

THE STOIC



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FROM VANBRUGH
TO WILLIAMS-ELLIS

[J.F.R.]

THE STOIC

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No. 4

EDITORIAL

THE production of a school magazine is defined by few and incorporeal rules. Steer between the Scylla of pan-muscular "news" and the Charybdis of pan-cerebral "contributions." That is the only guide. Examining this magazine you may be dissatisfied, your dissatisfaction taking its shape from your prevailing obsession. If you incline to the hearty side of that glimpsed-at grey-clad myth—the Average Stoic—there will be too much "intellectual muck." You would have the paper soused with sport, foetid with football and beastly with boredom. If, however, you should incline to the other—the "pseudo"—extreme you would reduce it to a limp sheaf of ill-written literary exercises perpetrated by a mutual admiration society. The compound of the two rather horrifying opposites herein presented has but two boasts. Firstly, the paper is well printed and secondly, there's something for everyone. If you are not satisfied make your way to the Aurelian Room, where you will find spread out such of our contemporaries as *The Blimpian* and *The Old School Tie*. Pick them up, wade your way through the suffocating lists of teams, the meaningless esotericisms of an isolated social unit, and the tumescent endlessness of *Salvete* and *Valete*, and perhaps you will return to our curdled cocktail in a less carping spirit.

The success of this magazine depends on the satisfaction of three sets of people: firstly, parents, who must not be shocked; secondly, old boys who must be remembered; and thirdly, the school of the moment who must be entertained and instructed. Somewhere in these pages is news about old boys, news about games, news about clubs and societies. These all conform to set patterns and have a constant and limited appeal. All of them can only interest a small number of people. But there are still the individual contributions. They start with no organic disabilities, no clear-cut circle of appeal. Yet that part of the magazine which should have a general appeal excites general displeasure.

Of recent years Stoic poetry has been divisible into two classes—the sonnet and the non-sonnet. The sonnets are heartlessly metrical and crushingly prosaic. The non-sonnets range from the faintly to the blindingly irregular. The first type is dull, the second is, to the Stoic-in-the-street at any rate, incomprehensible. The stories are all about "I" or "He" and have no proper names. The majority show the inevitable subjectivism of public-school age and seem neither to begin nor to end. Others are sincere and frightening pastiches. Junior contributions are invariably about the Nazi Jackboot.

In this number a correspondent accuses *The Stoic* of becoming (a) a popular or (b) a surrealist periodical. We can only state that any paper that can simultaneously manifest both tendencies must be a very remarkable one indeed. Bearing in mind

his allegation (a) about our debasement of standard, it is difficult to understand a later remark to the effect that *The Stoic* is of interest only to a small clique. This Editorial is an attempt to defend *The Stoic* against this and many similar verbal attacks. To refute his allegations is difficult since they are meaningless; we can only show the doubtful possibility of such charges being true. But if *The Stoic* does manifest these remarkably divergent tendencies there is an easy way out. If the contributions do appear boring and unreal to the present-day Stoic, it is his fault.

This paper is for Stowe, about Stowe, by Stowe. Yet the general public of Stowe manifests a startling lack of interest. The war has given Stowe over to an aggravated form of the parochialism resultant from any similar closed society. The school is engulfed with apathy. People are glad to reap but are too lazy to sow. They will read and criticize *The Stoic* but will do nothing to improve it. A few bold spirits offer constructive criticism in the resurrected correspondence column and a handful of contributors lay bare their souls to public disapprobation. A paper like this, the social consciousness of a group, cannot exist on itself; it depends on the active co-operation of the group. If this paper is bad, it is your fault.

DECORATIONS

The following awards have been won by Old Stoics in addition to the fifty-five already recorded.

D.S.O.

WING COMMANDER J. M. N. PIKE, D.F.C. (C, 1934), R.A.F., in September.

D.S.C.

LIEUTENANT (A) D. A. HUTCHISON (T, 1935), R.N.

"In the Atlantic a series of attacks on a convoy were frustrated by F.A.A. fighters, led by A/Lieut.-Commander (A) J. M. Wintour, R.N. Lieut.-Commander Wintour and Sub-Lieutenant (A) D. A. Hutchison, R.N. intercepted a Focke-Wulf 200 and attacked. Lieut.-Commander Wintour damaged the enemy in two attacks and was then shot down. Sub-Lieutenant Hutchison made five more attacks, which he pressed home despite the enemy's heavier armament, and forced the Focke-Wulf into the sea."

SUB-LIEUTENANT (A) D. R. FOSTER (C, 1938), R.N.V.R., in November.

M.C.

LIEUTENANT M. H. WEBB (W, 1935), 1st Transvaal Scottish, in September.

LIEUTENANT C. A. W. DAVES (B, 1938), R.A., in September.

D.F.C.

FLYING OFFICER G. F. B. NEWPORT-TINLEY (C, 1939), R.A.F.V.R.

"One night in October, Flying-Officer Newport-Tinley was captain of an aircraft and while flying at a height of 1,400 feet over the north French coast the aircraft was heavily fired on by anti-aircraft guns. He went on and successfully completed his task, but on the return journey the starboard engine caught fire. The fire was extinguished, but with only one engine working Flying-Officer Newport-Tinley could not maintain height and reached the English coast flying at only 60 feet in bad weather. By superlative airmanship he succeeded in bringing his aircraft down on the sea without injury to his crew. This Officer, who has participated in many operational sorties, has always displayed high courage and determination to complete his allotted task."

A citation has now been received for the following award. It is not normally possible to print these citations except when they appear in the newspapers or are sent by relatives. When they can be sent they will always be welcome.

FLYING OFFICER R. A. P. ALLSEBROOK. Awarded the D.F.C. in April. (*Stoic* No. 58.)

"This Officer has proved himself to be a most reliable captain of aircraft. He has shown an excellent understanding of his responsibilities and he has always displayed courage, skill and determination. He has participated in attacks on a wide variety of targets, including Hamburg, Mannheim, Brest, Frankfurt and Wilhelmshaven. Many of his operational flights have been made in the worst of weather.

"On the night of November 10th, 1941, he carried out a successful attack on the Blohm and Voss shipyards at Hamburg. In February, 1942, following an attack on Mannheim, the port engine of his aircraft seized. Jettisoning all loose equipment F/O Allsebrook flew the aircraft for more than four hours with the starboard engine only. His entire fuel supply finally became exhausted and he was compelled to descend on the sea, but the crew were rescued by a naval craft after spending some fourteen hours in the dinghy. F/O Allsebrook showed great skill and overcame many difficulties during the long flight over enemy territory."

ARMISTICE DAY 1942

On Armistice Day 1940 the names of twenty-two Old Stoics who had lost their lives in the war were read out in Chapel by the Headmaster.

In 1941 the number was forty-seven.

This year the list contained the ninety-five names printed below.

ANTHONY ALBERT VICKERS (C), Royal Air Force.

MICHAEL GEORGE SILLS (C), Royal Engineers.

JOHN WESTLY BUSK (G), Royal Navy.

NIGEL STUART GRAEME (T), Royal Air Force.

OLIVER POWELL CROOM-JOHNSON (T), Royal Air Force.

MICHAEL GAMMIDGE (G), Royal Warwickshire Regt.

EDWARD PERCY REID JOURDAIN, M.C. (C), Royal Sussex Regt.

JOHN CUNLIFFE SHAW (G), Royal Artillery.

PETER GAMMIDGE (T), Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

ALEXANDER JOHN STUART BULLER (C), Royal Air Force.

PHILIP LISTER INGHAM (W), Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

PETER GORDON KRABBÉ (B), Royal Berkshire Regt.

DEREK BARKER (G), Royal Tank Regt.

HAROLD LESLIE ATKIN-BERRY (C), Royal Air Force.

HUGH CHRISTOPHER CORBETT (B), Royal Air Force.

BRIAN WILLIAM JESSE D'ARCY-IRVINE (C), Royal Air Force.

MICHAEL JEBB (C), Royal Air Force.

MALCOLM ALEXANDER ROBERT SUTHERLAND (C), Royal Air Force.

ANTHONY DRAKE COPLESTONE (C), Royal Air Force.
 JOHN STUART SIMPSON HUNTER (T), Royal Engineers.
 PERCY CHAPMAN (C), Royal Air Force.
 DAVID ALWYNE PEMBERTON, D.F.C. (S), Royal Air Force.
 PATRICK ANTHONY CHAMIER (C), Royal Air Force.
 HUGH JOHN MACLIESH (C), The King's Own Royal Regt.
 JOHN CHARLES DUNDAS, D.F.C. and Bar (C), Royal Air Force.
 RICHARD MOWBRAY SPENCER (W), Royal Air Force.
 ANCHITEL FLEETWOOD ASHBURNHAM (C), Royal Army Service Corps.
 LAWRENCE LEE PYMAN (S), Royal Air Force.
 ROBERT JAMES MEAD (C), Fleet Air Arm.
 DESMOND ERNEST CROSBIE TRENCH (C), Royal Air Force.
 SIDNEY FREDERICK FARQUHAR JOHNSON (C), Royal Air Force.
 LESLIE HARFORD ASHCROFT THOMPSON (G), Scottish Rifles.
 JOHN MANSEL-LEWIS (G), Royal Air Force.
 CHARLES EDWARD RICHARD SIDEBOTHAM (C), Royal Air Force.
 RICHARD HUGH JÄGGER (C), Royal Air Force.
 DEREK HERBERT IREDALE SEARLE (T), Royal Army Service Corps.
 JULIEN WALTER LOWNDES BRUXNER-RANDALL (G), Royal Air Force.
 JOHN PERCY DEVAYNE GETHIN, D.F.C. (T), Royal Air Force.
 IAN DONALD WILLIAM McEWEN (T), Scots Guards.
 JULIAN LLEWELLEN PALMER, M.C. (C), Coldstream Guards.
 DAVID MALCOLM BOLTON (C), Royal Air Force.
 JOHN MICHAEL HUGILL (C), Intelligence Corps.
 ANTHONY WILLIAM GENTH (T), Royal Air Force.
 RICHARD ALGERNON FREDERICK HANBURY-TRACY (The Lord SUDELEY) (C), Royal Horse Guards.
 PETER WRIGHT (G), Royal Engineers.
 JOHN WILLIAM VICTOR SHAND KYDD (C); Royal Air Force.
 GEORGE ROBERT COLVIN ATWOOD (B), Royal Artillery.
 ROBERT DE ZOETE MANSER (T), The Suffolk Regiment.
 PETER ROBERT CASSELS (C), Fleet Air Arm.
 DENNIS SIDNEY CAMPKIN (C), Intelligence Corps.
 MAURICE STUART BARKER (C), 12th Royal Lancers.
 MICHAEL LUXMOORE (B), Royal Artillery.
 GEORGE KINGSTON EATON (C), Royal Air Force.
 JAMES ARTHUR BARCLAY (C), Royal Air Force.
 WILLIAM RICHARD CHRISTOPHER BOYLE PARKER (G), Royal Air Force.
 PETER ADRIAN LOWNDES WRIGHT (T), Rifle Brigade.
 PETER FYFE BAKER (C), Royal Artillery.
 THOMAS ELLISON GODMAN, D.S.C. (T), Royal Navy.

MICHAEL HILTON FRANKLIN (C), Royal Air Force.
 JOHN MORILLYON NAPIER, M.C. (G), 7th Royal Hussars.
 HENRY GORDON HEALE (B), Royal Navy.
 THOMAS DERWENT DAWSON (C), Royal Air Force.
 JOHN CECIL BERESFORD HARRIS (C), Royal Artillery.
 ANTHONY WALLIS MYERS (S), Royal Army Service Corps.
 PETER FREDERICK EVELYN FOSTER (G), 10th Royal Hussars.
 HUGH FAIRCLOUGH LELACHEUR (B), Royal Navy.
 PETER FRANCIS LOW (C), Royal Irish Fusiliers.
 CHARLES ERRILL O'HARA (S), Inniskilling Fusiliers.
 JULIAN JERVIS OLIPHANT HUTCHISON (C), 10th Royal Hussars.
 RAYMOND PASTEUR ALDERSON, C. de G. (C), Friends Ambulance Unit.
 ERNEST JOHN STROTHER PARKES (C), 5th Mahratta Light Infantry.
 PETER WYNDHAM PIOY LAWFORD (G), King's Own Scottish Borderers.
 IAN KIRKPATRICK WHITE-SMITH (B), Fleet Air Arm.
 PETER MICHAEL GEORGE LLEWELLEN PALMER (C), 10th Royal Hussars.
 DAVID ANCOTTS WILSON (B), Grenadier Guards.
 CHARLES IAN BALLANTINE WELLS (S), Royal Artillery.
 WILLIAM EDWARD DALZIEL (G), Royal Air Force.
 ERIC MARTENS (T), Royal Tank Regiment.
 MANATON EDWARD COURTENAY LORD (B), Royal Navy.
 RICHARD CHRISTOPHER PEILE (C), Warwickshire Yeomanry.
 PETER NICHOLSON (C), Royal Artillery.
 ROBIN ALEXANDER WOOD (C), South African Forces.
 PETER PULESTEN CLARKE (C), Royal Air Force.
 GERALD COMPTON MIALL (C), Royal Air Force.
 STEPHEN ALLEN SPENCER (C), Royal Air Force.
 JOHN ALTHAM HOTHAM (T), Royal Tank Regiment.
 RICHARD GEORGE ARTHUR BARCLAY, D.F.C. (B), Royal Air Force.
 WILLIAM ROBERT IAN TURNER (B), 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.
 GEORGE WILLIAM RODNEY (W), Royal Air Force.
 PETER NORMAN MURTON-NEALE (C), Royal Air Force.
 PAUL ANTHONY HARDING (C), Royal Air Force.
 TREVOR ROGER GASKELL (W), Royal Air Force.
 PETER HOLBROOK GASKELL (W), Royal Navy.
 MICHAEL GORDON MESTON REID (W), Royal Air Force.
 ANTHONY NORMAN MIALL (C), Rifle Brigade.

The names of Old Stoics who have fallen since Armistice Day are included in the Casualty List which follows.

