

# THE STOIC



*Number Sixty*

APRIL 1943

# THE STOIC

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No. 5

## MR. CROSS

WHEN the School opened in May 1923, two Houses were formed—*Bruce* under the Rev. E. H. Earle and *Temple* under Mr. I. M. Cross. In 1925 Mr. Earle moved to the newly-founded *Chatham* and remained there until his retirement in 1931, when Mr. Cross came over from *Temple* to succeed him. Now after twenty years at Stowe and more than twelve in *Chatham*, Mr. Cross takes leave of us to begin upon a new life.

It is never easy to say farewell to old friends. Too often when the moment comes, we are in such fear of mutual embarrassment that we say much less than we feel. And so it is in this case. But Mr. Cross must forgive us if we state what after all is plain fact—that his contribution to the making of Stowe has been weighty, individual and enduring. He has provided an element without which the School would not have been what it is—an element of strength, of high purpose, of idealism both civic and Christian and of a devotion to duty which demanded the most from himself and our best from us all.

To have said that must for the moment suffice, but we owed it to ourselves to say it. And now—"Old friend, farewell."

J.F.R.

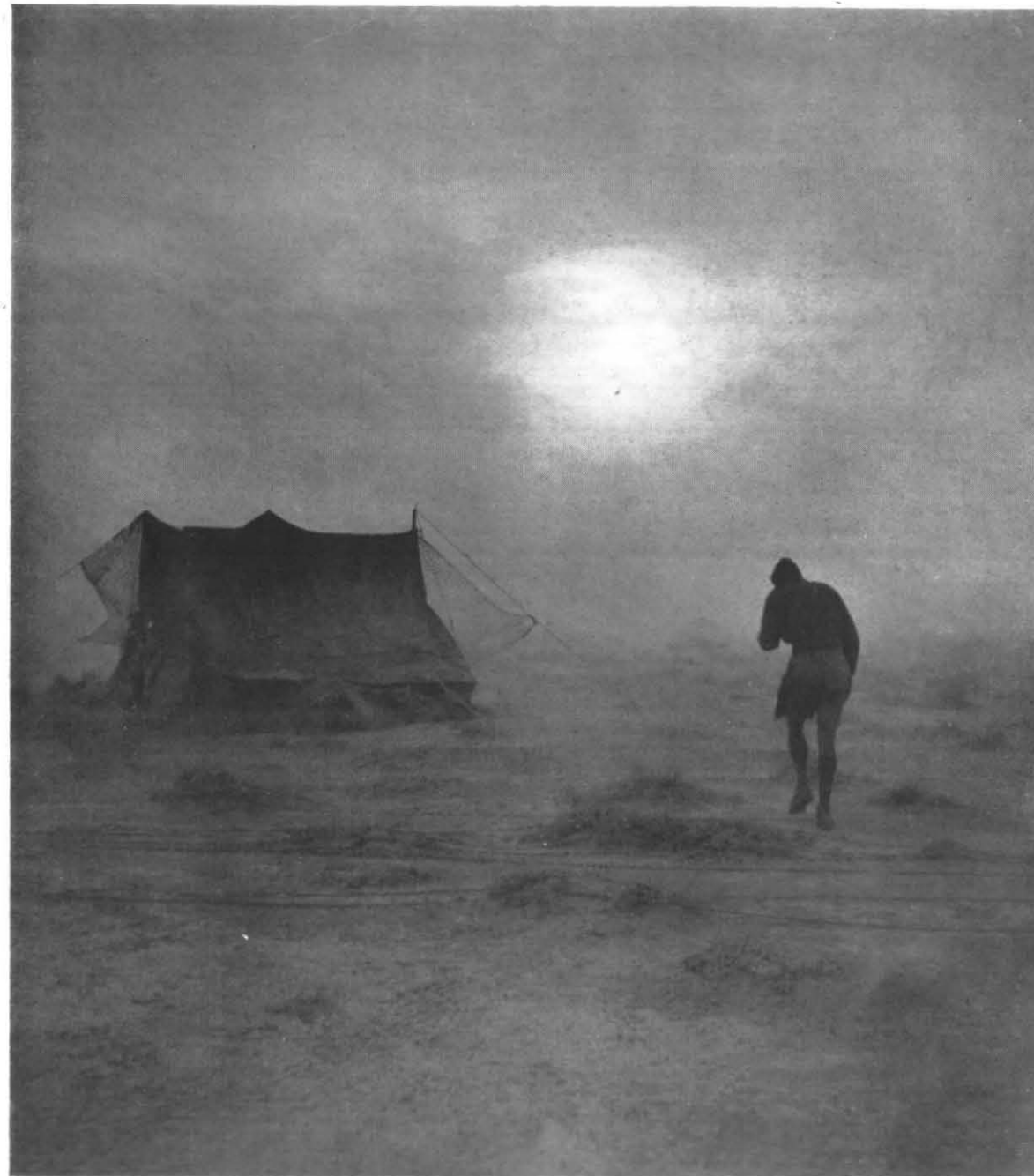


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## DECORATIONS

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

## BAR TO D.F.C.

SQUADRON-LEADER A. C. BARTLEY, D.F.C. (G, 1936), R.A.F. (In January.)

## M.C.

MAJOR J. H. STRUTT (B, 1930), Essex Yeomanry, R.H.A. (In December.)

MAJOR H. A. C. BLAIR-IMRIE (C, 1930), Black Watch. (In January.)

CAPTAIN D. W. BASSET (G, 1934), R.B. (In January.)

MAJOR R. H. W. S. HASTINGS (T, 1935), R.B. (In February.)

## D.S.C.

SURGEON-LIEUTENANT A. E. DE LA T. MALLET, M.B., B.Ch. (B, 1935), R.N.V.R. (In February.)

## D.F.C.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT H. S. GRIFFITHS (G, 1930), R.A.F.V.R. (In March.)

SQUADRON-LEADER D. A. BRAITHWAITE (G, 1938), R.A.F.V.R. (In March.)

Citations have been received for the following awards. 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.

MAJOR H. A. C. BLAIR-IMRIE (see above).

"On the night of 23rd-24th October A/Major H. A. C. Blair-Imrie led his men with great courage and dash, and though wounded early in the advance continued to encourage and inspire them and to organize the position they had taken until the afternoon of the 24th. He showed complete disregard for his own safety and displayed qualities of leadership of a very high order."

SQUADRON-LEADER D. A. BRAITHWAITE (see above).

"Owing to his devotion to duty, the squadron for whose work he is entirely responsible have maintained a high standard of efficiency throughout. This officer has invariably displayed keenness and courage under difficult circumstances."

## CASUALTIES

## KILLED

SQUADRON-LEADER P. DE G. H. SEYMOUR (C, 1928), R.A.F. (Previously reported Missing.)

LIEUTENANT THE VISCOUNT MAITLAND (G, 1933), Lothian and Border Horse. (In January.)

SERGEANT WO/AG C. S. BERGER (G, 1938), R.A.F.V.R. (In February.)

PILOT-OFFICER G. F. B. NEWPORT-TINLEY, D.F.C. (C, 1939), R.A.F.V.R. (Previously reported Missing.)

NAVAL AIRMAN R. W. J. DUFF (C, 1942), F.A.A. (In March.)

## MISSING

LIEUTENANT P. A. WILLES (B, 1929), 12th Royal Lancers. (In February.)

SUB-LIEUTENANT M. A. GRAHAM (G, 1936), (A) R.N.V.R. (In January.)

LIEUTENANT A. B. STEWART (G, 1936), Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. (Also Wounded.) Singapore.

## PRISONER OF WAR

CAPTAIN A. A. BARBER (C, 1927), 5th Green Howards. (Also Wounded.) (In Italy; June 1942.)

CAPTAIN J. N. FEATHERS (G, 1928), R.A.S.C. (Previously reported Missing.)

SECOND-LIEUTENANT P. H. W. DAVIE (C, 1929), R.A.

LANCE-CORPORAL P. D. A. CHIDELL (G, 1930), Hong Kong V.D.F.

CAPTAIN E. W. SCONCE (G, 1931), R.A. (In December: previously reported Missing.)

LIEUTENANT C. E. WOODBRIDGE (G, 1931), Royal Sussex Regt.

MAJOR J. B. SOPPER (C, 1931), R.A. (Previously reported Missing, Singapore.)

LIEUTENANT J. D. DAVIDSON (C, 1933), R.A. (Previously reported Missing.)

CAPTAIN H. F. CASSEL (C, 1933), R.A. (Previously reported Missing.)

CAPTAIN B. K. S. EVANS-GORDON (C, 1934), R.A. (In Italy.)

SECOND-LIEUTENANT W. M. G. BROWN (G, 1935), R.A. (Previously reported Missing.)

CAPTAIN T. C. EATON (C, 1936), Royal Norfolk Regt. (Previously reported Missing.)

LIEUTENANT H. G. A. ROSS (G, 1936), The Gordon Highlanders. (Previously reported Missing.)

CAPTAIN J. C. BARTHOLOMEW (C, 1938), Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry.

## EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM OLD STOICS IN THE SERVICES

### IN THE CHANNEL

My next move was to an M.L., in which I enjoyed myself thoroughly. One night we were out on convoy work—two M.Ls. convoying about forty ships!—when we saw firing up in front. We put our head down and roared towards it. We found that four flotillas of E-Boats had been waiting for the convoy and were attacking the van-guard of it. I do not know whether they thought that our M.L. was only the first of a number, but they turned away at once when we appeared, and all we saw was twenty-four badly shaken Huns streaking for home. They had done no harm, but the next day the German wireless claimed half the convoy!

This little incident was only exciting, but the other day we were dive-bombed and that was a lot more than exciting. In fact I was more frightened than I ever want to be again. The sensation is the same as one gets in a nightmare when one is being chased and wants to run away but cannot. Of course, the only thing to do is to stay where you are and fire on the Hun. But you cannot see him until his dive is over if he comes at you (as he usually does) out of the clouds or the sun. However, as you see, I am still going strong.

### IN AN M.G.B.

Most of our work is done at night, which makes conditions worse from the point of view of the navigating officer. Often, though we are equipped with every possible garment for protection, the cold is so intense that you can hardly move. It really seems to go through you like a knife . . . . . When you are at sea you get a tremendous thrill to feel your bows lifted high out of the water and see the rush of water along your sides converging into a wake of foaming white for three-quarters of a mile astern, while the flying spray hits you in the face like hail-stones . . . . . I am thoroughly happy in this job and would not change for anything.

### A P/O IN TUNISIA

We drift around North Africa living alternately in great comfort and great discomfort, our sleeping places varying from aeroplane wings to first-class hotels. The countryside is dreadfully poor and the entire population, including the French part, is almost without new clothes. The other day I did a deal with an Arab and bartered a battered old cricket shirt which I had had at Stowe for three dozen eggs and limitless good will. The two most plentiful things are wine (which is not at all too bad) and eggs. When you have a festive meal it generally consists of omelettes and "claret." English beer is sometimes available, but the journey from England has made it fuzzy and it lathers like shaving soap.

### A PRIVATE IN THE U.S.A.

I was glad to get the list. It would make any Old Stoic proud. Since I joined the Armed Forces of this Country I have had little spare time that has not been spent in sleep. I could not have believed that one could work so hard and survive . . . . . At night we just fell into bed and the next thing we knew was that someone was shaking us and saying that there was only two minutes to go. Reveille at 5.15 is definitely early if you have worked till 10.30 the night before. I learned to put on my uniform in a few seconds while still sleeping. It is surprising what one gets used to . . . . . As I am not an American Citizen yet (I hope to be very soon) I am not allowed to be a combatant, and actually I have a clerical rating in the Medical Corps. But in one capacity or another I hope to get across the ocean before long. Meanwhile this place is very lovely and reminds me of Switzerland. Our camp is 4,600 ft. above sea level. It is surrounded on three sides by mountains and on the fourth side by the

Great Salt Lake with mountains in the distance. In spite of the height, the climate is quite mild and the snow doesn't stay long, though it gets pretty cold at night.

