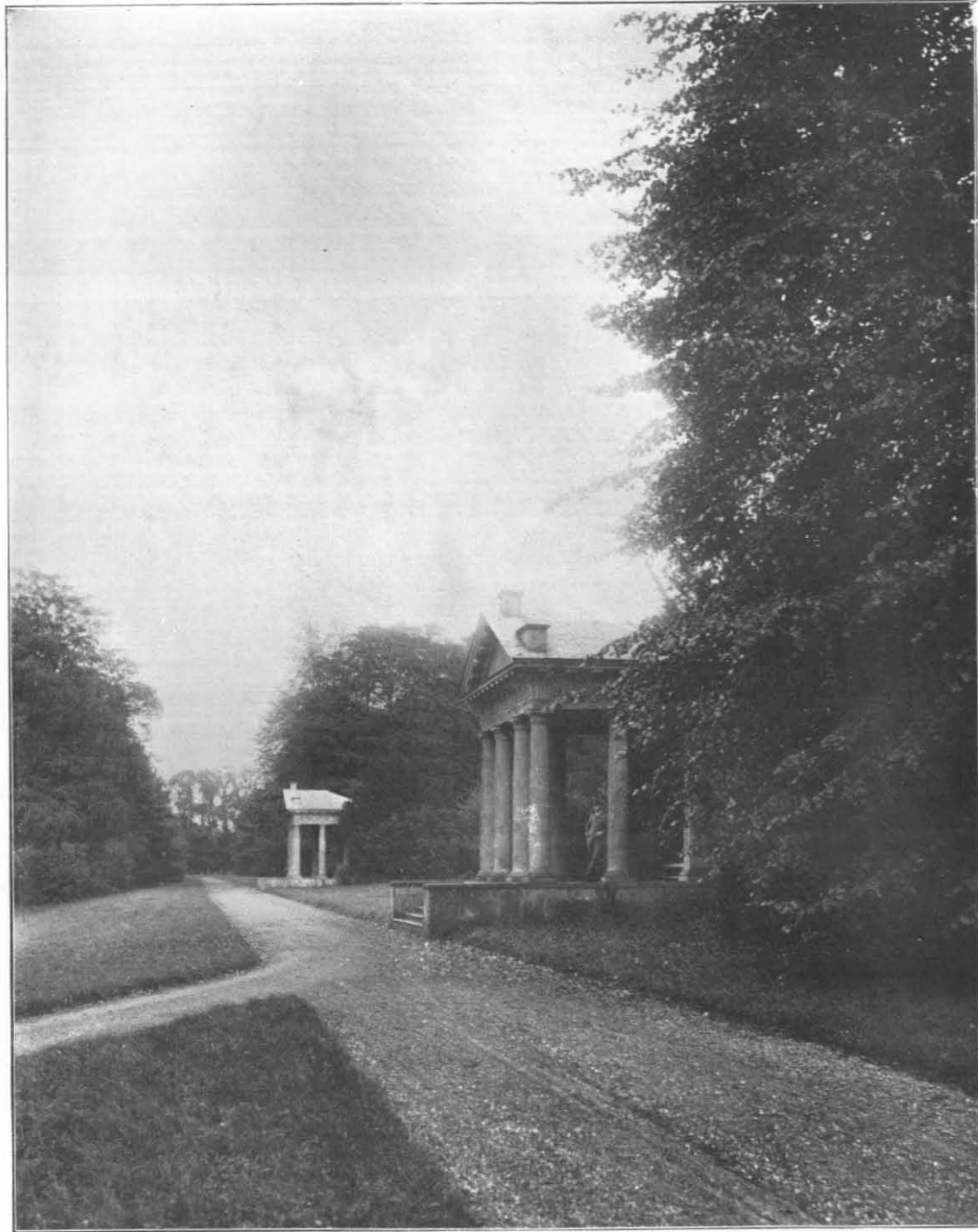


THE STOIC



Number Six

MARCH 1925



THE TWO PAVILIONS.

THE STOIC

VOL. I

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No. 6

TWO YEARS

TO be two years old is, of course, to be very old indeed, and the temptation to be reminiscent at such an age is naturally strong. However, our second birthday is not really important, except for sentimental reasons. Changes, not birthdays, make the true milestones, and we shall not have passed another till we have started upon the September Term of 1925, with new buildings, new officials and the beginnings (perhaps) of a real Sixth Form. Meanwhile we have just got to carry on, and in the Summer we shall be most obviously concerned to carry on with Certificate Examinations and Cricket Matches. Of course it is not the Examinations and Matches of 1925 that will matter most next term (though they will matter a great deal), but rather the Examinations and Matches of 1926 and 1927, which will largely be decided on what is being done this year. However that may be, Certificates and Cricket will be our most obvious concerns next term. But there will be others equally important, if less obvious. Our standards have got to be raised in every department, and what is more we have got to raise them without losing anything that is good in our present way of living. If we keep what we have got and gain something more each term, we need not pay much attention to anniversaries.

All the same it is interesting to think that we shall begin the Summer Term of 1925 with Squash Courts, Fives Courts, a Sanatorium, a Gymnasium, a Shop and a Drawing School (none of which we had when we began the Summer Term of two years ago), with five Houses instead of four and with three hundred and fifty boys instead of ninety-nine. It is still more interesting to think of all that we are likely to have when we begin the Summer Term two years hence, by which time we shall be four years old. Only a few grey-beards will then remember May 11th, 1923.

But at the present moment neither History nor Prophecy is likely to help us much. What is wanted from everybody in every department just now is hard work and no sentiment.

BUILDERS OF STOWE

III. 'CAPABILITY' BROWN.

'He speaks—The lake in front becomes a lawn,
Woods vanish, hills subside and valleys rise. . .'

The eighteenth century saw a revolt against the ordinary formality of life in all its branches.

Rousseau, in France, preached only the political side of the 'Return to Nature' in his 'Contrat Social.' His account of an Utopia in which all men lived together for the common good, and in which simplicity was the keynote of every action, was written to the detriment of the Royal Prerogative (since it contained the idea that kings were primarily chosen by the people and therefore should be controlled by them), and led to the French Revolution.

It is in Art, however, that his doctrine of simplicity knew its greatest successes. In England it took the form of a more natural type of garden.

Though in France Marie Antoinette offended her nobles by employing Englishmen to lay out the gardens of the Petit Trianon in the new style, and annoyed a somewhat heated French court by making them toil up hills to gaze on some artificial ruin erected as a shrine to the new ideas, yet in this country the new style of gardening achieved great popularity, and nowhere was its success more striking than at Stowe. Pope in his 'Epistle to Lord Burlington' describes the ideal of the landscape gardener and cites Stowe as the most perfect example of its attainment. And Stowe merited his praise, for the finest gardeners of the period planned out Lord Cobham's grounds for him.

Kent's successor here was Launcelot Brown, who was nicknamed 'Capability' Brown, for when shown a garden he would say that it had 'great capabilities.' Born in 1715, the son of a kitchen gardener, he studied landscape gardening under Bridgeman at Stowe and by his natural ability became head gardener. Through Lord Cobham's influence, he was employed at Hampton Court, where he planted the great vine. He designed gardens at Kew, Nuneham and Blenheim, where his planning of the great lake quickly brought him fame.

Landscape gardens now became the fashion, and Brown was employed everywhere.

He tore up the old formal laurel hedges, substituted winding paths for straight, made undulating meadows out of level, close cut lawns, and even went so far as to make the symmetrical edges of the lakes artificially irregular.

'The omnipotent magician Brown' was apt to destroy buildings and alter vistas which, if not as old as nature, were almost as venerable. For he was more of a gardener than an architect and lacked the taste of a trained artist. And this failing, together with his naturally destructive trend, caused the inevitable reaction.

When bringing a formal garden up to date he would obliterate every trace of the old and often beautiful style. His innovations at Roche Abbey were considered particularly destructive, as he even went so far as to take away some of the old stones of the Abbey to make a bridge for the benefit of the landscape.

'Down falls the venerable pile,
The abode of our forefathers.'

But 'The Return to Nature' was not a movement to be easily uprooted, and was, on the whole, eagerly welcomed by a generation grown tired of pomp and splendour. Brown, moreover, when landscape gardening was at its zenith, was one of the most conspicuous of the reformers. He earned enough money to enable him to live the life of a country gentleman at Huntingdon, where he died in 1783.

Whatever his failings and his mistakes, here at Stowe he is still with us in the gardens where he learnt his craft.

E. D. O'B.
E. J. O.

STOICA

A COMMITTEE has been formed to arrange for the foundation of an Old Stoic Society. The members are D. F. Wilson, H. E. Robinson, N. A. C. Croft and G. C. S. P. Butler. The Headmaster has been asked to serve temporarily as an 'advisory member.'

On February 22nd a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Neville, to whom the Stoic offers warm congratulations and manifold good wishes. Michael Hastings Rolfe Neville was entered for Stowe on the morning of his birth, and is expected here in September, 1938. It is not yet known in what Form he will be placed.

The first two Fives Courts (Eton game) are now ready for play, and a very beautiful House Cup has been presented by Mr. and Mrs. F. R. S. Balfour of Dawyck for annual competition. The cup is of ivory carved out of a single tusk, the work being Viennese and dating from the eighteenth century. The carving represents the Black Prince fighting at the battle of Crecy. The delay in the completion of the Courts has made it impossible to compete for the Cup this season.

