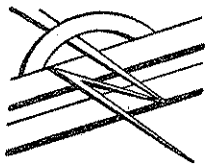


RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The

SPUR

AUTUMN TERM 1956



VOLUME 12

NUMBER 1

THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. XII, No. 1

Autumn, 1956

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SCHOOL OFFICERS, Autumn Term, 1956

Head of the School: A. J. Fowles.

Second Boy: D. J. Creasey.

Prefects: B. G. Barker, B. P. Betts, J. H. Brugger, M. R. Burke, G. D. Crocker, A. M. Emmerson, B. H. Finch, C. F. W. Higham, G. A. Hill, B. G. Hope, J. W. Jameson, P. R. Johnson, M. Loveday, D. J. Mayer, P. Seaman, D. C. Spencer, A. J. Stevens, I. W. Wilson.

Captain of Rugby: D. J. Creasey.

Secretary of Rugby: C. F. W. Higham.

Captain of Cross-County: A. J. Mellor.

Secretary of Cross-Country: M. O. Reeve.

Prefect of the Hall: D. C. Spencer.

Prefect of the Library: M. R. Burke.

HEADMASTER'S NOTES

The School generally, and Scouts especially, will regret that Mr. Gurney has been obliged, on medical advice, to give up the appointment which he began only in September. We wish him a speedy renewal of full health. His place will be filled by Mr. Wedderspoon, who took his degree (in History) at Oxford two years ago.

The brightness of the legacy which the decorators left us is not much dimmed, yet. Encouraged by the clean paint, forms have made a perceptibly better attempt to keep their rooms neat. The Hall, on the other hand, suffered the final loss of its curtains: removed for the redecorating, they were found too decrepit for cleaning or repair. We hope the more strongly for the replacements for which we applied to the County long since. But meanwhile street lighting and passing cars cause too much distraction in the Hall for any audience to do any play justice. The production of "Twelfth Night" intended for December was therefore postponed, while we investigated other means; it is now due in January, though probably curtains will then be still to seek and acres of brown paper will obscure the roadside windows.

This lack of blackout also undid earlier plans to celebrate the School's twenty-first birthday, which fell this term. A film show was projected, to include the long-heralded first showing of our own film. This too must await the renewal of the Hall curtains. In the end, the Headmaster was absent for the middle of the term and no formal celebration was held. On the anniversary of the official opening, on 28th November, 1935, however, the occasion was honoured in Assembly, and the School and its first Headmaster exchanged compliments by telegram.

The orchestra will have made its first public appearance, at the Carol Concert, before these notes make theirs. The progress of our instrumentalists (or of most of them) gives much satisfaction.

Congratulations on the award of County Major Scholarships are due to the following: A. R. Dyer, M. Francis, J. R. S. Higham, M. J. Lavous, K. J. Loible, J. E. Nicholson, M. F. B. Read, B. Spencer, P. A. Tatlow, C. R. Weightman and C. C. Wright; and to A. T. Boyd and P. G. Stevens on County Major Exhibitions. One or two more scholarships on last summer's "Advanced" results are expected yet, for those remaining in the third year Sixth.

HOUSE NOTES

COBBS

Captain: G. A. Hill.

Vice-Captain: G. Boiling.

Prefect: B. G. Barker.

At the end of last term we said goodbye to Michael Francis, who has served the House for the past seven years with a vigour and keenness which have inspired all who knew him. We wish him every success in his future career. Our best wishes also go to Ingram, Ridge, Poynter, Stone and the other Seniors who departed last term. The loss of so many of our Seniors has left us with very little natural talent in the Senior School, although our Colts are fortunately very strong.

The only summer activity not reported in last term's *Spur* was swimming. In this we were unable to retain the cup and were placed third.

The main event of this term has been the Rucker Cup. The first Senior game was against Halliwells. Against this very strong team we did remarkably well to hold a 3-0 lead at half-time, but in the second half we were unable to keep up this high standard of play, and we eventually lost 22-3. Our next game was against a rather mediocre Gibbs team, and we had great hopes of a win. Unfortunately, we fell far below the form we had displayed against Halliwells and we lost disappointingly by 16-8. Unluckily, in this game, Boiling, who had inspired the whole team by his energetic and tenacious play, was injured and was unable to play in the two final games. In our following match against an experienced Newsoms team, which possessed a pack of almost twice our size, we were overwhelmed by 30-0 in a hard fought game. It must be said that this score did not do justice to our stubborn resistance. Our final game was against Miltons, and we fully expected to win it. Alas for our hopes! With a team weakened by injuries we played our worst game of the term and lost by 26-9. Despite this rather dismal record, the standard of play has on the whole been quite high. The side has been ably captained by Thomas, who has spent a lot of his spare time organising practices.

Fortunately, the Colts have made up for the Seniors' lack of success by very convincing victories against Halliwells (44-13) and Miltons (37-17), and narrower victories over Newsoms (17-14) and Gibbs (6-3). The three outstanding players have been Millington (Captain), Foulsham and Clay, but the reason for these overwhelming victories lies in the all-round strength of the team. Only three players were not in either the School Colt or Junior XV's. The one fault with the team was its inability to defend reliably, but fortunately this did not hinder it unduly as it was usually attacking. Due to the Colts very fine effort, we were placed third in the Rugby Competition.

Our Juniors, with such players as Groombridge, Cobb, Powers and O'Donnell, stand a very good chance of coming out well in the Rugby section of the competition for the Junior Shield.

The only other competition this term was for the Michael Welby Debating Cup. In the first round we were drawn against Newsoms, and despite some very fine speeches by Barker and Rolt, our lack of experience told in the end and Newsoms gained a narrow victory. The team consisted of Sutcliffe (Captain), Rolt, B. G. Barker, Furringer and Hewitt.

Next term the Hockey and Cross-Country Cups will be awarded, and if the necessary support is as forthcoming as it has been this term, we stand a good chance of winning at least one of the competitions.

G. A. H.

GIBBS

Captain: A. J. Fowles.

Prefects: B. P. Betts, B. H. Finch, B. G. Hope, P. R. Johnson, M. Loveday.

Blinded by the reflection from so much virgin blue braid, we have made an unspectacular start to the year, finishing only fourth in the Rugby Competition. The credit for attaining this goal must be equally shared between Seniors and Colts. The latter, injury-ridden to begin with, were further handicapped by a considerable lack of any positional sense, and only the stalwart and unflagging play of Bond and Venison has brought us distinction. With one game still to play, our team has but one victory. This, however, gained in the last match to date, displayed hitherto hidden team-work and spirit. The sad truth is we woke up a little too late. The Seniors fielded a back division second to none, but were betrayed by the erratic performance of the scrum. The lack of any really experienced player able to bind the team together was another nuisance. Nevertheless, two victories showed a reasonable return for our efforts: the team was, after all, largely in a transitional stage and next year will surely come into its own. I said that I would give Frank-Keyes a mention for turning out for us on a day when he had been selected for a county trial, and, indeed, he deserves it. Wearn is to be congratulated on retaining his place in the first XV.

In the Debating Competition we were, I think, unlucky - not that we could ever have humbled the eloquence of a Halliwells team handpicked on the strength of exhaustive rehearsals. The fact, though, that with virtually only four men (one of our speakers was taken ill) we yet managed to split the judges' verdict and win that of most others present, does indicate that we might have stood a remote chance if the wind had been in our favour.

So much for this term's triumphs; now let us look to the future.

We may reasonably hope for considerable improvements of our fortune next term. Boasting both the School hockey Captain and Secretary, we can be sure of the political pull which H—s has found can be of such assistance. At any rate, it must be impossible to do worse in the hockey than last year's performance.

Our prospects for the spring cross-country tussle also seem good. Several of last year's magnificently spirited team remain, and with Mellor, the School Captain, to urge us on from behind, we have a fine chance of earning ourselves fresh honour. Competition this year will be fierce, but so long as we can retain the spirit which got home several "unknowns" in times which were for them personal bests, we need not worry.

In the past two years we have built up a great House Play tradition. This year it was originally intended to produce "The King and I", but as the string holding up our gong has recently broken, a change of plan may become necessary. However, we remain optimistic.

Anyway, win, lose or draw, the great thing is to have a good time. And the only way of having that is to do our best and play our hardest.

A. J. F.

HALLIWELLS

Captain: D. J. Creasey.

Prefects: A. M. Emmerson, C. F. W. Higham, P. Seaman.

At the end of the School year we lost a great many of our stalwart Seniors; we shall miss them all, and our best wishes go with them into the outside world. We said farewell to both our House Captain, J. R. S. Higham, and to the House Vice-Captain, A. T. Boyd. These two had for long dominated the Halliwells House scene in activities that varied from debating and house plays to Rugby and cricket. Whilst we mourn our losses, we must welcome to our House many new members, all of whom will have their part to play in the House's various activities. Amongst our newcomers, we must specially welcome Mr. Hindle as a new Housemaster. Already Mr. Hindle has begun to show us something of his sparkling personality.

In last year's Cock House Competition, we pulled up from fourth place to third. This was mainly due to our Juniors, who won the Junior Shield, and to a splendid last minute effort on the part of the swimming team. This year's competition has started very well for Halliwells, and at the time of writing I am able to report that the Seniors have won all four of their Rugby matches, and of the two matches played, the Colts have won one and lost the other. The Senior team, ably led by Higham (C.), started badly against Cobbs, but after being 0-3 down at half-time, pulled back in a splendid rally to win by 22-3. The team was hit by injuries, but against Miltons it looked as though, in spite of this handicap, we would have a runaway victory when we gained a 12-0 lead. However, Miltons pulled back, and we were very lucky to win with the final score 15-12. The Gibbs match was won by 25-5, but the score does not indicate the closeness of the game. Superior hooking, kicking and back play brought us our final Senior victory against Newsoms, the score being 8-3. Smale is to be congratulated on some very good place kicking during this match. Whilst the Senior team have been sweeping all before them, the Colts have found the competition much stronger, and although they beat Gibbs by 9-3 in their first match, they were defeated by a very strong and able Cobbs side. The future of the Rugby Cup therefore now depends solely upon the Colt team, and with a little luck it should be ours.

At the beginning of the term we held a House Supper, at which we were very pleased to welcome back many of the Seniors who left us last term, and, among our guests, Mr. Trinder. The occasion was a great success, and everybody enjoyed the film "The Lavender Hill Mob", one of the earlier Ealing comedies. We must thank those parents who sent along cakes and doughnuts for a running buffet.

After last year's narrow defeat in the final of the Debating Cup, we were very anxious to win it this year. The standard in debating fell sharply owing to a change in procedure by which the motion is not announced until the beginning of the debate. This, of course, suited Halliwells as we have five speakers who can speak "off the cuff" nearly as well as they can with prepared speeches, which is more than can be said for other houses. On the way to the final we defeated Gibbs and Miltons. In the final we met Newsoms, who conquered us last year. Thus the stage was set for a battle royal. Unfortunately, Newsoms had a set-back, when, in the middle of the debate, Partridge, one of their best speakers, was taken ill. However, the result was never in doubt, and the judges gave us a unanimous verdict. Congratulations must go to Higham (C.) and Ali, who were our main speakers, and to our floor speakers, Seaman, Taylor, and Colmer.

Our prospects for the rest of the year are not as bright as we would like them to be: Rugby is our strongest game, and in hockey, cricket and swimming, our chances, on paper, are not good. However, if everybody pulls hard and in the right spirit, we should be able to improve upon our third place in the Cock House Competition.

D. J. C.

MILTONS

Captain: M. R. Burke.

Prefects: J. H. Brugger, G. D. Crocker, J. W. Jameson, I. W. Wilson.

At the end of last term we had to say farewell to several boys at the top of the House, notably J. A. Pooles, our Captain and Head of the School, who is now up at Cambridge, Read, Lavous, Orme, Swift and Drye, all of whom made considerable contributions to House activities. We wish them, and all the other boys who have left us, every success in the future. This term we welcome a number of new boys, who we hope are settling in well and will give all they can to the life of the House.

Pooles concluded a rather dismal series of House notes for last year by saying, "Finally I would like to wish the best of luck to all members of the House who are staying on in the hope that they will be able to pull Miltons out of the doldrums into which we appear to have sunk". This term I am unable to change into a major key, for we have made a poor start in changing the state of affairs. In the Rugby Competition the Seniors have won one match and lost three. The scores of the matches against Newsoms and Gibbs, 35-0 and 15-0 respectively, were not very happy ones, but that against Halliwells, when our team fought back from 0-12 down at half time to 12-15 down in the second half was most inspiring, as, of course, was our win against Cobbs, 26-9. Considering the fact that the team was a comparatively inexperienced one and did not play one match with the full fifteen players, it put up a reasonable performance. Whatever it has lacked in ability, it has not lacked in spirit. It is rather disconcerting, however, to feel that our final position of fourth could have been bettered had a complete team played each time. The same can be said of the Colts, who also have not had a full team for any of their matches, and who have not redeemed themselves by gaining even a single victory. For the Junior Rugby Competition, which takes place next term, we have a number of promising first-formers, but, as they lack experience as yet, it is up to the second-formers to give them a strong lead. To conclude on the subject of Rugby, I must offer congratulations to J. Davie on his selection as a Surrey Colt reserve.

We entered the Debating Competition with hopes, having got by into the second round, but our team, though a fairly strong one, opposing the motion that "This House thinks that Raynes Park is not what it was", was no match for Halliwells, the ultimate winners of the Welby Cup. The only other activity this term has been swimming qualifying. We have a respectable number of points, but as the qualifying points gained beforehand often decide the final result of the Swimming Sports, everybody able to swim should make sure he gains every point he possibly can.

Next term we shall be faced with the Hockey, Cross-Country, Chess, and House Play Competitions. Instead of just hoping that things will improve, each member of Miltons should now make up his mind definitely to do his utmost for the House in the future. All those who are not at home on the hockey field can make up for this in the cross-country and the swimming. In particular all those "passengers" who make only the most meagre effort should determine to pull their weight. Only then can we hope for better things.