Unfortunately I am just 2,500 miles away from my home, and when I get my expected fourteen days leave I shall spend the first seven travelling there and the second seven travelling back. But even that will be a change from camp life.

### A MAJOR IN AN M.E. HOSPITAL

I have not been as fit as I might have been since I got in the way of some bits of metal during the advance from Alamcin. I got as far as Mersa Brega before I was hit, and so managed to see a fair amount of the show. It was a wonderful performance and I would not have missed it for anything. The most satisfactory aspect of the whole business was that it put the poor old neglected infantry right back into the middle of the picture. The P.B.I. could no longer be regarded as out of date.

### A CAPTAIN IN THE THREE-QUARTERS EAST

We are in the most vile spot at the moment. In order to make my microscopic dwelling larger I had dug my tent well down into the ground and a good many other officers had done the same. The results were quite satisfactory at first, but last night we had a cloud-burst—the first I have ever seen and, I trust, the last. I had no idea that so much water could arrive on the same spot at the same time. Within a minute or two my tent was three feet deep in water, and the officers' lines looked like a reservoir with small conical objects standing out of the water. It was not only the tents that suffered. One of our three-ton lorries was washed completely away. It was found next morning at a distance lying upside down with only two of its four wheels left and everything, except the heavy metal of the chassis, gone. We are all quite cheerful in spite of such trifles as cloud-bursts, though we shall certainly be glad when we become a bit more active.

## STOICA

*School Officials—Easter Term, 1943.*

*Prefects* :—J. S. Hillyer (⊕), Head of the School; S. C. Lloyd (B), Second Prefect; P. M. B. Greenall (C), Prefect of Chapel; D. G. Forsyth (⊕), Prefect of Gymnasium; R. M. Hippiisley-Cox (C); J. C. Farmer (W), Prefect of Library; P. K. Withinshaw (C); A. J. Manley (T); D. W. N. Calderwood (G); A. N. C. Bruce (B); A. D. Page (C); A. A. McAlister (C).

*Athletics* :—Captain, A. N. C. Bruce (B).

*Cross-Country* :—Captain, P. M. B. Greenall (C).

*Hockey* :—Captain, J. C. Farmer (W); Secretary, C. S. Wallis-King (⊕).

Only one visitor has preached in Chapel this term. This was the Reverend William Karle, who preached on Sunday, March 14th. Two others, Bishop Crotty, sometime Bishop of Brisbane, New South Wales, and the Reverend T. W. Heale, Assistant Chaplain-General, were unable to come owing to illness but hope to come next term.

Collections in Chapel this term have been :—January 24th, The Pineapple, £16 9s. 9d.; February 21st, The Red Cross, £23 6s. 6d.; March 21st, Y.M.C.A. War Service Fund, £13 6s. 5d.

Mr. I. M. Cross and Mr. E. T. L. R. Haywood are both leaving this term and their places will be taken by Mr. L. H. Reid and Mr. A. J. Chapman. Mr. Cross, an original member of the Staff, was Housemaster of Temple from May 1923 until July 1931, and Housemaster of Chatham from September 1931 until April 1943. Mr. Haywood, who came in 1940, has been appointed Headmaster of Barnstaple Grammar School.

Mr. A. Macdonald succeeds Mr. Cross as Housemaster of Chatham; and Mr. A. B. E. Gibson is to take charge of Cobham.

Mr. Bernard Adams lectured to members of the Upper School on Tuesday, March 2nd. His subject was "The Artist in Relation to Society."

During the Christmas holidays, A. J. Gray (T) and G. W. Hawkings (C) played for the Rest of England Public Schools XV against the London Public Schools, and for the Public Schools Wanderers against both the Home Counties and the R.A.C. O.C.T.U. at Sandhurst.

A. J. Gray also captained the Surrey Public Schools against the Eastern Counties.

Captain M. B. Scholfield (T, 1939) was playing for the O.C.T.U.

M. H. Toovey (C) has been awarded an Organ Scholarship at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

The following were Medical Examination Results in December:—

Cambridge, 1st M.B.—Pt. I: E. B. Farrar (S), J. G. O. W. Yerburch (B).

Oxford Preliminary Examination in Natural Science—Chemistry: M. E. B. Scott (T).

The following gained School Certificates in December:—

G. A. Bakewell (S), C. H. Blamey (C), C. L. Brook (C), J. R. Eve (G), J. M. Fimister (W), C. E. N. Graham (C), H. L. Hornstein (C), D. F. Johnson (C), A. P. Kaye (G), P. D. F. Kelly (C), T. Lisney (S), H. M. E. Lloyd (C), W. E. Lord (C), D. C. Lunn-Rockliffe (C), G. K. McConkey (S), P. J. S. Mackay (T), P. N. Pearson (C), C. J. Rhodes (C), J. H. Rodosli (C), M. D. Rutherford (C), J. D. Terry (G), R. P. D. Treherne (C), R. M. Verdon-Roe (B), P. J. Wadsworth (W), D. Wynne (G).

The following School Colours have been awarded:—

Cross-Country:—P. M. B. Greenall (C), P. K. Withinshaw (C), D. W. Partridge (W), J. C. B. Bremner (C).

Hockey:—J. C. Farmer (W), J. G. Cameron (C), H. B. G. Epps (T), R. D. C. Reynolds (B), P. K. Withinshaw (C), D. Carnegie-Arbutnott (B), R. P. Bourdon Smith (S), N. C. S. Barling (S), P. R. Boys-Stones (S), B. S. Dodwell (S).

Squash:—C. M. Campbell (W), N. C. S. Barling (S).

## OLIM ALUMNI

### ACADEMIC

MR. C. R. P. ANSTEY (C, 1941) gained a First Class in Honour Moderations (Classics) at Oxford.

### ATHLETIC

MR. A. D. THOMSON (C, 1941) played for Cambridge in the Inter-University Rugby Football Match on Saturday, February 27th.

MR. P. C. HOLDEN (B, 1941) was the winner and MR. A. G. JESSIMAN (B, 1941) was third in the Three-Miles race at the Inter-University Sports on Saturday, March 6th. Both were representing Cambridge. Mr. Holden also won this race last year.

### MARRIAGES

MR. G. R. DE HAVILLAND (C, 1927) to Mrs. P. M. Bruford, on January 30th; LIEUTENANT (E) M. M. B. CHAMBERS (C, 1927), R.N.V.R., to Miss L. Cross, on January 10th, 1942; CAPTAIN A. A. BARBER (C, 1927), Green Howards, to Miss E. M. Wheatley, on July 12th, 1940; SERGEANT G. W. HIRD (C, 1928), R.T.R., to Miss J. O. Parry, on March 14th, 1942; CORPORAL E. H. D. LOW (C, 1928), R.A.O.C., to Miss P. F. Wright, on March 21st, 1940; CAPTAIN P. C. E. RUSSELL (T, 1932), R.B., to Miss A. D. Bacon, on April 18th, 1942; CAPTAIN C. A. LAT. LEATHAM (S, 1932), Welsh Guards, to Miss V. M. Montgomerie-Charrington, on January 23rd; SIR PATRICK HERON-MAXWELL, Bart. (C, 1932) to Miss G. Mellor, on December 9th.

CAPTAIN K. P. P. GOLDSCHMIDT (C, 1935), The Leicestershire Regt., to Miss A. D. M. Dalglish, on January 16th, in Colombo; LIEUTENANT P. R. SPENCER (S, 1936), Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, to Miss D. L. Lindsay, on December 17th; MR. J. B. ANDREWS (G, 1938) to Miss P. Hardy, on January 2nd; MR. A. A. VICKERS, M.B., B.S. (C, 1938), to Miss K. G. Davies, on February 27th; LIEUTENANT E. N. ROLFE (B, 1939), K.R.R.C., to Miss M. E. Evans, on February 13th; MR. C. WACHMANN (S, 1939) to Miss B. Allgood, on December 23rd; FLYING-OFFICER A. K. HIGHAM (T, 1939), R.A.F.V.R., to Miss M. Livesey, on March 2nd; MR. M. G. F. VENTRIS (T, 1939), R.A.F.V.R., to Miss L. Knox-Niven, on April 20th, 1942; ORD. TEL. J. A. HAY (C, 1939), R.N.V.R., to Miss S. Lawless, on September 30th.

### BIRTHS

To the wife of LIEUTENANT C. P. COWELL (G, 1926), R.N.V.R., a daughter, on December 22nd; to the wife of MAJOR J. D. G. NIVEN (C, 1927), R.B., a son, on December 15th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT B. BRIND (C, 1928), R.I.N.V.R., a son, on November 5th; to the wife of CAPTAIN A. H. ROOSMALECOCK, M.C. (C, 1928), Outram's Rifles, a daughter, on December 18th; to the wife of CAPTAIN P. A. ROBINSON (T, 1928), R.A.M.C., a son, on December 25th; to the wife of CAPTAIN A. W. M. COLTART (C, 1928), R.A., a daughter, on February 28th; to the wife of MR. R. V. HEBER-PERCY (C, 1928), a daughter, on February 28th; to the wife of CAPTAIN H. W. BLYTH (C, 1929), Scots Guards, a daughter, on January 2nd; to the wife of CAPTAIN H. E. RAPHAEL (S, 1929), R.A., a daughter, on December 30th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT A. W. R. DE HORSEY (S, 1929), R.N.V.R., a son, on January 28th; to the wife of MR. B. J. BRADFORD (C, 1929), a son, on February 11th, 1942; to the wife of CAPTAIN J. C. B. NESFIELD (G, 1929), R.A.M.C., a son, on February 2nd; to the wife of MAJOR P. F. I. REID (S, 1929), Irish Guards, a daughter, on March 12th; to the wife of CAPTAIN J. S. S. CAMPKIN (C, 1929), R.A., a son, on March 13th.

To the wife of MR. R. E. BLANDFORD (C, 1930), a daughter, on July 3rd, 1941; to the wife of MR. R. E. BLANDFORD (C, 1930), a daughter, on November 14th, 1942; to the wife of MAJOR G. V. ROUSE (G, 1931), R.A., a son, on January 20th; to the wife of MR. A. F. WEAVER (T, 1933), a son, on December 2nd, 1941; to the wife of DR. J. H. PENROSE (G, 1933), a son, on December 4th; to the wife of MR. M. E. CHAPMAN (C, 1933), a son, on February 25th; to the wife of MAJOR D. B. DRYSDALE (S, 1935), R.M., a daughter, on January 15th; to the wife of CAPTAIN W. B. DRYSDALE (S, 1935), Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, a son, on January 7th, in Durban; to the wife of LIEUTENANT P. T. ASHTON (C, 1935), Oxfordshire Yeomanry, a son, on January 30th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT P. L. STILEMAN (B, 1936), a son, on March 1st.

## POETRY

## THE MOUNTAIN

In my delight I sang aloud  
Upon the mountain high,  
And no-one heard me but a cloud  
Beneath the bright blue sky.

I felt myself a king that day,  
The mountain was my throne ;  
O'er all the world I held my sway,  
High heaven was my crown.

I stood and breathed the crystal air  
Upon the mountain high,  
And all Eternity was there  
Beneath the bright blue sky.

J.W.M.

The Church doth soak in the blanching moon  
And the grey leaves drop from the tree,  
And the night-birds sing to a haunting tune  
Of a ghostly minstrelsy.

And the caravan sways in the winter wind,  
And the church's bells do groan,  
And the warden's voice cries out to find  
Why the black wide graves make moan.

