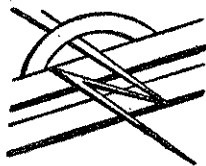


RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The

SPUR

AUTUMN TERM 1957



VOLUME 13

NUMBER 1

# THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL

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

Vol. XIII. No. 1

Autumn, 1957

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## SCHOOL OFFICERS, Autumn Term, 1957

*Head Boy:* G. D. Crocker.

*Second Boy:* A. A. Beattie.

*Prefects:* J. M. Adams, T. G. Ayres, J. M. H. Chambers, M. Chiddick, J. A. Colmer, G. A. Currie, J. Davie, B. R. H. Doran, J. D. M. French, R. P. N. Housego, C. J. How, W. R. Lintill, B. G. W. Morley, R. K. Stevens, A. Thomas, M. A. Yeldham.

*Captain of Rugby:* R. K. Stevens.

*Secretary of Rugby:* P. C. Clark.

*Secretary of Cross Country:* R. A. Willis.

*Captain of Swimming:* G. D. Crocker.

*Prefect of Hall:* W. R. Lintill.

*Prefect of Library:* J. A. Colmer.

### HEADMASTER'S NOTES

The loss of Mr. Loveday is a severe one, not only to the Science and Economics Sixth and to Gibbs House, but also to everyone here. For fifteen years he has done as much as two men can be expected to, and rather better, and we must be grateful to have had him so long. The opportunity to take charge of Statistics at Kingston Technical College, with more leisure to complete his book on the subject, is one we cannot begrudge him. But certainly he leaves a lamentable gap. He has been as popular as he is efficient as a teacher: in his room no one's voice was raised, not even his. He has fathered Gibbs House in a happy democratic spirit. He has had charge from time to time of the Cross Country running, of the Athletic Sports, of Swimming, of Music, as well as of Mathematics, and he has been Secretary of the Masters' Common Room. He helped organise the wartime evacuation, he ran harvest camps, he has camped too with scouts. He has contributed an enviable baritone to concerts, and (not his least gift) two thoroughly satisfactory members to the School and now to its Old Boys Association. But what matters more than the multiplicity of roles which he has admirably filled is the unflinching good humour, the candour and integrity of purpose, which have earned him exceptional affection and respect from every master and boy he has met.

We wish him happiness and success in his new post, and console ourselves with the hope of frequent visits henceforward.

We cordially welcome as Senior Mathematics Master Mr. T. Horler, who after taking his degree at Bristol has been teaching at King Edward VI School, Chelmsford. The new Housemaster of Gibbs is Mr. Pratt, who takes over with the warm confidence of us all — despite some chagrin in Cobbs House at their loss.

We congratulate the following on the award of County Major Scholarships:—

B. P. Betts (at the University of N. Staffs), J. H. Brugger (Oxford), S. J. Cohen (Cambridge), D. J. Creasey (Southampton), G. W. Davis (Chelsea Technological College), B. H. Finch (Bristol), C. F. W. Higham (Cambridge), R. J. Smale (Southampton), M. A. Sutcliffe (Bristol) and D. J. Thornley (Glasgow). P. A. Johnson goes to Birmingham and P. J. Parry to Queen Mary's, London, with Major Awards from last year. M. Loveday was awarded a County Major, but will not need it since he has also gained a R.A.F. University Cadetship, with which he hopes to proceed from Henlow to Cambridge next year. B. G. Barker at Goldsmiths and B. G. Hope at Battersea Polytechnic are also reading for London degrees, and R. M. Cooke and A. M. Emmerson hope to do so later.

### PRIZE-GIVING

This year's Prize-Giving was held later than usual, on 30th October, at Wimbledon Town Hall, and it was gratifying to see such a good attendance by the parents and friends of the school. The Chairman of the Governors, Mr. J. Hood-Phillips, opened the proceedings by introducing our guests.

The Headmaster's report followed the Chairman's speech. He told us of the results of last summer's G.C.E., which, on the whole, were quite good. The Ordinary-level candidates passed in 60 per cent of their subjects, which was well up to national average. This year a dozen pupils from last year's Fourth forms took the examination a year earlier than usual. They all did very well, and went straight into the sixth.

Mr. Porter went on to say that some twenty or more boys had left on their way to university degrees. But there was no direct state scholarship obtained, which, he said, was a disappointment. This was partially offset by the fact that we had two open college awards, which automatically carried a state award. He then passed on to talk of the Old Boys' Society, and told us that they had now acquired their own playing field, and were working hard on it to bring it into use as soon as possible. They also have their own magazine and three rugby teams in existence, and with a fourth in contemplation, which is a help and credit to the school. The Headmaster also told the parents of the loss of five members of our staff at the end of last term, and he welcomed the new masters who had taken their places. But the position of a maths master had still to be filled. This, unfortunately, puts more work on the shoulders of others.

After this address, Mr. J. Hood-Phillips introduced our most distinguished guest, Dr. Barnes Wallis, to us. We were greatly honoured to have one of the most brilliant scientists of modern times to distribute the prizes.

Dr. Barnes Wallis then gave a formal speech. He said that the only regret he had at being present was that we had been unable to get Michael Redgrave to play his part, because he would have done the job better, and had been a modern side school master. He told us that we pupils were the cream of the rising generation of this country. But, we were told, twelve out of every hundred young engineers who qualified last year at

the Royal Aeronautical Society, had already emigrated, either to the U.S.A. or Canada, and that no doubt a number of others went to other parts of the Dominions. Those people were badly needed in this country, but, he supposed that they thought life in the Dominions offered them better opportunities. He also told us that, geographically, at least, the British were the most favoured nation in the world, as we could bring in raw materials from abroad, and, using skilled British technicians, manufacture them.

Dr. Wallis asked us what we could do to keep our end up against the U.S.A. and Russia, who had millions more people than we had working for their countries. This is where the young students come in. He told us that our coal had gone. But what did it matter? We would be vitally concerned in designing power stations to make use of nuclear power. We could reach every part of the world from this country by sea, and we could do it with merchant ships propelled by nuclear power. Dr. Wallis said that enough was known about the resistance of underwater boats to prove that the power required to propel a submarine merchantman was a mere fraction of the power required to propel it at the same speed and tonnage on the surface. So, in a generation, all our vital supplies would be brought to us underwater. He then went on to talk about manpower, as we were in the age of the rapidly growing science of automation, controlled by young scientists. Here lay the future, because what mattered was the manpower that used its brains, and that was going to mean the younger generation. He told us that the real interpretation of the backwardness of this country was that, although we were always seeking the truth, nothing was ever done with the knowledge that had been gained. We saw this happening time and again in industry. Someone discovers some important fact, but it was put away. Then a few years later another major power came out with the very same thing that had been lying about unnoticed in this country. Dr. Wallis closed his speech by warning us not to be discouraged, and not to think for one moment that our old country was done for, as it was not.

Dr. Barnes Wallis was thanked for his address by Alderman S. Black, and the proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

G.D.C.

### PRIZE LIST, 1956-1957

#### Form Prizes

- i M. Munro, A. S. Gorman.
- iii J. M. Crocker, F. J. Wilton.
- 2v J. C. Groombridge, B. T. Elsdon.
- 2vi A. J. Phillips, N. A. Preece.
- 3vii J. A. Bull, D. B. Ring, N. E. Cole.
- 3viii P. L. Davies, M. V. Mansi.
- 4iv M. D. Ross, N. G. Cottee, K. H. D. Hopper, S. D. Pattinson.
- 4iii E. Phillips, D. F. Jenner.

#### Fifth Forms: for performance in G.C.E Ordinary Level

- 5x. M. R. Cox.
- 5y. D. J. Clark, M. J. Jeffreys, A. R. Page, D. L. Hammond.  
M. A. Yeldham, V. E. Bowern, R. M. Stevenson.
- 5z. M. D. Wright.

### Lower Sixth

Arts—J. A. Colmer, J. Davie.

Science—B. R. H. Doran, J. D. M. French, W. R. Lintill.

Economics—D. A. Groves.

### Upper Sixth

War Memorial Prizes—A. J. Fowles, D. S. D. Shelley.

Arts—J. H. Brugger, M. R. Burke, C. F. W. Higham, D. S. D. Shelley,  
M. A. Sutcliffe.

Science—S. J. Cohen, D. J. Creasey, G. W. Davis, B. G. Hope.

Norman Prize—B. P. Betts, M. Loveday.

Economics—J. W. Jameson.

### General Prizes

Effort outside class—E. C. Jacobs, I. Corbett, G. D. Crocker, G. M.  
Gower, P. H. Newman, D. F. W. Pollard, M. Chiddick,  
P. R. Johnson, B. H. Finch.

Music—A. E. Bourne.

Hobbies—R. W. Lee.

Art—B. W. Rowling, K. D. G. Jones, P. J. Loveday.

Craft—A. Oakley, R. M. Stevenson, I. R. Hall, D. L. Sherwin.

General Knowledge—D. L. G. Barley, J. A. Bull, M. P. Ness.

Beaverbrook Bennett—C. M. Hopper, J. S. Carlow.

Old Boys'—A. J. Fowles.

John Robbins Essay—A. J. Fowles, J. H. Brugger, R. J. Young,  
B. H. Finch.

Leaving Prize to Head of School—A. J. Fowles.

### Advanced Level Certificates

6 Arts—G. Boiling, J. H. Brugger (Distinction in Latin), M. R. Burke,  
D. H. Dulieu, B. H. Finch, C. F. W. Higham, P. T. Parry,  
T. A. C. Paxman, P. Seaman, D. S. D. Shelley (Distinction  
in Latin), M. A. Sutcliffe (Distinction in Latin), D. J. Thornley,  
R. S. West.

6 Economics—G. J. Bayly, B. Denton, J. W. Jameson.

6 Science—B. G. Barker, B. P. Betts (Distinction in Physics), S. J.  
Cohen, R. M. Cooke, D. J. Creasey, G. A. Currie, G. W.  
Davis, A. M. Emmerson, G. R. Hewitt, G. A. Hill, B. G.  
Hope, P. R. Johnson, M. Loveday, M. O. Reeve, R. J. Smale,  
D. C. Spencer, A. J. Stevens.

## TROPHIES

### From Open Competition

The Wimbledon Schools Athletic Association Junior Shield.

The Wimbledon and District Schools Swimming Association

Senior Shield.

Senior Relay Shield.

Senior Diving Cup.

The Moss Trophy (A.T.C.).

## School

Eric Porker Cup	...	J. H. Brugger
Michael Welby Debating Cup	...	Halliwells
P. W. Garrett House Play Cup	...	Gibbs
Chess Cup	...	Gibbs
Parents' Rugby Cup	...	Halliwells
Governors' Cricket Cup	...	Cobbs
Spur Society's Hockey Cup	...	Cobbs
Cray Swimming Cup	...	Newsoms
S. H. Marshall Cross Country Cup	...	Newsoms
John Garrett Athletics Cup	...	Halliwells
T. W. Powys Cobb Tennis Cup	...	Halliwells
B. C. Michez Cup for Gymnastics	...	Halliwells
Junior Shield	...	Gibbs
B. T. King Cock House Cup	...	Halliwells

## HOUSE NOTES

### COBBS

*Captain:* A. Thomas

*Prefects:* J. M. H. Chambers, A. A. Beattie

The end of last term saw the departure of a great number of senior members, but the house has gone forward determined to live up to its high standards.