A large and handsome silver cup has been presented by Mr. C. S. Swan, of Broomley Grange, to be an 'Individual' Challenge Cup for Shooting. It is to be held by the best shot in the School, and to be exhibited during term-time in his House. It will be competed for in the summer.

The re-plastering of the more dilapidated parts of the old buildings proceeds apace, and Cobham Court is at last being levelled. The creepers planted against the walls of Cobham House have not yet succeeded in hiding it from view, but members of other Houses are still hoping for the best.

About sixty trees have been planted in the Avenue to replace casualties ancient and modern. Some draining has also been undertaken, parts of the ground having become very marshy. At present the Avenue is of course 'mixed,' but the new trees are all beeches.

The 'stage' in the Gym. has its uses—as a foundation on which to place the lectern and the pulpit it is admirable—but we await, with some impatience, the arrival of a curtain which will justify its name.

No. I Squash Court is unconsolable at losing *Urvb*. In their despair the walls have been peeling all this term, and are now a pitiable spectacle. They evidently do not regard the occasional appearance of a master with a lasso as at all an adequate substitute.

A good deal of work has been put in on the cricket 'table' this winter. It was heavily marled in the late autumn, and this term the turf was taken up, the hollows knocked by the motor-mower filled in, and the turf re-layed. It is hoped that these labours will be rewarded by fast, true wickets next term.

The following cricket fixtures have, so far, been arranged for next term:—

Saturday, May 23rd	-	The Masters (home).
Saturday, May 30th	-	R.A.S.C. (Aldershot) (home).
Wednesday, June 10th	-	Chiltern Ramblers (home).
Saturday, June 13th	-	Radley II (away).
Saturday, June 20th	-	Westminster II (home).
Saturday, June 27th	-	Mill Hill Under 15½ (home).
Thursday, July 2nd	-	Bradfield II (away).
Saturday, July 4th	-	Capt. G. Robarts' XI (Tile House).
Wednesday, July 8th	-	Canford (home).
Saturday, July 11th	-	Wellington Under 16½ (away).

The two photographs of the Grafton Meet have been kindly provided by the SPECIAL PRESS of Fleet Street, and are published by permission.

NOTE.—*The Editor is always glad to receive contributions from members or friends of the School, but he must ask contributors to remember that the STOIC will have no dealings, direct or indirect, with contemporary politics.*



THE HOUNDS AT THE NORTH STEPS.

PRIZES

In 1925 and thereafter the Bertram Prizes will be awarded not for English as hitherto, but for Classics—this being the original intention of the donor.

Mr. H. Peters Bone has with great generosity endowed two annual prizes for English Composition, one to be awarded for Prose and the other for Verse.

The competition for these Prizes as well as for the Barber Reading Prizes, the Burroughs Prize, the Charles Loudon Prize and others will take place during the Summer Term.

A HUNT

WEDNESDAY, March 18th, was an ideal spring day, and for some of us a red-letter day in the annals of the School. For the first time for many years the Grafton Hounds met at Stowe. By twelve o'clock a large company had assembled at the North Front to meet the Master: and presently

'Round the corner came the Hunt:
Those feathery things, the hounds, in front.'

The mounted field consisted of a hundred at least, including a contingent of eight from the School, who had commandeered various local mounts for the occasion. A number of the boys followed on foot with their lunches in their pockets. The spinney below the playing-fields was drawn blank: but hounds soon roused a fox, grey and game, in Dadford Flags.

'He upped his brush and he cocked his nose
And he went up-wind as a racer goes.'

Pace was fast to Hatch Hill Woods, where other foxes were afoot to baffle hounds.

'It was only fair (he being a stranger)
That a native fox should share the danger.'

From there a move was made to Stowe Ridings, where a fresh quarry was soon found. There followed a long, slow hunt with various checks past Tile House, over the brook to Lillingstone Lovell, through Leckhampstead Wood into Lord Hillingdon's grounds.



MOVING OFF TO COVERT.

The sun was hot and scent poor, but there was no lack of obstacles to be negotiated, and big ones too, which accounted for some empty saddles, but no casualties, in the ranks of the Stoics. Courage, sometimes begotten of inexperience, was certainly not lacking on their part. From Wakefield the fox turned left handed back towards Lovell Manor, and at the time some of us had to turn our exhausted horses homewards he was still being hustled about in the big covert. There are who say that in the dark recesses of the wood a grim tragedy was enacted, unwitnessed by man, in which the fox played the protagonist part :

'Hounds in cover and death from teeth
In a worrying wrench, with him beneath.'

But rather let us hope—for he had given us a good day—that he found a safe asylum in some sheltering earth, where

'He could hear the horn call hounds away
And rest in peace till another day.'

We were careful to express our thanks to Lord Hillingdon and the hope that next season he would give us too 'another day.'

(If the above geographical details are not clear, neither is the mind of the writer.)

THE GALE BLEW HIGH . . .

The gale blew high and a ship was sinking,
. . . An old, slow galleon of Spain;
And down in the cabin the captain was drinking,
Singing a song as the ship lay sinking,
A song of the Spanish Main :

'Come, break another bottle, for the ship sinks fast,
And drink, come drink with me.
Let's drink to the dead who have drunk their last,
And lie at the bottom of the sea.'

Far below the foam and the white gulls flying,
Where the salt sea whirls in sleep,
'Mid the scraps of rotten timber a skeleton was lying,
And an echo arose to the white gulls flying . . .
The ghost of a song from the deep :

'Come, break another bottle, for the ship sinks fast,
And drink, come drink with me;
Let's drink to the dead who have drunk their last,
And lie at the bottom of the sea.'

'OZYMANDIAS.'

THE LIBRARY

THIS winter has not seen the arrival of many new books, but by the end of the term we hope to have added a considerable number. So far, however, only three volumes have actually been received. Mr. Harper has presented Rupert Brooke's Letters from America, and another donor is responsible for the arrival of a copy of the First Folio of Shakespeare. In addition we have to thank Mrs. Skrine for 'Celebrated Gardens of the World.' We have purchased 'Men and Mansions' (by Harold Spender), which has a chapter upon Stowe, and also Sir Sidney Lee's 'Life of Edward VII.'

All the authorities seem to have found out that we have a certain sum of money at our disposal, and several lists of books to be bought have been sent in. We do not ask whether the person who proposed that we should acquire the New Oxford Dictionary (which costs £40) had cross-word puzzles in his mind. The list of books that are to be bought is not quite complete yet, but they will mostly be historical and scientific.

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL this term has been directed mainly to the House matches, which this year have been played on the knock-out system. Owing to the influenza epidemic, they threatened at one time to become a farce, as so many people were unable to play; but with the exception of the first match, teams were not much below full strength, and on the whole were much more representative than they were last year. Grenville, who won again, were undoubtedly the best all-round side, although they had some obvious weak points. However, against their most dangerous opponents, Chandos, whom they met in the semi-final, they played on the whole well. Had they played in this match as they had played against Bruce, they would undoubtedly have been beaten. Cobham did very well indeed in beating Temple in the other semi-final, although by the narrowest of margins, and are to be congratulated on reaching the final at their first attempt.

Only one school match was played—against a Rosslyn Park side. Inspired by two masters, one in the pack and one outside, the School played an excellent game. There is no doubt that there are distinct possibilities about the side: a little more cleverness behind, which will come with experience, combined with consistently straight and resolute running, should make them quite a formidable team. The forwards

have some skill and a good deal of dash, and the tackling of the side as a whole is, if not without blemish, at least quite creditable. In this respect the advance since this time last year is most marked.

A match with Eton 2nd XV had unfortunately to be scratched by us, as our team at the time was too hopelessly depleted by illness and accident to make it worth while playing. A junior match with Eton had little better luck. Our team went over, and after splashing about on a saturated ground for thirty minutes, at the end of which time we led by 6 points to 3, the players of both sides were only too thankful to abandon the game and allow the blizzard to do what it would with the ill-fated umbrellas of our hosts.

THE SCHOOL v. ROSSLYN PARK.

Played at Stowe on February 14th, the School winning a very creditable victory by 2 goals and 4 tries (22 points) to 2 tries (6 points).

The School were not at full strength, Gadney and Bowie being on the sick list. Mr. Simmonds, who took Gadney's place at the base of the scrum, and Mr. Timberlake, who came into the pack, were more than adequate substitutes.

The School won fairly easily, and, what is more, thoroughly deserved to win, for they were the better side fore and aft. The forwards played a sterling game all through, and were particularly effective in the loose. The fact that it would be difficult to pick out anyone for individual praise is a compliment that the pack have thoroughly earned. Each of the outsiders, with the exception of the full-back, scored once.

The really encouraging feature of the match was that for the first time this season the School pack found that they had a three-quarter line behind them capable of making ground and even of scoring tries when given the ball. It was hard to believe that the three-quarter line in this match was the same that had hesitated and fumbled its way through the matches of last term.

Three-quarter play admittedly takes longer to pick up than forward play, but, when once the rudiments of straight-running and passing have been learnt, improvement is rapid and each advance means a very real increase in the attacking power of the team.

