

THE STOIC



Number Fifty-seven

APRIL 1942

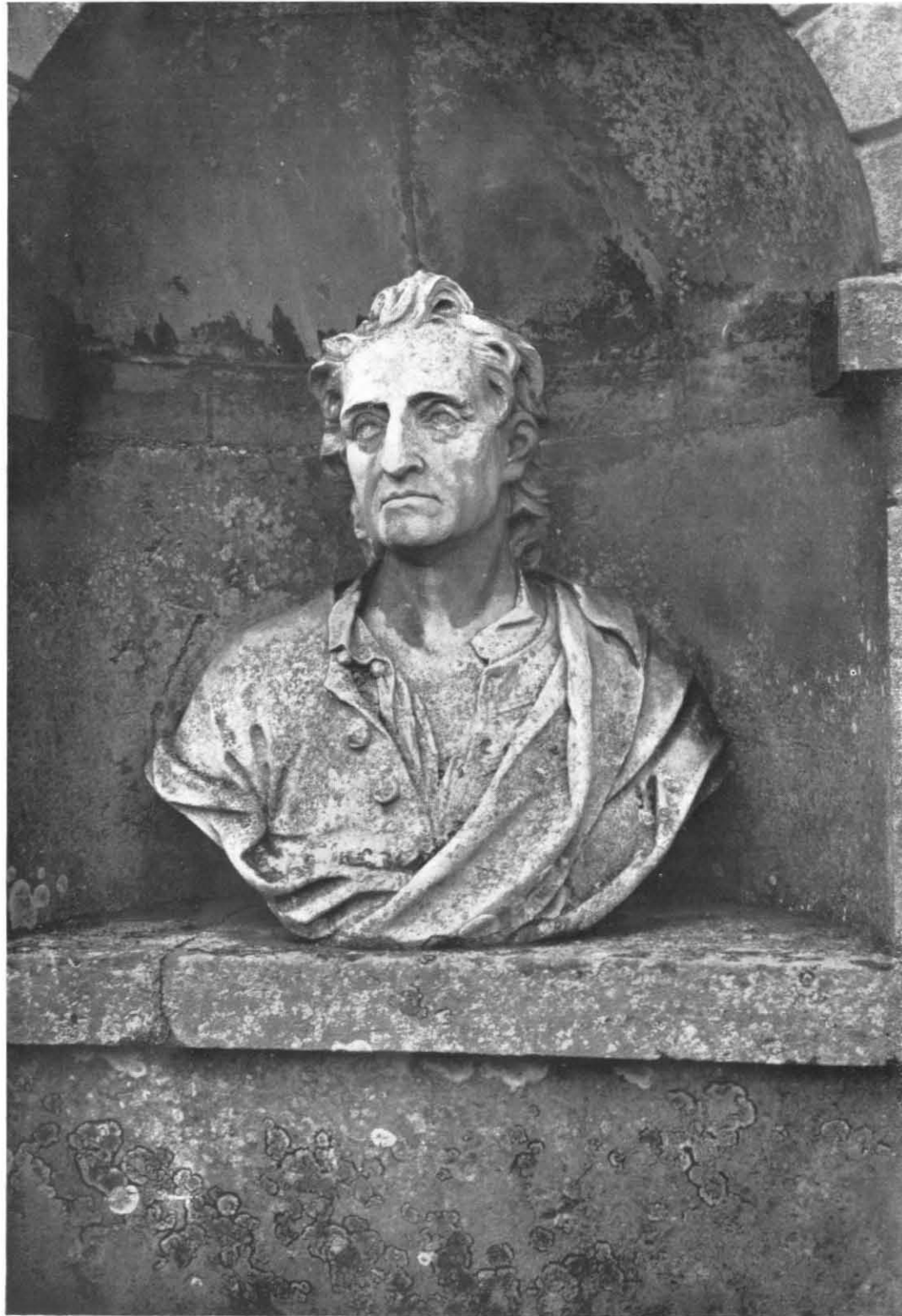


Photo by

JOHN LOCKE
(The British Worthies)

[J.F.R.]

THE STOIC

VOL. X

APRIL 1942

No. 2

MAD DOGS . . .

IT was the hottest day of last summer and the weary cadets had spent a day of training in strategic withdrawals and last-man stands. Tired, they had been re-formed and were marching back along the road. The freshness of the morning had departed from them, and the water bottles had long since given out.

But there was a new-comer, a black dog, whose sprightliness formed a sharp contrast to the plodding masses. Head and tail stretched high, the dog marched in the van of the column, only leaving his position for periodical drives to keep up the stragglers. Then he would return again to the head of his column with the "God's in his heaven, all's right with the world" look on his face. From the drooping ranks came the faint strains of "Tipperary" and the drag of heavy boots formed a rhythm which made him bark and whine in his ecstasy. Now he marched without glancing behind him, yet seeing nothing before his eyes. Long after the cadets had been halted, he continued, heedless. In his ears the music still resounded, and gradually he started to run, running defiantly against the breezes which grew up in front of him. He leapt ditches and raced across fields, barking madly and triumphantly. The world fell flat before his feet until finally, far beyond the shades of the Corinthian, he fell into a weedy pond and was drowned.

Without a doubt, this story holds a moral; but morals are not the province of the editor, and so there for the duration the matter must rest.

OLIM ALUMNI

MR. P. R. H. HASTINGS (T, 1939) captained the Welsh Guards Rugby XV from October to December. The side won its first ten matches, scoring 100 points to 17, but was beaten 6-3 in its eleventh match by St. Mary's Hospital.

In the Seniors v. Freshmen Athletics Match at Cambridge, on February 20th, the Mile was won by MR. P. C. HOLDEN (B, 1941), and the Half-Mile by MR. R. D. LIGHTFOOT (W, 1941).

CASUALTIES

KILLED.

- LIEUTENANT C. E. O'HARA (G, 1928), Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. (On Active Service.)
 CORPORAL A. W. MYERS (G, 1930), R.A.S.C., in August 1940. (In Action.)
 GUNNER J. C. B. HARRIS (C, 1930), R.A., in December 1941. (On Active Service.)
 LIEUTENANT J. M. NAPIER, M.C. (G, 1932), 7th Hussars, in November 1941. (In Action.)
 LIEUTENANT T. E. GODMAN, D.S.C. (T, 1933), R.N.V.R., in January 1942. (In Action.)
 PILOT OFFICER THE HON. W. R. C. B. PARKER (G, 1934), R.A.F.V.R., in December 1941. (O.A.S.)
 LIEUTENANT R. P. ALDERSON (C, 1935), F.A.U., in February 1942. (In Action.)
 PAYMASTER-SUB-LIEUTENANT H. F. LE LACHEUR (B, 1936), R.N.V.R., in November 1941. (Presumed: In Action.)
 SECOND LIEUTENANT P. A. L. WRIGHT (T, 1937), R.B., in November 1941. (In Action.)
 CAPTAIN P. F. LOW (C, 1937), Royal Irish Fusiliers, in February 1942. (Enemy action, Malta.)
 SECOND LIEUTENANT J. J. O. HUTCHISON (C, 1938), 10th Royal Hussars, in January 1942. (In Action.)
 LIEUTENANT P. F. E. FOSTER (G, 1938), 10th Royal Hussars, in January 1942. (In Action.)
 PILOT OFFICER G. K. EATON (C, 1938), R.A.F.V.R., in December 1941. (O.A.S.)
 PILOT OFFICER D. M. BOLTON (C, 1939), R.A.F.V.R., in July 1941. (Previously missing, now officially presumed killed in action.)
 PILOT OFFICER T. D. DAWSON (C, 1939), R.A.F.V.R., in January 1942. (O.A.S.)

MISSING.

- PAYMASTER-SUB-LIEUTENANT H. G. T. HEALE (B, 1927), R.N.R., in December 1941.
 CAPTAIN J. N. FEATHERS (G, 1928), R.A.S.C., in March 1942.
 MAJOR C. ROCHFORD-BOYD (T, 1928), R.A., in January 1942.
 MR. W. D. P. BEAUCHAMP (G, 1930), Ministry of Information, in February 1942.
 MAJOR R. T. BASSET, M.C. (G, 1931), R.B., in February 1942. (Also Wounded.)
 CAPTAIN M. L. GILBERT (T, 1931), R.H.A., in February 1942.
 CAPTAIN E. W. SCONCE (G, 1931), R.A., in March 1942.
 FLYING OFFICER M. H. FRANKLIN (C, 1937), R.A.F., in April 1941. (Feared Killed.)
 PILOT OFFICER J. A. BARCLAY (C, 1939), R.A.F.V.R., in December 1941. (Believed Killed in Action.)

PRISONER OF WAR.

- PILOT OFFICER E. G. M. BOND (B, 1927), R.A.F.V.R., in January 1942.
 C. E. LOVEGROVE (C, 1929), A.I.F., in April 1941. (In Italy.)

- LIEUTENANT R. M. CLARKE (C, 1935), 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, in December 1941. (In Italy: previously reported missing.)
 PILOT OFFICER J. A. R. FALCONER (W, 1936), R.A.F.V.R., in December 1941. (Also Wounded.)
 FLYING OFFICER R. KEE (G, 1937), R.A.F. (in March, 1942.)

WOUNDED.

- CAPTAIN A. W. A. LLEWELLEN PALMER, M.C. (C, 1930), R.A.C., in December 1941.
 CAPTAIN J. P. SEARIGHT (C, 1934), Royal Fusiliers, in February 1941.
 LIEUTENANT B. A. PARNWELL (G, 1935), Royal Fusiliers, in June 1941.
 CAPTAIN K. P. P. GOLDSCHMIDT (C, 1935), Leicestershire Regt., in November 1941. (Second time.)
 SUB-LIEUTENANT (A) P. HOWSON (C, 1937), R.N.V.R., in January 1942.

DECORATIONS

The following awards have been won by Old Stoics in addition to the thirty-eight already listed. Mentions in Despatches are not included in this total.

D.S.C.

- SUB-LIEUTENANT L. A. PIRIE (G, 1935), R.N.V.R., in March 1942.

BAR TO M.C.

- MAJOR R. T. BASSET, M.C. (G, 1931), Rifle Brigade, in February 1942.

M.C.