The Senior House Rugby Team has so far only played two matches, both of which have been lost due to an obvious superiority of the other teams, but all those who played can congratulate themselves on well fought matches. Most of the team have had very little practice, but with the leadership of Beattie and Clay the forwards are improving rapidly, and the threequarters are gaining confidence. The most promising of these is Pollard. Although not harbouring any fanciful illusions about winning this section of the Cup, no one will be able to say that we have not played well. At any rate we will have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

The Colts have played two matches, of which one was drawn and the other narrowly lost. The team contains some very promising players, who will form the nucleus of our senior team in a few years' time. The rest of the team play well, but with more practice could develop into imposing opposition for any other house.

House Matches for the Juniors are not scheduled to be played until next term. By that time they will have had sufficient practice to make a good showing against the opposition.

This term has seen the holding of another House Supper, a most popular institution. A substantial meal was prepared by several mothers, and within a few minutes all had disappeared into hungry members of the House. The rest of the evening was taken up by games, and entertainment by "Gay" Boiling and Clive Feather. Many thanks are due to Mr. Atkins and Mr. Pratt for their work in making a success of the evening.

Before the end of this term preparations for our next House Play will have commenced. Despite protests from last year's cast that they are now quite certain of their parts (not before time!), this year's list of probable plays does not include *The Chiltern Hundreds*. A simpler production will be the order.

Next term will see the start of the hockey season. The prospects for the House in this competition are quite good, but those Colts who have not yet played hockey will need practice and help from the seniors in order to become proficient players. Also, as mentioned before, the Juniors have their Rugby Competition, in which we wish them the best of luck. Other competitions due next term are Cross-Country, Gymnastics, Debating, Chess, and the House Plays. I am sure everyone in the house would like to see these trophies brought back to our house, but it will not be easy.

Of course the ultimate objective is the Cock House Cup. With a concentrated effort from all members of the House, this trophy is not outside our grasp, but it is essentially a team effort and not one where a few stalwarts can be relied upon to do all the work, while the rest can sit back and mutter words of encouragement. To bring the ship safely to port we must all pull together on the oars.

A.T.

### GIBBS

*Captain:* R. Lintill

*Prefect:* T. G. Ayres

Last term we said good-bye to several of our senior members, and this loss will be felt in all branches of House activities. Our best wishes go with them all. We must, however, look to the future, and it is my first duty to welcome all new members to the House and to hope they will all prove valuable assets, as it is with them that the future of the House lies.

We have started very well indeed in the Rugby this term. The Seniors, captained by P. C. Clark, have succeeded in winning the first three games they have played. Against Halliwells we won convincingly enough by 18-3. This was due to fine kicking by Wearn and some fine solo bursts by Clark. We next met a powerful Miltons team whom we managed to defeat by 11-3. Finally we played a mediocre Cobbs team whom we managed to beat by 9-0, due undoubtedly to the absence of our scrum leader T. G. Ayres. Thus with only Newsoms to play our Rugby prospects seem unquestionably bright.

The Colts led by Westall have so far only played one game which they unfortunately lost 8-3. The Colts should, however, remember that Rugby is a team game and should not rely so much on Nicholls, who admittedly brilliant, cannot win games on his own.

In connection with Rugby we must heartily congratulate T. G. Ayres on his success in the Surrey Rugby Trials, and also Nicholls, in the Surrey Colt Trials, on being awarded a cap when he still has another two years in this age group.

The preparations for this year's House Play — 'Dial 'M' for Murder' — are already underway under the guidance of T. G. Ayres and Venison, but we will sadly miss the talent of A. J. Fowles and B. H. Finch who have carried, with so much success, the burden of our House Plays for the last three years.

As for next term our Cross Country prospects, under the enthusiastic guidance of the 'Barfeet', are not at all gloomy, while I am sure we can field an above average hockey team in both Senior and Colts sections.

Thus I feel that if everyone pulls his full weight this year we can safely say that the Cock House Cup is quite within our reach.



In the midst of all this optimism there is just one very sad element, and that is our forthcoming loss at Christmas of our Housemaster, Mr. Loveday. During the years he has spent with Gibbs he has given unselfishly much of his time and energy to the great benefit of the House. In all our House sporting activities he has always been there to encourage us, and to give freely of his good advice, and I am sure that the Annual Garden Party will never be quite the same in his absence. Indeed Mr. Loveday, I am sure every Senior member of the House will bear witness, has been a pillar of strength to whom we could turn in times of need, and from whom we could always obtain good advice. Thus we wish you, Mr. Loveday, a sad farewell and with you go all the best wishes for the future from every member of the House, and we hope you will take with you happy memories of Raynes Park and of Gibbs House.

### HALLIWELLS

*Captains:* R. P. N. Housego, C. J. How

*Prefects:* M. Chiddick, J. A. Colmer

*Treasurer:* A. T. Rogers

Last year the house showed its prowess not only in the sporting field but also in the more intellectual activities. Sporting activities were successfully concluded with the acquisition of five cups, namely for Rugby, Gymnastics, Athletics, Tennis and the much coveted Cock House Cup. Moreover, although lacking outstanding runners we came a very close second to Newsoms in the annual cross country run. This was due to the very keen spirit of the entire team. We also won the Michael Welby debating cup, were narrowly beaten into second place by Gibbs in the chess competition and put up a commendable performance of *Richard II* in the house play competition. At the end of last term we celebrated our successful year with a House Supper which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Our thanks are due to those who worked hard to prepare and organise this for us. On this occasion, however, we regretfully had to say goodbye to Mr. Townsend, whose helpfulness and sense of humour will be missed by all. We also said goodbye to all last year's prefects and second year sixth formers. We wish all who have left us every success in the future.

This term our senior rugby team is missing the star players of last year. Three out of the four games have so far been played and have all been lost. However all the team have enjoyed their games and that is, after all, what matters most. Higgs, as captain, has proved a good leader, setting a good example in the scrum and encouraging the whole team. Young has now become one of our outstanding players. He tackles beautifully and is a great help to the team. Kingham and King are also worthy of note, the former for his passing and speed, and the latter for his kicking.

The colts have a much stronger team and should be able to have a very successful term. So far they have only played Newsoms whom they beat 18-6. Burgess as captain, is a good kicker and passes well. Carson tackles well and makes clean passes. Hall, Stevenson and Iles all play well and with practice should develop into really useful players.

The junior team has not played any games yet, but has proved to be keen and willing to learn in house practices. We all wish them success and remind them that they have their own trophy to win, namely the Junior Shield.

If all the members of the house pull together in the coming year, there is no reason why the Cock House Cup should not remain in its rightful place.

C.J.H.  
R.P.N.H.

## MILTONS

*Captain:* G. D. Crocker

*Prefects:* J. M. Adams, J. Davie, B. R. H. Doran, J. D. M. French,  
B. G. W. Morley, R. K. Stevens

At the end of last term it was with regret that we had to say farewell to one of our House Masters, Mr. Sweetland. He will be greatly missed as he contributed in many ways to help run the House. We all wish him the best of luck at his new post in Nottingham. We extend a hearty welcome to his successor, Mr. Stephenson. We also had to say good-bye to several of the boys at the top of the House, notably M. R. Burke, our Captain last year, Shelley, who is now at Kings College, London, reading Law, Brugger, Jameson, Bayly, Cohen, Davis and Gower, all of whom made considerable contributions to House activities. We must congratulate all the senior boys in the successes in the G.C.E. examinations, and we wish those who have left all the best of luck in their future careers. 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.

We were glad to see Mr. Herdman back amongst us and looking well, after his operation at the beginning of this term. We all welcome him back and trust that he has fully recovered.

We finished another unsuccessful year in the field of Sport, by coming last in the Cock House Competition. However, we were unlucky not to be placed a little higher in one or two of the events, because we had players in J. H. Brugger, R. K. Stevens, J. Davie, B. Morley, Gower, etc. Some of these boys have left, and we are hoping that there will be many new enthusiasts coming along.

In the Tennis Tournament we had a good team led by Gower, and they played very well to finish second, tying with Newsoms. The Cricket team played hard, but, unfortunately, with few successes. The Junior Team, on the other hand, played extremely well, and won all their matches, thereby finishing second in the Junior Shield. Before the Swimming Gala, on the results of the Swimming Qualifying, we were in a favourable position, lying second to Newsoms. But in the Gala itself we were only placed in a few events, and we ended up fourth in the Competition. Goddard swam very hard in the Colt Back Stroke and finished second equal with Bond of Gibbs.

This term, the only competition under way is the Rugby competition. The seniors have as our captain the School Rugby Captain, R. K. Stevens, and in our team there are eight 1st and 2nd players, but in spite of this we have lost two matches and won one. We lost to a strong Newsoms team 0-11, and to an equally strong Gibbs team 3-11, but in an exciting game against Halliwells, we eventually won 9-0. The Colts have not met with much success either, drawing with Cobbs 18-18, and losing to Halliwells 0-30. The Colts' results would have been less disappointing if a full team had turned out.

Next term we are faced with the Hockey, Cross-Country, Debating, Chess and House-Play Competitions. Instead of just hoping that things will improve, each member of Miltons should be determined to do his utmost for the House in the future.

G.D.C.

## NEWSOMS

*Captain:* M. A. Yeldham

*Prefect:* G. A. Currie

The end of the summer term saw the departure not only of several fifth and sixth formers, but also of one of our house masters, Mr. High, whose work in the fields of hockey, cricket and tennis has been much appreciated. We have been extremely fortunate, however, in securing as house master in his place, Dr. Morgan, who will, I am sure, prove to be a valuable acquisition. A tribute must also be payed here to D. C. Spencer, last year's house captain. His presence was felt in almost every house activity, and when he could not partake actively in house competitions, he was always involved in the less glorious side of organisation. His example could be followed by a good many house members who are content simply to stand aside, and watch others do the work. Our congratulations must go also to G. A. Currie on his appointment as a school prefect.

In last term's notes, two senior cricket matches were not reported. These were against Halliwells, where we secured an easy victory, and against Miltons, by whom we were defeated. In swimming, however, we were much more successful, and our team put up a fine show to win this competition. Thus at prize giving, we were able to secure both the cross-country cup, and the swimming cup.

The only competition which has been begun this term has been rugby, in which the seniors have been highly successful, winning all three matches played so far without conceding any points. In their first match, against Halliwells, they won convincingly by 23 points to nil. In the second and third matches they beat Miltons and Cobbs by 11 and 20 points to nil respectively. The remaining match is to be played against Gibbs — by far our toughest opponents. It may be a difficult match, but there is every possibility of the seniors bringing off their fourth victory. Congratulations are therefore due to Thorp and his team.

The colts have not done so well. Only one match has been played so far, against Halliwells, who won by 12 points to six. We must hope that better results will be seen from them in the remaining matches. However, the overall picture as far as rugby is concerned is a pleasing one.

It is often inevitable that some seniors leave at Christmas, and in this respect we are trebly unfortunate, for we are to lose three members of the house who have always been to the fore in house activities. They are P. A. Thorp, C. Townsend and R. A. Willis, and with them go our best wishes for the future.