Finally, I must say farewell to I. W. Wilson, who is leaving us at the end of this term. He has been one of the most useful members of the Rugby team, and his absence will be felt in the many activities in which he has taken part. To him we extend every good wish for the future.

M. R. B.

NEWSOMS

Captain: D. C. Spencer.

Prefects: D. J. Mayer, A. J. Stevens.

The end of the Summer Term saw the departure of nearly all the House stalwarts in the Senior School, and in this respect other houses have been more fortunate than we have. Our hopes of winning the Swimming Cup, as reported in last term's *Spur*, were eventually realised, and the cup was duly added to our coffers.

This term we must welcome to the House the dozen or so new boys, hoping that they will serve us well in the years to come. Congratulations are due to D. J. Mayer and A. J. Stevens on their appointment as School Prefects.

We have, so far, seen the completion of the competition for the Michael Welby Debating Cup. Although not retaining it, we did well enough to reach the final, where we were beaten by a strong Halliwells team – sweet revenge for Halliwells, whom we beat last year. I will not deal at length with this subject, since it is reported elsewhere, but I would like to thank, on behalf of the House, David Mayer for leading the team and speaking so well in the debates. The team consisted of D. J. Mayer, Page, D. C. Spencer, Stevenson, and Partridge.

The main competition this term is for the Rugby Cup, which concerns both Seniors and Colts. In the Senior section, we won three of our four games, losing only to Halliwells.

Our first match was against Gibbs, and, although we did not combine well, we won it by nine points to three, Partridge and Vickers (2) scoring. Next followed two easy games. Against Miltons, we were only 6-0 up at half-time, having wasted a number of chances through mishandling, but we eventually won 35-0, due mainly to the three-quarters, to whom Miltons had no answer. Our next victims were Cobbs, whom we beat 30-0. Again the bulk of the scoring was done by the three-quarters, who were well supplied by the scrum. So we came to the final game against Halliwells. This we lost 8-3. Our three-quarters, although breaking up numerous Halliwells attacks, received too little of the ball to attack much themselves. Stevenson scored our consolation try. The whole team played very well throughout all the games, and it would be unfair to single out individuals for praise.

The Colts started the term well by winning three out of four games in trials, and have proved this to be no flash in the pan by winning their first two games against Miltons and Gibbs, although Halliwells and Cobbs look like being tougher propositions.

Junior Rugby takes place next term, and the team has held several practices under Mr. King's guidance. They have keenness and capability, virtues which may well bring reward.

Unfortunately, at the end of the term we are losing Chris Tabor, who has represented us in Rugby, cricket, hockey, and athletics; it is in cross-country, however, that we shall miss him most, for he has done much to help us win the cup for the past two years. We wish him success in all he does in the future. "Good luck, Tabs!"

This year we are one of the three strongest houses. If we are to win any cups at all, we have got to work really hard and earn them. If everyone pulls his weight, success will follow, but we must not become complacent because we won cups last year. We must be encouraged the more to seek future success.

D. C. S.

PRIZE-GIVING

Prize-Giving, held this year on Wednesday, 10th October, has every opportunity to become pretentious when staged in the relative spaciousness of Wimbledon Town Hall. To its credit, this is never the case. This year, with Mr. Courtney breaking any ice with some bright organ music and Mr. Charles Wrinch, Mr. Porter's predecessor, presenting prizes, it assumed the pleasant informality of a family reunion. Nor was such an atmosphere out of place at a twenty-first birthday celebration.

Mr. J. Hood-Phillips, the Chairman of the Governors, presided with his customary urbanity. After welcoming our guests, he revealed something of particular interest to the main body of the School. The Surrey County Council's plan to enlarge Raynes Park from four to six hundred pupils was scheduled to reach the building stage by the coming April. It had emerged from the County's economy drive unscathed.

The Headmaster's report, although also a revelation of how to combine clarity with distinction, naturally looked backward rather than ahead. He admitted frankly that the failure of any Senior to secure a State Scholarship was "a major disappointment" only partially offset by the number of County Major awards gained. Competition for university places had grown fiercer: sure candidates of a few years ago must now either be more catholic in their choice of colleges or be prepared to bide their time until after National Service. Potential engineers and scientists should not overlook the facilities of technical colleges. This particular problem, however, was only gloomy in comparison with the continued flourishing of the School as a whole. We could at last boast a young orchestra already advanced to the stage of accompanying hymns. And this was only an addition to the twenty or so older societies. A fine example of team-work, the Scout Hut had been erected and decorated. Our dramatic transference of allegiance from Shakespeare to Shaw had proved a success, and tangible evidence of our Rugby prowess could be seen in the Surrey Seven-a-Side Trophy upon the table. It was not only the largest but also the ugliest of a considerable collection from neighbouring athletic competitions. The Headmaster then alluded to the School's imminent birthday: although most boys would prefer to celebrate this coming of age by spending an extra day away from the institution (the gem of the evening this), certain festivities were being planned. In conclusion, despite the trend toward specialization, the School continued to produce a sixth-former endowed with a certain versatility. This was, perhaps, most important of all.

Mr. Wrinch wisely made little attempt at a formal speech. Not only would any didactic form of address have been ill-chosen, but it would have been far less likely to stay in the memory than the tantalising "flash-back" which so vividly conjured up glimpses

of the School's past history. With the stories of the School in evacuation, of the boy who passed an examination after being bombed out the previous night, and of the old boy who revisited the School shortly before his death on a war-time mission, Mr. Wrinch provided examples of behaviour we could all take to heart. What we could not take seriously was his claim to have been merely a "caretaker" headmaster. His obvious pride in the School showed clearly that he had taken far too much care on its behalf to merit that title. And as he himself pointed out, the School already had an excellent caretaker of its own.

Mr. Wrinch did offer us two specific pieces of advice. He confessed that throughout his life he had been continually surprised by the good in other people. An ability to see this made life a worthwhile pleasure. Secondly, he gave his definition of a school. School, he said, was not a place to spend the "happiest days of your life" in, nor a fact-accumulation-centre, nor a prison. It was simply "a collection of people trying to find the best ways and means of living". To boys tending to be preoccupied with more immediate problems, this provided a valuable lifting of horizons. Mr. Wrinch had felt honoured to attend Prize-Giving: we were honoured by that attendance.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Wrinch was wittily (if brevity be the soul of wit) proposed by Alderman D. L. Reid, Mayor of Wimbledon, and, in a clever impersonation of J. A. Pooles which even deceived the local press, seconded by the Head Boy. After the National Anthem had completed the proceedings, we left the Town Hall rather more consciously proud of our School than usual - good proof of a good Prize-Giving.

A. J. F.

PRIZE LIST 1955-56

Form Prizes

- 1A P. F. White, B. T. Elsdon.
- 1B A. J. Phillips, N. A. Preece.
- 2A J. A. Bull, D. B. Ring.
- 2B P. L. Davies, J. L. W. Heaver.
- 3A R. W. Lee, N. G. Cottee.
- 3B E. Phillips, R. C. Strutt.
- 4A J. Davie, D. J. Clark.
- 4B M. R. Cox, T. R. Smith.

Fifth Forms for performance in 'Ordinary' G.C.E.

- V.1 J. A. Colmer, B. R. H. Doran, R. J. Young, R. P. M. Housego, B. W. Rowling, R. M. Nicholls, W. R. Lintill, J. Thresher, J. Barfoot, C. J. How, J. M. Adams.
- V.2 R. K. Stevens.
- V.3 A. R. Beavitt.
- V.4 A. J. Newman.

Lower Sixth

- Arts* - J. H. Brugger, C. F. W. Higham.
- Science* - S. J. Cohen, M. Loveday, G. W. Davis.
- Economics* - J. W. Jameson.

Upper Sixth

War Memorial prizes - J. R. S. Higham, J. A. Pooles, B. Spencer,
C. R. Weightman.

Arts - M. R. Burke, A. R. Dyer, A. J. Fowles, M. Francis,
M. J. Lavous, R. M. Pevy, M. F. B. Read, P. Seaman,
P. A. Tatlow, C. C. Wright.

Science - B. G. Hope, P. G. Stevens.

Norman Prize - P. R. Johnson.

Whitman Prize - H. F. Roberts.

Economics - J. E. Nicholson.

General Prizes

Effort outside class - C. Mottershead, R. C. Strutt, G. W. R. Miller,
M. R. Burke, M. A. Sutcliffe, B. H. Finch, D. Brooks,
I. R. Whillier.

Art - P. J. Loveday, T. L. French, M. J. Forbes.

Craft - C. E. Feather, R. S. Cole, K. D. R. Hanson, J. L. W. Heaver.

Ian Hudson Puppet - J. E. Gough.

General Knowledge - P. A. Tatlow, J. Davie, J. A. Bull.

Verse Speaking - B. H. Finch, A. J. Fowles, M. McLean,
S. F. Partridge, K. H. D. Hopper, J. H. G. Wilbraham.

Beaverbrook Bennett - R. R. Gibbons, C. R. Goss, C. Pacey-Day.

Old Boys' - C. C. Wright.

John Robbins Essay - Junior: P. J. Venison.

Senior: C. C. Wright, A. J. Fowles,

C. R. Weightman, D. J. Mayer.

Leaving Prize to Head of the School - J. A. Pooles.

Advanced Level Certificates

6 Arts - M. R. Burke, A. R. Dyer, A. J. Fowles,
M. Francis (distinction in geography), J. R. S. Higham,
M. J. Lavous, K. J. Loible, W. B. Orme, R. M. Pevy,
M. F. B. Read, P. Seaman, D. S. D. Shelley, B. Spencer,
C. Tabor, P. A. Tatlow, C. R. Weightman, C. C. Wright.

6 Economics - J. C. Davey, B. Denton, J. E. Nicholson, J. A. Pooles,
I. W. Wilson.

6 Science - B. G. Barker, B. P. Betts, A. T. Boyd, D. J. Drye,
B. G. Hope, P. R. Johnson, C. A. Rowntree, D. C. Spencer,
P. G. Stevens, E. N. Swift.

TROPHIES

From Open Competitions

Surrey Grammar Schools Seven-a-Side Rugby Competition.

Surrey Grammar Schools Athletics Cup.

Surrey Grammar Schools Relay Cup.

Wimbledon Schools Athletics Association Senior Cup.

Wimbledon and Merton Cyril W. Black Senior Scouts Shield

for Athletics.

School

Eric Parker Cup	...	...	...	...	D. C. Spencer
Michael Welby Debating Cup	...	...	...	...	Newsoms
P. W. Garrett House Play Cup	...	...	...	...	Gibbs
Chess Trophy	...	...	...	...	Newsoms
Parents' Rugby Cup	...	...	...	...	Newsoms
Governors' Cricket Cup	...	...	...	...	Gibbs
Spur Society's Hockey Cup	...	...	...	...	Newsoms

Cray Swimming Cup	Newsoms
S. H. Marshall Cross Country Cup	Newsoms
John Garrett Athletics Cup	Newsoms
T. W. Powys Cobb Tennis Cup	Gibbs
Junior Shield	Halliwells
Gymnastics Cup	Cobbs
B. T. King Cock House Cup	Newsoms

AMERICAN VISITORS

During the last week of November we were pleased to welcome to School Dr. E. S. Leonard, Jr., Professor of English at Principia College of Liberal Arts, Elsau, Illinois, and two of his students, Mr. Anderson and Miss Snodgress. Dr. Leonard was a Professor when I attended the College in the U.S.A., and hearing that he had brought a group of students to this country as part of their degree course, I persuaded him to come with two students to talk to the Sixth Form and give them some picture of the American educational scene. They in turn were interested to visit an English County Grammar School, particularly Miss Snodgress, who was preparing a paper on the English Secondary School System.

Dr. Leonard explained the general system of education in the U.S.A. with its 8.4.4. plan – eight years up to 'High School', four years there, and another four in College. He emphasised that High School and College education were open to everyone, and in attempting to serve a much wider cross section of the population, particularly at College level, general standards were necessarily lower. The emphasis was much more on acquiring a broad foundation of learning, rather than an increased specialisation, as in this country.

The two students then gave an informative yet nevertheless highly entertaining account of their 'extra-curricular activities'. Mr. Anderson, a keen footballer, caused considerable amusement by his description of the armour in which he sallied forth to battle, and Miss Snodgress had very close attention while she described the co-educational activities, on and off the 'campus'.

The visitors met with a number of penetrating questions, ranging from the colour-bar and communism to freshmen 'initiations', and they also had questions of their own – calling upon Fowles to define exactly what was meant by a 'Sixth Form Education'. They said afterwards how much they had enjoyed their visit, and they left Sixth Formers wishing that there were not so many difficulties in the way of their crossing the Atlantic.

J. D. T.

CAROL CONCERT, 1956

The last evening of the Autumn Term, by a tradition which goes back to the earliest days of the School, is reserved for that gathering of parents, boys and friends which the Chairman of the

Governors, Mr. Hood-Phillips, so aptly calls 'The Carols'. It is partly religious and partly secular, and is, therefore, neither a 'Service' nor a 'Concert'. Nevertheless, even in the most 'earthy' parts of the programme, the heavenly message is always close at hand.

