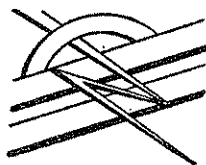


RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

THE

SPUR

AUTUMN TERM 1959



VOLUME XV

NUMBER 1

THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. XV

Autumn Term 1959

No. 1

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SCHOOL OFFICERS

Autumn Term 1959

Head Boy : R. Impey.

Second Boy : V. E. Bowern.

Prefects :

R. L. W. Brookes, M. D. Bond, J. A. Bull, A. J. Burke, N. G. Cottee, R. F. D. Crowe, R. J. Cumes, G. V. Frank-Keyes, R. M. Foulsham, P. T. Greene, B. T. Holyman, C. M. Hopper, J. M. King, M. McLean, S. D. Pattinson, P. C. Redshaw, M. D. Ross, B. M. Ryder, C. R. Shute, B. W. Spencer, P. Standish, P. R. Thornton.

Captain of Rugby (1st XV) : R. M. Foulsham.

Captain of Rugby (2nd XV) : M. McLean.

Hon. Secretary of Rugby : G. V. Frank-Keyes.

Captain of Cross-country : R. M. Deed.

Prefect of Hall : C. M. Hopper.

Prefect of Library : M. McLean.

Hon. Secretary of Games Committee : V. E. Bowern.

HEADMASTER'S NOTES

The visit of Her Majesty's Inspectors in the week beginning September 28th is a receding memory; their formal report to the Ministry has not yet reached Governors. They sympathised with our present difficulties, and from informal discussions subsequently we expect to find that broadly they took a favourable view of us and our doings.

The extensions really near completion, and all of us (but especially those who have seen inside) look forward to occupying them at the beginning of next term. Furniture for new rooms is arriving and complicating present problems. The Hall in its present orientation will have seen its last assembly when these notes are read, but that side of the building will be still in builders' hands and morning prayers probably will have to be held by Houses while we lack space for all to gather together. For the like reason we have, for the first time for years, no play in production. But the next stage, when rooms 1-8 are all out of use, will be perhaps the most difficult of all. Before May 1st, however, we are promised that all shall be complete.

Having played Rugby for 25 years and earned various other distinctions but not this one, the School took unfeigned satisfaction in the Rugby Blue awarded to J. R. S. Higham (1949-1956). While taking due share of the glory for the School, we offer most cordial congratulations to Higham — and to his brothers.

Mr. J. F. G. Eldergill has resigned this term; we are indebted to him for his help over this past year and wish him well in his new post. Mr. Christopher Raphael, whose degree is from Trinity College, Dublin, will take his place at least until July, and he is very welcome among us.

The final edited version of "For Whom the Bell Rings," our second 20-minute film, long awaited, had a showing earlier this term for the edification of the Inspectors and the Staff. It is taking longer than expected to get a print, the Hall is temporarily without blackout, but those who were "shot" in the making of the film will shortly be able to see themselves — as they were, in some cases, two years ago!

HENRY PORTER.

PRIZEGIVING 1959

The School's annual Prizegiving was held this year on Tuesday, October 6th. Wimbledon Town Hall was well filled with parents and friends to hear the new Chairman of the Governors, Mr. E. F. Dakin, welcome our guests.

In his report, the Headmaster reviewed the achievements of the previous year, referring particularly to the results of the G.C.E. Although describing the ordinary level results as tolerable, he said that the advanced level results in science were quite good, and went on to talk about the prospects of a scientific career. These, he thought, were excellent for the highly qualified man, but in view of the modern industrial trend of demanding such a high standard from science students he suggested that the majority might find more scope in technical industry. Although we had suffered much at the hands of the builders, the Headmaster thought that we had done well to maintain the normal School activities, which on the fields of sports and athletics had resulted in our winning several cups from inter-school competitions. In the academic world congratulations were particularly due to J. A. Colmer and J. Davie on the awards of an open exhibition and an open scholarship respectively, both to Oxford.

After presenting the prizes, Alderman J. C. Thompson, M.C., M.A., the Chairman of the Surrey Education Committee, took as the theme of his address the three words: Courage, Conviction and Courtesy. Courage to do those things which we knew to be right, even in the face of harsh criticism; Conviction in our capabilities and also in the greatness of our country; and Courtesy without which the first two would lose much of their value.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. J. Hood-Phillips, and seconded by the Head Boy. Both the Headmaster and Mr. Dakin had referred to Mr. Hood-Phillips' retirement from the chairmanship of the board of governors, and expressed their gratitude to him for all his services. The proceedings were concluded with the National Anthem.

R. IMPEY.

Prizes

Form Prizes

ii	...	...	...	...	M. Burke, P. V. Mallett
iii	...	...	...	...	M. R. Earl, R. P. L. Ribolla
1iii	...	...	...	...	K. H. Russel, B. M. Bambridge
2v	...	...	...	...	C. R. Myers, J. Evans

2vi	...	S. J. Butler, R. H. L. Catt
3vii	...	J. M. Crocker, M. Munro, F. J. Wilton
3viii	...	B. G. Butcher, S. G. Lewis

For Performance in "Ordinary" G.C.E.

5iv	...	R. H. Thompson, M. K. Wood
5z	...	A. J. Phillips, P. F. White, P. C. Dishart, R. C. Clarke, B. T. Elsdon
5x	...	J. S. Carlow, M. Burgoyne, C. J. Steer, J. L. W. Heaver
5y	...	G. H. Amos

Lower Sixth

Arts	...	J. A. Bull
Science	...	R. L. W. Brookes, P. T. Greene, B. T. Holyman
Economics	...	C. M. Hopper

Upper Sixth

Arts	...	J. A. Colmer, J. Davie, M. D. Ross, C. J. West, K. H. D. Hopper, P. J. Venison
Science	...	Norman Prize : R. Impey Whitman Prize : B. M. Ryder D. J. Clark, E. Phillips
Economics	...	V. E. Bownern
Effort outside class	...	A. J. C. Brazier, C. R. Blackwell, L. C. D. Chamberlain, B. W. Spencer, C. R. Shute, J. T. Williams, A. J. Burke, P. Standish, S. F. Partridge, P. J. Venison
Music	...	J. H. G. Wilbraham, S. J. Mawer
Hobbies	...	K. R. Johnson, B. M. Bambridge
Art	...	P. A. Riley, P. J. Loveday, A. Pottinger
Craft	...	M. J. Bennee, F. Gell, I. R. Hall
Ian Hudson Puppet Prize	...	Held over
General Knowledge	...	J. A. Bull, H. A. Glass, M. P. Ness, B. M. Keen
Beaverbrook Bennett	...	J. R. Watts, S. J. Butler
Verse Speaking	...	M. McLean, C. R. Shute, R. Impey, A. S. Gorman
Old Boys'	...	C. R. Shute
L. A. G. Strong Prize	...	P. J. Loveday
for entries of merit	...	A. S. Gorman, R. H. Terry
John Robbins Essay	...	M. McLean, N. E. Cole, C. Mottershead
Leaving Prizes to Head of School	...	J. M. Adams, J. A. Colmer

Advanced Level Certificate

6 Arts	...	T. G. Ayres, R. J. Cumes, G. V. Frank-Keyes, K. H. D. Hopper, M. McLean, B. G. W. Morley, A. Oakley, M. D. Ross, P. J. Venison, C. J. West (<i>Distinction in French</i>)
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6 Science	D. J. Clark, N. G. Cottee, D. Durrant, M. V. Ekins, D. L. Hammond, R. Impey (<i>Distinction in Physics</i>), S. D. Pattinson, E. Phillips (<i>Distinction in Chemistry</i>), P. C. Redshaw, D. A. Rolt, B. M. Ryder, J. D. Thomas, D. R. Thompson, M. A. Yeldham
6 Economics	...	...	...	V. E. Bower, S. F. Partridge

Trophies

FROM OPEN COMPETITION

The Wimbledon Schools' Athletic Association Senior Cup and Junior Shield

The Moss Trophy (A.T.C.)

The Surrey Wing A.T.C. Pennant and Bill Wood Trophy

SCHOOL

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

CAROL CONCERT

In accordance with a tradition dating back a number of years the Carol Concert took place on the penultimate evening of term. This year's programme, however, differed from that of previous years, in that the first half was taken up with a performance of the first part of Handel's *Messiah*.

The soloists were all members of the School: C. R. Shute gave a spirited rendering of the difficult Bass solos and R. C. Oakes and A. R. Eyre gave excellent performances of the Alto and Treble solos respectively. Circumstances prevented the singing of the Tenor recitative and aria, but the way in which M. McLean declaimed them to a piano background filled the gap most effectively.

The choir, trained and conducted by Mr. Aldersea, sang the four choruses in a very creditable manner for a schoolboy choir. J. H. G. Wilbraham is to be congratulated on his trumpet accompaniment to *Glory to God*.

The second part of the concert was a shortened version of the familiar Carol Concert programme. Carols, played by the orchestra and sung by the

congregation, alternated with the customary readings by the Chairman of the Governors, the Headmaster, Mr. Timpson and members of the School.

Pleasant interludes were provided by a small choir conducted by R. C. True, which sang the *Coventry Carol* in a charming manner and by the School choir, which gave competent renderings of the lullaby *Hush, my dear, lie still and slumber* and the carol *Now the holly bears a berry*. A quartet consisting of an oboe, two clarinets and a cello, performed an arrangement of *In Dulce Jubilo* very pleasingly. The orchestra and choir combined to give a very lively rendering of the secular song *Merry Christmas* by Martin Shaw, arranged for orchestra by Mr. Ayton. The concert ended with several popular carols, in which the audience joined with obvious enjoyment.

We are once again indebted to Mr. Tucker for assisting the orchestra, and to the various gentlemen who coached the different sections of the orchestra.

During the interval a collection was taken in aid of World Refugee Year and there was a very generous response to the tune of some £15.

M. D. ROSS & C. MOTTERSHEAD.

HOUSE NOTES

Cobbs

Captain : V. E. Bownern.

Prefects : J. A. Bull, C. R. Shute, R. M. Foulsham.

Since the last magazine was prepared we have had to bid farewell to a number of Seniors who have left us for employment in business or for further education. Notable amongst these are D. A. Rolt, Strutt, Page and Fuminger; to these and all who have left us in the past year we extend our best wishes for their future career.

This term we have welcomed Mr. Adrian Smith as an addition to our complement of housemasters. He has already made his presence popularly felt amongst the House's Junior Rugby players.

May I, on behalf of the House, congratulate R. M. Foulsham on being elected School Rugby Captain and also J. A. Bull, C. R. Shute and Foulsham on being appointed prefects.

