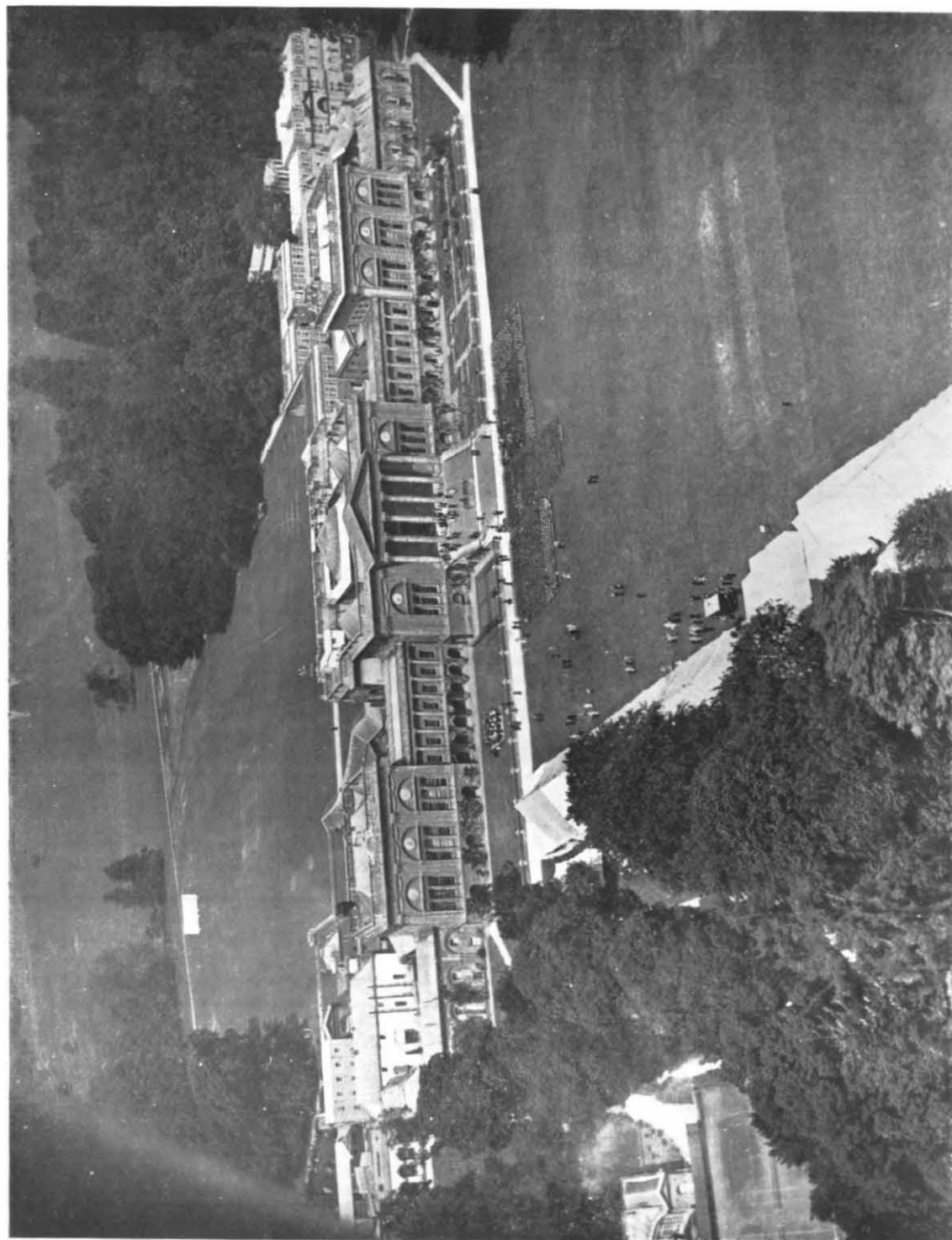


# THE STOIC



*Number Sixty-three*

APRIL 1944



A STOWE LANDMARK: STOWE ON THE DAY OF THE PRINCE OF WALES' VISIT, JUNE 1ST, 1933

(The School's Twenty-first Birthday is on May 14th)

By permission of

The Morning Post

# THE STOIC

VOL. XI

APRIL 1944

No. 2

## DECORATIONS

The following awards have been made to Old Stoics, in addition to the one hundred and nine already recorded:—

### D.S.O.

WING-COMMANDER P. B. LUCAS, D.F.C. (G, 1934), R.A.F.V.R., in January.

WING-COMMANDER H. S. L. DUNDAS, D.F.C. (W, 1938), A.A.F., in March.