The fact that in this match much of the running was straight and the passing almost reliable is a happy augury of good things to come next season. The School team was:—

Hyde; Sanderson J. C., Jones, Dunsford ma., Croft N. A. C.; Balmford and Mr. Simmonds; Murdoch, Mr. Timberlake, Cox E. R., Feathers, Falconer, Cowell A. M., McComb ma., Edden.

HOUSE MATCHES.

BRUCE v. GRENVILLE.

Played on February 11th, and won by Grenville by five tries (15 points) to a penalty goal and two tries (9 points).

Neither side was at full strength and a number of those who were playing were not very fit. The game as a display of football was not a good one; as a house match, it did not lack excitement. Grenville were, on paper, a stronger side, but Balmford and Dunsford, for Bruce, were constant dangers, and Grenville,

feeling this, were inclined to adopt emergency tactics, which spoiled their cohesion as an attacking side. Cox, who was put into the three-quarter line for this match, played a very effective game in a strange position, and by resolute running scored three of the Grenville tries; the other two were scored by Wilkinson, from a clever pick up and good dash in, and by McLeod, after a good combined movement in which the ball travelled right along the line.

Bruce's first score came from a beautiful drop penalty goal by Balmford. The mark was a point about ten yards from the touchline and about half-way between the 25 and the centre line and the kick was certainly the finest seen here. That occurred in the second half, when Grenville were leading 6—0, and it put heart into Bruce. Grenville, however, added two more tries before Drayson threw himself over the line from a line-out, to make the score 12—6. Grenville getting further ahead and leading by nine points, the issue was no longer in doubt; but just on time Balmford dribbled through and, kicking and following up hard, just managed to score on the line, the ball swerving unkindly for Adams, who was in front.

Bruce were very unlucky in Dunsford's being injured in the first half. Although he had a broken bone in his hand, he pluckily played out the game and did some useful work, although he had to take and give his passes with one hand. The teams were:—

BRUCE: Pearson; Mayhew, Ling, Dunsford ma., Dunlop; Carr and Balmford; Heyworth, Drayson, Boyd-Carpenter, Copley ma., Franck, Carden, Russell, Stuart.

GRENVILLE: Adams; Wilkinson, Jones, Cox E. R., Still; McLeod and Gill; Murdoch, Feathers, Farmiloe, Dashwood, Eddy, Thompson L. H. A., Meyrick, McDowell.

TEMPLE v. COBHAM.

Played on February 18th, and won by Cobham by two tries (6 points) to one goal (5 points).

This House Match developed into a tussle between Cobham forwards and Temple outsiders. Cobham obviously had recognised the importance of smothering the Temple three-quarters before they got going, and, helped by the slowness of the Temple halves and the quick breaking of their own forwards, succeeded admirably, Cowell and McComb in particular playing a very good spoiling game all through.

All the scoring was done by the forwards. Cobham led at half-time by 3—0, but soon after half-time Temple scored and, thanks to a good kick at goal by Oxley from an awkward angle, led by 5—3. After this Cobham played up strongly, scored an unconverted try, and were nearly in again when the final whistle blew. Mention must be made of some excellent tackling by Cavendish, who saved his lines three or four times by bringing down Bowie or Franklin. The teams were:—

TEMPLE: Harriss; Pritchard, Bowie, Franklin, Griffin; Body and Robinson; Ward ma., Rowse, Oxley, Bramley, Day, Marshall J. F., Searle ma., Jackson H. B. B.

COBHAM: Thompson D. W.; Dawson A. C., Crosthwaite, Jackson H. F., Cavendish; Gautby and Murray; Cowell A. M., McComb ma., Manners, Keith, Freeman, Balfour, Tyrrell, Brown J. A.

GRENVILLE v. CHANDOS.

Played on February 21st, Grenville winning by two placed goals and one dropped goal (14 points) to one goal (5 points).

This was probably the best game so far seen at Stowe—hard and clean, with some really bright bits of Rucker here and there. Grenville thoroughly deserved their victory, their pack in particular playing really well and more or less controlling the game until the last ten minutes, when Chandos, going all out, pressed continuously and did everything but score.

The Grenville pack took control from the kick-off and play was mostly in the Chandos twenty-five; about fifteen minutes from the start Meyrick went over from a maul some yards out for Grenville's first try, Farmiloe converting with a good kick. Five minutes later the scores were equal again. Sword picked up from some loose play near his twenty-five, made a few yards and then passed to Woods, whose pace was enough to take him clear and past the full-back, to score behind the posts, Watson converting (5—5).

Just before half-time Grenville went ahead again. Wilkinson got the ball near the left touch-line and, finding himself blocked, came across field and dropped a very pretty goal from the twenty-five line (9—5).

The second half was a great struggle. About half way through a round of accurate passing by the Grenville threes sent Wilkinson over, Farmiloe again converting (14—5). Then Chandos made their final effort. The forwards took the ball to the Grenville twenty-five and, but for one break away, stayed there for the rest of the game. They got the ball in nearly every scrum, and gave their outsides repeated opportunities. Kerr nearly got through on the right, and Croft was twice all but over in the left-hand corner, Gill, who incidentally played a very sound and plucky game at full back, forcing him into touch the first time, and checking him sufficiently to be caught a minute later. Sword tried one cut through and was stopped within a yard of the line. But the Grenville defence just held, and no-side came with the score unaltered. Chandos certainly deserved a score in the last few minutes, but no more. They would have been very lucky if—as was quite possible—their final effort had won them the match. The teams were:—

GRENVILLE: Gill; Wilkinson, Jones, Kelley, McLeod; Riess and Gadney; Murdoch, Feathers, Farmiloe, McCaul-Bell, Eddy, Dashwood, Thompson, L. H. A., Meyrick.

CHANDOS: Luckock; Woods, Sword, Croft N. A. C., Kerr; Hyde and Brown M. P.; Falconer, Edden, Aylmer, Bowen, Blair, Pocock, Hayes-Palmer, Watson A. R. C.

GRENVILLE v. COBHAM.

This, the final, match was played on February 28th, and resulted in a win for Grenville by nine tries (27 points) to nothing.

The ground was wet and treacherous at the beginning and became much worse after a heavy shower in the second half. The standard of play consequently suffered, and there was a great deal of scrambling footwork and very little good passing. Grenville were very much the stronger side all round, but the keen marking of the diminutive Cobham three-quarters, assisted by the quick breaking up of Cowell and McComb, did much to keep the Grenville three-quarters in check. The Grenville forwards played a sound game, although at times they lacked dash, and scored three or four tries by the simple and effective expedient of pushing their opponents in a tight scrum over the line and touching down.

The best try of the match was scored by Wilkinson, who, starting on the left touch-line near the half-way line, ran resolutely through the whole Cobham side and scored well out on the right side of the posts. Jones from a cross-kick, Meyrick, Murdoch and Gadney all scored, while the remaining tries came either

from loose scrambling play or from tight scrummages near the line. The place-kicking was very difficult in the existing conditions; the nearest approach to success in nine attempts was one of Farmiloe's which hit the cross-bar. The teams were:—

GRENVILLE: Gill; Wilkinson, Jones, Kelley, McLeod; Riess and Gadney; Murdoch, Cox E. R., Feathers, Farmiloe, McCaul-Bell, Eddy, Dashwood, Meyrick.

COBHAM: Thompson D. W.; Dawson A. C., Crosthwaite, Jackson H. F., Cavendish; Gautby and Murray; Cowell A. M., McComb ma., Manners, Keith, Freeman, Balfour, Tyrrell, Fraser.

The following table shows the full results of the House matches:—

First Round.	Semi-final.	Final.	Winner.
Grenville	Grenville 15—9	Grenville 14—5	Grenville 27—0
Bruce			
Byes	Chandos	Cobham 6—5	
	Temple		

BOXING

Boxing has taken place this term on Wednesdays and Saturdays in the Gymnasium, and we have been very fortunate in having the services of Staff Sergeant Elliot.

The most important event of the term was the Inter-House Competition, the heats and finals of which were held in the Gymnasium on Wednesday, March 11th, and Friday, March 13th. In the heats the best boxing was seen in the lighter weights; the most delightful bout of the afternoon being that between Gill and Crosthwaite. Crosthwaite had already given a thrilling, if less scientific, display in a closely contested fight with Body. Bussell and Jackson, who were both narrowly defeated by Adams, also boxed well.

Of the other contests, two only stand out in the memory. Riess, after a shaky start in his bout with Dawson, boxed admirably, using his left with good effect. Boyd-Carpenter, though beaten by Bowen, his superior in skill and size, yet gave a fine exhibition of pluck and determination, returning to the attack again and again.

In the finals again some excellent contests were seen, and interest was maintained to the end, for it was upon the last fight that the issue of the competition depended.

Rowse had little difficulty in winning his bout, and in doing so showed himself the best boxer of the afternoon. In the next weight Gill was quick on his feet, and used both hands cleverly; Marshall, though not so good a boxer, deserves great praise for his persistent attacks. Considerable comic relief was provided in the next contest, between Sword and Cavendish, thought we suspect that that aspect of the situation was not prominent in the mind of either competitor. They set to in hurricane fashion and, after a vast expenditure of energy, a few heavy blows and many curious antics, they were fain to regard each

other in the last round, hands on hips, apparently in mutual admiration. Sword, who had kept as cool as circumstances permitted, gained the verdict. Searle, the winner of the next weight, who can both box and fight, completely upset his opponent's tactics and won with fair ease.