The huge crowd which came along this year to see and hear the first public appearance of the newly formed orchestra must have been very agreeably surprised both by the number of players and the quality of the music they produced. There was a very large section of strings led by Mr. Piper (the visiting violin teacher) and Mr. Townsend, with Mr. Timpson on the cello, a strong woodwind section led by Mr. Tucker (the visiting woodwind teacher) with Mr. Hindle on the clarinet, two powerful trumpets with Mr. Hall (the visiting brass teacher) playing the trombone, and a very adequate percussion section. For weeks and weeks Mr. Townsend had been constantly occupied with arrangements for visiting teachers, buying instruments, accounts paid, payments due, endless fixing and taking down of music stands, and, not least in importance, practising on his own violin. When the orchestra opened with the introduction to *Once in Royal David's City* he must have felt that his efforts had been well worthwhile. The School will always be grateful to him for his great enterprise. We are also lucky to have a very capable orchestral technician in Mr. Ayton, who was responsible for the instrumental arrangements and under whose direction the orchestra accompanied the Congregational singing and played its 'party piece', which was the highlight of the evening. This was Mr. Ayton's arrangement of *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*, a symphonic fantasia which used all the instrumental resources so effectively and so completely carried the audience away with its strong and constantly changing rhythms that an encore was demanded, and indeed the festivity might have developed into a 'Rock and Roll' session had not the Prefects appeared to sober the audience with their collection for the School orchestra fund.

Mr. Vyse also deserves congratulations for the effective progress made by his recorder and choral groups. The delightful items in the programme for which he was responsible were as follows:

Four Recorders	<i>Two Motets: Gregor Aichinger.</i>
Choir of Mixed Voices (S.A.T.B.)	<i>Lute Book Lullaby: William Ballett.</i> <i>Cradle Song: William Byrd.</i> <i>I wish you a Merry Christmas:</i> <i>Traditional.</i>
(with recorders and drum)	<i>Patapan: Traditional.</i>
Sixth Form Choir (T.T.B.B.)	Settings by <i>Arnold Bax</i> of <i>The Boar's Head</i> and <i>Make We Merry</i> (with piano accompaniment play-

ed by Mr. Townsend and flute obligato by Mr. Ayton).

- Quartet of Mixed Voices (S.A.T.B.) *Hail Blessed Virgin Mary: Italian Carol.*
- Quartet of Two Soprano Voices, Recorder and Cello *Ninna, Nanna: Italian Carol.*
- Junior Choir with Four Recorders *Jesu, Praise to Thee this Morn, a chorale: Samuel Scheidt.*

By seating the orchestra at the end of the Hall nearest the servery, the whole of the stage as well as the floor of the Hall was used to accommodate the large congregation. Evergreens, Christmas decorations, coloured candles and imitation snow on the windows, tastefully arranged by Miss Woodhouse, Mr. Riley and the Prefects, gave the newly painted Hall quite a 'Christmas card' effect.

During the course of the evening the customary lessons from Isaiah, St. Luke and St. John were read by the Headmaster, the Chairman of the Governors and the Second Master, and Mr. Loveday sang the solo carol *Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar* by Peter Cornelius, accompanied on the piano by Mr. Vyse.

R. L.

SWIMMING

Swimming qualifying was carried on throughout the School year, enabling boys to score many points for their houses. It was obvious, though, that many boys had left it too late to qualify, thereby scoring fewer points than they could have done. Boys were also able to qualify on a few Saturday mornings during the Summer Term at Wimbledon Baths. There was quite a good turn out on these mornings, but many more boys would have been welcome.

The School Swimming Sports were held on the last Monday of term as usual, and in the evening again. The qualifying points scored before the Sports were:-

Newsoms	356 points
Halliwells	270 points
Cobbs	248 points
Gibbs	231 points
Miltons	211 points

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

Event	Time
3L Breast Stroke - 1st Harvey (N), 2nd Crocker (M), 3rd Cooper (C)	87.0 secs.
3L Back Stroke - 1st Harvey (N), 2nd Higham, J. R. S. (H), 3rd Loible (N)	91.0 secs.

<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
2L Butterfly - 1st Harvey (N), 2nd Higham, J. R. S. (H), 3rd Lavous (M)	56·0 secs.
Plain Dive - 1st Crocker (M), 2nd Chambers (C), 3rd Loible (N)	
Springboard Dive - 1st Chambers (C), 2nd Harvey (N), 3rd Lavous (M)	
Plunge - 1st Betts (G), 2nd Lavous (M), 3rd Seaman (H)	*65 ft. 1 in.

Senior Events

<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
1L Free Style - 1st Chambers (C), 2nd Hall (N), 3rd Crocker (M)	19·0 secs.
1L Back Stroke - 1st Loible (N), 2nd Gamble (H), 3rd Beattie (C)	24·9 secs.
3L Free Style - 1st Crocker (M), 2nd Stevenson (N), 3rd Bray, A. J. (G)	78·0 secs.
3L Medley Relay - 1st Newsoms, 2nd Halliwells, 3rd Gibbs	70·3 secs.
4L Free Style Relay - 1st Newsoms, 2nd Miltons, 3rd Cobbs	86·0 secs.

Colt Events

<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
1L Free Style - 1st Stevens (N), 2nd Cooper (C), 3rd King (H)	21·8 secs.
1L Back Stroke - 1st Stevens (N), 2nd Bond (G), 3rd Williams (H)	*24·0 secs.
2L Breast Stroke - 1st Cottee (N), 2nd Cooper (C), 3rd King (H)	57·5 secs.
3L Free Style - 1st Macdonald (C), 2nd King (H), 3rd Frank-Keyes (G)	85·6 secs.
3L Medley Relay - 1st Newsoms, 2nd Cobbs, 3rd Halliwells	75·1 secs.
4L Free Style Relay - 1st Newsoms, 2nd Miltons, 3rd Cobbs	98·1 secs.

Junior Events

<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
1L Back Stroke - 1st Trapp (G), 2nd Goddard (M), 3rd Hampden (N)	27·6 secs.
1L Breast Stroke - 1st Crowe (H), 2nd Cottee (N), 3rd Tribute (G)	28·1 secs.
2L Free Style - 1st Carson (H), 2nd Tibble (N), 3rd Bond (G)	52·7 secs.
3L Medley Relay - 1st Halliwells, 2nd Gibbs, 3rd Newsoms	*79·0 secs.
4L Free Style Relay - 1st Newsoms, 2nd Cobbs, 3rd Gibbs	116·0 secs.

Minor Event

<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
1L Free Style - 1st Wood (G), 2nd White (C), 3rd Corbett (H)	25·6 secs.

* Denotes new record.

The points scored by the houses in the sports were:-

Newsoms	330 points
Halliwells	155 points
Cobbs	155 points
Gibbs	115 points
Miltons	115 points

And the final positions of the houses were:-

1st Newsoms	686 points
2nd Halliwells	425 points
3rd Cobbs	403 points
4th Gibbs	346 points
5th Miltons	326 points

At the end of last term we had to say goodbye to Loible, Northway and Cooper, who all swam very well for the School in inter-school galas. We wish them the best of luck in their future careers.

G. D. C.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Last term we said farewell to some of our formidable members - Stewart, our Captain, Hiscock and Beavitt. They have done us great service in the past and we wish them success in their careers. Also this term we welcome several newcomers into Senior running, and in their limited performances so far they have shown definite promise. Of the matches we have had I have to record little success, but in no way have we disgraced ourselves.

Our first fixture was against the R.A.F. Chessington on our own Oberon course. They arrived in the true Services fashion - in an old truck with four instead of eight runners. We supplied two teams, and through being grouped they managed to beat us by 20 pts. to 22. First home for the School was Stickley, in second place, with Reeve 3rd and Thresher 4th. Times were slow, but this was undoubtedly due to lack of training.

We encountered our noble friends Tiffins on their course in Richmond Park. Here we had better results, beating them by 33 pts. to 43. Stickley came in first in 16.04 secs., well supported by Stevens, A. J., 3rd, and Thresher, 4th.

The Seniors entertained Surbiton on our course. A fine run by Reeve, 2nd, well backed up by Stevens, A. J., 5th, and Mellor, 6th, might have won us the match if we had had our strongest team out. As it was, they beat us by 38 pts. to 42. The Juniors also distinguished themselves on the same day by beating both Surbiton and Wallington. Encouraging times were recorded by Hodgson, Gibbons and Willis, who came 2nd, 3rd and 5th respectively. Raynes Park won by 39 pts. to Wallington's 49 and Surbiton's 93.

Sutton and Cheam Harriers held their 'Herald Shield' match in Nonsuch Park on 27th October. Our team of Reeve, Thresher and Stickley came third in 51 mins. 53 secs., compared with Wallington's time of 51 mins. 03 secs.

On 3rd November we entered a much-below-strength team for the Surrey A.C.'s Cup in Richmond Park. Against severe opposition we came twelfth out of fifteen teams. Our position would have been better if Stickley had not pulled a muscle while well in the lead.

The Richard Haskell Cup was run at Guildford on 10th November. The team, consisting of Fowles, Mellor, Reeve and Stevens, A. J., once again found the opposition too much and had to be content with twentieth place out of thirty. The opposition this time was composed of most public schools in the Home Counties!

In the annual Quadruple Match in Richmond Park we had our best success. Stickley came 2nd in 15.55 secs., with Stevens, A. J., 5th and Bayly 9th. Final placings were Raynes Park 56 pts., Tiffins 65 pts., Latymer Upper 79 pts., and Kingston Grammar 121 pts.

The younger members show promise for the future, but, among the Seniors especially, the School's attitude towards cross-country is sadly apathetic. We say goodbye this term to Stickley and Tabor who have served us well in their time. Thresher left us halfway through the term, but not before he had earned his colours.

The two remaining fixtures will be reported in the next *Spur*, and I hope the results will be better.

A. J. M.

RUGBY

1st XV.

At the beginning of the season the School, and in particular the Rugby players of the School, were very sorry to say goodbye to Mr. Bellis, who after four very happy years with us had left to take up a post at Bedales School. We all wish him the best of luck, and success in his new post.

In Mr. Bellis's place we were pleased to welcome Mr. Hindle, who like Mr. Bellis came from Loughborough Training College. Mr. Hindle has put much hard work into a very difficult job, and any small measure of success has been due almost entirely to his effort. It might also be said that our failings have been due to boys who are not willing to give of their best.

There was a fortnight's pre-season training held at the Oberon in the summer holidays, but this was very poorly attended, and thus at the beginning of term, instead of being able to start playing hard games, we had to set about getting everybody fit. It therefore came as a surprise to those who knew the circumstances when we defeated Purley G.S. 9-6 in our first match. The match was of very poor standard, and but for a very greedy fly-half, Purley would have walked over us.

We had returned to School three weeks when we took the field against Wimbledon College, and still the team was unfit. We held them very well in the first half, but in the second the Wimbledon backs, who were given the ball from every set scrummage, loose scrummage and line-out by a very strong pack, cut through our very weak defence to win by 25-3.

Our next rivals, Beckenham G.S., had a very young three-quarter line, and had our backs been given a share of the ball from the scrummages, we would have won this match by a handsome margin. Each time the ball was in our back division we looked liked scoring, and we did in fact cross their line twice. However, the Beckenham scrum made up for any weaknesses in their backs, and although they tried as hard as they could individually, the School scrum never played as a unit. Eventually, through a series of bad mistakes, the Beckenham team scored a goal, a try, and a penalty goal, and won 11-6.

The match against St. George's College, Weybridge, is always a very good one, and thus it was with disappointment that we could only field fourteen men. However, the St. George's Captain very sportingly allowed us to play Nicholls, an old boy who left at the end of his fifth year. This necessitated a change in positions, Kearsy playing in the second row instead of his usual position of wing-forward, while Creasey came into the vacant scrum position, Nicholls playing fly-half. The game was fast and very open, the ball being thrown about in very good style by both teams, but eventually we gained the upper hand. Emmerson on the wing scored

two beautiful tries, and Stevens (D. C.) on the other wing should have scored at least one try. Nicholls crashed his way over the line for a beautiful solo try. Yet St. George's were not beaten; they came back, much the fitter side, to score two tries in the last ten minutes. One of these tries they converted. The final score of 17-8 in our favour was a fair result. In this match the scrum played as a unit, and for once gave scrum-half Clark a chance to give the ball safely to his backs.

However, in our next match Surbiton G.S. completely outplayed us. Injuries forced us to bring in players from the 2nd XV, and also to make positional changes. The team was far below standard. Surbiton retained nearly all their previous season's successful team, and they showed spectators and the Raynes Park team how good they were. Their backs were the best that Raynes Park had played in three years, and the longer the game was played the more points Surbiton scored, and the more discouraged was the Raynes Park team.

We travelled to Reigate for our next match. The first half was played in good conditions, and we were unlucky to be losing 16-0 at half-time. Bad tackling and covering were responsible. The second half started in rain; we seemed to gain confidence, and should have scored three or four tries, and although we did not perhaps deserve to win because of the first half mistakes, we might easily have run the Reigate team to a much closer match. The score remained at 16-0 for the home team. Again in this match, had the backs been given a regular supply of the ball, we would have won.

City Freeman's (Ashtead) have not produced strong Rugby teams for a good many years. With all due respect, they were not a very strong team this year, and we, who lacked five or six first-choice players, absent because of injury and the county trial, had an easy game, winning by 22-0.

Higham played very well in the county trial, and was selected to play for Surrey against Kent. Unfortunately, this match coincided with the 1st XV and 2nd XV matches against Mitcham C.G.S. However, we played very well, and were much the better team, gaining a 3-0 lead (a penalty by Wearn) at half-time. In the second half we lowered our standard of play, and instead of dominating the play as we should have been quite able to do, we allowed Mitcham to set the pace. In consequence we lost by 3-6.

The following Saturday we had a new fixture against Bisley School. Bisley only began to play Rugby three or four seasons ago, but their standard has already reached quite a high level. Mainly due to the consistency of both teams, no tries were scored, and we were lucky winners (6-3), both penalty goals for us being kicked by Wearn.