### M.C.

MAJOR R. G. ATKINSON (G, 1932), Durham L.I., in December.

"On July 16th the Battalion (in conjunction with the other battalions in the Brigade) was ordered to effect a crossing of the River Simeto, north of the Primosole Bridge, under cover of darkness, then to clear the thick undergrowth and vineyards of all enemy parachutists, snipers and machine gun posts, and finally to make a bridgehead position beyond. Capt. (Temporary Major) Atkinson's company was the right-hand company and was ordered to clear a portion of the vineyard, then to cross a sunken lane and finally to take up a position in the open ground beyond, covering the main Catania Road. Throughout the whole operation Capt. Atkinson showed outstanding coolness and powers of leadership.

"The crossing of the river was deep and difficult, but keeping his company together he got them over and into the vineyards beyond. Here they came under intense automatic fire from the enemy dug in along the sunken lane, but despite many casualties he led his company on in the darkness, clearing all the undergrowth. On arriving at the lane, his company swept on, finally reaching its correct position covering the main road. Cover was difficult but, making use of a shallow ditch and one large shell hole, Capt. Atkinson organized the remnants of his company as best he could.

"When daybreak came on the 17th, the enemy had managed to collect in the sunken lane again, behind his position, and it was not long before attempts were made by other parachutists to reinforce their comrades by coming down the main road. Thus Capt. Atkinson's small force was hemmed in on both sides and all movement was most difficult. Despite this he kept up a continual fire for about three-and-a-half hours, engaging the enemy all round wherever they showed themselves. Finally when all enemy resistance was broken down, and it was possible to get to his company position, the very great number of enemy dead lying all round the post was evidence of the very gallant way Capt. Atkinson had led his men and of the bravery he had displayed."

CAPTAIN M. V. SOWERBY (C, 1930), Royal Artillery, in March.

### D.F.C.

SQUADRON-LEADER R. G. FALCONAR-STEWART (T, 1930), R.A.F.V.R., in September.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT A. H. PIPER (B, 1933), R.A.F.V.R., in March.

SQUADRON-LEADER F. T. GARDINER (G, 1935), R.A.F.V.R., in January.

## A.F.C.

FLYING-OFFICER H. P. LEE-WARNER (G, 1931), R.A.F.V.R., in January.

WING-COMMANDER R. J. FALK (T, 1931), R.A.F.V.R., in January.

## M.B.E.

MAJOR R. A. GARDINER (C, 1929), Royal Engineers, in January.

LIEUTENANT D. J. CATER (G, 1933), R.N.V.R., in January.

The Croix de Guerre already recorded as having been awarded to Brigadier-Chief P. O. WILLING (C, 1939), F.F.F., was of the order "avec Croix d'Argent."

## CASUALTIES

## KILLED

MAJOR H. W. GILL (G, 1928), R.A.S.C., in March.

LIEUTENANT R. F. STOREY (C, 1931), K.S.L.I., in February.

FLYING-OFFICER C. J. MACPHERSON (G, 1932), R.A.F.V.R., in January.

MAJOR J. P. L. HENDERSON, M.C. (G, 1932), R.E. (att. No. 2 Commando), in January.

LIEUTENANT P. H. G. SMITH (C, 1934), East Surrey Regiment, in December.

PILOT-OFFICER H. J. P. COLLEY (C, 1935), R.A.F.V.R., in January.

LIEUTENANT C. M. MUSGRAVE (C, 1936), Irish Guards, in February.

FLYING-OFFICER H. R. DAVIS (B, 1936), R.A.F.V.R., in January.

SQUADRON-LEADER R. A. P. ALLSEBROOK, D.S.O., D.F.C. (W, 1938), R.A.F.V.R., in September.

SQUADRON-LEADER R. G. FALCONAR-STEWART, D.F.C. (T, 1938), R.A.F.V.R., in January.

PILOT-OFFICER J. de B. HOLLAND (W, 1938), R.A.F.V.R., in February.

LIEUTENANT I. MCC. TAIT (G, 1939), Scots Guards, in December.

LIEUTENANT J. S. WINGATE, M.C. (C, 1940), Royal Armoured Corps, in January.

LIEUTENANT R. F. LOFTUS TOTTENHAM (T, 1940), 2nd Gurkha Rifles, in March.

PILOT-OFFICER G. P. MARSHALL (C, 1941), R.A.F.V.R., in August 1942.

FLYING-OFFICER H. L. MOSSELMANS (C, 1941), R.A.F.V.R., in December.

## MISSING

SECOND-LIEUTENANT P. J. WILLINK (C, 1934), Border Regiment, in June 1940.