Prospects for the year seem considerably brighter than they have been of late. The keenness displayed by the Juniors in their Rugby practices could certainly be emulated by us all. The Colts in their competition were perhaps, on results, a little disappointing, but they showed all their critics just what could be done by unexpectedly defeating Miltons, a most praiseworthy performance. The report of the Senior competition I have left to Foulsham, as House Rugby Captain. Foulsham has, this term, proved an extremely capable captain, a fine example to all of us both on and off the field. May I say in closing that I hope the meagre achievement, compared with the effort and vigour expended, of the rugby season may be considerably bettered in the terms which follow.

VIVIAN BOWNERN.

For the second year running, Cobbs have been the enigma of the Senior Rugby. Looked upon as easy meat for the more fortunately bestowed houses, we have acquitted ourselves well, although not achieving any outstanding success.

Miltons provided us with our only win, although it was in fact our poorest game. Against Halliwells and Gibbs we put up very creditable performances and although the score in the latter game seems monumental (43-6) it by no means represents a fair picture of the game. The Newsoms match was our best, for it was with some amusement that after having been informed that we were to be crushed, we found ourselves with a 9-3 lead at half-time. In the second half, however, the superior fitness of Newsoms School players won them the game.

In this season's play, Pacey-Day and Steer have been outstanding, attacking and defending with grit and determination. Compliments are due also to "Fred" White, Bull, Norton and Jacobs, who though not of natural Rugby ability, played to capacity, as did a disillusioned Jones. Bown and Powers, our great hopes for this season, unfortunately had little opportunity to show their paces, although both of them scored two exceptionally good tries.

Next season will see our Rugby team in the same predicament as this, but if the spirit and determination are retained, some shocks and surprises may well result.

RICHARD FOULSHAM.

Gibbs

Captain : G. V. Frank-Keyes.

Prefects :

M. D. Bond, B. T. Holyman, S. D. Pattinson, B. M. Ryder, B. W. Spencer.

Hon. Treasurer : R. M. Deed.

True House spirit is shown by the success of a house when under difficulties. Due to the loss of most of our successful Seniors of the last two years, we who remain are now put on our mettle. To win the Cock House Cup a third year running would be a tremendous achievement, but the struggle will be harder than before. Complacency must not be allowed to creep in.

In the last issue of *The Spur*, Terry Ayres could not of course mention his own outstanding contribution to the House. His sterling efforts in cajoling and bullying many into qualifying certainly won us the Athletics Cup, and his tremendous keenness in all activities was inspiring to those fortunate enough to be under his leadership. His slogan, "Let us remain for ever nauseatingly keen," must live on in the House. Peter Venison left also, rather unexpectedly, a fortnight after term began. His contribution in all ways was a large and fruitful one, and I'm sure he would have been an even greater asset if he had stayed on as your first-choice captain. Good luck to both of them!

To celebrate the triumphs of last year a House Supper was held in the Gibbs tradition, that is, home cooking and home entertainment. I should like to thank all those who helped in the preparations and especially those who cleared up afterwards. A special word of acknowledgement is due to the actors and players, particularly Wilbraham's group of musicians, and also to Mr. Brunt, whom we heartily welcome, and who had his first public outing since joining the Gibbs stables!

The Rugby competition this term has already shown us that we must expect harder, keener tussles for the various cups. We have come second to Newsoms in the whole competition. The Colts, unfortunately, made a bad start in which they lost 0-17 to Newsoms (who won all four matches) and then 8-11 to Miltons. The second half was much better and victories were notched up against Cobbs 12-6, and Halliwells 25-0. We were thus equal second in the Colt section, and most praise for this must go to Eastwood, the captain, Cox, a good runner with instinctive pace change, and Evans, a kicker who, with practice, will follow in the Gibbs tradition of Wearn and Nicholls. The Seniors have at the time of writing played three and won them all — against Miltons 50-8, Cobbs 43-6 and Halliwells 11-6. The main reason for the large scores has been the presence of the mercurial Nicholls, who is to be congratulated on the award of 1st XV colours at the age of only 15½. Although he has scored over half our points himself this is not exactly a one-man team: Bond, Williams, Wilbraham and Early have all played well.

Junior Rugby is also important although it does not count towards the Cock House Cup, because the future "stars" are trained to play as a team in the lower forms. Practices have shown that we are not devoid of talent, especially in the first form, for the newly instituted seven-a-side competitions, and hopes for the future are bright. But keep practising!

Next term several cups are up for competition: those for Hockey, Cross-country (congratulations to Deed on his appointment as School Cross-country Captain), Gymnastics, Chess and Debating. The last two are now to count in the Cock House Cup for the first time, and so this provides a chance for the less strenuous of us to help the House in a tangible way. Make sure you take this chance! Hockey prospects are bright in the Seniors, although the loss of Venison is a severe one, and it is hoped that the third-formers quickly get to grips with the game and make a really good effort.

This last sentence really applies to all of us: we have made a good start already, being only points behind Newsoms, but next term can be even more enjoyable and profitable if we play hard and play to win.

GRAHAM V. FRANK-KEYES.

Halliwells

Captain: R. Impey.

Prefects: R. F. D. Crowe, J. M. King, M. McLean, P. Thornton.

We said goodbye at the end of the Summer Term to relatively few Senior members of Halliwells, but nevertheless they will all be missed. Most notably we said farewell to J. A. Colmer, our Captain and Head Boy, now an

exhibitioner at Oxford, and to M. Chiddick and G. Higgs. Their support was always whole-hearted and we owe them our thanks.

We welcome particularly this term, Mr. Gleed as a new Housemaster, hoping that his stay will be a long and happy one. To all new Juniors as well, we say welcome and look forward to their support in the years to come.

Since the last edition of *The Spur* reported in full all the Summer Term's activities there is only the Rugby to be dealt with. Although we did not distinguish ourselves we cut about even, the Seniors winning two matches, the Colts one, there being no draws. McLean and Williams, leading the Seniors, and Flynn and Woodhall, the Colts, particularly deserve our thanks. Halliwells can be particularly proud of J. R. S. Higham on the award of his Blue for Rugby representing Oxford against Cambridge as he was our House Captain of a few years back. We all offer him our hearty congratulations. Well done!

Looking to the future the prospect is certainly fair. We have a better chance of winning Cock House this year than we have had for a long time, but, as always, it depends upon every member of the House contributing his best. So let us hope that when I come to write the next House Notes I will be able to report that we are well on the way to success.

It depends on you.

R. IMPEY.

Miltons

Captain : R. J. Cumes.

Prefects : A. J. Burke, P. Standish.

As is inevitable at the end of a School year, we had to say goodbye to many Senior boys in the House, notably J. Davie, R. J. Holmes and B. G. W. Morley. To these and many others we extend our best wishes for the future. Unfortunately we are going to feel the loss of these Seniors throughout this year, for they dominated the activities of the House for the last two years to such an extent that the Seniors are now faced with the difficult task of filling the gaps. However the blow is somewhat softened by the apparent strength of the Colts who could gain success for the House, if they live up to expectations.

The only activity this term has been Rugby which, but for one notable exception when we won the cup in 1955, has never been a Miltons' strong point. As regards the Senior team, we must record an unbroken series of defeats, somewhat expected since only four members of the team play Rugby regularly. However, Brown is to be congratulated on setting a fine example as captain, and has been rewarded by gaining his School colours, although he is only in the fifth form. The Colt XV, on the other hand, was more successful and recorded two clear victories at the expense of Halliwells and Gibbs, yet was beaten by Newsoms 5-12 in the absence of Nisbet, the captain, and suffered a cruel blow in the last minute against Cobbs when a doubtful try was allowed to the opponents, making the final score 5-6. Nevertheless they

have all played enthusiastically under the fine leadership of Nisbet, and should be most satisfied with their performance. The Junior team does not play its House matches until next term, when I hope it will not disappoint us, for a good Junior team is very encouraging for the rest of the House.

As the end of term approaches, there is much confidence in the House regarding our chances of winning the Hockey Cup for the third year in succession. Our Colts are thought to be the strongest team, whilst the Senior team possesses many good players who I hope will exhibit their skill at the appropriate times. Debating, Chess, Gymnastics and Cross-country will also take place during the Spring Term, and in these I hope everyone will do his best to secure us a satisfactory position in the Cock House competition.

ROGER J. CUMES.

Newsoms

Captain : N. G. Cottee.

Prefects : P. C. Redshaw, M. D. Ross, R. L. W. Brookes, P. T. Greene.

May I before beginning these notes just say that the House is deeply indebted to M. A. Yeldham and S. F. Partridge, who left us at the end of last term. Throughout the whole of their time in this School they gave of their utmost to the House in practically every field. Theirs is surely an example to all of us. On the credit side, we welcome Mr. Poulter's return to the House and hope he will be as happy and successful as he was when a pupil.

We have won the Rugby Cup, thanks to a really good effort by both the Colts and the Seniors.

The Colts were first on to the field and had won all four of their matches before battle was joined by the Senior team. Ably captained by Boddy they played well as a team and were especially strong in the half-backs, which is an important factor in House Rugby. Amongst the forwards the back-row was notable but the front-row will have to tighten their play if they want to stay on top next year.

The Seniors, then, were left to win three out of the four matches to make sure of the cup. The first game against Halliwells set the pattern of our play in all the following matches. Superior in the back division but vastly outweighed in the pack, the policy was to throw the ball around and to give our three-quarters a good run. Of course, this depended on the forwards getting possession in both the set-pieces and the loose. This they did, playing with exceptional fire and spirit in the last 20 minutes of each game. It was a pity, however, that this standard of play was confined to such a small period of time and indeed this must serve as the only real criticism of the team as a whole. Morley at full-back looked after our rear with great finesse and Doctor Morgan on the touch line lent invaluable vocal support.

As for the Juniors not much is yet known of their potentialities but they will certainly have to work much harder in practice if they hope to win games after Christmas.

On Monday, November 2nd, we celebrated a long-awaited House Supper. The "supper" itself consisted of the truly English dish of fish and chips, followed by fruit salad which needless to say was devoured with enjoyment and great rapidity by all. Half-a-dozen Senior boys plus Emmings (Ego) and Manger then presented "1984 and All That" by M. Rowlands, a satire on George Orwell's famous book, and despite production difficulties (e.g. no stage), the cast provided an entertaining half-hour which was well worth the time they had given up for it. The evening was completed with ice cream, Charlie Chaplin and Bud Abbot and Lou Costello, and on behalf of the whole House may I thank Mr. O'Driscoll, his wife and two daughters for helping to make a memorable House Supper.

To conclude then, we have made a fine start this term and providing we can maintain the enthusiasm already displayed on the Rugby pitch throughout the whole year, whether it be in swimming pool or between two wickets then I think we can look to Newsoms House for the Cock House Cup.

NORMAN COTTEE.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

For the greater part of this term the Society has been meeting unofficially. The lack of public meetings must not be taken as an indication that the Society has died out. We suffered a very serious set-back in the loss of our sponsor, Mr. Trinder, and the problems that have arisen this term about holding meetings have only recently been mastered.