- CAPTAIN A. H. ROOSMALECOCK (C, 1928), 6th Rajputana Rifles, I.A., in December 1941.
 CAPTAIN A. W. A. LLEWELLEN PALMER (C, 1930), R.A.C. (Dragoon Guards), in December 1941.
 LIEUTENANT R. A. P. TEMPLE (T, 1930), K.R.R.C., in February 1942.
 CAPTAIN J. B. HEYCOCK (B, 1932), R.A.M.C., in January 1942.

D.F.C.

- FLYING OFFICER P. W. FORSYTH (C, 1936), R.A.F., in March 1941.

M.B.E.

- LIEUTENANT (A) R. S. LLOYD (C, 1935), R.N.V.R., in March 1941.

MENTIONED IN DESPACHES

- LIEUTENANT A. H. SALAMON (G, 1932), R.N.V.R.
 CAPTAIN J. P. SEARIGHT (C, 1934), Royal Fusiliers.
 CAPTAIN D. W. BASSET (G, 1934), R.B.
 LIEUTENANT G. B. DAWSON (C, 1935), Cheshire Yeomanry.
 LIEUTENANT M. W. G. GREENLEY (W, 1937), R.A.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM OLD STOICS IN THE SERVICES

NIGHT FLYING

It's funny in this night flying racket how one comes to regard the night as one's own particular heritage. There is a curious sense of finality about a night take-off, as the lights disappear and only the luminous instrument-panels tell you your posture. I think it is a change from an ordinary human being to an ethereal one. If you can see the midget plane in a black eternity, held up by the Grace of God and a pair of wings, and the midget pilot in a world of his own bounded by the sides of his cockpit, giving his brain to the mechanical toy that is his guarantee of security, then you may understand how detached one's spirit seems to become from one's body, and how terribly cheap the earth seems afterwards.

DUST

Unluckily, we then ran into a belt of really bad pulverised dust. This particular dust is fine enough for a face-powder. But it has not the necessary properties to make a dusting so harmless. It penetrates anything, and makes everyone utterly filthy through and through. During a lull in the storm I saw in the road ahead of me a really lovely creature. He was a greater kudu, big, slate-grey, with four or five barrel-hoop white lines across his shoulders and the back of his chest. He made a most pleasant interlude. We blinded on, with engines boiling and sumps scraping up mountainous waves of rolling dust. We even passed and re-passed other trucks unknowing where they were or who they were. Convoy work being hopeless, and things being disorganized, I began hopping out every time I saw an edible bird. The result of my shooting was not classy, as I missed three bustards flying directly away from me, and quite close too. But a pair of yellow-necked partridges died politely.

W. and I spent the better part of the next day lying on our backs on Africa underneath my car, fiddling with rubber pipes, awkward nuts and bolts, and all the time swallowing the pints of dust that every ledge, nook and cranny of the car had collected.

ABYSSINIA

Left the grassy plain and climbed fast through a barren line of hills. We had a magnificent panorama for at least fifty miles into huge broken country. Our way alternated between rocky climbs and descents clothed in the inevitable bush and hill-bounded plateaus full of rain-sodden soil and maize and millet and cattle. Pretty well each one had its village. So we arrived at Harar. Its approaches are very magnificent. The road comes through a high pass whence the town is visible between several mountain flanks and high up on the other side of a big valley. The depths were arid and filled with thorn bush, and the climb to Harar was exciting as we passed country that was changing incredibly as we climbed from the barren to the prolific; from dry thorn to fruit-tree-lined streams at whose fords and bridges the local damsels in their dirty best hawked oranges, bananas, mangos, paw-paws and prickly-pears. After a few miles of that, we came to lands where the fruit grew not only on stream sides but in orchards on the open hillside. So past this heaven of beauty and into dull country to the railway, a town, and miles and miles of bad country full of bush and rain and watercourses with the mountains to left and the plains to right.

Next day through the same country, getting higher and higher, and still the mountains and the plains, until we had crossed a replica of the grand Canyon and camped. There were 'skitos.

Next day we got higher and higher through widely tilled, very wet, valleys, with hardly any bush, and fine grass and horses, and so we arrived at Addis.

FISH AND FLESH IN SOMALILAND

A line and hook baited with a raw piece of meat or bacon-rind produces a very reasonable species of fish, presumably mudfish, in fair quantity. I snooped away from the scene of my job and indulged in a spot of line-dangling, but nothing happened to my scrap of bacon-rind. That evening we had a further effort at night shooting. W. and I took a light truck and went out slightly beerily to the Mog road. We wandered torchlit through a great deal of completely empty bush, empty that is to say of the moving pinpoint lights that we were seeking. Actually I shot a hare. While we were walking back to the car the wandering beam illuminated a veritable forest of eyes and we jumped to action stations. I put down my gun and the dead hare and lighted the eyes for W. We stalked for a few yards and he had a sight, but all the creatures were little Dik-diks which are very small deer-like creatures that at night have an uncanny resemblance to the Milne-Shepard creature called Piglet—but the piglet is horizontal. There is very little more meat on them than on a big rabbit.

EN ROUTE FOR THE M.E.

There we trans-shipped on to American Troopships and have been on them ever since. Things are rather different from what they were in our English boat. The men do not sit down to meals; all meals are on the Cafeteria system, i.e., each man collects all his food on a tray, which has different-shaped recesses, and then goes off and eats it, *a la* Woolworth's. The food is good, typically American, but a very well designed diet, though the men miss the solid English food and tea which they had on the British ship. Nevertheless it will have done them no harm and they have certainly had a variety which they never had before—such things as grape-fruit, oranges, asparagus, flapjacks, sweet corn, potato salad, and coffee, though tea has gradually superseded it. But the Americans do not know how to make tea. The troops' chief complaint is that they always feel hungry, but I believe that is by design on the part of the A.D.M.S., as in the heat I imagine that the lighter the meals they eat the better.

One other thing—there is no beer or other alcohol on the ship. All American ships are dry and the only drink other than tea and coffee is Iced Water and Lemonade. The men don't much 'take' to either iced coffee or iced tea . . .

. . . The visit to South Africa was a real treat and I made the most of it, especially as I can't tell if I shall pass that way again. I went on shore all four days, and on each day I did something different. The hospitality was tremendous; never have I seen anything like it. Cars *ad lib* were available and any man who wanted was driven all round the country and entertained right royally in their own houses by the residents.

It is really appalling to think how small one's knowledge of the Empire is, and it is even more shattering when you have your ignorance emphasized by a first sight of South Africa. You will gather that I have become "Empire conscious," and I certainly have.

On the first day there was a dance at a country club a few miles out. It was being run for our benefit and we had a grand time. In the middle of the dance General Smuts appeared to greet us, which he did in a short and witty speech. The proposer of the vote of thanks duly told us that, if it had not been for General Smuts, British convoys would not have been able to use South African harbours. In that case the whole course of the war might have been changed—and not for the better.

Next day four of us were lent a car and we went off to a place where they do surf bathing. I shall need a bit more practice before I become adept at that game and be able to ride on my board the whole way on top of a wave. It is a grand feeling when you can do it.

Meanwhile the men had been amusing themselves in different ways with the help of their most hospitable hosts. It was the first time for four weeks that any of them had tasted beer. I am glad to say that they behaved well!

STOICA

School Officials—Easter Term, 1942.

Prefects :—J. D. R. Hayward (G), Head of the School; J. E. Murray (B); I. R. Dunnett (G), Prefect of Gymnasium; J. S. M. Ramsay (T), Prefect of Chapel; W. E. Duck (W); P. D. Bennett (B), Prefect of Library; J. W. Cornforth (G); A. R. Barrowclough (G); D. A. S. Gordon (W); A. J. Gray (T); R. E. Hodgkin (C); W. R. Mallory (C); C. E. Guinness (C), Prefect of Library; A. B. Oliveira (C).

BIRTH.—On February 28th, to Mary, wife of Martin Cooper, Vancouver Lodge, Dadford—a daughter.

The cold weather at the beginning of the term caused many difficulties for those returning, including for some a night in the lounge of a local hotel. One of the editors was returned safely to Stowe, though unstamped and unaddressed, in a postal van.

Skating was possible on the lakes continuously from the beginning of the term to February 28th and for two further days in March, the 7th and 8th. During this time, the longest spell of skating we have ever had here, ice-hockey was played and Grenville won the Cup back from Temple. The games were marked by a traditional lack of regulations. On February 18th, an Ice Carnival was held on the Eleven Acre, in which both skaters and spectators joined.

The cold brought other benefits apart from skating.

There was no P.T. this term.

We were glad to see an Old Stoic this term who came down to convalesce for a week from the effects of the arduous duties of an Intelligence Officer. Owing to frequent runs, lectures and substitutions for indisposed masters, he appeared to be in a yet more strained condition at his departure.

On Tuesday, March 17th, Captain Coulter of the Canadian Intelligence Corps gave an inspiring talk on Canada to members of the Upper School.

A. J. Gray (T) played for the Rest of England Public Schools against the Catholic Schools during the holidays.

At the end of last term the following Football Colours were awarded: 1st XV., A. R. Barrowclough (G), D. A. O. Davies (T), I. R. Dunnett (G). 3rd XV., E. A. Harding (B), R. M. Verdon-Roe (B), M. E. Fawcus (W), D. C. Forsyth (G), J. A. D. Rofé (G), H. J. Verney (G), D. B. Eaglesfield (T), D. C. Lunn-Rockliffe (C), R. A. Yule (B). Colts Stockings, J. G. O. W. Yerburgh (B), J. S. Perry (C), J. C. B. Bremner (C), H. J. M. Molloy (C), J. M. Ashcroft (C), I. E. C. Danvers (B).

The Triangular Athletic Match, arranged to take place at Radley, was cancelled. Radley had to withdraw, and Eton were unable to travel to Stowe.

Owing to shortage of space, Old Stoic Marriages and Births will, for the present, only be recorded in the Old Stoic Bulletin.

UNIVERSITY EXHIBITION.

The Bevis Brindley Exhibition (Modern Languages) at Clare College, Cambridge, has been awarded to D. A. S. Gordon (W).