FLIGHT-SERGEANT J. F. STAFFORD (G, 1938), R.A.F.V.R., in January.

## PRISONER OF WAR

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT D. S. THOMSON (W, 1935), R.A.F., in January.

MAJOR R. V. PATTINSON (G, 1934), Welsh Guards, in February.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM OLD  
STOICS IN THE FORCES

## IN A HOLE

Our job was to find out if a hill overlooking the river was held by the enemy or not. The slope was so steep that going was slow, but the Platoon fanned out and kept climbing. We were not far from the top when the Boche opened up with machine gun and mortar fire. We took what cover there was and began to move forward individually. After a time I dropped into a small hole for cover, as the mortar bombs were getting beyond a joke. Unfortunately there were two Germans in the hole and they had got me at a disadvantage. The point of a bayonet in one's back has a surprisingly sobering effect. In fact, much to my disgust, I found myself disarmed and a prisoner in next to no time. Soon the firing ceased and I was marched off to the Boche Headquarters.

By this time our people had sent information back to the effect that we had bumped the enemy, and as a result we in our turn laid on shell and mortar fire. It was now the turn of the Huns to dive for cover, which they did with remarkable agility. They seemed definitely more interested in themselves than in me, and I took the chance of jumping away from them. I lay down and rolled over and over down the hill until I got below a rock. It was fairly dark by this time and I could not see a great deal. But I heard guttural voices talking and also some shrill expressions of distress from one of my late escort who was obviously wounded. After a bit I thought I could probably get down a little further, and after walking around to see if any of our people had been hit and were still lying there, I made my way with surprising ease to the bottom. Just seven hours after we had started I walked into Company Headquarters—producing something of a sensation.

## AN ECHO FROM THE SCHARNHORST ACTION

Looking back now I sometimes try to recover the feelings we had at the time. We knew that the *Scharnhorst* was expected to come out and consequently we were at action stations practically all the time. As the temperature hovered around 20° below freezing and it was very difficult to get sleep or a hot meal, things were not very comfortable. But when we first opened fire on Boxing Day morning we became extremely confident and excited. It was disappointing when we lost contact and had to turn back to the convoys. The next time we made contact the *Scharnhorst* hit us, and from then on no one had time to think about anything. We were all fire-fighting or keeping the old ship firing.

Later on I asked some of the others what they thought about during the interval between the actions. All the answers were much about the same—first home, then school and various friends. We all agreed that we had re-lived quite long stretches of our lives. I kept thinking about Stowe, particularly periods of waiting there—waiting before matches, waiting to be sent for by the authorities when something had gone wrong! It all seemed very near; and then a four-inch shell exploded ten yards away.

## THE BLUE MEDITERRANEAN WHERE HE LAY . . . .

We manage to get to this Officers' Club occasionally. Happily it is very unlike most Officers' Clubs. It consists essentially of a terrace looking right over a Mediterranean bay. On one side a promontory of ochre rock juts out into the blue. On the other there is a ramshackle fishing village with cliffs above it. Above the cliffs are grass slopes covered with jonquils and primulas. It is glorious by day, but I am not sure that it is not even better when the moon is up.

## AN ITALIAN CHRISTMAS

In the bright weather the mountains to the north of us stand out like the scenery on a poster. They make a pleasant background when we have time to study such things. But the country near us has been pretty thoroughly devastated. Part of it looks like Hollywood's conception of a battlefield. There are acres of olive groves pocked with shell holes; houses with gaping rents in their walls and derelict tanks (mostly Jerry's) littering the landscape.

On Christmas Day our battalion was cut off and we had no rations. But my batman made us a Christmas cake of corn meal with chocolate icing and with "A Merry Christmas to you" inscribed on the top. Heaven only knows how he got the material. I spent two and a half hours of Boxing Day crawling 1,200 yards to bring up the tanks which ultimately relieved the battalion.

## THE FAR FAROES

As you can see, I have found my way to a cold and desolate part of the world. The islands have no climate—only weather, and that of a peculiarly poisonous kind. Rain, frost and snow follow each other practically all the year round, and about the only difference between summer and winter is the length of the night.

I managed to go home on leave in the summer. The change was wonderful, and the most striking thing of all was the difference between the smell of the country at home and here. The Faroese have a way of hanging up cod's heads and pieces of whale's meat and blubber outside their houses. They manure the land and feed their livestock on fish, too, for there is little grassland for grazing. All this fishiness gives the islands a special (and very nasty) atmosphere of their own, and it is heavenly to go back to a country where there are trees and flowers and good country smells.