Finally, to look forward to next term, we must try to retain the cross-country cup, and to win the hockey, debating and junior rugby competitions. If we try hard enough, there is no reason why we should not, at the end of next term, be in the lead as far as the Cock House Competition is concerned.

M.A.Y.

## THE DA VINCI SOCIETY

The opening lecture of the term, given by Mr. Riley on "Samuel Palmer", marked the commencement of the Sixth year in the life of the Society. In the talk the lecturer showed the influence that this 19th Century artist had on Modern British Painting, particularly in the work of such artists as Graham Sutherland, Henry Moore, Nash and Minton. The slides, borrowed from the Victoria and Albert Museum, most excellently

illustrated this lecture. The impact of Sutherland's large painting of the "Crucifixion" had a profound effect on the audience, and provided a suitable climax to the lecture.

At very short notice, due to the indisposition of the advertised lecturer, Mr. Archer nobly stepped in to give us a most informative talk on "Design in Printing". With a well chosen collection of examples of layout in printing, and modern abstract compositions, Mr. Archer showed us the way in which the modern typographer achieves his designs. Of particular interest were the examples of printing by the School Press, and the development of the lay-out of the "Spur" and the Garden Party Programme. Such productions may be taken for granted, but it is important to realise that all these publications have to be designed, and the School is fortunate in having in their Craft Master one who has shown us, by example, to have a true sense of his subject. It is due to his efforts that our printing maintains its high standard.

Once more Mr. Trinder, in his lecture entitled "Mr. Trinder on the Continent", charmed us with his witty style, and another example of his excellent work in colour photography. This time we were taken on a tour of Paris and Amsterdam, two cities which Mr. Trinder has recently visited. The lecturer most ably contrasted these two Continental cities in relation to their architectural styles. As in his previous similar talks Mr. Trinder's photographs displayed an excellent sense of pictorial composition.

J. M. Adams, of the second year Arts Sixth, chose for the subject of his lecture "Albrecht Dürer". The acquisition of a reproduction of the drawing *Praying Hands* by this 15th century German artist had awakened Adams' interest in his work. In his talk Adams ably conveyed his enthusiasm for Dürer's work, outlining the story of the artist's life, showing us examples of the master's work in oils, engravings, water-colour, and pencil. His lecture was well prepared, lively and informative, and it is to be hoped that others will follow Adams' example and come forward next term to address the Society.

Two Danish films were shown this session, "D . . . for Design", and "Frescoes". The first film was in colour of an excellent quality, and showed us examples of Danish Craftsmanship. The film was valuable in that the process of screen printing in relation to fabric prints was shown. A wide range of crafts was covered by the film, and a long sequence on the design of a fork was most instructive. The second film, made by Luciano Emmer, was based on a series of recently discovered early frescoes in a Danish Church. Clever camera work, moving about these early art works built up the story of the Creation, the Fall, and finally the Day of Judgement. The frescoes, although primitive in their economy of means, had great power and strength. The camera technique ably conveyed their strong story-telling quality. One could well appreciate the impact they must have had on their contemporaries.

The Headmaster, Mr. Rudgley, Mr. Archer and Dr. Morgan, formed the panel of judges for this term's Art Competition, and on November 11th a criticism of entries for this competition was given. The subject set this term was part of a poem "Something of the Sea" by Alan Ross, and as before the competition was divided into three groups, Senior, Middle and Junior. In the opinion of the Judges work entered this time in the Senior and Middle sections was not of a sufficiently high standard to merit awards, but in the Senior Section work by Brooks, D. and Jones, K.D.G., both of UVY, were highly commended. It was in the Junior section that the most promising work was exhibited, and it was the unanimous opinion of the Judges that the works of Riley, P. A., of 2<sup>5</sup> were outstanding and therefore awarded the First Prize, while another member of the Junior section Wilton, F. J. also of 2<sup>5</sup> received the Second

Prize. The criticism was very well attended, well over fifty people being present, which showed that there was a real interest here. It is to be hoped that in future competitions more people will play a more active part. More entries are required, a point stressed by the Judges, and we hope that would be entrants will not be shy in coming forward next term to participate in our subsequent competition. We would like to thank the panel of Judges for all the work that they put into this competition, generously giving of their spare time for our benefit. We were particularly pleased to be able to include the Headmaster on our Panel, and would like to take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of the valuable help and encouragement he always gives to Art in the School.

Further talks this term are to be given by Dr. Morgan, and Mr. Rudgley, and we shall be holding our Fifth Dinner-Hour Concert. Reports of these meetings will appear in the next issue of the *Spur*.

As we have said before, the life of the Society depends on the enthusiastic support of its members. Those who attend our meetings will testify to the valuable part the Society has to play in the School, and it is to be hoped that more will find their way to the Art Room on Mondays at 1.10 p.m. All members of the School from the 3rd forms upwards may attend, and any Juniors who wish to may do so, provided they make suitable arrangements for their lunch. The Society was primarily founded for members of the Sixth Forms, and it is to them that we mainly offer our services. We hope that they will not be slow to take advantage of them.

A.C.R.

## Classical Society

### DOVER CASTLE

As we approached Dover, the rain, which had been relentlessly battering on the windscreen all morning, stopped, and we were favoured with warm sunshine. After a succession of tortuous climbs we arrived at our alighting point and began our ascent to the castle. This exhausted all but the *duo magistri*, who strode staunchly in the van with a display of true Roman *virtus*. Dover castle is situated upon a cliff and its 459 feet afford a view which in one sweep takes in sea and town and expansive green and white cliffs. Unfortunately, apart from its prospect the castle possesses no outstanding spectacles, for its impregnable position has prevented bloody battles and similarly entertaining slaughters. It has, however, a few little gems, among them our guide, who obviously surprised that a party of our size had survived the climb, eagerly seized his chance and enumerated at large the manifold virtues of his stronghold, occasionally pausing for breath. The castle is built upon an old Roman site and has the usual Norman characteristics, a large keep surrounded by a wall and turrets. Inside the keep is a chapel which was used during Mediaeval days and still retains a simple splendour and dignity. The walls are bare but the altar is draped with a blue-and-red velvet cover, upon which stand two fine candlesticks. There is a recess for the elements and behind this a tiny vestry screened by a wine-coloured curtain. Passing from here we entered the hall and looked up on a balcony, where, we were told, Mediaeval ladies use to watch their lords dine, wine, and divert themselves. Thence to the bedrooms, in one of which such eminent personages as King John and the Royal Corps of Signals passed the night. One of the highlights of the tour was when our guide hurled blazing paraffin rags down a well 200 feet in depth to the great amusement of all the party. As we drove away from the castle the sun was still shining and continued to do so all the way to Richborough.

J.D.

## RICHBOROUGH CASTLE - KENT

Facing the car park is the south wall of the Saxon Shore Fort with its two ditches. The eastern end of this wall and the whole east wall have disappeared, but the rest still stands, 25 feet high in places. The main entrance of the fort is in the middle of the north wall. The foundations of the wall are from 12 to 13 feet wide. In front of the wall there is a wide berm, and beyond this an inner and outer ditch. To the south of the main entrance there is a third ditch which appears to have been filled up in Roman times. Watling Street, the Roman road from Canterbury, enters the fort at the west gate, and there is a causeway over the outer ditch. The inner ditch was crossed by a bridge, the abutments of which can still be seen. At the north east corner was a large house in which the remains of three periods can be identified. The earliest was built about A.D. 85 and was rebuilt in the second century. The second century building was destroyed and levelled when the Saxon Shore Fort was built, and soon after that a small bath building with hypocausts was erected on the site. South of this lie the remains of the chapel of St. Augustine, who is reputed as having landed at Richborough on his way to meet Ethelbert, King of Kent, in 597. South-west of the chapel is the Great Foundation. This consists of a platform on which stands a large mass of masonry cruciform in plan. This was built in about A.D. 85, to support a heavy monument faced with marble, with marble pillars and bronze statues, which towered above the sea, a thrilling reminder of the might of Rome. This appears to have later been stripped of its ornaments, and to have served as a fortified lookout post or signalling station.

The remains of this fort are indeed exceedingly interesting, and I can strongly recommend anyone to visit it.

C.J.H.

## CANTERBURY

Casting aside their togas, the Classical Society hastily pulled on the humble garments of the mediaeval pilgrim and made their way into Canterbury. Since time was short the jovial band decided to confine its attention to the Cathedral and St. Augustine's Abbey.

Twisting through a labyrinth of side streets the company arrived first at the Abbey. It was originally founded, so Bede tells us, in 598 B.C. under the guidance of King Ethelbert. Its prime function was to accommodate the monks who came with St. Augustine from Rome. In all, three churches were built within the first twenty years or so, and their axial arrangement corresponds with that employed at Glastonbury. The westernmost building was the Abbey-Church of S.S. Peter and Paul: then, thirty feet to the east, the church of St. Mary: and finally, St. Pancras' Chapel. It was very difficult to distinguish the first two churches and all the other ruins, since they were demolished by Abbot Scotland in the eleventh century to make way for a new Norman church. Nevertheless, it is possible to see the cavities where the bodies of the first six archbishops originally lay in the porticus of St. Gregory. The actual viewing of these tombs involved an intricate movement of doubling oneself up over a wooden barrier and twisting one's neck through full ninety degrees, since massive boulders had been placed to prevent removal of the bodies. The ruins of the Norman church, however, dominate the scene; some parts of it, like the north wall of the north aisle, are almost intact. But the difficulty experienced by most of the party in trying to distinguish the various architectural types was aptly epitomized by the 'Clerk of Oxenford' who remarked, "If only there weren't so many buildings in one d-mn-d. place!"

Leaving the haunts of monks long past the company split up, and those who so wished made their way to the Cathedral. I feel it is impossible to do full justice to this fine building in a brief, all-embracing survey, and so I will confine myself to a few things which gave me the deepest impression. Armed with a gaily-coloured plan I started my pilgrimage round the Cathedral. Looking towards the west porch from the Choir, I found myself in the best position to admire the vaulted roof of the Nave with its boldly arched ribs supported on either side by seven lofty piers. One wonders how many thousands of pilgrims have knelt and prayed after witnessing such a vista of incomparable beauty. I began to feel the spirit of the true pilgrim as I descended the steps into the Martyrdom and found myself standing on the spot where Archbishop Becket was murdered by the four knights of Henry II. As I walked eastwards along the north aisle the stained-glass windows caught my eye. This particular series depicted the life of Christ, presumably intended for the mediaeval peasants who were not able to read the Bible. As I glanced round at the other windows I became aware of the striking electric-blue glass which predominated throughout. Passing the Presbytery with its shining brass lectern in the form of an eagle arching its wings, I climbed the steps and found myself in Trinity Chapel. Surrounded on all sides by memories of the past, I gazed at the mosaic pavement illustrating the signs of the Zodiac, in the centre of which had formerly stood the shrine of St. Thomas. This fact was most evident from the state of the surrounding flag-stones, which had been worn into a series of ridges by the constant traffic of pilgrims. Joining their imaginary ranks, I worked my way round to the south side, where the place of honour was held by the tomb of Edward the Black Prince with its striking supine effigy. To the east of this chapel I found the Corona, the principal apse of the Cathedral. In the centre stands St. Austine's Chair which is still used at the enthronement of archbishops. I began to wonder just how uncomfortable the countless archbishops had been, sitting gracefully on those sombre, ice-cold stones, when suddenly a gentle jangling of keys behind me announced the end of my visit. Hurriedly I made my way towards the small side door, taking time only to glance at the organ, longing to hear its deep voice echo and re-echo our praises to God, " . . . this immense And glorious Work of fine intelligence !"