What promised to be a lively contest was prevented from taking place by the sudden illness of Murdoch, and so the weight went to Cowell.

In the last contest Bowie had little chance against the superior reach and weight of McCaul-Bell, but boxed gamely. The winner has a heavy punch and is quite quick with his hands. The final results were as follows:—

Under 6 st. 10 lb.: Rowse (Temple) beat Adams (Grenville).
 Under 7 st. 8 lb.: Gill (Grenville) beat Marshall N. C. (Chandos).
 Under 8 st. 6 lb.: Sword (Chandos) beat Cavendish (Cobham).
 Under 9 st. 6 lb.: Searle ma. (Temple) beat Riess (Grenville).
 Under 10 st. 7 lb.: Cowell A. M. (Cobham) winner. Murdoch S. J. (Grenville) did not box.
 Open: McCaul-Bell (Grenville) beat Bowic (Temple).

		HOUSE POINTS.				
1.	Grenville	...	...	...	...	16 points.
2.	Temple	...	...	...	...	12 "
3.	{ Chandos	...	...	...	...	7 "
	{ Cobham	...	...	...	...	7 "
5.	Bruce	...	...	...	...	0 "

FENCING

We have had our red-letter days this term. The first match, against an A team from the O.U.F.C., ended in victory. Ten days later we were successful at Charterhouse, both with foils and épée. There are faults in our play, the mistakes of inexperience, but they compare very favourably with those of six months ago and have not deprived us of Stowe's initial victory in a school match.

Work during the early part of the term was, of necessity, devoted principally to the team. But Captain Gravé has brought on the newcomers, who have received, too, a certain amount of instruction from the senior members of the Club. An attempt is being made to organise a tournament for beginners.

There is one invaluable advance which should be recorded: we have been permitted to bring our household gods into a corner of the gymnasium. They do not yet feel that their new temple belongs to them; but prefer it, even in its present state, to the forms and fumes of the half-converted squash court. If we say so; we are of the same opinion.

THE SCHOOL v. OXFORD UNIVERSITY 'A.'

This match took place at Oxford on February 25th. The school team was composed of J. de Amodio (captain), Mr. McLaughlin, T. H. Howarth, B. P. Brooke and C. S. Creed. A five-aside match with foils resulted in a win for Stowe by 15 fights to 10. Not relinquishing the lead which they had secured by the end of the first series of 'assaults,' the School team never looked like losing their opening match. Unfortunately the names and the number of individual wins gained by the Varsity 'A' are unobtainable. No more can be said than that the rival team was as international as our own. For Oxford, Sedkoff did well; but de Amodio, successful in each of his five fights, carried off the highest honours.

Mr. Snow, the captain of the O.U.F.C., acted as referee, with two members of his team as judges. We have thanked them for their kindness in giving us hospitality, and the pleasure of crossing swords with them after the match.

THE SCHOOL v. CHARTERHOUSE.

At Charterhouse, on March 7th, the School team gained their first victory in a school match. There were sixteen assaults with the foil, and a similar number with the épée, Stowe winning 10—6 in each case.

de Amodio won his first bout; but Howarth and Brooke were beaten, and Charterhouse later increased this lead to 4—2. From this time onward, however, an improvement set in: the School foilists had grown more accustomed to their surroundings and found a way of evading the time-hits, which had been causing them considerable trouble. Drawing level at 6—6, Stowe won the last four fights, thus winning the foils by 10 events to 6.

The result of the épée bouts was not long in doubt. Actually the margin was the same as in the foils; but now the lead was captured at once and held throughout the whole series of 'assaults.' Neither team seemed as accustomed to the épée as to the foils, though there was a welcome absence of corps-à-corps and other clumsiness. Apparently the Carthusians were unaccustomed to the one-hit verdict; if so, they displayed a creditable aptitude in accustoming themselves to new methods, those of the duel à l'épée. Scores:—

FOILS.

Stowe. J. de Amodio, 4 victories; T. H. Howarth, B. P. Brooke and C. S. Creed, 2 victories each. Total, 10 victories.

Charterhouse. C. W. H. Twite, 3 victories; R. A. Pilkington, 2 victories; N. B. Hammand, 1 victory; W. M. Henning, 0 victory. Total, 6 victories.

EPÉE.

Stowe. J. de Amodio, S. J. Murdoch and T. H. Howarth, 3 victories each; A. G. Bowie, 1 victory. Total, 10 victories.

Charterhouse. G. K. Wilkinson, 3 victories; C. W. N. Twite, 2 victories; N. B. Hammand, 1 victory; P. L. Bushe-Fox, 0 victory. Total, 6 victories.

THE SCHOOL v. GUY'S HOSPITAL.

Our first Home Match took place on March 25th. Guy's Hospital were represented by a strong side, but a victory with both arms brought to a close the Fencing Team's series of initial successes; there is no other fixture for this term.

The foil bouts were evenly contested and resulted in a win for the School by 9 victories to 7. With the épée we won by a similar margin, and so were successful by 18 to 14. It is worthy of comment that only one serious flèche attack was attempted during the match; it was successful.

de Amodio defeated the opposing Captain with both weapons and his play throughout was finished and successful. The victories of Howarth and Murdoch too were good; the latter's épée fighting has developed considerably during the course of the term. Scores:—

FOILS.

Stowe. de Amodio and Howarth, 3 victories each; Brooke, 2 victories; Creed, 1 victory. Total, 9.

Guy's Hospital. Foy and Silvester, 3 victories each; Johnson, 1 victory; Human, 0 victory. Total, 7.

EPÉE.

Stowe. de Amodio, 4 victories; S. J. Murdoch, 3 victories; Howarth, 2 victories; M. S. Montagu-Scott, 0 victories. Total, 9.
 Guy's Hospital. Foy, Johnson and Silvester, 2 victories each; Monkhouse, 1 victory. Total, 7.

THE CROSS-COUNTRY

This was run on Saturday, March 14th, at 2.30 p.m., in a slight drizzle and no wind. The course, of about three and a quarter miles, was comparatively dry, considering the weather of the previous weeks, and, as the line was entirely over grass, the going cannot have been very heavy. The start, at the head of the avenue, included 100 runners. Cox took the lead through the spinney leading to the first water, followed closely by Croft, Cowell and Edden, in this order. The discomfort of the large 'field' going through this narrow and branch-strewn pathway must have been extreme. Between the water and the Oxford Bridge, Edden obtained the lead, which was between forty and fifty yards at the latter place; climbing the hill and running down to the Copper-bottom Lake, they struck the drive and then turned left-handed across the fields, in front of the Corinthian Arch. At this turn Edden was leading by about 200 yards and going at a great pace, followed by Cox, with Cowell and Bowen about fifty yards behind him. Then followed Hartland-Swann ma., Boyd-Carpenter, Heyworth, Gill and others in a bunch, with the main body of the field in close attendance.

Over the ridge and furrows, between this point and the lane from the Corinthian Arch to the Bell Gate, Cowell and Bowen gained on Cox, who appeared by now to have shot his bolt.

Continuing over further grass of a singularly 'rolling' nature to the fence in front of the gravel pit, the course led over a post and rails, which, though previously very shaky, was now strengthened. The gravel pit came next in the run down from it and the second (and worse) water jump; the order was Edden (very well ahead), Cowell, with Bowen close behind. All three jumped this fairly clear, landing in the mud and water on the far side, for it was a good open jump, though stiff for a tired runner. The strain of this jump appears to have settled Cowell's claim on second place, and he lost ground and position to Bowen up the steep slope beyond. The order in the Bourbon field was that at the finish. Edden appeared first, running down the left side of the Grecian valley, (presumably to avoid the morass at the bottom,) and finished in style in the excellent time of 20 minutes 20 seconds, fairly exhausted by the pace he had come, but almost 400 yards ahead of Bowen, who finished remarkably fresh, with Cowell only fifty yards or so behind. Then followed Hartland Swann ma., Gill, Cox, Boyd-Carpenter, Still, Heyworth and Adams.

Still made a particularly spectacular and dogged finish, beating his man at the post (the latter had had the misfortune to damage his leg in training, thereby much prejudicing his chances).

It is greatly to be regretted that Feathers, the winner of last year, was unable to run on account of appendicitis, both on the grounds of the nature of his misfortune and of the fact that it seems likely we should have witnessed a very hard fought struggle for the first place.

Chandos retain the Cross-country Shield, with 290 marks; second, Bruce, 483; third, Grenville, 493; fourth, Temple, 844; and fifth, Cobham, 943.

GOLF

The Golf Club has had a hard time of it this winter. In 1923 the rabbits, with which Stowe was over-run, performed at least one notable service—they kept the fair-ways of the golf-course remarkably short. If they had confined themselves to the golf-course all would have been well; but they attacked the cricket field, and even the cricket and tennis nets, with equal vigour; so an intensive campaign against them was carried through. When, therefore, we came back last October, the golf-course was covered with the luxurious grass-growth of a wet summer—and there were no rabbits to deal with it. All that could be done in the way of cutting was done, and by the end of the term several holes were playable. This term has seen a further improvement, and seven holes are now in use, while sheep are doing their best with the rough grass near the eighth. If, as is hoped, a horse cutter appears next term for the Bourbon field, our troubles should be at an end, for we should be able to get the use of it often enough to keep the fair-ways cut.