The local rowing boats are one of the most fascinating features of the islands. They are built by families of boat-builders who have carried on their trade for countless generations. The Faroese boat of 1943 is said to be built to the exact pattern of the old Viking craft of a thousand years ago. The construction of the boats is bound up with all sorts of interesting traditions and superstitions. For example, there is a standard edging-line cut on every piece of timber, similar to the lines which a saddler makes on each edge of the surface of a leather strap. Most of the older men would never dream of putting out in a boat the timbers of which were not marked in this way.

## SOUTH WEST OF THE CASPIAN

The country South-west of the Caspian is like parts of Western Scotland but with less vegetation. The people are surprisingly fair of skin, many of them being positively pink and white. Unfortunately European dress has become more or less universal. It looks all wrong here. Almost the only people who don't wear it are those grand chaps, the Kurds. . . . The perennial war between the Kurds and the Persians closes down every year for the harvest and then opens up again till the time for the spring sowing comes—an eminently sensible arrangement.

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE BASE

As you will see, I am now far away from the line. Of course we all grumble that we are wasted manpower instead of being thankful that we are in such safety. It is one of the curiosities of the war that those at the base always want to go up the line, and that those up the line always want to go back to the base. *Qui fit, Maecenas* . . . . .

I expect that at Stowe now the days to the end of the term are being carefully crossed out as they go past. Looking back it seems strange to me that in my time I too longed for the holidays and counted off the days of each term, for I certainly enjoyed myself thoroughly in term time. Do we ever know when we are well off?

## HIGH JINKS ON THE FRONTIER

When I was driving my jeep to the local "city" the other day, I was just going across a place where a minor track crosses the bigger one on which I was, when with a clatter of hoofs a man on a horse jumped clean over me from one side to the other. I felt as if I were performing in a circus! It afterwards turned out to be the local Army Vet., whom incidentally I was on my way to see about my goat. He realized he was coming too fast to stop, and so he just went on!

## NORTH AFRICA

My impressions of North Africa are a bit mixed. Of course there are some lovely bits in it, but I have never seen such filth and squalor in my life. The Arabs are quite revolting to look at and some of their villages are enough to make one sick. The odd thing is that in spite of the filthy conditions in which they live they mostly carry wads and wads of money on their persons. One of the reasons why they are so rich just now is that we are paying them enormous wages for the work they do as dock labourers and so on. They do not work particularly hard but they get paid a lot more than the wretched British soldier who shifts twice as much cargo in the time.

Apart from the Arabs there are the diseases—sandfly fever, malaria, dysentery and zippy tummy. Luckily I have not succumbed to any of them so far. I was told on my arrival that they were best kept at bay by regular doses of alcohol. There was little alcohol available except *vin ordinaire* (*très ordinaire*!) but I successfully warded off the bugs with that.

## OLIM ALUMNI

MR. A. N. C. BRUCE (T) finished first of the Cambridge team, who were winners, in the Cross-Country race against Oxford on February 5th. He also won the One Mile Race, in 4 mins. 45.6 secs., for Cambridge in the Inter-Varsity Sports on March 4th.

## MARRIAGES

CAPTAIN P. I. R. P. O'SHEE (C, 1926) to Mrs. J. Hilliard, on December 21st; MAJOR O. H. J. BERTRAM (T, 1927) to Miss J. A. P. Clark, on October 30th (in Nairobi); FLYING-OFFICER J. MELVIN (G, 1930) to Miss K. Gawthorn, on December 11th; CAPTAIN T. P. CHARLTON (C, 1930) to Miss E. M. Holt, on January 19th; LIEUTENANT J. A. HUNTER (G, 1932) to Miss D. Bosanquet, on February 4th; MR. D. E. FREAN (C, 1932) to Miss D. M. Willi-Eyre, on December 4th (in Stockholm); MAJOR L. W. A. JOHNSON (T, 1933) to Miss V. Carter, on November 25th (in Alexandria); MR. M. BROCKWAY (T, 1933) to Miss M. M. Harris, on March 17th; CAPTAIN O. E. CRASTER (C, 1934) to Miss E. M. Molony, on March 27th; CAPTAIN L. E. W. STOKES-ROBERTS (C, 1935) to Miss J. Gregory, on March 16th; MR. M. W. GRAY (T, 1936) to Miss M. R. Bowsie, on March 6th; LIEUTENANT A. H. ROWAN (C, 1938) to Miss J. E. Tanch, on October 9th (in California); LIEUTENANT J. M. HENRY (C, 1939) to Miss P. E. Morris, on December 27th.