Bec School, Tooting, have contributed four players to this year's Surrey team, and their Captain, Ware, played for the English Schoolboy XV last year. In spite of this we were determined not to be overrun as we had been by Surbiton G.S., but our determination did not last, because in the first five minutes we were three points down. However, we fought back, and should have levelled the scores when we intercepted the ball as it went along their backs. Had Wearn held on to it to draw the solitary covering forward, Emmerson would have crossed for a certain try. As it was, he was caught some five yards from the line. From that point on Bec gained the upper hand, and they totalled 19 points before we had another chance of scoring. Here Creasey passed inside to Higham, who, had he dived, would have crossed the line, but instead, a heavy Bec forward held him up, and the chance was wasted. Bec scored twice more, but we continued to press, and eventually Stevens (R. K.) picked up a loose pass, and then ran twenty yards before giving Hayhoe a reverse pass. Hayhoe accepted his chance, and bulldozed his way over in the corner to score an unconverted try.

The match against Wallington G.S. was unfortunately cancelled owing to the hard, frosty conditions.

Tiffin School, Kingston, is never a school to be ignored. Last year their three-quarters had run through our defence easily, and this year they lined up with the same backs, plus a stronger scrum. We were never really in the game after the first five minutes; time after time their backs and scrum linked up to score lovely tries. Their quick passing was a delight to watch, but quite a different story if you had to stop them. In fact, our defence was good up to a point, but each time they worked something slightly unorthodox they had us beaten. Our tackling was sound, and our few attacks started very strongly initially, but the momentum to finish the movements was always missing. In the dying moments of the game Gamble made a break from an orthodox passing movement, kicked ahead, gathered and scored a try which Wearn converted. This was our only reply to the Tiffin score of 37.

Thus the record of the 1st XV this year has not been so good as it has been in the two previous years, but it must be remembered that during the previous two seasons we were in the same position as Tiffin, Surbiton G.S. and Bec, who have nearly the same team this season as last season. Our team are young, and if they all put more effort into their play, those that remain next year will form the nucleus of a strong team.

This year's scrum has not played very well; often the excellent hooking of Higham has been missed by either the scrum being pushed off the ball, or by a clumsy erratic passage to the half-backs. Higham, whereas he is a good hooker, has not led the scrum with as much vigour and encouragement as might be expected from him. He has performed his job of secretary very efficiently, and is above all a good "ambassador" in his dealings with other schools. The prop-forwards have been chosen from Wilson, Hayhoe, Thorpe, Beattie and Morley. Wilson has played extremely well and his line-out work is very good; for a big person he is a fast mover. Hayhoe, who at the beginning of the season was first choice as a prop-forward, has not played as well latterly as he might have done. Towards the end of the season it has been found necessary to put Wilson in the second row, and, as Hayhoe is injured, to bring Morley and Beattie in from the 2nd XV. In most respects this has made a better front row, and they have had more success. Ayres made his debut in 1st XV Rugby against Purley, but a nasty knee injury forced him to stop playing, and it was not until the Tiffin match that he was able to resume. He is a very keen player, and although this season his efforts have been rewarded most cruelly, great things are expected of him next year. Seaman replaced Ayres, and although he played very hard, his tendency to get off-side and his wild passing spoilt his chances of retaining his place. Fowles played 'lock' for the first half of the season, but upon injuring his hand, he failed to regain his place, losing it to Paxman. Paxman is the team's utility man. He began by playing second row, but injuries caused him to play at scrum-half, and then finally, when Ayres and Wilson formed the second row, he beat Fowles for the 'lock' position. Paxman has at all times been an asset to the team, and all he has done has been done thoroughly. The two wing-forwards, Kearsley and Stevens (R. K.) played for the 1st XV last year, but their play this year has been a little disappointing. They have both tended to shadow tackle, and in consequence the man with the ball has not been put down as firmly as he should.

At scrum-half, Clark has had an unhappy time due to bad, slow heeling from scrummages. Much of his apparent slowness has been due to the ball sticking in the scrum. At outside-half Creasey has also suffered from the erratic heeling, but he has provided a reasonable link between scrum and three-quarters. His greatest fault has been his tendency to kick when he might have given the ball with better results to his centres.

Gamble has proved to be a fast accelerating centre, and his play has been very satisfactory; his partner, Wearn, although rather sluggish compared with Gamble, has a safe pair of hands. His kicking at goal has improved, and next year, with this season's experience behind him, he will be a great asset to the team. The two first-choice wing-threequarters, Emmerson and Stevens (D. C.), have in the main played well. Emmerson has had the greater fire, and Stevens has been the safer in defence. Emmerson has accepted his chances, and scored some good tries, but Stevens has been inclined not to go hard for the corner flag. The duties of full-back have been shared by Loveday and Stevens (A. J.). There has been much work for the full-back, and both have done very well in their first season of 1st XV Rugby. Loveday's kicking to touch has been almost mathematically accurate, and Steven's fielding of the ball has been equally good.

There are two matches left to play, one against St. Benedict's, Ealing, and the other against the Old Boys. It is hoped that results will be a little better than those listed below.

Opponents

Purley G.S.	Won	9-6
Wimbledon College	Lost	3-25
Beckenham G. S.	Lost	6-11
St. George's College	Won	17-8
Surbiton G.S.	Lost	0-47
Reigate C.G.S.	Lost	0-16
Mitcham C.G.S.	Lost	3-6
City Freeman's School	Won	22-0
Bisley School	Won	6-3
Bec School	Lost	3-27
Tiffin School	Lost	5-37

D. J. C.

2nd XV.

The 2nd XV has suffered greatly from the injuries both of its own players, and also of 1st XV players. The team has been very well captained by Spencer, but results have been very poor due to the unsettled nature of the team. Fowles, Seaman, Loveday, Stevens (A.J.), Stevenson, Thorp, Thomas, Coney and Hayhoe have at some time or other been called upon to play for the 1st XV. This of course has necessitated a reshuffle of the 2nd XV, and the team has never really settled down. On many occasions, the team has come near to winning, and it was only fitting that when for the first time we fielded a full first choice 2nd XV, it won easily.

Opponents

Purley G.S.	Lost	0-19
Wimbledon College	Lost	6-17
Beckenham G.S.	Lost	3-6
Sutton G.S. 1st XV	Lost	3-14
Surbiton G.S.	Lost	0-15
Reigate C.G.S.	Lost	0-11
Mitcham C.G.S.	Lost	6-9
Bec School	Won	19-0
Tiffin School	Lost	0-22

The team was selected from:- Spencer (Captain), Fowles, Seaman, Loveday, Stevens (A.J.), Stevenson, Thorpe, Thomas, Coney, Hayhoe, Wiston, Hill, Crocker, Partridge, Smale, Currie, Higgs, Doran, Frank-Keyes, Ayres, Boiling, Weston, Townsend, Nicholls, Beattie and Morley.

D.J.C.

COLTS

On paper, at least, it was expected that the Middle School would produce a poor Colt XV for 1956. In practice, however, it proved as good a team in playing ability as any we have had recently, although not strong enough physically to match the larger schools we play. Some of the team work and determination against strong opposition was commendably good. The pack suffered by too frequent changes and were not always together - Millington (when fit) and Clay did best in the scrums, tight and loose, while Foulsham was often brilliant in his ability to pick up a loose ball and make a scoring run. At times the combined movements of the backs were in the best tradition of school Rugby, but they were often coping with faster, stronger opponents. Davie was outstanding and fully deserved his selection for Surrey Colts: it was noticeable, too, that the team played better when he was there to captain it. Bond, a resilient scrum-half, and Cottee, at full-back, were the best of the remainder, and were given good support by Kingham and Venison.

P. O'D.

JUNIORS

The Under 14's have not experienced a full measure of success during the term's few matches, yet they have at times demonstrated that they are capable of playing good Rugby and of testing any opposition.

The main fault has been the absence of real team work, and the lack of experience to put fundamentals into practice on the field. On the whole, each individual has attempted to give of his best, but the Juniors must learn that it is not individual ability which brings success in Rugby, but rather the team effort as a whole, each member realizing that he is merely part of that team. However, results are not the only criterion by which a team is judged, and therefore satisfaction may be derived from the fact that on all occasions the team has played with spirit and that they have always given the opposition an enjoyable game as well as enjoying it themselves.

Burgess has captained the side well at full-back, and shows real promise as a player. In the backs Slater has stood out, but he must learn to use all his three-quarters. Nicholls at scrum-half has been excellent both in defence and attack and is another very promising player. Of the forwards, Higham has hooked well and striven hard, as have Wheeler and Clark, but generally the scrum have lacked the fight needed to gain possession, both from loose and set-piece.

Opponents

Beckenham G.S.	Lost	14-28
Sutton G.S.	Won	17- 5
Surbiton G.S.	Lost	5-17
Reigate C.G.S.	Won	26- 0
Bisley School	Lost	5- 8
Bec School	Lost	0-30
Wallington C.G.S.	Cancelled	
Tiffin School	Lost	0-27
St. Benedict's	Drawn	6- 6

Played 8; Won 2; Drawn 1; Lost 5; Points: F. 73, A. 121.

R. H.

DA VINCI SOCIETY

This term marks the beginning of the fifth year of the Society's existence. The lively interest shown towards it by present members of the School and visiting Old Boys is adequate testimony of its consistent virility. We continue to enjoy the many excellent talks by members of Staff on diverse subjects.

Mr. Rudgley, who has been a staunch supporter and who, incidentally, on 6th October, 1952, gave the first talk by one of my colleagues, opened this term's series, choosing as his topic "Trompe L'Oeil", that fascinating artistic pastime of pictorial deception. With intriguing and well chosen reproductions, he ably illustrated his subject. One had hoped that, bearing in mind Mr. Rudgley's skill in the Fine Arts, as a finale he might have placed on the screen a trompe l'oeil painting of a reproduction of a trompe l'oeil painting projected by the epidiastroscope on to the screen.

In conjunction with the School's "coming of age", an art competition under the auspices of the Society was arranged, the subject set being any work representing some aspect of the life of the School to be carried out in the medium of the entrant's choice. On 15th October, the Society's meeting was devoted to a criticism and awarding of prizes for this competition. The panel of judges consisted of Mr. Townsend, Mr. Archer and Mr. Rudgley. Two prizes were offered, one for Juniors and one for Seniors. From the fair number of works exhibited, L. W. Bray's picture was chosen for the prize in the Senior Section and J. A. R. Higham's for that in the Junior Section. Bray worked in oils, choosing for his subject a corner of the Art Room; Higham produced a well handled water colour of the Heath Garden. The meeting was well attended and a further competition was arranged. This time the subject to be tackled is an illustration for Lord Tennyson's poem "Morte D'Arthur". This competition will be judged next term and it is to be hoped that a large number of entries will be submitted.

Under the title "Designing in Space", Mr. Archer delivered the second lecture of the term. With examples of his own designs and many well chosen illustrations from architecture and sculpture, Mr. Archer explained lucidly his theme: the spatial relationships in good design. An interesting affinity was emphasised between the architect and the sculptor in their understanding and expression of significant form.

C. F. W. Higham was the first of the three members of the School who contributed to our programme this term. He chose for his subject "Ancient Egyptian Art". Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond my control, I was unable to attend this lecture, but I have been given to understand that it proved to be well prepared and presented. We are always delighted to have lectures from members of the School and hope that others will take courage from Higham's example and not be too shy in coming forward.

After Half-Term, M. R. Burke gave a very well considered lecture under the title "The Russian Five" in which he discussed the works of the important Russian composers, Rimsky-Korsakov, Balakirev, Mussorgsky, Borodin and Cui. He ably illustrated this talk with recorded excerpts from these composers' works.

Following this, perhaps one of the most original talks we have had was delivered by the Captain of the School, A. J. Fowles, who chose for his talk, given under the title "Bange, Bange, You're Dead", the subject of cowboy films. He pointed out the affinity between the ancient classical epics and the modern symbolism of the heroic struggle between Man and Nature and Man and Man to be found in the film-maker's cowboy sagas. Fowles entered the heroic role himself when, as a climax to his talk, he most ably read the final passage from the novel "Shane" to a record of

music from the film of the book. He achieved perfect timing: he and the record ended neck-and-neck! There was almost a record attendance at this meeting, and one felt that the lecturer fully exploited the appeal of his intriguing subject.

The Second Dinner Hour Concert, arranged by the Society, brought our term's programme to a most delightful and satisfactory conclusion. Once more Mr. Vyse assembled his select group of recorder players to present us with a most enjoyable concert. Again Mr. Vyse managed to present his programme with a pleasant informality and ease which belied the amount of preparation that must have gone into the seemingly effortless performance. The programme consisted of the following works.

<i>Trio Sonata</i>	Loeillet
<i>Two Motets</i>	Gregor Aichinger
<i>O Mistress Mine</i>	arr. Thomas Morley
<i>Lord Zouche's March</i>	Anon
<i>Pipes are Sweet</i>	Henry Purcell
<i>Movements from Flute Sonata</i>	Handel

Once more we are indebted to Mr. Vyse and his collaborators for all the work and time they have spent for the benefit of the Society. Appreciation of their efforts was clearly indicated by the most attentive audience they attracted.

With the promise of a combined programme by Mr. Vyse and Mr. Townsend under the title "Anon" next term, we look forward with every confidence to the continued vigorous life of the Society.

A. C. R.

GRAMOPHONE CLUB

Owing to the general chaos caused by the painters, the Gramophone Club got away to rather a late start this term. It was decided to present a short series on the sonata, and the first meeting began with an introductory talk on sonata form, the essence of which is repeated here.

The word sonata means "sounded" - that is, music which is played as opposed to sung. Of all musical forms, sonata form is the most important. The first movement of a symphony, concerto or sonata is usually built upon this form. However, it should be noted that the first movement of a sonata need not be in sonata form.

Sonata form itself is divided into three main sections - exposition, development, recapitulation. During the exposition the chief themes or ideas are announced. There are usually two themes, differing in key, style and length. The two themes are linked by a bridge passage, which in a sonatina (little sonata) may be reduced to a single chord. Originally the sonata was written in three movements in quick, slow and rondo tempi. Beethoven later introduced another movement, a minuet or scherzo, usually before the rondo.