J.M.A.

## LITERARY SOCIETY

The Literary Society exists for all members of the Sixth Form. Its aim is to encourage and provide for an interest in that range of human activities we call 'literature'. This term's meetings have been concerned almost exclusively with poetry, but this emphasis is largely fortuitous. We hope next term to enlarge our scope and to include some visits to the theatre.

A short business meeting at the beginning of the term elected J. M. Adams and D. J. Hayhoe as organising secretaries, and this was followed shortly by a meeting at which A.T. Rogers read a selection of his verse. All his poems had a fair technical competence and considerable feeling, but some of the religious ones were subjected to criticism on the grounds of vagueness. The most impressive of them was *The Storm* (printed in this edition of *The Spur*) which was a new departure for Rogers both in subject and in treatment. The influence of Gerard Manley Hopkins is apparent.

A verse competition was organised by the secretaries and at the next meeting the seven entries on the general theme of The Sea were read by their authors and discussed by the Society. Later, criticisms by three members of the staff were published and the most successful poem was

announced to be Hayhoe's *The Seagull*, published in this magazine together with another entry, slightly revised, S. Partridge's *The Channel Sanctity of the Fishing Smacks*. All the verse submitted was of a reasonable standard and with more practice and more rigorous revision, this standard should quickly rise. Another meeting has been arranged for the end of the term at which we shall read and discuss entries in verse and prose on the themes of Morning and Evening.

At the third meeting C. J. How read a paper on 'John Milton'. It was obvious that he had a real enthusiasm for his poet and he assured the Society that Milton still had much to offer the modern reader.

It is important for the health of the Society that other members of the Sixth Form should come forward with papers. J. M. Adams will be pleased to hear of any proposals or suggestions for future meetings.

N.S.

## DEBATING SOCIETY

For what is alleged to be the first time in years, the Debating Society has been meeting regularly! Indeed, a little band of the more argumentative brethren, ably shepherded by Mr. Pratt, has invaded the Library each Monday evening to debate spiritedly motions ranging from American racial policy to "This House would welcome a return to the caves"!

This little band, though, has been a trifle too little of late, and the chief concern of the society has been to interest the "fifths" in what has been recently a 'Sixth Form Monopoly'. A few have already filtered-through to our midst, but more are necessary if, when the present Sixth-Form leave, there are to be competent people to carry on the high traditions of the society. Some interest has been shown among the Junior school, and a Junior Debate was held — "This House would welcome the abolition of Prefects!" — with reasonable success; so it is hoped that the work done this term in receiving what has been in the distant past a leading school society will not go unrewarded.

During the Spring Term the Society will step into the limelight with the inter-House competition for the Michael Welby Cup: we would ask those whose debating is confined to an annual appearance in this competition to come to our regular meetings, for constant practice not only improves one's own ability to express opinions, but improves one's House's chance of winning the Cup.

So far the actual standard of Debating has never hit the heights, nor has it yet plumbed the depths, but to our minds this is of secondary importance. The main thing is that members of the school have an uninhibited opportunity to air their views in an articulate manner, and to disagree with, or to support, commonly held ideals or commonly held heresies. Free speech will remain, we confidently trust, an integral part of the British way of life. The Debating Society forms people who are able to exercise this right of free speech in an effective way.

J.H.T.

## FILM SOCIETY

The success of the first school film prompted a small group of boys to undertake a second production. After long periods of inactivity a script was finally evolved, and at six o'clock one morning during the summer holidays the eager band set out to start work 'on location'. As always, things are not what they appear on the surface, and we were soon obliged to take off our rose-coloured spectacles and view the enterprise in its proper perspective. In spite of valuable assistance from our



predecessors, members of the staff and a much-thumbed handbook, we discovered most things by bitter experience. Nevertheless the film is progressing, though the date of the première is, as yet undecided.

During the next few months the Society will be shooting scenes inside the school building. Consequently it is imperative that everyone co-operates to the fullest extent, otherwise the film is destined to the flames. The actual contents of the film must needs remain unpublished, since the subject matter is being continually altered and adapted. It is possible to say one thing, however, and that is that we intend to include many scenes of school life seen from an unusual angle or one up till now unobserved by the majority.

J.M.A.

## THE GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

At the end of the summer term, the Gramophone Society suffered the misfortune of losing both the secretaries. To these, B. G. Barker and M. R. Burke, we must extend our utmost best wishes and thanks, for it is only on trying to fill their place that we realize how much unnoticed thought and care attended their duties. They have stalwartly supported classical music in a school which has turned, for the most part, to a more modern style, and have given ourselves and many others countless hours of enjoyable listening.

This term the Society was a little slow in getting under way, mainly due to the delay in buying a new stylus for the gramophone. However, we are now re-equipped, and the owners of any forthcoming records need have no fear of damage.

So far this term we have not concentrated on any one aspect of music, but have played a wide selection, beginning in a more popular vein, with Beethoven's 'Emperor' Piano Concerto. The soloist was Wilhelm Backhaus and though his mastery of the piano cannot be denied, his performance was, all felt, a little austere, and did not convey the feeling of the music fully. The next work of any magnitude was the First Piano Concerto of Liszt, played with great gusto and vigour by Shura Cherkassey. Mendelsohn's Violin Concerto was played later in the term, and in this, the complete mastery of Yehudi Menuhin as the soloist, combined with a competent orchestra, gave us a very enjoyable performance. In the week previous to the writing of these notes, we had a record of Holst's 'Planet Suite', which drew a larger attendance than usual, perhaps because of the more modern tempo of the music. Other pieces played this term have included compositions of Chopin, Debussy, Mozart, Saint-Saëns, Gounod and Bizet.

May we end these notes by asking anybody who has any Classical records and would like to hear them played at the Gramophone Society to see us.

R.J.Y.  
J.M.A.

## THE UPPER 5x RECORD SOCIETY

(Formerly the 4/3 MODERN MUSIC APPRECIATION SOCIETY.)

We started off the term with the loss of our two leaders — T. Dunning and G. Donaldson, who (although not exactly brilliant scholars) did a lot to forward the interests of the society. Those posts have now been filled by C. Goss and M. Flack (Secretary).

So far we have held meetings every Tuesday, and the average attendance has been thirteen members. M. Flack gave a good personal choice and this will be a regular feature in weeks to come. The number of records played this term already exceed 120, and they fall into the following categories: Rock and Roll - 75, Skiffle - 21, "Pop" - 17, Novelty - 7, Jazz - 3, Be-Bop - 3, C. and W. - 3. Vocal groups have featured prominently in our programmes. They include: The Platters, Diamonds, Dell Vikings, Crickets and many others.

Our plans for the future include trying to get our Record Society printed on the school calendar.

C.R.G.

## SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

Two meetings had been arranged for this term, but due to flu hitting us early in October, the first had to be cancelled. After this preliminary set-back we decided to make the next meeting a guest evening, where each member brought along two objects of personal choice, firstly a girl friend and secondly records. A film was ordered as it was generally felt that four hours of records would be too much for the average jazz fiend.

At the meeting we were pleased to welcome one or two old boys, amongst them G. Boiling and T. Kearsey. The records produced covered a large range of jazz from popular to olde tyme blues. At half-time Crocker and Bosley, who had been struggling valiantly trying to brew coffee over a bunsen burner in the Physics Lab, appeared with a varied selection of cups containing a brew which, to this day, they insist was coffee. Then came the film, "Hotel Sahara". The sound track was, unfortunately, bad and the organisers thought that it was going to flop, but everyone seemed to enjoy it so we were not worried over this point.

We should like to take this opportunity of thanking Messrs. Hindle, Rudgey, Streathan and, last but not least, Austen for their kind support. A last word to those guests who asked when the next similar evening would be: we are at the moment in the throes of organising the dance but we hope to have another meeting next term.

A.A.B.

## THE CHRISTIAN UNION

Our meetings this term have proved useful and interesting to all who have attended them. Our speakers have included the Rev. J. B. Taylor, the Rev. R. Smart and Mr. J. Tyler. We have also held Bible Studies, and a discussion on prayer. By the time you read these notes we hope to have had a talk by John Thresher, an old boy, and also to have had a Fact and Faith Film "Hidden Treasures."

We have not been inactive, but we could have done so much more if attendances were better. It is a sobering thought that in a School in a Christian country only 4% should attend the Christian Union. Does this mean that only 4% of this school are Christians, when other Grammar Schools in our area have about 25%? I find that hard to believe. And yet that is the conclusion that must be drawn from these facts, unless attendance figures improve. I do ask you, if you are a Christian, to attend the Christian Union meetings, and therefore help to show the rest of the school how great a privilege it is to be one of Our Lord's servants.

R.I.

## GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

In spite of strong opposition from the Harlequins v. Cardiff rugby match, over fifty boys attended the Film Evening held in the Library on 22nd October. It is encouraging to find that the activities of the Society, though limited, are maintaining their popularity. There is no doubt, however, that the numbers on this particular evening were boosted by a few words contained in a notice in the staff corridor: "The Society has invited members of Wimbledon County School . . .". The young ladies were made very welcome, though the strength of their contingent was a great disappointment to both school and staff.

The evening's programme consisted of four films. The first, *Farming in New Zealand*, was an attractively produced account of the efficient agricultural system in that country. The title of the second film, *Greenland in Sunshine*, is one that immediately suggests a pathetic travelogue bent on luring money-laden tourists to northern waters. As it happened, the film was so realistic that it was awarded an "X" certificate on the spot. Some of our visitors did not appear to appreciate the most interesting scenes, such as those which showed a native fisherman, ankle-deep in blood, carving up a shark, or the local dogs tearing flesh off the carcass of a whale. The technicolour process did full justice to these colourful scenes. When refreshments had been served the programme continued with the film, *Introducing Luxembourg*. This proved to be a rather inadequate film, since the producers had attempted to cram everything known about this small European State in a few hundred feet of film. Finally, *Drums for a Holiday* was shown, which was found to be the most popular film of the evening. Cocoa-farming in Ghana was the principal theme, though the most impressive scenes were centred around an assembly of tribal chiefs: natives in dazzling costumes danced among the crowds, whirling giant, multi-coloured umbrellas, and the powerful beat of the frenzied drummers put Rock 'n' Roll to shame.

J.M.A.

## THE SPUR MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

We have been pleased to welcome several new members to the Club this term. Naturally, we have lost one or two of the older members, upon whose shoulders the burden of additional homework may now be bearing more heavily as they advance through the school. Nevertheless, the sound of rolling wheels on Monday evenings indicates that the Club is not lacking in enthusiasts.

The long autumn and winter evenings have been given over to some rather extensive modifications to trackwork, and particularly to the electrical couplings between the separate sections, which in the past, have sometimes tended to give rise to frustrating faults. The new system bids fair to resolve many of these difficulties besides allowing of a more tidy disposition of the connecting wires.