And the lunatics howl at the passing moon,  
And the witches watch the weir :  
From the ivy-tod the owl is flown,  
And the clown looks cold with fear.

And they snatch the corse from the white tomb-stone,  
And the lanthorn lights the spade,  
And the earth bereft makes holy moan,  
As they carry the corse to the shade.

The Church doth weep in the blanching moon  
And the grey leaves drop from the tree,  
And the night-birds sing to a haunting tune,  
Of a grave-yard melody.

J.C.F.

In the Province of the Dead ;  
A woman turned and quietly said  
" I'm selling poppies for the dead."

An errand boy pushed roughly by  
Brushing her arm ; I heard her cry  
" Poppies," as the boy went by.

J.C.F.

## EPITAPH FOR MAN

Man lives, sane only in his lunacy,  
Mad only in apparent sanity,  
Or dies, striking dramatic attitudes,  
Thinking himself heroic. In his vanity,  
He ever plays a foolish melodrama  
To empty houses, and his loudest cry  
Drowns in the sky.

Man acts the tragi-comedy of peace,  
Or else the shabby tragedy of war ;  
His music squeak and gibber, and his art  
Mere daubing, and his poetry no more  
Than mouthings of a frightened idiot child,  
Distraught and wild.

Untidy droppings of this clumsy bird  
Spatter the great Cathedral that is space,  
And he, the untidy picknicker, has dropped  
His orange peel to litter time and place.  
But he shall fall. The stars laugh at the fool.  
A rusted girder his sole monument.  
The wind shall rule.

A.G.H.M.

## ILLUSION

We woke on Sunday morning to the sun,  
sharp house and a crystal telegraph-pole where the night had stalked,  
clear through a pale green recess, clear  
through the sliding fetid sunlight of the brain :  
and we lived a day of pollened water in the dark  
emerald patterns of a yellow summer.

There we walked,  
the water lingering in a golden dust,  
and felt the delicate lilac wind create  
a shoal of beauty floating to the moon ;  
boosted up there on a jazz trumpet, till  
the burnished minarets of sunset smashed  
suddenly, with a pale and humid laughter.

G.C.N.

## R.O.F.

We leave the sunlight, through the sliding doors ;  
The massive shed swallows us up from sight ;  
Bare wall, high roof, a blaze of yellow light,  
A hive of busy industry ; wonderingly we pause.  
A drill screams here and there a furnace roars ;  
Huge pounding pistons, ingots heated white.  
Swinging its load, a crane glides overhead in flight  
While workers unconcerned below handle the jaws  
Of grinding presses. Here with ponderous blows  
The hammer thuds ; the rasping borer scrapes,  
Twisting the shining entrails into spiralled shapes,  
Moistened by spurting oil from metal hose.  
Like some huge orchestra the mingling sounds  
Play a grim overture ; the dance of Death resounds.

R.M.S.

O Thou who standst against the sky  
 All jagged and torn and scarred,  
 A sentinel of years gone by  
 Whose history to us is barred,  
 Awake, and tell us of thy store  
 And from thy vaults bring tales of yore.  
 What hast thou heard, O patient wall,  
 That thou art so unmoved to-day  
 When War again the world appals  
 More fearful in its new array?  
 While all thy new-born sons are slain  
 And to the gods of war bow low,  
 When "tanks" and winged monsters reign,  
 Art yet too strong for any blow?

The Bulwark of the Past replied:  
 "O man, wast thou not born to strive?  
 And dost thou wonder at the tide?  
 Imagine then those waves alive,  
 Each time anew, their strength amassed,  
 They break, and inch by inch surge on;  
 But, after Spring, the Neap at last  
 With Peace upon its waves is borne."

B.W.G.

Pour out the bowl of Spring upon my lips,  
 And let me shout now in the wakening fields  
 And hear my echo in the trembling woods;  
 So let me burst the bud wide open now  
 And let me look upon the leaf within.

J.C.F.

## THE OPERATION

I can bear it no longer. They are going to cut my foot off.  
 They never meant to let me know they were going to give me gas. But the door was left open; the doctor told Nurse "Anaesthetic trolley for No. 14, please," and I know now, I know. There's no need for it to come off, no need at all. I can stand it—it's painful, a large boil, but I can stand it, easily. I pleaded and persuaded: "Don't cut my foot off," I said, "I shall be lost without it, don't cut it off." They tucked me up cheerfully, but I knew that Nurse hid a grim purpose behind her smiling face. I shan't let them do it. I shall resist. I shall upset the trolley; I shall kick and scream and fight.  
 There are footsteps in the passage, slowly and methodically getting nearer, nearer. The rubber wheels of the trolley make a gentle squeak on the linoleum. Conversation outside in low tones, and the clink of a bottle. The door-handle turns, and Nurse comes into the room, smiling. She appears to be making a buzzing sound, which gets louder and louder. And now, Nurse, you are getting bigger! You grow in size as I look, and the buzzing noise is becoming more distinct! I can see you completely now, Nurse, you and the bedrail, and the flowers, and my books, and now the doctor wiping his hands on a towel in a corner.  
 "That should be all right, Sister," I hear him say, "just a few stitches." Just a few stitches. There is a nasty smell of ether, and my foot is wrapped in sticking-plaster.

J.L.H.K.

## RESPONSIBILITY

With an expressionless face he watched the minute hand of the clock move slowly upwards in spasmodic unexpected jerks. Two minutes to go, and then ——. A second's error might spell disaster. If he gave the signal too soon, multitudes might have to undergo unspeakable torture as a punishment, and vituperation would be poured upon his head. A second too late, and the rigid organization would be interrupted, perhaps with fatal results.

Behind him hungry crowds surged through the twin doors. There was a roar of charging feet and a frenzied stampede. Inside the hungry buzz of voices grew louder. Half a minute to go. His assistants stiffened, ready to do their duty. Flying forms hurled themselves through the door before it was too late, and then—zero hour! Unhurriedly he moved to his left and raised his arm in a fatal gesture. Far off, as it seemed, a bell rang, and the angry hum quickened. Then bracing himself, he strode into that menacing assembly and with a stentorian shout of "Stop talking! Get into Hall!" sent the school into breakfast.

P.M.B.G.

## STOWE TREES

The horrible tangle of timber between the two cattle-grids may give some Stoics—and more visitors—a wrong idea of the way in which Stowe is caring for its trees. As a matter of fact, the ground between the cattle-grids does not belong to us, and up to now we have been unable to get permission to do anything about its upkeep or tidiness.

Like every other well-wooded estate, Stowe has lost a large number of its biggest trees in recent years, and there are more to go; but, as far as possible, these trees are being taken from places where their absence is not immediately noticeable, and every care is being taken to preserve the rarer specimens.

During the last two years, a steadily increasing amount of maintenance and planting has gone on. We have been lucky enough to secure the help of Mr. A. Bruce Jackson, a well-known tree expert, and besides his regular visits we now have three whole-time foresters working on the estate. A large amount of time has been spent in clearing undergrowth, and, if it were not for the fellers, there is no doubt that our grounds would now be tidier than they have ever been since the School started.

Both timber and amenity trees are being planted. Near the Cobham Monument, about an acre of larch (both Japanese and European) is acting as nurse-crop to Spanish Chestnut, and in the same area there is about half an acre of beech planted pure, and an acre of oak interplanted with spruce.

On the amenity side a start has been made with the labelling of the more interesting trees, and over two hundred ornamental trees have been planted in various parts of the grounds. Among the more interesting of these are *Catalpa speciosa*, *Tilia tomentosa*, *Nothofagus obliqua*, *Quercus imbricata*, *Paulownia tomentosa* (all near Walpole); *Aesculus carnea*, *Cupressus Leylandii*, *Juglans Mandshurica*, *Pterocarpa Caucasicus* (in the neighbourhood of Stowe Church); a collection of 30 species of *Crataegus* (between the Queen's Temple and Cobham Monument). What may develop interestingly is the Pinetum which has been started in the Japanese Garden, where it is intended to collect all the conifers which can be grown here.

What has been written should be enough to show that our grounds are now better stocked (at least potentially) than ever before: it is our aim that future generations of Stoics may be able not only to have enough utility timber for any possible need, but also to be able to see a well-grown specimen of as many different species of tree as it is possible to grow here.

## BOOK REVIEWS

"HOLY FAMILY," by R. H. WARD (C, 1928).

*The Adelphi Players—2/-*

In *Holy Family* Mr. R. H. Ward has brought to the stage a new old type of drama, which is not an archaism in modern dress. The suggestion of action is centred on the Nativity; the chorus being the principal actor. This choice of the chorus for the principal part is severely classical; the anonymity of all the actors severely democratic; and the use of the Gospel narrative, as a medium for action, has the same simplicity of effect as the dramatic presentation of a folk ballad. So to find a form Mr. Ward has gone back to those who were creating with singleness of heart the means to communicate what they felt and thought with entire faith. There have been other attempts recently to find a way out of the modern impasse of emotional frustration and intellectual timidity; but, as in *Murder in the Cathedral*, they have the air of being a retreat from the modern situation and not, as in this work, a progress from subjective efforts at self-assertion to the more objective calm of a common faith.

Mr. Ward has taken a risk in linking his own thoughts and vocabulary with those of the Gospel narrative, the Magnificat and the Benedictus. A new thing among old is always suspect; but after making due allowance for prejudice, one cannot but feel that by contrast with the narrative the reflections of the chorus are conveyed in words, which the brain has consciously elaborated, and have not the rhythmic power of a thing coming inevitably from the whole mind. One feels likewise that the chorus often describes the experiences and ideas of a people seen from without rather than intimately known, a people that is still a composite fiction produced by an intellectual spectator. Mr. Ward is none the less to be sincerely congratulated on the degree to which he has succeeded in creating out of a kaleidoscopic age a new and not merely eccentric pattern of thought and feeling.

R.M.

"ODE TO THE SUN AND OTHER POEMS," by LAURENCE WHISTLER (G, 1930)

*Heinemann—6/-*

It is interesting to compare these new poems with Laurence Whistler's first important book, *Armed October*, published just over a decade ago. The whole direction of art since then has been away from the esoteric Arcadies of the post-war Silver Age, towards the enforced objectivity of the present crisis of civilization, which compels the poetic mind to reassess human and artistic values. Mr. Whistler's Arcady, peopled as it was with dryads and demigods and festooned with vine and acanthus, owed much to the inspiration of Keats, and mirrored but did not resolve the vague, splenetic melancholy of the times. This rarefied and somewhat precious atmosphere could inspire only a phase, but a phase which the poet's skilled use of traditional forms made more easily delightful than the crippled obscurities of his contemporaries. Since then Mr. Whistler has come a long way, chiefly towards a more realistic apprehension of social evils:

Feed to the flames

The first atavistic hunger, the hunger to own,  
To establish between oneself and a mill or a vineyard,  
Useful to all, or a mountain, which merely exists,  
That relationship wholly unreal, superstitious, absurd . . .  
Then the folly of flags and tunes, letting an accent,  
Or a slant of the eyes, split in diabolical halves  
What is single and sacred, you and your equal, a man.

But he is not merely symptomatic. Although the "Ode to the Sun," from which the above lines are taken, owes a great deal to the pioneering of Eliot and Auden, many lines and stanzas display a power of construction and a skill in imagery which is entirely individual:

At two, a moth about my island whirled,  
Blurring the printed, or the mutable, page,  
And startled me like an accusing finger  
When it dropped on the word "alone" with a little click.

The sun begins by being the force that binds the world together, that brings life through the ages of evolution to its ultimate goal in Man. But all that the cities of the world have in common, save for the light of day, is the presence of wretchedness and misery. At the conclusion of the poem, therefore, the poet, isled in the darkness of his room, sees the sun as a symbol of a spiritual revival:

Touch but our cracked lips,  
And the future will kiss us, and we will breathe and live.