CASUALTIES

KILLED

- LIEUTENANT R. A. WOOD (C, 1926), South African Forces, in July.
- CAPTAIN R. DE Z. MANSER (T, 1929), The Suffolk Regiment, in May 1941. (Previously reported Missing.)
- PILOT OFFICER P. A. HARDING (formerly ROTH) (C, 1929), R.A.F.V.R., in October.
- MAJOR J. A. HOTHAM (T, 1931), R.T.R., in July.
- PILOT OFFICER G. C. MIALL (C, 1932), R.A.F.V.R., in July.
- LIEUTENANT A. N. MIALL (C, 1934), R.B., in October.
- FLYING OFFICER P. N. MURTON-NEALE (C, 1934), R.A.F.V.R. (Previously reported Missing.)
- LIEUTENANT (A) D. A. HUTCHISON, D.S.C. (T, 1935), R.N., in November.
- LIEUTENANT B. H. V. PAGET (C, 1936), K.R.R.C., in November.
- FLYING OFFICER THE HON. G. W. RODNEY (W, 1936), R.A.F.V.R., in September.
- SUB-LIEUTENANT P. C. H. MORRIS (G, 1937), R.N.V.R., in November.
- PILOT OFFICER S. A. SPENCER (C, 1937), R.A.F.V.R., in August.
- CAPTAIN W. R. I. TURNER (B, 1937), 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, in September.
- SQUADRON LEADER R. G. A. BARCLAY, D.F.C. (B, 1938), R.A.F.V.R., in July. (Previously reported Missing.)
- SERGEANT PILOT T. R. GASKELL (W, 1938), R.A.F. (Previously reported Missing: now Believed Killed.)
- PILOT OFFICER P. P. CLARKE (C, 1938), R.A.F.V.R., in July.
- SECOND LIEUTENANT J. C. DREW (C, 1939), 23rd Hussars (att. 10th Royal Hussars), in November.
- PILOT OFFICER M. G. M. REID (W, 1939), R.A.F.V.R., in August. (Previously reported Wounded and Prisoner of War.)
- ORDINARY SEAMAN P. H. GASKELL (W, 1940), R.N., in October.
- SECOND LIEUTENANT I. N. CRAIG (C, 1940), 10th Royal Hussars, in October.

MISSING

- PILOT OFFICER K. S. TOMS (B, 1930), R.A.F.V.R. (October).
- MAJOR J. B. SOPPER (C, 1931), R.A. (April).
- CORPORAL C. H. G. KINAHAN (T, 1933), Singapore Defence Force. (July.)

- LIEUTENANT M. CAMPBELL (C, 1933), Perak Defence Force. (July.)
- CAPTAIN H. A. HELLAWELL (C, 1935), R.A. (Singapore, March.)
- PILOT OFFICER G. P. MARSHALL (C, 1941), R.A.F.V.R. (August.)

SAFE

- FLYING OFFICER W. B. HAY (B, 1936), R.A.F.V.R. (Previously reported Missing, now known to be Safe.)

PRISONER OF WAR

- MAJOR B. D. SKELTON GINN (T, 1924), R.A.O.C. (Previously reported Missing.)
- MR. F. H. B. O'REILLY (C, 1927), Singapore Defence Force. (July.)
- LIEUTENANT L. H. THWAITES (T, 1927), R.A. (July.)
- MAJOR G. S. C. TRENCH (C, 1931), R.A. (August.)
- LIEUTENANT W. L. THYNE (T, 1932), R.A. (June.)
- SECOND LIEUTENANT H. FORBES (B, 1932), R.B. (September, in Italy.)
- FLYING OFFICER P. P. L. E. WELCH (C, 1934), R.A.F.V.R. (September.)
- CAPTAIN THE EARL HAIG (C, 1935), Royal Scots Greys. (September, in Italy.)
- LIEUTENANT R. A. O. HENNIKER-MAJOR (B, 1935), R.A. (July.)
- FLYING OFFICER H. D. SEAL (C, 1935), R.A.F.V.R. (September.)
- LIEUTENANT C. A. GOLDINGHAM (C, 1936), R.A. (June.)
- PILOT OFFICER E. E. A. O'FARRELL (C, 1938), R.A.F.V.R. (October.)
- FLIGHT LIEUTENANT G. T. HUGILL (C, 1938), R.A.F.V.R. (July.) (Previously reported Missing.)
- SECOND LIEUTENANT R. N. C. KNIGHT BRUCE (C, 1939), Royal Gloucestershire Hussars. (August.)
- PRIVATE J. P. F. BROWN (G, 1939), 1st Transvaal Scottish. (July, in Italy.)

WOUNDED

- CAPTAIN R. A. P. TEMPLE, M.C. (T, 1930), K.R.R.C., in September.
- LIEUTENANT J. P. E. C. HENNIKER-MAJOR (B, 1934), R.B.
- CAPTAIN R. N. BARCLAY (C, 1937), R.A.

The Stoic can rarely publish the names of Old Stoics who have been wounded except when their friends or relatives supply the necessary information. It is possible that many more Old Stoics have been wounded than have appeared in *The Stoic's* lists.

OLIM ALUMNI

ATHLETIC

MR. P. R. H. HASTINGS (T, 1939), Welsh Guards, represented England at Rugby Football in the match against Wales on November 7th.

MR. A. D. THOMSON (G, 1941) and MR. J. E. MURRAY (B, 1942) have both represented Cambridge at Rugby Football. The former played against Oxford and dropped a goal.

MR. R. D. LIGHTFOOT (W, 1941) has been appointed Secretary of Athletics at Cambridge University.

MARRIAGES

CAPTAIN M. L. CASE (C, 1929), Pioneer Corps, to Miss J. O. Benham, on September 4th; CAPTAIN T. S. LUCAS, M.C. (C, 1932), K.R.R.C., to Miss J. R. Mathews, on August 15th; SQUADRON LEADER R. C. LINDSELL (G, 1932), R.C.A.F., to Miss P. D. Murphy, on February 28th; MR. M. J. MACOUN (G, 1933) to Miss G. Sladen, in November, 1940, in Nairobi; WING COMMANDER J. M. N. PIKE, D.F.C. (C, 1934), R.A.F., to Miss M. B. Dell, on July 26th; MR. N. I. BARTHOLOMEW (C, 1934), to Miss J. Cumming, on October 9th, 1941; CAPTAIN G. I. THWAITES (B, 1934), R.A.C., to Miss S. Darwin, on September 12th; CAPTAIN B. C. BRIANT (B, 1935) to Miss P. E. Rawle, on October 22nd; LIEUTENANT D. G. FELCE (G, 1935), R.N.V.R., to Miss J. Cowden, on October 24th.

LIEUTENANT A. H. P. HOPE (G, 1936), Welsh Guards, to Miss A. N. Vickers, on September 5th; MR. L. G. MCKEAN (G, 1936) to Miss E. Mayer, on June 26th; FLIGHT LIEUTENANT M. R. JACKSON (T, 1936), R.A.F.V.R., to Miss H. M. Richardson, on November 7th; DR. G. MCK. J. NICHOLL (B, 1936) to Miss P. W. Saunders, on October 24th; PILOT-OFFICER H. L. GILBERT (T, 1936), R.A.F.V.R., to Miss D. E. Edwards; LIEUTENANT J. N. CARLETON-STIFF (C, 1937), Royal Corps of Signals, to Miss P. A. Owen, on October 21st; MR. D. A. G. KAYE (G, 1938) to Miss E. Hurtle, on October 10th; FLYING OFFICER R. E. W. HARLAND (G, 1938), R.A.F.V.R., to Miss D. R. Romanis, on October 3rd; LIEUTENANT H. W. G. E. PEEL (G, 1938), Welsh Guards, to Miss L. M. Cookson, on October 31st.

BIRTHS

To the wife of CAPTAIN A. GIBBS (B, 1926), Coldstream Guards, a son, on November 4th; to the wife of CAPTAIN J. A. BOYD-CARPENTER (C, 1927), Scots Guards, a daughter, on September 25th; to the wife of MR. R. SLINGER (C, 1927), R.E.M.E., a son, on December 5th, 1941; to the wife of MR. A. RICKETTS (C, 1928), a son, on November 3rd; to the wife of SURGEON LIEUTENANT J. M. WEDDERSPOON (C, 1930), R.N.V.R., a daughter, on October 28th; to the wife of MR. L. M. MIALL (C, 1930), a daughter, on November 7th.

To the wife of WING COMMANDER G. A. L. CHEATLE (C, 1931), R.A.F., a daughter, on August 31st; to the wife of LIEUTENANT P. F. HORNSBY (G, 1931), R.A., a daughter, on October 21st, 1941; to the wife of CAPTAIN R. R. HAMMOND-CHAMBERS (C, 1931), Seaforth Highlanders, a son, on October 20th; to the wife of CAPTAIN J. M. DENNIS (C, 1931), Life Guards, a son, on October 7th; to the wife of CAPTAIN J. N. WOODBRIDGE (G, 1932), Middlesex Regiment, a son, on August 10th; to the wife of MR. M. J. MACOUN (G, 1933), a son, on October 12th, 1941, in Nairobi; to the wife of CAPTAIN P. E. C. HAYMAN (G, 1933), The King's Royal Hussars, a daughter, on October 13th; to the wife of FLYING OFFICER D. C. L. CHIDELL (G, 1933), R.A.F.V.R., a son, on August 20th; to the wife of MR. R. H. L. FARMER (G, 1933), a daughter, on November 7th.

To the wife of LIEUTENANT K. FIRTH (C, 1934), R.N.V.R., a son, on August 21st; to the wife of MR. N. I. BARTHOLOMEW (C, 1934), a daughter, on September 6th; to the wife of CAPTAIN K. M. H. CRABBE (B, 1935), R.A., a son, on August 2nd; to the wife of CAPTAIN G. C. MAXWELL (G, 1936), Grenadier Guards, a daughter, on October 25th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT P. J. ELLAM (G, 1937), R.A., a son, on November 26th; to the wife of MR. M. G. F. VENTRIS (T, 1939), a son, on December 3rd.

DEATH

MR. R. C. R. CLARKE (G, 1929), on July 22nd.

STOICA

School Officials—Christmas Term, 1942.

Prefects :—A. J. Gray (T), Head of the School; J. E. Colbeck (T), Second Prefect; P. K. Collier (B), Prefect of Chapel; I. A. P. Rumsey (G); J. S. Hillyer (G), Prefect of Gymnasium; S. C. Lloyd (B); [G. A. Alder (C), called up in November]; P. M. B. Greenall (C), Prefect of Library; D. G. Forsyth (G); J. D. Proctor (C); R. M. Hippisley-Cox (C); J. C. Farmer (W); P. K. Withinshaw (C).

Rugby Football :—Captain, A. J. Gray (T); Secretary, D. W. N. Calderwood (G).

The following visitors have preached in Chapel this term :—

Sunday, Nov. 8th. The Ven. C. W. H. Weekes, Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight.

Sunday, Nov. 15th. The Rev. F. M. Argyle, Assistant Chaplain at Haileybury.

On Thursday, December 3rd, the Bishop of Oxford confirmed eighty-one members of the School in Chapel.

The Chapel Collection for Earl Haig's Poppy Fund, on November 8th, amounted to £42 4s. 6d., which is nearly nine pounds in excess of any previous Collection. An auction of Harvest Festival Decorations raised £12 2s. 1d. for the Buckingham Hospital, the auction being conducted in Assembly by J. I. G. Capadose (T).

During the Summer Holidays, a Stowe Forestry Camp was once again held in the Windermere district, and a Harvest Camp was again held at Rendcomb, near Cirencester. A good deal of help has also been given to farmers during the term.

Mr. S. W. King and Mr. A. S. Hett have joined the Staff this term.

1st XV Colours have been awarded to :—I. A. P. Rumsey (G), S. C. Lloyd (B) (re-awarded); N. C. S. Barling (G), M. H. A. Robinson (W), R. T. F. Larsen (G), J. B. A. Kessler (B), A. N. C. Bruce (B), G. W. Hawkings (C), F. I. Watson (G), H. B. G. Epps (T), J. S. Perry (C), R. D. R. Lycett Green (T), R. H. M. Pease (G).

2nd XV Colours have been awarded to :—R. P. Bourdon Smith (G), P. N. Pearson (C), P. K. Withinshaw (C), D. G. Campion (W), J. G. C. Knight (G), J. M. Ashcroft (C), R. M. Verdon-Roe (B), C. M. Campbell (W), D. G. Forsyth (G), C. S. Wallis-King (G), I. E. C. Danvers (B), J. G. O. W. Yerburgh (B).

3rd XV Colours have been awarded to :—B. S. Dodwell (G), W. M. W. Thomas (C), J. E. C. Kennon (G), P.-J. S. Mackay (T), R. F. Wright (G), J. C. B. Bremner, (C), P. S. Armstrong (G).

Colts' Stockings have been awarded to :—A. W. B. Hayward (G), J. V. Bartlett (T), E. D. Good (B), G. C. Robinson (W), H. A. S. Murray (C), D. L. Pike (G), R. C. B. Chancellor (C), D. R. Turquand-Young (C), S. Ruthven (C), J. A. R. Anson (G), C. Dansie (C), M. R. G. Eyre (G), D. C. Bakirgian (C), P. H. Guest (B).

CERTIFICATES

As a result of the July Examinations this year, the following obtained Certificates.

HIGHER CERTIFICATES

Oxford and Cambridge Board.

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EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS
FROM OLD STOICS IN THE FORCES

TESTS FOR "POTENTIAL OFFICERS"

I have been before one of the new Selection Boards. It is a three-day affair and the test is nothing if not thorough. They put us up for three days in considerable comfort and treated us like officers all the time. We had the feeling that everything we did was noticed and put down on one side or the other of our account. A lot of the time was spent on psychological and intelligence tests, some of which were very easy but some of which were brutes. The greater part of one day was spent in interviews with psychiatrists, psychologists and Colonels. In the evening of that day we had to give "lectures" on various subjects and take part in discussions started by the officers. The next morning we had a very tough physical test and in the afternoon we were given some tactical problems to solve. Somehow or other I survived all the tests and was posted very soon afterwards to a Pre-O.C.T.U.

LIVE AMMUNITION

I had never done any of this Battle Drill before. Physical fitness seems to be the one thing that matters, and we doubled everywhere and all the time. There was not much theoretical work, but lots of practical stuff, with plenty of live ammunition and field firing to keep one moving. The officers and staff instructors were first-class—which was lucky, as when there is live ammunition about you want to feel confidence in the people using it.

THE GIN PALACE

I never expected that an interest in "Signals" acquired in the Stowe J.T.C. would land me in a country like this—where water is counted out by the pint, flies attack by the million, and sand is everywhere and in everything—not to mention the few billion calories of sunshine we daily absorb. But still I have always wanted to be here, and here I am—so why grumble? But no-one will ever persuade me to take a holiday at the seaside again.

I am working in a Gin Palace. From outside it looks like a soap-box on wheels, and from inside it feels like a soap-box without wheels. On the first day I cut my knee on a piece of metal on the ceiling.

The crew of a Gin Palace consists of a driver and two or three operators, who are together all day and every day. Thank heaven, I have landed up with three very pleasant bodies. It is quite hard work—three hours on, six hours off, trying to distinguish your own signal from a few thousand others mostly much louder. But it is interesting if you like it—and there are some far less fortunate. I am always sorry for the Tank Corps, whose tanks are just ovens in this climate.