We envisage, too, some amendments to the scenic background on Cobbs' Hill and at Milton Park. The re-building of Newsoms Vaie and Halliwell Green for the Garden Party has tended to throw other parts of the route into somewhat shabby contrast, but by the time the next Garden Party comes round, we hope to be able to present a model railway which will be the envy of all, and which will rival many other — far more expensive — exhibition layouts.

For those who have not as yet had the pleasure of working with us, may we remind you that the Club meets every Monday evening during term, from 7.15 to 9.0 p.m.?

A cordial invitation is extended to all who enjoy the thrills of the 'iron way' in miniature.

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

## No. 565 SQUADRON A.T.C.

This term brings us to the end of another year and for the Squadron its most successful. Both of the major trophies for competition in Surrey Wing have been won by the Squadron and members of the Unit have represented Surrey Wing, Eastern Region and the Corps at Athletics, Cross Country, Cricket and Rugby.

The Wing Pennant awarded to the most efficient Squadron has been won for the first time. This award is based upon training, sport, administration, organisation and general efficiency as judged at inspections during the year.

The Moss Trophy awarded to the Squadron obtaining the best results in the six examinations organised by Home Command during the year, has also been won for the first time. Altogether forty certificates were gained, nine more than the nearest Squadron if our records are correct. Twenty five of these were obtained by the Aircrew Section who continue to uphold the standard set in previous years. Navigational plotting has been added to the programmes during the past few weeks and is proving to be a popular diversion to the theoretical work that forms the bulk of the syllabus.

The Signals Section, now a year old, has gained three certificates. Although this does not sound impressive it is mainly due to a general lack of interest in Radio amongst Cadets. The Engines Section formed in July has proved very popular and already has a total of fourteen proficiency certificates to its credit.

With the end of National Service it has been found necessary to improve upon the present syllabus of training and with this in view, Home Command have tried, over the past year, an experimental version in Glasgow Wing and it is proposed to introduce it throughout the Corps during February. The outline that we have so far received seems to indicate that the present syllabus is being modernised rather than radically altered. The main changes are the dropping of armaments from the Aircrew Syllabus and the introduction of Radar and Electronics into the Signals Syllabus and First Aid into the Basic Syllabus.

To celebrate the achievements mentioned above, the Squadron together with members of the Wing Staff gathered in the School Hall for a meal and the presentation of the Moss Trophy. This was followed by an account of his recent tour of Canada under the reciprocal visit scheme of the A.T.C. by Flt. Sgt. Hope and the evening ended with the showing of the film "It's in the Air" starring George Formby.

F./Sgt. Hope has written the following account of his trip to Canada.

D.L.B.

### RECIPROCAL VISIT TO CANADA

Two days were spent at R.A.F. Uxbridge before leaving, for final briefing and to allow party members to get to know one another.

We took off from London Airport at 5.00 p.m. on Friday, 18th July. The aircraft was a North Star of the R.C.A.F. which had brought the Canadian cadets over here. The flight to Montreal was made in 17½ hours' flying time, stopping en route at Keflavik in Iceland and Goose Bay in Labrador.

First night in Canada we were billeted with the Canadian Cadets who were going to a similar visit to the U.S.A.

On the Sunday we were the guests of Mr. Taylor, the honorary president of the Air Cadet League of Canada, who was the originator of these visits. We spent the day at his home on the shores of a Lake high in the Laurentian Mountains. It was spent bathing and boating in the company of some charming Canadian girls. In the evening there was a dinner and dance.

We then flew to Algonquin Park in Northern Ontario, which is one of the enormous Provincial Parks. The rest of the first week was spent there, holidaying on the shores of the "Lake of Two Rivers". It was a carefree week spent mainly on bathing and canoeing. Also with us were the U.S.A. cadets visiting Canada, and the friendship between us became really strong before we left.

The following Monday we motored to Camp Border, which is one of the largest training camps in Canada. There we met many Canadian air cadets doing a seven weeks drill instructors' course.

We then went to Toronto, where for the first time we were billeted individually with private families. Our hosts showed us magnificent hospitality and gave us a wonderful time as well as an insight into the Canadian way of life. The local council presented us with an engraved set of cuff-links at a banquet in our honour.

From there we travelled to St. Catherines in the Niagara peninsular, Here again we were in private homes and both our hosts and the Air Cadet League gave us every opportunity for seeing this wonder of the world. I think that the falls made a bigger impression on me than anything else I saw while I was there. I saw it both at night and by day and it was really up to my expectations.

We later flew back to Montreal where we had a fine day for shopping before flying to Quebec for an overnight visit. Once more we had private hosts and mine gave me a most enlightening tour of the Heights of Abraham where the famous battle was fought. Quebec is the second largest French-speaking city in the World and, believe me, you are not in doubt about this for very long. We also witnessed "The Retreat" at the Citadel and had tea in the Citadel Frontenac.

We finally flew back to Montreal in readiness for a day trip by rail to Ottawa the capital, where of course we visited the famous parliamentary buildings. It seemed very strange, when we got onto the train to return, that the train had already covered some 2,000 miles from Vancouver before we boarded it.

I must say that I cannot remember having had a more exciting and memorable trip before in my life and the hospitality and generosity of the Canadian people is something that I shall always remember.

It was with regret, therefore that we left Dorval airport in Montreal, for England on 11th August.

We returned via Gander and the Azores, the return trip taking 19 hours' flying time.

B.G.H.

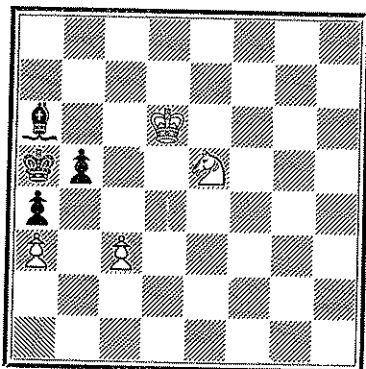
## CHESS CLUB

So far this term, activity has been limited to the Individual Championship and a school match against Rutlish. The Championship has provided one or two surprises and unearthed some useful talent in the junior school, which might, if stretched, do something to meet the need of the senior school, which has been sadly lacking in even reasonable

players for some years. We took a twelve-man team (eight seniors and four juniors) to Rutlish, with high hopes of the juniors although we expected loss of the seniors. All our hopes (high and otherwise) were dashed. We are going to play Pelham over eight boards later this term and should do better against them.

The following problem might be of interest to you:—

**BLACK**



**WHITE**

White to Play and win in 25 moves.

A.R.P.

**RUGBY**

*Master in charge:* Mr. R. Hindle

*Captain:* R. K. Stevens

*Secretary:* P. C. Clark

**1st XV.**

**Results**

v. Purley C.G.S. ....	Lost	3- 6
v. Wimbledon College .....	Lost	6-12
v. Beckenham C.G.S. ....	Lost	3- 9
v. Surbiton C.G.S. ....	Lost	3-14
v. Reigate C.G.S. ....	Lost	0- 6
v. Mitcham C.G.S. ....	Won	13- 0
v. Bisley School .....	Won	17-12

Points for: 45

Points against: 59

We began the season with a very promising team, on paper, but from the start we lacked the determination to win. We were all content to come off the field, losers, and to console ourselves with the thought that we lost only by a narrow margin. Fortunately, as we were defeated time and again, this attitude gradually disappeared, and as a result, we have won our last two matches.

The season opened with a fixture at Purley C.G.S. Right at the start we found that we were up against stiff opposition and were soon furiously defending our line. During this early period of play, Thomas was so badly injured that he could not continue as centre. With this advantage, Purley scored two unconverted tries. The only points we scored were 3 points from a penalty kicked by Wearn.

During the interval before our next game, the Asian Scourge paid a visit to the school and so we were unable to field a first class team against our nearby rivals, Wimbledon College. However, we started well with a penalty kick by Wearn, and an excellent drop goal by Clark. Then the team relaxed; it is difficult to say whether it was the effect of the flu or merely over confidence, but the College soon had us on the defensive, scoring 3 tries and a penalty. Our scrum failed to play as a unit and the backs did not make ground with the ball.

After this hard match, 4 or 5 players caught the flu, and as a result we took a makeshift team to Beckenham. From the start the forwards excelled themselves, but the backs, though trying hard, had not the skill to break the Beckenham defence. With the advantage of a considerable down-hill slope, we opened the scoring. Clark, who was captain for the day, broke on the blindside, gave a good pass to Stevens, D.C., who kicked ahead, followed up and fell on the ball as it crossed the goal-line. With the slope to help them in the second half, Beckenham soon gained the upper hand and scored three good tries to give them victory. The Saturday following we met Surbiton at home and took the field with a certain amount of apprehension, the heavy defeat of last season still being fresh in our minds. As a result we started very cautiously and did not get 'stuck in'. Surbiton soon took advantage of our hesitancy and quickly scored eleven points. Our only score was three points from a penalty, again kicked by Wearn. During the second half, we found to our amazement, that our pack was superior, and was giving the backs a good supply of the ball. Stevenson, who made an excellent substitute at scrum half for the injured Clark, gave good service but time and time again our attacks just petered out. The three-quarters never even looked like scoring. We were now acutely aware of our need for an adequate fly-half, so we searched the School for promising material. We found Kingham, who though just up from the colts, filled this difficult position with credit.

The next game, against Reigate at Oberon, was by far the worst game we have played. The forwards lacked drive and cohesion, and the backs though improved, still had no incisive power. The tough Reigate team scored a try in each half, and we left the field in low spirits. It is, perhaps, significant that this was the first match that we were really ashamed to lose.

After this defeat a good deal of team rearrangement was done. Crocker was brought into the centre, Wearn was dropped to full back and Stevenson placed on the wing. We took the field, in front of a large home crowd, really determined, for the first time, to win. The muddy conditions suited our strong scrum, and we were soon on top. Our pack played extremely well and the backs showed more promise than ever before. Any attack which Mitcham started was soon stopped by courageous falling on the ball, and hard, determined tackling. The score was opened after twenty minutes, when Clark broke on the open-side, but was stopped just short of the line; however, good backing up by Hayhoe enabled him to dribble the ball over the line between the posts, presenting Wearn with a simple conversion. Shortly before half-time Crocker intercepted a kick ahead on the half-way line, and left all the members of both teams behind, as he sprinted at amazing speed down the middle of the pitch to score between the posts. After half-time, with

the slope of the pitch against us, we were still on the offensive but the only score was a long range penalty by Wearn.

Refreshed by this victory we then took a coach trip into the wilds of Surrey, to Bisley School. We arrived stiff and cold after our long journey, and because of inadequate warming up were soon six points down to a fast team, who boasted several county players and a colt international winger. However, by half time we had taken the lead at eight points to six. Thomas had intercepted a pass and made a good break; he then had passed to Crocker, who once again, had left the opposition far behind to score under the posts. Wearn converted and then went on to score a penalty. During the second half we had the advantage of a considerable slope in the pitch but Bisley, their backs always dangerous, were continually pressing. The turning point of the game came when Wearn kicked two difficult penalty kicks against the wind, and Thorp crashed over to score an unconverted try from a lineout. From this moment we were on the defensive and Bisley, cheered on by the whole of the school, fought back to score twice. We defended grimly until the final whistle, to win by five points.