At the beginning of term, the three members of the committee were faced with a small group of keen members who wanted public meetings, and an eyesore of a telescope which had been stripped of its paint and was decorating the back of the Biology Laboratory. A committee meeting was held, and it was decided that all operations would be suspended until our old "scope" had been relieved of its rust and made respectable with a coat or two of paint. Materials were bought, and after numerous meetings of the committee and enthusiastic Seniors, the dirty hollow tube and stand were transformed once more into objects of beauty. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Gleed for his patience and tolerance in allowing us to use his laboratory as a workshop and a store-house. One almost might say that we are going to town on the telescope. For the first time since it was purchased, four years ago, the decision has been made to re-coat its optical surfaces. If all our efforts are successful, the emblem and mascot of the Society will become an instrument of precision and accuracy, something it has never been!

Despite difficulties, one public meeting has been held this term. In this, the future of the Society was discussed, and new members were accepted. The Society decided to start regular public meetings in the Spring Term. A second visit to the Planetarium has been planned for early January, and lectures are being prepared. We hope that all interested boys in the School will support the Society and promote the growth of interest in Astronomy, a subject which is regrettably neglected nowadays in so many schools.

TED COLE.

CHRISTIAN UNION

This term has been for us a full and profitable one. Meeting regularly twice a week we have covered a great many subjects ranging literally from the Creation to the end of the world. Our Tuesday lunch-time meetings have been mainly centred on discussion while the Friday meetings were invariably Bible studies. Most Senior members have taken their turn to lead this, and it has proved to be very interesting and useful.

We held a supper in November to raise money for refugees in Hong Kong. A film-strip showing the conditions in which these people are forced to live, began the evening, and then we gathered round the library table to eat a meagre portion of bread and cheese to remind ourselves more forcibly of the scanty meals and hardship that is the lot of the refugee. The meeting was a great success and we were able to send 30/- from the Christian Union to Hong Kong.

At another meeting in early November we had the Fact and Faith film "Dust or Destiny" which ably demonstrated the wonder and mystery of God's creation.

We are planning to make the Easter Term one of even greater activity by inviting several outside speakers and also by including a few more films and film-strips in our programme.

R. IMPEY.

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

Memo to the large body of gentlemen in the first and second years Arts Sixth who apparently find the doings of Tony Hancock more intellectually satisfying than the doings of the Classical Society: the aforementioned Society has met once during the Autumn Term and will be holding its second meeting soon after the time of writing.

At the meeting held on Friday, October 2nd, the Society's retiring Hon. Secretary, J. Davie, and J. Colmer, lately captain of the School, delivered talks upon the subjects of Theophrastus and the Romans in Britain respectively.

It was evident that Mr. Davie had been interested by Mr. P. J. Parsons' talk last term on the subject of the daily life of the Greeks in Egypt because the subject of his talk, the *Characters* by Theophrastus, dealt with a very similar theme. The *Characters*, for the benefit of the uninitiated (and the brethren mentioned in the first paragraph of these notes) is a series of character-sketches describing the various types of ordinary person whom Theophrastus met on the daily round in Greece. Carefully selecting the most piquant items Mr. Davie brought to life many examples of hilarious classical wit; such descriptions as that of the "Lout" whose speciality was belching at the theatre and clapping when everyone else had stopped; the blue-blooded oligarch who found the Democrats insupportable, and never tired of saying so; the late-learner, aged 60 or thereabouts, who courted sweethearts with a battering-ram and the garrulous fellow whose sole subject of conver-

sation was the timeless fact that "The World Is Going To The Dogs." Mr. Davie had obviously taken the old adage about brevity being the soul of wit to heart for his talk lasted for a very witty 20 minutes and left the Society vowing to read the book as soon as possible.

Mr. Colmer's discourse was a complete contrast. As a History scholar of considerable standing (he is now, to extend my predecessor's metaphor, serving a three-year sentence at Oxford) he was under an obligation to deliver a strongly historical talk. He began by outlining the various events in the conquest of Britain, with special reference to the difficulties experienced by the Romans with the Welsh, whom they finally conquered (a meaning glance was cast in the President's direction at this point). After describing in detail the colonial administrative system Mr. Colmer went on to discuss the various communities into which the Britons and the Romans conquerors alike were divided and the various methods by which they were governed. He then spoke of the social and technical innovations which the Romans introduced into British life such as roads and baths. Other points upon which Mr. Colmer touched included the effects of the Roman invasion upon architecture, town life, agriculture and industry. All these points and several more were dealt with with Mr. Colmer's customary erudition. Certain heretics afterwards complained that "Ole Tone" bored them; I would hasten to assert publicly to these people that it was not Mr. Colmer's masterly talk which caused the noticeable languor of the Society towards the end but merely the accumulation of heat and humidity in the Library.

At the close of the meeting refreshments materialised from the Chemistry Laboratory and the Society settled down to discussion of more weighty matters.

In less than a week from the time of writing, the Society will be re-gathering again to read Plautus' *Pseudolus*. I trust that this meeting will be as well attended as was the last, and I would urge (as I am sure Doctor Morgan will) all members of the Arts Sixth, and especially those who are studying Classics, to make a point of attending this and future meetings. In any case Tony Hancock's television series has finished—there's no excuse . . .

C. R. SHUTE.

DA VINCI SOCIETY

Contrary to our usual practice we held two meetings during the Summer Term of particular interest. Mr. Stephenson displayed an abstract painting in the showcase which caused considerable comment, so much that it was decided that a special meeting should be held where people could air their views on the pros and cons of modern abstract painting. A very lively meeting ensued and resulted in a subsequent exhibition and discussion on abstract mono-prints made by both boys and Staff.

At the end of the Summer Term we also held our seventh Dinner Hour Concert which was well attended. We had a good audience and the standard

of the performers was to be commended. The Society is greatly indebted to the members of Staff and boys who worked so hard for our pleasure.

The programme for the Autumn Term opened with a talk entitled "3-D in Art" by Mr. Stephenson. We were shown a number of works of sculpture both representational and abstract and the main purpose behind this talk was to inspire people to attempt three dimensional objects themselves. With this end in view it was decided that this should be the subject of this term's Da Vinci Art Competition. All works have now been received and it was hoped that the exhibition of these works would mark the opening of the new Art Room. But alas, the British workman has done his best! We are still not in but are hoping that this may be remedied by next term when we shall hold this delayed exhibition.

Mr. Riley gave the second talk of the term under the title "The Face of God." In this talk he showed examples of paintings and sculpture through the ages from various parts of the world of representations of God. Comparisons were made between symbolism and realism and the question as to whether it was possible at all to convey in art form the idea of God.

Under the title "The Maestro," Mr. Ayton gave the next two talks. In these he discussed the place of the conductor in the orchestra and with an enlightening collection of excerpts of music compared the different renderings of like works by different conductors.

R. J. Smalley, of 5iii, who is a collector of objects of antiquity gleaned from the Thames mud, gave the following talk which was called "Mucking in the Mud." The talk was well illustrated with examples from Smalley's own collection and the subject proved most interesting. It is to be hoped that his example will be followed by other members of the School who, I am sure, will find this a most interesting and instructive hobby.

Two records of School Holiday Visits abroad were the subject of the next meeting. Films of the trip to Paris at Easter, by A. V. Knapp, of 4ii, and Switzerland in the Summer, by M. V. Manse, of Science VI, were shown. Both were in colour, both first attempts in this medium by their producers, and both equally commendable.

We were very pleased to welcome Mr. Adrian Smith to our meetings and to hear his excellent talk on the "Expressionists." We were shown many fine slides by these German artists, and their place in the history of modern painting was lucidly conveyed by Mr. Smith.

M. McLean, of the Arts VI, was the second boy to address the Society this term. He chose as his subject "Van Gogh." It was evident from his talk that he was greatly impressed by this artist's work. He related the life story of this tormented artist with great feeling and left us with a vivid impression of his struggles and achievement.

Two musical items ended the Autumn Term programme. The first was the eighth Dinner Hour Concert. This was held as is now usual in the Library and attracted a record attendance. This time the whole programme was arranged by the boys, and members from all parts of the School contrib-

uted. Finally, for members of the sixth forms only, a last meeting was held when the record "Red Bird" was played and discussed. This unusual recording is an experiment in reading modern poetry to Jazz. The poems of Christopher Logue were read by the poet to the playing of the Tony Kinsey Quartet. The general consensus of opinion was that the experiment was successful and it was felt that for the layman this method of presentation was a valuable aid to his appreciation.

Once more we should like to thank all members of the School, both Staff and boys, who have helped to give life to our Society. We look forward to the future when we hope that, in our new surroundings, our vigour will continue and we trust increase.

A. C. RILEY.

DEBATING SOCIETY

The activities of the Debating Society during the Autumn Term might aptly be described as "near-apocryphal but encouraging." Never the most patronised of the School's many societies it has met regularly throughout the term, with Houses averaging 15-20. But the size of the Houses is immaterial; what is important is that it has met. In several cases boys who have abstained from public speaking for most of their school careers have suddenly cast aside their aversion for "standing up and spouting" and have made a very useful contribution to what has been a lively term's debating.

It would take too much space to give a detailed account of each debate. Apart from several rhetorical affrays amongst the Junior members of the School (arranged by Bothams and his stalwarts), upon various subjects of grave national importance such as the burning question of "Rugby or Soccer," the Seniors have convened to debate motions as varied as the proposal that "The Future of the World Lies in the Hands of the African" and that "Science and Religion are Incompatible." The Senior debates have been very efficiently organised by A. Shipton and his friends of the Science Sixth and between them they have performed my duties far better than I could have done.

In my first paragraph I described the past term as "encouraging." Our Houses have not been as large as they have been in the past, but a solid nucleus of Juniors has been attending regularly and its continued staunchness leaves no doubt that the Senior generation has a strong backing of younger boys who are interested enough to carry on the School's debating tradition.

Lastly, might I say a word to the brethren who quake inwardly at the thought of having to speak in a debate. There are many such who reply to enquiries as to whether they intend to come to the debates with the plaintive, probably true, but utterly irrelevant cry "But I can't speak — I'd only make a hash of it!" None of the members of the Debating Society lays claim to unusual powers of rhetoric. Therefore we do not regard ourselves as an exclusive group of budding Disraelis or embryonic Ciceros, but simply as halting, incoherent speakers determined to improve our debating ability by practice. So why not join us, for everyone has to begin sometime and

although you might well "make a hash of it" at first you need have no fear of being alone amidst a roomful of polished speakers. Everyone is, therefore, welcome to attend any of the Society's debates during the Spring Term and I look forward to increased numbers and even livelier discussions.

C. R. SHUTE.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

This term has again witnessed the daily taking of meteorological readings from the Stevenson screen, but of late this activity has lapsed. If there are any members of the School interested in this activity they should approach a member of the Geography staff.

