is fast and, despite his size, forceful, and has earned his place at wing-forward, being well up with the play all the time. His score against St. George's College this year was the reward of a hard game, and suggests that here we have a future Rugby stalwart.

Creasey. His partner at wing-forward is Creasey, who as this year's secretary has done a difficult job very competently. On the field he

has used a turn of speed to great advantage, getting up on the opposing fly-half with great success. His attack is as good as his defence, and several tries have been the fruit of good backing-up.

Spencer. Everywhere on the field the presence of Spencer is felt. Into the tight and loose he puts all his efforts, and his is the praise for much of the line-out work. He is a stalwart in the scrum, and a pillar of strength to the team.

Howard. No. 2 in the line, and Spencer's companion in the second row, Howard has played hard and well. We remember his play against Surbiton with pride, as representative of a new dash. Last year his was the solid work of a forward; now, by joining in three-quarter movements, he shows he is constructive as well as hard-working.

Bray. One of the better second XV forwards last year, Bray showed his ability in the sevens competitions, and has earned his place in the scrum. Tall and well-built, he packs low and helps his hooker, the hall-mark of good prop-play. In the loose as well, he uses weight and speed to advantage.

Higham (C.) If small, he lacks nothing in courage, and the loose play gains much from the dash he shows in following up. But it is in the tight where he excels, being a hooker of unparalleled performance. With the heavy pack he has behind him, he has often proved a trump-card of first XV play.

Pevy. Two years ago, in the Wimbledon College match, Pevy opened a chequered career as a first XV forward. It was but a promise of future form; last year illness kept him off the field altogether. But his return this year has proved his ability. Though seldom spectacular, he can always be relied on to work hard and give of his best, a characteristic which confirms his selection.

The first XV now has five more matches to play, against Wallington C.G.S., Mitcham C.G.S., Bec School, Tiffins School and St. Benedict's School. They are all good Rugby schools, but, with determination, we hope to do well.

I would like finally to thank all the parents and boys who have shown an interest in the team's progress, and who have turned up regularly to cheer us on. Their supporting the coach which took spectators to see the St. George's match went a long way towards livening the spirit of the team. Above all, we owe a great debt to Mr. Bellis, whose presence on the touch-line has urged us to greater effort in the more difficult moments of our games, and whose interest and effort, during holiday and term time, has done so much to prepare us, as a team, for our matches.

N.H.B., J.R.S.H., D.J.C.

2nd XV

Results

v. Purley C. G. S.	...	...	...	Lost	12 — 9
v. Wimbledon College	...	...	...	Lost	14 — 6
v. Sutton C. G. S.	...	...	...	Lost	11 — 6
v. Beckenham C. G. S.	...	...	...	Won	25 — 3
v. Surbiton C. G. S.	...	...	...	Lost	6 — 5
v. Reigate C. G. S.	...	...	...	Won	11 — 6

Although the team has only recorded two wins in the six matches played to date, it must be noted that on only one occasion, against Beckenham, has the team been at full strength, and that all the defeats might very easily have been turned into victories, had we only been able to field the strongest side possible.

The scrum has been the main asset of this year's team, and as they have all played so well, it would be unfair to mention any individual

player without mentioning the others. Under the very able leadership of Ridge, they played two particularly fine games, one against Surbiton and the other against Reigate.

Orme, and Thomson when he has not been needed for the 1st XV, have provided the main thrust from the three-quarter line. Dyer has proved a very capable scrum-half, while Palmer has greatly improved at full-back. Emmerson, in his first year of Rugby, runs hard and straight and scored two tries against Reigate. Ridge has added invaluable points with some very fine place-kicking.

In conclusion I would like to express the appreciation of the team to those members of the Staff who have supported and encouraged us at our matches.

P.S.B.I.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RUGBY

The Middle School XV has shown skill, strength and team spirit above the average and can claim to have had a very successful season, although some at least of their victims have been ill-matched. Stevenson leads his pack well and they have generally out-run and out-stayed the opposition, although their heeling from loose and tight has left something to be desired. Behind them Yeldham and Vickers are most promising, and the three-quarters are active in defence and attack, quick to seize on the opposition's mistakes. At full-back, Wearn has kicked and fielded well though not always happy with the rolling ball. We feel certain that they will provide welcome and efficient recruits to the 1st XV's of the next few years.

P.O'D.

JUNIOR RUGBY

The rugger season to date has been a fairly successful one for the Juniors, as they have won two of the four matches played. In the first game, against Wandsworth, we did well to hold a bigger side to six points at half-time, but then, after another breakaway try by our opponents, we seemed to lose heart, and serious attempts to tackle low were, in the main, non-existent. The final score was 3 points to 20.

For the next match we were strengthened by a few under-age Third Formers, and the confidence which they gave to the team enabled us to record our first win over Beckenham for some years, by 18 points to 12. The defence was far sounder than in the previous game, there was more spirit in attack, and, in fact, we fully deserved our victory.

The team was again successful against Sutton Grammar School, winning by 22 points to nil, but it lost to Surbiton in a hard fought game by 6 points to 11. In the latter game we were unlucky to have two tries disallowed which would have turned the tables.

Unfortunately for their game against Beckenham, six of the selected Bantam Team had to withdraw because of recent injections. The weakened side played very well in the circumstances although they were defeated by 6 points to 20.

House matches will be starting shortly and will continue into next term. A good close competition is expected.

N.H.B.

CROSS - COUNTRY

At the beginning of a new season it is usually necessary to build a completely new team around the nucleus of a few remaining runners. This year, however, we have been fortunate in losing only three of the team. They are Barry, the Secretary, Warren and Smith. We thank them most sincerely for their loyal support and wish them luck in their respective careers. Congratulations are due to Stewart, who was elected Secretary for this season.

So far this term we have had only two matches, and unfortunately the results of the second match have, so far, not been forwarded. The results of this match together with those of matches to be held later in the term will appear in the next number of the "Spur".

Owing to injuries and ill-health we were unable to put up our strongest team against R.A.F. Chessington, who were our guests at the Oberon on Wednesday, 28th September. The weather was fine and sunny and with hard ground it promised to be a keen race. We entered two teams of five runners against the R.A.F.'s team of five. The School A team led the way for the first mile, but M. E. Talbot fell and tore a ligament, which promises to keep him out of competitive running this year. The School runners fought hard to keep their position but could not match the final sprint of the first two R.A.F. runners.

The result was a win for the R.A.F. with 25 points, second was the School A team, one point behind and the B team was third with 30 points. Hiscock and Howard are to be congratulated on a fine run, while it should be remembered that Stewart had a very heavy cold and Stickley ran with a painful ankle. The individual results appear below:-

		mins. secs.	
1st	Logie, R.A.F.	18	18
2nd	Hiscock, School A	18	21.5
3rd	Howard M., School A.	18	52
4th	Taylor, R.A.F.	19	4
5th	Hornsby, School B	19	22
6th	Bayly, School B	19	25
7th	Stewart D., School A	19	30
8th	Jordan, R.A.F.	20	8
9th	Stevens, School B	20	13
10th	Robson, School B	21	1
	Mellor, School B	"	"
12th	Batten, R.A.F.	21	26
13th	Davis, R.A.F.	23	16
14th	Stickley, School A	23	58
15th	M. E. Talbot, School A	Not placed	

M.E.T.