Special praise should be given to Mr. Hindle, who has been invaluable to the team. He has given us the necessary encouragement, and spent a good deal of unpaid time training us and coming to matches with us.

### Members of the Team

**R. K. Stevens.** Colours 1955. Stevens is the 'iron man' of the team, never wasting valuable playing time with medical attention. His fierce tackling and unflagging drive have always been exerted in the most needy places. He has captained the team well, urging and criticising where necessary, and his untiring example has been an inspiration to us all. His superb fitness and rugby skill have been rewarded by the County selecting him as a reserve, but up to now his efforts for the 1st XV have been poorly rewarded, as the results show.

**Clark.** Colours 1956. He is a sound and intelligent scrum-half with a great deal of natural talent. His skilful kicking and long reliable passing are great assets to the team. He is fortunate to have the physical build to withstand the onslaughts of opposing forwards, but is nimble enough to make excellent breaks. He has performed the task of Hon. Sec. with efficiency, and has been an all-round help in team selection and tactics.

**Ayres.** He has led the pack with considerable intelligence, and has provided a good example as a hard-working forward. In the loose, he is one of the few players who really fights for the ball. Ayres is to be congratulated on becoming a Surrey Reserve, playing as a second row forward.

**Beattie.** This season he is a much improved, keen player. At front row forward he is now willing to put effort into his game, and is, in consequence, a valuable member of the pack. He plays well in the lineout, but he must speed up if he is to be really first rate.

**Clay.** In his first year of senior competition, he has settled down very well as front row forward, and promises well for future school teams. He must, however, learn more technique and rely less on brute force.

**Cottee.** He has played several games at full-back, and is another member just up from the colts. He is a very strong tackler, but his kicking and fielding are not really up to 1st XV standards.



**Crocker.** He is one of the fastest people in the team, and has improved beyond all recognition since last season. He started the season on the wing, where he saw all too little of the ball, but has since been moved to the centre, where he has performed with success, providing the necessary bite to the attack.

**Doran.** He is a hard-working, reliable second row forward with most of the qualities of a first class player. His main fault at the moment is lack of dash in the loose play.

**Hayhoe.** He has compared very well with other hookers we have met, and assured the team a good supply of the ball from set scrums. He is amongst the faster and more active members of the scrum, and performs well at lineouts.

**Kingham.** Despite his young age, he is the best fly-half in the school, having great natural ability. He is gaining rapidly in confidence and will be a great asset to a future 1st XV. He must, however, learn to tackle much more effectively.

**D. C. Stevens.** He is a very strong player, fast, and a determined runner and tackler; but if he is to become a first class winger, he must develop a more elusive run, and depend more on deception to beat his opponent.

**Stevenson.** He is a most versatile and valuable player performing at various times, as blindside wing forward, centre, scrum-half and winger. He is quick off the mark, and has a very deceptive run, covering prodigious territory every match.

**Thorp.** He has much natural talent, and is, despite his size, fast and forceful. He always plays a hard game as No. 8, especially in attack.

**Thomas.** After a disappointing injury early in the season, he is rapidly regaining his old form and confidence. He is a sound defensive centre, tackling well, but must improve his handling and passing of the ball.

**Wearn.** A main feature of our play has been the immaculate place-kicking of Wearn. He has kicked 27 of our points, and helped us considerably to gain a victory over Bisley School when he kicked 11 points. He plays well at centre, but inspires confidence in the whole team with his cool kicking and fielding at full-back.

**Young.** He is really outstanding as one of the few reliable tacklers in the team. He never misses his man, and is a first-class wing forward.

**Yeldham.** He has played several games for the 1st XV at fly-half and full-back. However, he has been injured in a road-accident and will not be playing for some time.

Others who have played are Howsden and Frank-Keyes.

R.K.S.

## 2nd XV.

Constant and exacting demands for replacements by the 1st XV, on account of the Oriental Scourge early in the season, the recurrence of injuries, and perhaps what has been most demoralising, the complete absence of luck, have been the main contributing factors towards a season so far without success.

Against Purley, probably our best match so far, the scrum played extremely well, but occasional lapses by the backs let a Purley man through far too often. However, determined effort from the pack and good, if somewhat lucky kicking from Townsend, the full back, had its reward when, just before time, Morley squeezed through for our only try. We lost 13-3.

It was the pack which crumbled against the Sutton 1st XV, not giving much support to a greatly improved set of backs. We lost 31-0.

Surbiton began against us with their usual psychological advantage, but at half-time we had held them to 0-0, but in the second half the pack gave up the ghost. We lost 14-0.

The Reigate match was abandoned in the second-half because of excessive serious injuries on both sides: at the time we were 16-0 down caused by occasional slackenings off by the whole team.

Lack of drive among the backs and general reluctance to tackle on their part had disastrous effects against Mitcham, but a second-half rally after being 14-0 down at half time, and good forward-play, gave us our second try of the season when Maclean scored.

All this does sound rather shocking, but this 2nd XV team has had the greatest team-spirit of any school XV for many years, and we can only hope for more luck and more success later in the season.

Team chosen from:—

Townsend, Bond, Venison, Howsden, Davie, Ali, Adams, Tanner, Higgs, Williams, Frank-Keys, Curry, Nichols, Maclean, Lintill, French, Partridge and Morley.

B.B.W.M.

Morley has led the team, through thick and thin, with determination and spirit. He has always been ready with good advice and constructive criticism. His sense of humour has often saved the team from despondency. If the results have not been successful, thanks to Morley's example, the games have been at least enjoyable.

### COLTS XV.

The Colt XV has rarely been at full strength, partly due to illness and partly to absences, not always justified. They have, however, never been overrun, and have put up a good show against heavier teams from the bigger grammar schools.

Redshaw has been a conscientious captain, and has received best support from Burgess at full-back, Cottee at scrum-half, and among the forwards, Foulsham — unlucky not to secure his county selection — Wooding, Higham and Page, who has also figured amongst the backs.

P.O'D.

### JUNIOR RUGBY XV.

Of the Junior Rugby XV this year, one can truly say "They are a grand little XV". Not only in their play on the field, but also in regular training and practice, they have shown encouraging enthusiasm and have consequently built up a fine team spirit amongst themselves, which has resulted in an altogether highly successful season. The seeds of success were sown last year when as an under 13 side they trained and practised together regularly, and began to show real promise as a team on the field. Apart from one or two alterations, the team has remained unchanged from last year's under 13 side, and throughout this season only a very few changes have been made, mostly owing to sickness and injury.

It took some little time for the team to adjust itself to the speed and skill required in under 14 rugby, and thus two of the first three games resulted in losses; but having settled down they have since continued a winning sequence, and up to the time of writing, of seven matches played, five have been won and two lost. The manner of their play has been impressive. The forwards, by combining well together and generally

knowing what to do in a given situation have given the outsides plenty of the ball; and by strong running and passing tries have been scored by the wings as well as by individual brilliance.

The forwards have been well led by Brown, and the sound service of Stephenson at Scrum-half has given Nicholls the scope to satisfy his backs as well as his own individual ability. The full-back position has caused some concern, but Courtenay shows promise, and with more fielding and kicking practice should do well. Hall and Elliott have combined well in the centre, and on occasions have shown their individual ability. Most important however, is the fact that the wings, Powers and Wheeler, have had plenty of the ball and have generally run well. In defence however, the backs must learn to appreciate the necessity of accurate close marking and so avoid unnecessary anxious moments. The forwards too have a lesson to learn — the necessity for a really quick heel particularly in the loose — thus giving their backs the ball earlier.

This concluding paragraph may well be sub-titled "In praise of Nicholls", for at all times he has shown real quality as a captain both on and off the field. Individually he has been brilliant, but he has always been aware that only real team work provides good rugby and wins matches. He deserves our hearty congratulations on gaining a County Cap, whilst still being under 14. He represented Surrey in the game against Kent, and seems destined for further honours.

		Results	F - A
v. Beckenham C.G.S.	Home	Lost	9-12
v. Sutton C.G.S.	Home	Won	28- 8
v. Surbiton C.G.S.	Away	Lost	0-13
v. Reigate G.S.	Away	Won	15-12
v. Bisley School	Away	Won	15- 8
v. Bec School	Home	Won	19- 0
v. Wallington C.G.S.	Home	Won	15- 0

R.H.

## SWIMMING

Owing to a polio scare in Wimbledon last term, the Wimbledon and District Gala was put off until the beginning of this term. Although some of our team had left at the end of last term, they were allowed to swim for us. We entered teams in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior events, totalling 21 boys in all. The Senior Team was the most successful, winning the Association Shield for the Champion Senior Boys' School and the Association Shield for the Senior Boys' Team Race. By winning the Diving Championship, M. Chambers also procured the Diving Cup for us. On his good performance at this gala, School colours were awarded to M. Chambers.

Before passing to our own Sports, mention must be made of the Surrey Grammar Schools Swimming Sports. Our entry here was small — two relay teams, and two individual races. We were unsuccessful in the relays, but Carson swam well to come fourth in the final of the Junior 2L Free-style Race, and G. Crocker came fourth in the senior 3L Breast-stroke.

The School Swimming Sports were held in the evening of the last Monday of the Summer Term. Qualifying had been carried on throughout most of the School Year, enabling boys to score many points for their Houses. This year a new Qualifying System was brought into action by Mr. King. It was a little easier than the previous one, so

that the boys who were good, but not quite good enough, could also score some points. On the whole the new system seems to be a success, but it was obvious that many boys had left it too late to do any qualifying. Last term, as in previous years, boys were able to qualify on a few Saturday mornings at Wimbledon Baths. Although there were some quite good turn outs, many more boys would have been welcome.