On November 17th, the Society held its Autumn Term film evening, to which we were pleased to welcome, as our guests, members of the Sixth Form from Wimbledon County School. The programme consisted of four colour films of general geographical interest. The first, entitled *The Peak District*, dealt with the life and traditions of the local population and included many excellent photographic sequences of the Derbyshire scene. The second film, *Borgo a Mozzano*, told the story of the Italian government's experimental rural development scheme in a poverty-stricken village in the foothills of Tuscany. After a short interval for refreshment, the film *Any Man's Kingdom* was shown. It portrayed the cultural and scenic interests of Northumberland and included several excellent sequences amongst the Cheviot Hills. The last film, *Land of Dew*, opened with a brief photographic account of life in the oil-enriched Persian Gulf state of Qatar, followed by the story of the assembly of an offshore oil-drilling platform, culminating in a long tow out to its anchorage. The audience, some 50 in number, were once again provided with a most enjoyable evening, for which the Society is indebted to Mr. O'Driscoll.

Before the Society meets for its next film evening, its activities will almost certainly have been extended to include geographical field-work carried out by members of the Sixth Form.

VIVIAN E. BOWERN.

GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

We have had several very enjoyable Thursday dinner-time record concerts with works ranging from Bach to Shostakovitch. Members have been very generous though we cannot expect their collections to last the whole year.

The term opened with a recording of Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony*, played by the Cleveland Orchestra conducted by George Szell, and was followed the next week by a performance by the Paris Conservatoire Orchestra under Erich Kleiber of the famous *Pathétique Symphony* of Tchaikovsky. It was the sixth and last symphony he wrote, having its first performance a week or two before his death.

The week after that we were dazzled by Yehudi Menuhin's violin

technique as he played Laio's *Symphonie Espagnole*, Saint-Saens' *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso* and the same composer's *Havanaise*. He was accompanied by the Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Eugene Goossens.

Bach was represented next by his *Second Organ Sonata* played by Fernando Germani, and his *Second and Fourth Brandenburg Concertos* played by the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra led by Karl Munchinger. Otto Klemperer conducted the Philharmonia Orchestra the next week, giving a magnificent performance of Brahms' *Fourth Symphony*, perhaps the greatest symphony of them all.

In 1911 Stravinsky wrote his ballet suite *Petrouchka*; on October 29th we heard the 1947 revised version played by the Berlin R.I.A.S. Symphony Orchestra conducted by Ferenc Fricsay.

November 5th brought disaster: the gramophone was out of order. It was repaired by the next week when we heard a recording of Moussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, followed by Ravel's choreographic poem *La Valse*, both played by L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romarde conducted by Ernest Ansermet.

Beethoven's rather Mozartian *First Symphony* was the subject of the meeting of November 19th. It was played by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Ferenc Fricsay. As a fill-up to this programme we also heard Smetana's tone poem *Vltava*, played by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by the late Wilhelm Furtwangler.

On December 3rd we heard Shostakovitch's *Violin Concerto* written in 1956 for David Oistrakh, the great Russian violinist. On this record he was accompanied by the Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra of New York conducted by Dimitri Mitropoulos. We hope to hold one more meeting before Christmas, which is still to be arranged. We should be very grateful to receive any offers of records to play next term.

Finally, the Society would like to thank Mr. Riley for the use of his Art Room.

ROBERT STICKLAND.

LITERARY SOCIETY

A hitherto dormant Society this term suddenly sprang to life and read *The Hostage*, by Brendan Behan, in the unfamiliar and uninspiring Art Room (uninspiring at least for literary purposes — for what can compare with the snug curtains, august furniture and scholarly volumes in the Library?).

Unfortunately only one of our four or five more or less regular visitors from Wimbledon High dared expose herself to the merciless and bawdy jesting of this play, and so our reading was a little unbalanced from the start. The Irish accent which was required, a Dublin one incidentally (like Eamonn Andrews' if you are still puzzled), proved difficult to all except McLean who was convincing as Pat the "brockel" keeper. Our one female guest was not overawed by the numerical inferiority of her sex on this occasion and read

and sang with great charm. A pity she did not bring any colleagues with her. Others who sustained tricky parts with aplomb were Biddiscombe, in the title-role, Shute and Redshaw.

All in all, however, I'm afraid that after the triumphs of last year this seemed rather small beer: dabbling in plays which owe their success to a gullible public and a succession of blue jokes and songs is neither clever nor worth-while from a long-term point of view. We could do worse than read Shakespeare next time. Not to end on this grim note, however, I will say that many enjoyable incidents remain in the mind: Shute's singing, Williams' Method acting, and so on. I would like to thank those who remained quiet although landed with parts that weren't too attractive.

GRAHAM FRANK-KEYES.

Addendum to Literary Society Notes

The Secretary will, I hope, pardon the voice of dissension. I feel I must state the case, as it were, for the opposition. Despite my personal prejudice against plays of this nature, whose characters are members of that general class of people which only comes to the public notice by way of certain Sunday papers—the low, the depraved, the drunken and the lustful—I found this play an excellent portrayal of the way of life of such people. Despite too its unorthodox form such as the songs which were scattered freely through the play and the macabre resurrection of the hostage after his untimely death in which he makes the bizarre comment "death, where is thy sting-a-ling-a-ling?"

As I said before the play deals with a way of life. In my opinion Brendan Behan portrays this way of life in all its nauseating reality, and surely, if his characters speak like real people, as I believe they do, we should be viewing Behan's world through extremely rose-tinted spectacles if we dismissed the ear-blistering stream of "blue" language which constitutes the greater part of the play as "a succession of blue jokes and songs" told and sung to a "gullible audience" simply as a gimmick to enliven a bad play. Pat, the brothel-owner, sums the whole action of the play up in one line when he says "every cripple has his own way of walking." The Hostage deals with moral and intellectual cripples who are struggling to walk in their own way despite opposition from each other and the outside world and Brendan Behan, renowned for saying exactly what he thinks whenever and wherever he thinks it, does not hesitate to push into our view the carefully closeted subjects of homosexuality, prostitution and the I.R.A. The play is outspoken, strongly anti-British and full of language which would more than raise the vicar's eyebrows—but above all it is REAL; parts of it are so nauseating that we feel not that the writer is revelling in a welter of depravity and enjoying himself immensely as he portrays the various depraved characters, but rather that he is in deadly earnest, determined to search deeply into the way of life of his characters and their reaction to it. Perhaps our Secretary was impressed too much by the abundant humour of the play and did not allow himself to be struck by the sick feeling in the pit of his stomach that inevitably follows when the humour has died down and

the memory comes of the poor lonely hostage, ignorant of the fate that awaits him, of Monsewer the I.R.A. General, incensed by a patriotism now sour and turned to calculating hatred, and of Princess Grace the pitiful queer, lamenting the "poor boy in Belfast jail." However, I would agree that, perhaps, Brendan Behan is not a dramatist to be wallowed in but rather taken in small doses. I second the suggestion that the Society read Shakespeare next time. . . .

C. R. SHUTE.

MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

This newly formed Club has had a very successful first term and has to date 30 members. Our funds have been greatly increased by a contribution from the General School Fund, for which we are indebted to the Headmaster. We are also indebted to the local model shop for their support and the engine with which we were presented.

Our main interest is control-line flying and we have built a model to train those who, as yet, cannot fly. Apart from con-line addicts, we have, in the Club, several glider and rubber-power enthusiasts, and at least one individual who is experimenting with rocket-propulsion. A number of members are purchasing powerful diesel engines, so next term should be an active, if noisy, one.

By the time this is read our first contest will have taken place during the Christmas holidays and we will, no doubt, have learnt much by our mistakes.

Meetings are held on Mondays at 1 p.m. in room four, and on Fridays at 4 p.m., when we fly. We shall welcome new members, and take this opportunity to ask spectators to watch from a safe distance.

R. R. WOOD.

MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

Apart from reports on various concerts, nothing has appeared in *The Spur* about our musical activities since Autumn, 1956, when the orchestra was founded, so it is time the musicians put their existence on printed record again.

The choir took in reinforcements to the treble section from the first forms at the beginning of term, and now numbers about 70 altogether. This term we have been learning the first part of Handel's *Messiah*, together with the customary carols, for performance at the Carol Concert.

The orchestra has endeavoured to meet every Thursday, but owing to Mr. Ayton's indisposition and a lack of enthusiasm among some of our number, proper practices have not been possible every week. The strings now consist of about 20 violins, three cellos, and Dr. Morgan (viola); the brass of three trumpets; the percussion of one player of a variety of instruments; and the woodwind of two flutes and one oboe, while the number of clarinets is legion. We are already practising for the next School concert: it is too early as yet to say much about the programme, but Mr. Ayton keeps muttering to himself, "Gershwin . . . I wonder . . ."

The instrumental classes, the brass under Mr. Hall, woodwind under Mr. Tucker, violins under Mr. Piper, and cellos under Mr. Timpson, continue to supply the orchestra with players. The School has this term bought several new brass and woodwind instruments which are hired out at low charges to those who wish to learn them. We are extremely grateful to the Headmaster for this, since such instruments cost a considerable amount of money; and it has been very difficult to find people prepared to foot a bill of £20, or considerably more, before they start to learn an instrument.

The Recorder Club has been meeting regularly on Mondays. Richard Lee has found time in the midst of his studies at the Guildhall to keep the Club going as he promised last term, and it now consists of nine first formers, all of whom had started learning the recorder before coming to the School.

As a change from making our own music, a number of us went on Tuesday, November 26th, to one of the Wimbledon Concert Club concerts at the Town Hall, for which Sir Cyril Black had very kindly sent the School complimentary tickets. We heard the London Mozart Players conducted by Harry Blech play the *Symphony No. 84 in E flat*, by Haydn, the *Cello Concerto in C minor*, by Vivaldi (with Vivian Joseph, cello), the *Symphony No. 29 in A major*, by Mozart, and the *Symphony No. 5 in B flat*, by Schubert. We enjoyed the whole concert, although most of us preferred the latter two items, since the performance of the *Cello Concerto* in particular was not greatly inspired.

I should like to end by thanking, on behalf of all concerned, those members of the Staff who help and encourage our activities in so many ways; without them the School would have no musical activities at all.

MALCOLM ROSS.

SPUR MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

The beginning of the Autumn Term saw a very considerable increase in our membership, bringing with it some problems of administration to ensure that all the "shareholders" had an equal turn at the controls! Nevertheless, whilst each period was inevitably shortened, we were able to ensure that all were given an opportunity of running the trains, operating the switches, and manipulating the two-aspect colour light signals which now control the dual tracks at Newsom Vale and Oberon.

Our equipment and rolling stock has recently been enlarged as the result of the purchase (from a former member of the Club) of the magnificent 4-6-2 Sir Nigel Gresley and its accompanying train of coaches in the old L.N.E.R. livery, adding yet another alternative to our already wide range of passenger and freight stock.