Of the remainder of the poems in this book, the most satisfactory seem to me to be the three short allegorical narratives, "The Burning Glass," "Rollo Latimer," and "Jacob Pennycuick"; and the long allegory of the "Dancer in Darkness." Laurence Whistler has, alone among the poets of today, attempted to restore narrative and ballad poetry to its rightful position. These four poems form one of his most individual contributions to modern poetry. Here is a stanza from the "Dancer in Darkness," an allegory of sacred and profane love, describing the burning of the books and pictures by Aparnedus, the "Denyer of Delight":

The flames like guilty urchins crept,  
Curious to discover  
What the look of Thought was like,  
Fingered pages over,  
Scribbled wrinkles on a smile,  
And sadly thumbed a cover.

Here Aparnedus curses Iambe, the dancer:

"Now blood has heaped upon that head  
A hot congealing crown—  
Yes, stare into the glass to see it,  
See where it wriggles down!

"See how that teeming hair is turned  
A pool of oozing snakes,  
And every snake a deadly sin  
For which your soul all day within  
Its dying prison shrieks."

Such writing, although often the poet's facility makes much-used words and symbols seem flat and dull, sometimes attains the restrained passionateness that Yeats sought in his later years. And all the time there are such scattered gems of description as the following: Jacob Pennycuick, the dying miser, tells his nephews of the position of his secret safe:

They turned with one unlikely thought,  
They hardly touched the stair.  
He heard them in the room beneath,  
And the little hinge that grit its teeth,  
But yielded in despair.

J.F.T.

"BOMBER PILOT," by SQUADRON-LEADER LEONARD CHESHIRE, D.S.O., D.F.C. (C, 1935).

*Hutchinson—6/-*

The writer of this book left Stowe in 1936, having been a School Prefect, Head of Chatham House, a Member of the Sixth Form and Captain of Lawn Tennis. He is one of the select band of Old Stoics who have been awarded both the D.S.O. and the D.F.C. The authorship of the book alone would, therefore, be enough to commend it to Stoics. But even those for whom it has no personal associations will find it of unusual interest.

Some of us are ignorant enough of flying to have supposed that bombing Germany, though obviously a dangerous job, is not a very difficult one. This book will correct that error. Even an experienced pilot, it seems, may sometimes be flying East when he thinks he is flying West. Here is a fragment of a conversation in a Whitley:—

"O.K. Well I think I'll turn west. We must be too far east or we'd have hit the coast long ago. We're probably flying up the North Sea parallel to land."  
Axtell suddenly burst into conversation for the first time since take-off:



"We've just crossed the coast."

"Doesn't look like it to me."

"I know it's land because I've just seen a wood."

"O.K. We'll drop a flare."

At great trouble to everyone except Axtell, we pulled a flare out of its stowage, fused it, dropped it, and circled round; but below there was nothing but sea.

To difficulty and danger must be added discomfort. The landsman does not always realize what an enemy of the airman cold can be.

Very soon after take-off we lost the air-speed indicator, the electric heater burned out and in a few minutes the pitot-head was frozen solid.

The noise of the ice flying off the props and beating against the fuselage was beginning to get on my nerves. At 15,500 we appeared to be clear of cloud, but the gauge showed 69° of frost; and Taffy's navigation table was hidden in a solid inch of ice, so that he could not even get at his maps. This appeared to amuse him; because all he did was to say "Cheese" at regular intervals and fix the whole doings with a fascinated stare.

But there are good moments as well as bad—moments of delight in beauty or of an honest, primitive sense of triumph.

At last I can die happy: I know what it means to see a factory blown sky high.

As we flew on across England, in the sky and on the ground there were signs of inexhaustible activity: flarepaths, aeroplanes and lights pointing out the way. Aeroplanes over the sea, too, and ships patrolling in case of accidents. And then as we turned over the Dutch islands on to the last lap, the most monstrous sight in all the history of bombing. The sky, helped by the moon, was very light, so that the stars showed only dimly and infrequently. The ground, too, was light, but in a curious manner mauve, so that the contrast was very beautiful. Against this pale, duck-egg blue and the greyish-mauve were silhouetted a number of small black shapes: all of them bombers, and all of them moving the same way. One hundred and thirty-four miles ahead, and directly in their path, stretched a crimson-red glow: Cologne was on fire. Already, only twenty-three minutes after the attack had started, Cologne was ablaze from end to end, and the main force of the attack was still to come.

When Cologne came in view beneath the port wing there was a sudden silence in the aeroplane. If what we saw below was true, Cologne was destroyed. We looked hastily at the Rhine, but there was no mistake: what we saw below was true. Cologne was burning, and it was burning as no city in the world can ever have burnt, and with it was burning the morale of the German citizen.

Squadron-Leader Cheshire describes in detail many of his bombing raids, from his first (against the bridge at Abbeville in 1940) to that thousand-bomber raid on Cologne in 1942. In telling us of these and of his life on the ground, he introduces us to innumerable friends and acquaintances and to his brother Christopher, who followed him from Stowe to Oxford and from Oxford to the R.A.F. He introduces us also, though very briefly, to the lady whom he married during a short spell in America. The book takes the form of a series of vivid pictures, interspersed with fragments of conversation and with reflections from the depths of the writer's mind. It is as racy in style as good journalism and as rapid in movement as a good film. It flashes onto the reader's mind in swift succession the thoughts and actions of a company of gay, gallant and lovable young men. Men who have risked their lives together and shared intense emotions have ever afterwards a unique relation to each other. This book shows—partly consciously and more still unconsciously—how close and how delightful this relationship can be.

Indeed the book is permeated with the writer's feelings for his friends. Their feeling for him is not referred to, but one's mind reads it into the story—which indeed would not make sense without it.

Friends do not always speak gently to each other—there is plenty in this book to show that they don't—but they do trust each other and they will serve each other at any risk. The chapter called COLOGNE is a picture of comradeship as well as of courage and achievement. Here—from another chapter—is a little incident which shows how men can act in a crisis when they know and trust each other. Over Magdeburg the plane had come hurtling from 9,000 ft. to 2,000 ft. The controls locked hard over in the starboard position and nothing I could do would move them. They were going to crash. The Captain said:—

"The aircraft's no longer under control: you'll have to jump . . . Jump."

But nobody moved from their seats.

"Come on, Ches, you can do better than that. Come on, sir, we trust you. Pull us out of it: you've come out of worse holes than this. Come on sir."

"Yes, Jock, I think I can."

I realized then what had happened. The shell-burst had thrown us on our side, and simultaneously both port motors had started, forcing us further and further over. I throttled them back quickly, and we returned to normal.

There was no crash.

On another raid they had a very bad time, but even so when it was over there were amusing things to look back on. Squadron-Leader Cheshire recalls a snatch of conversation just after they had dropped their first bombs:—

"Bombs gone."

Then almost immediately.

"Bomb-sight too."

"Bomb-sight too what?"

"Got it, got it! Absolutely magnificent! Got it slap in the middle."

"Got what? For God's sake, man, pull yourself together: you're not George Robey, you know. Desmond, go and see what's the matter with Taffy. He's probably bumped his head on the perspex."

"It's not Taffy, Captain, it's me."

"Who the hell's me?"

"It's O.K., Cap, it's only a splinter: carry on."

"Thanks very much."

"Shall I open up?"

"Open up what? Has everybody gone mad on this ship or is it me?"

"Who are you?"

"Rear gunner speaking."

"Bomb-sight disappeared, Captain."

"What the hell's the bomb-sight got to do with the rear gunner?"

"It's not the rear gunner, it's Taffy."

These young men have adventures on the ground as well as in the air. Some of them were caused by German bombers, but as Squadron-Leader Cheshire remarks, "The Germans were not the only ones to provide diversion." Here is a part of a little story.

There was nothing else for it. I went to town and made a statement, charging the driver of the Delage, number BFX 102, with dangerous driving in the early hours of last Friday morning.

It was a good story, simple but effective, about walking peacefully along a deserted country road, a sudden death-defying roar, and a sudden but timely leap to safety among the nettles.

The sergeant had no sooner smacked his lips on the final word of my statement than Maxine said:

"How did you manage to get my number?"

"As you were disappearing into the distance, of course. I've got good eyesight."

"Well, that's remarkable: I haven't had a rear plate for three weeks."

The sergeant looked across at Maxine and spoke in a very confidential voice:

"Has this young man been molesting you?"

(If you cannot guess what had happened, you will have to buy the book.)

What an appetite for life the writer had and how he devoured the life that America had to offer him! But he is reflective too and can feel deeply. After a compulsory rest he returned to operations and took off with a new crew.

I had wondered too if the absence of the old, trusted faces would take away the confidence I once had known. All this, and more, I had asked myself during the hours of preparation, and then, when the night closed in and the flarepath disappeared behind the port wing, I knew that the answer was No. I realized in that moment that the Air Force has achieved something greater than all its victories, that through the wisdom and courage of its leaders it has created among its ranks a fellowship which can never be destroyed; and I think I understood why it is that England can never be defeated.

Squadron-Leader Cheshire follows up this reflection with another. It is one with which perhaps everyone will not agree, although the last chapter of this book certainly makes a convincing case for it.

For the first time in history the emphasis of night bombing had passed out of the hands of the pilots and into the hands of the organizers, and the organizers had proved their worth. They have proved, too, beyond any shadow of doubt that given the time the bomber can win the war.

## CROSS COUNTRY

The winter, unlike that of 1942, has been exceptionally mild, so that, despite the amount of illness prevalent, the School VIII obtained a very satisfactory amount of training. Three fixtures had been made, the first against the R.A.F. (Leighton Buzzard), the second against an Old Stoic team from Cambridge, and a third against Uppingham. At times there were strong hopes of a match with Rugby, but, despite much correspondence, this failed to materialize.

### FIRST VIII *v.* R.A.F., LEIGHTON BUZZARD

At Stowe, on Wednesday, February 3rd.

The weather was ideal for an all-grass course, but unfortunately the Black Pit was completely impassable, and so a compromise was arranged as follows:—Start on the North Front, Dadford, Haymanger Pond, S.W. corner of Stowe Woods, Woody Park cross-roads, Cherry-tree plantation, Bourbon Gate, Bourbon Bridge, and on to the North Front via the Sequoia Avenue. Any hopes of a finish down the Grecian Valley had been dashed by the activities of the plough on the Bourbon and the subaqueous nature of the valley itself.

The R.A.F. started at a fast pace, leaving Stowe slightly behind, but by the time Haymanger Pond was reached Stowe was lying well up, and at Woody Park had the first five places. On the Bourbon, Bremner, Bruce and Withinshaw increased their already comfortable lead, and all except one of the Stowe team managed to overtake A/C Watson, the R.A.F.'s only well-placed runner. Stowe thus obtained an overwhelming victory over an opposing team suffering slightly from lack of training.

Results:—Stowe, 15 points; R.A.F., 53 points.

1, J. C. B. Bremner (Stowe, C), 32 mins. 52 secs.; 2, P. K. Withinshaw (Stowe, C); 3, A. N. C. Bruce (Stowe, B); 4, P. M. B. Greenall (Stowe, C); 5, D. W. Partridge (Stowe, W); 6, J. M. Ashcroft (Stowe, C); 7, A. D. Page (Stowe, C); 8, A/C Watson (R.A.F.), 33 mins. 37 secs.; 9, P/O Crichton (R.A.F.); 10, I. H. Robinson (Stowe, W); 11, A/C Bradley (R.A.F.); 12, A/C Blackburn (R.A.F.); 13, A/C Paul (R.A.F.); 14, Cpl. Ball (R.A.F.); 15, Sgt. Gray (R.A.F.).