The first example played was Beethoven's *Appassionata Sonata*, followed by No. 28, both performed admirably by Solomon. The following week P. R. Johnson gave us a personal choice programme including the last movement from Beethoven's 5th Symphony and Mozart's 4th Horn Concerto. There was a rise in attendance (from 12 to 14) the week after when two well-known works of Mozart, the Sonata in A (K.331) and the serenade *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* were played. A recital of piano works by Mendelssohn and Liszt, performed by Julius Katchen, provided an interlude in the series. The Mendelssohn was much enjoyed but it was generally agreed that the two works by Liszt - *Mephisto Waltz No. 1* and *Funérailles* - were mere virtuoso pieces, not very easy to listen to. It is interesting to note that *Funérailles* is, in fact, a nationalist piece inspired by Hungary's struggle for freedom in 1849.

Another personal choice programme was introduced by B. Denton. The works he played included the *Romeo and Juliet* fantasy overture and Brahms' *Hungarian Dances*. There were some new faces at the meeting when the time for the inevitable performance of Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata* came round. This, perhaps, just goes to show that many people will only come to the Gramophone Club if they think they know the work that is being played. If you do not know the work being played, why not come along and listen to it? Then you can find out whether you like it or not: the title of the work, or the name of the composer, is nothing to go by.

There will soon be an excellent opportunity for those who dread the thought of listening to modern music to find out something about it. Mr. Ayton will be giving a series of illustrated talks on the modern sonata. Let this be a well attended series: it should prove to be most instructive.

B. G. B.

M. R. B.

SIXTH FORM JAZZ LISTENING GROUP

During Friday dinner breaks this term there has regularly emerged from the Art Room the sound of tramping feet with perhaps the strains of music in the background. Members of the A.T.C. need not fear, however; it is not a rival drill squad, but only our weekly meeting with the members tapping their feet to the rhythm of the music. Already since its inception this term, legends circulate throughout the Junior School of people who have ventured through the portals of the Art Room never to be seen again; indeed many heads have looked round the door only to be hastily withdrawn at the sight of such an exclusive clientele. Upon the bell ringing at 1.10, if it is heard amid the clamour, many of the uninitiated seem surprised when our members emerge from their lair in an apparently endless stream.

Our average attendance throughout the term has been 35, which is encouraging when one considers this is the first term of the group's existence, and this has provoked at least one member of the staff to comment that the Sixth Form was more degraded than he had previously imagined. At one point during the term it seemed, such was the lack of seats, that we might have to seek more commodious premises, but fortunately we are still compact enough to enjoy Mr. Riley's hospitality, which he has so kindly extended to our group.

The programmes have ranged from Chris Barber to Kid Ory, via Sidney Bechet, Louis Armstrong and a host of others; but to date Ken Colyer has attracted the most attention, even luring in at their peril those Fifth Formers who are devotees of his. A personal choice programme given by Hewitt was very appreciatively received, and it is hoped to include more of these programmes as time progresses. Here I must tender my sincere thanks to those people who have provided records, as without them we could not hope to continue. If the predominance of British jazz is too clearly marked, much to the disgust of the true traditionalist, we can only plead that in respect of archaic American discs we are poverty stricken, and therefore unable to do full justice to this section.

To end on a somewhat discordant note, we have often been told that we play no modern (or should it be progressive?) jazz. Should many be of the same opinion, may I add that the club can be reformed - but only from the inside!

B. D.

ORCHESTRA

As is reported elsewhere in this issue, the orchestra has made its first public appearance and been kindly received. This is, of course, only a first step, though a pleasing one: a great deal of hard work lies ahead if we are to advance from playing hymns and carols to playing works that we shall be able to perform at a full-scale concert. That, however, is what we aim to do under Mr. Ayton's guidance, and if all members of the orchestra are regular in attending classes and rehearsals and in doing their private practice, we should soon be able to achieve our aim.

One thing that should be made clear is how much we owe to Mr. Hall, Mr. Piper and Mr. Tucker for all their help. We have come a very long way in one year, and most of the credit for this is due to them. A measure of their enthusiasm has been their generosity with their time, not least in attending rehearsals and performing with us on the night itself. We are very grateful to them.

P. A. T.

RECORDER CLUB

With the beginning of the School year, the Recorder Club found itself with four new members, thus bringing the total membership to twelve. The new members are progressing favourably, and we hope to have them joining in with the main activities of the Club soon.

The term has been a very busy one for all of us. One of our members is to play his guitar as an accompaniment to the songs in the School Play in January, and a select number of us hope to play several pieces of music during the intervals.

Before the end of the term we will give a concert to the Da Vinci Society, which will consist of several trio sonatas.

Last, but not least, is the Carol Concert. This is the main social event of the Autumn Term, and for the first time the Recorder Club is to take part in it. We have several pieces of music to play for recorders only, and several to play in conjunction with the choir.

We have yet to see how these things will turn out, but we will do our best to reach the high standard for which we are aiming.

D. P. B.

SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

One inanimate sheet of foolscap paper has been thrust before me. I have received orders from the highest authority to write on one side of this ruled immensity staring me vacantly in the face about the Sixth Form Society Meeting.

As most of you know, it was advertised as a "Personal Choice", and was organised, attended and supervised by the Sixth Form and no one else. I do seem to recollect the presence of one member of the staff, but I am sure he was quite inoffensive, since, had he not been, he would never have been invited. To be general on such a subject would bore the reader as much as the scribe, and yet so much took place, it would be hopeless to attempt to recall every detail. You may find some fundamental facts changed, but this is simply to protect the library, who was innocent. Perhaps you remember the "trappings and the suits" artistically arranged around the four walls. I am only mentioning these to placate one whom I will refer to as B.F. Since he knew that I was writing a report for the *Spur*, hoping he would see his name in print before he left School, he has begged me to tell you how hard he works in the property cupboard.

Oh, before I forget, he supplied the candles as well. I myself supplied the only tablecloth, which of course I reserved for my table.

Beneath the warm glow of the lights, the meeting commenced. A slovenly youth sitting with two similar profligates behind a selected table (the one with the cloth) seemed to be in charge. He was dressed in a tartan shirt, grey jeans, and brown suede shoes, thus displaying singularly bad taste. Between the draws on his cigarette, he announced that the proceedings were now beginning with a selection of popular music. The atmosphere was delightfully pleasant until we were blessed with the inevitable presence of the one with exaggerated proboscis. As yet though, the behaviour of the select body composing the audience was remarkably good. Music was the main item of the evening, although some did leave their seats to play guitars, and the records chosen displayed remarkable taste - they ranged from Bill Haley to Elvis Presley. The interval arrived, with the commercials, with coffee and tuck-shop buns, and a Duke Ellington L.P.

The second half of the proceedings became a little less disciplined. Less responsible members of the audience played at camp fires around their table, much to the evident disgust of the rest. By this time the atmosphere in the library was so thick it became an effort to move, but in the shifting fog, members of the First Year sung a delightful air to the accompaniment of a vagrant zither player. Records followed one another in quick succession, as did the intelligent remarks of the one with the protruding facial features. In a brave though futile attempt to edify the ignorant masses, a highly refined gentleman of the First Year read a piece of contemporary literature.

Having recovered from my fit of hysterics, I ceased to roll helplessly on the floor, and stood to introduce the next item. Then, to the utter delight of all, our mutual friend, who so nobly stokes the boilers in summer, and who kindly goes out of his way to please all and sundry, rang the School bell. In spite of the clamorous protests, the representative of the staff delivered a brief speech (in unprintable language) which brought the proceedings to a close.

Thus ended a fairly successful evening. But I am still wondering why the scientists wanted to play postman's knock.

G.B.

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

As has already been announced, the meeting at the end of the Summer Term consisted of a visit to the town of St. Albans. This, an entirely new venture, was arranged by the President, Mr. A. J. Sweetland, and his efforts were amply rewarded, for the meeting was an outstanding success.

The tour of the town was begun by an inspection of the outer walls and gates, where a great deal of excavation still goes on, and then the party went on through the Forum, of which very little now remains, to the Amphitheatre. The particular details of this and other parts of the town and of its history are to be found elsewhere in this magazine, but, at risk of repeating what is said there, I would say that the Amphitheatre was a semi-circular structure, with sloping sides and a stage in the centre, so that, unlike a modern theatre, the actor was surrounded on three sides by his audience. From the top of the surrounds one could get a good idea of what it was like to be in a Roman theatre. We then went on to the Museum, where we were given a short lecture on the history of the town, after which we spent some time examining the articles displayed there. The Hypocaust, which we visited next, gives an excellent illustration of how the Romans dealt with the rigours of the English climate by means of an elaborate built-in central heating system. Finally, a visit to the Abbey showed it to be a magnificent building, constructed in a variety of styles, much of the stone being brought from the Roman town.

The meeting was, as I have said, eminently successful, and we may hope that another meeting on similar lines can be arranged in the not too distant future.

Owing to the pressure of end-of-term activities, there will not be a meeting at the end of the Autumn Term; however, as the President has pointed out, we have already been well served by the Euripides production.

D. S. D.S.

FILM CLUB

We had hoped to make a serious start on our second production this term. But two unfortunate accidents have held us up. One of the actors in the Club's first film, in a spectacular death scene, unfortunately failed to take the elementary precaution of removing the light meter from his pocket and fell heavily on it. It is now being repaired. Furious at the (temporary) demise of the light meter - or so one imagines - a cameraman then screwed the fixing handle of the pan-and-tilt head so firmly home that he tore it in two. This also is being repaired.

Despite these mishaps we can report that the Club's first film is now finished and will be shown in the Spring Term. A number of experimental shots designed for our second film were made in the Autumn Term before light conditions became too dismal. We hope to start work seriously on this film in the Spring Term and to complete it in the summer.

H. D. J.

GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

The Geography Society Film Evening on 20th November, despite slightly less than usual support, was still nevertheless a very enjoyable evening. Indeed the smaller size of the audience may have increased the ease of enjoyment; it certainly increased the refreshments for each person. Four films were shown.

First we saw "Silver Bars", a Unilever Magazine telling the story of the buying and selling of fish, from the harbours to Billingsgate. The film was intelligently produced, the appeal was adult and there was no commercialism. Then we saw "Power on the Land", which dealt with the mechanisation of agriculture in this country. The film failed to be either technical or artistic, but merely seemed to be a page and a half from the Massey-Harris catalogue. The third film seemed to be accepted as the best of the four. This was "Forest Heritage", produced by the Esso film unit. In the way that films of its kind have, it rambled through the New Forest, leaving a patchwork impression of a very distinctive part of England. Opinions may vary as to whether this is good or not, but the film seemed well received. "Plantation People", the last film, was perhaps handicapped again by a 'catalogue' approach. It told of the people of Trinidad and their work on the plantations; it held interest because of its colourful subject, not its direction.

Our thanks are due to Mr. O'Driscoll for getting us the films, providing the refreshments, and untiringly attending the projector during its erratic course throughout the evening.

J. W. J.

CHRISTIAN UNION

This term we have mainly been holding Bible Studies. Although attendance has been very small, these studies have been most profitable, our basic theme being St. Paul's journeys. Speakers have included Mr. Walter B. Elliot, from the Mission to Lepers, who gave us a most interest-

ing talk on the work of the Mission, and Mr. A. E. Collins of the London City Mission, who is a missionary to omnibus men. We have yet to come, the Rev. D. Thomas, B.D., of Malden Baptist Church, and Tony Gill, of the Capernwray Missionary Fellowship, which specialises in work amongst teenagers in all of Europe which is not behind the Iron Curtain.

The Surrey Schools' Christian Rally this term was held at Rutlish School, and the guest speaker was Mr. O. W. Holmes, Ph.D. Finally, by the time you read this, two representatives of the C.U. will have been to the Inter-Schools Christian Fellowship Conference, which was held this year at Pipewood School, near Rugeley in North Staffs. These conferences are a great source of blessing to all who attend them.

P. R. J.

DEBATING SOCIETY

This has been a very lively term for the Society. Wisely, I think, our secretary suggested we should have the Michael Welby Cup debates this term, a longer and healthier one than next. We were also trying out extempore as opposed to prepared debating: the teams were told the motion only when already at the table, and after an interval of three minutes the proposer had to rise and make his speech.

The Seniors had a trial debate (new style) on the question of using force in the Suez dispute. Somewhat to my surprise there was never any question of a speaker running out of material though he had had no chance of preparing for the subject. Several spoke for the full ten minutes allowed.

The subjects proposed for debate in the Cup Competition, the houses concerned, the voting and the judges verdicts are set out in tabular form below. I will confine myself to a few general remarks on the series as a whole.

In the notes supplied to the judges it was emphasised that speakers should not be penalised merely on the score of brevity, but should be if they gave the impression of going on simply to fill up the allotted time. In spite of this warning, several speakers in the first debate seemed to be obsessed with the idea of continuing somehow or other for ten minutes. After a second warning this fault was largely eliminated from subsequent debates. Speakers still, however, tended merely to repeat in slightly varied form what they had heard from their predecessors, and hardly any attempted anything approaching lightness of touch. Again, several points which those who had chosen the motions had expected would be eagerly seized upon were not mentioned at all. Yet, as a whole, the effort was creditable considering the shortness of time allowed for preparation and the fact that any or all of a team might find themselves obliged to speak on the side opposite to that which they would have chosen had they been free to do so. Some, however, openly welcomed the challenge of having to collect and express their thoughts at such short notice and the added difficulty which sometimes arose from having to oppose one's own point of view. I am happy therefore at the results of our experiment; but it does not follow we should altogether abandon the prepared debate, which can inevitably cover more ground and be better organized. I hope, however, we shall never go back to the days of badly read written speeches; speeches moreover often not even written by the person who was to read them.

