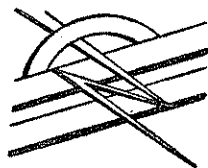


RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The

SPUR

SPRING TERM 1957



VOLUME 12

NUMBER 2

THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. XII. No.2

Spring, 1957

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SCHOOL OFFICERS, Spring Term, 1957

Head Boy: A. J. Fowles.

Second Boy: D. J. Creasey.

Prefects: B. G. Barker, B. P. Betts, G. Boiling, 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.

Captain of Hockey: A. J. Fowles.

Secretary of Hockey: M. Loveday.

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

Secretary of the Games Committee: A. J. Fowles.

Prefect of Hall: D. C. Spencer.

Prefect of Library: M. R. Burke.

HEADMASTER'S NOTES

We belatedly congratulate the Head Boy, A. J. Fowles, on his election in December to an open Exhibition in English at Lincoln College, Oxford. This ends too long a period in which we have gone without these academic laurels.

We have also to record with pleasure the award (on a Classical Examination) to D. S. D. Shelley of a scholarship tenable at King's College, London, for the study of Law. Others who have secured at least provisional places at Universities already include J. H. Brugger at Oriel, Oxford; M. Loveday at Christ's and S. J. Cohen at Caius, Cambridge; A. M. Emmerson at King's College Hospital School, London, and D. J. Mayer at University College Hospital; P. J. Parry and S. J. Hall at Queen Mary's, London; P. R. Johnson at Birmingham; D. J. Creasey and R. J. Smale at Southampton; B. Denton at Exeter; M. A. Sutcliffe at Bristol; B. P. Betts at North Staffordshire; B. G. Barker at Goldsmiths and D. C. Spencer at Borough Road Training Colleges also begin degree courses.

Curtains are still missing in Hall as House Plays approach, but the County Council has stretched a precedent in our favour, and they are definitely on order. Our difficulties, of blackout and of acoustics, will be short lived.

The School has had an opportunity of seeing the latest of several plans for extensions to the School, to enable it to expand from two to three-stream size from September, 1958. Apart from rooms for the extra forms, much-needed relief is promised in the shape of some VI form rooms, a proper Geography room, additional laboratories, a Library annexe, another practical room and a separate dining room. The siting of this last has caused most difficulty and difference of opinion. It cannot be pretended that anyone here thinks the present project ideal. It drives a road across the Headmaster's lawn (in order to preserve the aesthetically poorer front to Bushy Road), and its

victims include also much of the orchard, the tennis courts and a corner of Big Side. But at least strangers entering our gates a couple of years hence should see a front door where for so long there has been only a coke heap. Between now and then lies a difficult period when alterations will be in progress in parts of our present quarters and none of the new amenities will be ready for use.

HOUSE NOTES

COBBS

Captain: G. A. Hill.

Prefects: B. G. Barker and G. Boiling.

The main events of this term have been the competitions for the hockey, cross-country and chess trophies. At the time of writing only one of these has been decided: this is the Cross-Country Cup. Due to our final position, fifth, perhaps the less said about this competition the better. However, I think Griffin and Brown deserve mentioning as our first two runners to finish.

In the hockey we have not done as well as we hoped, but we still stand a chance if we win our remaining matches. The Seniors in their first match only succeeded in drawing with a mediocre Halliwells team (2-2). In their second match against Gibbs they started off well and were rather unlucky to be 2-1 down at half-time; but in the second half they were completely overwhelmed, and were fortunate to lose by only 4-1. In this match they were without Boiling, who has proved to be the mainstay of the defence. Fortunately, in their third match the Seniors attained the standard of play of which they are capable, and in a hard fought game with Miltons forced a draw (3-3). In all three matches played so far, Boiling, Thomas and Coney have played consistently well. With one match remaining, the Seniors stand a very good chance of being placed third.

The Colts, unfortunately, have only played two matches to date and so very little can be said of their chances. However, they have won both these games, against Gibbs by 1-0 and against Newsoms by 2-0. Clay (the captain) and Foulsham have proved to be the two outstanding players.

In chess we have not excelled ourselves so far, although against Miltons we were unlucky to lose by 3 boards to 2; but against Gibbs we were well beaten by 4 boards to 1. With two matches still remaining to be played, we hope to be able partially to redeem ourselves.

The Juniors have finished the Rugby section of the competition for the Junior Shield in the very satisfactory position of second equals. Their results were as follows:

v.	Gibbs	Lost	0-44
v.	Miltons	Won	18- 9
v.	Halliwells	Lost	11-35
v.	Newsoms	Won	20- 3

Groombridge (who has been a quiet but effective captain), Cobb and Powers have played well throughout the season.

Next term the competitions for the cricket, athletics, tennis and swimming cups and for the Junior Shield will be decided, and if everybody in the House pulls his weight, I feel sure that we will not disgrace ourselves, even if we do not win all the cups.

G.A.H.

GIBBS

Captain: A. J. Fowles.

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

Gibbs' Juniors allow me to begin these notes in the most optimistic of veins. In four spectacular matches in which they amassed a total of 142 points (as against 5) they have hinted of a coming Gibbs ascendancy in winning the Junior Rugby. By perfectly orthodox methods — a fine scrum giving the ball to fast and direct backs — they have established an unchallenged supremacy. For Nicholls this has been a great personal achievement: not only has he captained his side splendidly, but he has shown himself the most devastating and promising of Junior players to grace the School for years. Nor has he lacked support: scrum-half Connor, Holden with his hooking, Early with his kicking and the back row of Wood, Wilbraham and Clark have all displayed a prowess above their years. But above all it has been the triumph of fifteen players. Things augur well for the Junior Shield.

On a private Rugby note we must congratulate Clark on his award of Rugby colours.

When we were denied the talents of Mellor and Thresher (two very nice people whom we miss) our bright cross-country prospects grew dim. In fact our moderate expectations were exactly fulfilled and we finished third. A respectable performance by Fowles, seventh, gave us a runner in the "top ten", while the two Barfeet, making a little go a long way, were mainly responsible for our narrow emergence above Miltons. All things considered it was a creditable, if unspectacular, performance.

With the hockey, the graph of our fortunes rises sharply. The Colts began poorly and sustained two unnecessary defeats before settling down. Then, after some astute readjustment by Venison, the captain, they fought their way into recognition by humbling an "invincible" Halliwells side by 6-3. In this match Ryder, Williams and Pattinson gave staunch support to Venison, whose tally of four goals was not only a magnificent performance in itself, but seems likely to influence the fate of the Hockey Cup. If the Colts oblige with a second victory, we are almost home, for the Seniors are unbeaten after three matches. Beginning against Cobbs they settled down to copy-book hockey, and Loveday, an "experimental" centre-forward, was able to conclude four fine movements. But against both Halliwells and Newsoms we felt the lack of a forward able either to shoot or to knit our attack together, and, scoring once both times, we won the first match and drew the second. Miltons, at present, have a record identical with our own and a superior reputation. With all to play for, the impending game promises to be a classic.

Within what now seems a perilously short time, the 1957 House Plays will be history, and it will be seen whether in *The Duchess of Malfi* we have bitten off more than we can chew. This play by Webster (the one dramatic writer able to go fifteen rounds with Shakespeare) is a colossal challenge to a cast, even when they have been dubiously honoured with the false title of "favourites". Rehearsals have been uneven: at times the white hot intensity and elegiac melancholy of Webster's poetry have triumphantly "come across". At times all has been chaos. However, the great thing is endeavour. If we have set our sights too high, well, at least we have a worth-while target.

These notes may conclude as proudly as they began. The Chess Cup is almost ours: provided we secure two individual victories we can even afford to lose our final match.

For next term we should be able to field strong cricket teams in all three divisions and a capable tennis V: our swimming, though, unless everybody chips in on the qualifying, will be mediocre, and our athletic chances, without similar effort, are best not thought of.

Happy days seem to be here again. Let's try to keep it that way.

A.J.F.

HALLIWELLS

Captain: D. J. Creasey.

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

At the end of last term the Colts managed to win just enough games to ensure that the Rugby Cup returned to Halliwells' safe keeping. The Junior XV made good progress, and gained a second place in the Rugby section of the Junior Shield.

Although the Inter-House Cross-Country Run did not end in a Halliwells victory, we did credit to ourselves and gained a very good second place to Newsoms. The final score of 95 to Newsoms against 103 to Halliwells shows that the House did very well. Emmerson is to be congratulated on getting the team fit, and people like Colmer, Housego and Young surprised everybody in getting home well up in the field.

Whilst reporting these successes, it would be wrong to leave out our failures on the hockey field. The Senior team has been very unlucky in some very close matches which might have gone either way. After leading 2-0 against Cobbs, we only managed to draw 2-2; both Newsoms and Gibbs have beaten us by 1-0. However, the Colt XI added some lustre to our poor hockey record when they beat Miltons 8-0. This is the only match that they have played so far, and if they manage to do as well in other matches we may still get second place in the cup.