Sgt. Umsworth and F/Sgt. Metcalfe failed to close in.

### FIRST VIII *v.* OLD STOICS

At Stowe, on Saturday, February 13th.

For this match the old Senior course was chosen, but with the finish changed to down the Roman Road to the North Front instead of across the Bourbon Field to the Grecian Valley. The course was then, briefly:—Start on the North Front, Dadford, Woodlands Farm Riding, Pheasantry, S.W. corner of Stowe Woods, Woody Park cross-roads, Roman Road and finish on the North Front.

The weather was again fine. There was a steady start led by Sellers (O.S.) and Greenall. At Dadford, however, Holden (O.S.), Jessiman (O.S.) and Lightfoot (O.S.) took the lead, running well together, and were later joined by Bruce. In the Stowe Ridings, Murray (O.S.) was overtaken by Greenall and Bremner, and the leading runners only changed when Withinshaw overtook Sellers (O.S.) on the North Front. As a result the Old Stoics won, but, considering the potentially very strong team they had brought down, Stowe's defeat was not disgraceful. The first three finished together. The race was broadcast (locally); but unfortunately the commentators were, in the main, inaudible.

Result:—Stowe, 33 points; Old Stoics, 22 points.

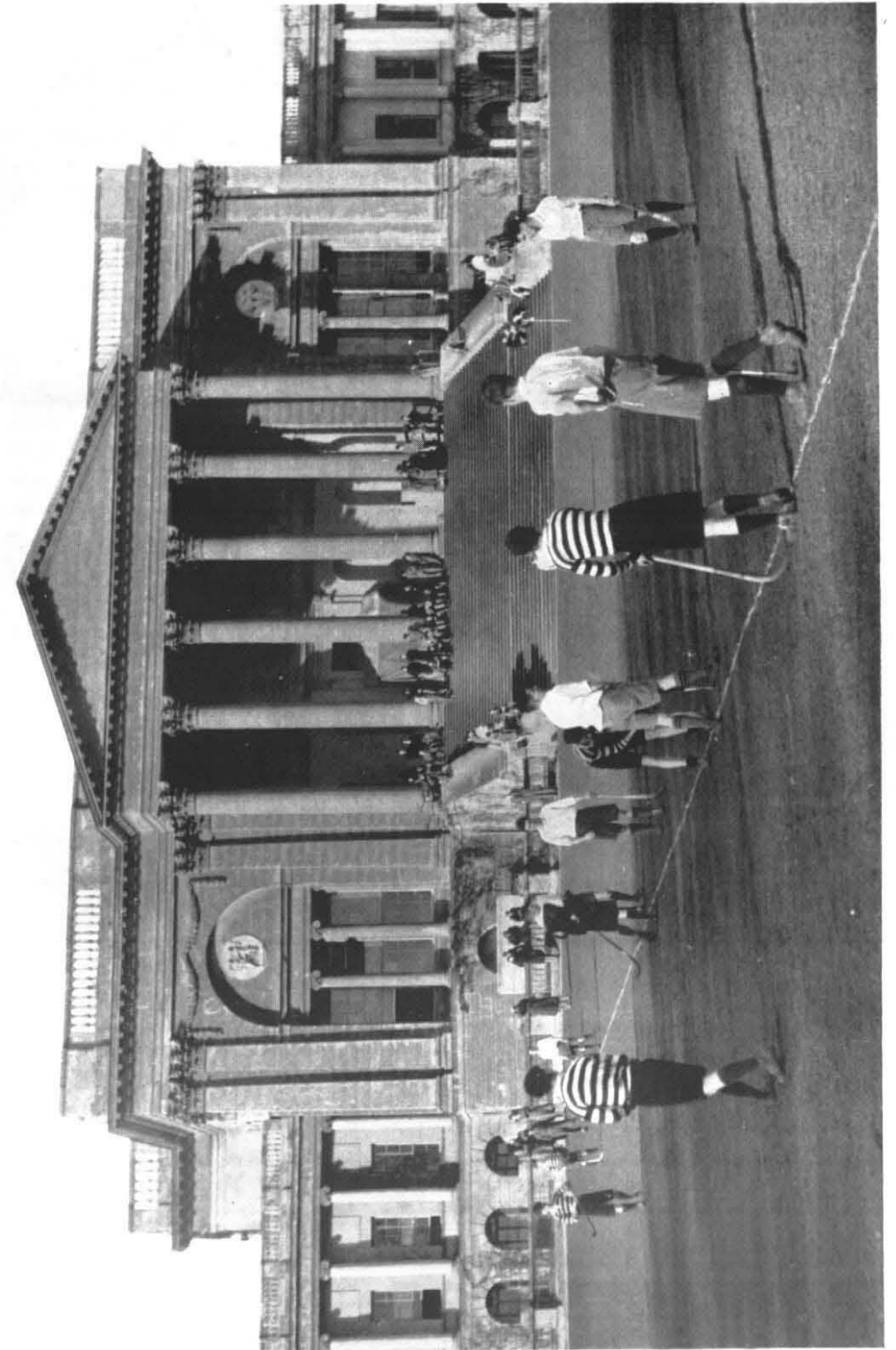
1, A. G. Jessiman (O.S.), 24 mins. 47 secs.; 2, P. C. Holden (O.S.); 3, A. N. C. Bruce (Stowe, B), 24 mins. 48 secs.; 4, R. D. Lightfoot (O.S.); 5, P. K. Withinshaw (Stowe, C); 6, R. M. Sellers (O.S.); 7, P. M. B. Greenall (Stowe, C); 8, J. C. B. Bremner (Stowe, C); 9, J. E. Murray (O.S.); 10, D. W. Partridge (Stowe, W); 11, J. S. Hillyer (Stowe, S); 12, D. R. Blundell (Stowe, S); 13, D. G. Prestwich (O.S.).

The Old Stoics produced only 6 runners, so Stowe ran only 7.

### FIRST VIII *v.* UPPINGHAM

At Stowe, on Saturday, February 27th.

The course chosen this time was completely different from former ones this season, in order to avoid the staleness which the Dadford start engenders in a team which knows it only too well. This started on the North Front, and then to the Rotunda, Bell Gate, Corinthian Arch, Chack-



[J.F.R.]

HOCKEY  
THE FIRST 1ST XI MATCH AT STOWE  
(Stowe 3, St. Lawrence 0)

Photo by



Photo by

THE CONGREVE MONUMENT

[J.F.R.]

more, Bycill Cross-roads, Stowe Castle, Bourbon Gate, Bourbon Bridge, and on to the North Front. Uppingham started off with a very fast sprint which they maintained to the Corinthian Arch. Stowe were rather behind, led by Blundell, Greenall and Partridge, but at the Corinthian Arch Bruce went ahead, eventually to take the lead, followed by Withinshaw who took 4th place. On the Bourbon, Partridge sprinted but was unable materially to improve his position, and, although Greenall and Bremner gained ground, Stowe finally lost by 11 points.

Result :—Stowe, 45 points ; Uppingham, 34 points.  
 1, A. N. C. Bruce (Stowe, B), 26 mins. 7 secs. ; 2, H. L. Hobbs (Uppingham), 26 mins. 17 secs. ; 3, P. J. Vero (Uppingham) ; 4, P. K. Withinshaw (Stowe, C) ; 5, J. R. S. Barton (Uppingham) ; 6, M. A. S. Robson (Uppingham) ; 7, A. J. A. Pearson (Uppingham) ; 8, D. W. Partridge (Stowe, W) ; 9, P. M. B. Greenall (Stowe, C) ; 10, J. C. B. Bremner (Stowe, C) ; 11, J. R. W. Gleave (Uppingham) ; 12, L. Baird (Uppingham) ; 13, J. J. White (Stowe, B) ; 14, J. W. Myers (Stowe, C) ; 15, D. R. Blundell (Stowe, S) ; 16, P. J. Thorney-Taylor (Uppingham).

School Colours have been awarded this Season to :—P. M. B. Greenall (C), A. N. C. Bruce (B), P. K. Withinshaw (C), D. W. Partridge (W) and J. C. B. Bremner (C).

THE SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY

The Senior and Junior races were both held on Monday, February 22nd. Running was made pleasant by the warm weather and the state of the ground, which had hardened considerably, and there was a large gathering of spectators.

The Seniors started on the North Front, and there was a packed rush down the Home Farm hill. The long grind up to Woodlands Farm weeded the field out, however, and at the Pheasantry Withinshaw and Bruce were well in the lead, followed at some distance by Partridge, Bremner and Greenall. On the Roman Road, Bruce sprinted very well and obtained a 40 yards lead over Withinshaw. Bremner also came up well, but was unable to overtake Withinshaw. The time was 27½ seconds better than that of the Old Stoics' match, for which the same course had been used—a very creditable achievement. Time, 24 mins. 19½ secs.

Result :—Individual : 1, A. N. C. Bruce (B) ; 2, P. K. Withinshaw (C) ; 3, J. C. B. Bremner (C) ; 4, D. W. Partridge (W) ; 5, P. M. B. Greenall (C) ; 6, J. W. Myers (C) ; 7, J. J. White (B) ; 8, D. R. Blundell (S).

In deference to the increasing youth of the school, the Junior course was somewhat shorter this year, and was as follows : Start on the North Front, Boycott, Temple of Friendship, Palladian Bridge, Armoury, Pineapple Hut gate, Bourbon Bridge, Sequoia Avenue, and finish on the North Front—a bare 2½ miles.

The start was fast, and led by Chancellor ma., Dansie ma., Vandervell and Lutyens-Humfrey. These, still bunched up together, had a 20 yards lead at the Palladian Bridge. The Armoury Hill separated the runners, however, and Chancellor ma. gradually drew ahead to win by some 30 yards. Vandervell obtained second place after some competition from Clarke who followed him in.

Some mention should be made of the radio commentary which acquitted itself very well. It was broadcast from two points on the Senior and one on the Junior and was very clear. The Junior commenting, however, was somewhat marred by the badness of its observation point, and by sounds, apparently, of the commentators falling into the lake.

Time :—15 mins. 50½ secs.  
 Result :—Individual : 1, R. C. B. Chancellor (C) ; 2, C. A. Vandervell (B) ; 3, A. T. Clarke (C) ; 4, C. Dansie (C) ; 5, G. D. E. Lutyens-Humfrey (C) ; 6, R. J. Havard (C) ; 7, J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W) ; 8, G. J. Chibbett (C).

House Positions :—

Junior		Senior		Combined	
	Pts.		Pts.		Pts.
1. Cobham	340	{ Cobham	771	Cobham	1111
2. Chatham	322	{ Walpole	771	Chatham	1003
3. Chandos	260	Grafton	744	Grafton	990
4. Grafton	246	Chatham	681	Walpole	973
5. Bruce	226	Bruce	672	Bruce	898
6. Temple	210	Grenville	603	Chandos	829
7. Walpole	202	Chandos	569	Grenville	603
8.				Temple	210

Owing to illness Temple were forced to scratch in the Seniors and Grenville in the Juniors.

## HOCKEY

The School's record at the end of the first term's "official" Hockey is not, perhaps, very impressive, at any rate on paper. To challenge four schools where the game is fully established may seem a rash undertaking, but it was believed that an inexperienced team could most quickly be brought on by playing against expert sides, and that, though losing in goals, we should gain in learning at first hand the skill and tactics of our opponents.

After beating St. Lawrence for the first time and drawing with a good R.A.F. side from Wing, the eleven seemed to be coming on well, and the Radley match, which was lost only in the last few minutes, showed them at their best. It was all the more disappointing to see them go down easily against a vigorous, hustling St. Edward's side. This, and a further defeat by a clever side brought by Mr. A. E. Toplas, should have taught us something of the value of brisk concerted movements, but at this stage we seemed incapable of anything but static defence, a phase which was continued into our return match with the R.A.F.