The Junior debates are also worthy of mention. The attendance is not large, but the members are all keen and frequently everyone of the dozen or so present speaks in the course of the afternoon. This enthusiasm among its young members bodes well for the future of the Society.

THE MICHAEL WELBY CUP DEBATES

Houses	The Motions	Voting	Judges Decisions
Gibbs v. Halliwells	That this house would welcome the abolition of the aeroplane.	14-13	Halliwells
Newsoms v. Cobbs	That in the opinion of this house examinations do not prove anything, at least not anything of importance.	10- 9	Newsoms
Halliwells v. Miltons	That in the opinion of this house Raynes Park Grammar School is not as good as it was.	7-10	Halliwells
Newsoms v. Halliwells	That this house regrets the extent to which people watch and listen rather than participate actively in sports, pastimes and entertainment of every kind.	3-15	Halliwells

Halliwells are thus the winners of the Cup for the year 1956-57.

H. A. P.

SPUR MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

We are happy to report that since our invitation appeared in the Summer Term issue of the *Spur* for new members to come along and join us, there has been a fairly constant flow of new boys. We take this opportunity of welcoming you, and feel sure you will soon be able to join the older members of the Club in making your own contribution to the general maintenance and constant improvements to the layout of the track. Any suggestions are always welcome, and if they are to the general benefit of the Club, they will be given full support.

Since our last report, much work has been put in by one of our old members in reconstructing and making the new goods sidings. These new buildings add a new look to the Southern section of the layout, and we hope within a short space of time to be able to make another diversion of the goods traffic.

We regret having to report the Club suffered a great loss during the Summer recess by having its three electric locomotives and some rolling stock stolen from the School, and without your Headmaster having come to our immediate financial assistance by allowing us to dip into the G.S.F., we are very much afraid the Club would have had to be temporarily closed. However, with this assistance and the good fortune of having one of the old original members of the Club turn up with an offer to sell his engines and rolling stock (which we purchased), the Club survived, and, as we think, growing from strength to strength.

We would like to take this opportunity of appealing to all boys who use the cloakroom where the model railway is stored to treat it with care. Club members have only from 7.15 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday evenings in which to enjoy their hobby, but, through the thoughtlessness of a few boys (who are obviously not members), much time has to be spent on repairs before the trains can run. This is most disappointing in view of the many hours of patient work and skill which have gone into its production, and we sincerely hope that those whose interests lie elsewhere will be sufficiently generous-hearted not to spoil the pleasure of their school-mates.

R. L. F.
S. G. C.

CACTUS SOCIETY

This term we welcomed two or three new members. We wish them every success with their plants.

A feature of this term's activities has been the close study of the "mealy bug" - a repulsive pest which infests cacti plants. This study revealed the interesting fact that a mealy bug is coloured a delicate shade of pink and is not white or grey as it appears to the naked eye. Horror films have nothing to compare with looking through a microscope at insects or other pests.

We have also started to make a series of comprehensive notes on the classification of cacti, their cultivation, flowering, etc., which we hope will be a help to beginners and also to those who know more.

The study of the structure of plants has been continued under the auspices of J. D. M. French!

A diary of the work done on Monday evenings is now diligently kept by Forsdyke, and will be, even if the spelling is original, useful on such occasions as Open Night to show people that the Cactus Society, contrary to popular belief, is very active.

May I as usual in the Christmas Term notes remind people who possess one or two of these plants that they should not be watered in the winter? This is a period of complete rest for them.

As always we would welcome anyone who would like to come along on Monday evenings at 4.15 p.m. to the Biology Laboratory.

C. J. H.

CHESS CLUB

At last we have seen a welcome change in the fortunes of the School team, for until now not a single victory could be recorded for the year 1956. However, our inexperienced team which was hastily recruited at the beginning of the year has now settled down and taken stock of the difficult opposition to be met with in inter-school matches. As a result we have resoundingly beaten both Pelham ($6\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$) and Tiffin Girls (9-2). In the latter match the Juniors are to be heartily congratulated on winning on all their boards.

Below is an analysis of the Senior team for this term's fixtures.

	Epsom	Rutlish	Pelham	Tiffin Girls	Total
Cohen	0	1	1	1	3
Reeve	0	1	1	0	2
Loveday	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Brugger	0	-	1	1	2
Page	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	1	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Thornley	0	-	1	1	2
Emmerson ...	1	0	1	0	2
Smale	1	0	-	1	2
Hill	-	0	0	-	0

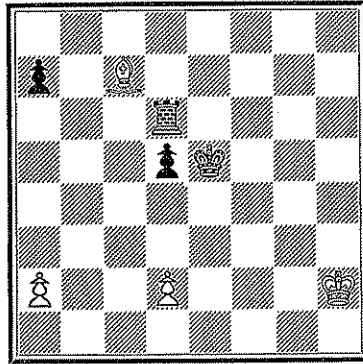
The annual knock-out competition, for which a record number of boys entered, is drawing to its close, and by the time these notes are read the result will have already been announced. At present the semi-finals are being played out, with Loveday, a former champion, set against Weston, a complete outsider, the other pair being Cohen v. Reeve.

We look forward to next term, when the house Chess Competition is due to take place.

S. J. C.

PROBLEM ON THE PINNING MOTIF

BLACK



WHITE

White to move and win. How does he do it? (Solution on page 48).

P.T. CLUB

After some delay at the beginning of the term, the P.T. Club got under way and has been meeting regularly on Thursday evenings in the gym. The number attending each meeting has of course varied, but generally has been encouraging. The task of organising activities to cater for both Junior and Senior age groups is not easy, but usually we have succeeded in providing a useful, and sometimes entertaining, session of physical activity for all. It is hoped that interest will be maintained and that numbers may in fact increase, so that a useful nucleus of gymnasts will be available for display work. The Club will continue to meet during the next term and anyone in the School who wishes to improve his personal performance will be made welcome in the gym each Thursday.

R. H.

19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

Summer camp was held this year at Walcott, a small village on the Norfolk coast, and it will go down in the Troop annals and long be remembered as the camp at which we suffered alternately from deluges and gales. On returning from one of several pleasant excursions into the wilds of East Anglia, we found two or three of the tents just on the point of being swept over the cliff-top into the North Sea. Much to the delight of all (and particularly our most efficient Quartermaster), the food store had remained intact. A very kindly lady-farmer provided us with enough blankets to make up for those which had got soaked, but (in the best camping tradition) we spurned her offer to let us sleep in the barn. Cynics and non-campers would probably say that it was only the barley-chaff which prevented us accepting a good offer. Altogether, it was a very happy and successful camp.

The main construction of our Scout Hut in the Reservation has now been completed, and we took possession at the beginning of this term. We are very much indebted to a band of hardworking parents, led by Mr.

Chiddick, who have already done much to improve the inside of the Hut. Plans for the future include the division of the small room at one end into two parts, one a store with racks for camping equipment, and the other a Court of Honour room. Mr. Chiddick will be very pleased to hear from any parents who are able and willing to give assistance.

I am very glad to announce that two of our Senior Scouts, A. E. Bourne and P. Newman, are to represent the Wimbledon Local Association at the World Jamboree which is to take place at Sutton Coldfield next August. They are, indeed, very fortunate to have the chance of seeing this vast concourse of Scouting nations meeting together in real Brotherhood.

G. N. G.

A.T.C. NOTES

The unattractive weather of last summer holidays provided a main feature of both camps attended by the Squadron as part of their Annual Training.

The first group, under Fg. Off. Jeffs, were sent to R.A.F. Debden near Saffron Walden for a week which included some of the highest gale force winds of the year. But despite some boring periods "hanging about for it to clear up", they managed to get their fill of flying. A course for Wing Commanders to "brush up their piloting" was being held and Cadets were freely welcome as passengers. Congratulations to Cadets Loveday, Brugger and Reeve on gaining their A.T.C. Marksmanship Badges while at Camp.

The second and much larger contingent set off a fortnight later for R.A.F. Woodvale on the outskirts of Southport. Torrential rain preceded them, and much apprehension at the prospect of sleeping in rain-sodden tents was felt. However, "tis an ill wind", for the tented camp had been so completely devastated that huts (of a sort) had been commandeered for the Cadets and waterproof capes were issued as soon as they arrived. Unlike Debden, Woodvale was no active R.A.F. Station in the usual sense, and the Camp Commandant had not only to fight the elements but also an almost complete lack of the usual training facilities. Nevertheless, he rose nobly to the occasion. A series of interesting visits to the Liverpool docks, a Blackpool aircraft factory and similar places, an all day exercise defending the aerodrome from parachutists, etc., all helped to make the week a pleasant one. Naturally it rained most of the time, and everyday the hoped-for flights in Ansons were cancelled. But just when all seemed lost, the sun came out and everybody managed at least one flight in an Anson, and some of the Seniors in Chipmunks. Southport proved an attraction and mention should also be made of the evening when, the Cadets looking thin and hungry, the Squadron took over a local fish and chip saloon and thereby "augmented service rations".

This term parades have continued as usual. We were very sorry to lose Mr. Anscombe, who for many years now has taken on the Drill Instruction for the Squadron. But it has been a pleasure to welcome our first Old Boy as an Officer - Fg. Off. B. Price, who left the Squadron in 1951 and distinguished himself as a navigator before he left the R.A.F. to become a schoolmaster. A promising number of recruits have joined this term, and at the recent Proficiency and Advanced Examinations the following passed:

Advanced: L/Cdts. A. J. Stevens (Credit), Brugger, Reeve, How, Gibb, Cole.

Proficiency: Cdts. Mitchell, Barfoot, J. Groves.

It is hoped that these results will be followed by many more in the next two terms, so that every Cadet will have passed one exam in the year.

J. D. T.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

To date, £63. 19s. 0d. has been saved by the School, making a weekly average of almost £8, which is a satisfactory figure for a school of our size.

Savings were not collected until the beginning of October, but after a bad start of only £2. 7s. 0d. the first week, the total rose steadily to over £11 four weeks later. Since then the weekly amount has hovered around the £10 mark, except for a temporary lull at half-term, when the total dropped to £3. 14s. 0d.

At the moment, taking the whole School, each boy is saving about 6d. a week, but of course, some save more than others, and, unfortunately, some save nothing at all. One person alone brought £3 one week, whilst two of the fifth forms and one of the sixth have yet "to get off the mark".

It is a pity that such a lot of people seem to think that National Savings is a thing for the Junior School only, and that it is not very dignified for a Senior to buy Savings Stamps. After all, it would not be too much of a burden to save at the very least 6d. out of a week's spending money. To invest in Britain is better than to invest in a quarter of a pound of sweets.

A. S.

MONTREUX, SWITZERLAND, 1956

After assembling at Victoria Station on the afternoon of 1st August, 1956, nineteen boys and three members of the staff set off hopefully for Folkestone on the first leg of the journey to Switzerland. Although the crossing of the Channel on the *T.S.S. Canterbury* was very rough, comparatively few members of the party suffered from the dreaded *mal de mer*.

Following this came the most arduous part of the journey, namely the eleven hour trip across France, from Boulogne to Basel. At Basel there was a three hour delay before boarding the Swiss train which was to take the party on the final three hour journey to the lakeside town of Montreux. To occupy this time those who were not too tired seized the opportunity of exploring Basel, which is situated on the German-Franco-Swiss frontier. Eventually the party boarded the electric Swiss train.

After finally reaching Montreux, the party soon moved into the nearby *Hôtel de la Nouvelle Poste*, where a large continental meal was waiting. Owing to the late arrival there was little time left on the first day in Switzerland, and most of the party took advantage of an early bed, as, for various reasons, little sleep had been possible the previous night on the train.

The following morning, which was Friday, the party arose, and after breakfasting off the traditional coffee and rolls, took a good look at Montreux.

Montreux is a favourite resort situated at the east end of Lake Geneva in the south west Swiss Canton of Vand. Although it has a population of only 15,000, 80,000 tourists visit it each year.

After a brief look at this lovely town, the party set off for the nearby Château de Chillon, an ancient baronial stronghold made famous by Lord Byron in his poem *The Prison of Chillon*.

On Saturday morning a visit was made to the Roches de Naye where there is supposed to be a very fine view, when not obscured by a thick fog and drizzling rain, as was the case on that particular day.

On Sunday the party rose at 7.0 a.m. for an early breakfast, and at 8 o'clock boarded a coach which was to climb over 8,000 feet to the Grand St. Bernard pass on the Swiss-Italian frontier. A stop was made en route at the Gorges de Torrent, the innermost parts of which are never reached by the rays of the sun. Having arrived at the Grand St. Bernard, the party alighted to find that although the sun was shining the temperature was low because the monastery is situated well above the snow line even in August. Most people spent the three available hours climbing the rocks which enclose this spot, and looking at the chapel of the monastery. The return journey by coach was a hair-raising experience owing to the manner in which the French driver negotiated the numerous steep hairpin bends. An overturned car, observed at the roadside, did not help the more nervous members of the party.

The next day was taken up with a visit by train to Geneva. Once there, and their packed lunches eaten, boys and masters divided into small groups and set off to explore the many places of interest in this city, among which are the U.N.O. buildings and the International Labour Office, as well as the effluence of the Rhone from Lake Geneva. Unfortunately the day was somewhat marred by a persistent drizzle.

Following this, on the Wednesday, the party embarked on *Le Grand Tour du Lac*, which was a trip by paddle steamer round the Lake via Vevey, Lausanne, and Evian, which is on the French side of the lake, and through Territet to Montreux in time for dinner at 6.45 p.m.