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

As a result of the December Examination, School Certificates have been awarded to: M. C. Bagshawe (B), G. G. I. Barker (C), Sir G. H. F. Beaumont, Bart (W), A. N. C. Bruce (B), C. A. L. Circuit (W), G. T. G. Conant (B), P. H. Filmer-Sankey (C), R. A. Gilliland (W), M. R. B. Harris-Reed (G), J. F. L. Knight (T), S. C. Lloyd (B), M. A. Marshall (C), B. K. Montgomery (G), D. W. Partridge (W), D. R. Prestwich (G), W. H. N. Saunders (W), W. M. Savery (W), F. E. Schuster (G), A. J. R. Scott (B), J. M. Sykes (W), M. H. Toovey (C), G. Wachmann (G), W. G. Way (T), P. K. Withinshaw (C), J. A. Wood (C).

FIVES

Two School matches were arranged for this term, but both had to be cancelled, one through transport difficulties, the other because of our opponents' illness.

The House matches have not yet been played, because of difficulty and clashes with athletics.

W.E.D.

HOCKEY

Bad weather conditions this year sadly curtailed the length of what showed promise of being a very successful season. The first five matches had to be cancelled, and it does credit to those taking part that we were ready by the 14th of March to play St. Lawrence College.

As it was, our centre-forward, W. R. Mallory (C), was unable to perform, and Stowe started the match without much hope of victory. St. Lawrence scored the first goal after about seven minutes, with a forward movement which lured both our backs out of the centre and left only D. A. S. Gordon (W), our centre-half, to deal with four opposing forwards. Within five minutes T. S. A. Lack (G) had scored for Stowe, bringing the score up to one all, and the game then settled down for some ten minutes, when another rush on the part of the St. Lawrence forwards resulted in a goal. Shortly after this, J. C. Farmer (W) scored for Stowe, bringing the score up to two all.

With the score at two all and a decidedly favourable slope to play down in the coming half, no one had any doubts about our chances of victory. And indeed the first ten minutes of the second half went well towards bearing out these hopes. Our forwards were continually in the opponents' penalty area, but the third St. Lawrence goal, which their left inside, either with great skill or great luck, hit full pitch straight into our goal from a centre shot, marked a change in the play, and we were defending for most of the remainder of the game, which witnessed two more St. Lawrence goals. Towards the end the hitting became erratic and the exhausted condition of some of our players was evident.

Of the forwards D. B. Eaglesfield (T) and T. S. A. Lack (G) played very well, though the former showed a marked tendency to hang back and play a half's game. D. A. S. Gordon (W) and C. S. Wallis-King (G) played very well at centre-half and right-half respectively, and Gordon again and again helped the backs out of what threatened to develop into critical situations. The result of 5—2 was on the whole a much better one than was expected.

Two more school matches and the house matches have yet to be played.

School Colours have been awarded to D. A. S. Gordon (W) and C. S. Wallis-King (G).

It is to be hoped that next year conditions will be such as to make up for what has proved to be a rather disappointing season.

A.A.N.K.

CROSS COUNTRY

As last year, the cross-country was run over roads because the fields were frozen hard ; and considerable difficulty was experienced in the choice of a course, especially for the junior race. Eventually, however, the routes were decided upon and the race was run on Monday, February 16th, which is not very remarkable, the two races being won by the brothers Robinson, which is. It is the first time in the history of the race that this has happened. From the runner's point of view the weather could not have been better ; for the watchers it could not have been much worse. There was an icy wind, which, while cooling the heated runners, froze the spectators; the sun shone, but was not warm enough either to incommode the runners or to alleviate the frigidity of the watchers.

The massed start was again employed this year, but despite this distraction the starter triumphantly rode the storm for the nineteenth year in succession.

The juniors went off first in a bunch. By the time they had reached the Corinthian ditch, Robinson had taken the lead and he never lost it. His time was 17 mins. 57 secs. and he won from Pease by 7 seconds.

The Senior race started at a considerable speed, Robinson setting an exacting pace. He took the lead almost immediately and increased it unremittingly, till he came in 28 mins. 36.4 secs. later, to win by 40 seconds. Hayward was second till the Water-splash, but after keeping level with Murray up to the Corinthian was overtaken by him. The final positions of the first half-dozen were taken up in the carriage drive.

There was a large crowd, heavily clothed in coats and scarves, clustering round the labyrinth of rope soon to enclose the returning runners. A few bold spirits, determined to extract the full value from the race, followed it on bicycles. But for the majority the cold wind and the running commentary made a static appreciation of the race more desirable. By the east colonnade a complex arrangement of wireless transmitted the progress of the race through a loud speaker to the assembled multitude. Observers at the Oxford Lodge and the Corinthian told of the magnificent—if monotonous—progress of the Robinsons, of the calm resolution of those for whom the hope of being amongst the first half-dozen arrivals was not unfounded, of the sterner fixity of the majority, whose only desire is to be not worse than "average," of the more laughable condition of those nearer the end, whose job it is to provide a favourable background for the star runners and finally of the ludicrous tail-end, either smiling in hopeless resignation, or tomato-faced with rage.

The finish was made especially exciting by the fact that the runners, by coming along beside the Roman Road at the far side of the North Front and then turning right by the bicycle sheds to finish by the Cobham Arch, were visible as soon as they reached the Roman Road but were not recognizable—except to binoculars and, possibly, brothers—until they turned the corner and came nearer to the excited tumult at the finishing point.

The final placings were:—

Senior.—1, M. H. A. Robinson (W) ; 2, J. E. Murray (B) ; 3, R. D. R. Lycett Green (T) ; 4, D. L. C. Hodges (W) ; 5, J. D. R. Hayward (G) ; 6, R. M. Sellers (W) ; 7, J. E. Hodgkin (C) ; 8, D. L. Vere Hodge (G).

Junior.—1, I. H. Robinson (W) ; 2, R. M. H. Pease (G) ; 3, J. J. White (B) ; 4, J. R. Freeland (C) ; 5, C. Dansie (C) ; 6, C. S. Wallis-King (G) ; 7, P. W. I. Rees (T) ; 8, R. C. B. Chancellor (C).

House Placings were:—

<i>Senior.</i>		<i>Junior.</i>		<i>Combined</i>	
1. Walpole	834	Chatham	292	Walpole	1118
2. Grenville	741	Cobham	288	Grenville	997
3. Bruce	663	Walpole	284	Cobham	948

A cross-country match arranged against Uppingham had to be cancelled, because of mumps there.



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A FORWARD POST AT TOBRUK

The figure on the right is Captain K. P. P. Goldschmidt (Chat. 1935)

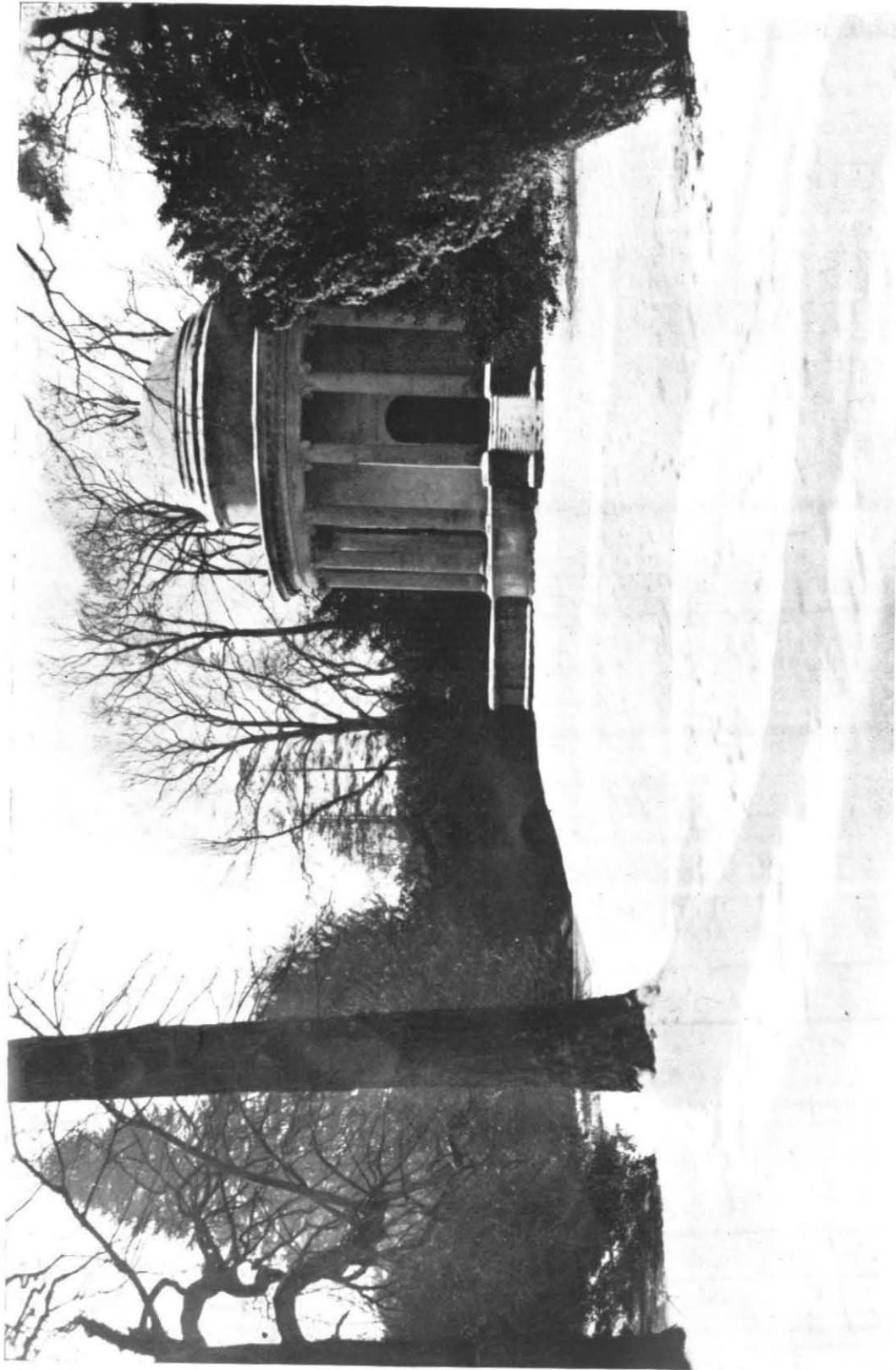


Photo by

THE TEMPLE OF ANCIENT VIRTUE

February 1942

J.F.R.