I had my first experience of a sand storm the other day. Now I know what a soda-water syphon feels like when it is being sand-blasted. No wonder it makes such a disgruntled noise.

Out here, as elsewhere, life is what you make it. If you chose to be miserable you could do it very thoroughly here. But most people have chosen the other alternative and are making a great success of it.

AMERICAN HOSPITALITY

The generosity of the Americans has not been exaggerated. In fact it simply cannot be exaggerated. On my last leave I got down to the States and went with two friends of mine to Minneapolis, where we had a fantastic time. We knew nobody in the place and we had no introductions. We rather wondered, therefore, what we would do when we arrived there at 6.30 on a Saturday morning. However, we need not have wondered. By mid-day on Sunday we had been invited to private houses for every night of our stay. As to meals, we were pretty fully booked up for them, too, and if ever by chance we hadn't been invited anywhere and went into a restaurant by ourselves, somebody would find out in a few minutes that we were from England and insist upon ordering a grand lunch for us and paying for it himself. If we protested and attempted to pay for anything out of our own pockets, it was thought to be almost an insult.

We got mixed up with the police too—but not in the way you probably think. We were introduced to the Chief of Police by one of our new friends, and hearing that we had not seen much of the City, he sent us round it in a police car with a plain-clothes detective as driver and guide. After that he told us that, if we ever wanted to go anywhere at all, we only had to ring up the police and ask for a car. One always hears that Americans admire the British police. But I can tell you that I think a lot of the American brand.

AN R.A.F. INSTRUCTOR IN CANADA

Most people have to cross Canada by train, but I was lucky enough to go by plane. It was quite exciting work, as our aeroplanes were never meant to be flown in the kind of weather we had. The temperature was usually 20 degrees below zero, which is definitely chilly, for planes as well as for people. For hundreds of miles we saw nothing below us but trees and frozen lakes. It was perhaps a bit monotonous, but it was certainly a thing to have seen.

Another thing I have been to out here is the Calgary Stampede, which is the biggest Rodeo in the world. I never thought that I should see real people doing the things that happen in Wild West films—cowboys riding bucking broncos and wild steers and lassoing calves or riding in chuck wagon races. I wish that . . . had seen it, as the horses were really lovely.

I have to fly at 6 o'clock tomorrow morning, taking up some exceedingly dim-witted pupils. I now know what Stowe masters felt when they took me in the first period of morning school. Anyway, I had better go to bed now so as to be ready for the young men in the morning.

FURTHER RESEARCH IN GREMLINOLOGY

I suppose the habits of the common Gremlin are now well known, for first-hand information has, for some time, been available from all flying members of H.M. Air Force.

A recent experience, however, has convinced me of the existence of a quite new species of this type of fauna—essentially benevolent in its attitude to airmen and possessing, moreover, mathematical capabilities of the highest order.

I was flying with a pupil a few hundred feet below cloud base, when the aircraft struck a cable. It was a vertical cable. As it had no visible means of support from above it appeared to be behaving like the rope in the Indian Rope Trick. But whatever it was doing, it had cut deep into my port wing, right up against the fuselage. It did not take me long to realize that there must be a balloon at the top end of the cable, but I realized at the same time that as we were nowhere near a balloon area the bottom end of the cable must be drifting loose. I reflected, too, that we still possessed a port wing, and I arrived at the conclusion (in less time than it takes to write about it) that we had a sporting chance of getting clear. I told the pupil to be ready to jump when I gave the word, explaining what our predicament was and how I was going to try to get out of it. Our luck held. After an exciting few seconds, the cable was behind us and we were upside down. Looking at the wing, I wondered . . . a very gentle pull out of the dive . . . it held, and we resumed a more normal position. The balloon now appeared below the clouds, looking a little ashamed of itself, I thought.

At the time I felt inclined to attribute our luck to an absence of Gremlins (they are never asleep on active service and absence of course implies activity elsewhere). The Gremlin who so cunningly guided us into the cable had no doubt become dislodged on impact, floating down to earth using his webbed feet as a parachute, as is customary.

It was the ground engineer's report which upset this theory completely, and forced me to contemplate the possible existence of a new type of Gremlin—kind, thoughtful and, I insist, a first-rate mathematician.

From the report, I gathered that there was no mark whatsoever on the wing, except where the cable had entered at the root. The cable had therefore passed close to the airscrew spinner—which, of course, it could only have done in the precise fraction of a second during which the two blades were in a vertical position. What the mathematical probabilities were of the airscrew being precisely vertical as the cable passed it, I do not know, but I should think that the chances against it could be reckoned in millions to one.

May this new species of Gremlin prosper and multiply!

BRUSH UP YOUR FRENCH

This job of picking pilots out of the drink gave me a chance to brush up my French. I was the only man on board who had any knowledge of the language—and I had only as much as a Classic picks up incidentally at Stowe. So whenever we rescued a French pilot, I was called upon to talk to him. This I usually did, to the satisfaction of my superiors and the amusement

of the Frenchman. On one occasion I said to an officer, "Heureusement, Monsieur, votre blessure n'est pas sérieuse." Of course I ought to have known better. But I was a little abashed when he replied in perfect English, "I am glad to hear that, but you know we do not usually put it quite like that in French."

I did not see much of Dieppe itself when that show came along. But we picked a lot of people out of the water and rejoiced in watching the triumph of the R.A.F. The sky was simply full of Spitfires the whole time.

ARMS AND THE MONK

When I got back to Harrar I had to function for a time as its Political Officer—dealing with Italians, Habash, Somalis, Harraris, Arabs, etc. Next I was sent off with a Company of K.A.R. to beat up some Somali cattle raiders. We had a bit of a party with them and finished off by hanging the worst of them, burning down eleven villages and bringing back ten of their chiefs to imprisonment in Harrar. The authorities gave me greater credit for that than was my due, and as a result I was sent off on numerous little expeditions with half a dozen Amhara police and my interpreter (also an Amhara). The most amusing party was against a village which was somewhat off the roads we used. It was said that many Italians were there and had hidden arms and were preparing trouble. I and my police were sent to investigate. I searched all the Government stores and found nothing. Then I went to the R.C. Mission to ask them if they could give me any help. The Brother in Charge acted so strangely that I decided to search his premises and his Church. There were the arms. Above the altar were stacks of grenades, M.G. sights and ammunition, loaded Mauser rifles and so on. Under the Church floor-boards were more rifles and other stores. In private houses too, I found rifles and grenades and altogether arrested and brought back to Harrar nineteen prisoners.

OXFORD IN WAR-TIME

I had to join the Infantry Unit of the S.T.C. for my pre-entry training (as there was no Naval Cadet Corps until this term). This meant I had two terms of very gruelling training for Cert 'B,' culminating in a three-weeks camp and the actual exam last vac. It is really the equivalent of going through the ranks, as people with Cert. 'B' go practically straight to an O.C.T.U. We did 1½ days training a week and the drill, discipline, standard of smartness and efficiency were terrific. When I thought of the good old days in the O.T.C. and A.T.C. I felt quite sad. They never got me in the "arkward squad," though, and provided you put something into the training you were safe. The Officers and N.C.O.'s are Guardsmen who have been drafted to the Unit, and our C.S.M. was a terrifying man till we got to know his little ways. We wore H.G. uniform, but the turn-out had to be just right (badge polished, hair cropped, super-clean shave, no buttons undone, finger nails clean, knife-like crease in trousers, terrific shine on boots and gaiters) and if any wretched person was not properly turned out, he would find himself in front of the Adjutant in double time. They never got me. We did P.T. with Army Instructors and it wasn't South-Front-in-the-Break P.T. either. Swimming the Isis in full equipment and doing the assault course as soon as you are across is no joke. The hardest thing, I always thought, was bayonet-fighting on a hot day—the Sergeant-Major threw stones at us if we didn't move fast enough. During the three-weeks camp last vac we were twenty miles from here on the Berkshire Downs. We were at it every day and most nights, doubling in full equipment over the downs, doing forced marches, night patrols, stunts, battle drill and all-night exercises against a company of the Coldstream Guards. Needless to say we all were very fit after it, but it was rather a waste of time from the Naval candidates' point of view. One O.S. (I won't mention his name) nearly blew about ten people to eternity by putting an H.E. mortar bomb wrong end first down a two-inch mortar. Fortunately it didn't explode, but the R.S.M.'s face was an unforgettable sight and his remarks were definitely to the point. The only time I came near to killing anyone was one night when I was on guard and I stuck a bayonet into an idiot who would not halt when ordered. He couldn't report me to anyone, either, and anyway it was time such people were taught to respect the guard. I've never seen anyone leave the camp as fast as he did; so the point couldn't have gone in far.

Life is less hectic this term, as the Naval Division has been formed for "Y" scheme people. So I shall have had some Naval training when I go to Portsmouth in January. My knowledge of Morse, Navigation and Aircraft Recognition gained in the A.T.C. is coming in very useful now.

FORCED LANDING

... So I had to come down in the sea. It was 3 a.m. and we hit the water about a mile from the end of the pier at—well, a famous seaside resort! There was no damage to the others at all, but I had to be different. I bit the stick and then went on to investigate the dashboard. However, I wasn't any the worse for it all except that I lost three front teeth. A naval rescue boat picked us up after two hours. They treated us splendidly. Nothing seemed to be too much trouble for them

A SUMMER MORNING

It was the most lovely summer morning, and just as the sky began to light up, the bombardment of Dieppe started with a noise of thunder, and great clouds of dark smoke rolled across the yellow sky. The whole thing was completely "Wagnerian" and at any moment I expected to see a couple of great fat Teutonic women go cantering across the sky! I hope you'll forgive the insult to Wagner. Actually it was a really magnificent sight and one which I shall never forget . . . On these so-called "Red Indian" parties I have learnt to take a completely detached view of things while they are actually going on. This is a great blessing and saves one's nerves, which might otherwise spoil the trip.

HERE IS THE NEWS

(JUNIOR CONTRIBUTION)

Here is the news—and this is Kit Marlowe reading it.

The Spanish Armada, which left Ferrol on July 12th, was sighted off Plymouth Hoe recently by H.M.S. The Golden Hind. It was engaged off Plymouth by Admirals Howard, Hawkins, Frobisher and Drake. Eye witnesses give the interesting news that the last-named was playing bowls at the time. The San Salvador received several direct hits, blew up, and was captured, being taken in tow with a heavy list by one of our fast naval craft; she later sank.

A second action was fought off the Isle of Wight, in which we inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy, our own being comparatively light. The action was broken off and resumed again off Calais where a successful running fight ensued.

Here is the communiqué issued by the Admiralty late last night. "Our light cruiser squadrons are still engaging the enemy, and are being reinforced. H.M.S. Sabre, operating on routine patrol, has carried out a successful attack against an unidentified enemy warship." It goes on to say, that we have effected a complete rout of the enemy and that we are now pursuing the Spanish Armada across the North Sea. During the course of this action, the enemy cruiser Recalde was hit, set on fire, and later scuttled by the Spaniards' own gunfire, so that she would not fall into our hands.

The Board of Admiralty regrets to announce the loss of H.M.S. Burleigh, during the Calais action; and H.M.S. Triumph sustained superficial damage. Six officers and nineteen naval ratings are missing. Madrid Radio admitted that they had suffered heavy losses against British Forces during the last twenty-four hours.

Unofficial news agencies say, that in a despatch to the Queen, Drake asserted his full confidence even in these early stages of the battle. He also mentioned the splendid behaviour of his men. The Queen sent a personal message to Drake expressing her admiration of the great naval victory. She also sent a telegram of congratulations to the Commander of the Home Guard, Southern section, on the brilliant work of transmitting, by beacons, the news that the Spanish Fleet had been sighted.

There will be a postscript following this news bulletin by Sir Frederick Underhill, the originator of the Beacon system.

That is the end of the news.

A.N.G.

POETRY

CATULLUS XXXI.

O Sirmio, of islands false and true
The pearl, of all that either Neptune holds
In lakes or with the mighty sea enfolds,
How filled with joy am I that come to you!
I scarcely dare believe that I am free
From Thynia's plains, and see you safe again.
O what more blessed than to free the brain
From heavy loads of care, and peaceful be?
Or what more pleasant than the longed-for bed—
The thought alone is foreign toil's reward—
On which to lay my travel-weary head?
Hail, lovely Sirmio; come, greet your lord.
You waters of the Lydian lake, rejoice!
Whate'er's at home, in laughing tones give voice.

C.A.C.

THE APPLE

The lorry, stacked right up with crates of apples,
Swung round the siding bend. On top, in the sun,
I was a king (but once I'd had to duck
Under a whistling phone wire) chucking apples
—Six for men shovelling sludge and one
For the carrier's mare with the wise head.
. . . Unloaded them into a London truck
Smoky with coal-dust, vaulted like a shed,
Six high in tiers . . . I dropped a crate
And cursed, no longer king but fool,
As apples bruised by dozens on the floor;
Picking one up, held it like Yorick's skull
—Not rotten yet nor warped with cold earth's weight
But orange-red as the rouged cheek of a whore—
And my front teeth crunched its spurting flesh
And I wondered where it might have been unless
I'd eaten it—such gold coin, I've read,
Young Paris bartered for another man's
Girl; or this might have been an artist's apple,
Mirrored in walnut, florid as Cézanne's,
Those precious fruit that never will go bad . . .
Might have been eaten in a photograph
By a silver girl, or, taken to the Zoo,
Have fed a mandrill or a cockatoo . . .
This, juggled, could have made a sick man laugh
Or, in a gutter, pleased a rat-toothed boy.

But I bite it clean and chuck away the core,
Four fighters go on drolling overhead
And, squatting in the truck, a man called Ted
Is reminiscing endlessly
Of Arras and another bloody war.

J.F.T.

THE STOIC

SONG WITH THREE VERSES

They sit on the graves of the dead
Singing madrigals under the moon ;
Her shoulder's a place for his head
And his heart is a place for her own.

Flowers droop and waves break ; they will die
And their voices fall into the dust,
And the moon, it will fade from the sky ;
So their shadowy love shall be lost.

So the earth that was full of their life
Shall be empty and dull in the dawn,
For inanimate stars have no grief
And the moon is unable to mourn.

J.C.F.

POEM.

The cloud-fringed sky had bled
Its last late drops of red,
And all was quiet in the world,
Save where the limpid sea-foam curled
In murmurs, round the pebbles on the shore.
Unheralded, the twilight fell once more,
And walked the shadowed way,
As night drove out the day.
And then the stars with diamond light
Picked out the arch of caerule night :
They hung there, jewels on Our Lady's cope,
And, with Her, whispered down a kiss of hope,
Our Lady of the Night
Is robed in stars of light.

J.E.M.I.