Two activities which do not count towards the Cock House Cup are chess and dramatics. In the chess the team did very well to beat Newsoms 3-2, but in a very exciting match against Gibbs we lost 2-3. On the stage, Colmer and Higham (C.) have agreed to co-produce Shakespeare's play *Richard II*. Rehearsals are at the moment in full swing. Brett is in charge of making the set.

In conclusion we must congratulate Higham (C.) on getting a trial in the South of England Schoolboy Rugby XV. As he is the only person in the School to get further than a Surrey trial, the House can justly feel proud of him.

D.J.C.

MILTONS

Captain: M. R. Burke.

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

These notes can be generally less woeful than last term's. However, most of this term's activities are as yet undecided, and the most we can do is to conjecture hopefully. In both of the competitions that are finished — the Junior Rugby and the Cross-Country — we took fourth place. The Juniors started off by beating Halliwells by 3-0, but in their next match they drew with Newsoms (9-9). They then suffered two defeats, against Gibbs (18-0), and against Cobbs (18-9). In the Cross-Country, never a strong point with Miltons, we had runners coming in at the front, but these were not backed up enough by the rest of the team. Praise is due to Bayly, who gained second place, being only just beaten to the post by Reeve of Newsoms, and to Brugger, who finished tenth.

In the competitions not yet finished we should do much better. In the hockey we have a very strong Senior team, but a rather weaker Colt side, who have so far succeeded in drawing with Newsoms (1-1) and losing to Halliwells (8-0!). The Seniors, however, have beaten both Newsoms and Halliwells, by 3-1 and 3-0 respectively, but in their match against Cobbs they were not on form, and the result was only a draw, two of our three goals being scored by Gower. The final result is still very much in the balance, and we can only hope that the Seniors are not let down too much by the Colts. Two members of our Senior team, Brugger and Stevens, are to be congratulated on being awarded School hockey colours.

Our chess team is also a strong one, and so far it has won two matches and drawn one. It beat both Cobbs and Newsoms by 3 points to 2, and drew with Gibbs. To gain a clear victory, however, it must contrive to beat Halliwells by a substantial margin. Our other main concern at the moment is the House Play. The dramatics competition is always difficult to make forecasts about, and is always a very chancy business, as our experience last year showed. This time we have broken with the custom of taking a long play and condensing it, and have chosen F. Sladen-Smith's *Saint Simeon Stylites*, a short one-act play written to be performed on a small stage by a small group of limited resources, such as ours.

By the time that these notes are read, however, the answers to all our present speculations will be known, and we will be preoccupied with swimming, athletics and cricket. In both swimming and athletics those who normally contribute little to the House are given a chance to gain many valuable points which might possibly prove decisive in the ultimate reckoning. Over all this will hang the shadow of examinations. To all those entering for the G.C.E. this summer we must wish the best of good fortune, and to D.S.D. Shelley, who has put an end to his anxieties by gaining an entrance scholarship to read Law at King's College, London, I must extend my congratulations. M.R.B.

NEWSOMS

Captain: D. C. Spencer.

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

Once again we have managed to win the Cross-Country Cup. At the beginning of the term it seemed certain that Halliwells had much the better all-round team, but our hopes were revived by the discovery of three good runners in the fifth form. So we arrived at the day of the race, and after an agonizing wait for our last man, found that we had just beaten Halliwells. Congratulations to our Captain, Martin Reeve, who won the individual title and led the team with such spirit. Team placings were:—

I. Reeve. 3. A. J. Stevens. 5. Willis. 9. Partridge.
II. D. C. Spencer. 13. Stevens, D. C. 14. Yeldham. 39. Stevenson.

They all deserve our congratulations.

Junior Rugby has now been completed, with the unhappy result that we finished last; but let us hope for better things next term, when size will not be quite so important.

The remaining four competitions have not yet been completed. The House Play is shaping well, under the expert guidance of Partridge and Mayer, and regular rehearsals are being held. Our chances in the competition seem good (provided that we don't blow ourselves up!). The play is *Reluctant Heroes*. The Chess Competition, unlike the game itself, has been a rather hurried affair, and again we have not done very well, losing both games (against Halliwells and Miltons) so far played by 3-2.

The competition for the Hockey Cup is much nearer completion, and both Seniors and Colts have met with fair success. In the Senior section we lost the first match against a strong Miltons team by 3-1, but atoned for this by beating Halliwells 1-0. Against a strong Gibbs team we fared rather better than expected, and held them to a 1-1 draw. The Colts have a similar record, having beaten Gibbs (2-0), drawn with Miltons (1-1), and lost to Cobbs (2-0). To avoid finishing last in the final placings, it is essential that we win the remaining match in each section.

Next term there will be more opportunity for combined House effort. At the moment we are well placed in the Cock House Competition, and provided that everyone pulls his weight in swimming and athletics qualifying, we should be able to hold our own. D.C.S.

TWELFTH NIGHT

Of all Shakespeare's plays that are regularly performed by school companies *Twelfth Night* is surely the most difficult. It has an effervescence and lightheartedness that is difficult enough for seasoned actors to capture and hardly to be expected in a school performance. Recent research indicates that the play was in fact a Twelfth Night frolic, written at very short notice as an entertainment offered by Queen Elizabeth I to an ambassador named Orsino who was visiting her court. While the part of Orsino is apparently a graceful tribute to a distinguished visitor other parts are caricatures of people well known to the play's first audience.

This quality of caricature came over very clearly only in the part of Sir Andrew Aguecheek, a thoughtful, polished and altogether delightful performance. Sir Toby Belch was uproarious enough in the slapstick scenes — as we expected him to be — yet a little overplayed generally. Malvolio might, I thought, have made it more his aim to make us feel "poor old fool" rather than just "silly old fool" and Feste to make us feel "wise old Fool" instead of merely "quaint old Fool". After all, Feste, in the best tradition of clowns, talks a lot of good sense.

But these are relatively minor faults in otherwise commendable parts. More serious was Orsino's failure to impress any very clear character on his performance. Olivia was carefully played but looked irremediably masculine; how awkward and ugly a male's movements can be becomes terribly apparent on occasions like this. The same applies to some extent to Maria, though gracefulness is not so much expected in a servant girl and boisterousness was there in plenty. Sebastian and Viola were too often inaudible, sometimes, one felt, because they did not understand the words anyway. Fabian was sprightly indeed ("He's got such a comical face, too", as I heard someone in the audience remark) but appeared rather conscious of not being necessary to the plot of the play — hardly his fault.

The production did not obtrude itself on one's notice and the fact that with all the faults listed above the play none the less provided a most agreeable evening's entertainment is sufficient indication of a standard that we take for granted anyway. The scenery was most effective and most ingeniously adapted to the peculiar proportions of the School stage; it might perhaps have been preferable if the actors who shifted scenery had been all of the same mind about whether to walk on like stage hands or whether to behave in character. The music deserves a special mention as one of the production's best features; it was a pity that the audience treated it with the same respect accorded to the worn and scratched records played in cinemas.

The highlight of the performance was the scene where Malvolio finds the letter. Acting, production and setting combined to make a memorable effect that one would have liked to see more evenly spread through the play. H.D.J.

CAST

Orsino, <i>Duke of Illyria</i>	Stevenson, R. M.
Sebastian, <i>brother to Olivia</i>	Gates, P. H.
Antonio	Ayres, T. G.
A Sea Captain	McClellan, M.
Valentine }	Gentlemen attending on the Duke {
Curio }	
Sir Toby Belch	Impey, R.
Sir Andrew Aguecheek	Cottee, R. C.
Malvolio, <i>Steward to Olivia</i>	Partridge, S. F.
Fabian, <i>Servant to Olivia</i>	Cottee, N. G.
Feste, <i>Olivia's Fool</i>	Colmer, J. A.
Olivia, <i>A rich Countess</i>	Davie, J.
Viola, <i>sister to Sebastian and during a part of the play</i> <i>disguised as a page Cesario</i>	Finch, B. H.
Maria, <i>Olivia's attendant</i>	Venison, P. J.
A Priest	Corbett, I.
Officers	Riley, P. A.
Sailors	Yeldham, M. A.
	{ Adams, J. M.
	{ Green, N. A. S.

RUGBY

Master in charge: R. Hindle, Esq. Captain: D. J. Creasey.
Secretary: C. F. W. Higham.

<i>Opponents</i>	<i>1st XV</i>	<i>2nd XV</i>
St. Benedict's, Ealing	Lost 0-9	Lost 0-9
Old Boys XV	Lost 0-15	Lost 3-17

1st XV colours were awarded to the following for consistent play throughout the season:— P. Clark, R. Gamble, T. A. C. Paxman, A. M. Emmer-son, I. W. Wilson.

HOCKEY

1st XI.

With a less impressive team on paper than we have had for some time, the First XI has nevertheless experienced a season not only enjoyable in itself, but statistically most satisfying.