THE STOIC

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SQUASH

As usual these days we have had great difficulty in arranging matches and so far this term we have only managed to play two. Mr. Hands brought over a team of six with whom we drew 3-all, though it was our first three strings who lost. The other match was against Harrow, whom we beat 3-2. Neither side was at full strength and we won by the narrowest possible margin, Cullis winning the deciding match by 10-8 in the final game. It is hoped to play a match against a side from Oxford including R. H. Marten and I. J. H. Lewisohn.

Sir Francis Beaumont is easily the best player, but like all the others suffers from lack of match experience. He lost in both matches, once by easing up after a winning start, and against Harrow by never settling down in a strange court against an opponent who produced the hard hitting game of a Rackets player. J. F. Cullis and W. R. Mallory are about level next best and Cullis generally wins in matches.

The team against Mr. Hands' side was:—Sir F. Beaumont (W), W. R. Mallory (C), J. F. Cullis (W), D. B. Eaglesfield (T) and J. E. Colbeck (T). Against Harrow it was:—Sir F. Beaumont (W), J. F. Cullis (W), Lord Calthorpe (W), H. F. Deakin (W) and N. C. S. Barling (S).

Last term Walpole beat Temple in the House match final, and this term in the Junior House matches Grafton beat Chatham.

P.K.B.

SHOOTING

There has been no School shooting this term, but the Rifle Club has functioned as usual. A recruiting drive at the beginning of term increased the ever smaller band of faithful adherents.

The following have won spoons in the Rifle Club this term:—Class 'A': W. E. Duck (W), M. G. Manton (C), R. H. Prestwich (S). Class 'B': W. G. Way (T), J. M. Sykes (W), P. G. Shepherd (C).

W.E.D.

STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS

95, FRAMPTON STREET,
LONDON, N.W.8.

March 1942.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

Dear Sir,

Early in the New Year we held a very successful Social Evening jointly for the girls of the Mildred FitzGerald Club and our own Seniors. There was an excellent tea followed by the presentation of gifts, made by Westonbirt School, to the girls, some musical entertainment and dancing. The Juniors had an Evening of their own and chose to make up a party of 44 to go to the Coliseum pantomime.

We now have 120 names on the Club roll, and the average nightly attendance is 60-80 members. Over 90 Old Boys are serving, 2 of them with commissions in the R.A.F.V.R. The four-House system is working satisfactorily; at present Chandos has only a narrow lead over Grenville. Since Christmas eleven boys from school have been placed in good jobs. The Girls' Club we helped to start is at last in premises of its own, has 42 members and opens four nights a week.

The Senior footballers are top of their London Youth League; the Juniors are still playing, still losing and still enthusiastic! Over 100 Clubs are competing against each other, under arrangements made by the London Federation, in General Knowledge, Essay Writing and Art, and our boys have made over 90 entries, producing their efforts with great keenness. A War Savings Group, started in January, has saved more than £20, about 50% of the Club contributing.

I have been very keen on Cadet training for the boys, and they have taken well to the idea, so that we now have 53 Cadets as well as 29 Home Guard. Tom Green, our P.T. expert, is Sergt.-Major to our Company, which remains an individual unit of the 1st Marylebone (Royal Fusiliers)

Battalion. The local Home Guard have been most helpful during these initial stages, and the boys have responded by maintaining a high level of attendance on parade.

A typical weekly programme is therefore much as follows:—

Monday—Hobbies (Lino-cutting, Fretwork, Carpentry, Poster-work).

Tuesday—Cadet Parade.

Wednesday—Boxing and P.T. Sometimes a Film, Lecture or Discussion.

Thursday—Cadet Parade.

Friday—Open Night for Games, etc. Prayers nightly at 9.15 p.m.

Saturday.—Afternoon Football Matches.

The Club opens at 7 p.m. Activities end not much later than 9, and the Juniors have to be away from the Canteen Room by 9.30.

Marylebone is holding a Youth Week from the 20th to the 26th of April for the purpose of arousing interest in the local Youth Movement. The programme will consist of exhibitions and demonstrations of all Youth Organizations and clubs in the Borough at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, a large Meeting and a Church Parade. Stowe Club boys are running their own stand and preparing a grand show of handicraft work and a short history of the Club from its early days. The Cadets will be giving a demonstration of their work. This is the most serious attempt yet made in the Borough at Social Service propaganda, and I hope that everybody who can will visit the display between 7.30 and 10.15 p.m. sometime that week. For any further information, please apply to me.

Recent visitors have been Mrs. Weiler, Mr. and Mrs. John Weiler, Major Brian Shone (an old Club helper), and Captain H. P. Croom-Johnson, who with Major R. A. C. Radcliffe has brought us the help of the Army Welfare Dept.

We all long for a camp at Stowe again; if we can't come, it must be Youth Hostels once more, but a Stowe camp takes some beating.

With best wishes and thanks to you all,

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ALBERT E. CREWDSON (*Warden*).

A FEW IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

FINANCE.

The Stowe Club is not endowed and depends entirely on past and present members of the School, the Staff and friends of Stowe for its income. A membership of 150 is meagrely provided for. In spite of every sound economy its slender capital has to be drawn on at times to meet current expenses. More donations and annual subscriptions would make the task of those who bear the brunt of its organization and management less exacting. The Club has little remuneration of any kind to offer its officials. The Stowe Committee of masters and the London Committee of Old Stoics are purely honorary. The Club boys themselves contribute something towards the cost of every single activity.

In the year ending June 30th, 1941, the Old Stoics subscribed £318 (£307 by banker's orders) and the Stowe boys contributed £109 direct and another £71 through Chapel collections towards Club funds.

Particulars of the subscriptions list are entirely private to me. Any sum of money, no matter how small it may seem, and especially if it can be sent regularly, will be most gratefully received and acknowledged. Banker's orders may be obtained from me at any time, but cheques, postal orders and cash are exceedingly welcome too. All serviceable gifts in kind (e.g. billiard and ping-pong tables, cast-off clothing, both men's and women's, and kit for games) should be sent direct to the Warden at 95, Frampton Street, London N.W.8. What cannot actually be used by the boys can be sold for their benefit.

VISITORS.

Anyone interested in Social Service is very welcome to visit the premises on any late afternoon or evening. Old Stoics in particular can do much good by looking in for an hour or so to see what is being done and what it is hoped to do. Visitors are never asked to give money or make gifts or run any activity. Their general interest is valued for its own sake. The Club has an excellent name in the London Federation and is happily conscious of every connection with Stowe.

A. B. CLIFFORD, *Hon. Treasurer*.

JUNIOR TRAINING CORPS NOTES

The following promotions have been made this term:—

To *Senior Under-Officer*: Under-Officer J. W. Cornforth (G).

To *Under-Officer*: Sergeants T. G. Heron (B), D. A. S. Gordon (W), R. E. Hodgkin (C), A. B. Oliveira (C), A. J. Gray (T), R. M. Sellers (W), J. E. Colbeck (T), N. E. Seely (T).

To *Sergeant*: Corporals D. C. Lunn-Rockcliffe (C), P. M. B. Greenall (C), S. C. Lloyd (B), M. B. Stevenson (G).

To *Corporal*: Lance-Corporals J. S. M. Ramsay (T), J. S. Barrowclough (W), G. Wachmann (G), R. O. H. Crewdson (C), A. N. C. Bruce (B), J. P. Sassoon (G), M. E. F. Law (C), M. A. Marshall (C), J. D. Milne (C), A. M. Quinton (T), P. W. Harvey (G), P. R. Toovey (C), T. H. Lawrence (G), J. A. D. Rofé (G), R. M. Hippisley-Cox (C), D. L. C. Hodges (W).

Appointed *Lance-Corporal*: Cadets C. E. Guinness (C), R. J. Sanders (G), R. S. Cross (T), J. C. Farmer (W), G. R. Lees (T), J. I. G. Capadose (T), P. C. Wason (W), C. E. N. Graham (C), the Hon. R. E. H. Keppel (W), D. G. Forsyth (G), W. M. Savery (W), G. W. McKelvie (W), H. J. H. Nelson (G).

There were 47 Recruits in January, bringing the strength of the Contingent up to 312 cadets.

TRAINING

Until the beginning of March, owing to the phenomenal weather conditions, practically all training had to be carried out indoors, and it says much for the resourcefulness and determination of all Instructors that parades maintained interest and led to progress.

The Under-Officers and N.C.Os. themselves received more advanced instruction by means of lectures followed by exercises on the sand-table and cloth-model. They also did some drill on their own.

The work of the Signallers has gained considerably by additions to the W/T equipment for the seniors and a thorough system of tests in Semaphore and Morse for the juniors. The Survey Section has again been keen to master its syllabus. The Senior Platoon has concentrated on Map Reading, Bayonet Fighting and sand-table exercises.

Preparation for War Certificate "A," either for the "Individual" or for the "Section Leader's" examinations, has concerned nearly 100 of the more junior cadets, and their training is now carried out almost entirely by the Under-Officers and N.C.Os., who thus bear very considerable responsibility.

The Recruits have had to cope with a number of circumstantial difficulties this term, but they are shaping well, and the summer will give them the scope they need. They are now entitled to a Government issue of battle-dress.

A reorganization of the Stowe Platoon of the Home Guard produces a more effective system of training. Two whole-day exercises have been held during March.

A.T.C. NOTES

On Tuesday, December 9th, 1941, the Flight received a visit from Air Commodore J. A. Chamier, D.S.O., C.B., C.M.G., O.B.E., Commandant of the Air Training Corps. After watching drill and inspecting the unit, the Air Commodore made a tour of the laboratories where work on Mathematics, Navigation, Air Frames and Theory of Flight was in progress.

A further thirteen cadets took Proficiency "A" in December and all were successful, making a total of twenty-two for the term. Fifteen cadets have recently passed the Morse Test and will take Proficiency "A" before the end of March.

On Saturday, February 14th, some 30 cadets from the Flight took part in the Buckingham Warship Week Parade.

A lecture on Aerial Photography with demonstrations of various types of camera was given by an R.A.F. Officer and two sessions have been devoted to 16 mm. sound films on the internal combustion engine, the apparatus being supplied by the parent unit.

As soon as the weather improves flying will be resumed and will be limited to cadets who have passed Proficiency "A."

PROMOTIONS.—To *Flight Sergeant*: J. E. Murray (B).

To *Sergeant*: D. L. Vere Hodge (G), W. E. Duck (W).

Strength.—31.3.42: 53 cadets.