We have also been very happy to welcome to the Club, Mr. Haw (himself an enthusiastic model railwayman); and each Monday evening he now gives valuable assistance in the erection and alignment of the track prior to the "switch-on" signal, and maintains a close liaison throughout the evening with Mr. Forsdyke and Mr. Carlow in the general running and maintenance of the layout. He has already made some valuable suggestions

for the well-being of the Club, and we confidently anticipate that by the time the Garden Party again comes round we shall be able to put on display a greatly-improved model railway, each member proudly wearing his badge of membership!

We are now busy with normal overhauls of track and scenic effects, Club members often taking no small part in the intricate work involved in wiring-up; the installation of the colour signals, for example, was proposed and carried out entirely by Club members themselves, and the result has certainly added very much to the reality which we strive to achieve on the Spur Model Railway.

S. G. CARLOW & R. L. FORSDYKE.

19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

During this Autumn Term, though, relatively speaking, only a few things have been accomplished by the School Troop, they have almost all been pretty important in their results. One of the more striking of the creations was a new 5th patrol, the Kestrels. This was formed entirely from new recruits, who were let into the Troop.

These recruits came off the long waiting-list, which has been growing steadily ever since the Troop came to life under the direction of Mr. Grainge. We will probably be able to let in recruits from it now and again during 1960.

As will have been noticed, there is now a path of concrete around the side of the Scout reservation. Only the patrols, however, know of the tremendous effort, put into building it, from all concerned. The ground, which was as hard as iron, had to be broken up with picks and shovels.

Our Troop magazine *The Drum*, will have its third publication before this will be read. The two previous editions were a great success even in the School. During Summer Camp, another small magazine (the Drumstick) was laboriously copied out by hand. (I might here add that this is the reason why it is OUT OF PRINT, and unfortunately only a very few copies of this literary masterpiece exist).

At the time of writing, preparations are being made for the Peruga (open night) which is to be held shortly before the end of term, and which, it is hoped, will also be a success.

NICK JOHNS.

No. 565 SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS

This year the Squadron has once again achieved "the impossible." The Moss Trophy, awarded annually for the best exam results in The Surrey Wing, has been won by this Unit for the third year in succession. The trophy was presented at a celebration supper held at School on Friday, November 27th, when a number of officers from Surrey Wing Headquarters were present.

Sgt. M. A. Yeldham has successfully completed his Flying Scholarship Course after 17 days training at Exeter Aero Club. He is now a fully qualified pilot.

Sgt. Wearn has obtained his "B" Certificate Gliding Badge and Cpl. Thompson is now attending a weekend Gliding Course at R.A.F. Kenley and we wish him every success.

The Squadron paid a visit to R.A.F. White Waltham on Sunday, November 8th, for flying but the weather was unsuitable for flying, visibility being only 1,000 yards maximum.

A number of Cadets have become first class this term but so far no Proficiency Certificates have been gained this year. Recruiting has been good and we have welcomed nine new Cadets this term.

Three N.C.O.s of this Squadron are to represent the Corps on the Air Training Corps stand at the Schoolboys' Own Exhibition on Tuesday, December 29th. This Squadron has not before had Cadets at the Exhibition.

A number of the more senior proficient Cadets have been issued with No. 2 Dress this term and it is hoped to have all proficient Cadets in this uniform in the near future.

Promotions this term are :—

Cpl. Chapman to Sgt. w.e.f. 9/10/59.

Cpl. Braine to Sgt. w.e.f. 9/10/59.

Sen. Cdt. Glass to Cpl. w.e.f. 2/10/59.

Sen. Cdt. Thompson to Cpl. w.e.f. 2/10/59.

K. L. FORSDYKE.

" SERGEANT MUSGRAVE'S DANCE "

On a Friday evening during the Autumn Term, a small group of sixth formers visited the Royal Court Theatre to see John Arden's play *Sergeant Musgrave's Dance*.

The play takes place in an isolated mining village in the North of England which is disrupted by strike and frozen by winter. The atmosphere was one of uneasiness and terror which was brilliantly portrayed by the stark settings of Jocelyn Herbert of the small, self-contained community. The acts were introduced by eerie, discordant, spine-chilling organ music which fitted this weird play perfectly.

Briefly, the play is about four deserters in Victorian England who have stolen money and arms. They are on the run, carrying with them the corpse of a comrade killed in a colonial war. Their leader, the maniacal Sergeant Musgrave, is obsessed with two conflicting ideas, to avenge the death of his former companion and then to denounce war and killing. This theme begins quietly but is worked up until it reaches its final, hysterical climax. It culminates with a fantastic scene in the village market-place where most of the villagers are assembled confronted with a tattered skeleton, a machine

gun and Musgrave who intends to kill 25 of them in retaliation for his murdered comrade. The murder is prevented by the timely arrival of a company of dragoons and the play ends as Sergeant Musgrave is lodged in the village gaol.

The play's main "message" is that one cannot order men to accept one's ideals; neither can pacifism be taught with a gun. There were many minor themes (too many in my opinion since the play tended to become needlessly confused), one of which, perhaps the most important, was an indictment of war.

The fact that the play "came over" well was due to an excellent all-round performance by the cast. Ian Bannen undoubtedly had the most difficult part, that of Sergeant Musgrave, and he played it admirably. The other members backed him up well and they all contributed to a balanced performance.

I think, on the whole, everyone enjoyed themselves even though most of us, due partly to the attractions of coffee-bars but mainly to London Transport, did not arrive home until well after midnight.

CHRISTOPHER STEER.

" ROSMERSHOLM "

The Royal Court Theatre's production of Ibsen's *Rosmersholm* was acclaimed by the press and Bernard Levin and so for this reason at least it was worth going to see. With a play which has had the tag "Greatest Psychological Drama Of Our Time" attached to it and has excited the interest of both Freud and G. B. Shaw one could expect something above average. And we got it!

The play itself is concerned with the political conflicts, ineffectual idealism and moral judgements of a small Nordic village. The main character of Rebecca West (Dame Peggy Ashcroft) who loves John Rosmer (Eric Porter) and has looked after him since the death of his wife conveyed a strong feeling of clarity to a complex part. Rosmer (whose house provides the title of the play) was portrayed with a balance of intellectualism and insularity in contrast to his one-time friend Kroll (Mark Dignam) who is a political fanatic and a key figure in village life. He turns against Rosmer because of the latter's radical politics and refusal to aid Kroll's own ends. Mark Dignam gave Kroll a Victorian primness and political fervour conveyed with an admirable and effective restraint. Brendel (Patrick McGhee), Rosmer's old tutor provided a good example of what could happen to idealists, with his poor and dispirited air even though flashes of mental activity did occasionally break the down-trodden surface. John Blatchley's Mortensgard added a sinister materialistic note to the whole production. Credit must be given to both the scenic designer for the excellent sets and the producer for a superb production.

In general the play moved rapidly from situation to situation and although Acts I and III were rather hat-obscured (I stood at the back for Act II) it was fairly easy to see the progression of the story even if the characters were obscured from the waist down. And on this ominous note of warning for the Royal Court Theatre to renew their seats this minor discourse on a major work finds itself suddenly and abruptly terminated.

P.S.— It was a good play.

M. T. BIDDISCOMBE.

“THE BACCHAE”

A play which includes mass hallucination, Dionysiac ceremony and death by dismemberment has obviously great potentialities. The Greek-speaking section of the School who visited the Attic Players' rendering of *The Bacchae* on November 24th had not quite expected this kind of sordid frivolity and it was concluded that Euripides might easily have made a living in the present age by entering the field of sensationalist journalism so giving the lie to the accusation that all artists are useless to society.

The tragedy tells the story of Pentheus, King of Thebes, who opposes the introduction into his kingdom of the cult of Dionysus — patron of wine and sensual pleasure — believing (probably with some justification) that the god's female devotees, the Bacchae, exhibit considerable licentiousness in their mysterious, nocturnal ceremonies. Unfortunately, Dionysus himself is in Thebes determined to show the King the folly of resisting the divine powers; disguised as a priest of the cult he offers to let Pentheus watch one of the Bacchic ceremonies so that he may see what happens for himself. The wretched King eagerly accepts and the Bacchae, led by his own mother, Agave, literally rip him to pieces under the delusion that they are killing a calf. Too late, Agave recognises the bleeding corpse of her son, remembers his crime against the gods, and condemns herself to exile from Thebes.

Weak acting and palpably makeshift settings did much to turn the Attic Players' production into shallow melodrama. Only Pentheus and Agave showed any vigour and feeling while Dionysus gave an impression of seedy criminality rather than omnipotence — as a contrast the Messenger, though only a small part, handled his vital speech with some virtuosity. The all-female chorus, struggling gallantly with Greek iambics turned into English blank verse, came a poor second to the sensationalist elements in the play; instead of being the pivot of the tragedy, their “odes,” interspersed by rather inadequate drum-beating, formed dreary interludes to the plot.

We must not complain however. It was a useful introduction to Euripides' last tragedy and we are grateful to Dr. Morgan for obtaining tickets, even if — like one member of the staff — we left feeling shocked and “morally constipated” by the inane sadism of it all.

JOHN BULL.

INTO SPACE

As the rocket was heading skywards at seven miles per second, we were lying down fastened to our bunks. When we were out of the earth's gravitational-pull an automatic switch released the bunk straps. We got up wearing magnetic boots (to stop us from floating to the ceiling).

Suddenly the radio crackled into life, "Earth calling, Earth calling."

"J for Joan, receiving you, over," said Joe.

"We will keep in touch with you daily at twelve hundred hours precisely, over."

"Message understood, over and out."

Nothing much happened in the next few days, but on the sixth day out—disaster! A small meteorite hit us in our radio room, and although we repaired it, the radio was broken beyond repair.

So we had nothing else to do except press on. Jock soon had the rocket ready for landing. With a rough jolt we hit the moon. We all got out wearing space-suits, as the last man stepped out of the rocket we were confronted with a land where green fields flourished, ultra-modern homes, cattle grazed, and where the people didn't even know of war. We took down some false facts and returned home. Why should we land armies, tanks, and have another cold war there?

So we left well enough alone and it was a secret we would all keep.

JAMES DIXON (first year).

THE NEW CREATION

The pale, anaemic sun, in a dirty sky,
Bathes the landscape in its watery light.
But the landscape has changed in the course of time,
Trees give way to pylons, fields to factories, cottages to
tenements,
And the farmer has changed his garb for the worker's overall.
Three miles away one hears the sweet birds sing
But here only the song of industry is heard.

There stand the factories, out of the low horizon,
Row upon row of wretched hovels
Stand like phalanxes, on guard against strangers ;
Their spears are the naked pylons.
There flows the river, an open sewer,
Into which all filth is poured, and from which
It rises into the thick, heavy atmosphere.
This is man's creation
And this his punishment.