On the results of the qualifying, the positions of the Houses before the gala were as follows:—

Newsoms .....	196 points
Miltons .....	183 points
Cobbs .....	178 points
Gibbs .....	154 points
Halliwells .....	142 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

<i>Breast-Stroke, 3L</i>			91.4 secs.
1st Crocker (M)	2nd Harvey (N)	3rd Emmerson (H)	
<i>Back-Stroke, 3L</i>			*78.8 secs.
1st Trapp (G)	2nd Harvey (N)	3rd Chambers (C)	
<i>Butterfly, 2L</i>			53.4 secs.
1st Harvey (N)	2nd Sutcliffe (C)	3rd Smale (H)	
<i>Plain Dive</i>			
1st Chambers (C)	2nd Crocker (M)	3rd Westall (G)	
<i>Springboard Dive</i>			
1st Chambers (C)	2nd Westall (G)	3rd Harvey (N)	
<i>Plunge</i>			*67 ft. 2½ in.
1st Be Hs (G)	2nd Mayer (N)	3rd Seamen (H)	

#### Senior Events

<i>Free-style, 1L</i>			18.3 secs.
1st Chambers (C)	2nd Crocker (M)	3rd Hall (N)	
<i>Back-stroke, 1L</i>			23.9 secs.
1st Stevens (N)	2nd Brown (C)	3rd Sale (H)	
<i>Free-style, 3L</i>			75.4 secs.
1st Crocker (M)	2nd Chambers (C)	3rd Hall (N)	
<i>Medley Relay, 3L</i>			71.2 secs.
1st Newsoms	2nd Halliwells	3rd Cobbs	
<i>Free-style Relay, 4L</i>			82.3 secs.
1st Newsoms	2nd Miltons	3rd Gibbs	

### Colt Events

<i>Free-style, 1L</i>			21.5 secs.
1st Macdonald (C)	2nd Tibble (N)	3rd Bond (G)	
	2nd Bond (G)		
<i>Back-stroke, 1L</i>			26.8 secs.
1st Naggs (N)	2nd Goddard (M)		
<i>Breast-stroke, 2L</i>			60.1 secs.
1st Trapp (G)	2nd Gould (N)	3rd Crowe (H)	
<i>Free-style, 3L</i>			82.2 secs.
1st Macdonald (C)	2nd Westall (G)	3rd Tibble (N)	
<i>Medley Relay, 3L</i>			77.0 secs.
1st Gibbs	2nd Newsoms	3rd Cobbs	
<i>Free-style Relay, 4L</i>			*85.2 secs.
1st Gibbs	2nd Cobbs	3rd Newsoms	

### Junior Events

<i>Back-stroke, 1L</i>			27.2 secs.
1st Carson (4)	2nd Wheeler (N)	3rd Nicholls (G)	
<i>Breast-stroke, 1L</i>			*26.7 secs.
1st Cottee (N)	2nd Corbett (H)	3rd Wood (G)	
<i>Free-style, 2L</i>			*49.0 secs.
1st Carson (H)	2nd Wood (G)	3rd Wheeler (N)	
<i>Medley Relay, 3L</i>			82.2 secs.
1st Newsoms	2nd Halliwells	3rd Gibbs	
<i>Free-style Relay, 4L</i>			*106.0 secs.
1st Newsoms	2nd Gibbs	3rd Halliwells	

### Minor Events

<i>Free-style, 1L</i>			*23.6 secs.
1st Greenwood (N)	2nd Wilcox (C)	3rd Lonsdale (M)	

\*Denotes new record.

The points scored by the Houses in the Sports were:—

Newsoms .....	310	points
Gibbs .....	202½	points
Cobbs .....	160	points
Halliwells .....	115	points
Miltons .....	82½	points

And the final positions of the Houses, after the qualifying points had been added to the points scored in the gala, were as follows:—

1st Newsoms .....	506	points
2nd Gibbs .....	356½	points
3rd Cobbs .....	338	points
4th Miltons .....	265½	points
5th Halliwells .....	257	points

At the end of last term, we had to say goodbye to Harvey and Hall, two of the School's best swimmers last year. We are sorry to see them go, but we wish them the best of luck in their future careers.

G.D.C.

## CROSS-COUNTRY

As it is yet early in the cross country season, I cannot report any great successes. The only success, if it can be termed as such, is the great achievement of Gibbons, who has run consistently well, although he is two or three years junior to most of the opposing schools' better runners, in the three runs which have so far taken place this term.

I will not comment too much upon the first run, as we did not compete with a full team (Partridge having lost his way there). This was held at the Cheam Recreation Ground, competing for the "Herald Trophy" which, incidentally, was awarded to Wallington Grammar School, who put up a high standard, although considerably fewer teams competed than was anticipated. Gibbons took 6th position, Taviner 10th and Willis (who was unfortunately overcome by "stitch"), walked in 12th out of the fifteen runners.

Our second run, which was held at Latchmere Road School, competing for the Surrey Athletic Club Schools Trophy, met with more success. In this race Gibbons came home in 18th position, a remarkable achievement for his age and Willis was second home for the school, arriving in 38th position. Partridge (63rd) and Foulsham (65th) were the other counting members of the team; Partridge still not having reached his last term's form. The other non-counting runners were Barfoot, J., 80th, Griffin 82nd, Barfoot, R., 83rd out of the 105 that competed. Our team position was 9th, out of thirteen schools, even with the loss of Taviner, the number 3 runner for the school.

We kept up the annual tradition of being easily beaten by the R.A.F. Chessington, on their ground, in our last run. This was only to be expected as the average age of their team was about 25 years, ours averaging around 16½ years. Macoy from the R.A.F., who was actually 45 years old, was first home: a great achievement. This was an unfortunate race for Gibbons, who lost his way when only 200 yards from the finish, and a good distance ahead of his nearest rival, Willis. The R.A.F. took 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7th positions; the school's positions being Willis 5th, Taviner 8th, Gibbons 10th, Griffin 11th Partridge 12th and Foulsham 13th. I took a gamble on putting Griffin in the team, and it certainly paid off.

This term the school has concentrated, (although without too much success,) on producing a good rugby team. The cross-country team has, therefore, had to sacrifice several of its runners for this reason; but I hope that this will be rectified in the New Year.

The school will be saying good-bye to the Captain R. A. Willis, soon after the beginning of the New Year; the school must then look around for a new captain, (Gibbons/Partridge?), who I hope will meet with more success from the team.

R.A.W.

## THE END

"The sun is dying", the scientists said, and quickly the news spread around the globe. Then the government organized a mass exodus to another star system. Quickly, the emigrants descended on the transportation bases, where they were dispatched in hundreds by the I.T.M.\* And so they left the earth, the earth who was their mother, provider, and tomb; they left alone and unwanted. I was the only one who cared for her, and the only one left.

The first thing that struck me was the silence. Only the wind scuffled the dead autumn leaves along the empty streets. The all-commanding loudspeakers were silent, everything was silent, except the wind.

In my lifetime those buildings which had been so massive, crumbled back into the dust whence they came, grass grew in the streets, and everywhere was desolation. The dying sun was now a dull orange red and the earth was subjected to a perpetual twilight. An eternal dusk gave the once bright colours a sombre tone. The sun was dying and the earth was to die with it. Those were the unalterable facts. Sol was becoming unstable in her old age, and there were large flare-ups on her surface which resulted in violent and awesome electronic storms, which battered at the defenceless earth with terrible rage. Dark clouds drifted across the sun and everywhere was darkness, mournful winds howled around barren rocks, and rain pelted down on the bleak, windswept terrain, and jagged lightning rent the air, silhouetting the gaunt black skeletons of trees against the murky sky.

That storm, which started twenty years ago, is still going on, and every day the sun throws out bigger flames; each day the storms grow worse; new volcanoes spit searing-hot lava at the sky, and earthquakes shake the feverous world. Suddenly the sun will flare up into a supernova, then die away leaving the earth alone among the cold unfriendly stars.

\*I.T.M. abbrev. for Instantaneous Transportation of Matter.

M.M.

## SCIENCE FACT IS STRANGER THAN SCIENCE FICTION

If you go outside on a clear January evening and look towards the south-east you will see Orion, the most majestic of all star constellations. And if you follow the line of his belt eastward you should be able to see Sirius, the brightest star visible on the earth.

Sirius, the Dog Star, has been of significance since the beginning of history. It was the star that foretold the flooding of the Nile, so important to Egypt. Some scientists believe that the pyramids were built as observatories to watch for Sirius.

Today, however, we know much more about this bright star. We know, for instance that Sirius is a binary — a double star. The smaller member of the pair is one of the most interesting stars known to Astronomers. Its diameter is only about four times that of the earth, but its mass is very great. Consequently, one matchbox full of material from this star would weigh more than one ton!

Sirius is nine light years away, but that does not mean that it is beyond the reach of man. If man can develop rockets that can approach the speed of light he will be able to visit stars much more distant than Sirius. But won't it take eighteen years to travel to Sirius and back, thus making it impossible to visit stars further than fifty light years away, at the most? The answer modern scientific theory gives to this question is very interesting.

If you were to travel from here to Sirius and back at just under the speed of light, you could leave here after breakfast, arrive at Sirius in time for a packed lunch, and arrive back wanting your evening meal, only to find your friends a little over eighteen year older than when you left them! Impossible! Modern Theory says not.

We measure time by terrestrial standards, but if we lived on Jupiter our day would be ten hours long, and our year twelve years long. Yet when any object is accelerated to high speed, time gradually slows down, things become shorter, your heartbeats would, to an earth-observer, appear to slow down, but, to you, would seem quite normal. And when

you reach the speed of light your heartbeats would appear to stop, yet you would not die: in fact time would stand still, you would be in eternity! Now our passenger on the space-ship to Sirius was travelling at just below the speed of light, so that to him time hasn't quite stood still. It is this small difference that accounts for the time between breakfast and lunch he would experience on the trip!

What Modern theory omits to say is that it will be most difficult, if not impossible, to propel a rocket any where near such speeds. Even if we could, it is doubtful whether the human body could stand the strain of such fantastic accelerations and velocities involved; so it seems that long-distance space-travel may remain a dream.

Perhaps that is just as well.

R.I.

### THE STORM

Birch boughs bend,  
Break beneath the battering storm.  
Rain-ravaged, wind-torn fields  
Open to the heavenly tumult ride,  
Hid heavens over bleak black clouds,  
Racing riot, hope no more  
The sight of sylvan countryside.  
Lashed lightning bites the barren earth.  
On hilltop high,  
The tearing torrent, rain-risen  
Rushes through the dead-dark day.  
Rock-ripping, sapling-snatching  
In its crashing course down mountainside,  
Great devastation on both banks,  
The surging waters lay.  
Wind drops.  
Clouds clear.  
Blue sky.  
The storm abates.  
Heaven's ruler, reborn, reigns  
On glittering grass, majestic mountains,  
And peaceful pastureland.  
A glorious day.

A.T.R.

### DEATH OF A SHIP

A black pall overhung the coast of Cyprus, split in a myriad of places by the silver flash of constellations, and shrouding the savage cliffs in a wind-torn mantle of darkness. The sirocco gale howled thinly through the myrtle-trees which clung desperately to the jagged rocks on the crag-tops. The scream of the wind blended in harsh melody with the crash of waves smashing against the clanging rocks below, creaming themselves into fountains of yellow surf, only to be trampled under by the next green onslaught. In the eddies of wind and spray at the foot of the cliff, a copse of laurels, shivered violently, their trunks coated in salt, leaves wet with spray.



Far out to sea, etched in black against the golden blob of the moon, something moved, bucking up and down like a frightened horse. Around it the breakers foamed, as the sea sifted its vast mass into strata of brown, green, blue and purple which glistened with spray and slid into one another like the shades on a starling's-feathers. At last the object could be seen from the shore, its sable struts pierced by the ghostly half-light of the moon. It was a merchant carrack trading in olive-oil from Greece with the sun-gilded ports of the Aegean, olive-oil that now crashed helplessly in wide-mouthed jars about the deck, as the ship fought the sea like a fly caught in a gluey mass of honey. Against the vessel the waves smashed in watery symphony and from above, the moonlight cut in yellow swathes through the crippled superstructure, and through gashes in the bedraggled scarlet square that was once a sail. Yardless, sail-less, spar-less, almost mastless, with water seeping through the deck, spurting over the prow, welling over the gunwale, rotting its very heart, the ship blundered on to its doom.

The end was quick. The tall, painted prow, evoking memories of golden Italian seas, was hurled forward like a bolt from a crossbow to split with a ghastly smack on a submerged reef. The mighty backbone of the ship cracked and fractured, the mast hung limp like a useless toy with its ludicrous piece of sail hanging on, only the high poop gallantly repulsed the waves that yellowed at its sides.