DEBATING SOCIETY

Three debates have been held this term, the last being a closed debate for members of the Upper House. Speakers have maintained a high standard, and the lateness of adjournment at least testifies the willingness of very many to speak.

Officers of the Society:—President, Mr. J. M. Todd; Vice-President, Mr. J. L. A. B. Daventry; Secretary, C. E. Guinness (C); Treasurer, S. C. V. Dodgson (W); Librarian, K. H. Irgens (C). D. L. Donne (G) has been elected a member of the Society.

The 142nd Meeting was held in the Library at 8.15 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4th. During private business, members who wished to obtain something concrete from the President were foiled by a member who had not an eye for the morrow, and who has long been drowned in a sea of tradition. It was with some relief that the House proceeded to debate the Motion "That this House has more confidence in the business man than in the politician."

J. M. CONNELL (G) stated that the business man was not someone who became rich at the expense of others, but someone who made two blades of grass grow where previously there had been one. The politicians, he cried, had forgotten in their complacent platitudes on the Far East that production was the keynote for victory.

C. M. CAMPBELL (W) gave an immense parody of himself. With vigour he defended Baldwin, Chamberlain, Brooke-Popham and Churchill. He concluded with a poem.

R. A. GUINNESS (C) illuminated the House with a totally irrelevant parable on skilful monkeys. His attack on politicians was scathing, but he failed to charm the House by reading the bulletins of the Ministry of Food.

J. C. FARMER (W) declared that the business man represents supreme egotism, the politician extreme ostentation. Though he may be accused of straying from the point, yet he was consistently funny throughout a long speech.

The ensuing speeches were lively and only lack of space prevents a more detailed record.

There voted: In the Upper House: For the Motion, 7; Against, 13.

In the Lower House: For the Motion, 20; Against, 13.

The Motion was therefore lost in the Upper House by six votes, but carried in the Lower House by 7 votes.

The House stood adjourned at 10.35 p.m.

The 143rd Meeting of the Society was held in the Library at 8.15 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25th. The House was early refreshed by a homily from the President on such varied subjects as Theology and the ability of members to walk out in the middle.

The Motion before the House was "That the scientific subjects should predominate in a school curriculum."

MR. W. LLOWARCH gave a delightful speech, abounding in sound sense. We are living, he declared, in a scientific world and must learn to appreciate its benefits.

J. D. R. HAYWARD (G) was brilliant, and it was with great regret that the House heard that he was making his swan song. Though our material comfort had increased, yet, he complained, we are spiritually as much in the dark as ever.

MR. E. H. BOYD quoted Einstein and then began a systematic attack on non-scientific subjects. Physics, he declared unconvincingly, took one back further than History, and the Classics were but a good mental training. In vain the House waited for a defence, but lack of time prevented its delivery.

MR. S. W. BISSON was in good form and soon ridiculed the dull logic of the scientist. Science, he said, did not teach young gentlemen to be good citizens. Manners may make man, but science would make robots.

There were some 180 people present, a large number of whom wished to speak, and it was with regret that the President had to close the debate with many speeches unheard.

There voted: In the Upper House: For the Motion, 11; Against, 14.

In the Lower House: For the Motion, 68; Against, 53.

The Motion was therefore lost in the Upper House by three votes, but carried in the Lower House by fifteen votes.

The House stood adjourned at 10.53 p.m.

The 144th Meeting of the Society was held in the Library at 8.15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11th. This meeting was a revival of the old closed debate, and four impromptu Motions were debated.

For the Motion "The abolition of fox-hunting should be one of the post-war aims," there voted six; against, twelve.

For the Motion "The use of hair-oil is to be deplored," there voted twelve; against, seven.

For the Motion "This House believes in ghosts," there voted fourteen; against, four.

For the Motion "This House would rather be the burglar than the policeman," there voted ten; against, seven.

The House stood adjourned at 10.28 p.m.

C.E.G.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

THE SPOTTERS' CLUB

Several meetings have been held during the term and there have been tests of varying standards. D. R. Blundell (S) gave a talk on "The de Havilland Aircraft Company" on February 28th.

At the end of the Christmas term, H. J. Verney (G) was elected a member of the Committee and D. E. Steer (B) Hon. Treasurer.

The Third Class Certificates have now been completed and given out to those who passed the test last term.

H.W.S.

THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

The Society so far this term has only had one meeting, but it is hoped that papers by P. R. Toovey (C) and the Vice-President will be heard later on in the term.

On March 7th, the Society held a meeting which was open to the whole School, when a "Scientific Brains Trust" was publicly put to the test, the Headmaster acting as Question Master and placing his finger with uncanny accuracy on any weak spots in the explanations furnished by "The Brains" in answer to the questions. The questions sent in were many and it is to be deplored that there was not sufficient time for them all to be answered.

Towards the end of last term two papers were read to the Society, the first by the Secretary on "Plastics," in which some plastic coat buttons of different hues, varying from a modest black to a brilliant mottled green, were produced from a home-made mould. The second paper was read by J. D. Proctor (C) on "The X-Ray Analysis of Crystalline Structure."

J.P.B.

THE DRAMATIC CLUB

This term the Club has had to postpone nearly all the special activities that had been planned, in order to concentrate upon Mr. A. A. Dams's production of John Masefield's religious play "Good Friday," which is to be performed in the Chapel at the end of the term; chief parts are being played by Mr. G. W. Knight, Mrs. Dams, J. W. Cornforth (G) and N. E. Seely (T). Time has, however, been found for a paper by W. G. Way (T) on "Lighting Apparatus."

P.D.B.

THE SYMPOSIUM

The Society continues to be under the Presidency of Mr. Cooper. Members this term have been J. F. Tuohy (T) (Secretary), C. E. Guinness (C), J. P. Becker (C), A. J. Gray (T), C. M. Campbell (W), J. C. Farmer (W), P. W. I. Rees (T) and two new members, A. J. Manley (T) and G. A. Alder (C).

The first meeting of this term, and the 9th of the Society, was held on Thursday, February 12th, when C. M. Campbell (W) read a paper on Kipling, which was a vehemently rhetorical defence of the poet's subject matter, illustrated with copious extracts.

On Saturday, February 21st, we were fortunate in hearing Mr. N. G. Annan (T, 1935) speak on "What is a good Poem?", an erudite and convincing discourse which stimulated a lively discussion among those present.

The eleventh meeting was held on Tuesday, March 3rd, when C. E. Guinness (C) gave a scholarly and meticulous account of the enigma of the Fall of France which left few questions unanswered.

Before the end of the term we hope to hear a paper by A. J. Gray (T) on Greek Philosophy.
J.F.T.

THE MUSIC CLUB

After a term of inactivity the club, with many new members, awoke to new life on February 6th, when Mr. Llowarch gave a lecture on "Canned Music." There was a large attendance, and members and visitors alike watched Mr. Llowarch's numerous demonstrations with eagerness. J. P. Becker (C) will read a paper on "The Concerto" and D. B. Eaglesfield (T) one on "Jazz" before the end of the term. The club looks forward to a possible visit from Mr. Arthur Bliss.
S.C.V.D.

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

The Society has not been as active this term as usual. Only one paper has been forthcoming so far, though others were planned which for various reasons have had to be postponed. However, it is hoped that before the end of the term M. E. Fawcus (W) will read a paper on "Nero."

I. R. Dunnett's (G) paper on "Alcibiades," which was read on February 24th, dealt mainly with the Athenian general's importance as a historical figure, and consisted of an account of his political activities from the year 421 until his death.

At the end of the Christmas term C. E. Guinness (C) was elected a member of the Society, which hitherto had consisted only of full-time classicists.
J.M.B.

THE XII CLUB

The Club has met twice this term. At the first meeting, held on February 27th, Mr. G. Wilson Knight gave a profoundly interesting talk entitled "Poetry is the Language of Eternity." It was fanciful, but at the same time logical, and simple without being superficial. On March 13th, J. P. Pettavel (W) read a well-informed and well-planned paper on "Rilke," where biography was skilfully interwoven with metaphysical dissertation.
J.M.B.

THE VITRUVIANS SOCIETY

This term the Society's activities have been confined to the lecture room. At the time of writing there have been three lectures. On February 7th, the Vice-President (Mr. J. E. K. Esdaile) gave a lecture on "The Elements of Architecture"; on February 15th Mr. Ian C. Hannah, M.P. on the "English Cottage"; and on February 28th Mrs. Esdaile on "Sculptors who worked at Stowe." The Society still looks forward to Professor Richardson on "The English Tradition" on March 28th.

The Committee this term consisted of the following:—Hon. President, The Headmaster; Vice-President and Chairman, Mr. J. E. K. Esdaile; Secretary, J. E. M. Irvine (T); Treasurer, J. S. M. Ramsay (T); Librarian, C. M. Campbell (W); and N. E. Seely (T) and J. M. Budden (W). It is hoped that next term there will be at least one expedition, and a lecture has already been arranged.
J.E.M.I.

THE FILM SOCIETY

It has been possible to reduce the subscription this term from 5/- to 3/6.

Despite the difficulty of obtaining them the following films have been shown:—

February 11th.	The Brothers Karamazov.
March 4th.	Episode.
March 18th.	Tales from the Vienna Woods.

J.D.R.H.

MUSIC

Musical activity in an Easter term is always dominated by the thought of the house instrumental and singing competitions; nevertheless, with moderate attendance at the Choral Society and Orchestra rehearsals, considerable practice has been put in on a large programme.

The Orchestra has taken a respite from Beethoven, and has turned its attention to Schubert's great C major symphony. Its massive construction suits the brass well in the loud passages, but is likely to lose some of its effect through the very limited body of strings. From the "Casse Noisette" suite of Tchaikovsky, the Orchestra has been practising the "Mirlitons" and the "Valse des Fleurs." The former affords the wood-wind an excellent opportunity of displaying its virtuosity, and the latter will prove whether the orchestra can "bring off" popular music. Jarnefelt's "Praeludium" makes the third and last addition to the repertoire; its effect is lost or made, more than in many works, in the precision with which it is played, and once this precision is attained there will be no doubt of the success of this little masterpiece. This work was executed with moderate success at a concert in Buckingham some three years ago. Unfortunately the Orchestra will lose some of its best performers at the end of this term, but it is hoped that their places will soon be filled.