The Thursday brought perfect weather, as is usual on the last day, and nearly everyone spent the morning having a last look round the town. There was little to do in the afternoon besides packing until 5.30 p.m., when the train left Montreux for Basel. Here, there was again a delay, this time for two hours, during which time the town was seen by night, as it was quite dark on arrival there. The journey across France was a little more restful than before, and the group arrived refreshed at Boulogne at 9.0 a.m., having eaten a packed breakfast on the train. The return crossing, on the *T.S.S. Maid of Orleans*, was very calm compared with the outward journey, but at the same time very crowded, owing partly to the Suez dispute, and the consequent disorganisation of certain air-lines. Victoria was reached an hour behind schedule, and the party dispersed for their respective homes.

On the days where no previous mention has been made of any organized activity, the boys (and the masters) were at liberty to amuse themselves. Ideas of self-amusement varied widely, from sightseeing, walking, collecting local flora, or playing cards, to the more subtle attractions of the opposite sex – the latter attraction provided mainly by a party of young ladies from Finchley who were staying in the same hotel. (Some rather sincere goodbyes coupled with some hasty exchanges of address were witnessed on the last day.)

It must be said that the meals throughout the stay were first rate, whether set or packed, and the authors wish to make known their relief that there was no garlic sausage.

Finally, the authors, on behalf of the entire group, wish to express their sincere thanks to Messrs. Atkin, Herdman, and Ayton for the excellent organization which was the basis of a thoroughly enjoyable ten days.

C. J. H.
E. J. S.

“LA BARBE BLEUE”

Deep among the rolling landscape of Eastern France, nestling among little valleys seemingly unspoiled for centuries, are tiny villages, tinkling streams and friendly people. One such town, Arcy-sur-Cure, is typical, and it was here that I excavated during the last vacation. Many caves have been formed by the Cure rushing through the limestone cliffs. The water in such caves has long since ceased to flow, and the river runs round in a large loop – ceased to flow, that is in all but one, the *Barbe Bleue*. This long cavern has recently been the scene of tragedy of the worst type, for in 1954 two young speliolegists entered the tiny exit of the rushing waters, never again to see daylight. This is explained by the fact that one can just enter the cave when the level of the water is at its lowest, but as the river is used to regulate the Seine, at about six o'clock each evening the level rises at least four feet. These two young men were, therefore, drowned like the proverbial rat in the trap. Doctors entered the gloomy place and had to cut the bodies into many pieces to remove them from the rock where they had been wedged.

On a typical August evening, the sun just dipping below the horizon and gnats flying over the river for the last time, I heard the shout of my brother: “Get some warm clothes and come here.” All available people were piled into the *Patron's* car, and we hastened to the other side of the cliff. In broken English and staccato French, I learnt that the father of one of the dead boys, an uncle and friend had entered the cave on the anniversary of the deaths. From that moment until eighteen hours later, I lived in

a nightmare. The very trees and meadows seemed to whisper "Death", and the river, like a chuckling water Gagool, rose rapidly over the top of the cave. Warm clothing, lights, the police, fire engines, and finally members of the armed services arrived, but there was nothing to be done until the level of the water fell. The sluice gates were phoned, the troops assembled. For the first time in my life, I was truly frightened. It was decided to try to lower the level of the water inside the cave by blocking the entrance. Before the arrival of the soldiers, a few of us piled stones and boughs in the mouth in a vain attempt to stem the roaring waters. That water was icy, and we stood up in it soaked to the skin. Warm wine was provided; the soldiers arrived; a Canadian and I cursed the lack of organization of the French Army as they wrestled with arc lights, little realising that they were attempting an extremely difficult task.

An hour later sandbags were filled and the water abated, but only a little: the people in the cave had little hope. A chill night turned into the early hours, then the first streaks of dawn crept across the sky. We were stiff and cold from the earth we had rested on that night. The level of the water gradually lowered, tantalisingly slowly. By four o'clock the first rescue party was organized and prepared to enter the cave. The water turned out to be still too high. Two hours later the same party, tired and jaded, decided once again to try to enter. It consisted of M. Levoigourhan (our *patron*), the *maire* of a local hamlet, a soldier, and my brother. While they were gone, which seemed an extremely long time, we prepared for the results of their return. Clothing was further organized, an extra log was put on to the fire, stretchers were brought down to the water's edge. After a nerve-racking half hour, we heard voices, saw lights, and one by one the rescue party came out, bringing with them three other men. The former looked tired, drawn, and wet; of the latter party, one old man boasted and showed off about his daring exploits, but the other two looked terribly ashamed. Luckily they found a ledge in one of the larger interior chambers. All three were utterly exhausted, cold, and filthy with mud and slime.

Thus, on a rather chill misty morning, a party of men walked back to the main road, whence an ambulance sped off with the three distracted speliolegists to neighbouring Auxerre. The excavators slumped into their tents, and slept the day through. Back at the exit of this wicked cave, the plaque remained with those tragic words:

"To the memory of Robert Meraville and Christian Boblin, our speliolegue comrades, who entered this cave on the 14th August, 1954, never to return.

C. F. W. H.

VERULAMIUM - JULY, 1956

On Tuesday, 17th July, 1956, the Classical Society visited the ancient Belgic and Roman town of Verulamium, alongside which the city of St. Albans now stands.

Verulamium was the chief centre of the Catuvellauni, the greatest of the Belgic tribes. Two generations before the Roman Conquest, its king conquered Camulodunum, now Colchester, and his son, the great Cymbeline, transferred his capital to the new city by the coast. But Verulamium, established on a small spur commanding the crossing of the river Ver, remained the tribal centre of the Catuvellauni.

When the Roman legions advanced, building Watling Street as they came, they reached Verulamium. The old town on the hill (where St. Albans now stands) was abandoned, and a new one built on the banks of the river. It was sacked by Boudicca in her rebellion against Roman rule; but from its ruins rose a splendid city, its construction backed by the imperial government at Rome.

Under the governorship of Agricola it became a large town with magnificent buildings of imported marble, some of which were completed as early as A.D.79. It is famous for its unusual Roman Amphitheatre and its excellent example of central heating by hypocausts.

The theatre stands in the northern sector of the city, immediately west of Watling Street, over which it looks. This part of the city is obviously where all the important public buildings were situated. It is clear that the Verulamium theatre is not of the customary pattern because of various structural differences. The auditorium completes almost two-thirds of a circle, so that many of the seats did not face directly towards the stage, which was situated in the remaining third of the circle. The spectators in the semicircle opposite the stage must have been the only ones to see with any comfort.

The stage itself is extremely small in proportion to the size of the theatre, as it is only half the diameter of the orchestra instead of twice that length as was usually the case.

All these things go to show that the Verulamium theatre was not intended primarily for dramatic performances of the ordinary Roman type. Rather it was for games or dancing which took place around a central upright, a reconstructed replica of which can be seen today, or for the spectacles of fighting with cocks, animals or gladiators which the Romans delighted in. It was suggested to the writer (while he was watching a remarkable performance of self-control given by a middle-aged lady with a horde of small girls who were trying to push each other down the steep slope of the banks of seats) that even aquatic spectacles were given here, but, unless the Romans carried water in their helmets,

he quite failed to see how they managed to fill the theatre with the requisite thousands of gallons of water from the river far below.

But in spite of all this, plays were presented at Verulamium as is clearly indicated by the presence of the stage.

Other interesting features of Verulamium are the well preserved remains of the Roman central heating system. This was an elaborate system utilising square earthenware pipes which formed a network in the walls and under the floors of the rooms. In some places bricks were omitted from the structure of the walls, thus allowing the passage of warm air from the furnace.

The Roman baths did not consist of receptacles containing water of different temperatures, but rather of one cold bath and then rooms heated to different temperatures. The usual custom was to have a hot room (calidarium), a warm room (tepidarium), and a cold room (frigidarium). In the most luxurious households a bath of corresponding temperature would be situated, but as stated before, the usual practice was to have one cold bath in the frigidarium.

Many other finds can be seen in the Verulamium museum, among which are some very fine reconstructed mosaics and floor tiling. Glass, pottery, and agricultural implements, as well as (for the more bloodthirsty) numerous weapons of war and mortal combat, can also be seen.

A visit to Verulamium can be very highly recommended to anybody who takes a delight in the glories of the past, or to anyone who wishes to forget the turmoil of the present.

C. J. H.

EURIPIDES' "MEDEA"

On a Friday evening towards the end of last term, a party of classicists from the Senior School, under the sponsorship of Mr. Sweetland, threaded their way through the dark streets and alleyways behind New Oxford Street to the City Literary Institute. There, in the small but pleasant theatre, we saw a production by the Attic Players of Euripides' *Medea*, translated into English by Gilbert Murray.

It was, perhaps, to be regretted that the producer, Mr. Harold Matthews, had chosen this particular translation of the play. Although it followed the Greek text as closely as a translation in free verse is able to, I did, nevertheless, feel that, possibly in order to lend a more poetic flavour to his rendering, Professor Murray tended rather too much towards the archaic in some of his language, especially in the choric odes. It did indeed smack rather too much of certain nineteenth century translations, and of the suggested renderings to be found in the notes accompanying school texts. Thus, to some extent at any rate, the Attic Players had handicapped themselves from the very start.

We have, I suppose, as a result of Mr. Wolfit's productions and those of the Old Vic, become accustomed to the idea of meagre scenery. Indeed, one may even argue that this is highly desirable for a production of a Greek play. Nevertheless, I did find the set for this particular play disappointing. I felt, for example, that the wall and doorway forming the backcloth – presumably in imitation of the building which formed the background of the traditional Greek stage – would have been more effective if adorned with pilasters, stuated niches and the like. Similarly, although the ivy-encircled columns, one of which was broken – a good touch – formed a happy relief on either side of the stage, they did seem, in shape at any rate, more reminiscent of modern architecture than that of Ancient Greece. The sliding doors at the back of the stage, on the other hand, were most effective, despite the subdued tittering which they often occasioned. For the costumes I have nothing but praise: they were simple, colourful and effective.

If there was one thing which this production brought home to the audience it was the difficulty of bringing off a Greek play on the modern stage. To effect this is indeed very difficult, largely owing to the problem of dealing with the chorus. To bring the chorus on to the stage with the actors proper, as was unavoidable in this production, is a fatal mistake. They should, if possible, be isolated from the main action of the play on some apron stage, below the level of the main stage, even if this means the erection of some temporary structure. It was a great pity that the chorus had to be either huddled-up together in the wings, or else strung across the footlights. Moreover, Greek drama is so essentially static that unless the tension is maintained the whole time, a modern audience will soon lose interest. Although, of course, the actors themselves were chiefly to blame for any slackening of tension, it must not be forgotten that the producer's handling of the chorus was also a contributory cause. These, together with other minor inabilities on the part of the producer to deal with those difficulties of staging attendant upon a Greek play, let the production down somewhat.

Turning now to the acting, one must award full marks to Miss Joy Fisher's Medea; she both looked and sounded the part. She was the scheming hard-hearted eastern sorceress, and distinguished herself particularly in her scene of grief when meditating the murder of her children. Also to be commended was Mr. Philip Vennis's Messenger – an important part which was admirably played. Mr. Wallie Booth's Jason, however, fell somewhat short of the blustering matter-of-fact husband, who provides an effective contrast with the character of Medea. There were times, during his first argument with Medea and in the final scene, when Euripides' portrayal of the hero seemed to break through; but these sensations, alas, were only momentary. The remainder of

the cast, including Mr. Jamie Logan as a too-youthful Creon and Mr. Reginald Colman as Aegeus, were undistinguished, and rather failed to give the requisite support to the principals.

I cannot help feeling that those of us who had seen the Attic Players' production last year of the *Trachiniae* and *Helen* were frankly disappointed with this their latest assay into the field of Greek drama. Nevertheless, Miss Joy Fisher's performance in the title rôle more than compensated for the defects of the production, and made the evening's entertainment very worthwhile.

J. A. C.

ROBERT MAYER YOUTH CONCERTS, 1956

For some years now parties of Juniors from the School have attended series of Saturday morning concerts for children organized by Sir Robert Mayer and given at the Festival Hall. Recently Sir Robert has inaugurated a new series for young people between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five, and so this term, in addition, a party of sixth-formers has attended the first three of this season's Youth Concerts.

The pattern is for leading orchestras and solo artistes to give performances of pieces of classical music introduced by well known music critics or commentators. For the first concert we heard the London Mozart Players conducted by Harry Blech, with two soloists from the Amadeus String Quartet, Norbert Brainin and Petu Schidlof. The commentator was Antony Hopkins. The Orchestra first played Rossini's Overture to *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, and was then joined by the soloists for Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante in E flat for violin, viola and orchestra (K.364). This is a most pleasant piece to hear, and it contrasts the beauty of the viola with that of the violin. The effect was to increase one's respect for the too-much-neglected viola, and this was in no small part due to Schidlof's sympathetic playing. After the famous Scherzo from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the concert concluded with Prokofiev's *Classical Symphony*. This symphony, Prokofiev's first, was composed along the lines of an eighteenth-century symphony, but in the composer's own individual style. The result is something that is perhaps rather strange to listen to, but nevertheless very enjoyable. Even though at one point Prokofiev seems to be laughing at the Classical composers, the work is representative of the swing back from the Romantic symphonies of the nineteenth century towards something less emotional.

The second concert was given by the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Norman Del Mar. This time the commentator was Sidney Harrison. After warming up with the lively *Trojan March* from *The Trojans* by Berlioz, the orchestra then played a suite assembled and arranged by Sir Thomas Beecham

from Handel's ballet *The Origin of Design*. This consisted mainly of typical eighteenth century dances, the subject of the ballet being, as the title implies, rhythm and pattern. Then followed Glazounov's Violin Concerto in A minor. The soloist was Manoug Parikian, who really brought to life a work which, in the hands of an uninspired soloist, can become rather uninteresting, as I unfortunately found out in a previous visit to the Festival Hall. After this we heard Brahms' *Saint Anthony Variations*, both interesting to the intellect and pleasing to the ear, and finally the noisy Love Scene from Richard Strauss's *Feuersnot* (Heaven help us if he ever wrote a Battle Scene!).