This lack of movement is too prominent a feature of the School Hockey as a whole. There is plenty of good clean hitting, and stick-work and ball-control, though at present inept, will become more expert in time; but neither of these essentials will be of the slightest use until players learn to use their brains and exercise their legs. Hockey well played is a very fast game in which most of the players are moving almost all the time. To stand and wait for the ball and, when it comes conveniently near, to get rid of it immediately and at random makes for a poor game, and is quite useless against players with anticipation and energy, who mean to get the ball and know clearly what they want to do with it.

Both Junior and Senior House Matches have been played, the finals being won by Cobham and Grafton respectively.

The very limited time available has not allowed as many practice games as could have been desired, and it is this practice, especially among junior players, that is necessary if we are to have material in the future for a side comparable to that of other schools who play Hockey regularly.

At present the amount of talent available for School matches is scanty, and largely confined to those who have been "non-Athletic" in previous years. Not more than one or two of this year's eleven would find a place in a first-class school side.

The forwards have never managed to achieve any effective co-operation, though individually H. B. G. Epps (T) and J. C. Farmer (W) have been prominent in attack. P. K. Withinshaw (C) works very hard and is invaluable in defence but is weak in constructive play. C. S. Wallis-King (G) is an untiring, if somewhat ponderous, wing half. At back J. G. Cameron (C) and N.C.S. Barling (G) have had to do a great deal of work. The latter, perhaps the most promising player in the side, has speed and neat stick-work, and hits very hard, though not always to any purpose. D. Carnegie-Arbuthnott (B) has on occasions played extremely well in goal, and some rather glaring lapses must be overlooked in consideration of the difficulty of his position.

As a whole the School Hockey is still unskilled, and there is an acute shortage of good players and experienced coaches for the immediate future, but there is plenty of promise in the junior teams and it is hoped that in two or three years the bulk of the School will play Hockey as naturally as the more established games.

## THE SCHOOL v. ST. LAWRENCE

This was the second match of the season. The first, against the R.A.F., had shown a distinct and encouraging vigour, but here one could see in addition an increase in technical ability. From the beginning it was a fast game. St. Lawrence held, for the first ten minutes or so, a fairly strong advantage. They maintained the position of the ball consistently close to the Stowe goal. But then Stowe hit the ball up to the other end, when it came to Epps on the right wing. The forwards were positioned well. Epps centred the ball very finely and Farmer scored. The result of the game so far, however, was still quite a matter for speculation. St. Lawrence were fast and more skilful than Stowe, but a fortunate or well-aimed action of Stowe was often followed by a successful movement. Shortly before half-time, Reynolds (who was perhaps the most conscientiously busy person on the side with the exception of Wallis-King) scored a very good goal.

After half-time it was seen that Stowe would probably win the game; the ball continued to be hustled and hit to each end of the field. Still, St. Lawrence were not showing signs of being tired, but a greater assurance became apparent in the Stowe passing and dribbling. The forwards were keen, though not immensely reliable; the halves and backs were greatly energetic, and had an asset of large standing in their coolness. Much of the success of their work lay in this coolness and also in a determination that the ball was not lost when it passed them. During

the second half another goal was scored by Farmer. This brought the score up to its final figure of 3-0 to Stowe. It was the only match won during the season; the credit for it lay with each individual member of the side, and in the fact that they worked as a team.

Team:—E. M. Arnold (G); J. G. Cameron (C); N. C. S. Barling (G); E. D. Good (B); C. S. Wallis-King (G); P. R. Boys-Stones (G); R. P. Bourdon Smith (G); J. E. C. Kennon (G); J. C. Farmer (W); R. D. C. Reynolds (B); H. B. G. Epps (T).

## THE SCHOOL v. RADLEY

Played at Radley on February 27th.

Stowe began well after the bully and, although the ball was frequently in our half, we were pressing Radley fairly consistently throughout the whole game. Our forwards often had the ball, but they appeared to lack real objectives and their passing among each other at times would appear to be only a formula to get the ball into the Radley circle. However, as the game went on the forward play began to develop. Epps at right wing showed skill in taking his passes and dealing with his half. Dodwell, the centre-forward, frequently got through and was feeding his wings well. Of the insides, Farmer was working hard both in attack and defence and was feeding Bourdon Smith regularly. After ten minutes Stowe was up on the Radley circle after a good movement from which Farmer scored a goal. From that point onwards the game was a ding-dong battle in which both sides took it in turns to attack the other. Five minutes before half-time Radley scored and at half-time the score was 1-1.

In the second half of the game the play had the same characteristics; long hard swinging passes and clearances from the Radley defence, and short sharp passes among the Stowe forwards. For a short period Stowe pressed Radley hard, and after a certain amount of scrummage in the circle Dodwell scored for Stowe (2-1). It looked as though we had every chance of winning. Carnegie-Arbuthnott was safe in goal, having saved several ugly situations, and Barling and Cameron, though they frequently tended to be out of position, had been clearing and tackling well. The wing-halves, however, were not marking their men tight enough, but they were frequently intercepting passes to them; and the clearances of the half-line, though not always very definite, were effective. The score still stood at 2-1 when there were only 10 minutes more to go. But it was in these last ten minutes that the Radley skill in speed, in hitting and ball control began to tell. After three good forward movements they scored three times, bringing the total up to 4-2 at which it stayed. It was a good game and for our first real school match we had no genuine cause for dissatisfaction.

Team:—D. Carnegie-Arbuthnott (B); J. G. Cameron (C); N. C. S. Barling (G); D. C. Low (G); C. S. Wallis-King (G); P. R. Boys-Stones (G); R. P. Bourdon Smith (G); J. C. Farmer (W); B. S. Dodwell (G); R. D. C. Reynolds (B); H. B. G. Epps (T).

## THE SCHOOL v. ST. EDWARD'S

This match was a failure; not entirely a glorious one. Stowe lost to St. Edward's by 5 goals. It was apparent from the start that St. Edward's all had a far greater control of their sticks; they could stop balls with their sticks better than any of the Stowe team; they hit farther, and in a preconsidered direction, than Stowe did; they dribbled with greater suppleness and ingenuity than Stowe. Yet even though they were better, some of the blame lay with Stowe. For in the first half it seemed as though the team were dazed; they did not get unmarked and thus failed to receive their passes; their speed in getting to attack or defence positions was unremarkable; when they got the ball they did not pass it soon enough, or perhaps to a member of the other side. In fact, a strangely disconcerting lethargy seemed to have opiated them. The ball was up the Stowe end all the time: corner after weary corner piled up—there must have been a dozen in the first half—and besides the corners, three goals were scored before half-time. It was not that Stowe's enthusiasm was in abeyance, but that it was prisoned in something—perhaps too great a confidence, or maybe a belief that the goals could be piled up in the second half by conserving energy in the first. Whatever the reason, when the whistle blew at half-time, Stowe were seen in a very murky light: the whistle was a knell to failure.

In the second half, matters brightened somewhat; a greater liveliness infected the Stowe eleven, they ran faster and farther, with more purpose: they were less careless, and showed appreciation of the gravity of the way matters lay. But things had gone too far: the case was irremediable. Two more goals were scored. The goal, backs, halves and forwards now worked hard; there were moments of closeness to success, but never success itself. The game ended before Stowe's new-found strength could achieve any material satisfaction.

Team:—D. Carnegie-Arbuthnott (B); N. C. S. Barling (G); J. G. Cameron (C); P. R. Boys-Stones (G); P. K. Withinshaw (C); C. S. Wallis-King (G); R. P. Bourdon Smith (G); B. S. Dodwell (G); J. C. Farmer (W); R. D. C. Reynolds (B); H. B. G. Epps (T).

## SQUASH

The only match so far this term has been against an R.A.F. side from Wing, Leighton Buzzard. This we won by a narrow margin after a good struggle. It is hoped that there will be a match against the Masters, the difficulty being to find a day when everyone can play.

The open competition was won last term by J. E. Colbeck (T) who deserved to win after the two best players, J. F. Cullis (W) and N. C. S. Barling (G), had been obliged to scratch through illness. The junior event was won by J. A. R. Anson (G).

Because of the illness at the end of last term house matches have been postponed and have not yet been played.

There is plenty of squash being played but lack of matches and of a professional coach is bound to have an adverse effect on the standard of play, which would no doubt under normal conditions be as good as usual.

The team against the R.A.F. side was:—J. F. Cullis (W), C. M. Campbell (W), D. V. Palmer (C), E. M. Arnold (G) and C. A. Vandervell (B). N. C. S. Barling (G) and D. Carnegie-Arbuthnott (B) were playing hockey for the School that day.

## FIVES

It is good to see the younger Stoics taking a more active interest in the game this term. Fives is not an easy game to learn, but once mastered it is without equal among court games. It is to be hoped therefore that Stowe will take Fives more seriously in the future.

With the very limited time at its disposal this term the School team has had little practice, and it was well and truly beaten when it met the Uppingham IV on Wednesday, February 17th, at Stowe. The School was represented by:—J. S. Hillyer (G), N. C. S. Barling (G), F. I. Watson (G), C. M. Campbell (W).

In the Final of the Senior House Matches, Grafton beat Walpole by 3 matches to none. Temple and Chatham are the Junior Finalists.

J.S.H.

## FENCING

The first match took place against Radley on Saturday, February 13th, away. The match was 3 Foil and 3 Epée, Sabre still being impossible owing to shortage of blades. The team was:—J. G. A. S. Clendenin (B), C. Lyle (B) and W. T. D. Dixon (G).

In Foil Clendenin produced some good direct attacks, his movements being more controlled than hitherto, whilst his parries, though quick, were inclined to be flat. Lyle's performance was again outstanding, in which he displayed forceful and determined attacks which gained him mastery over all his opponents. Dixon's inaccurate attacks made him vulnerable to stop-hits, and, though his parries were usually firm, they were very slow against his opponent's ripostes.

In Epée the team's weakness was lack of accuracy, with the result that Radley's very accurate stop-hits often won them their fights.

Stowe won the Foil 5—4, but lost the Epée 3—6. School colours were awarded to Lyle.

The second match was against Bedford on Saturday, February 20th, away. After some difficulty in the selection of team, the following represented the School:—J. G. A. S. Clendenin (B), H. B. G. Epps (T), C. Lyle (B) and R. D. C. Reynolds (B). The match was only 4 Foil as Bedford did not do Epée.

Clendenin's performance was wild and disappointing, lacking in control—a pity in view of his recent considerable improvement. Epps made a good come-back, showing that his parries were still good, though his attacks lacked their usual forcefulness, which was due to lack of practice. Lyle was again good, but failed to follow up his attacks on an opponent who, on account of his weak parries, retreated. Reynolds, however, followed up his attacks with determination, but they lacked the precision of those of Lyle and Epps, and his parries though firm were rather slow.

Stowe lost by 5 fights to 11.

## JUNIOR TRAINING CORPS NOTES

The following promotions have been made this term:—

To *Senior Under-Officer*: Under-Officer P. M. B. Greenall (C).

To *Under-Officer*: Sergeants A. J. Manley (T), P. K. Withinshaw (C), R. T. F. Larsen (G), D. G. Forsyth (G), J. C. Farmer (W).

To *Sergeant*: Corporals J. I. G. Capadose (T), J. W. Myers (C), J. E. M. Irvine (T), J. H. Welch (C), G. W. Kinder (C), J. E. C. Kennon (G), C. M. Campbell (W), J. G. Cameron (C), A. A. McAlister (C).

To *Corporal*: Lance-Corporals J. O. Gibson (W), J. A. Shepherd-Barron (W), B. S. Dodwell (G), C. S. Wallis-King (G), P. N. Pearson (C), P. J. Wadsworth (W), D. Carnegie-Arbuthnott (B), J. G. B. Chester (B).