M. MUNRO (fourth year).

POWER

Man must have power.
Man, ambitious human, must strive and struggle
For supremacy. Yet he dies.
Where then is his power ? He possesses nothing,
Has no power over that which
He cannot understand.
Man lives, man dies.
For man to live, he must struggle for superiority.
For man to relinquish life, he must relinquish power.
What use is the power that was ?
What ambition has a corpse,
Cold, lifeless,
Obscene in its powerlessness, but peaceful.
To be powerful, man must sink low
Into depths of degradation.
For power, he must relinquish superiority
Over the earth
And descend to animal instinct.
So what is power ?
Man is attributed power
But he wants more.
He must trample, destroy — and destroy himself.
There is no power in weakness.
Weakness makes man live for power
And life.
Better to be strong in humility.

JOHN BERRIDGE (fifth year).

TOMORROW

It is his first raid. Eager expectancy overshadows all other emotions except one: the thought of the girl who waits for tomorrow and his return; but fate has a different plan for her minions . . .

The time is near. The exhilarating thrill of take-off surges through his veins in the eerie chill of the night. The target is reached, attacked, and left, gutted and desolate. The victors return, some crippled by the ravenous enemy fighters. Some fall early, others struggle on. Dawn comes slowly over the horizon as they cross the sea. At first it is only the ghost of a light far down in the dark waters. Very gradually it rises a dull red, becoming brighter like the gleam on the side of some great fish speeding through the depths. Finally it begins to writhe, and then is a dreadful orange fan racing across the water bathed in the mist of its own light.

The blazing bomber sinks to meet it. For a long, drawn-out moment it hangs, as if suspended in a final throe, but no, it sinks lower, and the blades flash into the water, caught by the nascent light. Then it is over, and four harsh white ribbons lacerate the face of the ocean sending up a great wall of spray in a glowing surge; and the other bombers fly on into tomorrow, while a young flame dies out into the sea, far, far behind them.

PETER REDSHAW (Sixth form).

A SPECIAL EVENING

Street urchins on a leafy, windy corner,
" Penny for the guy ? "

And the grey rain-mist glints dully on the smoky leaves.

A pathetic bundle of rags, with a grisly, too-pink face;
Father's old slouch hat at a rakish angle.
Smoking bonfires.

Glorying, golden, streaking streamers in the wild night,
Staccato bangs.

Only for a day a traitor becomes a hero.

Just once a year he lives to die:

And the fire's last glimmer fades into the winter night.

E. C. JACOBS (Sixth form).

TIME

The dusty hour-glass stood forlorn in the window,
A wizened old man turned it over to let the sands pour down,
He smiled vaguely,
And the sands made time.

The old man changed, he was handsome, gay,
His hair went black and dull eyes gleamed,
He smiled certainly,
But time was passing.

Slowly he changed, black to white, bright to dull,
He sank slowly, back hunched, forehead wrinkled, staring
forward,
He smiled vaguely,
And time went on.

Old to ancient, the body was smaller, paler, dust.
The wind plucked at the dust and threw it away,
No smile,
And time continued.

H. J. SATCHELL (fifth year).

ON LITERATURE

It is extraordinary the number of people, intelligent people, that do not read for pleasure. You tell them about a good book or show one to them and they say either "I can't see why you read stuff like that," or plaintively, "I like it when I get stuck into it but I can never seem to get past the first chapter."

For them, reading is a last resort when all other amusements fail, and sometimes even then they will sit and play patience while a good book lies unopened by their elbow.

Their fault is not that they cannot appreciate good literature but that the very act of reading is such an effort to them that they cannot savour the descriptions, the settings, or the emotions and are able only to follow the action of the story, which in a book like, for example, *CATCHER IN THE RYE*, is almost non-existent.

Some of the reason, I think, is due to a prejudice acquired at school for all things to do with learning.

The reason why some old favourites, CORAL ISLAND, SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON especially, are still popular is because when people read them they are immediately in an interesting situation where they feel that they could test their skill and resourcefulness and are interested in the ability of the characters to survive.

On the subject of the importance of Literature, I think that it contains and teaches the morals and lessons of civilisation. You can laugh at it but really the principles and reasons for their existence are deeply implanted in almost any book. And especially when we are young I think such people as "Simon Templar" or "Tony Britton, Air Ace" are a great sub-conscious model for our actions and teach us to hold dear the typical courage and honesty which is inherent in these characters.

The lasting effect of such stories and even more the effect of stories you later graduate to as you gain the ability to read is to give you a larger understanding of values, of life, and a greater tolerance towards all things, especially other people.

JAMES NORTON (fifth year).

STORM

A stormy wind was raging around town,
The wind turned to rain,
Housewives rushed to care for their washing, which they had
tenderly rinsed all morning.
The rain turned into a gale,
Trees bent and groaned as if in agony,
Husbands home from work stumbled over their thresholds
clutching desperately to their threatened hats,
Children with pressed noses to windows were called, in turn,
to bed.
The children cuddled together and around their hot-water
bottles.
The gale ceased,
The streets were deserted now except for an occasional
drunkard making his way home,
The folds of night were slowly creeping around the country.

LEE F. ELLIOTT (first year).

THE REFUGEE

I was hollow, without thought,
Without loves or laughter,
And I drifted down the gutterways
In the city that straddled the dying flesh,
Where the skyscrapers pierced the cloud bellies ;
Where the skyscrapers waved in the breeze
Where the people worked
And died,
And I slid down the streets,
Self-contained,
Yet empty, dead,
Down the lanes of the living,
Between the reinforced concrete trunks
Of the tall trees that were dwellings,
Whose leaves were the flickers of neon firelight,
And I felt the buses jerk and buffet close beside me ;
Saw torrents, city-stained, roaring in the gutters ;
Saw the sleek black telephones, evil things,
Sucking successful ears ;
Saw the darkness in the alleys ;
Saw the doorway with the gleaming greeting ;
Entered ;
Saw the night-time in the tankard ;
Saw the sleekness of the rich ;
Saw the hunger in the eyes of poverty ;
Saw the hunger ; felt the hunger ;
Knew the sadness of the poor,
For I was poor
And lonely . . .
Breaking from the warmth into the chill again,
Walking down the murmuring boulevards,
Looking,
Waiting,
For love, for friends, for nothing . . .
I saw a dance hall :
Glancing, glittering dresses, flashing legs,
Girl laughter, eyes inviting to the strong fine youths,
But not to me,
Who was weary, tired, and wanting much,

Yet asking nothing,
For they were the world
And I was myself,
And we couldn't speak together.
I slouched, loose-footed, homewards,
And cried,
For I was just myself,
And not the world . . .

P. J. LOVEDAY (fifth year).

THE PAST OF MAN: The Gee-See-Ee-Olevelene Age

MILLIONTH REITH LECTURE BY PROFESSOR I. DIGG

(Reprinted in "The Listener," 1st Feb., 51,960 A.D.)

With the help of the science of Neo-Archaeology we are now able to compare ourselves and our accomplishments with primitive mankind in the year 1960. Today we do not consider it unusual to spend our annual holidays in Galaxy No. 118, or to own a Rolls Asteroyce. We no longer waste valuable hours in eating and drinking as the ancients did, but derive our sustenance from one hormonised isotopic pill per lunar month, scarcely dreamt of 50,000 years ago. Some may ask, however, what do we really know of that distant epoch? Little remains to us in the form of archaeological evidence for reasons which themselves are completely shrouded in mystery. Perhaps I should have said almost completely, for in the past six months there have been sensational revelations — if such a term may be permitted a cautious professor — as a result of certain secret excavations in an area south-west of what was the ancient city of London, to wit, Raynes Park.

While workmen were digging foundations for an inter-planetary sub-station on the site of Raynes Park, one of them found an unusual object which he sensibly took to the curator of the local museum. It was, however, unidentified, and was therefore sent to us. We saw it had a gold pointed end and contained the remains of a sort of rubber sac. A cap protected the gold point and there was what might have been a lever embedded in the barrel, as we conceived it to be. It is possible that an ancient form of writing instrument had been unearthed, the sort that might have been in use in the Gee-See-Ee

Olevelene Age. Thus stimulated, excavations were begun as soon as the inhabitants of present-day Raynes Park had been dispatched to Tellus Secunda in Galaxy No. 157.

Imagine our gratification — indeed, our excitement — when we uncovered a well-preserved symmetrical building of obvious historic interest. Its design was roughly rectangular with a quadrangle in the centre, and there were signs of elaborate extensions. The exact purpose served by this building was hard to guess, conjecture ranging widely between the extremes of the recreational and the punitive. Perhaps listeners will be tempted to draw their own conclusions from the following description of the contents of one of the chambers opened up. These items appeared so varied and unconnected as to tempt us to term that particular chamber The Uncommon Room. In it we found :

(i) A LARGE BOWL PIPE, to which we at once applied our Archae-Odour Detector. Its hyper-sensitive needle at once swung to Maximum, from which we drew two conclusions. The primitive Raynes Parkian who had smoked this pipe either had cough-proof lungs and a completely insensitive nasal mucous membrane, or, as was perhaps more likely, had been forced to smoke it as a cruel form of punishment. The latter theory lent support to the idea that the building itself was an extreme form of Torture House.

(ii) A WELL-WORN STICK OR CANE on which was inscribed in characters not dissimilar to our own Scriptics — "Persu . . . d . . . r." Was this another instrument of torture? If so, were we to draw the conclusion that cruelty and venom were outstanding streaks in the character of Gee-See-Ee Olevelish man?

(iii) A large, leathery, oval-shaped, semi-fossilised fruit or ball, to which we eagerly applied our Detector. Rust-like spots on the object proved to be dried blood. As we discovered quite close by a document headed "My Sixth Form Chemists," we not unnaturally concluded that these chemists and the blood-bespattered oval objects were intimately connected. Had we lighted upon yet another form of sadism?

Continuing our investigations, we came upon four chambers in a line forming one side of the rectangular building.

In one we discovered a document bearing the legend "... is a language as dead as dead can be ; it killed the ancient ... and now it's killing me." The missing words had faded with time, but enough remained to point to a form of death by extreme overwork of the mind.

On penetrating into the adjoining chamber, we found ourselves faced with a curious concentration of what must have been ingenious and refined means of inflicting bodily punishment. We saw walls lined with horizontal slats from floor to ceiling, all ominously dark of hue, as if with the blood of victims ; also, well-preserved lengths of thick rope suspended from beams almost to floor level, for a purpose we shudder to contemplate ; and, finally, a horse-shaped contraption, possibly meant to be vaulted under the cruel stimulus of red-hot prodding irons.

Close by, we came upon the remains of what resembled a huge engine-room or monster bakehouse. Certainly there were great iron containers with heavy doors and deeply-stained interiors. I must confess we recoiled at the thoughts that raced through our minds as we surveyed this evidence of butchery by fire.