For the lovers of Mozart's operas the third concert was a veritable feast. Here was a sparkling selection of some of Mozart's most exquisite delicacies, taken from three operas: *The Seraglio*, *The Magic Flute*, and *The Marriage of Figaro*. From these we heard the overtures and all the favourite arias presented gaily and charmingly by the orchestra and four soloists from Sadler's Wells. Having recently seen there a decidedly weak *La Bohème* with an over-enthusiastic orchestra ruining every possible climax by drowning singing that was feeble anyway, I was at first rather wary, but this concert soon reaffirmed my faith in London's second opera house, for the soloists, June Bronhill (Soprano), Dennis Dowling (Baritone) and David Ward (Bass), did full justice to everything they sang, though at times June Bronhill did suffer from the old malady of not being audible above the orchestra, which was conducted by Alexander Gibson.

David Ward excelled as the gross and stupid Osmir from *The Seraglio*, and Dennis Dowling as Figaro. The better known gems, such as *Now are your days of philandering* and *Papagena*, *Papageno*, came up as fresh and delicious as ever. The total result was ninety minutes of sheer delight, even though Sidney Harrison tended to talk too much.

The final three concerts of this season's series take place during the course of next term. Assuming they are to be of the same standard as those we have already attended, we look forward confidently to some further most enlightening and enjoyable concerts.

M. R. B.

THE VICTORY OF A DYING MAN

He lay broken, on the floor of his cell. He was dying and he knew it. He also knew that when the cold light of the next dawn filled the slate grey skies, the blue ones would come back with lime on their boots and he would be no more. This thought afforded him pleasure, for it meant that they had failed. They had failed to mould his thoughts to their way of thinking, and had suffered defeat - at the cost of his life. And it had all happened because of one beautiful piece of music.

He had found it in an antique shop: a record, old and scratched. Its soiled label bore the words, "The Dance in the Hall of the Mountain Kings - Grieg". He bought it knowing full well the risk he was taking, for it was obviously pre-revolution. The title had mystified him somewhat, for "Kings" and "Dances" belonged to a past age. He had played the record that night. It filled his room with noise, much more than he had expected. He rushed over, turned the volume down, and listened. It was different. He heard nothing of the modern nightmarish music, but something, something grand. Perhaps it reminded him of the towering mountains, and the misty valleys of his youth, and it was Then he heard the stamp of iron-shod boots on the stairs, and he was taken; taken to be helped to like the state's music. They had questioned him and beaten him to the limits of human endurance, and then fatally wounded him because his spirit held. He had outwitted them; he had beaten them. These were the thoughts that ran through his mind as he lay dying on the cold stone floor of his cell. Then he thought he heard music, rising and falling in crescendos of sound, sometimes loud, sometimes soft, pouring in waves over his aching body, then fading away altogether as the darkness closed in and left him peaceful in death.

M. M.

AN ISLAND INCIDENT

We carried the canoe down to the beach, set her afloat, climbed in, and quietly pushed out to sea. The sun glistened from the gently rippling waves.

"Where shall we make for?" asked Roger, fingering his paddle.

"Gannet, I think," I replied. "We've never landed there yet." Gannet is an island; one of the Key Islands which lie off the coast where I live.

There are five islands altogether. Great Key is just like the mainland, with uninteresting rows of cream-and-green villas, shops, cinemas, a beach, libraries, and swimming baths. Little Key, which is divided from the larger island by a shallow channel, is much quieter and pleasanter; however, it is owned by a toothpaste magnate who spends most of his time putting up "Trespassers will be Prosecuted" notices and ejecting tourists of the more venturesome kind.

Black Key, the smallest island, is little more than a grassy rock. And then come Flag Key and Gannet.

Gannet is quite different from all the other islands. It is, for instance, the only one not to have "Key" in its name (although I suppose it used to be called Gannet Key). It is wild, fairly

lonely, and completely untouched by civilization. (Even Black Key has a fisherman's storage hut on it.)

We had never visited Gannet before, simply because we had had no transport. However, I had been given the canoe as a Christmas present (from a rich uncle in Massachusetts) and now it was April I was anxious to use it.

In about thirty minutes, and after a few minor incidents, we sighted the narrow channel between Flag Key and Gannet. We paddled our craft up the channel and grounded it on the few yards of "golden sands" which the island boasted.

From the highest point on Gannet, a curious circular sandy hillock, we had a magnificently clear view of the whole chain of islands. To the south we could see from the faint outline of Great Key right down to the Finn Rock Lighthouse. In the hazy distance lay the pale, blue line of the Cumbrian coast, and a motor-boat chugging patiently towards the islands.

Just as I was about to descend from the mound, my foot hit the sand with a metallic ring. At once we both got down on our knees and began scrabbling about in the sand.

It was Roger who found what we were looking for. In a few seconds, he had pulled out of the ground a large steel box, about the size of a table radio set.

With a cry he tore off a band of adhesive tape which held down the lid and prised open the box. Inside we saw stacked-up, row upon row, dozens of small cardboard packets.

"Cigarettes!" I cried. "But why on earth are they buried here?"

For answer Roger pointed to a single word stamped on the side of each packet. "Duty," he replied. "Someone must be smuggling them into the country."

Meanwhile I had been doing some excavating and had unearthed a second box. Its contents were even more valuable than those of the first.

"Gold watches!" I breathed, as I took off the lid. "Hundreds of them."

"Three hundred and fifty, to be precise," said a cold and unfriendly, guttural voice from behind us. We both spun round.

Facing us were three tough-looking individuals. The one who had addressed us was tall and fair-haired, and was probably a Swede or Norwegian. He was pointing an automatic pistol at us.

"Perhaps," said the Swede, lowering his gun, "you will tell us what you are doing on this island and why you have been interfering with our property."

What happened next I do not remember very clearly; it was mostly pandemonium anyway.

I made a run for it. I had got about ten yards before everybody realised what had happened. Then one of the smugglers, a swarthy little Italian, charged at me head down. Almost without thinking I swung back my leg and kicked him in the stomach. He reeled back on to the sand clutching his chest and hurling Latin abuse at me.

One of the others made a dash at me but he tripped over and was enveloped in a cloud of billowing sand.

As I ran towards the beach two shots were fired at me. The first ploughed harmlessly into the ground, the second grazed my right arm and I felt the blood trickling down it.

In a few seconds I broke through a thin line of trees and arrived at the end of the beach. I could hear shouts in the distance, but that was all. The foreshore was as quiet as a churchyard.

Suddenly I gave a groan. I had come just in time to see the canoe swinging out to sea with the tide. I started cursing myself for being stupid enough to forget to tie it up when a thought struck me with the force of a cricket ball. I had spotted the smugglers' motor-boat lying farther up the beach!

Although I knew practically nothing about motor-boats, I set her afloat and clambered in. After I had pressed, pulled, punched, turned or kicked every visible control, the boat shot off without warning in a cloud of foam.

When I had gone about a hundred yards, I had discovered how to guide the boat and formed a plan in my mind. I decided to make for the Finn Rock Lighthouse. They would certainly have a telephone there, and could get in touch with the mainland.

Accordingly, about ten minutes later I reached the lighthouse, carefully tied my boat to a spur of rock, and banged on the door. It was flung open, revealing a tall broad-shouldered man wearing a navy blue jersey.

"Smugglers," I gasped, "on Gannet" and I poured out the whole story.

"Right, lad," said the lighthouse-keeper, ruffling back his hair. "Don't worry, I believe your story. Meanwhile, come inside, and I'll dress that wound for you."

There is little more to say. A combined force of police and Excisemen (and myself) left in a coastguard launch for Gannet. Here the smugglers had found themselves marooned when I had made off with their boat, and they gave themselves up after a short struggle. Later they were handed over to the appropriate authorities, and we never saw them again.

After the excitement was over, we were told that the smugglers operated between Britain and France. A French gang (later arrested trying to escape to Tangiers) took the contraband to Gannet, from where it was smuggled into England.

The whole affair was hushed up, and the Press and general public never got to know of it. So, much to our disappointment, we did not get our photographs in the morning papers.

However, we were allowed to keep the motor-boat for our services. Today it stands in our garage, cleaned, overhauled and repainted, with a new name on its gleaming white bows: "Gannett" - in honour of the little island.

J. B.

A TOYSHOP AT CHRISTMAS TIME

A toyshop at Christmas time is one of the most colourful and exciting sights in a London street. In one corner you usually find a small Christmas tree, glowing with coloured fairy-lights and with mysterious-looking parcels half-hidden in the branches. At the top of the tree is a beautiful glittering fairy, with outstretched wand and shimmering silver wings. Little girls, no higher than the bottom of the window, press their noses against the glass and gaze in adoration at the wonderful doll.

Around the bottom of the window, on tinsel-strewn cotton wool, are little trinkets for the Christmas stocking - a little racing car, gaudily painted in red, a small plastic doll, a child's ring with a glittering glass "jewel" in the centre, and a toy watch with "hands that really move!" On a wooden base are numerous jigsaw puzzles in cardboard boxes, and in the middle is a huge train set, the kind that every small boy dreams of. By the side of that is a cowboy set, with a sheriff's badge and a ten-gallon hat; a conductor's set, with realistic ticket-punching machine and tickets; or a nurse's set with stiff, starched apron and a hat with a red cross on it. In a long box is a space gun or Buffalo Bill's rifle, and near that a large pedal car with a police siren on it. Your gaze now leads you to the other corner, where you stop, and look at the star of the toyshop window.

It is a doll, the doll that every girl has longed for. It has golden hair that can be washed and combed, and on top a chic, lace-trimmed bonnet. Its frock is a whirl of silk and lace, its eyes open and close, and it has a charming smile. It has little woollen socks and tiny plastic shoes, its arms are outstretched, appealing to you to buy it; but, alas, only the rich can afford such a doll, and the ragged little girl who has been staring at it looks sorrowfully at her old rag doll and walks slowly away. But she will return, for the toyshop holds a magic for all, old and young.

G. J. M.

A VIEW FROM THE HALL

There are, in the Sixth Form, nine people who compose a little known class whose existence is forgotten until the annual distribution of Fifth Form members is made each autumn. These unfortunates have little choice in the matter of which form to enter, as the literate enter the Arts, the semi-literate the Science, while the remainder find their way to the Hall. It does, one supposes, reflect great credit on the School that such a small number enter this last group.

We had, in September, a form master, a Hall, and twelve boys, but recent seditious propaganda has reduced the contingent to nine, as one after another is enticed away from his academic career by the quest for gold. The present occupiers are of all shapes and sizes, ranging from 6 ft. 1 in. to 4 ft. 11 in. in length and 12 to 7 stone in weight – and also, according to our masters, of all levels of intelligence from exceedingly stupid to just plain dull.

While the Arts in times of stress can seek refuge in the library and the Science secret themselves in the Physics Lab, this other form can only retreat to the Hall and huddle against the radiators, a position in which they are often to be found. These radiators, with their adjacent mousetraps, they will have to endure until the policy of giving the smallest form the largest form-room is revised. Their recreations to keep warm are many and varied, mostly illegal, but among those that can be exposed to the public eye, the most innocuous is the hurdle race that is apt to take place around the Hall in especially cold weather.

It was noticed with some sorrow that this year the brown panelling had been submerged in a sea of light blue paint. This sorrow has nothing to do with our aesthetic tastes, but is merely regret that now when a missile hits the wall it leaves a mark, whereas previously the friendly dark panelling had cloaked all but our worst misdemeanours. Other tell-tale marks on the wall ruefully point to the fact that we are a Rugby School and as such taught to kick high; whereas in a soccer school the marks would be lower and thus more easily removed.

We, the form called the “Soulless Sixth”, are often reprimanded, especially in such highbrow notes as those of the Literary, Debating and Gramophone Societies, for our non-appearance at their functions. Even on the National Savings chart, where our professional training might be expected to assert itself, we are notably absent; indeed many of us are in debt, which is no mean achievement even in these days of hire purchase. In justification, we can only plead that we take great interest in the controversial issues of the day, and it only needs a carelessly raised voice to open wide the floodgates of argument and abuse. D— has the greatest part in these discussions by virtue of having the loudest voice,

SOLUTION TO CHESS PROBLEM

In this type of position, the inexperienced player, with evident glee, invariably snatches the rook immediately, or plays what he fondly imagines to be a more subtle move, P-Q4, in both cases loudly proclaiming check to all the world. Unfortunately, both these variations terminate in a draw.

In order to win the position, White must vigorously exploit the pin so as to gain tempo. Thus he begins 1.K-K+3, an apparently innocuous move — but there is hidden greatness. If Black plays K-K3, to release his pinned rook, the longed for exchange takes place, and White has an obvious win. Black's correct move is therefore P-Q5. This is followed by 2.P-Q3 (2.K-B3 is an equally good line of play), K-Q4 (or K-K3) 3.B×R, K×8. 4.K-B4, K-B4 (K-Q4 will not save Black's QP because of Zugzwang). 5.K-K5 (or K-K4). If now K-K+5 (he is chasing the White RP). 6.K×P and White gets there first and wins (unless he is a complete fool). The alternative for Black is 5. . . P-R4.

We have now reached the critical position, and White must have all his wits about him. Should he play a waiting move, or P-R3, or P-R4? If he thinks hard, he will see that P-R3 is the right move. If not, he will lose all his ill-gotten prestige in an inglorious draw. Therefore 6.P-R3! K-K+4 (P-R5 is suicide). 7.K×P, K-R5. 8.K-B3!! The coup de grâce of a genius! Little did you know that K-B4 leads to — yes, the inevitable draw. If now 8. . . K×P, White gets there first and wins. (Vaguely reminiscent?) If 8. . . K-K+4. 9.P-Q4 and the game is won.

Thus by the subterfuge of compelling the Black king to waste a move unpinning his rook, White catches up the lost ground due to his remote position at R2.

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