Appointed *Lance-Corporal*: Cadets I. G. Butler (G), B. G. Henry (G), R. M. Sayer (B), G. G. Imrie (G), J. A. Wood (C), N. C. S. Barling (G), H. J. F. Marriott (C), D. H. Clough (G), G. K. Horner (C), G. G. I. Barker (C), W. H. Struthers (C), J. M. Gale (C).

The enrolment of 60 Recruits in January brought the strength of the Contingent up to 314 cadets. In the War Certificate "A" examinations held last December, 18 out of 20 candidates passed the "Individual" and 25 out of 31 the "Section Leader's" tests.

## PRIZES

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Individual), December 1942:—D. L. Pike (G).

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Section Leader's), December 1942:—H. J. F. Marriott (C).

Best Recruits (Christmas term 1942):—1st, F. Cator (C); equal 2nd., R. P. Marshall (C) and A. J. O. Ritchie (T).

## TRAINING

For the first time in its history the Contingent was inspected by the War Office earlier than the summer, and poor weather conditions were anticipated. Actually, though it was showery for part of the morning, Major W. N. G. Smith, M.B.E., Assistant Inspector of the Training Corps, was able to see a good deal of normal outdoor training during his visit, and he expressed satisfaction with the spirit and the quality of the work being done.

At last distinctive shoulder-titles have been added to Corps battle-blouses, and the problem of badges to denote the Corps rank held by members of the Home Guard is solved. Nor, apparently, are the Officers to be outdone by the cadets. The total result is mildly colourful and relieves the drabness of modern Army dress.

Illness has reduced attendance on parade by a large percentage at times, but open weather almost since January has enabled progress to be remarkably continuous. This was doubly welcome this term in view of the introduction of tests of Physical Efficiency; many miles have been walked and run on a dry surface, and the Recruits have climbed trees and surmounted walls without undue hindrance.

Two Senior Platoons mark the increased number of cadets available for post-Certificate "A" training, which is not lacking in variety. Certificate candidates now handle Bren guns as part of their Weapon Training. The Signallers will soon be in possession of more modern equipment, and instruction (theory and practice) on the internal combustion engine is due to begin in May.

But, if these are some particular characteristics of 1943, training in the essentials of soldiering at any time necessarily forms the main object and the routine of the Contingent. The development of initiative in taking responsibility and the use of discipline as a means to an end are accepted and worked for at all stages.

While the School was away in January a Course for another 65 Army Cadet Force Officers from Eastern Command was held at Stowe. This time Army personnel was brought in to cook the rations, and in spite of some very cold days the training was successfully carried out. Several Under-Officers were present as additional Instructors, and they earned praise for their keen assistance, which gave them experience of considerable value.

The Stowe Platoon of the Home Guard was visited at an early date by Major-General D. G. Johnson, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., Inspector of Training. It barely had time to clothe and equip its new members and reorganize for the term, but none the less it turned out well and showed creditable paces at both simple Ceremonial and Battle Drill in the opinion of its distinguished visitor.

Three whole-Sunday exercises are scheduled to take place before April, and of these the first has added considerably to the Platoon's ability to tackle wood-clearance.

#### SHOOTING

Spoon shoots have been held on Saturdays throughout the term.

Winners—Class 'A': R. H. Prestwich (G) (2), P. J. Wadsworth (W).

Class 'B': F. E. Kitson (C), P. G. Shepherd (C), C. A. Vandervell (B).

## A.T.C. NOTES

The Quarterly Progress Return for January 31st showed the Flight strength at 70, with 8 N.C.O.'s holding Proficiency Pt. I and 16 First Class Cadets. A further 15 cadets have recently passed the Preliminary Phase Tests making a total of 31 who now hold the Proficiency Star.

During the Christmas holiday it was announced that a Proficiency Pt. II examination would be held in February. Six of the N.C.O.'s holding Pt. I were entered for this. The results are not available at the time of writing. The syllabus was extensive and the standard required is believed to be very high. A number of the First Class Cadets are taking Proficiency Part I before the end of the term. P.O. Boyd and P.O. Todd, who attended Navigation and Meteorology courses for A.T.C. Officers in January, were in charge of this work.

On December 1st, 1942, the Flight was inspected by the Commandant, A.T.C., for the East (now Central) Command, Group Captain T. C. W. Carthew, D.S.O., K.C.

A number of cadets will attend an A.T.C. Camp for the first week in April.

N.C.O.'s.—Flight Sergeant: J. S. Hillyer (G).

Sergeants: D. L. Donne (G), J. A. Hamilton (C), H. B. G. Epps (T).

Corporals: D. W. N. Calderwood (G), J. B. A. Kessler (B).

## THE LIBRARY

This term has so far seen a very greatly increased circulation of books; the School is taking out about a hundred books a week. A "Book of the Week" scheme has been started with the idea of stimulating a greater number of people to take greater advantage of the facilities the School Library affords, whereby seven books are chosen each week by the Librarians, who in addition append their views on the books they have chosen. So far most of the books have been taken out, and, it is hoped, read.

A good deal of effort has been taken to keep the Library really tidy, but this has been rendered unavailing by the habitual untidiness of the average Stoic.

The following books have been presented to the Library:—

'The Works of Goethe' (4 vols.), by Dr. Kennon.

'Evolution' (Huxley) and the 'Poetical Works of Pope,' by J. F. Tuohy (T).

Amongst purchases are:—'Don Quixote' (4 vols.); 'Studies in Literature' (Quiller-Couch); 'Esther Waters' and 'The Years of Endurance' (A. Bryant)—to mention a few from about fifty new books, the ones which have arrived so far.

C.M.C.

## MUSIC

Much more enthusiasm has been shown in the Choral Society this term. Attendances have been on a larger scale—though in this respect there is still plenty of room for improvement—and the singing has been much less timid. The Society has concentrated solely on Bach's motet "Jesu, meine Freude." It is hoped that this will be performed unaccompanied at the end of term. The usual weakness of the middle parts, however, has made itself evident; for in a contrapuntal work of this type it is essential that every part should be heard. Generally speaking, the question of keeping in time has been mastered remarkably successfully, though there are some awkward intervals which the basses are apt to sing rather flat. The Choral Society has attempted the chorale in its original form and those variations which are in five parts; the rest of the work will be sung at the concert by the Madrigal Society.

The orchestra has been lucky this term in that it has lost none of its members but has acquired several recruits. Two overtures and a symphony have been worked at with vigour. The brassy opening of Mendelssohn's Ruy Blas Overture is effective when the trombones are present, but the Handel Overture, arranged by Elgar, seems to lack weight, and there are a few places in the fugue where some of the parts seem to go astray. This is usually due to the fact that some players think they ought to be playing the same as their next-door neighbours, when they ought to be creating a stretto of which the work is full; this, of course, always leads to chaos. The symphony is Mozart's fortieth in G minor—one of the composer's maturest works, and one of the highest peaks to which music rose in the eighteenth century if not in the whole history of music. The orchestra, however, do not seem to have acquired the technique of interpreting Mozart; for the importance of a delicate tone and good phrasing cannot be over-emphasized. The symphony was not started until the term was well on its way, so it is probable that there will only be time to rehearse the first movement for the concert.

The Inter-House Vocal and Instrumental Competitions will be held at the end of the term as usual. The set work for the Vocal Competition is an Elizabethan song called "When from my love I looked for love," by John Bartlet. Keeness seems to have arisen in most Houses and there ought to be a high standard of House Music at the end of term.

The J.T.C. and A.T.C. band, at very short notice, provided the music for the General Inspection.

M.H.T.

## DEBATING SOCIETY

Two debates have been held so far this term, and another may be held shortly. Both debates have been exceptionally good; in the first one especially it was seen how well a smallish House and good speeches can combine to create an entertaining yet unfrivolous atmosphere.

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

The following have been elected members of the Society:—J. G. B. Chester (B), B. W. Guest (B), G. P. Lloyd (B) and J. L. Warner (G).

The 150th Meeting of the Society was held in the Library at 8.15 on Monday, December 14th, 1942. Before the debate began the Secretary read a letter from the Headmaster, congratulating the Society on its "respectable antiquity."

The Motion before the House was:—"That this House has more confidence in *The Times* newspaper than in Old Moore's Almanack."

The SECRETARY was the Proposer. He extolled *The Times* for what it was and for what it stood and still stands for; damned Old Moore as a vice of women and dubbed *The Times* the quintessence of Tory democracy. He concluded by reading some of the more ridiculous extracts from past Old Moores.

It was the Treasurer's (A. M. QUINTON (T)) swan song. The main theme of his argument was that it is better to lie consciously than unconsciously, and so he maintained that Old Moore lying for monetary gain was better than *The Times* lying instinctively or unconsciously to bolster up what he called outmoded Tory democracy.

Mr. A. D. MACLEAN (ex-Treasurer, S.S.D.S.) made an emotional rather than an intellectual appeal and this pleased the House. "Anyway *The Times* is jolly wiz," the speaker concluded.

J. C. FARMER (W) spoke fourth. He praised *The Times* and for a time we were not sure on which side he was speaking; eventually we discovered that *The Times* was not everyone's cup of tea. The speech was full of sound criticism of many things.

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

In the Lower House: For the Motion, 15; Against, 12.

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

The 151st Meeting of the Society was held in the Library at 8.15 on Wednesday, February 10th. The Motion before the House was:—"That this House views with disfavour the projected post-war economic and social reforms."

J. E. M. IRVINE (T) spoke with impassioned rhetoric. He destroyed with one surge the sand castle of Messrs. Scott, Uthwatt and Beveridge. If the speaker was prejudiced, he did at least expose the ravages of ignorant jealousy.

A. D. PAGE (C) was stimulating. He pierced to the core of the question, decried slogans, and said, "Do people understand Beveridge, and will they?"

J. G. B. CHESTER (B) was earnest and logical. He insisted that planning must be flexible, and that we could only hope to "win the peace" if we lived on an international basis.

Mr. B. HENSHAW (ex-Librarian, S.S.D.S.) discussed the Beveridge, Picture Post and Henshaw plans with great perception and wit. He concluded with a forceful defence of the Public schools.

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

In the Lower House: For the Motion, 13; Against, 17.

The Motion was therefore lost in both Houses.

In the opinion of the Committee it was the best debate for some time.

The 152nd meeting of the Society was held in the Library at 8.15 on Wednesday, February 24th. The Motion before the House was:—"That, in the opinion of this House, History is a better subject for study than Geography."

MR. A. MACDONALD was in good form. History, he said, deals with Man as opposed to Nature, with Time as opposed to Space. He modernized Demosthenes by changing proper names, and showed how the fundamentals in Man had not altered. He concluded by quoting "The proper study of mankind is Man."

I. F. WALLACE (C) was sincere in his belief in Geography, but some of his statements were outrageous distortions of the truth. He said that Historians only remembered the effect and forgot the cause. The speaker showed himself influenced throughout by the doctrines of geopoliticians such as Haushofer.

J. F. TUOHY (T) was profound. He showed that Geopolitics were founded on the historical theories of Spengler, and that modern Geography was a technical science. He then reached a climax—"History requires the whole mind, Geography only the brain," he said.

MR. A. B. E. GIBSON spoke fourth. In the main he dealt with the superficial aspects of the matter. He introduced some Mongols with impossible names, asked us to look at the state we are in today, and said History had made a mess of the world.

There voted: In the Upper House: For the Motion, 15; Against, 7.

In the Lower House: For the Motion, 27; Against, 39.

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

C.M.C.

## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

### THE VITRUVIANS

So far this term there has been one lecture, and Mr. Esdail is coming later on to give a lecture on "Craftsmanship."