* * *

A.T.C.

The main reportable events of the year — the Annual Camp and the General Inspection — having been covered in the last issue of the "Spur", the chief news this term is of steady progress in the normal training, of a good batch of new recruits at the beginning of the term, and of various achievements by individual Cadets.

After their performance at the Surrey Wing Sports, Sgt. Boyd and Cdt. Hooper were chosen to run for the Wing at R.A.F. Uxbridge, thus obtaining their Wing 'Blues'. We have to congratulate Sgt. Boyd and Sgt. Hope on obtaining their Advanced Training Certificates with credit, and on being the first two members of the Squadron to do this for a good many years. Cdt. Reeve must also be mentioned for his credit marks in the Proficiency examination.

The demands of National Service have caused us to lose our Warrant Officer, A. F. Cox, this term, and we were also very sorry to have to say farewell to P/O B. Mitchell, who has had to resign his commission on taking up an appointment with KLM Air Lines in Holland. Our thanks are due to them both for the time they have given to the Squadron and they have our best wishes for the future.

J.D.T.

19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

There are four matters of interest to report this term. In the first place, a very enjoyable summer camp was held, in perfect camping weather, at Perranuthroe, near Penzance, during the first ten days of the summer holiday. We enjoyed the grandeur of the Cornish coastline towards Land's End on the Lizard, we appreciated the quiet isolation of the village of Perranuthroe and of Perran Beach, which we overlooked, and appreciated no less the helpfulness and the cordial welcome which we received from the Rector and from all local people with whom we came in contact. We were sorry to take leave of Perranuthroe, and sorry also to take leave, at the end of this camp, of David Lloyd and Richard Fash, who have rendered such useful service to the Troop in past years. We wish them every success in their careers, and we feel sure that their association with the Group will not lapse.

A few days after our return from Cornwall, one of our Senior Scouts, Michael Howard, set off with the Surrey Scout Contingent to the Canadian Jamboree. We feel honoured that a representative of the 19th should have been among this distinguished gathering, and are pleased that he had such a full and enjoyable time. An account of his experiences follows these notes.

We have been fortunate in acquiring a second-hand timber hut in good condition. It is at the moment stacked in sections on the Reservation; we hope that inside a month we may see it erected. When this is done we shall be glad of any assistance that parents or friends of the Group may like to give in decorating and internal fitting out.

Lastly, we have this term been able to form a Senior Scout Patrol, which will normally be holding meetings apart from the Troop, although it seems already that these older scouts will play a useful part in training and helping on younger boys.

D.G.L.

* * *

Eighth World Jamboree

The Troop was very lucky to have one of its number chosen to represent Wimbledon in this the first Jamboree outside Europe. The camp site was at Niagara, on the lake which is on the South side of Lake Ontario, on the banks of the Niagara river.

Wimbledon's representatives were to be part of the Surrey Troop which was to fly to Canada from London Airport on Tuesday, 9th of August. The outward flight was via the Azores and Gander, Newfoundland to Malton Airport in Toronto.

The Surrey Troop was then taken by coach to a suburb of Toronto called Scarborough, where they were to be the guests of Canadian families until they were due to cross the Lake to the Jamboree site. Each of the British Scouts was taken under the wing of a Canadian Scout, who was to show him around Scarborough and Toronto.

During this short stay the British Scouts were given many privileges by the Canadian Authorities, enabling the British boys to eke out their meagre allowance of dollars and still see many of the sights of Toronto.

On the 18th of August the whole of the British contingent took leave of their hosts, and were transported, with the Toronto contingent, across the lake to the Jamboree site on board the S.S. Cayuga. After the three hour voyage the passengers disembarked at Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Scouts marched through the town to the camp site and the separate sub-camps.

The whole of the camp site was split up into ten sub-camps to ease the organisation of the daily wants of the 11,000 Scouts present. The Surrey Troop was placed in the sub-camp Hudson Bay with three other British troops and troops from France, America, Canada, French West Africa, Japan, the Philippines and some other countries.

The Thursday and the Friday were spent in preparing the camp site, erecting the troop gateway and generally settling in. On the Saturday afternoon the public was allowed into the camp after two o'clock to see the opening ceremony, which was performed in the arena by Sir Vincent Massey, the Governor-General of Canada. The heat that day was excessive — 105° in the shade and 125° in the sun in the arena where the Scouts were assembled — but there was no-one affected to the extent of fainting. After the opening ceremony all the Surrey Troop had to return to their own site because there were some guests expected.

The daily programme was generally as follows: 6.30 a.m. the whole camp rose, washed and tidied up the site. Meanwhile the day's cooks went to fetch the day's imperishable rations and also the perishables which were for breakfast. All food was issued on this day-to-day, meal-to-meal system since the heat would soon turn any perishables bad. Some troops and patrols, amongst them one of the Surrey Troop's patrols, found a way of keeping food cool by burying it to a depth of about 2 ft. to 2 ft. 6 ins.

After breakfast at about 8 a.m. more time was spent tidying up the site until flag-break at 9.30 a.m. Dinner was eaten at about 12.30 p.m. and an evening meal at about 6.00 p.m. Flag-down was at 7.00 p.m., with lights-out at 11.00 p.m. In between these times there was time for many activities including bathing parades, sightseeing trips around the camp, meeting and talking with other Scouts and trying to teach Canadians how to play cricket and there were many interesting feats of skill to watch. Everywhere there were Scouts trading badges, scarves, belts, knives, uniforms and hats — everything except the tent they slept in.

On the Sunday there were church services for almost every denomination and creed. The Surrey Troop went to the Anglican service at the church in the nearby town, together with some 3,000 others, most of whom had to sit outside the church in the sun. The service was conducted by four Bishops, who had come specially for this service.

Visitors were again allowed into the camp, as they were throughout the rest of the Jamboree, after 2 p.m. until 10 p.m., when all visitors had to leave the site.

On the Monday the outskirts of hurricane "Diane" caught the camp, causing some damage to tents with wind, and bringing with it the only rain which fell during the daytime at the Jamboree.

On the Wednesday the Surrey Troop, with about a quarter of the camp, went on a day tour of Queenston Heights, where a certain General Sir Isaac Brock beat the French in a battle, then out to the floral clock about three miles from the Falls which is a copy of the clock in Edinburgh but some three times larger, and then on to Niagara Falls. This is perhaps one of the most wonderful sights in the world and has to be seen to be believed. This tour finished with a view of the falls floodlit, in colour, and then the drive back to the Jamboree site.