Naturally, with these conditions to contend against, there has not been much play, and the House matches have been held up till very late in the term—too late for the results to be given here. But they are being played—and on our own course—which is more than at one time seemed possible.

O.T.C.

The strength of the contingent this term is as follows:—

Bruce	...	...	...	...	...	...	28.
Temple	...	...	...	...	...	...	27.
Grenville	...	...	...	...	...	...	32.
Chandos	...	...	...	...	...	...	46.
Cobham	...	...	...	...	...	...	19.
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	152.

Considerable progress has been made in training, despite the hampering effects of influenza and cold, wet weather. Rifle exercises are taking shape, and it is hoped that the N.C.O.'s have obtained some idea of the principles of Fire Control and 'Fire and Movement.'

The Gothic Temple, a most unsuitable building, at first sight, for military purposes, has been transformed into a reasonably good Armoury.

A valuable addition has been made to the instructional staff this term in the person of Staff-Sergeant Elliot (late C.S.M.I., Army Physical Training Staff).

The first Annual Inspection of the contingent will be held on Tuesday, 2nd June. The Inspecting Officer will be Lt.-Col. W. D. S. Brownrigg, D.S.O., General Staff, War Office.

The contingent will go into camp at Tidworth Pennings from 28th July to 5th August, both days inclusive.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

The Debating Society is older than it was when last term's notes were written. Time appears to have given it more confidence in itself. No doubt it is regrettable that some members will not yet realise that speeches from notes lose in eloquence what they may possibly gain in knowledge. There is significance in the fact that the impromptu debate was the wittiest we have yet had; this is hopeful, for the sublime and the ridiculous are so often near together.

The Sixth Meeting of the Society was held on January 31st. The motion for debate was 'That in the opinion of this House civilisation has failed to realise its opportunities.'

Mr. H. W. HECKSTALL-SMITH proposed this motion, and he was opposed by Mr. F. T. Arnold; Mr. H. W. Neville spoke third and Mr. A. E. A. Fremantle spoke fourth. There was a large attendance at this meeting, but it produced comparatively few speakers; the Headmaster, J. de Amodio and E. D. O'Brien spoke for the motion, which was opposed by the Secretary and by M. S. Montagu Scott. On a division being taken, the motion was carried by 61 votes to 17.

The Seventh Meeting of the Society was held on February 21st, when the motion for debate was 'That in the opinion of this House the League of Nations is the surest safeguard of world peace.'

E. R. R. KENT (The Hon. Proposer) spoke, as usual, with a knowledge of his subject. The consequence is that his speeches are often in a class by themselves; though they would be more impressive if their author could forget his notes.

J. A. BOYD-CARPENTER (The Hon. Opposer) does not restrict his reading of the newspapers to those which cost twopence and appear in the morning. None the less he has a firm belief in the superiority of the English-speaking peoples.

H. P. CROOM-JOHNSON had a great deal to say about the work of the League. His seemed a promising maiden speech; but so much of it was read that we were unable to appreciate it as fully as we should have liked.

J. DE AMODIO is inimitable: 'Let us all get on to the atlas' (or was it 'Atlas'?) he began; and we followed him laughingly from China to Peru, caring little for the fate of his kings and presidents so long as he himself remained the same.

C. M. BARLOW spoke with distinction.

M. T. D. PATMORE spoke distinctly.

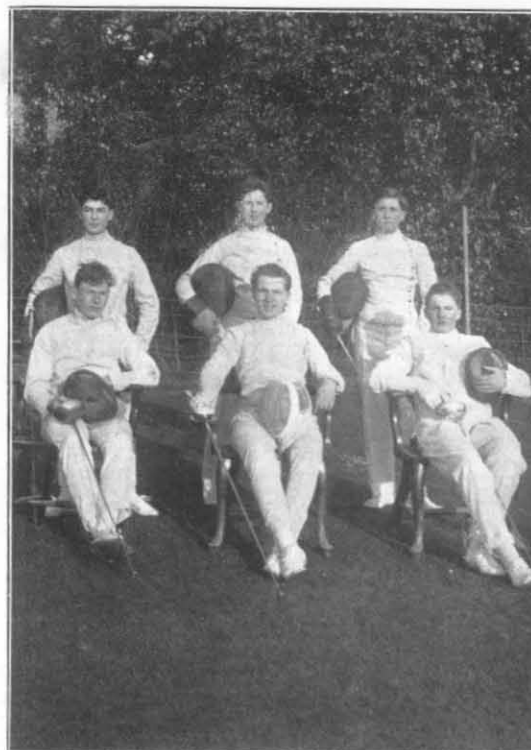
G. A. CAMPBELL made a maiden speech.

E. J. OLIVER is always interesting. He, too, will be more impressive as he becomes more audible.

L. G. STRAUSS crossed the floor of the House. Such action in itself was sufficient to disturb the opponents of the League, and his brief, logical speech added to their discomfiture. At its close the honourable member winged his way to perch on the front bench of the Ayes.

D. S. MONTAGU SCOTT declared that Great Britain was not a member of the League.

M. S. MONTAGU SCOTT did not agree with his brother on this point, though he shared his contempt for the League and declared that war must always exist. During his speech he impressed the floor of the House by beating it with a large bludgeon which he carried. About the same time the honourable member who spoke fourth opened a new bottle of Spanish table-water; it was the last serious effort of the ancien régime.



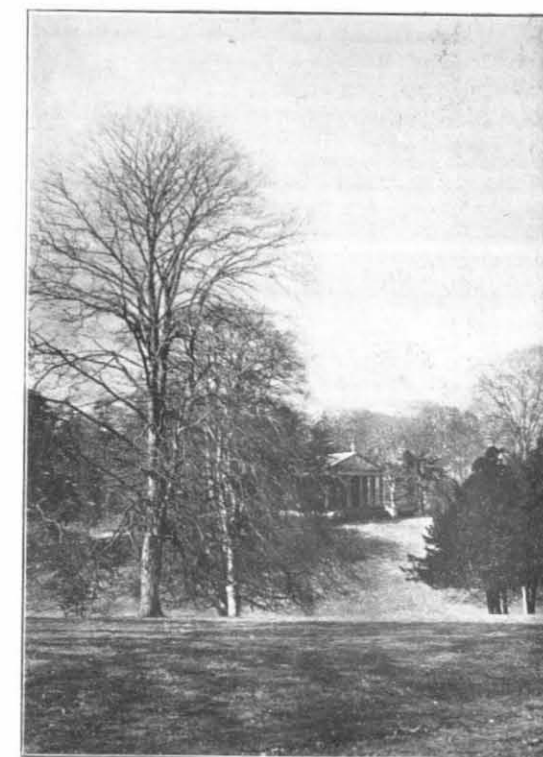
THE FENCING TEAM, 1925.



SLEEPERS OUT—CAUGHT IN THE ACT.



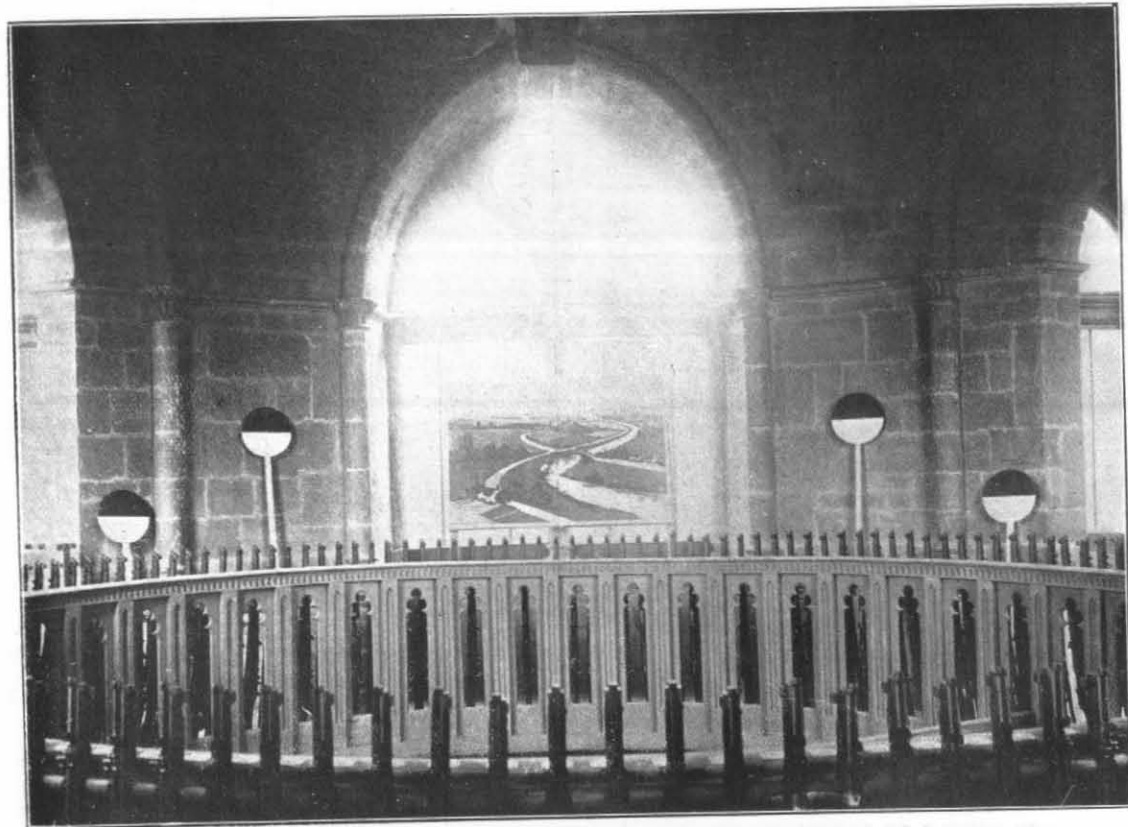
THE TEMPLE OF ANCIENT VIRTUE.