At the same concert in Buckingham, the Choral Society, with the aid of the orchestra, performed Bach's "Peasant Cantata." This is being re-attempted, and should be a success, if only the performers would realize that it is a thoroughly light-hearted work and not merely another drudgery of Friday mornings. In addition the Choral Society is attempting Purcell's "Masque of Dioclesian." This, again, is secular music of a light vein, and it too will find success once its mood has been captured. Mr. Herbert Heyner will come to sing one of the solo parts on the night of performance. The Madrigal Society will sing some of Walford Davies' settings of Nursery Rhymes at the same concert at which the choral and orchestral works are to be performed, and they ought to offer a very pleasant contrast to the larger scale works.

There has been only one meeting of the Music Society this term, when Pauline Juler (clarinet) and Reginald Paul (piano) gave a concert in the Library on February 18th. There was a fair-sized and moderately attentive audience. The Concert opened with two choral preludes by Bach played by Reginald Paul, of which the second, "The Sheep may safely Graze," was recognized and appreciated by most of those present. These were followed by the chief work of the evening, Brahms' sonata for clarinet and piano. Even though it may not lie among Brahms' finest work, it was, nevertheless, given an exquisite performance. It was delightful to hear a clarinet-player who played so unobtrusively; the performance was never laboured, and the tone was always perfectly controlled. Mr. Paul then played "Prelude, Aria and Finale" by César Franck, which, though perhaps a tedious work, was given justice. The concert ended with three duos by Schumann for clarinet and piano, which were played in the same charming manner as the sonata.

The Sunday concerts, owing to various difficulties and shortcomings, have not upheld their former high standard, although there have been isolated excellent performances among them. The best concert of the term was that devoted to the "Temple Male Voice Choir," held in the Library with a considerable and appreciative audience.

It is hoped that the J.T.C. and A.T.C. combined band will give a concert before the end of the term.
S.C.V.D.

OUTWARD BOUND

I have long regarded "Outward Bound" as a fine first act spoilt by an unnecessary middle action and lagging conclusion. The first scene, if performed as a one-act play with a curtain at "Yes, sir; quite dead," can be very satisfying. The mystery of a big ship—and a big ship is always mysterious—creates for a while precisely the impact required, though the correspondence gets distinctly looser afterwards. So much by way of expectation. I was therefore pleasingly surprised that the Grenville and Cobham performance proved so gripping, a result due to the vigour and sincerity of the acting, and careful co-ordination in production.

Much depends on Scrubby, the steward, and J. D. R. Hayward (G) carried the part most successfully, excellent in innuendo and make-up, though perhaps under-emphasizing the sardonic. I. R. Dunnett (G) as Mr. Prior was always at his ease, and thoroughly convincing in this typical inter-war study—there have been so many—of the nervy and disillusioned, but at heart excellent, young man slipping down in an unappreciative world. He was well supported by C. E. Guinness (C) as the Rev. William Duke, who worked hard, perhaps a trifle too hard, in a difficult part: a little more repose would have helped some of his scenes. R. A. Guinness (C) as Mrs. Cliveden-Banks gave a most finished and technically assured portrayal, though a trifle over-acting in comparison with the rest of the cast at his first entrance. A. G. H. Melly's (C) Mrs. Midget was a firm piece of character-work, always effective in accent and manner, and capable of genuine pathos at the end. B. N. L. Fletcher (C) found the emotional outbursts of Mr. Lingley rather hard to master, with a resulting jerkiness that spoils the gifts of feeling and voice he brought to the part. The direct projection of strong emotion through technical relaxation can only come with long practice—there are analogies in all the arts: it is so hard to learn what *not to do* for the attainment of smoothness and power. J. W. Cornforth (G) made the much-feared Examiner (surely a weak link in the written play) not only believable but extremely interesting, and helped to knit and stabilise the action at its most dangerous point.

Credit was due throughout to the sensitive direction of Mr. A. Macdonald and his assistants (Miss Radice, J. D. R. Hayward (G) and C. E. Guinness (C)); to the stage-management of J. M. Connell (G); to A. G. H. Melly (C) (in charge of scenery); to P. K. Withinshaw (C) (carpenter); and Miss Radice and Mrs. Watt (make-up). The Director and Mr. S. W. Bisson (in charge of lighting) must be especially congratulated on the success of the final scene, played with real intensity by G. F. Colvile (G) and P. W. Harvey (G), the former particularly gripping in this stage attempt to stiffen characters in a time-less existence. The attempt reminds one of "Berkeley Square": both plays are interesting in their exploitation of a very modern trend of thought (inaugurated by Nietzsche and Ouspensky and popularised by J. W. Dunne's dream-philosophies and the plays and essays of J. B. Priestley) concerned with the possibility of breaking free from the limitations of time as we know it. Though neither are great plays—and, indeed, however strong the acting, "Outward Bound" would surely be the better for severe pruning—both aim at direct dramatisation of something lying close to the heart of the greatest literature at all times and places; the introduction to some higher dimension of knowledge, or being.

That such a play, itself far from faultless, should yet have been put across with considerable success to an audience so varied in age and interest was rather remarkable.

G.W.K.

A MEMORY OF STOWE

Extract from letter written by Mrs. Disraeli describing the party at Stowe on the occasion of the Queen's visit in 1845.

We were for the first hour in the vestibule, like a flock of sheep, half lit up, and no seats or fire, only a little hot air and a great deal of cold wind; a marble floor. Fancy, dear, shivering Dizzy, and cross-looking Mary Anne, in black velvet, hanging sleeves looped up with knots of blue, and diamond buttons. Headdress, blue velvet bows and diamonds. After a time we passed her Majesty and the Prince, the Duke and Duchess and the rest standing behind, the Duke giving our names exactly the same as an ordinary groom, and we making our curtsies and bows. About eleven, or soon after, her Majesty retired, and then all became joy and triumph to us. First Sir Robert Peel came to us, shaking hands most cordially, and remained talking for some time, then Lord Nugent, introducing his lady, Col. Anson, Sir James Graham, Lord and Lady de la Warr, Lord Aberdeen. The Duke almost embraced Dizzy, saying he was one of his oldest friends; and then he offered me his arm, taking me all through the gorgeous splendid scene, through the supper room and back again, down the middle and up again—all making way for us, the Queen and your delighted Mary Anne being the only ladies so distinguished. After this I retired to a sofa, with the Duchess, who told me that her Majesty had pointed Dizzy out, saying "There's Mr. Disraeli." Do you call all this nothing? The kind Duchess asked me to luncheon the next day and to see the Queen's private apartments.

THE SHOE

Drifting through a haze of semi-consciousness he tried to recall the events of the past few hours. He had been walking along the quiet street an hour or two after midnight, soon after the 'Alert' had been sounded. He paused a minute and listened intently; his ears just caught the deep pulsating hum of engines menacing and imperturbable, throbbing through the velvet darkness. Suddenly vivid flashes lit up the dingy suburban street, and he tensed himself instinctively; the crashing thunder of the guns assailed his ears and shook the paving stones under his feet; the shells roared and hissed over his head and faded into the soft penetrating sound of the bombers; he waited expectantly till he heard four quiet thumps in the sky as the shells exploded. A moment later he was aware of the rising sigh of a bomb, and he threw himself to the ground, as the hiss of the approaching bomb rose to a wild shriek. Lying face downwards on the dirty pavement, his eye fell on a lady's evening shoe; a delicate sandal made of a smooth silky material, it lay alone and serene, silver-gleaming in the black filth of the gutter. He pictured its owner, cool and graceful in an evening dress of shimmering satin, moving across the foyer of a great hotel, a white fur cape swinging from her shoulders as she walked; the man coming forward to greet her with a warm, intimate smile . . .

The bomb exploded with startling violence a hundred yards away; with the dust lipping down to the pavement like fine hail round him, he ran towards the scene of the explosion. His memory of the next hour was rather vague; he had indistinct memories of telephoning to the Report Centre from a shattered, tilting booth, filling the waiting ambulances with heavy stretchers, pulling at broken bricks and timber with bleeding hands, lifting the lifeless body of a child from the ruined house; its head was turned upward in anxious enquiry, the leg twisted grotesquely sideways.

As he stumbled home an hour before dawn a white light arose suddenly from behind the houses; in a moment the glare had grown brighter, brighter than daylight; a great blast of hot air blew past him, pressing painfully on his eardrums; as he was hurled to the ground he knew that a parachute mine had landed very near him. A vast rumble grew to an all-enveloping roar, and died away again in a rumble, and a quivering pregnant silence held the agonized air in suspense for an instant: in that instant he thought of the shoe again, with its partner, dancing on the shining floor, its wearer's body moving smoothly with the sensuous rhythm of the music . . .

A noisy clamour arose, of women shrieking to their children, hoarse male voices shouting obscene imprecations to the darkness, dogs barking frantically, the urgent whine and clatter of the fire-engine bustling towards the blazing houses . . . he turned his head to one side and opened his eyes. He was lying in white, fresh-smelling bedclothes, looking down the bare length of a hospital ward; a nurse was taking his pulse and smiling . . . his thoughts drifted back to the expensive shoe, lying gleaming in the gutter.

P.D.B.

A STORY ABOUT A CAT

There were rats in my brother's office; it has been burnt down now, but at that time there were rats in my brother's office. They used to foul the floor and sometimes they ate documents. Mr. Miller said the rat-poison wasn't any good; they had better get a couple of cats. He relit his pipe which had fallen on the desk. After a week they got a small black kitten. I did not go to my brother's office again for six months.

When I went there again it was a very grey day, and a wind ran down the street in front of me, snatching an old man's hat. I saw the kitten again; it had grown and was now a cat. It was quite big and untidy. When I stroked its stomach it scratched me and purred. Mr. Miller was pleased with it; it caught rats. I came to the office again next day and the cat was ill. It had been sick. It lay on the floor, unmoving. Someone said it had eaten rat-poison, but all the rat-poison had been lost.

It miaowed quietly. It did not move. I said "It needs milk," and went and got some from the shop opposite. I came upstairs again, and could not find anything to put the milk in. We used an ash-tray in the end. I pushed the ash-tray with the milk under its nose. It still did not move. Next day it was dead. Rigor mortis had set in. Its tail and its legs were straight. It was all stiff. We wrapped it up in newspaper. I nearly laughed because it would not break when we wrapped it up. It was too stiff and would not break. We put it in the dust-bin and replaced the lid. In the afternoon I went to the cinema.