On the Friday came the day we had all been waiting for. All the boys at the Jamboree were transported to Toronto for the opening day of the Canadian National Exhibition, which can be described as the Festival of Britain, The Festival Gardens, The Motor Show, The British Industries Fair and about three or four other exhibitions all rolled into one exhibition which occurs annually.

The opening ceremony was performed by Lord Rowallan, the Chief Scout, after a parade through the Exhibition grounds by the Scouts from the Jamboree. The whole of the Exhibition was thrown open to the Scouts, and the funfair—called the Medway—was open to Scouts at reduced prices.

After this very strenuous day which started at about 4 a.m. and went on until midnight, the Surrey Troop had to start on its preparations for its return to England. Throughout the Saturday the Troop worked hard on this unwelcome task until the time came for the closing ceremony, which was performed by the Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell.

On the Sunday the Surrey boys were off again on their return journey to England after a wonderful Jamboree and an unforgettable experience.

M.H.

* * *

CHRISTIAN UNION

This term I am pleased to say that there has been a marked improvement in our meetings. I sincerely hope that it may increase. Attendance at the weekly prayer meeting has been about six, at Bible Studies, about ten and at "speaker meetings" about twelve to thirteen.

As is usual at the beginning of a new School year, we have adopted a new mission to support. This year it is the Maronatha Missionary Fellowship. This is a little-known mission, but none-the-less worthy of our support. A group of a few Christian people, among them an ex-pastor and

his wife, banded together and formed the fellowship. It supports a mission station in India with a dispensary and an orphanage for cast-off children. It is the custom for unwanted babies, in that part of India, to be cut with a knife, according to their caste, and then, as "everything from the cow is sacred", cow-dung is rubbed into the cuts, and the child is left down a well, or on a rubbish heap, to die. So you see, we are supporting a very needy cause. The finances for this mission are obtained from five or six Christian Guest Houses up and down the British Isles, one in Minehead, one in Glasgow, another in the Kyles of Bute, and several others. These profits are supplemented by money from collecting boxes, such as ours, which are given to people who wish to contribute something towards this work.

Meetings so far this term—up to the beginning of November—have been based on a series of Bible Study Outlines which deal with a few of Christ's parables and sayings, as recorded by Luke. These meetings have also been supplemented by one discussion, led by Mr. High, and a talk by Mr. Peter Woods, Assistant Leader of the King's Own Bible Class, New Malden, on the subject of "The New Creation". Mr. Wood's main point was based on 2 Corinthians 5.17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." This was a very profitable talk—I think we all learnt something from it. On November 8th Mr. High opened a discussion on "The Existence of God." As he pointed out at the beginning of the discussion, it will profit us all to discuss a subject like this in order that we may answer with more certainty when we are asked why we believe what we do.

Our prayer meetings this term have not been as well attended, or as frequent, as they might have been. It is a significant fact that any Bible Study which has not had a Prayer Meeting beforehand has not been so successful as one with a meeting before.

For the rest of our meetings this term we will continue with our Bible Studies on Luke. Mr. High hopes to lead monthly discussions on various subjects connected with our faith, and we will be having a "Fact and Faith" film or filmstrip down from Inter-School Christian Fellowship Headquarters. In closing this report I would ask you for your prayers, as without the support of prayer we cannot be what we ought to be, and cannot continue our witness, which plays such an important part in the life of this School.

P.R.J.

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

The Society met at the end of the summer term, for the last time under the presidency of Mr. Cholmondeley, who has for the past six years allowed us to meet in the informal surroundings of his home. We hope that he has now settled down in his new post and we wish him every success for the future. Our thanks must also go to Mrs. Cholmondeley for providing us term after term with an enormous quantity of food and drink, which took up a great deal of her time in preparing.

As retiring President, Mr. Cholmondeley presented us with an authoritative paper on Plato and the Academy. He began by explaining how the Greek gymnasia developed in the various cities; in general they were built near the ancient shrines of gods, but there also had to be a number of trees, a great deal of space and an adequate water supply. Here the athletes would practise such sports as running, jumping, wrestling, and the curious pastime of rolling. The Academy itself was situated to the north of Athens, at the end of a long road lined with monuments of the gods. Plato began his teaching there in 387 and became so popular that many contested a place in the "kepos" or garden of the gymnasium, in

order to live near him. Mr. Cholmondeley gave us his theories on the controversies that have arisen about Plato's life.

Mr. Sweetland has been elected President for this year and has arranged for a party of boys to visit Toynbee Hall to see a production in English of the Trachiniae of Sophocles and the Helen of Euripides. We are hoping to find suitable accommodation for this term's meeting, when J. S. Higham will read a paper on Prehistoric Britain.

P.A.T.

DEBATING SOCIETY

Almost without exception the notes of the Debating Society begin each term with an apology or excuse . . . there has been a general reluctance . . . it is hoped something can be arranged in the near future. The present unprecedented activity of the Society is accordingly all the more gratifying: for once the Secretary can forsake his diplomacy and assume his proper function of reporter. Possibly the source of this current enthusiasm can be traced back to the opening debate of the term, a clash between the immortals of the staff-room; certainly, entertainment apart, it provided an admirable opportunity for boys to improve their debating technique. The motion before the house was that "A little learning is a dangerous thing." Its chief protagonist, the Headmaster, speaking in a manner characteristically lucid—and for that reason all the more disarming—made what was from the argumentative viewpoint the most telling speech of the evening. In opening the case for the opposition, blessed, one could not help thinking, with the sticky end of the motion, Mr. Timpson wisely relied upon his own personal bonhomie, gently undermining all possible objectors with a pleasant matter-of-factness. Mr. Jones, seconding the Headmaster, was aided and abetted by his own seemingly limitless range of personal experiences. Inveighing (always amusingly) against a "half-baked" bureaucracy, he sent more than one boy home fired with an ambition for measuring split peas in a tin mug. Concluding the speeches from the table, Mr. Townsend was responsible for what were verbally the meeting's most scintillating minutes. Miraculously extending his scanty material, he ruthlessly pilloried all classes of society save one—his own. Mr. Ustinov's crown must rest precarious on his brow. From the floor, Fowles in his more transatlantic vein gallantly condescended to hint at the motion in his concluding sentence, and Weightman, having talked his way into a mess, brushed back his hair and talked himself out. When asked to declare its allegiance the house, prompted no doubt by its own plight, declared itself overwhelmingly against the motion and decided by 38 votes to 1 that a little learning is comparatively innocuous.