CONCORD.



THE FINISH OF THE CROSS-COUNTRY, 1925.



THE ARMOURY.

THE STOIC

223

The VICE-PRESIDENT defended the ideals of the League. This was the canonade of Valmy.

The SECRETARY said a few last words.

When the President had applied the guillotine, the motion was carried by a majority of 63 to 8.

The first impromptu debate took place on the occasion of the Society's Eighth Meeting on March 4th. Procedure was informal: gone was the usual austere setting with its formidable minutes and the patient faces of the permanent guests; but instead there was the presidential bowler which was to decide the fate of the prospective speakers, who accepted the situation with Stoic calm, and brought off the wittiest debate we have yet had.

The President held the hat to the Vice-President, who took from it one of the three suggested motions. It was announced that the House would decide whether 'Bacon and eggs are of more value to England than Bacon and Shakespeare.' The President, J. M. Reeves and C. B. Webb were drawn to speak for the motion, which was opposed by P. H. Lucas, L. G. Strauss and M. S. Montagu Scott. The defenders of our hereditary 'plat' put on a serious air, and spoke of bacon and eggs as mute old friends in the bated breath reserved for pious memories of Hengist and Horsa, or the Army and Navy. The Opposition had something to say for the intellectual value of its Elizabethans; but J. M. Reeves, in the best speech he has yet made, stole their fire in a grave argument which reduced the dispute to an equation; he removed 'bacon' from both sides, and declared for eggs rather than Shakespeare. So did the House, which carried the motion by 13 votes to 6.

The second motion was 'That Chedorlaomer is a better name than John Smith.' The President had not chosen this subject and seemed to experience some difficulty in replying to questions about Chedorlaomer, whom he pronounced eventually to be one of Melchisedech's acquaintances. This was proved later to be correct; but the statement at the time was accepted with reserve and Chedorlaomer had to submit first to the prefix 'Mr.' and then to the feminine equivalent. He was championed by E. R. R. Kent, C. M. Barlow and E. R. Avory, and attacked virulently by his enemies by lot, D. Morley-Fletcher, H. P. Croom-Johnson and R. MacD. Barbour. The last of these went so far as to call him a 'frowsy Israelite'; but the visions of the mysterious Chedorlaomer beside his Jordan water and juniper trees proved entrancing to the Society. On a division being taken, it was found that ten votes had been cast for each side. However, traditional Englishry was to go down: with a slightly Castilian accent, J. de Amodio drew a paper from the hat and announced that 'Mister Chedorlaomer' had won.

'Manners makyth man' was the third subject in this impromptu debate. J. de Amodio, D. S. Montagu-Scott and M. T. D. Patmore were chosen to defend, H. P. J. Phillips, E. D. O'Brien and E. J. Oliver to oppose the motion. All spoke with confidence; O'Brien and de Amodio, who made best use of their notes, were the most effective. A show of hands gave an equal number of votes to each side; but the President, who clearly held strong views on the matter, was able to point out that he had dispensed with a previous opportunity to exercise his casting vote, and so proceeded to vote, as an ordinary member, for the motion, which was carried by eleven votes to ten.

It is worth remarking that two-thirds of the members present spoke on each of the subjects in this, the first impromptu debate, though only six were compelled to do so. All but a small minority of the Society was present at this meeting, which was restricted to members.

THE ARTS CLUB

With the exception of a lantern lecture given by the Vice-President on 'Some Famous Pictures,' very little has been done this term.

The lecture took place on Sunday, February 22nd, in the lecture room, Mr. Cross having very kindly agreed to give it, in the President's absence.

The lecturer began by telling us that painting was a branch of that absorbing study, the history of mankind, and that he intended to summarise briefly the progress of painting through the ages.

The first example was a Madonna of Cimabue, an early Italian painter who lived in the thirteenth century. Giotto was Cimabue's pupil.

'The Last Supper,' one of Leonardo da Vinci's masterpieces, was painted for a monastery, the abbot of which said that the artist would never finish his work. The consequence was that the abbot's face was portrayed in that of Judas.

This was followed by Botticelli's Virgin and Child and Raphael's Madonna of the Chair.

The Dutch school was next illustrated in Rembrandt, a painter of the seventeenth century. The light and shade effect is very remarkable in Rembrandt's pictures. This is said to be due to the fact that this artist began painting in a semi-dark cellar at Leyden, which was relieved suddenly by a ray of sunshine which came through the window.

Rembrandt painted himself no less than twenty times, and thus may be seen the story of his life. Before Rembrandt Hans Holbein was painting in England. 'Le Chapeau de Paille of Rubens' was also shown, causing some amusement among members of the top French set.

The Spanish School was next mentioned, with Velasquez and Murillo. Velasquez has probably had more influence on modern art than any preceding painter.

An amusing incident was related of Franz Hals, a Dutch painter. One day Van Dyke, a contemporary artist, came to visit Hals at his studio, but, finding him out, sent for him at the neighbouring tavern, which Hals was said to frequent. Franz soon returned, and was asked to paint Van Dyke's portrait, which was finished very quickly.

Then Van Dyke painted Franz Hals' portrait, which he did not only quicker but better. Hals was much amazed, and the result was that they both went to the tavern and became fast friends for evermore.

'Sir Joshua Reynolds,' said Mr. Cross, 'did for English art what Watt did for engineering.' In two years Reynolds had no less than one hundred and twenty sitters. Four of his pictures were shown, among them 'The Cherub Choir' and 'The Infant Samuel.'

A portrait of Mrs. Siddons by Gainsborough was then shown. It is interesting to note that this great actress had her portrait painted by both Sir Joshua and Gainsborough.

The pictures of Jean Greuze, it was remarked, appeared as though painted on ivory. Two others of the French school, Madame Le Brun and Jacques Louis David, were represented by 'The Artist and her Daughter' and 'Madame Recamier.'

Probably the best known of all the slides shown was Turner's 'The Fighting Temeraire,' which fittingly ended a very enjoyable lecture.

P.H.L.

WIRELESS SOCIETY

The activities of the Wireless Society this term have been considerable but promiscuous. The Society has only held one short meeting, and no concerted work has been attempted. Work done is, however, not without interest. An Anglo-American Six and (I believe) a Super-Heterodyne have been constructed and have been (I think unjustly) blamed for the hideous noises which may generally be heard when the School is neither in Prep. nor in bed. I think Stowe might almost be described as a communal transmitting station at times.

The process of putting up an aerial has developed into a complicated game with definite rules. The President's supervision (bodily or spiritual) is necessary, but the process of getting him on the job is rather like that of serving a writ. Once the writ is served the rules bind him to carry out his obligations, but any indirect evasion of a writ known to be impending is fair. This sport is much practised and enjoyed by most members and (particularly) by the President.

Rumours are in the air of much better accommodation for workshops and listening stations in the near future, and a (licensed) Transmitting Station in the middle future. To each idea—*Prosit!*

H-S.

THE ZOO

The Zoo was particularly unlucky during the holidays, because of a serious plague of rats which, amongst other things, killed a pair of very valuable pigeons.

Owing to the worn out condition of the Duck Cage, the birds have several times escaped, but have fortunately been recovered. The cage has been again covered in sand, and we hope to breed some more mallard and tufted ducks this year.

The Amhurst pheasants which were presented last term by Mr. H. E. Robinson are now getting their full plumage.

Early in the term Miss Hills presented the Zoo with a young squirrel, which unhappily died.

Most of the term has been spent in building a wooden hut.

Last term a friend gave us two three-sided huts. These were placed six feet apart, and the intervening space boarded up. The ends of the hut were wired off to form cages. A drain was laid from the hut to the incubator.

Sir Auckland Geddes has presented us with a Himalayan Sun Bear, which, when full grown, should stand about three feet high.

We have to thank Sir Auckland and Lady Geddes for the kind interest they have shown in the Zoo, and especially for their rare present. We have also received generous gifts from Mrs. Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. Martens. Finally we have to thank Mr. Whitehead for the unfailing interest and help he has given to the Zoo.

CHORAL SOCIETY

The Society has been doing the Madrigal from the 'Mikado' and Whittaker's arrangement of 'Bobby Shaftoe.' During the early part of the term 'flu interfered with the practices, but later there was usually quite a good attendance. As the policy of the Society has been always to admit original members, whatever their qualifications, it has sometimes happened that members have not been quite certain whether they are basses or trebles; but by now most of such vexed questions have been settled. One peculiarity of this Society, in contrast to almost all other school choral societies, has been the preponderating reliability of the tenors. It is in the treble and alto divisions that new blood is badly needed.