J.C.F.

POETRY

DECEMBER

Dank clouds like cloths collect over a frozen
Landscape, and wooden trees in file lead on
To crowded air where yet the bloodless sun
Hangs. No feather moves across the white horizon
Cluttered with cloud and hill, which a steel wind
Wipes; then roams off, ranging the crudded veins
Of land, the snow-stopped heart where hot life drowns
Behind slammed doors. Here the wind fumbles, blind.

No noon is any good. No afternoon
But lapses into night. Often a drowned heart stirs
At sight of the loping dark, for the wind then
Prints frostflowers on glass, or rips the shroud
Back from the dead sky, shows again old stars,
The strawn seed of a young and lusty god.

HOLIDAY

And all a summer's day have they resurrected a tropic of
coloured shirts and parasols:
Where the high sun looms above them and pebbles are
brushed by the alabaster sea,
They throw sticks for dogs, examine beyond tamarisks
the municipal palisades of flowers,
Or tempt the prowling gulls with remnants of a picnic
Till suddenly on this special day,
As they stand at corners watching bicycles or the end of
the pier like a wedding cake,
Or look with windy sentimental eyes beyond the headland,
Tomorrow intrudes and all the holiday has vanished
As a chrysanthemum is crushed in a hot hand.

IN PRAISE OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

I take my chromium pen in hand,
And on this virgin page I write
My thanks that in this glorious age
Mine eyes did first behold the light,
The light of all enlightenment
Since Europe's history first began,
For man at last has conquered science
(Or science has wholly vanquished man!).
To-day mankind no longer fights
With brutal sword or clumsy spear,
(But in cold cellars sits at nights
In mortal agony of fear).
Our comrades see no horrid sights
In Army, Air Force or Marines,
No severed limbs, (for after fights
The missing are in smithereens).
Brutality has gone at last,
Gone is the tyrant's awful sway,
(Only the siren's dismal blast
Proclaims the wonders of today).
So let us praise the gods that be
Who have for us their slaves devised
A world of war, and hate, and gore
But very highly civilized.

J.F.T.

J.F.T.

A.G.H.M.

THE OVERTURE

Excited murmurs fill the close-packed pit;
A late arrival searches for his place;
Children watch with awe the double-bass,
And witless sisters laud the family wit.
The lights go down: the rustling crowds are still,
And, bowing slightly, raising high his wand
As one who scorns the stalls and tiers beyond,
The great musician shows his matchless skill.
The gentle music whispers, trembles, swells,
While silent fascinated watchers hear
The singing strings and wood-wind cast their spells
To mingle with the heavy atmosphere.
It dies away; and eager, sparkling eyes
Stare up to watch the velvet curtain rise.

J.E.C.K.

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA
THE CYDNUS*(From the French of José-Maria de Heredia.)*

In glaring heat, beneath an azure sky
The silver trireme foams the waves to milk;
The cadences of flutes and rustling silk
With incense mingle as it passes by.
Upon the sounding prow the merlin preens;
Amidst the splendours of the fading day,
Herself like some great golden bird of prey,
Fair Cleopatra from her bower leans.
To Tarsus and her eager lord she goes,
And flings out to the magic-laden air
Her arms of amber, tinted sunset-rose;
But sees not mirrored in the water there
Twin forms that run and leap with every breath,
Dread Shades—the one Desire, the other Death.

Tr. J.W.M.
J.E.C.K.

AFTER THE GERMAN OF GOETHE.

Nothing but a deep, calm silence
Rests upon the unmoved sea;
And the captain looks around him
At the calm most anxiously.
Not a breath of wind arises
From the waters, deathly still;
Not a wave on these expanses
Rises up, this quiet to kill.

* * *
The mist leaves the heavens,
The sky now is brightening,
Aeolus releases
The wind of the West.
The breeze now is whistling,
The captain awakens.
Like lightning! Like lightning!
The bows cleave the waters
And bound forth to landward
Just o'er the wave's crest.

S.C.V.D.

COUSIN ALEC

My cousin Alec was the son of Auntie Muriel. They lived at Worthing and I used to go and stay with them when I was six years old. They were poor and very dull, though I did not know that then. I knew that Auntie Muriel's husband was dead; or at least that he was never there. We used to go down on the beach, where the sea-weed smelt, and the bathing huts were on the right. Auntie Muriel was middle-aged and in the evenings she brought me biscuits with fish-paste on them and bovril. That was when I was in bed before I went to sleep. I don't expect I was very nice then. The back of the house had a garden; beyond that was a field of cabbages separated by barbed-wire. I remember something about a clergyman down the road, too, beyond the trees; and even a mention of Arundel Castle. We used to go on the beach; the sun did not shine and there were bits of paper and orange peel and the sand was wet and sticky. The sea was rough and the sky was grey.

One day Auntie Muriel and Cousin Alec and a friend were on the beach, and I was on a stone side-walk a few feet above them. I found a very large stone and threw it as hard as I could. It hit Alec on the side of the head. He fell down senseless and began to bleed. I was rather surprised, for I had not meant to do this. They carried Alec back to the house. Auntie Muriel said that I should go and apologize to Cousin Alec now that he had come round. I went and said, "I am very sorry I hit you on the head, Cousin Alec." Then I went away and laughed and sniggered a bit in the lavatory at the end of the passage.

In the passage there was a hat-and-coat-stand and a little xylophone.

J.C.F.

GENERAL PAPER

1. Arrange in their correct order from West to East:—Libya, Morocco, Tunis, Algeria.
2. By which one of the following was Barnaby Rudge written:—Tom Brown, William Shakespeare, Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens, Ernest Hemingway?
- 3-5. In the following list underline *three* alloys:—Steel, copper, aluminium, duralumin, brass, radium, plānctarium, solarium, coal, galvanized iron.
6. Nostradamus, Gargantua, Quasimodo, Caliban—which one of these was the Hunchback of Notre Dame?
7. Which one of the following flowers has the same name as a tree found at Stowe:—violet, tulip, daffodil, crocus, salvia, primrose?
8. Who laid out the landscape gardens at Stowe?
9. Which one of the following was both Roman Emperor and Conqueror of Britain:—Agricola, Julius Caesar, Caligula, Claudius, Grotius?
10. Under which one of the following headings would Cor Anglais be correctly placed:—brass, percussion, woodwind, strings?
11. The Armistice of 1918 was signed near one of the following places:—Poitiers, Cambrai, Compiègne, Ypres, Verdun. Which?
12. Which one of the following is Lord Privy Seal:—Sir John Anderson, Lord Cranborne, Sir Stafford Cripps, Anthony Eden, Lord Portal?
13. 'Pastime with good company he loved.' This refers to George IV, Charles II, Henry VIII, or Edward VII. Which?
14. 'He nothing common did or mean upon that memorable scene.' This refers to Louis XVI, Sir Walter Raleigh, Charles I or Sidney Carton. Which?
15. Near what city were the last Olympic Games held?
16. Which one of the following has only two legs:—a llama, a spider, a Bombay Duck, a laughing jackass, a cockatrice?

17. Two of the following poems are by the same author:—Horatius, Sweet and Low, The Scholar Gipsy, No Coward Soul is Mine, The Lost Leader, The Ancient Mariner, The Old Stoic. Name the author.

18. Which one of the following rode under an oak and became suspended by his hair from its branches:—Eli, Absalom, Samson, Agag, Belshazzar?

19. What was the original name of the Cricket Scoring Box on the North Front?

20. What is the name of the Queen of the Queen's Temple at Stowe?

21. Which one of the following names is given to a clause added to a will already in existence:—appurtenance, addendum, erratum, codicil, sequel, appendix?

22. Name the seat of the Chinese National Government.

23. What is the name of the German Commander-in-Chief in Libya?

24. What is the nationality of Quisling?

25-27. Complete the following:—(a) California Syrup of; (b) My goodness! My; (c)....., please.

28-30. Which three of the following commodities do the Netherlands East Indies supply in large quantities:—tin, copper, gold, rubber, petroleum, nickel?

31. Sour milk, lemons, ants, vinegar—which one of these do you associate with formic acid?

32. Which one of the following retires behind a protective screen when attacked:—a cuttlefish, a fire bird, a death watch beetle, a black ant?

33. The Esquiline is the name of:—(a) a prehistoric hind of horse; (b) a tribe in Greenland; (c) one of the seven hills of ancient Rome; (d) a duty of a mediaeval squire; (e) the technical term used by oculists for a squint. *a, b, c, d, or e*—which?

34. One of the architects who worked at Stowe was a herald, a soldier, and a dramatist. What was his name?

35. Handel's Messiah is (a) an opera; (b) a cantata; (c) an oratorio; (d) a symphony. Which?

36. Who made the first solo flight across the Channel?

37. An ogee is (a) an excessive meal; (b) an American expletive; (c) an ancient alphabet; (d) an S-shaped moulding; (e) a mythical monster. *a, b, c, d or e*—which?

38. 'The proudest prelate who ever lived.' This refers to Gregory VII, Leo X, Archbishop Laud or Cardinal Wolsey. To which?

39. Which one of the following do you associate with the Italian Risorgimento:—d'Annunzio, Mussolini, Machiavelli, Leonardo, Dante, Garibaldi?

40. What particular name is given to the annual Rugby Football Match between England and Scotland?

41. Two of the following books are by the same author:—Peter Simple, Westward Ho!, Wuthering Heights, Silas Marner, Pride and Prejudice, Jane Eyre, Masterman Ready, The Fortunes of Nigel. Name the author.

42. Who climbed a sycomore to see Jesus pass?

43. 'If I have seen farther than other men, it is only because I have stood on the shoulders of giants.' This was said by one of the following:—Archimedes, Descartes, Sir Isaac Newton, George Robey, Abraham Lincoln. By which?

44. The Salary per annum tax-free of a British M.P. is £400, £550, £600, £700. Which?

45. What surname do you associate with the following group:—a colonel, a novelist, a painter, an actress?

46. The Northern Circuit refers to one of the following kinds of area:—ecclesiastical, judicial, astronomical, climatic, electrical. To which?

47. What was the American naval station raided by Japan in her first act of war against the U.S.A.?

48. What was the name of the town at the mouth of the Don, whose recapture by the Russians marked the beginning of their counter-offensive?