THE NORTH SEA

Evening Twilight

There upon the pale sea shore
I sat immersed in sorrowful thoughts, alone.
The setting sun sank deeper down, and cast
Red molten streaks upon the water ;
And the far white waves,
Driven by the flooding tide,
Foamed and roared, nearer and nearer —
A strange sound, a whispering and hissing,
Laughing and murmuring, sighing and moaning,
And mingled with lullabies soothingly chanted—
It seemed I heard some long-dead saga,
Age-old, lovely fairy-tale

J.W.M.

Translated from the original German of Heinrich Heine.



Photo by []

THE GEORGIAN FOUNTAIN,
ABOVE CHACKMORE

[J.F.R.]



Photos by

SPECIMENS FROM THE
HALL COLLECTION

J.K.M.

THE STOIC

133

LYRIC

Beyond the horizon,
where the overhead blue fades
to fierce uncoloured opacity,
we contemplate a desert beauty, sensing
icy wind blow through the sunlight, tearing
fear from a green sea.

Dark twisted agony in the yellow dunes
like cloud streaks, sinister,
where the winds clashed ;
this deathly reality
vibrating also in the night
slants down the fearful orchards of a dream.

The three young ladies on the stairs
melt through a marble silence, moving
in broken thunder to the moon ;
these final eyes explore the hidden music
dissolving timeless images in networks
destroyed before the sudden cruel truth.

G.C.N



HUMILIATION

He got out of the train into the steamy gloom of Euston and hurried through the rapturous reunions of parents and sons that were going on around him. He shoved his hat on the back of his head, picked up his suitcase, squash racket and wireless and wondered whether it should be a taxi or a tube. 'Hell,' he thought, 'I can't lug these things half-way across London,' and signalled to a taxi. In his pleasurable elation at his independence he had failed to notice that the taxi was already occupied by five florid and overdressed boys now ostentatiously lighting cigarettes. The taxi-driver looked at him disdainfully and turning round a right-angle corner caused him to retreat and drop his wireless. He bent down and picked it up, wondering whether any of the valves had gone. Somewhat sobered from his first exultation he marched over to the rank and selected a taxi. He was about to get in. "Along to the front, please, son," said the driver. So off he went again. At last he settled down in the dungeon-like interior of the first cab. The driver sauntered over to him. "Where to?" "Waterloo," said the boy in a tone that informed the driver more clearly than words that there must be no detours. After an interminable journey, he was deposited in the crowded booming interior of Waterloo. "How much?" "It's on the meter." The meter showed 2/9. The boy decided on a 6d. tip and, putting down his baggage, fished out some change. The driver sat back against the mudguard. The boy handed over threepence and sixpence and what he thought was a half-crown. In fact it was a florin. The driver counted the money out and looked at him expectantly. "Isn't that enough?" "Oh, yes, this is the legal fare," said the driver. The boy saw his mistake, put everything down again and handed over a sixpence. "Thang yew," said the driver.

The boy set out for the left luggage place. He attached himself to a queue, behind an immensely short Jew who was soon joined by a large number of his relatives, all removing their luggage. At last it was his turn. He planked his burdens on the metal counter. "Thank goodness I've got rid of them," he said chattily. "Next counter for deposits, please," said the man looking witheringly at him. He picked up his things and, turning round, bumped a small boy with a large tweed cap on the head with his squash racket. He apologized to the child's mother. "Some people have no considerations," she said. He joined the next queue. When he was finally free, he made his way to the station bar. He squeezed in front till confronted by a peroxidized barmaid. "Some gin, please," he said in a quavering simulation of casualness. The peroxidized barmaid winked at the little grey-haired one next to her. "Just gin?" she asked, raising her eyebrows. "Yes, of course," he answered blushing. "As you like," she said, and poured him out a neat double. "2/6 if you please." He was appalled; he hadn't got 2/6 in change. He hauled out his wallet and extracted a note, making his points book drop on the floor. He picked it up as she stood there holding out her hand and giggling quietly. He took his drink over to a nearby table and prepared to sit down opposite a girl in bicycling shorts who was eating a doughnut. He sat down. His gas mask bumped against the back of the chair and made him spill some of the gin. He lifted the glass and took a mouthful. 'What a disgusting taste,' he thought. He swallowed some and it burnt his throat. He burst out in a fit of coughing. The noise attracted the attention of the husband of the girl opposite him, who left the bar where he had been getting a couple of orangeades and walked over. "Excuse me, but I'm afraid you're sitting in my place." The boy, still convulsed with coughing, collected himself and went over to the next table. Everyone in the place seemed to be watching him. He sat down and filled up his glass from a jar of water in front of him, whistling in a ghastly attempt at nonchalance. He got rid of the gin and walked out, hearing laughter behind him.

He still had an hour to spare. He bought a ninepenny ticket at the news theatre, ran up the stairs and handed it to the usherette. "Quite a nice bit," he said to himself and, summoning up his courage, held on to the hand returning his half ticket and winked at her. She pulled her hand away and burst out laughing. The commissionaire looked round the corner, "Come on, sonny, don't make a fool of yourself." Popeye, a news film about the Burma Road, James A. Fitzpatrick on Lhasa in glorious technicolour and Irving S. Cobb on Kings of Sport, No. 57, failed to interest him. The time came to leave, he picked up his luggage and settled himself in the train.

A marvellous blonde was sitting opposite to him, but he didn't look at her. He was feeling very depressed. He'd had his day in London, he'd had a drink and it had made him cough, he'd winked at a girl and she'd laughed at him, he'd made a fool of himself; just another school-boy trying to be big. He took off his beloved pork pie and flung it up on the rack. He stared sulkily at a blackout notice and a picture of Oban. Suddenly, the marvellous blonde started speaking: "Like a look at the *Standard*? Nothing much in it though." He felt cheered up. Perhaps he wasn't doing so badly after all.

A.M.Q.

THE GREAT VALLEY

A very long time ago, a man, bearing the characteristic high cheek-bones, and smooth, lank hair of the Mongols, panted up the last steep hundred yards to the top of the pass. Stumbling and slipping, he pressed on, and at last flung himself down on the small hillock at the head of the pass. Below him, the setting sun, turning its rushing torrents and broad rivers into molten gold, cast a soft glow on the forests and hills of the valley. The clouds became tinged with amber, slowly deepening until they merged into the red sea-path that led westwards to the sun. The mountains lost some of their harshness, and softened in outline; the wind could be heard sighing in the reeds, while a fox barked in the woods. Yet it was not of all this scene of natural beauty that the man was thinking; his eyes missed the beauties and picked out only those points in the landscape that would be of use to him. He noted the thick woods and the likely haunts of game; the high and the low, the firm and the marshy ground, and finally a suitable place for his bivouac. Then with his mind full of the thought of meat, he called to his wife, and walked down into the gathering dusk.

Some thousands of years later, a ragged man with a nobleman's title, staggered up the same slope, and, with a gasp of weariness, lay down on the same small hillock. From behind his back he unhitched a leather water-bottle and took a few sips. Then he again looked to his front. He had travelled 7,000 miles to see this. Over oceans, mesas, sierras, through forests, and across rivers had he come. Out of his band of conquistadors, he alone survived, and down below lay his reward, the great, and, so he believed, gold-bearing valley. The smoke from the Indians' fires showed where he could find labour to exploit his gains; the sea beyond showed him the means by which he might transport it home to the orange-groves of Seville. His mind possessed by this thought, he set off down the mountain, and failed to see the glories of the valley, blinded as he was by greed.

In the year 1847, Culvert reined up his team on the pass before descending into the valley. Good land there, he thought. When the forest was cleared and drained, he could plant orchards of apples, plums, pears, peaches and apricots. He would drain the marshes, and plant wheat, and his flocks would roam on the slopes of the Sierra, while the rivers should provide him with fish and fowl.

Yet this was profit for a later date. Gold was his immediate reward, gold-dust lying, so he'd heard, ankle deep. With that, nothing was beyond a man. He might own all this great valley, and turn it into a vast, profit-bearing concern . . .

His wife's shrill voice questioned him from the wagon. "All right, we're going!" he shouted, and went to the horses' heads. As he led them down, he heard his son get out the block of wood they used as a brake. Satisfied, he concentrated on finding the shortest way to the little village of Sacramento, ignoring the scenery.

1925 was a boom-year and John Weston was satisfied with it. It had given him this new car which was now cresting the pass so well, and as he changed into third, he thought by how much it had shortened the journey. Now he would soon be back at his farm. As he coasted down the other side, he saw the long lines of petrol-stoves up and down the valley, keeping off the frost which was evidently expected. He thought anxiously of his orange-crop; 20,000 dollars would be lost if temperature-inversion beat his stoves. That would mean ruin, but it was an unlikely possibility, for he had an apple-crop coming, higher up the hill-side, where the frost could not come. Yes, he was safe enough, and he drove on down to where dinner, his work and profit awaited him.

When the last man on earth had crawled away to die, the Devil flew to the top of the pass, and looked down on his handiwork. He chuckled to himself as he gazed at the beauty which he had wrought, that beautiful valley whose real beauties few had appreciated, but whose promises of material wealth and gain few had been able to resist. Cabrillo in 1543, Drake in 1578, and Vancouver in 1791, and then, announcing civilization, Greenwood and Stevens in 1840. The valley had heard every tongue; every tongue had belonged to one whose sole thought was profit. From the old greybeards come to die in the sun to the young hopefuls who had come to make a

living, it had experienced every type. Its hills had felt the drills for oil and gold; its plains had produced every type of fruit for half the globe. It had become the centre of civilization, just as the valleys of the Nile and Wei-Ho had fostered man. And now, here too, man had passed away.

The wind sighed in the tree-tops, and shook the reeds. The waters ran blood-red through the marshes, lapping the haunts of geese and duck that had once more made their refuge there. An elk raised its head as it heard the howl of a coyote, and a fox barked in the woods' depths. There was a sullen splash as a chiselled block of stone sank into the marsh, the audible expression of the defeat of civilization. The Devil laughed as he heard it. He had won, and he flew westward.

Some aeons later, the Devil came again to the valley. Save that the Sierra were less jagged, there had been little change, even in the flora and fauna. It was still his. As he turned to fly, however, he saw something move at the water's edge. He flew down, for it was no animal that had moved. Was it, could it be? yes, it was—Man. Naked, dirty, unkempt and fierce, there he sat on a deer's carcass, just as he had sat at the beginning of the world, triumphant. With a howl of despair the Devil flew off. All his work undone, and to be done again. Was this his punishment, eternal failure? Had he then a master? He was filled with despair, and as he wandered aimlessly over the earth's surface, the echo of words he had heard long ago came once more into his mind:

"Then shalt thou see, or rather to thy sorrow
Soon feel, whose God is stronger, thine or mine."

P.M.B.G.



RUGBY FOOTBALL

THE results of this season's football have not been good. Of the six inter-School matches, one was won, one was drawn and four were lost. Three matches out of four were won against club sides. Two of the defeats were heavy, Bedford and Oundle running up scores that were nearly as big as those of last year. The other two losses and the draw, however, might well have been victories. Uppingham won by a place-kick; Rugby included a penalty in their 9—3 win, and in the St. Edward's match the Stowe form was too bad to be true. There was one innovation; the Bedford match was played in the morning.

A. J. Gray (T) had three old colours besides himself; two forwards, I. A. P. Rumsey (G) and S. C. Lloyd (B), and D. W. N. Calderwood (G) in the three-quarters. There was every possibility that the pack would be heavy and bustling, and be able to beat opposing forwards, at least in the scrums, so as to counter-balance what was evidently going to be a weak back division. Gray set a fine example of hard work, both in the tight scrums and in the loose, and appeared to be leading the side well; but, although individuals played some good games, the pack failed to get together and to become really dangerous as a whole. The backing-up in the loose rushes was weak and opponents were not only allowed to hold up the Stowe breakaways, but also to start attacks from them simply because there was no one to carry on, once the leader of the rush had lost the ball. The tackling in the loose was poor, always excepting Gray, and opponents were let through the Stowe forwards time and again. The covering of backs in defence was quite good, particularly by Lloyd and Gray, except for a bad spell in the second half against Uppingham. The fundamental fault was that the forwards were all too gentle in their methods, most markedly against a light Rugby pack that should have been pushed about almost at will. The blame for some of this must rest on Gray, first for being too gentle himself, and secondly for not being sufficiently abusive, as is often necessary with heavy forwards. N. C. S. Barling (S) played some good games and A. N. C. Bruce (B) improved with each match, being very good against Uppingham and Radley. Rumsey started the season well, but fell off and was most disappointing in the last few matches. J. B. A. Kessler (B) scrummaged well, G. W. Hawkings (C) hooked adequately in spasms, and R. T. F. Larsen (G) played two good games. Lloyd, like Gray, was good at covering the backs, especially against Rugby, and might have made all the difference if he had been able to play against Uppingham.

The composition of the backs presented several problems. Calderwood and M. H. A. Robinson (W) were the only two who had had much experience of 1st XV football last season, and at first were played at centre three-quarter and fly-half respectively, but without success. G. A. Alder (C) was the first scrum-half and, although he was slow against Bedford, might have become a good one. After he left, P. K. Withinshaw (C) was tried, and then F. I. Watson (S), a centre of last year's Colts side, was discovered. At the same time Calderwood was moved to the left wing and Robinson to the centre beside R. D. R. Lycett-Green (T), and J. S. Perry (C) came in at fly-half. It was hoped that these changes would introduce more thrust into the attack; eventually they did, but it took some time and it was not until the game against Rosslyn Park Colts that the backs could be said to be working smoothly together. They were at their best against Radley, when two fine tries were scored, one by each

wing. After many changes the right wing was finally occupied by H. B. G. Epps (T) who played well against Uppingham and Radley. Robinson was the most successful of the backs, but was not quite fast enough to be a match-winner and never learnt to give accurate passes. Calderwood was disappointing until the Radley match and Lycett-Green was unreliable. Watson was a very good individualist, with plenty of good football sense, but he must learn to give longer and faster passes from the scrum; however, if all goes well, he and Perry should make a good pair of halves next year. R. H. M. Pease (G) did some good things at full-back, but was clumsy and not very reliable in his kicking. The tackling as a whole was weak, being too high and lacking in drive, so that opponents were never made to feel that it was safer to pass. Superiority can often be established by a few smashing tackles early in a game, but this year's team were unable to get it in that way.

The football in the School was altered by the introduction of a new system of Senior Leagues, in which each League team was looked after by two patrons from the Fifty. These patrons can improve the football throughout the School, and next year, when they have learnt better how to coach their teams for the sake of seeing them play good football, and not merely for the sake of winning a cup for a House, the system should become really effective.