The season opened in top gear against Borough Road. The visitors, their wingers and centre-half county players, began splendidly, using the long ball and moving into the open spaces. But they lacked penetration and soon our defence began to replace hasty clearances with constructive through passes. Shortly before half-time, our half-back line now dictating

matters and the forwards combining better, Hill rounded off a brisk movement with a goal. This provoked a second-half rally from our opponents: after twenty minutes pressure they equalised. Almost at once we regained our lead: Creasey moved up as a sixth forward and, unmarked, scored easily from a quick roll-in. It had been a tense but excellent start to the season.

The match against Kingston Technical College proved an anti-climax. A glue-pot of a ground and a torrential downpour ruined any prospects of good hockey. Bowern gave us a first-half lead after a defensive blunder, and after the interval Hill put us further ahead. Shortly before time we lazily allowed Kingston a goal.

The next two matches proved how little trust to put in reputations. Away to Russell School, whom we had whipped the previous year, we confidently expected to administer the mixture as before. An easy goal taken by Hill soon strengthened our hopes. We were in for a rude awakening. Russell began to use long swinging passes that knifed through our defence: only their finishing was wanting. However, both Fowles and Hill were on form, and by constantly pressing along the right flank managed to relieve our defence by a series of counter-attacks. These attacks, though, woefully exposed the lack of fire-power in our own front line, and we emerged the narrowest of winners.

Hill had been playing with consistent thrust and thoughtfulness. He was now awarded his colours.

Guilty of over-confidence before, we now over-estimated Kingston Grammar. Our first defeat was our own fault. We began like a machine and Brugger crowned a fine Emmerson run with a glorious reversed stick shot. The half-backs pressed forward for the kill and Kingston scored the inevitable breakdown goal — despite a valiant effort to save by Stevens. We now became needlessly awed by the fame of our opponents, and they marked a temporary ascendancy with a second goal. The second half could have given us the game, but Fowles' experiment of playing up as a sixth forward misfired badly and only equally mediocre Kingston play kept us in the game. In a closing bout of action, first they, then we, scored — Kearsy netting for us. The rust of a long weather-enforced lay-off had taken the edge off our game.

The return match against Borough Road was a farce that soon ceased to be funny. Our entire team had run in the House Cross-Country the previous day and, as a result, wearily functioned in a very low gear. An improved Borough Road took an early lead, but while still able to raise a gallop we equalised via Thomas — the best of our many left-wingers. Then, in quick succession, Stevens (who has generally had a quiet time in goal) brought off the best save I have seen from a goal-keeper and was then struck full in the face by a vicious shot blocked from his view in a scramble. The sight of the departing ambulance shattered what little morale was left us, and despite the comments of Emmerson (a keen biologist) that it was "probably internal with all that blood", we somehow lost heart. Thorp as deputy goal-keeper was not responsible for the heavy defeat now sustained by ten tired players.

We returned to winning form against Badingham College. In the first half we scored four easy goals through Gower (2), Brugger and Hill. Then, tempering all round superiority with mercy, we relaxed while Emmerson scored a spectacular, if hilarious, goal: after this the ensemble took a rest while Creasey obliged with a tortuous series of solo performances.

Individually, the defenders have appeared better than their colleagues. At right-half Fowles is handicapped by a patent dislike for first-time tackling, and his policy of retreat sometimes throws too heavy a burden on his backs. On his day he is the most constructive of the half-backs,

able (as against Borough Road and Russell) to conjure up subtle links with his forwards. To maintain this gift he needs to be steadier. Slight eyesight trouble is not his real problem: until he is more self-confident he will continue to be erratic. Loveday has proved a very efficient secretary indeed. His play, I fancy, has not quite matched the brilliance of last season but his firm tackling and fluent hitting have rallied tottering defences and always pleased. If he were to vary his passing more he would be the complete full-back. Thorp, the other defender, has been a lesser partner but has always done the simple thing quickly, a virtue which earns him his colours. Behind these, Stevens, if insisting on a very occasional howler, has kept goal with a brilliant safety. His reflexes have proved as sound as his advice. Stevens, R. K. and Creasey both cover prodigious territory every match. The latter is now consistent, persistent and thoughtful. The former, despite idiosyncracies, deservedly wins his colours. As a utility defender Lintill has shown a fine hit but he could learn a lot from Loveday.

The forwards have generally disappointed. Coherence and fire-power have been at a minimum. A stream of left-wingers were tried in the balance but were all found wanting, and the problem was only half solved. Gower has shown elegance but must speed up, while Emmerson with energy and great speed lacks finesse. Brugger, while appearing on the verge of great things, has never quite played at his peak. Although bringing distinction to our movements, he has generally failed to fulfil the promise he made as a Colt. After his long two-year spell of illness, it is to his greatest credit that he has been able to return to hockey of First XI standard. It is this as much as his play which earns his colours. Hill has been the exception to this forward rule. Equipped with a sharp shot, an eye for an opening and a keen sense of distribution, he has been not only our one consistent goal-scorer but a fine schemer.

At present our record shows a pleasing emphasis on the right side: there is no reason to suppose our remaining fixtures will alter this.

Opponents

Borough Road College	Won	2-1
Kingston Technical College	Won	2-1
Russell School	Won	1-0
Kingston G.S.	Lost	2-3
Borough Road College	Lost	1-10
Badingham College	Won	5-0
Beckenham C.G.S.	Drew	0-0

(late result)

Goal Scorers: Hill (4), Brugger (2), Gower (2), Bowern (1), Creasey (1), Emmerson (1), Thomas (1), Kearsy (1).

Team selected from: A. J. Fowles, M. Loveday, A. J. Stevens, D. J. Creasey, G. A. Hill, J. H. Brugger, P. Thorp, R. K. Stevens, Emmerson, Gower, Lintill, Thomas, Kearsy, Holmes, Davie, Bowern.

2nd XI.

The prolonged spell of monsoon weather curtailed the second XI's fixture list to a farcical extent. Only three matches have been played. But in humbling Kingston Grammar on their own ground the team achieved a success for which they would no doubt have gladly sacrificed several lesser fixtures. Despite a poor start away to Reigate, the team improved

immeasurably after the house matches had unearthed new talent. The side's strength has been its half-back line. Boiling, Yeldham and (when not on First duty) Lintill and Thomas have given the side its class. Morely has been a sound captain, and Hill made a promising début.

Opponents

Reigate G.S.	Lost	1-3
Kingston G.S.	Won	1-0
Badingham College	Won	4-0
Beckenham C.G.S.	Lost	1-5

Team selected from: Morley, Yeldham, Boiling, Thomas, Lintill, Holmes, Bown, Gower, Davie, Hill, Denton, Doran, Ayres, Housego, Thorp, Frank-Keyes, Kearsey, King, French, Davis.

A.J.F.

COLTS

This year it was not snow and ice, but mud and rain, which did their worst to spoil the hockey season. This is particularly unfortunate in the Middle School, where half the boys are taking up the game for the first time and the remainder sorely need opportunities to consolidate. As a result we compared badly with Kingston Grammar School, where hockey is the only winter game, and suffered a crushing defeat. Our other two games were not so humiliating — a 3-5 loss to St. George's College, Weybridge, another strong hockey school, and a 6-1 victory over the newcomers, Canterbury Road School. Sufficient has been seen to stamp the XI as better than our average — even with regrettably few chances of practice.

Forward the wings, Kingham and Redshaw have been strong, with Venison, a hard worker at inside right, next best. Crowe has speed and skill, but lacks the drive and touch of devil essential for the centre, while Hopper, though neat, is not active enough. The half-backs, though energetic, lack skill — Cumes, quite a sound captain, is the best; the full-backs are definitely weak, especially in effecting long well-placed clearances; Clay in goal has shown up well and improves in judgement.

So much for the XI, but elsewhere there is much keenness, which is handicapped by the lack of the good playing surfaces essential for developing stylish hockey. For the future we live in hope!

P.O'D.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Inter-School Fixtures.

We were unfortunate this term to lose our captain, A. J. Mellor. He had been representing the School in cross-country matches for several years, and despite disappointing performances at the beginning of the season, was reaching his best and had put in some fine runs before he left, well earning his colours. We thank him for his able leadership and wish him luck in his career.

There were two matches last term which were not reported in the *Spur*. The first was against Wallington and Mitcham, at Wallington, on Wednesday, 5th December, when we did well to come a fairly close second to the strong Wallington team. The result was Wallington 34, Raynes Park 49, Mitcham 96, and our scorers were Sticklely 3rd, Stevens 4th, Bayly 8th, Coney 10th, Tabor and Reeve 12th; Hodgson and Emmerson also ran. After this match Tabor, Bayly, Stevens and Reeve were awarded their School colours.