49. What is the calibre of the big guns of H.M.S. King George V.?

50. What is the name of the strait between New Guinea and Australia?

51. Which one of the following went to sea in a sieve :—the Three Wise Men of Gotham, the Swiss Family Robinson, the Jumblies, Tweedledum and Tweedledec?
52. The White Rabbit, the Snark, the Gryphon, the Jabberwock :—the life of which one of these was threatened by a railway share?
53. Lords and ladies is the name of a wild flower. Another name for it is one of the following :—Jack by the hedge, Old Man's beard, Shepherd's purse, Cuckoo-pint. Which?
54. What statue used to stand in the Rotundo?
55. The Golden Ass is (a) 'the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up'; (b) a socialist nickname for one of the 'idle rich'; (c) a novel of the 2nd Century A.D.; (d) an animal made consul by a mad Roman Emperor. *a, b, c, or d*—which?
56. The Pharos was (a) the burial place of the Kings of Egypt; (b) a lighthouse; (c) the classical name for islands in the North Sea; (d) an island in the Aegean famous for marble. *a, b, c or d*—which?
57. Which one of the following is popularly known as Stringbag the Sailor :—Albacore, Swordfish, Anson, Wellington, Hurricane?
58. The first dog watch at sea begins at 4 p.m. and ends at
59. How many times does the dragon appear on a new £1 note?
60. 'The Glorious Revolution' refers to America 1776, France 1789, England 1688, or Germany 1848. Which?
61. What is the name of the event the winning of which is the Blue Riband of courasing?
62. Which one of the following places is east of Kharkov :—Sebastopol, Tula, Bryansk, Leningrad, Rzhnev?
63. With which one of the following do you associate the nickname 'Klim' :—Hirohito, Camacho, Rudyard Kipling, Nehru, Voroshilov, Wavell, Clemenceau, Macarthur?
- 64, 65. Name the wrong station in each of the following statements :—(a) An express from King's Cross to York passes through Hitchin, Huntingdon, Peterborough, Newark, Lincoln, East Retford. (b) An express from Paddington to Plymouth passes through Reading, Basingstoke, Newbury, Taunton, Exeter.
66. What is the name of the Secretary of State for War?
- 67-69. From the following list of professions or occupations—novelist, composer, statesman, general, actor, anarchist, scientist, secret policeman, playwright—which would you associate with (a) Dostoevsky? (b) Rachmaninoff? (c) Kutuzov?
- 70-71. With which of the following localities, Roncesvalles, Laguna, Ludlow, Belmont, Doone Valley, Penzance, Megiddo, Khartoum would you associate the following :—(a) John Ridd? (b) Allenby?
72. In what one state alone is a quarter of America's aircraft industry situated?
73. In which year was Stowe School founded?
74. What wood is most prized for making stocks of shot guns?
- 75-79. With which of the following—Giotto, Michelangelo, Uccello, Wren, Van Eyck, Adams, Manet, Gauguin, Leonardo da Vinci—do you associate :—(a) The Sistine Chapel? (b) St. Paul's?; (c) A circle?; (d) A flying machine?; (e) The discovery of oil painting?
80. What tree is used as a source of sugar in Canada?
81. In which one of the following places do eels lay their eggs :—shady ponds, under stones in rivers, the Sargasso Sea, estuaries?
82. The 'Apologia pro Vita Sua' was written by one of the following :—Oscar Wilde, St. Augustine, Plato, Cicero, Aristophanes, Cardinal Newman. By which?
83. Which of the following has recently been appointed Master of the King's Musick :—Handel, Harty, Boult, Bax, Elgar, Walford Davies?
84. Which of the following composers was born in the same year as Handel :—Beethoven, Bach, Sibelius, Schubert?
85. Name the inappropriate word in the following :—Virgo, Leo, Felis, Cancer, Aries, Gemini.
86. Which one of the following can be seen on an English farthing :—a ship; a lion; a bird; a rose; an acorn?

87. An act of Parliament passed this month would be headed Geo. VI. Supply the missing number.
88. 'Let sleeping dogs lie' was the motto of Horace Walpole, Robert Walpole, Pitt the Elder, or Pitt the Younger. Of which?
89. Which one of the following was left in Pandora's box :—gold, death, food, hope, trinkets?
90. Which one of the following has run the fastest 100 metres :—H. Lindrum; S. C. Wooderson, J. Owens, P. Nurmi, E. R. T. Holmes, D. O. Finlay?
91. Which one of the following stood watch over Moses in the bulrushes :—Deborah, Lilith, Rachel, Miriam, Rebecca?
92. Who succeeded Judas Iscariot as an Apostle?
93. What film actor has appeared in three of the following films :—Mr. Smith goes to Washington, North West Passage, Gone with the Wind, A Window in London, Destry rides again, Contraband, The Shop around the Corner?
94. Of the three colours red, orange, violet, which appears outermost in a primary rainbow?
95. Which one of the following abbreviations stands for an organization connected with the League of Nations :—I.L.P., I.L.O., L.R.C.P., L.C.C., B.U.P., C.I.O., C.I.D.?
96. What is the principal German naval base in the Baltic?
- 97-99. Who wrote :—(a) Fame is the spur that the clear spirit doth raise
(That last infirmity of noble mind)
To scorn delights, and live laborious days.
(b) Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.
(c) Water, water, everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink.
100. In what country was the following said :—'Some chicken! Some neck!'

ANSWERS TO THE GENERAL PAPER.

1. Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, Libya. 2. Charles Dickens. 3-5. Duralumin, brass, steel. 6. Quasimodo. 7. Tulip. 8. Kent. 9. Claudius. 10. Woodwind.
11. Compiègne. 12. Sir Stafford Cripps. 13. Henry VIII. 14. Charles I. 15. Berlin. 16. Laughing jackass. 17. Emily Brontë. 18. Absalom. 19. The Habernacle. 20. Charlotte. 21. Codicil. 22. Chungking. 23. Rommel. 24. Norwegian. 25. Figs. 26. Guinness. 27. Players. 28-30. Tin, Copper, Petroleum.
31. Ants. 32. Cuttlefish. 33. One of the seven hills of ancient Rome. 34. Vanbrugh. 35. Oratorio. 36. Blériot. 37. An S-shaped moulding. 38. Cardinal Wolsey. 39. Garibaldi. 40. Calcutta Cup. 41. Marriot. 42. Zacchaeus. 43. Sir Isaac Newton. 44. £600. 45. Lawrence. 46. Judicial. 47. Pearl Harbour. 48. Rostov. 49. 14 inch. 50. Torres. 51. The Jumblies. 52. The Snark. 53. Cuckoo-pint. 54. Venus. 55. A novel of the 2nd Century A.D. 56. Lighthouse. 57. Swordfish. 58. 6 p.m. 59. Twice. 60. England 1688. 61. Waterloo Cup. 62. Tula. 63. Voroshilov. 64. Lincoln. 65. Basingstoke. 66. Sir James Grigg. 67. Novelist. 68. Composer. 69. General. 70. Doone Valley.
71. Megiddo. 72. California. 73. 1923. 74. Walnut. 75. Michelangelo. 76. Wren. 77. Giotto. 78. Leonardo da Vinci. 79. Van Eyck. 80. Maple. 81. Sargasso Sea. 82. Cardinal Newman. 83. Bax. 84. Bach. 85. Felis. 86. A bird. 87. 7. 88. Robert Walpole. 89. Hope. 90. J. Owens. 91. Miriam. 92. Matthias. 93. James Stewart. 94. Red. 95. I.L.O. 96. Kiel. 97. Milton. 98. Gray. 99. Coleridge. 100. Canada.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

Sir,

I feel obliged to employ some of your ever-decreasing space for the purpose of drawing attention to the position of the intellectual at Stowe and the attitude of the community in general towards him. This attitude is well expressed by the phrase "pseudo-intellectual" by which the Stoic-in-the-street describes all who indulge in any form of intellectual activity. An aspect of his "pseudo-intellectualism" has been well defined by a member of the teaching staff as "any form of serious reading not directly connected with the School or Higher Certificates." Why is this uncomfortably tolerated phenomenon a *pseudo*-intellectual? Does this mean that genuine intellectuality is a condition to be admired? Yet the fact that genuine and bogus intellectuals can exist side by side passes unrecognised. Though intellectuals are tolerated superficially and their outrageous theories are received with an uneasy laugh (for do not some of them regard compulsory chapel as unnecessary and others even condemn the public school system?), beneath this there is the same fear that finally silenced the tongue of Socrates, and a determined ostrich-like resistance is put up against their pernicious doctrine. A hard core of complacent hypocrisy has replaced hemlock as a means for the extinction of free discussion. The bigotry that made bonfires of witches lives again in our midst.

An intellectual as far as Stowe is concerned is one who attempts to usurp that prerogative of maturity, the right of independent and individual thought. This practice frequently leads to rejection of the hallowed solutions of elders (that is compulsory chapel and the public school system) and is therefore "dangerous" since it breeds "revolutionary" ideas and if everyone carried on like that we'd soon be a nation of Bolshies, etc., etc. The predigested credo ("handed down from father to son" as the veteran cliché puts it) is accepted by the majority without question and they know no way of replacing it. When one of those obnoxious "pseudos" comes along, with his admittedly rudimentary intellect, their previous structure is left rather battered about and they are, because of their habituation to mental spoon-feeding, unable to repair or replace it. If the development of the youthful intellect does upset the complex tissue of their doctrinal apple-cart, it is the second that should be altered, not the first. The cohorts of normality reply that it is better to accept an opinion whose truth has been demonstrated by continued and faithful observance (for instance the Ptolemaic system and the utility of burning heretics) than to make individual and, very probably, false decisions on one's own account. And here the fog of rhetoric lifts and the premisses openly clash.

At a dead end the solution is to turn aside. Let us take a glance at intellectualism as a component of Stowe life. Intellectualism is strong—it breaks down two of the most powerful of the barriers erected by the public school system: the geographical constriction of house and the social constriction of the surname. Like that other great harmonising force—sport—intellectualism is, from a school point of view, universal. The dangerous "familiarity" of the christian name permeates its friendships as in only two other types—sport friends and friends "known in the holidays." Anything that can do this surely deserves tolerance and respect.

Yours faithfully,

TARQUIN SEARCHLIGHT.

(The Editors are not responsible for the views expressed by their correspondents. Replies or further letters are invited).