THE SCHOOL v. BEDFORD

Played at Bedford on Saturday, October 17th. Lost 3—26

L. F. L. Oakley, who played so well last year, was now captain of the Bedford XV and, although he was no longer supported by a fine pair of halves, was certain to prove a very dangerous threequarter. As our backs were not strong and were probably going to prove weak tacklers, it was essential that the forwards should quickly establish a superiority great enough to keep the ball away from Oakley. Stowe had the advantage of the hill in the first half, but within a few minutes it was apparent that this superiority would be hard to get. There was some forward play near half-way, during which Bedford held the scrums and seemed more lively in the loose, and then came a typical run by Oakley; the ball reached him very quickly from a scrum near half-way, he went round the Stowe centres very fast, shook off several would-be tacklers and scored a converted try near the posts. The forwards, admirably led by Gray, improved considerably and for a time got the ball in the scrums; Alder, however, was too slow and generally got smothered by the Bedford wing forwards before he could get the ball out to Robinson. Soon after the first score the ball did come out, Robinson cut through well, failed to find his threequarters again and was tackled; the ball was held by a Bedford player and Rumsey kicked a good penalty goal. Bedford pressed again from the kick-off and only a magnificent tackle by Gray stopped a dangerous threequarter movement; play was confined to the Stowe half for some time, but the Bedford threequarters showed a refreshing tendency to give and take passes badly. Stowe might now have taken more advantage of the opportunities presented to them by this poor passing, but the backs had not got the necessary speed and the forwards, though playing well as individuals, were not sufficiently together in the loose to keep rushes going for any distance. The ball came out to the backs on several occasions but the passing was too slow and at no time did they look effective. Just before half time an unconverted try was scored from a touch nearly on the Stowe line.

Hopes of a victory in the second half were not great. The backs were not good enough to pierce a strong defence and the forwards, who had already had a gruelling time, would have to play a tremendous game up the hill. It was soon apparent that it could not be done. Bedford got the ball in the tight and loose scrums; only dropped passes and much improved Stowe tackling kept the score down. The first score in the second half was a good one; our back row broke too quickly from a scrum on the line and the Bedford pack pushed straight through for an unconverted try. Some good rushes, led by Gray, Rumsey and Barling in turn, kept play in the Bedford half for some minutes, which had not happened before. Unfortunately the first signs of tiredness amongst the forwards now appeared; the Bedford scrum-half was not so closely marked, and was allowed to break away on his own from the scrums, thus spoiling the effects of the hard fought forward rushes. Following on one of these rushes the ball was taken off the

feet of the forwards and sent quickly out to Oakley who, varying his speed cleverly, ran right round the defence and scored a try under the posts, which he converted himself. Soon afterwards he made another skilful run but was well tackled; the ball was heeled from the loose scrum and this time it was the left wing who scored under the posts, the try being converted. Some forward play, a good free kick by Lloyd and a long dribble by Lycett Green was followed by a fine bit of combined passing in which most of the Bedford team must have joined; it began on the Bedford twenty-five and ended very near the Stowe line. Immediately afterwards the scrum-half slipped over in the corner and Oakley kicked a very good goal. The game ended almost immediately after the next kick-off.

Team:—R. H. M. Pease (G); R. P. Bourdon Smith (⊗), D. W. N. Calderwood (G), R. D. R. Lycett Green (T), R. T. F. Larsen (G); M. H. A. Robinson (W), G. A. Alder (⊙); A. J. Gray (T), G. W. Hawkings (⊙), N. C. S. Barling (⊗), J. B. A. Kessler (B), R. M. Hippiusley-Cox (C), A. N. C. Bruce (B), S. C. Lloyd (B), I. A. P. Rumsey (G).

THE SCHOOL v. RUGBY

Played at Rugby on Saturday, October 24th, Rugby winning by a penalty goal and two tries (9 points) to a try (3 points).

This game illustrated two of the fundamental weaknesses of the Stowe team—lack of aggression among the forwards and poor passing among the backs. The Rugby pack was light and lively—the Stowe pack was heavy and slow and allowed the Rugby forwards to hustle them almost as they willed. The Stowe backs were disappointing and at no time looked like a workable combination.

The game was played at a high speed with a wind blowing down the ground and a light ball. Rugby pressed for most of the first half; their backs were always dangerous and Stowe had to do a lot of defensive work. The first score came after twenty minutes when Stowe were penalized in front of their goal and Rugby kicked an easy penalty goal. Stowe then attacked with some fire, and, from a scrum on the Rugby line, Ashcroft slipped over far out for a try which was not converted. Rugby attacked immediately and their stand-off half cut through the rather shaky Stowe defence to score another try which was not converted, making the half-time score 6—3 in favour of Rugby.

In the second half Stowe had the wind at their backs but failed to use it to advantage and Rugby again had most of the play. The only score was from a very good run by the Rugby stand-off half who brushed aside some half-hearted tackling to go clean through the Stowe side for an excellent try. There was no more scoring and the game ended with some scrappy mid-field play.

Team:—R. H. M. Pease (G); R. P. Bourdon Smith (⊗), D. W. N. Calderwood (G), R. D. R. Lycett Green (T), J. M. Ashcroft (⊙); M. H. A. Robinson (W), P. K. Withinslaw (⊙); A. J. Gray (T), G. W. Hawkings (⊙), N. C. S. Barling (⊗), J. B. A. Kessler (B), R. T. F. Larsen (G), A. N. C. Bruce (B), S. C. Lloyd (B), I. A. P. Rumsey (G).

THE SCHOOL v. ST. EDWARD'S SCHOOL, OXFORD.

The match against St. Edward's was played at Oxford on Wednesday, November 4th, and ended in a draw, 0—0. The result was suitable because, in a most disappointing game, neither side ever looked really dangerous. The ball was very wet and the ground heavy, but even so, far more passes were dropped than could be justified by the conditions.

Stowe kicked off up the hill and, with a few short intervals, held a territorial advantage throughout the first half. Unfortunately there was not enough drive in the team as a whole to make the most of this advantage, or to back up the good work of individuals. In the forwards, Gray, Rumsey, Barling and Larsen frequently broke through on their own but there was no quick backing-up to carry on the movements. Watson played a good game at scrum-half and made many fine kicks from awkward positions, but was a little slow at getting the ball out and, in the second half, tried to do too much on his own. Robinson ran strongly when the ball reached him, which, with the dropping of passes, was seldom enough.

It seemed reasonable to expect that Stowe, with the help of the hill, would score several times in the second half; the forwards had apparently gained the upper hand and the backs, though not at all convincing, were certainly better than their opponents. The St. Edward's forwards, however, improved considerably and kept Stowe on the defensive for most of the

second half. The game, indeed, was now largely confined to the forwards, and, whenever the ball did reach the threequarters of either side, it was dropped before any ground was gained.

From the Stowe point of view the game was a most disappointing one. St. Edward's were undoubtedly a poor side, but, on the day's play, Stowe were just as bad. Against Bedford and Rugby, both good and lively sides, the team played football that would have won this game comfortably and, until this match, it had looked as if the Stowe team were steadily improving. It is as well to say nothing more.

Team :—R. H. M. Pease (G); J. M. Ashcroft (C), R. D. R. Lycett Green (T), M. H. A. Robinson (W), D. W. N. Calderwood (G); J. S. Perry (C), F. I. Watson (G); A. J. Gray (T), G. W. Hawkings (C), N. C. S. Barling (G), J. B. A. Kessler (B), R. T. F. Larsen (G), A. N. C. Bruce (B), A. J. Manley (T), I. A. P. Rumsey (G).

THE SCHOOL v. OUNDLE

Played at Stowe on Saturday, November 7th, Oundle winning by five goals, one penalty goal and a try (31 points) to nil.

By that curious freak of nature which invariably seems to produce a fine day for the Oundle match, November 7th succeeded in going clean against the run of cold wet weather immediately preceding it, and was as perfect a day for rugger as the most perverse critic could have demanded. Our chances in the game were, to put them at their highest, indifferent, since we had lost by a little against Rugby, by a lot to Bedford, and against St. Edward's, who regarded their present team in a mildly apologetic spirit, we could do no more than achieve a pointless draw. Considered in a general way this year's Stowe fifteen was reasonably strong forward, and distinctly weak behind: it had a fine forward in the captain, A. J. Gray, but no one who could be described as a match-winner, and certainly no one who could be named in the same breath as the giants of the past, men like Hastings, Farnell-Watson and Thomson.

Oundle kicked off towards the Pavilion, and Bruce fumbled the catch, an ill-omened fumble, which was the precursor of many more throughout the team. For the moment, however, things went well, and, helped by a break-away by Watson and a good run by Gray, Stowe were actually the first to attack. The forwards were heeling the ball well, but Watson and Perry found themselves involved in a partnership which never looked comfortable and was a weak link between forwards and backs throughout the game. Oundle swept up the field, and were soon hammering at the Stowe twenty-five where Perry missed his man, and a certain score was only averted by an extremely fine tackle by Lycett Green right in front of the posts. From the twenty-five kick that followed, Stowe pressed and were soon back on the Oundle line, where Watson made prodigious, if somewhat Lilliputian, efforts to cross over, while Rumsey turned an attempted penalty-kick into a good kick-across which Barling unfortunately knocked on. Shortly afterwards, Oundle's superior quickness, which was much too evident all through the game, enabled them to come back with a left-wing thrust. Pease and Epps were both beaten on our right wing, but Robinson saved his line with a beautiful tackle. The first Oundle try, however, came immediately afterwards, when their centres burst through our line to score beside the posts. This try was converted (5—0).

The Oundle side were now right on their toes and began to attack with all their power, with the result that their scrum-half soon scored a try from a scrum in the Pavilion corner of the field. He cut in between Perry and our open-side wing-forward, who was temporarily invisible, but they did not convert the try. (8—0.) From this point on, Stowe had to go over to defence. Our forwards got as much of the ball as their opponents, but Watson's passing was extremely erratic, and Perry never tried to go through the occasional gap, contenting himself with passing out rather late to centres who were thus deprived of the chance of doing anything with the ball. Oundle, on the other hand, had a pair of halves who got their line moving very well and looked dangerous every time they attacked.

The only other try scored before half-time came when the Oundle left-wing was missed by Pease and tackled by Epps: the ball, however, rolled loose, and was snapped up by an Oundle player who was following up, and who got over for a try which took a really good kick to turn into a goal. (13—0.)

The second half was a repetition of the first on a grander and more lavish scale. As the game progressed Stowe's weaknesses—slowness, lack of cohesion and clumsiness—were accentuated, while Oundle settled down to a solid bustling sort of game which, especially at the end, brought them a lot of points. Their first score came when Lycett Green was penalized for hanging on to the ball after a tackle in front of the posts. (16—0.) Thereafter the game became much faster

and more interesting, but Stowe was still, as far as the backs were concerned, a group of individuals, while Oundle played as a team. Robinson very nearly scored from a good dash for the line, and Watson broke away frequently and well, but, as usual, it was Oundle who scored with a clever break-through which our centres were too slow to stop. From the subsequent kick-off a large Oundle forward caught the ball, ran twenty yards and kicked ahead. Another of these Stowe fumbles by Pease, and the Oundle centres were through and after the ball to score a try, which was converted, in about fifteen seconds. (26—0.) We had hoped that the score could be kept below thirty, but just before time the Oundle left-wing wrong-footed the defence to score between the posts. It was too much to hope that this kick would be missed. It was not. (31—0.)

Any summing-up of this game must begin with a tribute to the Stowe forwards, who played very well indeed, and were every bit as good as the Oundle pack. Larsen and Gray were, perhaps, the best of them, but they all did a solid afternoon's work. The great weakness was at half-back. Watson got through an enormous amount of plucky work behind the scrum, but his passing was poor, and he never seemed happy except when he was scampering about like a diminutive will-o'-the-wisp, evading the clutching hands of vast forwards who seemed at least treble his size. Perry had a hard afternoon: it is scarcely fair to judge him severely considering the type of passes he received, but he was certainly unsuccessful in getting his line moving and his defence was not good. The centres invariably got the ball too late, and if they did succeed in sending it out to the wings, both Epps and Calderwood were far too slow to get away. Pease showed courage at full-back, but his kicking was quite surprisingly weak.

Oundle would always have beaten us; they were a good well-balanced side; only the hard work of the forwards prevented a severe defeat from developing into a complete and overwhelming rout.

Team :—R. H. M. Pease (G); H. B. G. Epps (T), M. H. A. Robinson (W), R. D. R. Lycett Green (T), D. W. N. Calderwood (G); J. S. Perry (C), F. I. Watson (G); A. J. Gray (T), G. W. Hawkings (C), N. C. S. Barling (G), J. B. A. Kessler (B), R. T. F. Larsen (G), A. N. C. Bruce (B), A. J. Manley (T), I. A. P. Rumsey (G).

THE SCHOOL v. UPPINGHAM

Played at Stowe on Saturday, November 14th, and lost by nine points to eleven.

The Stowe team appeared to be faster than Uppingham and the forwards were heeling the ball fairly regularly, although there were few really quick heels because many times the ball got held up in the second and third rows. Also the tackling seemed to be better than ever before, and everyone was going much lower. The passing seemed to be better than usual, and this was the cause of the first try being scored by Calderwood on the blind side during the first five minutes. The Stowe forwards were backing up their threequarters in attack, and this was the reason for Bruce scoring the second try on the right wing. The third try was scored by Watson who, towards the end of the first half, cut through on the blind side after a quick heel by the Stowe pack in front of the Uppingham goal. At the end of this half the score was 9—0 to Stowe. The forwards had played a magnificent game, but the weakness of the threequarter line, especially the passing, had become apparent.

During the second half, Uppingham changed their tactics considerably. They brought up their full-back to right centre and their forwards seemed to be playing a much keener game than before. Soon after the beginning an Uppingham centre broke through and scored. This try was converted, bringing the score to 9—5. After this the Stowe team broke down. Tackling, which previously had been good, now became definitely bad, and the forwards ceased to press their attacks with determination, but rather seemed anxious to cover their threequarters, who were now either missing or fumbling nearly every pass. Consequently the Uppingham forwards found it comparatively easy to get the ball to their threequarters, who did not have much difficulty in avoiding the Stowe defence. Towards the end of the match Uppingham gained a try on their right wing, bringing the score to 9—8. This spurred the Stowe team to renewed efforts, but Uppingham scored again in the centre and won a hard-earned victory.

Of the Stowe team, Gray, Robinson, Watson and Epps played well.

Team :—D. G. Champion (W); H. B. G. Epps (T), M. H. A. Robinson (W), R. D. R. Lycett Green (T), D. W. N. Calderwood (G); J. S. Perry (C), F. I. Watson (G); A. J. Gray (T); G. W. Hawkings (C), N. C. S. Barling (G), J. B. A. Kessler (B), R. T. F. Larsen (G), A. N. C. Bruce (B), A. J. Manley (T), I. A. P. Rumsey (G).

THE SCHOOL v. RADLEY

Played at Stowe on Saturday, November 28th, the School winning by a goal and a try (8 points) to a dropped goal and a penalty goal (7 points).