The last match of the Autumn Term was a Senior and Junior event at Purley on Wednesday, 12th December. The Seniors ran against Kingston, Purley and Wandsworth Grammar Schools, and came third in a very close match, Kingston getting 73 points, Wandsworth 76, Raynes Park 77 and Purley 77. Stevens came 3rd, Bayly 6th, Emmerson 11th, Reeve 15th, Edwards 18th, Mellor 24th, and Spencer 26th. The Juniors ran against Purley and Wandsworth. The result was Purley 37, Raynes Park 68, Wandsworth 72. The conditions were very bad, favouring the home team who had rubber-studded running shoes, so Coney and Gibbons ran very well to come 4th and 6th, with Willis 9th, Hodgson 11th, Donaldson 17th, Taviner 21st, followed by French and Green.

We were hosts to Sutton C.G.S. on the fine and sunny morning of Saturday, 12th January, when we started the Spring Term with reasonable success. The Seniors lost with 28 to Sutton's 27, but our Juniors easily won with 27 points to 55. Our scorers in the Seniors were Stevens (A.) 1st, Bayly 4th, Mellor 5th, Reeve 8th, and Paxman 9th; Spencer and Ali completed the team. The Junior scorers were Hodgson, Willis and Taviner, 1st, 2nd and 3rd, Kingham, Donaldson and Stevens (D.), 6th, 7th and 8th; Cottee, 9th, and Jenner were our other runners.

On Wednesday, 16th January we were soundly beaten by Wallington on our own course by 26 points to 55. Most of our runners were playing in house matches, and so of course they could not represent the School. We managed to raise six runners, and out of thirteen Bayly came 4th, Mellor 7th, Reeve 8th, Hodgson 11th, Fowles 12th, and Jameson 13th.

We again had trouble in raising a team, because of hockey in the afternoon, on Saturday, 26th January, when we ran from the Oberon against Tiffin School. Tiffin beat us by 31 points to 50, and our scorers were Stevens 3rd, Bayly 5th, Reeve 6th, Mellor 11th, Willis 12th, and Paxman 13th; Higham (C.) also ran.

Because it rained the day before, and there was no hockey, we were able to raise a full team, for the first time this term, against Mitcham on Wednesday, 6th February. We beat them on their own course by 29 points to 52. Stevens came 2nd, Reeve 3rd, Bayly 4th, Hodgson 5th, Willis 7th, and Fowles 8th; Higham and Emmerson were our other runners.

We had a return match against Surbiton C.G.S. on Saturday, 16th February, over their course at Hook. The Senior course was over roads and fields, with about three quarters of a mile of thick mud through a wood. Our team, except for Bayly, had only plimsolls, whereas the Surbiton runners all had cross-country shoes and were able to draw away through the wood while we could only slip and stumble at barely walking pace. Under these conditions Stevens (A.) did very well to come 4th, with Bayly 5th, Reeve 7th, Fowles 8th, Emmerson 9th, Spencer 13th; Paxman and Higham completed the team. We lost by 46 points to 33. The Juniors, over a slightly fairer course, won by 34 points to 46, with Hodgson 1st, French 3rd, Kingham 5th, Foulsham 6th, Cottee 9th, Stevens (D.) 10th, and Dollery 11th.

On Tuesday, 19th February we ran at home against Kingston, when Stevens unfortunately pulled a muscle, so we lost by 40 points to 39. Reeve came 2nd, Hodgson 4th, Bayly 5th, Fowles 7th, Stevens 9th, Willis 13th; Emmerson and Paxman completed the team.

On 2nd March we entered Senior and Junior teams in the Judge Cup Race without much success, coming 9th out of ten schools. A similar result was recorded in the Densham Cup Race on 16th March, when we came last of the nineteen teams which finished. Out of 132, Bayly came 74th, Willis 76th, Reeve 78th, Paxman 118th, followed by Hodgson, Stevens (D.), and Ali.

We met Ottershaw on Wednesday, 6th March over our course, when we won by 31 points to 49. Reeve came 1st, Bayly 3rd, Stevens 4th, Hodgson 5th, Partridge 7th, Willis 11th, with Emmerson 12th and Paxman 13th.

On Thursday, 21st March we had a Senior and Junior match against Caterham at Caterham. We lost the Senior by 26 points to 55. Stevens came 4th, Reeve and Willis 7th, Bayly 11th, Partridge 12th, Emmerson 13th, while Paxman and Fowles also ran. The Juniors made up for this by winning with 37 points to 43, Hodgson coming 1st, Donaldson 2nd, Taviner 4th, Coney 5th, Stevens (D.) 11th, and Curnes 14th; Green and Jenner also ran.

There is a team of three for the only other event of this term, a cross-country steeplechase at Purley on the last Wednesday. There are twenty-six schools entered, and if we have as much success as we usually have in the multi-school events, the result will not, as is the usual custom, be reported in the next edition of the *Spur*.

The Inter-House Cross-Country Run.

The main event of the season, the inter-house race for the S.H. Marshall Cup, was on Friday, 22nd February. It was a warm afternoon, and the course was dry except for the usual places along the brook. Reeve came first in 18 mins. 30 secs., with Bayly a close second. Stevens (A.), with more muscle trouble, led the rest of the field, in third place, 40 secs. later. The results were as follows:—

Newsoms — 1st, 95 points:

Reeve 1st, Stevens (A.) 3rd, Willis 5th, Partridge 9th, Spencer 11th, Stevens (D.) 13th, Yeldham 14th, Stevenson 39th.

Halliwells — 2nd, 103 points:

Hodgson 4th, Emmerson 6th, Paxman 8th, Higham (C.) 12th, Housego 16th, Creasey 17th, Colmer 18th, Ali 22nd.

Gibbs — 3rd, 200 points:

Fowles 7th, Barfoot (R.) 20th, Barfoot (J.) 21st, Western 25th, Wearn 29th, Edwards 30th, M. Loveday 31st, Bryson 37th.

Miltons — 4th, 211 points:

Bayly 2nd, Brugger 10th, Stevens (R.) 15th, Jameson 24th, Holmes 33rd, Burke 36th, Crocker 42nd, Jeffries 49th.

Cobbs — 5th, 290 points:

Griffin 19th, Brown 23rd, Hill 28th, Lea 34th, Boiling 41st, Bowerm 44th, Rowling 47th, Sutcliffe 54th. M.O.R.

SQUASH

It was with a considerably changed team that this term we recon- tinued the series of matches against King's College, Wimbledon. In the first, held on 12th February, we lost by the same margin of 2-3 as we had done in the previous matches last year. Our two wins were provided by Brugger (3-0) and Kingham (3-2). Determined that success should not again escape us by the same narrow margin, the team scored a very encouraging victory in the second match on the 12th March: each member of the team won 3-0. Since nearly every player is new to the team, this win indicates the improvement which has been made by the eagerness of all to practise. It is in anticipation of keen opposition that we look forward to matches against the Old Boys and the Staff in the remainder of the term. The team has consisted of Housego, J. H. Brugger, C. Higham, Kingham and Paxman, all of whom are sincerely grateful to Mr. Atkin, first for introducing us to the game, and secondly for providing us with the opportunity to enjoy further visits to the Club. I am sure this appreciation is equally felt by all the many others in the School who have ever played the game.

T.A.C.P.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

The Society has had a very active and successful term. Meetings have been held every Tuesday and Wednesday evening and have been very well attended by members. Details of the various excellent talks and papers read to the Society are given below by the Secretary in his report.

Perhaps the most important event of the term was the acquisition of a ten-inch reflecting telescope which, when purchased, was in a very dilapidated condition. Thanks to the enthusiastic support of members the instrument has been restored to a sound optical and structural condition. Nearly all members assisted in this lengthy and arduous work and the result is something that both the Society and the School can be really proud of.

The siting of the telescope has proved to be something of a problem. Being a delicate piece of apparatus, and also very large and heavy, it cannot be moved about from place to place without risk of damage. It has, therefore, been placed in the quadrangle, at any rate for the time being. This is not, for obvious reasons, the best siting for it, but when our extensions are completed, perhaps next year, it is hoped to find a more suitable place for it. There is, however, quite enough of the night sky visible from the quadrangle to keep the Society fully occupied observing for a very long time.

May I, on behalf of the Society, thank Mr. Archer, Mr. Townsend and Mr. Cooke for the very valuable help they have given us in reconstructing the telescope.

A Society notice board is to be placed in the staff room corridor, and this should be regularly consulted by members.

P.D.T.

Secretary's Report.

It was hoped when planning meetings of the Society to arrange a certain amount of practical work. This has proved very difficult since valuable or interesting practical study of most topics requires both specialised apparatus and the knowledge of how to use it. Despite this, we have managed to hold two observational meetings, one with R. M. Cooke's three-inch refracting telescope, and another more recently with the Society's own newly acquired ten-inch reflecting telescope. Unfortunately the weather has been singularly unco-operative on other occasions! We intend, in the near future, to organise some systematic studies and observations of various aspects of the heavens, and to attempt the drawing up of our own charts. This will necessitate the splitting of the Society into smaller groups, since our membership is at present about thirty strong.