With the trail so efficiently blazed before them, it was now time for members of our Junior wing to prove their worth. Lively and enthusiastic—almost all the large audience spoke—the inaugural performance completely justified its formation: there was no trace of an anti-climax. In declaring their faith in television West and the sophisticated Rolt, his seconder, provided stiff opposition to the plausible arguments of Ayres and Davie. Speeches from the floor maintained this balance, First and Fourth Formers rising to disagree, dispute and make many good points. The summing-up was illuminated by a pun from Ayres, which, though it would in no way have disgraced the august lips of the previous week's debaters, apparently just failed to sway the verdict of the house: the motion that "This house regards television as a menace" was defeated by the narrow margin of one vote. For the following Monday, a reshuffle of the Society's programme enabled the Juniors to consolidate their favourable first impression: now it was the press we saw subjected to public examina-

tion. From the table Ayres was again prominent, but Venison, in championing Fleet Street, earned considerable respect with a thoughtful and well balanced speech. The house revealed its confidence in the press by a unanimous decision. Response from the floor had again been lively, but speeches tended to be extremely brief; a little fore-thought and a slightly more sustained effort would produce a far more rewarding performance.

After half-term it remained for the Seniors to bring out their oratorical light from neath its work-preoccupied bushel. Proposing that "World peace can only be achieved through armed strength", Pevy and Tatlow were forced to adopt a viewpoint of extreme materialism. Their case, one felt, in placing too great an emphasis upon the immediate present, seriously weakened its own cause; despite an attractive presentation and some impressive clichés, real conviction was lacking. Cohen and Higham in reply were aided by a fundamentally saner approach: the former combining wit and sincerity and the latter, drawing shrewdly on analogy, formed a well balanced team. The defeat of the motion by 7 votes to 5 appeared as much a division on policy as on eloquence.

As can be realised, the term has been a busy one; the Junior society now firmly established is already sharpening its wits for another clash. Much of this newly found enthusiasm must be attributed to Mr. Pratt. Blessed with a trained eye for cornering wayward secretaries, he has taken over what is by no means an easy position with extreme efficiency. It would be most ungrateful to allow his efforts to slip by unsung.

A.J.F.

DA VINCI SOCIETY

The Society continues to flourish and this term we were able to include amongst our lecturers three members of the School, C. C. Wright, R. M. Pevy and M. F. B. Read. The fact that we have had three members of the School addressing our meetings this term is most encouraging, and it is to be hoped that their example will encourage others to come forward more readily in the future.

The first lecture of the term was given by Mr. Riley, who gave a talk on a painting by the Austrian artist Arnold Böcklin entitled "The Isle of the Dead". The talk was illustrated by a film and a reproduction of this painting; this was followed by Rachmaninoff's "Isle of the Dead", a work he composed after seeing Böcklin's painting.

Prague was the subject of a talk given by Mr. Smith, in which he gave us a personal account of the city which he had visited in the past.

During the talk on Diaghilev by C. C. Wright, the speaker introduced music from the ballets connected with the impresario as background music, which proved most effective. In this well prepared talk the atmosphere of the period was excellently conveyed.

Mr. Jones, who is an expert photographer, contributed to the Society with a talk on photography entitled "Clickety Click" in which he explained to us some of the methods he used and illustrated them with examples of his own work.

Two very lively and informative talks on Cambridge were given by Mr. Trinder, who proved to have considerable knowledge on this subject which he ably illustrated with his own colour photographs.

Under the title "Hit or Miss", Mr. Ayton took as the subject for his talk, percussion, and introduced us to a wide variety of records to illustrate his points.

R. M. Pevy gave the last lecture at the time of writing, choosing as his subject—"The Art of the Incas". He discussed ancient Peruvian art and introduced us to the mysteries of their symbolism. This talk engendered quite a lively discussion, an aspect of our meetings which I feel could be developed. By intelligent discussion I am sure we could add real value to our meetings.

Further lectures this term are to be given by Mr. Archer and M. F. B. Read, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Strettan will be able to end the term's activities with a talk on Gilbert and Sullivan.

A.C.R.

GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

The acquisition of the new School gramophone capable of playing microgroove records has contributed in no small way to the success of this term's programme. We have felt considerably the advantages of the slower speed, among them the better reproduction and the ability to view a work as a whole and not in segments of four minutes each. Despite the discrepancy between what we would like to play and what is available, we have been able to compile a not-too-full programme of concertos. The shortage of material has not deterred the *aficionados*, whose numbers show an encouraging increase on previous terms.

The long series on the development of the symphony was brought to a conclusion at the end of last term, and this term was started with a similar series on the concerto. We got off to a good start with a selection of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos (Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 6). Nos. 8 and 10 of Handel's Organ Concertos played by Geraint Jones proved to be very popular, and these were followed by music for a very different instrument, two Viola d'Amore Concertos by Vivaldi. Here, shortage of material forced us to step ahead to the classical composers, represented by Mozart, and on successive Tuesdays we played his Piano Concertos Nos. 12 and 27, on each occasion sandwiching the main work between two Rossini Overtures. At the following meeting, the week before half-term, we were unable to play Mozart's Clarinet Concerto as planned, and instead broke into the series to play Brahms' Symphony No. 1.

After half-term we turned to Beethoven and heard his Violin Concerto in D. There was a good attendance for this and it was very well received, even by Beethoven's sternest critics. For future weeks we have planned Beethoven's Piano Concertos Nos. 4 and 5, and to follow these are works by Schumann and Brahms. To round off the term there is a recording of the magnificent Te Deum of Berlioz.

The continuance of our Society depends largely on those people good enough to lend us records, and we would like to express a sincere "thank you" to them for their support. While thanking these people, we would be grateful for more recordings of lesser-known works; one searches in vain for records of Corelli and Pergolesi but is inundated with offers of Grieg's Piano Concerto. We would welcome, also, more people willing to compile a personal choice programme, including out-of-the-way pieces which really reflect a distinctive taste in serious music.

B.G.B., J.C.D., J.E.N.

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GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

There has been a complete absence of constructive suggestions for the improvement of the Society, which, if given greater support and encouragement, could flourish on a level with other more heavily populated societies in the School. The Society's activities this term have been confined to the organization of a film evening on November 8th, for which there was a full house of about fifty boys.

Four films were shown: "The Birth of a Mine", a British Iron and Steel Federation film on the development of a rich iron ore deposit in West Africa; "Mediterranean—Cape Rally 1953", a record in colour taken by a photographer travelling in the official car from Algiers to Cape Town; "The Origin of Coal", the geological history of coal formation; and "Cyprus is an Island", a filmed account of village and farm life, and modern development in Cyprus. Free refreshments during the interval provided an added attraction.

It is hoped that a more constructive programme for active members can be arranged for the future.

M.F.

SPUR MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

First of all we want to make an appeal for two parents who are willing to give up Monday evenings to take over the Club, as both Mr. Phillips and myself are unfortunately no longer able to give the time because our other commitments are demanding more of us. We started the Club when our sons were pupils in their first term; both left the School some two or three years ago, but we have carried on as long as it has been possible for us to do so. Perhaps there is someone who has a son now at School and is interested in railways, who will come forward and carry on the good work and keep the Club alive.

The above off my chest, I will now get on with our report. The new high level track has now been completed and has been successfully negotiated by the trains; it only remains for the arches, bridges and walls to be built and put in place to finally complete the raised section.