A bitter north wind was blowing out of a dull grey sky when Robinson kicked off for Stowe in the last of the school matches which had proved so disastrous for the 1st XV. It looked at first as though the Stowe handling and tackling—which was unimpressive throughout the first half—would bring about another defeat. The forwards, however, packed low and worked well in the loose although there was some blind fumbling and careless watching. Radley attacked hard and an awkward situation was cleared by Wallis-King at full back, but the play remained in the Stowe half until a penalty kick took Radley 3 points ahead of Stowe.

Because of an injury to one of their forwards, the Radley pack was reduced to seven; but Stowe went back on the defence until Lycett Green found touch on the half-way with a good kick. There was a quick heel from the line-out and the Stowe backs swept into a rapid attack. After quick passing, the ball went out to Calderwood who ran down the far touchline for a good try which Rumsey converted to make the score 5—3 to Stowe.

Again from the kick-off Radley came up into the Stowe half where Epps stopped a dangerous run by an excellent tackle. The forwards started a rush, but Radley got the ball out and successfully dropped a goal to put Radley ahead 7—5.

From the kick-off in the second half, when Stowe were attacking the Pavilion end, it was obvious that both sides were going to play better football than they had done in the first. Radley again attacked vigorously, making Stowe retreat. After a phase of strong defence, the play moved up into the centre of the field where there was little movement until Epps daintily skipped his way through the Radley backs and went over to score in the far corner.

With the score 8—7 against them Radley went harder than ever, the Stowe forwards working well and supported by backs whose handling and tackling had improved. After some uneventful play and long unsuccessful kicks with neither side gaining very much ground, Radley made their supreme effort and swept up onto the Stowe line. After an heroic defence, however, Radley, who had been stopped in all their movements, gave ground and Stowe worked up into the enemy half and attacked in their turn. It was after a series of kicks in mid-field that the match ended with the Stowe team on the offensive.

In this match the Stowe backs showed for once that they were capable of running hard through a strong defence and of holding the ball. Their tackling was never very reliable except in the first quarter of an hour of the second half. The forwards were playing with a strange second row, but nevertheless fought well throughout the game with Gray, Lloyd and Hippisley-Cox much in evidence. Throughout the game one had the impression that while Stowe was playing well they could have yet gone harder still, and that, whereas Radley kept up a constant pressure both in attack and defence, Stowe was apt to weaken for short spells, and it was in those periods that they were forced right back into many precarious situations on their own line.

This success in the last school match of the season was welcomed by all those who had seen such a hard-working team defeated so often by other schools.

Team:—C. S. Wallis-King (♣); H. B. G. Epps (T), M. H. A. Robinson (W), R. D. R. Lycett Green (T), D. W. N. Calderwood (G); J. S. Perry (♣), F. I. Watson (♣); A. J. Gray (T), G. W. Hawkings (♣), N. C. S. Barling (♣), J. B. A. Kessler (B), R. M. Hippisley-Cox (♣), A. N. C. Bruce (B), S. C. Lloyd (B), I. A. P. Rumsey (G).

Results of other matches were as follows:—

October 10th.	v. PUBLIC SCHOOL WANDERERS (Home).	Won.	19—0.
October 14th.	v. R.A.F., WING (Home).	Won.	15—0.
October 31st.	v. R.A.F., BICESTER (Home).	Lost.	3—21.
November 21st.	v. ROSSLYN PARK COLTS (Home).	Won.	14—6.
December 2nd.	v. WELSH GUARDS (Home).	Lost.	3—14.

SECOND FIFTEEN MATCHES

November 4th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD (Away).	Lost.	0—42.
November 7th.	v. OUNDLE (Home).	Lost.	0—32.

COLTS' MATCHES

October 31st.	v. ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD (Away).	Won.	6—0.
November 25th.	v. BLOXHAM (Away).	Won.	57—0.
November 28th.	v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, Brackley (Home).	Won.	48—0.

SQUASH

So far this term we have only had two matches, one against R.A.F., Wing, and the other against R.A.F., Bicester. Both these were won but otherwise we have had very little chance of seeing the qualities of our best team.

J. F. Cullis (W) is easily the best player, although N.C.S. Barling (♣) might run him close; but, as the latter is in the Rugger XV, he has little time for competitive play.

Several others would be good, if they could have match practice, though at present, especially without a coach, they lack experience. House matches will be played near the end of term.

The following have played for the School:—J. F. Cullis (W), J. E. Colbeck (T), D. Carnegie-Arbutnott (B), C. M. Campbell (W), P. R. Boys-Stones (♣), E. M. Arnold (♣), D. V. Palmer (G), P. M. B. Greenall (C). N. C. S. Barling (♣) and R. D. R. Lycett Green (T) would have played, if there had not been 1st XV matches on the same day.

FIVES

There have been no fives matches this term owing to various difficulties, but several matches have been tentatively arranged for next term. There has been an acute shortage of balls in the school, though the Shop hopes to be able to obtain some more in time.

FENCING

A return match with the Imperial College Fencing Club was held on Saturday, November 21st, in London. Our team, though losing on the aggregate of points (23—34) won the Épée (11—10), but lost the Foil (12—24). This is a notable achievement, as our opponents were considerably older and more experienced than our own team, two of whom had never fenced before in outside competition. The winning of the Épée was mainly due to the restraint practised by individual members, particularly C. Lyle (B), in refusing to be drawn or to uncover themselves. Owing to the extreme shortage of blades there was no Sabre. Individually, J. G. A. S. Clendenin (B) did not make enough use of his reach, and his ripostes, though fast, were inaccurate; whilst R. D. C. Reynolds (B) was rather weak in his parries and a little too much on the defensive. Lyle though initially nervous recovered later, giving a good account of himself, which promises better performances in the future.

On the following Saturday, Stowe met Radley, at Stowe, in a 4-foil and 3-épée match, in which D. Wynne (G) represented the additional foil.

Stowe won the Foil by ten fights to six, but lost the Épée two to six, thereby ending the match in a draw.

J. G. A. S. Clendenin was more direct in his attacks and, though his parries were stronger, his ripostes were often late. R. D. C. Reynolds' lunges were short, while his good footwork compensated for his flat parries. C. Lyle was a little too much on the defensive and should have shown more command over his opponent's blade. D. Wynne was determined in his attacks, but found himself rather weak on the defensive.

Three matches have already been arranged for next term.

P.T.

This term it has been clearly shown that a high standard of work can be maintained during the Winter months. It demonstrates that the Inter-House Competition, held in the Summer, is an incentive secondary to that of performing to the best of one's ability throughout the year.

The introduction of I.P.T. has perhaps been an additional incentive and there is every reason to suppose that, after a Winter spent in hard preparation, the standard of performance during the Summer will be higher than it has yet been.

JUNIOR TRAINING CORPS NOTES

The following promotions have been made this term:—

To *Senior Under-Officer*: Under-Officer A. J. Gray (T).

To *Sergeant*: Corporals A. N. C. Bruce (B), R. M. Hippisley-Cox (C), J. A. D. Rofé (G), A. J. Manley (T), P. K. Withinshaw (C), R. T. F. Larsen (G), J. C. Farmer (W).

To *Corporal*: Lance-Corporals D. G. Forsyth (G), A. A. McAlister (C), J. I. G. Capadose (T), J. E. C. Kennon (G), P. K. Harper (T), J. W. Myers (C), J. E. M. Irvine (T), C. M. Campbell (W), G. W. Kinder (C), J. G. Cameron (C), J. C. B. Bremner (C).

Appointed *Lance-Corporal*: Cadets J. O. Gibson (W), R. P. Bourdon Smith (G), A. J. Cookson (W), A. C. L. Lewisohn (C), H. J. M. Molloy (C), B. W. Guest (B), J. G. C. Knight (G), E. B. Farrar (G), B. S. Dodwell (G), P. H. Filmer-Sankey (C), A. P. Kaye (G), J. G. B. Chester (B), P. J. Wadsworth (W), J. G. A. S. Clendenin (B), Count I. W. Michalowski (B), G. K. McConkey (G), R. H. M. Pease (G), J. M. Sykes (W), J. W. Stopford (C), B. K. Montgomery (G), R. S. Cross (T), R. P. D. Treherne (C).

The strength of the Contingent is 274, there being no intake of Recruits at the beginning of the winter. In July there were 78 candidates for War Certificate "A" (Individual), of whom 74 passed; in the second part (Section Leaders), 29 out of 39 candidates passed.

PRIZES

Best candidates for War Certificate "A" (Individual), July 1942:—(Equal) D. V. Palmer (C) and P. R. Perceval (T).

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Section Leaders), July 1942:—R. H. M. Pease (G).

Best Recruit (Easter term, 1942):—I. F. Wallace (C).

Best Recruits (Summer term, 1942):—(Equal) J. V. Bartlett (T) and H. A. S. Murray (C).

TRAINING

Precision Drill and punctilious saluting are making their mark on the general bearing of the Contingent, and parade qualities are now approaching a uniformly good standard. They have far-reaching value, especially as cadets are passing at an earlier age into the Forces.

This year the period of the School Certificate examinations was given on parade afternoons to practice for the Inter-House Drill competition by the Trained Cadets, on the one hand, and the Recruits' Final Fortnight, including the selection of the Best Recruits, under the Officers, on the other. The results of the former, judged by representatives of the Coldstream, were as follows:—

1. Walpole	75	5. Bruce	70
2. Grafton	74	6. Temple	68
3. Grenville	72	7. Cobham	65½
4. Chandos	72	8. Chatham	58½

It should be recorded that the organization of the Survey Section has now reached a stage when the instruction can be left largely to its cadet-N.C.Os. This conforms to the general principle of the senior boys bearing a full share in the running of the Contingent.

Throughout the term the District Commander has been about to pay a personal visit. In November it would have been to watch the demonstration of Section and Platoon Battle Drill by a K.R.R.C. Platoon, which came and went about its performance in excellent style, giving us much to strive to imitate. In October he would have seen a formidable Squad of U/Os and N.C.Os lay on a creditable demonstration of Saluting Drill, including "As on sentry movements," to the remainder of the Contingent. Perhaps in December he will be present to see them demonstrating Arms Drill for the benefit of the younger cadets.

Normal training has proceeded smoothly. It was relieved on 13th October by a whole-day's soldiering, the afternoon being spent battling for Hatch Hill Wood. The exercise was ambitious for the early part of the term, but it gave scope to commanders and was fought over relatively new, and interesting, ground, so that tea-time claims and counter-claims to success brought particular satisfaction to many different sub-units.

Mention should also be made of the assistance given during the holidays with the training of the Army Cadet Force. Nearly 50 Contingent N.C.Os. helped units in their home localities, while at Stowe itself the Officers and P.S.Is. ran two Courses of six days each to enable 65 A.C.F. Officers, 22 of whom stayed for the full twelve days, to take War Certificate "A" examinations. The experiment had encouraging results, and is to be repeated in January, when U/Os will join the Instructors to cope with the increased numbers attending here.

The Home Guard have been actively training their Recruits, including a considerable and welcome addition from Dadford, and carrying out its whole-day exercises, one of which, however, had to be cancelled through hopelessly wet weather. Men take the hardening process in their stride, making light of fatigue on the march by singing as they trot downhill.

A.T.C. NOTES

The introduction in September of a Preliminary Phase Test, which must be passed three months before Proficiency Part I can be attempted, has made it necessary to postpone the entry of many cadets for the latter examination. A large number should, however, be in a position to take Part I in January.

On Tuesday, October 13th, a Whole Day Exercise was held based on map-reading and road-cycling. It was less successful than some of these efforts have been in the past because the map-reading problems were of more than usual difficulty and the country covered was quite unfamiliar to many cadets.

Up to the time of writing there has been no flying this term, convenient days and suitable weather having failed to coincide. It is hoped, however, that all N.C.Os, Leading Cadets, and Cadets First Class will have flown before the end of this year. With senior N.C.Os acting as instructors it has been possible to organize cadets into seven small Flights for instructional purposes according to their rate of progress. A certain amount of practical apparatus has been constructed including a compass-swinging base and devices for solving navigational problems practically. A small alternator has also been installed by means of which A.C. at 500 cycles can be supplied to various points throughout the Laboratories to provide a signal for morse practice.

Strength of Unit:—71.

Flight Sergeant:—J. D. Proctor (C).

Sergeants:—P. K. Collier (B), I. A. P. Rumsey (G), J. S. Hillyer (G), A. D. Page (C).

Corporals:—D. W. N. Calderwood (G), D. L. Donne (G), J. A. Hamilton (C), J. B. A. Kessler (B), D. W. Partridge (W), D. E. Steer (B), M. Wornum (W).

SHOOTING

Rifle Club activities have been limited to the weekly Spoon Shoots, the winners of which have been :—

Class 'A' :—G. C. Rogers (W), A. J. Wells (C), T. C. P. Whidborne (T).

Class 'B' :—A. W. B. Hayward (G), J. F. Elliott (C), T. J. Thackrah (B), P. J. Wadsworth (W), J. E. M. Irvine (T).

A Miniature Range test classified the Home Guard as ready to concentrate on .303 practice, or to practise on both ranges, or with .22 exclusively. Shoots every three weeks since have proceeded satisfactorily on these lines, and there has been general progress in accuracy as men have settled down to firing ball.

Cadets, other than Recruits, have been shooting on the Miniature Range once a fortnight as hitherto.

MUSIC

The Choral Society has worked at a variety of choruses. It has turned its attention chiefly towards Haydn's Chorus, "Insanae et Vanae Curae," but unless the top three parts sing it as vigorously as the Basses it will sound rather unbalanced. It has also attempted Vaughan Williams' "Wassail Song," but the main idea of this chorus is to observe the loud and soft indications, which at present are not obeyed. Other works that are hoped to be included in the Choral Society's concert are Mozart's "Gloria In Excelsis" from the Twelfth Mass, Beethoven's "Hallelujah Chorus" and Roger Quilter's "Non Nobis, Domine."

The Orchestra, in spite of the loss of three horn players, has kept up its usual high standard. It has concentrated chiefly on Beethoven's well-known "Fifth Symphony." The first and last movements will be played at the concert. Two other shorter works which are to be played are Mozart's early, but none the less charming, Overture to his opera "Seraglio," and a movement from Bizet's Suite "L'Arlésienne," "Farandole." The difficulty in the latter is to make the correct balance between the woodwind and the brass. It is hoped that the Orchestra will also play with the Choral Society at the Concert. A small part of the Orchestra will be playing some Incidental Music for the performance of "Macbeth."

The Sunday Popular Concerts have started again this winter under the organization of a Committee. It was soon decided that a good concert about every three weeks was better than an inferior one every week, and so this plan was adopted. Perhaps the most popular of these concerts were those in which Mrs. Negus played piano solos, and in which Mr. Cross sang some traditional songs.