During this term, two series of lectures have been started. One series is by N. E. Cole, in which, taking each constellation in turn, he has described their relative positions and their shapes, and given an account of the objects of interest to be found in each one. These nebulae, clusters and double stars, etc., which he has mentioned, we hope to observe on future clear evenings now that our telescope is in working order. The second series now under way is dealing with the Solar System and is being given by R. M. Cooke. In connection with the first series, Mr. Trinder and B. G. Hope gave short talks on the use of the spectroscope in astronomy, with special reference to the "Red Shift". Mr. Trinder, besides en-

thusiastically sponsoring us on all occasions, has also helped us in our general study of the constellations. In the second series, C. R. Shute has assisted by adding two short descriptive talks for the Junior members.

To date we have had only one visiting speaker, Mr. Noon of the British Junior Astronomical Society. (One of our members has joined this society as a representative of our School group.) Mr. Noon, speaking to us on a subject entitled "Our Galaxy, its Structure and its Size", brought along a set of lantern slides and gave us all a very enjoyable evening.

Our plans for the future will, we hope, include a film evening and several organised outings, in addition to more visiting speakers. We have felt up to now, however, that until the Society has built for itself a firm foundation and has begun to achieve something, we should not attempt to become involved with too many people outside the School. Now that the Society is proving a success, this objection will no longer remain, and early in the Summer Term these hitherto rather vague plans should begin to materialize.

R.M.C.

DA VINCI SOCIETY

The opening of the Society's Spring Term programme was marked by a packed attendance for the criticism of, and awarding of prizes for, the Art Competition based on Tennyson's *Morte D'Arthur*. This time the panel of Judges consisted of Mr. Rudgley, Mr. Townsend, Mr. Archer and Mr. Trinder. In the opinion of the Judges, the entry, though small, was of a higher standard than those for the previous competitions. The two winning works were most commendable. B. W. Rowling's work, which received the Senior award, had an excellent sense of atmosphere and a technique reminiscent of Samuel Palmer. P. J. Loveday's prize-winning work in the Junior section was outstandingly good. He has a natural sense of composition and a mature handling of figure drawing far in advance of his age group. All the Judges were unanimous in their commendation of his work, and he most justly obtained the Junior award. The Society wishes to express its gratitude to the panel for their excellent critique. It is proposed that another competition subject should be announced for the Summer Term, and it is to be hoped that our more reticent artists will be persuaded to enter the ranks this time.

Mr. Trinder, a staunch supporter of the Society, who can always be relied upon to give an interesting and entertaining talk, presented the next subject for the Society under the title "Jersey". In this talk, no exception to his previous lively lectures, Mr. Trinder gave us a personal account of this Channel Island, and most ably illustrated it with coloured slides which he had taken on his frequent visits. The excellence of his photographic work played no mean part in the enjoyment of this meeting, and we were able to learn not only a great deal about Jersey but also about pictorial composition. I am sure that real guidance was given in this direction for our members to use their cameras in an intelligent way when next they sally forth on holiday bent. The Society is most fortunate in enjoying the interest that Mr. Trinder shows in its affairs and the practical expression it takes.

We have now come to accept Mr. Ayton as the authority on matters of music, and he seems to have become the Society's specialist in this direction. In the past we have come to expect an individual and inspiring musical topic when Mr. Ayton appears on our posters, and his lecture this term was no exception. "Humour in Music" was the intriguing topic of his talk. This meeting commended a large audience

of both high and low brows, an adequate testimony to Mr. Ayton's powers as a lecturer. The talk was most entertainingly illustrated by many diverse examples on records. I am sure that these lectures make the most valuable contribution of introducing us to much music that we might not normally come across, and for this we owe Mr. Ayton a considerable debt.

Our readers, especially those who have no personal experience of our meetings, may perhaps be surprised at the diverse topics which we cover. It is our aim to help people to look in order to see and comprehend, and consequently we aim at a wide vision.

Mr. Archer in his talk "Canadian Interlude" presented a personal picture of Canada, based on his war-time experiences in the services there. The ability to look, see and comprehend was amply evident in this talk, and Mr. Archer's contribution in this respect ably continued the series of talks, of a personal nature and relating to places and people, that we have had in the past. The photographs, taken by Mr. Archer, were an integral part of a constructive and vivid account of the living conditions and scenery of the Dominion.

We were very pleased to be able to persuade Mr. Harlow, one of our student teachers, to address us on a subject closely connected with his subject, Mathematics. Under the title "Symmetry" he opened up to us the fascinating functions of proportion and construction in the realms of art and architecture. The relationship between natural pattern and man-made pattern was ably demonstrated, and I am sure that for our artistic members Mathematics took on an entirely new light. Due to counter-attractions, this meeting was not as well attended as usual, but I am sure that those who were there will agree with me that this lecture was one of our best and that those who failed to appear missed something of value.

The Third Dinner Hour Concert of live music brought the term's programme to a close. Once again Mr. Vyse presented an excellent programme of music for our entertainment, ably supported by members of the Staff and the School. Mr. Vyse and his group of musicians put in many hours of hard practice for our enjoyment and we are most grateful to them for their generous efforts, in their spare time, for our benefit. As usual the programme was lucidly introduced by Mr. Vyse. Below is the account of the programme provided.

Trio Sonata for Treble Recorders, 'Cello and Continuo J. Paisible
Consort for Descant, Treble and Tenor Recorders Matthew Locke
Three Movements from a Sonata for Treble Recorders Daniel Purcell
Suite for Descant, Treble and Tenor Recorders J. C. Faber
Two Songs (arranged for Tenor Recorders and 'Cello) Mozart

I should like to re-extend a welcome to all members of the School from the fourth forms upwards to our meetings. Good wine needs no recommendation, and I am quite sure that enquiry about our meetings will leave no one in doubt of the enjoyment and value that our adherents find. We look forward to continued lively support when we recommence our meetings next September. Meanwhile, it is proposed that in addition to another Art Competition next term, we may perhaps be able to present our Fourth Dinner Hour Concert.

Once again we wish to thank all our speakers for the amount of voluntary work that they have been engaged upon for our benefit: in no small way is the active life of the Society owing to their unselfish efforts.

A.C.R.

LITERARY SOCIETY

The Society has as usual enjoyed (i.e. gone through) a long period of inactivity. Pressure from other events is no real excuse; it just seems to be an inherent characteristic of the Society to advance in leaps and bounds. The spirit was this term revived by Fowles, who, having plenty of third-year time at his disposal, set things rolling with a talk on Shakespeare's Comedies. The early plays, we were told, show us the immature Shakespeare: he flogs the pun, his language is on the whole more flowery than in his later works, and his use of rhyme is more regular and strained. Turning from the general to the particular, Fowles dealt at some length with *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. This proved a valuable introduction to the Old Vic production which we went to see at Half Term, and about which I shall say no more for fear of depriving a colleague of vital material.

Later on in the term, a further talk, entitled "Malory and the *Morte d'Arthur*", was given by Fowles. Because of the more universal appeal of the subject, invitation was extended to the fifth forms. I feel this is a step in the right direction; in the past few years the Society has been perhaps too exclusive, and many a profitable talk has been largely wasted through lack of advertisement. The first half of the talk was devoted to the legend of King Arthur. We were read a considerable number of authoritative quotations, and were finally persuaded that the world described in Malory's tales was not entirely fictitious, but that, on the other hand, our modern romantic conceptions of knighthood and all that goes with it are in many cases thoroughly misguided. For example, the knights' dress was nearer to that of the Vikings in style than to the traditional plated armour and visor that we at once associate with chivalry. We were then given a summary of Malory's life, which was of necessity brief (the summary), since very little is known of him except that he was for many years a fugitive from justice — it was in prison (1468-71) that he completed his great work. To finish off, Fowles made some comments of general interest on the geographical errors in the tales, and on Malory's noticeable partiality towards Sir Launcelot. I hope that many, besides myself, will be inspired to read at least some of Malory's tales as a result of this comprehensive survey.

By the time these notes are published, Rogers will, if we run to schedule, have given a talk on "The Origin and Structure of Language". For the Society to thrive, more volunteers are needed to offer talks, and any suggestions would be welcomed.

J.H.B.

DEBATING SOCIETY

There have been no Senior debates this term. Responsibility for this lies only partially with the house plays and the trials. On the whole, without passing any judgement, it can be said that people do not want to get up and speak. The sole Junior debate this term (a second was abandoned for want of an audience) was shabbily attended. Witty and lively speeches from Shute, Hopper and Berridge were largely wasted. Or were they? Plainly, for these speakers who thereby added to their own experience and character they were not. But when speakers have to be press-ganged, any gain for the "volunteer" becomes so hollow that the Society becomes near redundant. The Society will only offer to those who have previously offered to it.

A.J.F.

GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

This term, after a lapse of some time, guests were again invited to the Society's Film Evening. This time they came from Nonsuch County Girls School. As they seemed to enjoy the programme, it is to be hoped that the practice will continue next term.

Of the four films shown, two dealt with oil — one in Venezuela, one in Iraq. Both were well done, but the latter, apart from the advantage of being in colour, also showed touches of imaginative camera-work; it succeeded as well in being more accurate, as it was made more recently.

A film dealing with the Alpine summer seemed rather at a loss as to what to take for its subject — cheese-making, cowherds, tourists or scenery. With the scenery spoiled somewhat by the film's rather indifferent colouring, it appeared to decide on cheese-making as its central theme. The result was a slightly patchy but still interesting film.

The fourth film was built around an ingenious idea. Taking the gum tree as the Australian equivalent of the oak or maple, it showed the activities found around different varieties of the tree in different parts of the continent. The result was an altogether fascinating film.

Although the projector was not so troublesome this time, requiring less constant attention, our thanks are still due to Mr. O'Driscoll. His is the energy which brings us these entertaining evenings, and we thank him gratefully for it.

J.W.J.

J.G.B.

CACTUS SOCIETY

It has been decided to disband the Cactus Society during the winter months and reopen at the commencement of the summer term. This step has been taken because in the winter cactus plants are enjoying their annual period of rest and there is little of interest that can be done with them. In the summer the fortnightly meetings will recommence, and it is hoped that any Juniors who are interested in these fascinating plants will come to the biology laboratory at 4.15 p.m. on alternate Mondays.

May I take this opportunity of reminding anyone who possesses any cacti that their growing season is just beginning and they should be watered in increasing quantities from now on. If you put your plants in the open air, beware of those late frosts which are still liable to come unexpectedly and destroy all of them.

We hope to put on a show again for Open Night, which will be in the summer term.

C.J.H.

GRAMOPHONE CLUB

Owing to the old malady of lack of records we were unable to continue our series on the sonata right up to the end of last term, and we finished up by playing Mendelssohn's third symphony, *The Scotch*, and Berlioz's grandiose *Te Deum*. We began this term with three symphonies: firstly Borodin's second symphony in B minor, probably the most popular symphony produced by the Russian nationalist school; then César Franck's controversial D minor symphony, full of rich expression; and finally Mendelssohn's symphony number five, *The Reformation*.

Our remaining programmes so far have taken the form of a continuation of the talk given to the Da Vinci Society by Mr. Ayton on modern music. In the first of these we heard excerpts from Britten's *Serenade* and Holst's *Planet Suite*, along with *In Taberna* from Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and the whole of the next programme was devoted to more of this rollicking, boisterous cantata. Despite Mr. Ayton's absence the following week, we managed to find some more modern music in the form of the *Masquerade Suite* by Khachaturian and some rather garish dances from his ballet *Gayneh*. These were preceded by an extraordinary recording of Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*. This was originally written to be played at a patriotic open-air festival, and at points was to be accompanied by discharges of cannon and by cathedral bells. The Capitol Company, unable to resist the American urge for a stunt, recently recorded it with these formidable embellishments. The result was ghastly. At the last of his programmes Mr. Ayton played to us Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kijé Suite*.

At the time of writing we still have two more programmes to fill in for this term. We hope to continue in the modern vein by cramming Shostakovich's tenth symphony into one of them. The nature of next term's programmes will be decided by what records are available. If anyone has any records that they are willing to lend us, would they please let us know them?

B.G.B.
M.R.B.

ORCHESTRA

This has been a term of consolidation and preparation: the classes have continued and, except for certain villains in the brass group, attendance has been good, while Thursday rehearsals have been regularly held. Those of us who have been regular in attendance at the rehearsals have made a great deal of progress in ensemble playing: above all, we have learnt to watch the conductor. In fact, we have made sufficient progress for there to be every chance of our giving an enjoyable concert during the course of next term, and it is to this end that we are now bending all our efforts.

We shall shortly have an important addition to our ranks as Mr. Timpson has started to teach the 'cello to a small class of two. We are very grateful to him, for when his pupils have reached the stage of being able to play with us, they will make a great difference to the sound the orchestra produces by providing a much needed reinforcement in the bass.

P.A.T.

SIXTH FORM JAZZ LISTENING GROUP

The reformers have been at work! This heartfelt exclamation is provoked by the fact that we broke new ground this term when two Economists braved the largely hostile group to present a programme on Modern Jazz. To aid them they had Gerry Mulligan and the Modern Jazz Quartet — the first time that either of these groups has been featured in our Friday meetings. Rumour has it that Mr. Riley attempted to insure the Art Room against this meeting, but such is our reputation that no insurance company would touch it; however, the crowd, although hostile, refrained from adopting their usual measures of disapproval, so the Art Room remained intact. The twin compères, J. Jameson and J. Bayly, emerged unscathed, but such is the temper of our meetings that neither has reappeared since.

We finished last term in a blaze of glory with a Skiffle programme that attracted sixty-seven people, but it is categorically denied that the masters have offered to finance a similar programme in order to maintain the peace that reigned then. M. Loveday gave an all-American personal choice programme including Jelly Roll Morton and Omer Simeon, while the clarinettist was again featured by G. Currie in another personal choice. This latter programme was rather sparsely attended, but this was to some extent compensated for by the fact that those who attended were able to regale their less fortunate brethren with the delights they had missed.

Before these programmes we had retraced our steps to the origins of jazz with an early recording date featuring 'King' Joe Oliver and his faithful pupil, Louis Armstrong, on cornets. Another programme which could be classified under the same heading demonstrated "Leadbelly" in his prime, both as a singer and a conversationalist. After this B. Denton gave another personal choice which illustrated the jazz of members of the Hot Five who now have their own groups. In addition to this he entered the arena to support Jimmy Noone's claims to be the greatest traditional clarinettist, greater even than Johnny Dodds and Omer Simeon, who have their champions in Hewitt and Loveday respectively.

The venue of the meetings has ranged between the Art Room, the Physics Lab. and the Biology Lab., to whose masters we are indebted; but our faithful clientele have "adhered tenaciously", to quote a much-quoted bus conductor. Our attendance this term has not quite attained last term's level, but this is compensated for by the fact that those who attend are the *aficionados* and not the people who are lost on Fridays. Our attendance will drop next term, as other commitments, in the shape of Advanced Level, will cloud the horizon for many of the Sixth. Once again I must finish by tendering my thanks and those of the group to all those who have lent us records or presented programmes at our Friday meetings.

B.D.

SPUR MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

During the months of winter and spring, members of the Club have been active in effecting improvements and modifications to the lay-out and its scenic background.

The new extension at the southern end of the track is now in full operation, with the terminus station, the siding, goods loading bay and engine shed. This has necessitated the cutting and laying of an entirely new length of track, the installation of a set of points, and rewiring the whole for power, all of which has been most successfully completed by a group of Club members, whose facility with pliers and soldering iron grows with each successive meeting.

A careful survey of the fabric and structure of the buildings in the village of Halliwell Green revealed in some cases the need for urgent repairs, whilst the church had begun to show signs of serious decay! Patient reconstruction work, utilizing much of the existing materials, has been undertaken, and with the planting of new trees the village now nestles snugly and peacefully beside the board curve of the track in the south-west corner.

Attention has also been paid to the structure of the fly-over, and the original temporary wooden piles have given way steadily to more solid-looking foundations, partly wall-faced, partly grass embankment; the

road and rail bridges have been reconstructed in appropriate style, with buttresses and stone cappings, reinforced concrete retaining walls and copings.

Replacement of worn track, too, has not been overlooked, although this work is unspectacular and often escapes notice. Even British Railways find periodic overhaul and maintenance an absolute essential if regular and faultless service is to be maintained. So also with the Spur Model Railway, if we are to ensure the efficiency at which we aim.

Several new members have joined since our last report, and there is still room for more model railway enthusiasts. From 7.15 to 9.0 p.m. on Monday evenings during term, the time is divided between operating the big Pacific, the Prairie tank and the happy little 0-6-2, and helping with the many and varied duties falling to the engineers, platelayers and maintenance staff of a well-designed and flourishing model railway.

S.G.C.

CHess CLUB

For the first time ever, I am obliged to open these notes with an apology. In the last edition of the *Spur*, I was so rash as to prophesy that the annual knock-out competition would be a *fait accompli* by the time the said article was read. Unfortunately, the two finalists, Messrs. Reeve and Loveday, in a misguided yet noble attempt to ensure that the competition lived up to its name, and was in fact an annual one, have sustained their Marathon conflict to the limits of animal endurance. We can only look to the future and hope.

Turning to a brighter topic, the inter-school matches, I must congratulate the team on resoundingly beating all opponents this term. There were in fact only one, Tiffin Girls School — against whom we played an away match on the 15th February. The Seniors, in fighting trim, easily won 6-2. It was the Juniors who gave cause for concern, for they lost 2-1! You may draw your own conclusions.