Membership and attendance has been good throughout the term, and the financial position is good—we have money in hand to purchase more rolling stock. This is very necessary to give our locos something worthwhile to pull; at the moment we have only two coaches for each of our express locos, and they can pull at least four coaches each. However, we do not want to spend the money just now, unless we are sure of someone coming forward to run the Club.

The track as usual was on display at the Garden Party this year, and the proceeds went to the School fund. We hope we shall be able to do likewise this coming year, all being well.

S.J.Y.

CACTUS SOCIETY

Last term on Open Night, we put on a large display of cacti and succulents. Many people showed interest in the plants; and it is an extraordinary thing that so many people possess one or two of these plants, growing them in pure sand and without water. Cacti like quite a rich soil and a lot of water in summer. In the winter they do not grow and only a little water should be given.

This term we welcomed many new members and we wish them luck with their plants.

As I write these notes we are preparing for a visit to Kew Gardens, where some very fine cacti are grown.

I am sure that there must be more people in the School who would like to know more about cacti. If there are they will be very welcome in Room 3 on Mondays at 4.15 p.m. They will be shown how to grow their plants correctly, how to grow plants from seed, how to graft, and how to take cuttings. Free seeds are issued to members whenever possible.

C.J.H.

CHESS CLUB

Captain: C. R. Weightman

Secretary: S. J. Cohen

This term has seen some changes. We have had to say goodbye to I. B. Hayter, whose place at the head of the team has been taken by C. R. Weightman. In addition, the chess sets have been removed from their inconvenient past abode upon a cupboard in the Physics Laboratory to safe-keeping in room 6, for which our thanks are due to Mr. Loveday. Mr. King has very kindly allowed the Club to transfer its activities from the annexe to his room, where the traditional Friday evening meetings are once more in full swing. On these occasions it is encouraging to see a number of Juniors regularly attending to play. There is little to record as far as matches are concerned. We have played Epsom G. S. and King's College, and our overwhelming defeats suffered at their hands clearly indicate that the standard of School chess has declined. This is unfortunate because there is no lack of enthusiasm, and we have never experienced difficulties in turning out a full team. The knock-out competition has just begun, and there is a record number entering for it, which has done away with the habitual necessity for instituting "byes". One disconcerting feature is the maltreatment of the new chess sets. These are expensive and we cannot afford to replace them, yet pieces have been found missing from sets scarcely a week old. I hope for a substantial improvement next term in this respect.

S.J.C.

* * *

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Anybody in the theatre will tell you that comedy is infinitely more difficult than drama to "put across" and when that comedy is one of Shakespeare's there is a tendency to blush over the bawdy jokes and apologize for the rest. "The Merry Wives", written at the request of the groundlings and some maintain, Queen Elizabeth, is not one of Shakespeare's most refined works, so that Douglas Seale's production at the Old Vic is to be applauded for its matter-of-factness. Laughter there was in plenty, but one felt it was the result of Mr. Seale's ingenuity rather than Shakespeare's, and while the strong company attacked the play with a vigorous pace and gusto, whacking and whooping in and out of Paul Shelving's permanent Elizabethian set, the little charm and atmosphere the play has was lost. For there was no mood established in this production: too little use was made of lighting or music for example, and one felt that the gaiety was superficial and therefore dissatisfying.

One reason for this was the unhappy casting of Margaret Rawlings and Wendy Hiller as Mistresses Ford and Page. These two competent actresses were strangely ill at ease with the essential merriment the wives are supposed to enjoy. They bundled Falstaff into the clothes basket like schoolgirls playing at rebellion, and failed generally to share the fun with the audience. This was unfortunate, for these poker wives tended to dampen the spirits of the others. All but two: that effervescent, irresistible Old Vic veteran Paul Rogers was a sheer delight as Sir John Falstaff, a blustering, irrepressible rogue, "two yards about", padded, the programme noted, by Latex Upholstery Ltd., and snorting his lines with enormous relish: "Have I lived to be carried in a basket, like a barrow of butcher's offal, and to be thrown in the Thames? For the water swells a man and what a thing should I have been when I had been swell'd!" This is surely true comedy, and Mr. Rogers is a most convincing and popular actor. The audience gave the honours of the applause at the end to him.

This was not wholly fair I thought. The part of Ford could so easily become a nonentity that all the more praise is due to Richard Wordsworth for making him a very cruel and amusing figure. This Ford, in spite of his sinister face, twitching cheek, glinting eye and narrowing mouth, not to mention his whip and blunderbuss, which he used with remarkable dexterity, gave the Old Vic audience two of the most amusing moments of the evening. With the first, he was aided and abetted by a richly-curved, needle

like, detachable moustache which he adopted as his disguise for appearing to Falstaff at the Garter Inn. In the flurry of the moment as he extravagantly tossed his cloak, the moustache came off and Ford hastily replaced it upside down. While the Old Vic shook, Sir John anxiously explored the polished bottom of a frying pan to see if this facial disease was contagious.

The second great moment came in the last act when Ford played a variation on a theme. We all know that Shakespearean characters are prone to asides to the audience. As Ford leapt forward, we held our breath tensely — for a moment there was silence. Then he flung up his hand and with a helpless, throttled “Ah! No,” he bounded away. Mr. Wordsworth’s Ford was a very intelligent creation.

The visit to the Old Vic was arranged under the auspices of the Literary Society, or rather of Mr. Townsend. The Literary Society’s record of one reading of “Twelfth Night” in a term is not an achievement to be proud of. It would seem that Dr. Noble’s plea on behalf of English Literature has not yet had any effect.

C.C.W.

TWO GREEK PLAYS

On Friday the 11th of November a small party from the Upper School went to a performance of Euripides’ *Helen* and Sophocles’ *Trachiniae* at Teynbee Hall in London. The two plays were performed by the Attic Players, a small independent company of actors; they were very competent productions and well attended.

The *Trachiniae* is a tragedy about the return of Heracles after long years of struggle, his inadvertent killing by his faithful wife and its painful consequences. The *Helen*, on the other hand, is a light-hearted comedy by Euripides which is a satire on his own work: Menelaus is shipwrecked in Egypt and finds his wife Helen, whom he thinks he has left under the guard of his own sailors in a cave by the shore, about to be married to the King of Egypt. Their meeting and subsequent escape from Egypt form the basis of the plot.

Both plays were very well executed, indeed, in most respects production was almost faultless, and all the characters, with the possible exception of the choruses, were well chosen. The lighting and set were excellent and the background music effective but not obtrusive: each player knew his lines and movements perfectly and there were no awkward pauses or clumsy gestures. The *Trachiniae* was played first, and for the first half of the action was engaging, but the dying Heracles took too long to die, with the result that the audience became slightly amused, until the point was reached where gruesome lines provoked titters, and sometimes more than titters. The wife of Heracles, Deianeira, was under-acted so that sympathy for her was lost, and she became unconvincing; the other less important characters in the play were adequately played and were quite convincing; it was, however, rather unfortunate that one of the chorus had a

noticeable lisp, which tended to destroy the intended effect of the chorus.