We lost no time in trying out our newly-discovered Sound Seeker in one of the rooms. This, as you may have heard, works on the principle that an object struck by powerful sound waves will remain indefinitely in a state of slowly diminishing vibration. The Sound Seeker picks up these minute vibrations and re-translates them into sound. On application to one of the walls, the Sound Seeker reacted at once, and we heard :

"... always hit your man hard, and aim at just below the knees... break it up into fractions then... decline until you reach the dative, then I'll complete the sentence... so if you can get hold of a heart, I'll dissect it for you..."

Disjointed and nonsensical this may have seemed at first, but it soon dawned on us that we were plainly and dramatically hearing yet further evidence of the barbaric cruelties inflicted upon hapless victims of the Gee-See-Ee Olevelene Age.

We shudder in anticipation of further revolting revelations that will, by comparison, make Nero appear a kindly old gentleman. At least he did not dissect people's hearts...

ALAN GORMAN (fourth year).

COLLIERY

The colliery stands out black
And forbidding
Against the midnight sky
Silently, grimly looming there
Like a witch
In its hideous den
Lurking wickedly by.
Gulping down men in the morning
As a swallow gulps down a fly
Chewing them up in the sickly light
Of the pale and sickly sun,
Spitting them out to the darkening night
When their whole day's work is done
Out to the leering, pale-faced moon.
Blackened, every one.

NICK JOHNS (fourth year).

TO GARCIA LORCA

(Shot by the Republicans, 1936)

He had often thought it might be difficult
To kill a man,
To squeeze his life between his thumb and forefinger.
One day they dragged a man to the wall,
Bound the staring eyes
And, drawing on his cigarette,
He and his companions shot him.
Two days ago a reactionary grocer
Had fallen at the wall, and yesterday
A businessman with a son in the Spanish Legion.
Today a poet, with the song of the sea in his ears
And the voices of death sounding
Near the Guadalquivir ringing in his ears.
He did not realise
That the new generation of men
Did not love the warm weeping of the guitar,
Nor the glorious free hurtle of the cold, white doves,

Would sing no more of Córdoba .

Lejana y sola.

He did not see the sharp eyes of the marksmen,
Only the eyes of the lover, as in a dream
For men no longer loved and sang, and so —
To the wall with the poet and his empty sighings,
His monumental verses, let them be his monuments !
Can a soldier live by the moaning of the wind
And the shadow of a cypress-tree,
The Madonna of the Solitude
And the other empty conceits that never fired a rifle
Nor killed an enemy ?
He sang of beauty, sorrow, love,
The sea and raindrops, angels,
Rivers, tears and serenades ;
Must we listen to this dreamer
While the trumpet calls us to the field of glory ?
No ! *Al muro* — TO THE WALL !
He leant on his rifle and drew again on his cigarette.
No it was easy, he reflected,
As they carried away the poet's limp body,
(His name was Lorca, but that was not important)
To squeeze out a man's life between his thumb and
forefinger.

C. R. SHUTE.

THE MOST

The cold wind howled and the rain spattered down in gusts, but, undaunted, a long queue of chattering, laughing teenagers waited patiently for the doors to open and admit them to a session with the renowned Chris Barber Jazz Band.

The merits of jazz were argued by a group of ardent fans. A fan of the traditional New Orleans style, praising Kid Orey's inimitable style was cut short by a long-haired individual, with the one word "Peasant ! Charlie Parker's the most ; man, he's great."

A giggle from a long, thin, yellow-haired girl in black tights stopped the possibility of a fight. As the group turned in her direction, again she giggled. "What's the matter with Charlie Parker, may I enquire?" the long-haired one said, in agony that such a peasant should question Charlie's genius.

Further argument was stopped by the doors being flung open to a loud cheer. Struggling, screaming girls with tinted hair and coloured tights pushed and shoved in the mass of tall, thin men in camel-hair coats, college scarves and straggly beards and foul-smelling pipes.

In less than an hour a once-clean hall was filled with cigarette smoke and littered with sprawling youths and excited girls as the Barber Band struck up "Bourbon Street Parade." The scintillating music, the scream of the clarinet, the loud raspberries of the Barber trombone and the tones of the trumpet rang out, surprising passing citizens. To deafening applause Miss Otilie Paterson stepped up to sing in low vibrant tones "Love is a Disease." Looking around at the many busily-necking couples it would appear that it was also catching. A loud, wonderfully therapeutic blare, informatively entitled "Snaggit," was enthusiastically applauded by the audience who had been dazzled by brilliant playing and by the brilliant stark coloured lights on the stage. These reds and purples for the fast numbers, and deep blue for the blues, made a wonderful show, especially when viewed from the pitch black of the auditorium.

The interval had come and the hall, with the air heavy with smoke, was emptied as if by magic. The couples disappeared down quiet corridors and the groups argued in the foyer, till after ten minutes the hall was again filled with black-stockinged girls and youths with cigarettes dangling from the lower lip, and although the smoke went in their eyes making tears form, obstinately they wouldn't remove them until the lights went down and the curtain rose. Another hour of blues, solos, and hot numbers, then the ecstatically happy audience rose to the first few bars of the National Anthem. Then to go out into the refreshingly cold night air, no longer to argue but to proclaim: "Yeah man, Barber's the most."

CHRIS SPENCER (fifth year).

RUGBY

1st XV

Master in Charge : R. Hindle, Esq.

Captain : R. M. Foulsham. *Secretary* : G. V. Frank-Keyes.

Results

v. Tooting Bec	... ..	Drawn	14-14
v. Wimbledon College	... ..	Won	17-16
v. Sutton	... ..	Won	16-11
v. Surbiton	... ..	Lost	8-11
v. Wallington	... ..	Lost	12-15
v. Mitcham	... ..	Won	23-11
v. Ewell Tech.	... ..	Won	25-14
v. City Freeman	... ..	Won	19- 6
v. Reigate	... ..	Lost	13-17
v. Elliott School	... ..	Won	24- 5
v. Tiffin	... ..	Lost	5-12
v. Old Boys	... ..	Lost	6-20

Scratched Matches : Purley, Beckenham, William Ellis.

Played 12, won 6, lost 5, drawn 1. Pts. for 182, against 152.

This season has brought a certain amount of deserved success to a very young but keen side. Although not blessed with a wealth of Rugby talent much was done in the early season to instill a little of the necessary fire and spirit into the indifferent and the passive. The success of this was mirrored in the pre-term trial and in the twice weekly training sessions which enjoyed practically full attendance. After half-term full training stopped but a core of enthusiasts kept up superficial training until the end of term. With regard to training, many thanks are due to J. R. S. Higham for passing on valuable hints on sound scrum play. Congratulations are also due to him for gaining his Oxford Blue, the first from this School.

The team this year was small and light and was pinning its hopes for victory on superior fitness. This, however, did not work out, for in all games our scrum was outmatched for weight, and in consequence, although winning a fair share of the set pieces, the ball was slow in being let out to the backs. The three-quarters were "starved" in many of the games but wasted a lot of the opportunities they did have through a lack of penetration.

One of the peculiarities of the 1st XV play in this and previous seasons has been the "spirit phenomenon." This brings with it a sluggish start to every game and an undistinguished first half. In the second half, however, a complete change comes over the team. Our forwards play with real grit and vigour and the three-quarters respond with an urgency and crispness in attack. If only this spirit could be extended to the full length of play and not to just one half, no match need be lost.

The season began with a disappointment when Purley cancelled the first match because of hard ground. Our pitch, however, was fit for play against Bec, which as it turned out was more than the team was. At half-time we were leading 14-3 after a superb first half in which the forwards fought

fiercely and the backs attacked powerfully, but although the spirit was there a tired fifteen could not contain a heartened Bec who drew level practically on the final whistle.

Against Wimbledon College, Brown and Nicholls excelled themselves, giving a first class display of guts and determination. The whole team though sensed the urgency of victory and rose to the occasion to give us a 17-16 victory. This achievement over a more skilful side was thought by spectators to be the best Raynes Park performance for five years.

The Sutton match was scrappy on a pitch slippery with the first rain of the season, and the general standard of play was poor. Brown, however, distinguished himself again by outstanding loose play which gained him two tries.

Hopes were high when we took the field against Surbiton, but our chances were thrown away by a scrum lacking cohesion, and slow backs. Tackling too stood out as being particularly weak especially by wing-forwards. Altogether a disappointing game that we deserved to lose.

Tackling, bad marking and a lack of aggression in the loose caused our defeat against Wallington. Although doing well to start with, our team was discouraged by an obviously foul try being allowed. This, however, does not detract from the fact that Wallington were three points better than us.

The Mitcham game got off to a shaky start with the half-time score being against us (5-11). The Raynes Park "spirit" returned though in the second half and we had practically all the game. The unsettled start may have been due to the absence of Frank-Keyes who was playing hooker for Surrey but this may just be a poor excuse for bad play.

The Ewell Tech. match was a fogbound farce. Both players and referee lost all sense of direction and it was only by luck that any points were scored at all.

County commitments and injuries weakened our side against City Freeman's, but even so the team played well to win 19-6. Nicholls frisked his way brilliantly through the game, scoring three tries in the process.

In the Reigate match, our scrum was hopelessly outmatched. Although Redshaw scored a very good try through a much improved back division it was a scrum game and all of Reigate's tries came from loose mauls near our line.

Elliott School provided us with a heated, scrappy game, and although they had improved on last year's performance, we won fairly comfortably.

The last inter-schools' match was against Tiffin and provided a most satisfactory end to the season. Although we were attacking for most of the time, the threes lacked penetration due perhaps to a slow service from the scrum. Wheeler played a brilliant game at full-back, his fielding and kicking being superb.

Pen Portraits

Wheeler, Full-back : Tried as winger and wing-forward before settling at full-back. Fields and kicks superbly, although tends at times to be a little too casual for comfort. Very safe, however, under pressure with a good turn of speed which added life to the threes when he joined the line.

Bowern, Winger : Like a lot of sprinter/Rugby players he found difficulty in handling the ball. Once given it, however, could run well. Tackling was suspect, but brought off the occasional difficult effort.

Redshaw, Centre : A powerful runner who given a gap could make rapid advances. Unfortunately, however, he very rarely found or made an opening. Tackling again was suspect, but he too brought off the most necessary tackles at the critical time.

Cottee, N., Centre (Colours 1958) : Seemed to have lost a lot of his old skill and tended to run diagonally across the field. His tackling, however, gained its old high standard in the last few games.

Carson, Winger : Brought in half-way through the season as an injury replacement, he proved himself to be a straight, fast runner. Did not, however, get much chance to show his ability.

Nicholls, Fly-half : The schemer of the team who was always where he was wanted in attack or defence. His tackling was devastating and attacking determined, as the 13 tries to his credit prove. His place kicking too was excellent: 16 conversions, 6 penalties.

Bond, Scrum-half (Colours 1958) : An explosive bundle, which when ignited destroyed everything within range (own side included). A terrifically tough and determined player, who tended to be a bit selfish, but this being mainly due to the slow service he received from the scrum.