On March 6th, Mr. Grey Wornum, F.R.I.B.A. gave an exceedingly interesting lecture, entitled "Architecture is everybody's business." He had good slides, which he embellished with very knowledgeable information. He had much to say about the connection of planning with craftsmanship.

C.M.C.

### THE FILM SOCIETY

The Society has proved popular this term, owing largely, no doubt, to the fact that the two French films we have had so far have been better than usual.

On February 17th we saw *Veille d'Armes*. Annabella was the gay, charming, but devoted wife of a French Naval Captain (Victor Francen). The object of the film was to show how really devoted his wife was to him, for by sacrificing her own honour she saved his.

On March 3rd *Mayerling* was shown, one of the best films Stowe has seen for some months. Charles Boyer was excellent as the Archduke Rudolph, who fell in love with a beautiful young Countess (played by Danielle Darrieux). Because he was already tied by a marriage of convenience, they ended their lives in a suicide pact.

*Lac-aux-Dames* was shown on March 24th.

J.S.H.

### THE SPOTTERS' CLUB

The Club has experienced two regrettable losses during this term; both A. D. Page (C) and D. E. Steer (B) have left the school, thereby causing two vacancies on the committee. These places have been taken, as Vice-Chairman and Competitions Officer respectively, by A. J. Wells (C) and N. C. Davison (G).

Activity at meetings has been confined mostly to tests, but on March 6th a successful Model Competition was held. This was judged by Mr. Capel Cure. First prize was gained by R. F. Wright (G) who entered a superb 1/72nd scale model of a Sunderland, with every conceivable exterior and interior detail. A Gordon made by D. R. Blundell (G) and a Halifax by M. R. B. Harris-Reed (G) were equal second. A subsidiary competition for other scales was won by a tiny Havoc II made by N. C. Davison (G). All these models, together with some Frog Penguins, which had been previously banned, were on show in the Art School for a time.

D.R.B.

### THE ART SCHOOL

At the end of the Summer an exhibition is to be held, and many of the paintings done this term are worth looking for. G. C. Neale (C) has much developed his style. The strange rather macabre world that he paints has become lighter, and among the greys and greens of an earlier stage are to be found vivid reds and yellows.

A. G. H. Melly (C) has grown stronger in both his composition and tone. His two paintings "Chatham Street" and "Interior of the Art School" are perhaps his best work.

J. E. G. Gentilli's (C) large "Ballet Dancers" and his subtle wine and sea-green "Crashed Sea-plane" are both good, while J. V. Owen's (T) "Ship with a red Sail" has vigour and fine colour sense. By far the most spectacular metamorphosis, however, is to be seen in A. J. Harris-Reed (G). Every painting he does is a definite step forward. His colour is always exciting and everything seems to come easily to him. He betrays the influence of many painters but is always himself. Notice particularly his large decorative "Still Life with Fruit," in which there are traces of Braque and Picasso. This is perhaps his best work to date.

Indeed there are many reasons to hope for a good exhibition next term.

A.G.H.M.

### THE XII CLUB

The Club has met once this term, when J. E. M. Irvine (T) read a paper on "The Novels of Disraeli." Before the end of term it is hoped C. M. Campbell (W) and J. F. Tuohy (T) will each read a paper.

J.C.F.

## THE SYMPOSIUM

Owing to the illness, not only of certain members, but of the President himself, the term's first meeting did not take place till March 4th, when E. H. Grice-Hutchinson (B) read his paper on "Witchcraft" and there was a discussion. The President's place was taken by Mr. Boyd to whom the Society is exceedingly indebted. Later on C. S. Wallis-King (G) will read a paper on "Persian Painting," and H. Marten (T) on a subject as yet undisclosed.

G.C.N.

## THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

Apart from the Secretary, who read a paper on "Greek Comedy" at the end of last term, P. W. I. Rees (T) was the only member who could be called upon to read a paper to the Society, and it is hoped that he will be able to prepare one on "The Celts and their Relations with the Classical World" before the end of the term.

Numerous masters have been approached in vain, except for Mr. J. M. Todd who has kindly consented to deliver a paper on Aeschylus' tragedy "The Agamemnon."

A.C.L.L.

## THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

Since the last account of the Society's activities several terms ago, the secretaries in turn have been more disposed to find lectures than to write accounts of them.

The most outstanding features in previous terms have been Mr. Rees's paper on the Electron Microscope, and the formation of the Junior Science Society with Miss J. Richardson as President. The J.S.S. is exclusive to the Middle and Lower Schools.

This term there has been one meeting of the Society so far, when J. G. O. W. Yerburch (B) read a paper on "Hormones." It is hoped that two more meetings will be held before the end of the term, at one of which Mr. R. Walker will read his paper on "Gyration."

B.W.G.

## THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The arrangement of the Bird Collection is nearly completed. Work last term and at the beginning of this was held up by the arrival of more and more specimens; these included heads and skulls of mammals, an ape, a crocodile and a snake, all of which have been moved to the Temple of Concord so as to leave room for the birds in Sigma dormitory. Cases of mammals and a few fish have been set up in a passage beside the Biological Laboratories, but even so there is an overflow from Sigma into the alcove and the Ante-Library. A record of the specimens in the Collection, as it is set out in Stowe, will be made as soon as permanency has been achieved. R. T. F. Larsen (G), D. Wynne (G) and G. G. Imrie (G) are responsible for the arrangement. A short history of the Collection will be given in next term's *Stoic*.

Amongst the birds, skulls, heads, etc., brought to Stowe were a number of cases of fossils and of shells. All of these have been taken to the Biological Laboratories and are being arranged in an adjoining room. This will take some time but when complete will provide a pleasant, if small, museum.

Work on the microplots has continued and fifty of them are now ready for the season's experimental work. This will be a continuation of last Summer's work on manures. The rabbits have been reduced by the demands of the Medical Side, but have begun to increase again in readiness for next year's requirements.

The Rose-coloured Pastor (Pastor roseus) has been added to the Stowe list of birds. It was seen by Wynne and D. S. Withers near the Copper Bottom on 7th March. It breeds in Western Asia, is an irregular visitor to England, and is allied to the starling; when seen it was amongst a flock of those birds.

B.A.B.

## LA SOCIÉTÉ DES LANGUES MODERNES

Ce trimestre on n'eut pas besoin d'élire de nouveaux membres et la Société se compose encore de M. E. Hart Dyke, Président; M. J. W. Myers (C), Secrétaire; M. J. E. C. Kenyon (G), Homme de comité; et de MM. W. E. Capel Cure, D. G. Forsyth (G), A. R. Lucas (B), R. M. Sayer (B) et J. L. H. Keep (C). M. Roté n'est plus ici.

On a lu le 'Barbier de Séville' de Beaumarchais qu'on a trouvé bien amusant mais tant soit peu difficile à comprendre.

La Société s'est réunie pour la deux cent deuxième fois.

J.W.M.

## STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS

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

## WARDEN'S LETTER

Though it has not been reasonable to ask the Warden to report on the Club during his long and trying illness in hospital, I should like to record very briefly an appreciation of activities meanwhile.

Mr. Crewdson has always been very much in touch with Club affairs through visitors, particularly Mrs. Crewdson and Mr. Holloway, the Vice-Warden, who have shared in keeping the work going in face of inevitable difficulties.

A number of Stoics gave assistance during the holidays with running a Christmas outing and party for Club members.

The Club has been vigorously alive throughout the winter and is building up an excellent Junior Section.

## 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 £434 (£337 by banker's orders) and the Stowe boys contributed £120 direct and another £74 through Chapel collections towards Club funds.

Particulars of the subscription 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,

In the last issue of *The Stoic* you wrote in support of a cause. Your cause was *The Stoic* itself; you asked for better co-operation from a school which sat back and criticised its own paper. I am writing for a cause also; I am writing for the School Fencing Club. You may laugh, you may turn on to the next letter, but be patient and read a bit further.

Five years ago Stowe was known for its high standard of fencing. Matches were fought, home and away. Matches were lost and won; the school was concerned if we lost, elated if we won. But now it is different. There are, I believe, six or seven members of the Stowe Fencing Club; they fight two matches during the term. The results are only noticed by those who happen to get tired of reading the Spotters' Club notice alongside that of the Fencing Club.



The results are printed in *The Stoic*. Remarks on individual members are printed with these results. But how can any Stoic appreciate these results and remarks until he realizes that the decline has occurred and the fall is imminent of a club that was once renowned?

Wake up, Stowe! It is your club, your name, and a good name lost is the hardest thing to regain.

I am, Sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
"MOLINELLO."

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

Dear Sir,

Recent pronouncements by the L.C.C. have provoked widespread indignation among all who know and value our Public School education. These declarations show clearly that the L.C.C. has no appreciation of the value of the Public School system and no desire to co-operate with the Public Schools in order to find a better universal system. Is it not time that we stated our view as members of a Public School and attempted to treat the question with an open mind?

The L.C.C. demands fall under three main heads. The first may be summarized as follows: there must be equality of opportunity for all, and secondary education of the best kinds must be free and open to all. We are the first to admit that there should be equality of opportunity, but we also believe that the Public School system must not be abolished in favour of universal state-controlled secondary education. But how can this equality of opportunity be attained while preserving what is best in the Public and Secondary school systems and discarding what is worst? In the Public School system we believe there is something essential to British national education, but at the back of all planning is the money question. A well endowed school, such as Christ's Hospital, can and should break down the financial barriers by scaling fees according to parental income and ability. There are two alternative methods a school can employ if it is not well privately endowed; either receive State support, implying dependence on the State, or rely entirely on high uniform fees; both in themselves are undesirable, but a compromise between the two is the obvious solution. If the Public Schools concede a certain percentage of places to State scholars on condition that the school is given an entirely free hand in their education and is under no obligation to the State, then the great advantages of Public School education and individuality would be within the grasp of everyone; thus also an entirely State controlled educational system, and hence intellectual uniformity, which has had such a devastating effect in Germany and elsewhere, would be avoided. This would change the old Public School basis of social and financial standing to one of ability; since with fewer private places competition would increase and the standard of education on entrance would be greatly raised.

The second contention is that a day school system with its home life and family influences is preferable, as a general rule, to a boarding school system. This affects us, in as much as most Public Schools cater in general for boarders. In a boarding school are to be found many advantages wholly denied to a day school, and here the Public School system is admirable. To live tolerantly and successfully broadmindedness is essential in a boy. He is unable to develop his views or learn much from others if he only lives within his own family circle, whose views may be far from ideal. He must be in intimate contact with others of his own age to get their ideas and add them to his own. A day school cannot give the essential opportunities for character-building as provided by games and the monitorial systems of organization found in the Public Schools. A boarding school comprises Life and all the problems and difficulties of Life in miniature which the boy will later meet; he learns to take orders and later to give them, he learns the meaning of responsibility and initiative, he finds out what it is to start at the bottom and work up to the top—in short he is trained for Life itself.

The third contention is that Schools run for private profit must go. Again we do not hesitate to agree with this in general, yet there are many schools outside the State system but constituted under a trust deed, or other device, which renders profit-making an impossibility. Under this system many valuable experiments have been carried out for which the State could never have taken responsibility. Are we to assume that all the value and experience gained by such experiments will no longer be useful or necessary to the new British educational system?

The Public Schools much resent the ignorant attitude of the L.C.C. towards their system and deeply regret that the L.C.C. should so curtly refuse to collaborate with them for the good of national education; for we feel that though we have grave deficiencies we can contribute a great deal towards a better education for everyone. We can offer variety and individuality in education which no regimented State system could possibly provide. Co-operation between the State system and the Public Schools is essential to produce the best educational equality of opportunity vital to the working of an efficient democracy.

Yours faithfully,  
J. E. C. KENNON AND J. W. MYERS.