The *Helen* was destined to success by the very mood of its audience. They were essentially ready to laugh and the brilliant translation coupled with the excellent acting produced occasions for laughter; indeed the very first line evoked roars of laughter, though perhaps not intentionally, and it was very fortunate that Helen herself was not disturbed by audience reaction. The translation was colloquial and easy flowing and gave the actors plenty of scope; they were all ready to take advantage of this good effect. The casting in this play was excellent and each actor fitted his part perfectly; the King of Egypt was especially good in this respect. The humour of Euripides has lost none of its appeal through the ages, and it was proved that when one of his plays is competently performed by a skilful group, it can be just as amusing as any modern comedy. In both these plays the problem of how to incorporate the chorus occurs, and in neither was it completely solved, although in the *Trachiniae* they were quite skilfully employed. In the *Helen*, however, the chorus was given a fair amount of action and as they darted from one side of the stage to the other, the effect was rather incongruous, as none of the chorus was exactly a feather-weight.

But these minor faults did nothing to reduce our enjoyment; all in all, both plays were excellently translated, produced and acted, and provided a very enjoyable evening’s entertainment.

M.A.S.

HIS MISTRESS’ REPLY TO MARVELL BIDDING HER MAKE HASTE

Time’s winged Chariot doth not run
For Lovers as the fiery Sun,
Whose Zenith pass’d must needs decline
And Ardour lose, no more to shine:
But, on common Axis Love must trace
An equal Sphere to Time’s through space.
Win but my prize with proper Arts
Thou shalt perpetuate mortal Hearts,
Whose own two spheres when link’d may be
One common Whole of Harmony;
Fit in Love’s Car in state to ride
There without Ages to abide.

What terror will thy Tomb command
When Vaulted lie we hand in hand?
For as blind worms our flesh devour
Our Spirits augment hour by hour,
And when resolv’d we lie in dust
Our souls dissolv’d shall be from Lust.
Ah! Then shall be our long Love’s Day
And World enough and Time to play.
Thou through the Way will vainly seek
One Milky pearl to match my cheek;
While in the East, Aurora’s lips
Grow pale to see their own eclipse:
Nor I thy Flowers and Garlands scorn
If by their hues our Love t’adorn.

This try but with precocious heat
Thou shalt our greater love defeat:
One Heaven pass’d, still will there be

[P.T.O.]

Those Deserts of Eternity
 Our halves in trackless Wastes to part
 Now mem'ry rack'd through violent heart.
 Lest, then, one fire our Love consume
 Temper thy flame; nor do presume
 Full Pleasure to tear out from Life
 With young disdain and cruel strife:
 Thus when by Time the Sun is run
 We two shall soar; forever one.

A.J.F.

(People not acquainted with Marvell's poem "To His Coy Mistress" should read it before reading the above poem.)

A FISHMONGER'S SHOP

Upon the marble slabs, reeking of oil, in the fishmonger's shop lies the most tempting and varied array of food imaginable. First there are the flat fish, sole, skate and plaice, with their great flattened bodies and tiny eyes roughly chequered with brown or yellow spots. There are the streamlined blue-and-silver mackerel of the North Sea, glinting and flashing like sword blades in the sun, in contrast to the monstrous dull cold-eyed cod, dressed in a shade of green or grey and caught off the Norwegian coast or in some Icelandic water.

There are the expensive salmon with silver scales and appetising pink flesh, probably from Scottish or Canadian river, and the everyday herrings the colour of new shillings. Then often, placidly regarding the other fish with a fixed stare, are crabs set against a green background, grasping the air with jet-black claws and pincers. There are shrimps and prawns jumbled mercilessly together in a heap, and sometimes even a lobster looking like a sedate old gentleman.

Then there are the normal eating-fish — the yellow haddock, the hake and the halibut. These inhabitants of cold seas, and myriads more, go with the stuffed pike on the wall, the bales of newspaper and pyramids of vinegar bottles to make up the fishmonger's shop.

J.A.B.

HISTORICAL INEVITABILITY

There is something to be said for the old fashioned way of teaching history as a list of names and dates, for when you read "On the 21st of October 1805, Viscount Horatio Nelson was killed at the battle of Trafalgar," there is a simple finality about it. Once we enquire why the battle was fought, what the consequences were and what kind of man Horatio Nelson was, our thoughts and answers must be very largely speculative. For that is the job of the historian. "History is a science," says Bury, "nothing more, nothing less." But on the other hand, "All history is necessarily mythology," retorts Keyserling. Within these limits, the true historian should move. While he must patiently accumulate his data with much checking on the one hand, on the other, however much information he may have, he will be forced to admit that, in the end, his interpretation of the facts will be mythological.

The interpretation of historical events, then, varies; and so it should, for that is what makes history such an absorbing subject. "For want of a nail, a horseshoe was lost; for want of a horseshoe a horse was lost; for want of a horse a rider was lost; for want of a rider a message was lost;

for want of a message a battle was lost; for want of a battle, a kingdom was lost — and all for the want of a nail." That is the epitome of history: a chain of apparently insignificant events resulting in a momentous explosion, the interpretation of which will vary.

There are schools of historians who incline to the scientific belief that there must be some ultimate simplification somewhere, some new angle of vision that will reduce the maze of untidy lines and cross currents to a geometric drawing. They maintain that, as the courses of civilization repeat themselves and plant the seeds of their own destruction, all history is inevitable. At the opposite end of the scale, there are the Christians, who think that the mainspring of history is God. The classic expression of this view comes from Cromwell, who was soaked in the Bible: "Let us all not be careful what use men will make of these things. They shall, will they, nill they, fulfil the good pleasure of God and so shall serve our generations. Our rest we expect elsewhere: that alone will be durable." In both cases you come back to that nail, but it makes a difference in your interpretation of history if, behind the nail, you trace the chain of causality back to God or whether you blame inefficient capitalism paying insufficient wages to unorganised blacksmiths.

But, some argue, there is a more profound difference between the two views of history. By admitting God, they say, you can emphasize man, for in God's world man has free will. This is not wholly true, however, for the Calvinists believe in pre-destination and all that the determinism of that creed entails. Nevertheless, the majority of Christians would maintain, in theory at any rate, that man should be the master not the slave of circumstances, a creature not an automaton. This choice, however, is more of an illusion than a reality, for man is motivated by influences which, for the most part, are out of his control: his innate qualities, his education and religious creed. But primarily it is the situation in which he finds himself: a situation that has been developed, unwittingly perhaps, by his fellow men.