At the moment we are fully occupied with the House Chess Competitions. This year the teams are more evenly balanced, and this, it was felt, merited the scrapping of the previous knock-out system. Each house therefore plays every other on a points award basis of two for a win and one for a draw, both for individual games and the overall match result. In the first round Halliwells won against Newsoms, 8-4, and Miltons and Gibbs drew 6 all. In the next round Gibbs beat Halliwells, and Miltons beat Cobbs, in both cases by 8-4. In the last round to date, Miltons beat Newsoms, 8-4, and Gibbs, gaining the first overwhelming victory of the contest, defeated Cobbs by a very substantial 10-2!

This puts Gibbs well ahead of all other houses, and we look forward to seeing whether they can maintain this lead through the remaining two rounds.

S.J.C.

19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

The Group's two most notable events this term are its rescue from ignominious extinction, and the celebration of our founder, "B.-P's." Centenary.

For the first we are indebted largely to the support given by the Head, parents and friends of the Group, but more particularly to Mr. Pratt, who has taken over as Acting Scoutmaster. The second, "B.-P's."

Centenary, was an international event, commemorated throughout the country, indeed throughout the world, by church services. The Group was represented at the Wimbledon District's Church Parade; the church was absolutely packed, about a thousand Scouts in all being present.

Under Mr. Pratt's command and abetted by the Seniors, the activities this term have been varied and interesting. Instruction has been given on many topics, including First Aid, Nature Study and Cooking. (The last was somewhat upset by the inconvenient arrival of a large quantity of water.) Various wide games have also been organised; they have proved popular and so far no irreparable damage to life and limb has been incurred.

The Group's home has also undergone some change. The shady-looking activities you may have noticed on the Reservation are, believe it or not, neither to discover a shorter route to Australia, nor simply "to keep the brats happy". Within our palatial edifice we admire the works of the parents who, in order to avoid doing menial domestic tasks, have come along on Saturday mornings to work on the hut: we are grateful to them.

The Group, unlike the Armed Forces, would like to see its members increase: those interested should see Mr. Pratt immediately. Particularly welcome are first and second formers, and people who have given up *Mrs. Dale's Diary*.

As a parting shot, I would like, on the Group's behalf, to send best wishes to "Jo" Gamble, who left us during the course of the term, presumably to become a millionaire.

M.C.

A.T.C. NOTES

The new year started with a large scale reorganisation within the A.T.C. This enabled the R.A.F. to divert some of its much needed man power elsewhere, and brought us under the direct control of Home Command, with R.A.F. Chessington as our parent station, instead of 61 Group and R.A.F. Kenley as before.

The training record of the Squadron has been maintained this term, and in the quarterly assessment of A.T.C. Squadrons, based on results in training examinations, we were placed seventh out of a total of well over two hundred Squadrons in the Group. Training examinations held during this term resulted in Proficiency Certificates being gained by Cadets Adams and Hooper in the Aircrew section, and in the Signals section by Cadet Beattie, who, in so doing, became the first cadet to reach this stage since the Signals course was started last October. Cadet Beattie passed the examination with credit. Royal Aero Club Gliding Certificates were gained by Corporals Barley and Feather, who completed their solo flights towards the end of last year.

This year, for the first time, the Squadron has entered a shooting competition, and for the last sixteen weeks has been shooting fortnightly for the Lady Mitchell Cup. This cup is completed for by squadrons in S.E. England. At the half way stage in the contest only one match had been lost, and that only by the narrow margin of six points out of a total of four hundred. As a result of this the team were placed second in their section and since then have won all their matches. They now await only the final results to know whether or not they will go into the quarter finals. F/Sgts. Hope and Mayer also gained silver spoons for highest scores in the monthly inter-squadron contest held by Surrey Wing.

Other events during the term were Rugby, Cross-Country and Aircraft Recognition. Sgt. Wilson and Cpl. Stevens, A. J. represented Surrey Wing against Middlesex at Rugby, thereby gaining their blues. L/Cdt. Coney has been chosen to represent the Region at Cross-Country, as a result of the Surrey Wing Championships at Epsom, where the Squadron was placed third. In the annual Aircraft Recognition contest held at Surrey Wing Headquarters, Cpl. Gibb was placed third and F/Sgt. Hope sixth.

At the end of last year we had to say goodbye to our treasurer, Mr. Mackie, who as an ex-cadet of the Squadron held the appointment just over eight months. He has left to take up a banking post in Rhodesia, and is succeeded by Fg.Off. Rhodes, who joined the Squadron from No. 323 (Epsom and Ewell) Squadron last July.

The recent lowering of the age limit to thirteen and a half brought another influx of promising recruits who made the Squadron strength up to seventy, and provided us with a record parade, when, on the 22nd March, S/Ldr. Simmonds, District Inspecting Officer, accompanied by officers from the staff of the Surrey Wing, visited the Unit for the Annual General Inspection. After the Inspection a P.T. Display was staged under the direction of Mr. Hindle, who recently joined us as P.T. Instructor. This was followed by a tour of the building to see the Cadets at their training. The officers completed their tour by visiting the Squadron Headquarters to inspect records and equipment. On the final parade, S/Ldr. Simmonds congratulated the Squadron on its morale, general efficiency, and discipline.

To complete the term the Squadron has its Annual Training starting on 5th April. This year it will be spent at R.A.F. Acklington, Northumberland, which is situated thirty miles north of Newcastle and five miles from the East Coast.

D.L.B.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

With the close of the Autumn Term, £88. 2s. 6d. had passed through my hands into the Post Office; but I am sure a large percentage of this sum was soon withdrawn in order to purchase presents for the festive season. However, the above-mentioned total gave an average of £8 per week or about 14s. 6d. per form per week. The forms saving the most were IV(3, I(1), and I(2). At the other end there were V(x), V(z) and VI Arts, who had not put anything away.

Coming up to date with only two weeks to the end of this term, the total invested is over £91, and should easily top the £100 mark before we break up. This figure is much better than that of last term, giving a weekly average of £8. 7s. 0d.

On the surface these figures seem creditable, but there is, unfortunately, some distortion, owing to the fact that there is a foolish practice prevalent in the Middle School of buying stamps on the Monday, withdrawing them during the week, and re-investing the money on the following Monday. It is rather hard to understand what good this system does. One can only presume that the boys concerned want to show off in front of the rest of the School.

If you have any savings, even if it is only 6d., hand it to your form representative during registration on the Monday morning, and you will receive the stamps by four o'clock the same day. Only by doing this regularly can you "afford to laugh at the future".

A.S.

OLD BOYS SOCIETY

"Why should I join the Old Boys Society?"

"What will I get for my 7/6d. subscription?"

I wonder how many times these questions have been asked, particularly by boys just leaving School; I also wonder how many of my predecessors, with little but their convictions to guide them, have sought for a convincing answer. Writing this article in 1945 or even 1955 would have given me little but my convictions to write about, but in the Spring of 1957, I am pleased to be able to say that I have a solid backbone of evidence with which to plead my case.

Basically, the aim of the Society is to provide social and sporting activities for its members and to keep them in touch with the activities and events connected with the School. In this connection, as most of you will have already read, we have been able to achieve our long-sought aim by purchasing a Sports Ground at Hook. Here it is hoped to be able to provide at least three Rugby pitches, a Hockey pitch and a Cricket pitch; also, in the more distant future, some Tennis courts.

At the present time we are fortunate enough to have two Rugby pitches at Mootspur Park, and during this season we have run four teams, in all, which have achieved a wide margin of success. Even more outstanding has been the success of our seven-a-side team, which reached the final rounds of the Oxfordshire Tournament and recently eliminated Old Rutlishians from the Surrey Tournament. Hockey and Mixed Hockey matches are run where possible, but without a suitable pitch of our own it has been difficult to build up a fixture list. However, most Old Boys interested in playing Hockey have joined the same club, and we hope that when the facilities are available we will be able to have regular games on Saturdays and Sundays. Likewise the Cricket Club has suffered from the lack of a permanent home ground, but we were, last season, in the happy position of having more players than we could give games to. Hence in the coming season we have arranged two fixtures for every week-end, and we shall be pleased to give games to anyone at School, who is interested, during the Summer holidays. Our entry into other sports has been spasmodic, but nevertheless successful. Two Athletic Cups and a Squash Shield are now in our possession, and we hope with increasing support to widen our range of activities.

Socially, the Society cannot compete with the enormous range of activities which bedeck the front page of the School Calendar, but those which we do organise have proved their popularity and wide appeal. Pride of place must go to the Annual Reunion Dinner which attracts boys and masters from all areas and which is essentially the reunion of the year. The Christmas Dance and other dances with their slightly less formal atmosphere have proved a great success, and since its introduction three years ago the August Bank Holiday Garden Party has grown in size and attractiveness. Throughout the winter months Whist Drives are held regularly, while the Music Society, Chess Club and Discussion Groups can offer new members a varied and entertaining programme.