There has been one concert by musicians from outside the School. On Wednesday, November 4th, a large audience assembled in the Library to hear an oboe recital played by Mr. Leon Goossens and accompanied by Mr. Leslie Bridgewater at the piano. The first item on the programme was a concerto for oboe by Cimarosa, one of the lesser known composers of the 18th century. This is a delightful work, and when interpreted by Goossens' unique tone and technique it can hardly fail to convince the listener. The middle section of the concert was composed of miscellaneous short pieces, one of the most charming of which was, perhaps, the Symphony from Bach's "Easter Oratorio." The last work of the concert was an oboe sonata by John Stanley.

The J.T.C. and A.T.C. Band has greatly improved its standard during the last two terms, but a great drawback during the early stages of this term was the temporary loss of Mr. Geoghegan, who had to leave on account of illness. His place was soon taken by Capt. Harrison to whom we are very grateful. We hope to see Mr. Geoghegan again at the beginning of next term.

M.H.T.

DEBATING SOCIETY

Two debates have been held so far this term; and it is hoped that time for a third may be found before we go home. There have been a few good extempore speeches, but on the whole it is obvious that most people do not think about the motion in advance, and the success of the debates has been greatly due to the excellence of the paper speeches.

Officers of the Society :—President, Mr. J. M. Todd; Secretary, C. M. Campbell (W); Treasurer, A. M. Quinton (T); Librarian, R. A. Guinness (C).

The following have been elected members of the Society :—D. V. Palmer (C), R. C. S. Norton (C), M. R. Worsley (B), D. R. Turquand-Young (C), G. L. E. Spier (G), J. J. Davis (T) and T. D. Higham (C).

The 147th Meeting was held in the Library at 8.15 on Monday, July 28th. It was notable as the last appearance of Mr. Davenport.

The Motion before the House was "That this House would rather be Funny Peculiar than Funny Ha-Ha."

The Vice-President (MR. J. L. A. B. DAVENPORT) said that great men were peculiar, because they sought the truth. While he made no attempt to hide his humour, he quickly warmed to a stimulating and poignant climax.

MR. R. E. J. DAVIS made a sound well-reasoned speech. He passed via the theories of M. Bergson to a profound essay on comedy. His most notable truism was that real comedy was unmixed with emotion.

J. M. BUDDEN (W) dealt at great length with the Opposer's speech. He stigmatised the Ha-Ha as deriving his laughter from a sense of superiority, and concluded by proving that all the best modern amusements originated with Aristophanes.

J. C. FARMER (W) showed himself a sincere believer in his cause by publicly adhering to the doctrine he had risen to defend.

The ensuing speeches were closely reasoned and stimulating.

There voted : In the Upper House : For the Motion, 13; Against, 5.
In the Lower House : For the Motion, 23; Against, 42.

The Motion was therefore won in the Upper House and lost in the Lower.

The 148th Meeting of the Society was held in the Library at 8.15 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14th. After a brief altercation regarding the Society's library, the Society proceeded to debate the Motion :—"That this House views with disfavour the present popularity of Classical Music."

The HON. LIBRARIAN (C) proposed the motion. He illustrated the hypocrisy of listeners to classical music by two amusing stories, and wound up with a patriotic passage and a pious hope of victory.

M. E. B. SCOTT (T) led the Opposition. His speech was learned and persuasive; and by these qualities he impressed the House. He concluded a convincing exposition of his case by analysing shrewdly all types of music.

A. G. H. MELLY (C) moved from the limits of demagogy to those of panegyricism, and back again through the realms of plagiarism and vulgarity. He was amusing and unpretentious.

J. F. TUOHY (T) spoke fourth, and, in the best speech of the evening, did much to please the House by his wit and epigrammatical phrasology. He quoted lyrics no one had ever heard to condemn songs no one had ever sung. He emphasized the transient nature of jazz, and showed that classical music was liked for its own sake, not for its associations.

The speeches that followed were revealing and lively.

There voted : In the Upper House : For the Motion, 8; Against, 10.
In the Lower House : For the Motion, 18; Against, 30.

The Motion was therefore lost in both Houses.

The 149th Meeting of the Society was held in the Library at 8.15 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18th. The Motion before the House was "That in the opinion of this House this country should seek its salvation at the Kremlin rather than at the White House."

A. D. PAGE (C) was erudite, if abstruse. His statistics fell on the House's unaccustomed ears with a clangour of freshness. He quoted a geopolitical gentleman on the subject of the Heartland, and ended with a hopeful rhetorical question.

J. E. M. IRVINE (T) waved the Union Jack without flagging for somewhat over 25 minutes. F. E. SCHUSTER (S) spoke third. His transparent sincerity was marred by a hampering delivery. The House failed to understand the significance of a story of Gogol's, and found the Hon. Member's wit moving either before or after it.

G. C. NEALE (C) was in good form. He was lively, vivacious and jocular. He said little of importance, but succeeded in giving weight to the somewhat turgid discourse of his partner.

In this debate, as in the preceding ones, time was too short to allow all willing horses to have a canter.

There voted: In the Upper House: For the Motion, 8; Against, 7.

In the Lower House: For the Motion, 20; Against, 30.

The Motion was therefore won in the Upper House and lost in the Lower.

C.M.C.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

THE DRAMATIC CLUB

After a Summer Term devoid of any school play, the Club determined to give a production in early December. There were many small meetings at the end of last term to discuss future policy which showed serious signs of complete disintegration unless a play could be performed. Consequently, after much thought and hard reason, "Macbeth" was selected as suitable. Mr. G. Wilson Knight undertook the extremely arduous task of Producer, while Mr. A. A. Dams became Stage Manager. Unfortunately he was unable to fulfil his obligations because of illness and consequently B. W. Guest (B) took his place. An injury which he received in a game eliminated him after he had struggled hard, and finally—at least it is hoped finally—S.C. Lloyd (B) agreed to carry out the task.

At the moment of writing, the Dress Rehearsal is still before us and tickets are still being sold by the harried Business Manager, A. G. Henderson (B), who has dealt competently with all his many worries.

We have altered the general appearance of the stage by painting it, and our electrician, M. E. B. Scott (T), has arranged a powerful battery of lights to illuminate a set of strange simplicity.

It is hoped that an account of the actual performance will be found elsewhere in these pages and it is also hoped that the writer will have been kind to us.

A.J.M.

THE SYMPOSIUM

The Society has met three times already this term and some interesting papers have been read. At the first meeting, M. E. B. Scott (T) read a paper on "Psychic Phenomena." So obsessed did the Society become with this involved subject that there was great demand for a Symposium Séance at the earliest possible opportunity. The President, however, would not allow this, and any budding media which the Society may contain among its members must remain dormant.

The second paper was read by J. W. Myers (C). He chose as his subject the widely discussed topic of "Atlantis" about which city he told some highly colourful, but at the same time remarkably interesting, stories. He gave us what evidence there was for assuming that the vanished city had once existed and also what facts there were to support contrary views. He allowed the Society to draw its own conclusions, which seem to have been very varied, judging from the discussion which ensued.

C. S. O'D. Scott (B) supplied the third paper which he called "The Evolution of Man," a subject whose immensity did not seem to deter the speaker in any way. The paper dealt mainly with various kinds of monkeys. While some of them are ordinary, well-behaved and civilized monkeys, others were strange, unnatural and freakish. These last were held by Scott to be highly important, as it was from them that he maintained that the human race had evolved. After giving us a miserable prospect for the future, Scott concluded in a cheerful way by saying in a grim voice that future evolution would not trouble us anyhow, as we should all be dead by that time.

Later on this term G. C. Neale (C) will read a paper on "Modern Painting"; and there is a possibility that we will hear yet another before the holidays begin.

The departure of the former President made it necessary for the Society to select a successor. Mr. G. Wilson Knight kindly accepted the post. A. J. Manley (T) was the Secretary for the term and the following were members:—G. A. Alder (C), M. E. B. Scott (T), J. W. Myers (C), G. C. Neale (C), I. F. Wallace (C), O. G. Taylor (C), H. R. Marten (T), E. H. Grice-Hutchinson (B), C. S. Wallis-King (S) and C. S. O'D. Scott (B).

A.J.M.

THE FILM SOCIETY

There have been two meetings of the Film Society this term. At one meeting was shown a French film "Mademoiselle ma Mère" and at the other a Russian film "Nights of St. Petersburg." A third film is expected to be shown before the end of term.

At the beginning of the term it was feared that owing to the rise in price of obtaining films, the Society would be unable to meet. However, thanks to the enthusiasm and unfailing genius of the President, Dr. Zettl, and to the fact that the School replied to the call for members with their usual alacrity, the necessary money was raised.

A.J.G.

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

So far this term there has been one meeting when Mr. P. G. Hunter read an instructive paper on "Greek Sculpture," which he illustrated with many slides. It is hoped that there will be another meeting and that A. C. L. Lewisohn (C) will read a paper on "Greek Comedy."

A.J.G.

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The activities of the Society have, as usual during the past few terms, been restricted to the vicinity of the School. The second instalment of the bird collection has arrived, but even now only about half of it is here. R. T. F. Larsen (G), D. Wynne (G) and G. G. Imrie (G) have taken charge of the arrangement of the collection; it has already filled Sigma dormitory to capacity; so what is to be done with the remainder presents rather a problem.

The potatoes grown on the microplots during the summer term were dug up in July and the results sent to Rothamsted Experimental Station, for comparison with results from other Schools. The potatoes were followed at once by turnips, without any alterations to the manures which are being tested. The turnips were dug up at the beginning of November and the results also sent to Rothamsted. A second crop of potatoes will be grown next summer on the same microplots and also on another twenty-five plots which have been prepared during this term. Weights and conclusion will be published in the Natural History Journal when it is brought out again after the war.

The rabbits, which were kept on the ground in front of the Biological Laboratories last term, are now housed in the Natural History room. Two successful litters arrived during this term. R. A. Guinness (C), I. P. Guinness (C) and D. R. Turquand-Young (C) are looking after them, but their eventual fate lies in the hands of members of the Medical Side.

Thursday afternoon "extras" have been well attended. Some members have been bird watching, but most of the work has been indoors and has consisted in dissecting and the preparation of microscopical slides of small animals taken from the lakés.

B.A.B.

THE VITRUVIANS

So far this term one lecture and one expedition have taken place. On the second Sunday of the term the Society made a round tour of the following churches: Lillingstone Lovell and Dayrell, Wicken, Leckhampstead and Maids Moreton. The photography undertaken was more keen than skilled, but none the less the day was profitable and enjoyable. On November 7th the Society heard Mr. Hope Nicholson's lecture on "The Grand Tour." This was comprehensive and accompanied by good illustrations.

The place of Vice-President vacated by Mr. Esdaile has been taken over by J. E. M. Irvine (T) and the rest of the committee is as follows:—Secretary, C. M. Campbell (W); Treasurer, J. G. B. Chester (B), P. K. Harper (T) and J. E. C. Kennon (G). The Society has rather over 50 members.

It is hoped there will be one more lecture this term.

C.M.C.

THE PUPPET CLUB

The Puppet Club was revived just over a year ago. It is now a flourishing concern and holds meetings every Saturday. There are 12 members, belonging to the Middle and Lower School. This term we are producing probably three plays under the direction of Mrs. Watt. Most of the members are taking part either as manipulators, electricians or modellers. There will be seven performances of about three-quarters of an hour; programmes will be sold, the proceeds being sent to the Prisoners of War Fund. Producing a play of this sort is much more complicated than ordinary stage drama, because one cannot hire scenery and clothes. Everything has to be made, and all little details made noticeable to create the correct atmosphere.

R.P.C.

THE SPOTTERS' CLUB

Meetings have been held almost every Saturday, when members took several tests on the second and third class Syllabuses. Unfortunately only a small percentage of the Club passed these tests. But some improvement was made as the term went on, with the help of instructional talks.

The committee remains the same, except that D. E. Steer (B) has been elected Competitions Officer in the place of A. D. Page (C) who is now Vice-Chairman.

R. M. W. Busk (G) gave an interesting talk on "Weapons of Air Warfare" at one meeting. On November 14th, the Secretary continued his series of talks on aircraft companies with "No. 4, Westland Aircraft Ltd."

Negotiations have been going on to obtain a 16 mm. sound projector for showing the new aircraft recognition films, which are now available to the N.A.S.C.—so far without success.

There is a possibility of the Club being honoured by a visit from Mr. Peter Masefield, the Editor of the "Aeroplane Spotter," next term.

A competition, on aircraft old and new, is now in progress. Every other day, three pictures are posted on the club board. When thirty problems have been posted the first correct solution, if any, is to be rewarded with a prize to the value of 7/6. If no correct solution is forthcoming, the person who gains most marks is to receive a prize.

Interest of a practical nature has been provided by the large formations of British and American heavy bombers which have been seen frequently.

D.R.B.

THE ART SCHOOL

Mr. Feliks Topolski, the well-known Polish artist, judged last term's Exhibition. The Headmaster's Prize was awarded to K. H. Irgens (C), the First Art Prize to J. C. Farmer (W), the Second Art Prize to M. Wornum (W), and the Third Art Prize to G. C. Neale (C). Farmer also gained the Watercolour Prize. Mr. Topolski spent two nights at Stowe, and did some pen and ink sketches of Stowe and Stoics. The Sunday Sketch Club was continued with success.

This term has seen a gratifying increase in the number of members of the Art School. The Sketch Club has been reorganized on a new basis, designed to obtain a higher standard of work by having less frequent meetings.

LA SOCIÉTÉ DES LANGUÉS MODERNES

La Société ayant perdu tous ses anciens membres, à l'exception de M. Capel Cure et de notre président, M. Hart Dyke, on résolut d'élire comme nouveaux membres: J. W. Myers (C), J. E. C. Kennon (G), J. A. D. Rofé (G), D. G. Forsyth (G), J. L. H. Keep (C), A. R. Lucas (B) et R. M. Sayer (B); élu secrétaire, J. W. Myers; élu homme de comité, J. E. C. Kennon.

On a lu ce trimestre l'excellente comédie "Topaze" de Marcel Pagnol et on espère pouvoir lire "Le Barbier de Séville" de Beaumarchais si des exemplaires sont à obtenir.

La Société a célébré sa deux centième réunion.

J.W.M.

THE TWELVE CLUB

The Society met on November 6th and H. H. B. Oswell (C) then read a somewhat abstruse but entertaining paper called "Physics and the Divining Rod." P. M. B. Greenall (C) is later in the term going to deliver a paper on Modern Music; and the President informs us that his friend Mr. Graham Seton will possibly be able to address the club on some as yet undisclosed date and subject.

This term the following became members: A. M. Quinton (T), P. M. B. Greenall (C), J. S. Hillyer (G); H. H. B. Oswell (C), J. D. Proctor (C) and M. Wornum (W).