Men filled the decks in supreme panic, screaming like women in their fear, and the olive-oil, green and turgid, cascaded over the boards and mingled with the sea-water as the ship slid into the inferno beneath. At last the final, pitiful remnants of the emurpled poop dropped down, the waters cleared, and then rushed on, as milling and turbulent as ever, over the ship which had died in the green vindictive hell below.

J.B.

## BATS

Cobbs chose a perfect day for their Junior House Practice. The sun shone out of a cloudless sky. But my countenance was far from sunny — it was clouded. I was struggling to strap a pair of cricket pads to my rather stubby legs. I later found out that the pads I was wrestling with were inside out, upside-down, and also the wrong kind (they were wicket-keeper pads).

My right leg was the nuisance. First of all the bottom strap refused to do up. After an exasperating ten minutes I gave up. The middle strap seemed O.K., but the top strap was a bit loose. This was the state of affairs when G.J.A. called me over to take my place at the wicket. I stood up. At once the far-too-big pad slipped down. I pulled it up. At once the far-to-loose top strap came away. Still, no time to stop now; everybody was waiting. I slipped and stumbled to the wicket — not, of course, forgetting that graceful forward roll over a stray stump . . .

No sooner had I taken my place at the wicket than the fielders started shouting and waving. Wrong end! So off I plodded to the other wicket — not, of course, forgetting that graceful forward roll over a stray stump . . .

After patting out a rough crease with my bat, I nodded at the bowler to show that I was ready. Zonk! The bowler made a movement with his arm, and the bails were off. Still, I was given another go. Why, poor chap, he hadn't seen the ball yet!

Soon, I began to get the hang of things. I even hit the ball once, although the bruise was rather big. . . . "The next time you-er-hit it," said G. J. A. faintly, "try running". Running? With those great awkward things on? 'Strewth!

Somehow, I hit the ball with the bat the next time. The man at the other end goggled at me as he saw the ball run off on to the playground. "Now's my chance to copy him", as that more athletic player came tripping lightly towards me. I, the not so athletic player, ambled elephant-like towards him. My third trip across the field resulted in G.J.A. telling me that if I drove the ball far enough beyond the opposite batsman, I was to shout "Yes!" as a signal that it was safe to run. If, on the other hand, it failed to go far enough for a run, I was to yell "No!" The other batsman must do likewise. It seemed a little confusing at first, but I hoped to goodness I understood.

"Crack!" That was the sound when willow met leather, as I made an almighty swipe at the ball. It went careering down the pitch, behind by fellow batsman. I did not have my glasses on, and, being short-sighted, to me the ball looked a red blur. I had to yell something, so I yelled "Yes!" then "No!" Then "Yes, no-y-y, n-n, I m-mean" — what did I mean? Already the other man was beside me. I had to run, or at the very least have a jolly good try. Flap! Flap! Flap! went that terrible strap on the overgrown pad. How I scraped in, I do not know; but there I was. Phew! At last I had to watch our athletic friend batting. Clomp! Willow met leather again, and the ball shot behind me. I remembered G.J.A.'s words:—

"Wait till he shouts 'Yes or No'.

I waited; but all I heard was "Wrrgh". A muffled voice floated down from the other end. Did he say 'yes' or 'no'?

"Pardon?" I yelled.

Roars of laughter from the fielders.

"Wrrgh!" was the answer.

"Sorry, can't hear," I bawled as politely as I could.

More laughter.

By this time, G.J.A. had given up. "O.K., that's enough batting for one day," he groaned in a resigned way.

"Thank you, sir," I replied, very relieved. I hobbled off the pitch — not, of course, forgetting that graceful forward roll over a stray stump . . .

A.S.G., Form 26

## LA HISTORIA DE UNA MALETA

### (THE STORY OF A SUITCASE)

Don Juan de Luis y Sanchez stood unhappily on the platform of a large railway station. His holiday in England had hardly begun and his neat B.E.A. suitcase was as yet un-unpacked. He was bewildered by everything — the speed, the noise, the English language, so different from his laboriously learned grammar-book tongue — he had three times been addressed as "ducks", five times as "love", twice as "Guv" or "Guv'nor" and on uncountable occasions as "dear". He felt thirsty and looked around the steamy, bustling platform for a buffet. He had been told of the luxury of a British station compared with the dusty Castilian *estación* and although he had never seen a refreshment buffet before, he knew instinctively that the wizened little man pushing a metal and glass barrow piled high with food, was in charge of the mysterious 'buffet'. He put down his case, failing to notice another, identical suitcase obscured by a wooden seat. "Lemon Squash, Guv.?! " The man indicated the rows of green paper cartons on the trolley.

"Are . . . they . . . for drinking?", stammered Don Juan.  
"Oh lumme, Guv! Where do you come from? Of course they're for drinking!" A gleam of cunning flashed in the attendant's lack-lustre eyes. This was a foreigner . . . "Ninepence each" he said, received the good Don's half-crown, handed back one and a penny change, grinned beneficently and hurried on. Don Juan inserted the straw and was about to draw up a mouthful when he turned and — Horror of Horrors — he saw his blue B.E.A. case disappearing down the platform on the back of an electric truck.

"*Mi maleta*" he almost screamed. "Bring . . . back . . . my . . . case!" The electric truck seemed to accelerate out of spite.

"Ere, who are you a pushing of?" — a buxom lady reeled before his irresistible onslaught.

"*Siento* . . . I . . . am . . . sorry!" he called back, but the lady was lost in the crowd. He peered around looking for the truck.

Horror!

The truck was disappearing down a goods-elevator shaft!

He waited an age for the elevator to return, and as it began its downward journey once more, in a burst of energy born of extreme panic, he vaulted the rail and travelled down the shaft on the elevator platform. At the bottom he found himself facing a long tunnel far away down which he could see the truck. He rocketed after it, bulldozing aside a blustering, red-faced railway official. Nearer he came, but the truck was just out of his reach. He tried to shout but he was too *sofocado* even to whisper, after his unnatural exertions. Another elevator! Up went the truck and thirty seconds later, up went Don Juan. The daylight blinded him for a second and the truck with his precious suitcase widened its lead. He rubbed his eyes, hesitated, and then was off after the truck again. A seventy-five yard gap separated them. His face turned an apoplectic red as he strove to catch up the fleeing suitcase when — Horror number three — the truck stopped, the driver climbed down and passed the suitcase into a waiting taxi! Don Juan arrived too late — the taxi was moving quickly out of sight.

He reached the taxi rank and ripped open the door of the nearest taxi.

"*Siga aquel taxi!*" he yelled in the driver's ear.

"Eh!"

"Follow . . . that . . . taxi!"

"Right you are, Guv.

"*Gracias!*"

The taxi moved out of the rank and sped after the one containing Don Juan's case. The driver turned and slid back the glass partition. "You a continental, Guv?" — the car lurched wildly and Don Juan prayed for a paper bag like the one they had given him on the 'plane. "I . . . am . . . how you say? . . . a Spaniard".

"Spanish, eh!"

Lurched.

"Always wanted to go to Spain."

Lurch. The driver took control of the taxi and his voice could be heard even through the glass partition, which Don Juan had closed at the first opportunity, singing, "Granada, Granada . . ."

Lurch.

" . . . will live again . . . "

Lurch.

" . . . the glory of Yesterday . . . "

Lurch — scream — lurch.

"Your party has stopped, Guv. That'll be seven and a tanner"

The good Don reached in his pocket, pulled out a ten shilling note, threw it at the taximan with a cry of "Keep . . . the . . . change", and sprinted after his case. A young lady was about to enter the front gate of the house outside which the taxi had stopped, with his suitcase.

Out of breath, he began to babble in his native Castillian,

"*Señora . . . Señora . . . usted tiene mi maleta*"

"My dear sir. I fail to understand"

"*Señora . . . you . . . have . . . my . . . suitcase.*

"*Excuse me, but this is mine*"

"No *Señora* . . . it . . . is . . . mine. I . . . put . . . it . . . down . . . on . . . the . . . platform . . . and . . . you . . . took . . . it . . . by . . . mistake. Please . . . open . . . it, then . . . you . . . will . . . see.

"Certainly not!"

"Please *Señora*"

"No!"

"Please"

"No" — and then — "Oh very well". She snapped back the clasps and . . . The contents showed white and unfamiliar against the blue leather interior of the case . . .

This account may give the reader the impression that the dice were rather heavily loaded against Don Juan, but it is pleasant to record that, true to form, the story ended well, the good Don recovered his case, and, disgusted with the iniquity of the British Railways (and all other forms of British Transport) spent the rest of his stay in England walking.

C.R.S.

## THE SEAGULL

With slow looping of supple wings,  
She made her way, no whit afraid,  
A white challenge  
To the turmoil,  
Her flight holding the slam of winds  
Unflinching, not with man's fear made.

Alien o'er the plough-ribbed waves,  
Through ceaseless, slyly-hissing rain  
She swooped and wheeled,  
But rock-like held.  
Steadfast, once more the white wings beat,  
Down-depth, she climbed to soar again,

To top the dark crests, mountain high  
And forward press to make the day.  
Now haven-sound  
On wind-rocked wake  
She heard the spit of hungry seas,  
The crashing avalanche of night  
Film-flinging far the clouded spray.

D.J.H.

## THE CHANNEL SANCTITY OF THE FISHING SMACKS

... A sudden ethereal glow,  
The sun glistens out of the Channel,  
The shining streets echo  
The tread of the men from the boats  
Which tickle the rim of the jetty,  
Rising and falling, gently,  
Inflated; empty  
Defying the gentle swell

An easy task,  
For all night long beyond those friendly walls  
They have battled the brawling brine,  
Which tossed and tore their backs to no avail,  
They have waged and won, with every buoyant muscle.

---

And now —  
Their task achieved once more  
They wait  
Sedate.

The sun above their skeletons rises,  
Casting their shadows towards the yawning cliffs,  
The whispering downs, the slowly waking towns,  
The reality of just another day  
Whose end will send them once more on their way . . .  
S.F.P.

### STOP PRESS

The post-prandial calm of the Raynes Park Staff-room was rudely broken on Monday 25th November by a loud explosion, as a bullet shattered a window-pane and thudded into the Head-master's notice-board. A moment's horrified silence was followed by a calm and dispassionate discussion of the probable explanation of the incident.

"Down on your faces, lads!" cried Mr. R-l-y.

"What the - - - !" exclaimed Mr. -yt-n.

"It's a raid!" deplored Mr. R-dg-l-y.

Order was quickly restored by Mr. C-rtn-y who switched off the lights.

"It passed right over my head," roared Mr. Tr-nd-r. "- - - I think!" he added, dubiously fingering his forehead.

"It's not funny," observed Mr. H-rdm-n.

The curious flight of the bullet caused some speculation until the entrance of Mr. L-v-d-y:

"It's just a standard deviation," said he.

Further discussion soon established that no fewer than ten members of the staff would have been in a direct line with the flight of the bullet had conditions been other than what they were.

"The gods watch over us," said Dr. M-rg-n, while Mr. Pr-tt said nothing.

As we go to press Mr. R-l-y is still on the floor.

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