Brown, Prop : The most energetic of the forwards with unquenchable spirit. Loose play outstanding. Follows up like a mad-man, hence tries. Played his best games at the beginning of the season, but showed signs of tiredness at the end.

Frank-Keyes, Hooker : An exceptionally good hooker, who won a fair share of the ball although our scrum was continually outclassed. Mysteriously disappeared during the game except for set scrums and line-outs. His hooking ability, however, won him a well deserved county cap. Also an able and competent secretary.

Higham, Prop : An extremely sound prop, who worked very well indeed, fulfilling all that was required in scrum and line-out. Quick to learn and adopt the new methods of scrum play.

Wilbraham, Second-row : A somewhat passive player who is still immature in his play. The experience, however, should make him an invaluable scrum and line-out man next season. Naturally slow he did well though to stand 1st XV pace.

Biddiscombe, Second-row : As the principal line-out man he had a tough time always being matched for height. Although not a high jumper his timing was good and in the early season he won a fair amount of the ball. He too was rather passive.

Stephenson, Wing-forward : Usually a scrum-half, but converted to blind side wing-forward. A good tackler, he took some time to get accustomed to his new position. A good ball player, who rarely had the opportunity to use his skill.

Goddard, Lock : A good solid player who came in as an injury substitute. Although a bit slow in covering his tackling and line-out work is sound.

Foulsham, Wing-forward, Captain (Colours 1958) : Quiet efficiency characterised his captaincy off the field in scheming tactics and organising training. Superb fitness, apart from setting a fine example, enabled him to back up in attack and score tries. His defensive work suffered from a phase of bad tackling, but, recovered from this, he repeated his good form of last year.—G.V.F.K.

Clarke : A burst blood vessel kept him out for half the season, but he is a solid player who mixed it in the loose.

Cottee, R. : Sustained a leg injury, which deprived him of his wing position. Has good tackling ability but is not very fast.

Williams : An average hooker who is good in the loose, he found difficulty in hooking with a retreating scrum. Has a wealth of songs, but no voice.

Pacey-Day : Unfortunate not to gain a permanent place in the 1st XV for his vigorous play as wing-forward, but was often required as hooker for the 2nds.

For consistently good play throughout the season colours were awarded to: Nicholls, Brown, Wheeler and Frank-Keyes.

For regular representation half-colours were awarded to: Biddiscombe, Bowern, Carson, Goddard, Higham, Redshaw, Stephenson, Wilbraham, Clarke and Cottee, R.

RICHARD FOULSHAM.

Stop Press : The School lost to the Old Boys 6-20 in a very enjoyable game. Faced with a much heavier pack on a very muddy ground, the School pack nevertheless played well in the first half and restricted the Old Boys' lead to 6-0. Understandable lack of possession (although the Old Boys did not have it *all* their own way as in the previous three years) meant that we were mainly on the defensive. The second half proved just too gruelling on the mud and against men much stronger than ourselves, and the Old Boys scored a further three tries and a goal. We had our moments, though, and fine approach work by Carson and Stephenson in a loose foot rush enabled Brown to score his eighth try of the season (outstanding for a prop-forward), and from a quickly taken short penalty Nicholls capped a brilliant season by scoring his thirteenth try, bringing his points tally to 89!

2nd XV

Results

v. Tooting Bec	0-23
v. Wimbledon College	8-25
v. Sutton C.G.S.	26- 0
v. Surbiton C.G.S.	0-45
v. Wallington C.G.S.	8-11
v. Mitcham C.G.S.	13-16
v. Sutton C.G.S.	5-29
v. Reigate G.S.	6-21
v. Tiffin Boys' School	0-47

As the above results show, this season has not been a completely happy one for the 2nd XV. The reasons why the 2nd XV is not what it should be are simple and traditional, and usually result in a report of this nature every autumn. In a school the size of Raynes Park some players are irreplaceable. Hence if you have two teams, two hookers, and one missing, you are forced to play someone with no experience, and this, due to 1st XV injuries, was unhappily the case several times. Also you are faced with the Raynes Park "inferiority complex," which usually manifests itself in an apathy during the second half.

The matches themselves followed the set pattern: a good beginning and a gradual falling-off. In the Tooting match, for example, we started strongly and were on their line in the first five minutes, but failed to press home our advantage, and gradually lost our grip. Both our matches against Sutton were enjoyable, but we beat them so easily in the first match, that in the second they fielded a side with 12 1st XV members in it. Fortunately, better opposition gave us a better game, and we were leading 5-3 up to half-time. It was whispered in Rugby circles at the beginning of the season that Surbiton and Tiffin both had weak teams. The truth proved to be that their 1st were weaker, but that their 2nds were almost as strong as their 1sts, and we found in both matches that our opponents had greater co-ordination, speed and attack. If points scored are the indication of an enjoyable match, then, with some exceptions, we have had a miserable year; but this is not the case, and although we are not a good team, we have enjoyed the season by and large.

Among this team there were those whose playing inevitably stood out from that of the rest. Williams, when he was not playing for the 1sts, hooked superbly; Crowe's kicking saved the team countless times; R. J. Cumes, our wing-forward, was extremely fast (sometimes it was true, a little too fast, but he was a very good player); Carson too, with his "untacklable" style of running, Hall with his kicking, were also effective and others also who were perhaps not brilliant players, but who did the right thing at the right time. Of the team as a whole, the scrum was the weakest, despite the excellent work of J. Williams as scrum-half. When they did not bind in line-outs it was an easy thing for, generally heavier, scrums to break through and get

possession. Most times the three-quarters could be depended on to gain ground, but if the ground was wet they tended to play like juniors.

Of the team as a whole, all I can say further is that they tried hard, but didn't have the skill or power to back up their intentions.

Half-colours have been awarded to M. McLean, R. F. D. Crowe, R. J. Cumes, C. Pacey-Day and P. R. Williams.

Regular members of the team were : M. McLean, C. Shute, P. Williams, R. Thompson, Early, R. J. Cumes, Pacey-Day, D. Thornton, J. Williams, R. F. D. Crowe, Hall, Elliott, Powers and Carson.

P. Davies, Steer, Courtenay, Wheeler, J. A. Bull, C. M. Hopper, Dimmock, Budden, Goddard, Mansell, D. R. Thompson and Clarke also played.

MALCOLM McLEAN.

Junior XV

There is much that is promising in this team. Matches have been narrowly lost through weakness in the pack which, though working hard, has been slow in the loose and inclined to hang on to the ball in the scrum. Robinson and Castling, however, have played consistently well.

The halves and backs have been well up to the standard of opposing teams. Individually, Cox and Featherstone have been outstanding.

Team spirit has been extremely good, and Featherstone has been an inspiring and conscientious captain.

G. J. ATKIN.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Master in Charge : L. R. King, Esq. *Captain and Secretary* : R. M. Deed.

Results

SENIOR

- v. **Surbiton C.G.S.** 4½ miles.
Surbiton C.G.S. 27 pts.; Raynes Park 55 pts. Deed 4th (24m. 22s.),
Heaver 6th, Pacey-Day 8th.
- v. **R.A.F. Chessington** 2½ miles.
R.A.F. Chessington (Rest) 42 pts.; Raynes Park 65 pts. Brown 2nd
(14m. 21s.), Dollery 9th, Pacey-Day 12th. R.A.F. Chessington (Sgts.)
69 pts.
- v. **Tiffin, Kingston G.S., and Latymier Upper** 3½ miles.
Raynes Park (4th) 139 pts. Deed 11th (19m. 39s.), Courtenay 21st,
Hopper 23rd.
- v. **Sutton and Cheam H., and Wimbledon A.C.** 2¾ miles.
Sutton and Cheam H. 18 pts.; Wimbledon A.C. 35 pts.; Raynes Park
44 pts. Deed 7th (16m. 08s.), Steer 11th, Hopper 12th.

Richard Haskell Trophy Relay 1½ miles.
Raynes Park 35th. Courtenay 9m. 26s., Towey 9m. 30s., Hopper 9m. 47s., Deed 9m. 07s. Forty-six teams competed.

Also ran for Seniors: Barker M., Davies R., Johnson, Phillips, Ring and Williams P. R.

INTERMEDIATE

v. **Surbiton C.G.S.** 2½ miles.
Surbiton C.G.S. 22 pts.; Raynes Park 39 pts. Courtenay 3rd (14m. 46s.), Satchell 5th, Hall 6th.

v. **Belgrave H. and Wimbledon A.C.** 1½ miles.
Belgrave H. 14 pts.; Wimbledon A.C. 35 pts.; Raynes Park 53 pts. Hall 9th (7m. 58s.), Satchell 13th, Towey 14th.

Also ran for Intermediates: Castagnola, Nisbet, Osborne and Roylance.

This term brought a few more fixtures than in previous years, but as yet we have not won a fixture. This is probably due to the fact that we have never run a team with more than three of the fastest six boys in the School in it, owing to injuries and other School activities. Next term with a stronger team, we will endeavour to leave the rearguard action to our opponents.

There have been some promising runs by individual boys, notably Brown, who was second against the R.A.F. Chessington and Courtenay, who, despite his age, has run regularly for the seniors with great success, as well as running for the intermediates. In a brief appearance, Dollery ran well, and C. M. Hopper has run well consistently, and is a great asset to the team, as was Pacey-Day before he became committed elsewhere. We have promising young runners in Hall, Satchell and Towey, the latter also having run for the seniors.

These younger boys' performances, together with those of the seniors, suggest a bright future for the School cross-country during next term and for some years to come.

BOB DEED.

CHESS CLUB

Captain: C. Pacey-Day. *Secretary*: R. M. Foulsham.

The Autumn Term has always been the most active term for the Chess Club in the School year. This term has been no exception, and to date we have enjoyed the most active and successful term for many years. This has been largely due to the hard work our secretary, Foulsham, has put into arranging fixtures and the chess competitions.

The revival of interest in chess, which has been going on for several terms, in the Junior School has continued, and this term a junior knock-out tournament was started as well as the usual senior tournament. Both are still in their early stages but by the time these notes are being read, the winner will have emerged.

We have played four inter-School games :—

v. Pelham	drew	4	-	4
v. Mitcham	won	3½	-	2½
v. Surbiton	lost	9½	-	½
v. Rutlish	drew	5	-	5

A little more concentration on the lower boards could have resulted in the two drawn games being won, but valuable experience was gained for future fixtures.

A disconcerting feature has been the maltreatment of chess sets during lunch-time sessions ; this has resulted in a shortage of sets for School games. I hope there will be an improvement next term.

C. PACEY-DAY.

WINTER BALLAD

I took her hand in mine
And in the momentary pain
My nerves guitared —
This moment will not come again,
This moment will not come again
Virgin as the sky is white,
But only leave a faint jingled chord
Pale as the light.
Jingling faintly now
In the december of the brain ;
I take heart remembering that
This moment will not come again.

JOHN BULL (sixth form).

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The Editors apologise for any inadvertent omissions.

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C. Mottershead.