That is why the English Civil Wars were inevitable, for there the circumstances produced a situation in which no middle course was possible. They had to fight it out, Charles set up his standard at Nottingham because he could no longer tolerate the revolutionary measures of the Long Parliament which was restoring the equilibrium of power that had been upset by the King's equally revolutionary method of government during the eleven years' tyranny. The King, however, had dissolved Parliament in 1629, as he thought for the last time, since it had failed to support him in his foreign-policy on account of his marriage to a French princess, which would not have taken place had his Spanish courtship been successful and had his father not been so desirous of peaceful relations with Spain and the dowry of some £600,000 due with the Infanta because he had inherited an empty treasury and a war with Spain from Elizabeth, who in turn had been influenced by her sister Mary and her father. But it would be absurd by reason of this chain of circumstances to lay the responsibility for the Civil Wars on Henry VIII. There were many other considerations present. Yet the Tudor period of monarchy was one of the causes of the Stuarts' trouble. Had not James and Charles aggravated the ill-feeling towards the monarchy, they could only have postponed the ultimate clash for power. Parliament could not be suppressed for ever. Revolution had been brewing, and continued to brew, for half a century. You cannot put a fire out by simply pretending it is not there. A situation had developed of which the outcome was inevitable.

Nevertheless, the course of history is unpredictable, for while man will respond to his environment, that environment never has been, and never will be, the same. He can only peer blindly into the future and look back on — well, what? History is the story of man's progress through the centuries. He can learn nothing from it in prophesying the future

C.C.W.

"GOING PLACES, DOING THINGS IN BIG-TIME

PRE-HISTORY"

Snail Down (1).

The teaching of history in England is confined to the short domination of the Caesars and the long struggle to establish the medieval crown, and by its intentional exclusiveness rules out the native as he was before the arrival of the Roman Legions, and as he became after the descent of the 'barbarian' hordes. The inhabitants of pre-historic Britain have thus gained a reputation for barbarism in modern eyes, and with the magic words "woad" and "savages" our forerunners are dismissed in favour of other cultures. Popular misunderstanding is rife: the dark ages remain dark, the pre-historic age fades even further into obscurity. Should one mention Stonehenge, a misleading picture of "sacrifice" mismanaged by "Druids" still leaps into the imagination, a vivid echo of Victorian romantic ignorance. Such mistaken ideas concerning the Ancient Britons still influenced me, until I was fortunate enough to take part in the excavation of a burial mound on Salisbury Plain, when I realised just how inadequate they were. The barrow was not made by a savage host, but by a highly civilised society. Nor was it an isolated monument, but was connected with the five other types of barrow and the many sacred sites, of which Stonehenge is the best known, which mark the stupendous effort of a settled community. I soon found that at a time formerly assumed to be without culture, trade with Ireland to the North West and with Egypt to the South East was common; that religious beliefs which had characterised the Greek World before the Doric invasions were held and upheld in England itself; that just as in Asia Minor the ritual demanding inhumation of dead bodies was superseded by a preference for cremation, so in Wessex a like revolution had occurred.

Britain, as a fringe area, received the final ripples of tidal waves started in the Middle East. Vast movements of people on the continent forced small bands to overflow from France into England, and in so doing, augmented the native population and introduced new rituals and beliefs. As early as 2500 B.C. a number of simple farming folk had landed on our shores, and their pottery found at a site known as Windmill Hill corresponds in shape and size to that of their relatives in Switzerland. Although nomadic in the summer, the hard winters forced them to congregate and find shelter: camps have been found at Knapp Hill and Durrington, Wiltshire, where the remains of inhabitation, the skeletons of dogs unable to endure the cold, and the cleft skulls of cattle, killed to provide meat, mark the annual meetings. The "Secondary Neolithic Culture" arose from the fusion of these peoples with the native population, and with a settled existence, standards rose. The decorated pottery distinguished these people from their predecessors, and trade introduced a different outlook, marked by a religious change. A small meeting place of theirs was the first Stonehenge, which, though smaller than its later counterpart, was yet more imposing than anything known hitherto: it was one of many sites reserved for worship, among which were Woodhenge and the Sanctuary. Later movements forced clans from the Rhinelands and Brittany to forsake their homelands and seek new territories in England. In 1800 B.C., they started arriving, and in fusing with what was already a mixture of peoples, adopted rituals of the latter to suit their own beliefs, and used the already sacred sites of Stonehenge, Winterbourne Stoke and Snail Down for their own places of worship. By working the already existing trade routes even harder, and imposing "protection gifts" on people passing from Ireland to the continent via the strategic Wessex countries, they accumulated wealth. This led to a more imposing culture. Grandeur, indeed, is the keynote of this race which organised the building

of yet larger monuments like those at Avebury and the late Stonehenge, brought the decoration of their Beaker-type pottery to a final pitch of perfection, and used a knowledge of metals to produce gold ornaments and bronze weapons. Barbed and tanged arrow-heads marked them out as warlike, and it was in the role of hunters that they discarded the old long barrow, in which whole families were buried, and introduced instead round barrows for one individual.

It was these people who, some centuries later, fought at Maiden Castle, and perhaps on Wimbledon Common, against Julius Caesar and the Roman Legions. At that date, as Caesar comments, the peoples of England were associated with their French and Spanish cousins in culture, religious belief and practice, and language, and he deals with them as a brave and organised society. Should one visit the sites which were built to defend England against the invaders one is immediately impressed by the intelligence and determination of the British of that period. And when the magnificence of their religious sanctuaries also is taken into account, they worthily merit our close attention. It was therefore a worthwhile holiday that I spent digging on the Salisbury Plain, where there are at least five hundred burial mounds. Snail Down is a group of fifteen barrows near Stonehenge. Forty students spent four weeks of the Summer Holiday there, working on behalf of the Devizes Museum, which, by conducting "digs" at this particular site, has added much to the knowledge of British pre-history.

J.R.S.H.

Snail Down (2).

I have always been interested in archaeology; it is a common disease, and caught me very young. However, before last Summer Holiday, I had never taken part in an actual "dig", so, at the suggestion of my parents, I joined my brother for a week at Snail Down, on Salisbury Plain, to excavate a Beaker-Invasion bell barrow. I believe he has previously gone into the history of the barrows, so I am devoting my lines to the human aspect of the "dig".

I arrived at about five-thirty on the eighteenth of August, and, having seen my brother for the first time in four weeks and having been introduced to the supervisor of the "dig", I set to work sweeping the ritual ditch round what seemed to me to be a large hump in the ground, with eight slices cut out of it down to natural chalk level. The centre was kept in place by eight strips, rather like the spokes of a wheel, which were completely untouched, still at turf level. After half an hour, I inspected a most interesting object, which had been unearthed that very afternoon. It was in the shape of a wooden bowl, but later turned out to be a timber from the fire which had cremated the occupant of this grave. I thought when I looked at it, how long it had been there—since the twelfth Egyptian dynasty, the beginning of Babylon and Nineveh, the second Minoan age: eight hundred years before there were any vestiges of the civilization of the Mayas and Aztecs in South America. Naturally I was fascinated.

Work finished at six o'clock, and we diggers returned wearily to the Nissen huts put at our disposal by the army. After our dinner (the food was of the highest order the whole time), we either went for a walk, chatted, or went to sleep. Being exhausted by my half-hour's exertion, I slept.