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY

This term the Society has read 'H.M.S. Pinafore,' 'Trial by Jury,' 'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern,' 'Comedy and Tragedy,' and the 'Mikado.' Far the best general level was attained in 'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern'; in the other readings, for the most part, even the elementary faults of stumbling and missed cues were not always successfully avoided and, naturally, little effort was made at character presentation. Among some exceptions to this general failure may be mentioned the reading of Clarice in 'Comedy and Tragedy'.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

The number of members in this Club has not been very large, as only a few keen photographers rejoined; but this is only to be expected, as the Easter Term is often a time of inactivity among amateur photographers.

The main object of the Club is to enable anyone to master the finer arts of photography, such as printing, enlarging and developing, and as these can be carried out at any time of the year, a member should never find that, with the end of fine days, photography ceases to interest him. Anybody can take a snapshot, but it takes no inconsiderable amount of skill to develop it and produce a creditable print.

Two or three improvements have been made this term. A towel and hypo-dRAINER have been added to the dark-room, and an Album has been procured which is intended to be used as a photographic log of Stowe School in her young days.

Anybody who has photographs which will be of interest in future years, such as views of the new house or squash courts, is asked to contribute to the Photographic Log, which is in the keeping of the Club.

The stock of printing paper which the Club had in its possession has been divided up between the members.

Mr. Whitaker, the President of the Club, wishes it to be known that he will be able to procure photographic films, for sale to the School, at a reduced price next term. He can, however, only procure them for a specified order of not less than half a dozen films.

We hope to have many new members when the long summer days and brilliant sun can give a wide scope for the owner of a camera. E.R.A.

STOWE SCHOOL CHAPEL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance in hand on Nov. 30, 1924	13 17 9	Highway Clubs (supplementary to Collection at 11.0)	1 13 7
Collections at Early Services up to March 15	11 7 4	Travelling Expenses of Visiting Preacher	17 0
		Furniture for Chapel	2 1 9
		Alterations to Pulpit (for Gymnasium)	8 10 6
		Standard Lamp and Shade	5 19 0
		Balance in hand	6 3 3
	<u>£25 5 1</u>		<u>£25 5 1</u>

E. F. H.

THE SWISS CAMP

The outward journey was uneventful except for the temporary but nevertheless alarming loss of Niven and Griffin at Boulogne. The next day, however, they arrived safely at Bale, cheerful but exhausted.

While we were still in England the newspapers reported 'no snow' or 'very fine' at the principal winter sports centres, and Savognin, our destination, was no exception. The second day after our arrival, however, there was a fall of three or four inches, and with that we had to rest content for the remainder of our stay. But the shortage of snow was more than made up for by the extraordinary fine weather, (seldom met with during the first days of January).

Naturally enough, the first three or four days were spent in enthusiastic practice on the 'home' slopes, and as a result of this Blockey, Harrisson G. G., Hyde, Falconer, Steynor and Wertheim turned out promising skiers.

Expeditions up various small peaks and to the nearer villages in the valley of the Julien were frequent and much enjoyed. It was on one of these that Falconer met with a rather distressing experience, for, after climbing an almost perpendicular piece on the side of the Piz Michel, he turned to descend, but unfortunately, taking a false step, he was landed some distance below in an incredibly short time. Miraculously, however, his face, on which he had travelled for the greater part of this descent, suffered no injury.

Every evening sing-songs took place, and brought to light some hitherto hidden stars. Woods, as an irate sergeant, and Niven, as a slightly muddled recruit, were a source of great amusement. In contrast to the lighter side of these performances, Steynor on several occasions provided us with very good music, which was always much appreciated.

The room in which these sing-songs took place was as near 'rag' proof as possible—in fact, repeated attacks completely failed to knock the plaster from the walls. In view of this fact, it seems reasonable to suggest that the Swiss builders should be introduced to Messrs. Parnell with the least possible delay.

C.D.H.

THE BLOCKING OF ZEEBRUGGE

A LECTURE BY CAPTAIN A. F. B. CARPENTER, V.C., R.N.

On Saturday, February 28th, the School was privileged to hear a lecture by Captain A. F. B. Carpenter, V.C., R.N., on the blocking of Zeebrugge.

Captain Carpenter began by telling us how near we came to losing the war. The Germans had for some time been very seriously endangering our food supplies. Ships from America and our Colonies wishing to come into English ports were in constant fear of being sunk by enemy submarines.

Owing to the inconvenience of using German ports as bases for these submarine attacks, the enemy had occupied certain harbours along the Belgian coast for this purpose.

One such town was Bruges, an extremely important base; it was actually several miles inland, but was connected to the sea by a canal, at the entrance of which is the small port of Zeebrugge.

Our naval authorities realised the importance of preventing the Germans from using this canal, but at the same time had to admit that there were enormous difficulties to be encountered. 'That,' said Captain Carpenter, 'was why we attempted it.'

The canal entrance was protected by a long mole or breakwater stretching round from the shore on the West of Zeebrugge right across to the other side of it. On to this mole ran a railway over a viaduct from the shore, and thus reinforcements could be brought along easily and quickly. Guns were placed on the end of the mole to prevent hostile ships approaching, and further along there were aeroplane sheds and trenches protected by barbed wire entanglements. Two booms for impeding incoming ships lay across the channel between the end of the mole and the Eastern shore.

Should any attacking ship, by good fortune or good management, escape the gunfire from the end of the mole, it was an extremely difficult task to get on to the mole itself to disable the guns, and make it safe for blockships to enter the harbour. The high outer wall was surmounted by a parapet, which necessitated a four-foot jump on to a ridge running along the mole on the inside. Then an iron railing and a sixteen-foot drop separated this ridge from the surface of the mole below.

In addition to these local obstacles, it was practically impossible, except in a fog, to approach the mole either by day or by night, on account of the mines in the sea and the guns all along the coast, which would fire at night by the light of star shells.

In spite of these difficulties it was decided to make an attempt to block the canal at Zeebrugge, and the plan was roughly this: that three ships should approach the mole in a fog manufactured by motor boats, and land men on it by means of gangways and ladders. These men would knock out the German guns on the end of the mole, while a submarine would blow up a part of the railway viaduct to prevent the arrival of reinforcements. Then, finally, blockships would come round the mole and sink themselves in the narrow channel at the entrance of the canal.

The enterprise was fixed for April 23rd, 1918, a day which, by a strange, perhaps fateful, coincidence, was an anniversary of St. George's Day.

The ships, among which was Captain Carpenter's own cruiser, the *Vindictive*, set off from Dover, and approached the Belgian coast towards midnight, when it started to rain.

As they neared the mole the motor boats began to make their smoke screen. The wind changed, however, and the smoke began to drift seawards instead of towards the land. Consequently our ships ran into their own fog, and suddenly the whole screen lifted and they were confronted by the German six-gun battery on the mole.

Nevertheless, either because the German gunners became excited, or because the ships were so near that it was impossible to depress the guns enough to find the necessary close range, or because fate, having presented us with a rainy night and the wrong wind, had decided that it was our turn for the luck, the *Vindictive* managed to escape the guns and run alongside the mole. A storming party was then landed and succeeded in completely disabling the enemy guns, thus making it safe for the blockships to approach the canal.

Meanwhile, a few minutes after the *Vindictive* had arrived at the mole, a submarine had got to the railway viaduct and blown a hole in it. This prevented such reinforcements as could come to the rescue from inland from getting on to the mole, and incidentally proved the downfall of a German cyclist corps, cycling to the help of their comrades some while later.

Then the blockships steamed round the mole in pitch darkness, one of them, the *Thetis*, making for the canal entrance. After indicating by means of coloured lights the direction of the canal to the ships behind, the *Intrepid* and the *Iphigenia*, she sank some distance from the shore.

Finally these two blockships steamed up the channel, and first the *Intrepid* then the *Iphigenia* was sunk right across the narrow part of the canal mouth, and the blocking of the Zeebrugge canal was completed.

It only remained now to get away from the mole. All the survivors had been rescued by various motor boats, and the *Vindictive* steamed away under a smoke screen of her own making, arriving at Dover next morning.

To repeat a rather amusing story from Captain Carpenter's book, *The Blocking of Zeebrugge*; a young officer at Dover wired to Captain Carpenter's wife the following message: 'Operation successful. Husband quite alright.' The recipient, who knew nothing of the enterprise at all, guessed that it was appendicitis!

The lecturer very naturally did not tell us all we should have liked to have known about his own share in the operation. But he was responsible not only for the actual carrying out of the enterprise but also for a very large part of the planning of it. For what he did Captain Carpenter was awarded the V.C.

J. M. REEVES.

SUNRISE

THE Sun had not yet risen when I came out of the house, but in another half-hour it would be on its way across the heavens. We swung on to our horses and cantered slowly over the fields. My horse, usually so restive and full of fire, was strangely quiet. As we went through the herds of cattle they moved soberly away from our path, in a manner very different from that in which they usually got out

of our way. Even the young steers were not fighting one another, and from the wood on our left there came no twittering of birds. All creation seemed to be awaiting some great event.

We reined in our horses and also awaited; for what is man, that he should disturb the sacred stillness of that time? At last! Over the rim of the horizon we caught a glimpse of a ball of fire. Slowly the Sun rose till half of it was visible. The dew seemed to twinkle more brightly. The cattle stirred. Pontus threw up his head and whinnied, and the clinking of the bridle sounded like the delicate tinkle of a chapel bell calling the good to worship.

Then, as if a signal had been given, the world burst into life; the cattle bellowed and started their daily battles, and from the wood came the sweet notes of many birds.