These are the bare facts — space allows little else; their design is to show you why we exist and how we exist. Our programme is expanding as the Society expands, and whether you are leaving School in three months or even years, we hope you will help to form part of this expansion. Perhaps the time will come when we shall have a Cactus Club of our own to exchange spiky plants with you. But until this happy day, we hope you will endeavour to support our activities just as we try to support yours.

Hon. Secretary

ROBERT MAYER YOUTH CONCERTS

So far only two more of this season's concerts have taken place since the last report. At the first of these we heard the distinguished London Symphony Orchestra under an equally distinguished conductor, Sir Malcolm Sargent. The concert took the form of an Elgar Centenary programme. The first work was the well known *Enigma Variations*, probably the most popular of Elgar's works. They certainly came over well under Sir Malcolm's direction. For the next work, *The Music Makers*, the orchestra was accompanied by the contralto soloist Marjorie Thomas and the Royal Choral Society. Though the performance was good, it was generally felt that the mediocrity of the work prevented it from being really enjoyable. Like most Edwardian things (apart from dress), Elgar's music is not in fashion nowadays, and thus only the very good parts of it are acceptable to the majority.

The next concert was given by the London Mozart Players under Harry Blech. First of all they gave a precise, if rather prim, account of Beethoven's *Prometheus Overture*. Then they were joined by Dennis Matthews for Mozart's Piano Concerto in D minor, K.466. Matthews' performance was generally good, but he showed too little feeling at the beginning of the second movement. The concert was ended by a very pleasant performance of Schubert's Symphony Number Two in B flat. Written when the composer was only eighteen, this is a most charming work, and is perhaps too much neglected by our orchestras.

The final programme consists of a variety of works by Dvorak, Mozart, Respighi, Wagner and Mussorgsky. We hope that it will be of the same high standard as the other five concerts. Finally our thanks are due to Mr. Loveday for organising these most enjoyable visits for us.

M.R.B.

"TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA"

Attracted by, amongst other things, the promise of pecuniary assistance from General School Fund for the purchase of tickets, a party from the Arts Sixth made a visit to the Old Vic, with the intention of broadening their Shakespearean knowledge in more genial surroundings than those of the schoolroom. Rumour had it that there was a scientist among our number, but either he kept well in the background, or perhaps misread "EXIT" as "ENTRANCE" and lost himself in the wilds of Waterloo Road. When enough members of the party (arriving by forms of transport as various as their headgear) had assembled outside to provide sufficient safety in numbers to assault the intellectual atmosphere within, we made our way to our seats and settled down to enjoy the production.

I spent the first few speeches wondering whether the lush vegetation on the set was natural or artificial. Nor was the first set disgraced by its successors, since they were all excellently executed and lit. The costumes, though of a later period than the Bard originally intended, were extremely colourful and pleasing to the eye. The two gentlemen themselves, with Richard Gale as Valentine, and Keith Michell as the Byronic Proteus, were the first characters to make their entrance, and immediately established the atmosphere of their great friendship, which plays such an important rôle in the plot. Their two manservants provided the comedy with remarkable dexterity and finesse, notably during their discussion of the vices and virtues of the woman whom Launce, played by Robert Helpmann, hopes to marry. It would be impossible to talk of Launce without mention of his dog, Crab. Duff, the golden labrador who acted the part, and I really mean "acted", had but one fault — that of stealing every scene he was in; in fact some of his expressions seemed more human than canine. Barbara Jefford gave an extremely good performance as Julia, supported by Rosemary Webster as the girlish Lucetta. Sylvia, the daughter of the Duke of Milan, was played by Ingrid Hafmann, who clearly showed why there were so many contestants for her hand.

The play, therefore, although lacking a spectacular plot (not, of course, the fault of the company) was nevertheless exceedingly well produced. For this we must congratulate Michael Langham — the prime source of our enjoyment.

R.S.W.

Instead of ending this term's Spur with the usual quota of space stories and descriptive pieces, we have decided to print a few poems. There are signs that after a long, barren period a number of people in the School are again turning to verse. The poems that follow are uneven in quality (but more poets must be encouraged to write before we can be properly selective) and are varied in subject and style, ranging from Fowles' backward-looking lyric to the more modern (and puzzling) verse of Higham and Sutcliffe, and from a nonsense ballad by Brodie of the second form to a "spiritual" by Rogers of the sixth.

THE FAIR MAID OF ASTOLAT

GREEN is the grass and silver the river,
But black is the barge that glides on its breast,
Green is the grass and silver the river
And white is her corpse that floats to its rest.

Blue is the sky that shines in the river,
And gentle the water that teases the shore.
Blue is the sky that shines in the river,
But dead is her love that knows sadness no more.

Gay are the banners that dance by the river,
And radiant the sun tints the turrets on high,
Splendid is Launcelot who walks by the river,
But careless his heart of the barge that floats by.

A.J.F.

THE STEPS

STEPS on the stair, hurried, harrying,
Key to locked memories,
Key to unwanted experiences.

The sunlit August wood,
Wood-pigeon cooing; snows of December,
A flashing thought.

Death of loved ones, red hot tyres —
Exam results. A host of crowding thoughts
Crush the brain.

And suddenly, with speed, with haste,
Disappointment intermingling joy,
Supper time.

C.F.W.H.

TIME GONE

TIME gone
all done
roads deserted, weeds upgrowing
all decay.
Clouds still rolling westwards lit by sun
and shrill wind whistling through the sterile trees.

Life extinct
hydrogen's tinct
playgrounds silent, gates swinging
all decay.
Thames still flowing seawards, unencumbered
no sound but water running, breezes sighing.

No more chatter
Footsteps' patter
world silent, tide yet ebbing
all decay.
Green grass turning brown, no moisture given
dormant buds for ever dormant.

All is dead
life has fled
windows toothless, see inside
all decay.
Nothing but mould and the foetid smell of long dead flesh
surprise and peace eternal.

From dust
into dust
fibres crumbling, iron rusting
all decay
only the wind.
Man was the measure of all things except one.

M.A.S.

DAVID AND GOLIATH

ONE was named Goliath,
The other, David he,
Who cared for flocks upon the farm
And now refused the use of arm
Against his foe-to-be.

The two advanced to fight;
The hosts, they stood around;
The land itself repulsed the thought
Of two great men reduced to nought
Upon the battle-ground.

"Ho Ho !" cried brave Goliath,
Who stood full twelve feet tall,
"Who is this whelp who comes from flocks
And stands here with his boyish looks
To free the Hebrews all ?"

Now David took no notice;
Instead, he raised his sling:
"With this, my friend, you'll meet your end,
So why not now prepare to bend
Your knee to Saul the King ?"

No answer made the giant,
But raised his spear to throw;
From out the sky the spear did fly,
But David dodged — it passed him by
And in the ground lay low.

What nimble child art thou
Who knows no fear to fight ?
My spear perhaps is not so quick,
My sword for sure will do the trick,
So arm yourself with stone and stick
To help you in your plight."

The giant took out his sword,
The strongest that he had,
And took his shield and donned his helm —
The finest armour in the realm —
And rushed towards the lad.

But David saw him coming,
So quickly picked a stone;
The stone towards the giant sped,
It hit the giant upon the head
And sank into the bone.

And now a cheer arose
From out the Hebrew host;
But when the foe perceived the plight
They quickly turned, no more to fight,
No more to brag and boast.

And now we all remember
How in the ages past
Brave men like David saved the land
And kept away the foraging band
By single combat on the sand
And fighting to the last.

A.T.R.,

THE SAGA OF LITTLE JIM

THIS is the saga of little Jim,
Born in a dustbin tall and slim.
'Tis in that same dustbin we start this tale,
In the tall dim shadows of Finchley Jail.

Into the dustbin the stork did fly
With Little Jim in a mincemeat pie,
Because there was no gooseberry bush
The stork did Jim in the dustbin push.

Little Jim's father (whose name is Fred)
I am sorry to say, is still in bed.
Went to jail for stealing a pea —
Crime obviously doesn't pay, you see.

So Jim was born at the age of three,
In a dustbin in East Finchley.
He went to work when he was two,
But there wasn't much Little Jim could do.

When he was four he went to see
If he could swim the Irish Sea;
And on his feet two kippers he tied,
And started to walk to the other side.

Young Jim sang a melody divine
Whilst eating peanuts and drinking wine;
And when he'd nearly crossed, he stuck
His legs in the back of a garbage truck.

And thus he reached the further side
On the early morning tide,
And there he found his shaggy dog
Washing himself in an Irish bog.

He started on the return journey,
And found that the water was up to his knee,
So he thumbed a lift from a passing pail,
But I'm sorry to say that it sank in a gale.

Thus ends the saga of little Jim,
Who was born in a dustbin tall and slim;
And on that sad note I will end this tale
Of how Jim was drowned in an Irish pail.

D.L.B.

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