The following four days were spent midst sweat and sun, digging. Frequently aeroplanes from a nearby R.A.F. station would perform mock attacks on our barrow which we would naturally stop work to watch, for it was so hot that we would make a diversion out of anything. The sun blazed down, faithfully bronzing our backs; the barrow disappeared by constant shovelling, and my weight dropped by some seven pounds

through this unaccustomed labour. Other diversions were the tanks and soldiers, forever on the horizon, and the fact that W. J. Cookson, the world famous archaeological photographer visited us; what work went into preparing the sight to his satisfaction! — digging, brushing, sweeping. Finally, by dint of hard labour and honest sweat, we met with the approval of this genial man, and he took several films.

At this point of our week's stay, my brother and I were transferred to the other barrow, situated some two hundred yards away from the former. This one was under the charge of an extremely light-hearted man, who made life much easier by his jokes and cheerful attitude to work. This barrow was the first of its kind ever excavated, and is believed to be unique in England. Our party dug one quadrant, i.e. one quarter of the barrow, from turf to chalk, finding three Romano-British skeletons and some post holes, which are the holes in which posts were stuck, surrounding dead bodies until they were decayed enough to have earth piled upon them, thus forming a barrow. I found one of these, some six inches in the natural chalk. Unfortunately, I puzzled the supervisor and as far as I know, he is still wondering whether it was Higham made, or Ancient Britain made. Perhaps it comes to the same thing anyway!

Our barrow was visited by many people: one party included the man in charge of the Mithras excavations, Hugh Short, of "Animal, Vegetable or Mineral" fame, Professor Grinzell, one of the greatest authorities on barrows in this country, and Professor Hawkes, of Oxford University.

My stay passed all too soon and it was on the last day of the "dig" that in our quadrant was found the most important thing discovered during the whole excavation. This was a Beaker-Age funerary pit with the cremated bones and trepanned cranial disc (a hole about as big as a penny out in the skull, to allow the devil to escape). These were the remains of a man some three thousand, eight hundred years old. Ironical as it may seem, these bones were discovered the day after the "dig" ended, a few hours before Centurion tanks were to smash all our work to pulp, and when I was safely back in London.

C.F.W.H.

[The strange title is, apparently, a fashionable catch-phrase among younger archaeologists — Editor.]

GOING UP . . . DOWN, SIDEWAYS, BACKWARDS . . .

I don't suppose that it has ever occurred to you to look for a self-operated lift. Well it did to me — about two years ago — I can't remember why; probably I had seen one in a film — but outside a film studio they are one of the rarest things on earth and usually resident in the most inaccessible places. But eventually I did find one.

It was in the St. Helier Hospital. I had gone there at the behest of my mother to fetch a prescription from some unpronounceable and unspellable laboratory there. A grim-faced surgeon in a blue boiler-suit informed me that . . . this place was one on the umpteenth floor and that the lift was a few miles along the first corridor on the right. After trying in vain to thumb a lift on a tea trolley, I was taken on board by a voluble old gentleman, who was steaming down the main corridor in his wheelchair at at least thirty miles an hour. I made a safe landing and buried my parachute under a long bench outside the lift.

I leaned on the bell-push for about twenty minutes before I realised that the lift wasn't coming. I peered through one of the small portholes

in the door and discovered the reason — it was already there! The darlindest, self-contained, unfurnished lift you ever saw — and there was nobody inside it. This was what I had been searching for. I gripped the handles of the doors and strove to slide them apart. They wouldn't budge. I spent some time and most of my strength straining at the obstinate doors until I had a stroke of genius — perhaps there was a special word. I tried several — under my breath — but none worked. I had almost decided to give up and walk up the stairs when I felt a terrible pain in my back. I swung round to confront a sweet old lady in black with a white frilly blouse and a young tree shaped like a walking stick. She spoke in a delicately pitched bass,

"Ere! You won't gettem opin like that."

"I know," I confided gently.

The huge stick hammered against the lift doors.

"Airya," she cried triumphantly.

Indeed "air" I was: she had found the magic word: it was "PULL".

I did "PULL" — hard, and that was a thing I should never have done. I slid for a good twenty yards along the polished floor before my head ended up with a resounding clang against a fire-extinguisher hung up on the wall. I smiled weakly at all the dear old men and women who had been watching me interestedly as I tried to unwedge my head from the small space between the extinguisher and a radiator and wobbled undeterred to the lift. I slammed the iron grille behind me, jabbed a confident finger at the button which had "Umpteenth floor" written above it, and waited.

In the course of the next five minutes I had tried every button on the panel. I had hesitated slightly before pressing the "Fire", "Emergency" and an ominous unnamed red one — but to no effect.

The sweet old lady in black approached once more and pushed her stick through the grille to strike against an inconspicuous red plate with white lettering on the opposite wall. Again, "air" I was: "ALL DOORS MUST BE CLOSED BEFORE LIFT CAN BE OPERATED."

At last! All doors were closed: I was alone in my lift. Joyfully I pressed my foot against the button — and that was another thing I should never have done. My legs began to push their way through my shoulders and my head bounced crazily from wall to wall. THIS was getting tedious! Wearily I hauled myself to my feet with the aid of the grille to notice that the lift was still hurtling skywards, and that my hand was inextricably wedged in the grille. Perhaps I was slightly overwrought at the time for I did a very silly thing: I pressed the "stop" button. Now if there is one thing that any science boffin will tell you NOT to do, it is to press a stop button in a lift which is travelling roughly at escape velocity AND while you have your hand stuck inextricably in a grille. Why? Why because it jolly well HURTS — as I found out. Why does it hurt? Because when the lift stops, you don't. And it's a well known fact that lift roofs are about the hardest things made.

Oh, and another thing I found: there is no "GO" button. I tried everything. I wandered around kicking the walls methodically but uselessly. I smashed the mirror and the light, but to no avail. I occupied a couple of hours undoing the plate which contained the buttons and began sawing some of the wires in half with my penknife. Dangerous — very dangerous: there was a brilliant flash. I was hurled across my cell and we began to move very slowly. At last I saw about a foot of wooden door above me which meant that freedom was at hand. Then we stopped. I endured being flung all over the lift until I found the wire which opened the grille and then by stretching up, I just managed to push the doors open and began to haul myself painfully, centimetre by centimetre, through the extremely

narrow gap. I really dread to think what would have happened if someone had come along the corridor while I was half in, half out, or— a dreadful thought struck me—if the lift had started going down.

Well finally, I DID get out, but I shan't heroically say it was all worth it because it jolly well wasn't. And by the way, if you ever do go to the St. Helier Hospital, ask the way to "that Unspellable place" on the "Umpteenth Floor" and you will find the lift stuck with only about a foot gap between the top of it and the floor. And if you care to crawl inside it, you will find a lovely pair of blue woollen gabardine trousers.

It was the only way I could get out!

D.H.D.

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