As the Sun finally rose above the horizon we turned and went home, strangely silent.

C. B. JONES.

THE POET

Although in poetry I delight,
In lightsome song, and sacred chant;
Though poetry I long to write,
I simply can't.

I tried one day, what madness mine,
Among the Muses' haunts to roam:
But, sad to say, the Sacred Nine
Were not at home.

I got some paper and a pen,
A plentiful supply of ink,
A cushion and a chair, and then
Began to think.

Steeped in poetic ecstasy
I thought of old, forgotten things,
Of heroes, and sad stories *re*
The deaths of kings.

I thought and thought, till in despair
I vainly raved and tore my hair,
Hurled forth expletives to the air,
Rushed madly here, rushed madly there,
And then, with throat too sore to swear,
And in my eyes a frenzied glare,
Fainting collapsed into a chair.

I'll get some wool, some pins, and knit.
'Poeta nascitur non fit.'

D. M. S.

CAVES

A FEELING of glamour and mystery is always associated with caves. One never knows what one's own particular brand of cave will be like, when one really does find it. Perhaps, like Alice in Wonderland, one will fall into a bottomless pit; or some member of our impoverished nobility will unearth the wealth of some stately Spanish galleon. By means of his opportune discovery, he will promptly re-buy the country mansion, sold to an American millionaire, and live happily ever afterwards.

And, without caves, where indeed would writers find places for their heroes to discover bales of wool, lace, wines, treasure, damsels in distress and other creations of their fertile minds? Or the heroine, standing tide-bound on some convenient ledge of rock, see her lover cleaving the water with mighty strokes to perform the conventional rescue? And what a wealth comes to the view of some so-called celebrated geologist in his search for prehistoric remains inside his tedious cave.

Without caves and their surrounding débris, the harbour-bar might experience a little difficulty in its moaning. And women would be denied the privilege of weeping. In short, caves have their uses for all; the wine-bibber, the merchant, the lord, the hero, the lover, all taste their varied joys. And should caves terminate their versatile career, the effects on all branches of life would be more profound and far-reaching than any French or Russian Revolution. E. J. OLIVER.

ACROSS THE COURTYARD

ACROSS the little courtyard, with its stone paving and wooden sundial, are the mossy roofs, creeper-covered walls and diamond-paned windows of the far side of the building. Across the green roofs are the old, old cedar trees and again, behind the trees, the evening sun, bright gold in his old age, filtering tiny beams through the dense foliage of the cedars. The window is open and the soft, fragrant scent of old-fashioned wall-flowers comes up to me on the breeze from the court below, while a chimney smokes dully and aimlessly in an angle of the roof. The birds that nest in the cedars are beginning their evening song—at first a few chirps from single birds, then full-throated bursts from the whole assembly, until there is one joyful, unceasing medley. Peace has thrown a mantle over the world, and still I sit on by the open window—lost somewhere in a world of sparrows, red creepers and wall-flowers.

Quite suddenly the sun drops behind the mossy roof, the tiny beams go out in the trees, like so many quickly-extinguished candles, and the court becomes grey and dark. The breeze from the window becomes cooler, the birds grow quieter and the clear sky is dyed a deeper blue, while the once green cedars turn to black velvet silhouetted against it. Silver stars show for an instant, wink, and then go out again. A pin-point of yellow light appears in one of the windows across the court . . .

A cat cries to its mate somewhere below, and I awake from my dreams, realise that I am shivering from the cold air at the open window, jump up and light a lamp. From within the lighted room the window I have been sitting at seems a dark blue patch, with the light from the window opposite making a little golden square in the big blue one. I go to the window, listen to the nightingale singing in his lonely glory in the dark trees and smell again the scent of the wall-flowers. Then I draw the curtain across the darkened panes.

A. R. H. WARD.

RUINS

IT was in the late autumn, and a few days before our return to England after a prolonged summer holiday. It was still warm, but the approach of winter could be noticed on the bigger mountains, and the flow of English and American visitors which had gone on unceasingly for so many weeks, had now died down altogether.

My companion, a keen walker, urged me to go for our last tramp before confining our energies to packing. I was persuaded, and now I am glad that I was, for although going no great distance, we found a thing that attracted our thoughts for many long weeks after.

What we found were ruins of an entirely new type, ruins with death, nay famine, disease, war—fear perchance—written large upon them.

That village! Even now, three years later, as I look back on the evening when, in the lurid rays of a setting sun, I stood in that village, deserted by its inhabitants for many decades, a cold shiver runs through me.

There was only one street, as in most Swiss villages, and that was covered with weeds and shrubs. The houses were tinted a deep pink, as the sun took its final peep at what once had been a centre of human life. No thing stirred. No birds flew by, or hovered squawling overhead. Here life was dead. Our voices echoed among the house-tops, as if Death itself were lurking here, and mocking us.

Just as it had been left, so everything remained. The little gardens, generally so cheerful, now could only show grass, and a few straggling plants. The church was falling to decay. Its door stood open, just as some worshippers perhaps left it in their hasty flight so many months ago.

The sun dipped behind a peak; all was now in deep shadow. We shuddered and turned to go, our minds filled with many queer conjectures.

C. D. HARRISON.

APOCALYPTICS

TO the best of my knowledge my pulse was quite normal, and my brain just as usual, when I went to my room on that memorable Thursday night. I remember throwing open the window, and sinking down into a comfortable armchair by the fire. The last thing I noticed before dropping off to sleep was a faint humming sound, but whence it came I did not know. It must have been about half-past twelve when I woke up; the fire was out and my candle had burned down to a mere stump. How long I sat I do not know, but suddenly I became aware of something at my elbow. I turned my head round, for my body seemed paralysed, and saw a man, a man of imposing stature. His head was erect, his chest thrown out; but his eyes! I shall never forget those eyes—they seemed to burn into my innermost heart. Then I became aware of a voice, vaguely menacing, terrifying: 'and I have been sent from the Underworld, that place where lives the all-powerful, the almighty, the most potent Prince of Princes, Lucifer, my master. And I am to use you as his mouth-piece. Go! tell the world his message. The storm of Hades will burst! the world will be destroyed! the armies of him whom you call Satan will be upon you! fire worse than the most awful eruptions of Etna will consume you! shackles worse than writhing adders will encircle you! you shall be cast into a burning pit! you shall live in eternal agony! ay! all this, and worse. The end will come—somehow. One thing holds my master back. At the entrance to this world there stands an angel, and whosoever he looks upon dies! Go! tell all!' He vanished. I rushed downstairs, and poured out a wild tale, illustrated with gesticulations, into the ears of a constable.

I am now in an asylum for dangerous maniacs. But his words, 'The end will come—somehow,' are always in my ears.

T. J. FIRBANK.

SPORTS RESULTS, 1925

EVENT.	1ST.	2ND.	3RD.	TIME.
100 Yards : Junior	Kerr.	Freeman.	Still.	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ sec.
" " Open	Swaync.	Wilkinson.	Cox, E. R.	11 sec.
Half-Mile : Junior	Still	Farwig.	Morison.	2 m. 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ s.
" " Open	Farmiloe.	Edden.	Bowen.	2 m. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ s.
120 Yards				
Hurdles : Junior	Carr.	Freeman.	Charters.	20 sec.
" " Open	Wilkinson.	Swaync.	Croft, N.A.C.	19 sec.
220 Yards : Junior	Kerr.	Freeman.	Still.	25 $\frac{1}{2}$ sec.
" " Open	Cox, E. R.	Swaync.	Jones, C. B.	24 $\frac{1}{2}$ sec.
One Mile : Junior	Farwig.	Carr.	Still.	5 m. 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ s.
" " Open	Edden.	Bowen.	Hartland-Swann, ma.	5 m. 8 s.
Quarter-Mile : Junior	Freeman.	Kerr.	Best.	59 $\frac{1}{2}$ sec.
" " Open	Cox, E. R.	Woods.	Croft, N.A.C.	57 $\frac{1}{2}$ sec.
High Jump : Junior	Burroughes.	{ Kerr. Tonson-Ryc		HEIGHT OR LENGTH. 4 ft. 7 in.
" " Open	Drayson.	{ Harriss. Turrall.		4 ft. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.
Long Jump : Junior	Kerr.	Best.	Murray.	16 ft. 4 in.
" " Open	Swaync.	Croft, N.A.C.	Brooke.	18 ft. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

EVENT.	POINTS.				
	BRUCE.	TEMPLE.	GRENVILLE.	CHANDOS.	COBHAM.
100 Yards : Open	—	—	9	12	—
" " Junior	—	—	2	8	4
Half-Mile : Open	—	—	12	9	—
" " Junior	—	—	10	4	—
High Jump : Open	12	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
" " Junior	—	8	—	3	3
Hurdles : Open	—	—	12	9	—
" " Junior	8	—	—	—	6
220 Yards : Open	—	—	15	6	—
" " Junior	—	—	2	8	4
One Mile : Open	3	—	—	18	—
" " Junior	4	—	2	8	—
Long Jump : Open	—	—	—	21	—
" " Junior	—	4	—	8	2
Quarter-Mile : Open	—	—	12	9	—
" " Junior	—	2	—	4	8
TOTAL	27	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	76	131 $\frac{1}{2}$	27

WINNING HOUSE : CHANDOS.

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