J.C.F.

THE LIBRARY

Mrs. Watt has become Librarian in succession to Mr. Davenport. The Library was overhauled in the holidays, and a complete catalogue compiled, so that during this term it has been possible to get on with checking the card-index which has been sadly needing revision for some time.

An effort has been made to restrict the Library to its legitimate function, and as a result of this, together with the introduction of silence, the atmosphere of the whole undertaking has improved. However the school could yet quicken its appreciation of the Library both as a room and as a cultural and scholastic entity by showing a greater measure of co-operation and commonsense, especially in the matter of mental attitude and tidiness.

The following books have been presented:—

'The Letters of T. E. Lawrence,' by Major Haworth.

'A Documental History of Rumania,' by the Free Rumanian Movement.

'The Way We Live Now' (Trollope). Anon.

'The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas.' Anon.

The German Section of the Library has been strengthened and Morley's Lives of Rousseau and Voltaire have been bought. A number of Geographical books have been handed over by the Geography authorities to the School Library.

C.M.C.

MACBETH

Macbeth is known as a play that cannot fail; it acts itself, if the actors cannot do so, and even the dullest and most unresponsive audience cannot remain torpid under the torrent of variety the play offers. The action varies from the terrifying excitement of the apparitions and the kings, down past dim-lit scenes in which the tragedy is resolved in the hero, past the rhetorical violence of the last act, down to the necessary banality of the smaller parts unrolling the plot before the proscenium while the apparatus is moved about behind. There is even the porter to provide humour. Macbeth runs the whole gamut from magic to murderers; it is impossible to be bored.

Of Mr. Knight's reputation it is unnecessary to speak. The knowledge that he was producing encouraged great expectations, which the production fulfilled. Entrances, exits, movements while on the stage, and the general arrangement and disposal of the characters, usually the weakest part of an amateur production, were expert and calculated to produce the maximum effect. The action of the play was remarkable for its smoothness. The technical arrangements combined with the positioning of the actors to create a perfectly tuned atmosphere.

This combination of Mr. Knight and Macbeth would seem to be all that was necessary for a triumph and yet the performance was lacking. The actors were somehow deficient. If the actors were to plead that they were "only schoolboys" this charge is unjust. If they wish to have allowance made on the score of their inexperience I must withdraw. But I cannot believe that they would wish to be judged by such a derogatory criterion. As a school play, Macbeth was excellent; as a play in its own right, there was something wrong with it.

Macbeth (C. M. Campbell (W)) was undoubtedly very good. His part is an exacting one; he knew it; he knew what it meant; he said it as if he knew what it meant. But his speaking was confined to a limited range of expression; he seemed rather too restrained. His appearance was somewhat unwieldy, and minor physical traits such as a convulsive movement of the left arm and nodding of the head became noticeable in longer speeches. In the dagger scene his hand movements were unfortunate and his attitudes were somewhat stereotyped. This is not to say that he did not interpret Macbeth with very considerable success and he expressed very clearly the horribleness of that character's position.

Lady Macbeth (A. G. H. Melly (C)) again suffered from restraint. Her voice was expressive and sensitive, she moved about gracefully. But her headdress made her appear as if she had a fractured jaw and her face's woodenness was clearly demonstrated by the unintentional but very similar rigidity during the sleep-walking scene.

A. J. Manley (T) as Banquo was yet another example of restraint, but his part calls for it. The growth of suspicion in Banquo's mind he portrayed successfully, and his murder in front of the proscenium was realistic and terrifying. In a somewhat over-lighted banquet scene, he was a good, if rather corporeal, ghost, and in general his acting was noticeable for an urbanity and control absent in others. As Assistant to the Producer, he performed much arduous and thankless work without which the performance would never have been in a fit condition to present.

The smaller parts fall into two classes—the Scottish pageantry and the supernatural characters. D. L. Donne (G) as Duncan was convincingly old and comfortably regal. His short appearance enabled him by his age and dignity to enlist our sympathy. G. C. Neale (C) as Malcolm was elegant and upright, but his diction was automatic and he failed to redeem the final anticlimax. C. S. Wallis-King (G) was a convincingly-wounded captain but he spoilt this by his curious way of speaking. Macduff (J. I. G. Capadose (T)) was Edwardian in appearance and rather absurdly melodramatic. He took obvious trouble in setting himself in position and taking a deep breath before his speeches. He was unfortunately suffering from a severe cold, but his annoying propensity for looking up at the roof and demonstrating his neck was avoidable. J. E. G. Gentill's (C) Porter obtained fewer laughs than some less intended comedy occasioned by G. E. D. Wright (C) whose performance as Siward will only be remembered for an argument with his sword about going into its scabbard, the consequent dropping of cues and uncomfortable exit. R. J. G. Gentry (C) as the "cream-faced loon" was superbly loopy.

The supernatural characters were more successful. The witches set the play going at a good pace with an exciting blasted heath. The semi-darkness, the wind, the drum and the hags (J. E. M. Irvine (T), G. F. Colvile (G) and A. R. A. Holden (B)) with scraggy hands outlined against a pale horizon were efficiently uncanny. Hecate (A. J. O. Ritchie (T)) was tinsely in appearance but radiant and easy on the ear. The apparitions (J. J. Davis (T), T. C. P. Whidborne (T), I. F. Wallace (C)) were lucky in that the excellence of the production on which they depended made their scene the best in the play.

In general the acting was adequate and efficient but full value was not obtained from the lines. The actors did not always appear to understand what they were saying, and the plot consequently lost its coherence. The closeness of audience and action made illusion much more unattainable and to redeem this more ranting was needed. The actors all seemed on their own and Macbeth's potentialities were unrealized because of a lack of discipline. The pageantry before the proscenium was the worst thing in the performance. Bright footlights, extremely obvious make-up and automatic speaking and jerky movements caused this. At the opposite extreme were the supernatural scenes whose triumph was due to the fact that Mr. Knight's imagination had a free hand with the material. The interiors, especially the banquet which was made very effective by candles, were excellent if rather bare but the dim lights hid this. The last act was, as it should be, the most enthralling. A doom-laden bell, fanfares and voices off-stage made the appearance of single actors quite congruous. Macbeth was ungainly during this act and his fight with Macduff was a little too unskillful. But in this part of the play a continuous atmosphere was maintained as the play moved towards its climax.

The technical side of the play was well-organized and gave the actors as good an environment as they could wish for. The lighting was effective in all but the action before the proscenium. (M. E. B. Scott (T) was Head Electrician.) R. P. Chatlenat's (T) Sound Effects, his winds and drums, were essential to the supernatural scenes and were well adjusted; but his hoof-beats could have been omitted with little damage to the play. A. G. H. Melly's (C) Decor was simple and effective. The costumes were in the Old English style (as against the Jacobite style of costume used in 1937) and though a little unreal were colourful and by no means shoddy. The make-up was overdone or the lights were wrong; whichever it was, the make-up was unpleasantly obvious. The music in the intervals was fitting but rather ignored by the audience. The fanfares only quavered slightly and the bell was marvellous.

The production and the play were faultless but the action and the progression of the plot lacked coherence. Mr. Knight had stubborn human material to deal with and the result was patchy. The performance never quite seemed to sustain the occasional actualization of its very high potentialities. The cast was young and its individualism harmed the unity of the whole.

Of the innumerable and essential people behind the scenes, it is only possible to mention S. C. Lloyd (B), the Stage Manager, B. Guest (B), his predecessor in the same function, and A. G. Henderson (B), who occupied his accustomed position in Stowe affairs as Business Manager.

The Stowe School Dramatic Club has weathered an ugly storm of house particularism and its production of Macbeth has proved its worth. The House Play may be "good fun," but it is never possible to judge it by the severe, but I hope not unfair, criterion I have applied to Macbeth.

A.M.O.

STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS

95, FRAMPTON STREET,
LONDON, N.W. 8.
November 1942.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

Dear Sir,

After many disappointments in searching for assistance in running the Club, I have welcomed all the more the substantial help now available from more than one quarter.

Mr. L. Holloway, who was appointed Vice-Warden from September, brings with him much experience of Club work and is giving excellent service among us. In addition, Messrs. R. B. Matthews (O.S.), "Pat" Horne and Barthorpe come round regularly and make a success of several important activities. Our thanks are due to them and other helpers they introduce.

The summer season closed well with 47 boys attending camp at Radley.

In Football the Seniors have an almost unbeaten record in their League, but one member after another of the team goes off as called up. The Juniors have at last struck winning form, recently beating Caius College Mission 3—2, one of the best Junior sides. There has been a strong revival of Boxing, the Juniors especially showing great keenness to learn, and our Senior and Junior Table Tennis teams may be reckoned as about the best in London Boys' Clubs.

We also consider ourselves a very live Evening School with five L.C.C. Instructors in charge of Boot-repairing, P.T., Art, Debates and Discussion Groups. Cadet and similar Youth activities are now run at the local Grammar School, and the members attending are:—Army Cadet Force 31, Civil Defence 24, Sea Cadets 17, A.T.C. 9 and St. John's Ambulance 6.

There are 93 Old Boys known to be serving in the Forces. Recent news posts Sid Young, a Pilot Officer, as missing, Fred Welham drowned and McCauliffe a prisoner of war. Letters have lately come from Bill Garvey, a Sergeant in India, Jackie Moore and Leckford in the Navy, Steve Norris and Ben Spekes in the R.A.F. and Bill Harrison in an A.A. unit. The Club is saving to provide parcels for its Old Boys.

Our total membership is now over 120, of whom 80 per cent. are Juniors.

Every Friday a Social Evening is still held for the Old Club Boys and the Girls' Club, and on Saturday, January 2nd, 1943, we plan to make our Annual Outing to the theatre and then return to tea and games here.

We all send gratitude and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to Stowe, hoping that another year may find us more closely united once more. It is personal contact which we sadly lack in these days, and I heartily invite Stoics and Old Stoics to ring me up (Bayswater 3976) at any time or come to the Club between 6.30 and 10.30 p.m. any evening, where they will be most welcome and enjoy their call.

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, 1942, 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.*

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of *The Stoic*,

Dear Sir,

Hoping that you may find room for this in your columns, I venture to put forward a plea that some form of pre-Naval training be provided in Schools.

Enquiries have been made, I gather, but the Admiralty opinion is that, at present, the A.T.C. provides adequate pre-entry training for those that wish to join the Royal Navy. This is not what many Stoics feel, I am sure, for there is a considerable number of them who would like some Naval training here, and although some enter the A.T.C., and some prefer to serve in the J.T.C., most would be happier in their own organization.

I would point out that, although such subjects as Navigation and Signalling are taught in the A.T.C., they are as applied to aircraft, and are therefore of little use aboard ship, where, for instance, such things as Tides, Currents, and the complexities of Lights and Buoys have to be taken into account.

The theoretical part and to a certain extent the practical part of these and many other subjects may well be taught ashore, thus providing, at the very least, an outline of some of those things which are likely to be of use to seamen.

Even in the years of peace, many boys throughout the country trained under the auspices of the Navy League. The war has brought the A.T.C. and the A.C.F. At Oxford and Cambridge Naval Divisions have just been formed. The Public Schools have the J.T.C. and A.T.C., but have yet to wait for a Naval training corps. I hope that they will not have to wait too long, and I feel sure that there would be a good supply of recruits to be found in Stowe.

Yours faithfully,

QUIDAM.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*,

Sir,

I feel it my duty to inform you that some of the literary effusions included in late numbers of *The Stoic* are considered by a large number of readers forming, as it were, a cross-section of Stowe opinion, to be thoroughly unsuitable. *The Stoic* is the organ of a school of some public standing, and it would seem very wrong to reduce it to the standards of either a popular or a surrealist periodical. By all means let *The Stoic* lead the way as the most progressive public school journal, if such, Sir, be your object; but do not let it become, in the endeavour, a collection of obscure and inconsequent paragraphs of interest only to a small clique. Bear in mind, Sir, the plain Stoic, of no outstanding scholastic accomplishments, who, after all, forms the backbone of *The Stoic's* public.

I beg to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

VERITAS.

THE VISIT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE DUKE OF CLARENCE TO STOWE

AND THE FESTIVITIES HELD IN THEIR HONOUR AT THE GROTTO.

Friday, August 16th, 1805.

We breakfasted at eleven in the State drawing room where two tables were laid. The Prince walked afterwards with Ly Buckingham to the Flower Garden and was drove by her in the Garden Chair. The Duke of Clarence with Lord Buckingham followed in another, they returned at two when all the equipages and Horses came round to the North Front, two Barousches and six, several with Four Horses, besides Curricles. They all drove in the Park, I did not like to venture for fear of fatiguing myself. Dined at six and soon after nine, the Grotto being illuminated and the greatest concourse of people possible being assembled in the gardens, we all followed the Prince in Procession to the Grotto, among the shouts of the multitude, who crowded so much upon us we had some difficulty in reaching to the destined spot, which had the appearance of enchantment, the Grotto and surrounding scene being illuminated most brilliantly, the Bridge and Obelisk on the water had a charming effect. Several Maskers were pitched on the banks, and groupes of Morrice Dancers, the Bands of the Pandeons, Savoyards, and of the Regiments who were on the water played in succession and enlivened the scene, the crowd was so great, there being at least 10,000 people present that I remained in the Grotto, with Mrs. Berkeley, while the rest of the party walked quite round the water. On the Princes return to the Grotto the Fire works commenced and succeeded wonderfully well, the water rockets had a particular good effect and the whole went off with a great éclat. I sat snug in the grotto by Charles Fox and had a good view of the whole. The Prince and Grandees, such as the Duchess of Grafton, Ly Euston, &c. supped in the Grotto, the Knyvetts sung Catches and Glee's during the supper. I went to one of the marquees and did not get home till one o'clock.

Betsy Wynne's Diary.

J.E.M.I.



LATE SUMMER STOICĀ

A number of Public School Cricket Sides were captained by W. R. Mallory (C) in August as follows:—

North of the Thames Public Schools:—Match against South of the Thames Public Schools. Mallory made 51 runs and took 4 wickets.

Rest of England Public Schools:—Match against Home Counties Public Schools. Mallory made 45 runs and took 7 wickets.

Public Schools:—Match against Sandhurst O.C.T.U. Mallory made 34 runs and took 2 wickets.

At the end of last term, the following Cricket Colours were awarded:—

1st XI.—T. S. A. Lack (G).

2nd XI.—R. A. Guinness (C), R. D. R. Lycett Green (T), A. C. L. Lewisohn (C), M. E. Fawcus (W).
Colts—H. R. Marten (T), C. G. Dealtry (B).

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

J. S. HOLLINGS (T) was awarded an Exhibition in Mechanical Sciences at St. John's College, Cambridge. (In residence.)