## BIRTHS

To the wife of SURGEON LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER S. J. L. TAYLOR, M.D., M.R.C.P. (C, 1927), a daughter, on December 23rd; to the wife of Mr. C. D. DULLEY (T, 1930), a son, on December 4th; to the wife of MAJOR P. L. SHERWOOD (B, 1930), a son, on January 14th; to the wife of SURGEON LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER H. M. BALFOUR (G, 1931), a son, on January 28th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER J. E. M. HOARE (B, 1932), a son, on May 18th; to the wife of PILOT-OFFICER T. W. LEGG (C, 1932), a daughter, on December 19th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT T. L. SECCOMBE (C, 1932), a daughter, on March 10th; to the wife of CAPTAIN P. A. G. DIXEY (B, 1933), a son, on February 14th; to the wife of HON. G. C. A. VANNECK (B, 1934), a daughter, on February 29th; to the wife of WING-COMMANDER J. M. N. PIKE, D.S.O., D.F.C. (C, 1934), a daughter, on February 29th; to the wife of MAJOR J. A. FIREBRACE (B, 1934), a daughter, on January 10th; to the wife of SIR F. HERON MAXWELL, Bart. (C, 1934), a son, on January 30th; to the wife of Mr. N. I. BARTHOLOMEW (C, 1934), a daughter, on March 10th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT D. G. FELCE (C, 1935), a son, on March 13th; to the wife of WING-COMMANDER R. C. GASCÖYNE-CECIL, D.F.C. (C, 1935), a son, on February 21st; to the wife of FLYING-OFFICER A. ANDERSON (W, 1935), a daughter, on February 15th; to the wife of CAPTAIN C. F. TRACY (W, 1937), a daughter, on March 3rd.

## DEATH

MR. R. B. P. BRIGSTOCKE (C, 1929), on December 31st.

## STOICA

*School Officials—Easter Term, 1944.*

*Prefects* :—C. S. Wallis-King (G), Head of the School ; R. H. M. Pease (G), Second Prefect, J. F. Cullis (W), Prefect of Chapel ; R. D. C. Reynolds (B), Prefect of Library ; P.-J. S. Mackay (T), Prefect of Gymnasium ; N. C. S. Barling (G) ; R. F. Wright (G) ; G. P. Lloyd (B) ; F. E. Kitson (C) ; D. V. Palmer (C) ; A. W. Mosselmans (C) ; C. Dansie (C).

*Athletics* :—Captain, G. P. Lloyd (B).

*Hockey* :—Captain, C. S. Wallis-King (G) ; Secretary, P. R. Boys-Stones (G).

The following visitors have preached in the Chapel this term :—February 6th, Dr. Nicholas Zernov, of the Fellowship of St. Alban and St. Sergius ; February 13th, The Rev. B. O. Plumb, Chaplain of No. 1 New Zealand Hospital Ship ; March 12th, Mr. K. P. Stewart, of Dr. Barnardo's Homes. The Bishop of Buckingham had arranged to come on Feb. 27th, but was unable to come.

Chapel Collections this term have been as follows :—January 23rd, The Pineapple, £16 2s. 1d. ; February 13th, Fellowship of St. Alban and St. Sergius and the family of Mr. P. Stokes, £16 19s. 1d. March 19th. Aid to Greece Fund, £18 4s. 9d.

On February 29th Lieutenant-General G. N. Molesworth, C.S.I., Military Adviser to the Secretary of State for India, lectured to members of both Corps on India and the East. On March 11th Mr. H. B. Johnson lectured on behalf of the Royal Empire Society to an Upper School audience on "The War against the Locust." On March 28th, Group Captain J. Searby, D.S.O., D.F.C., lectured to members of both Corps on "The Pathfinder Force."

From *The Times* :—

**MARRIAGE**.—On December 23rd, 1943, at Torquay, Patrick Grogan Hunter to Catherine Mary Logan.

**BIRTH**.—On December 31st, 1943, at Manor Cottage, Westbury, Brackley, Northants, to Muriel (née Cracknell), wife of Capt. John C. Saunders, The Rifle Brigade—a son.

A cutting has been sent us from the *Harvard Newspaper* containing an account which begins as follows :—

**RUGBY TEAM WINS 11 TO 6 OVER BRITISH  
AUSNIT IS MAIN FACTOR IN UNEXPECTED CRIMSON POWER**

"Sparked by the speed and elusiveness of Captain Steve Ausnit, Harvard's inexperienced rugby team opened its belated season on Saturday by thoroughly defeating a greatly favored Royal Navy team composed of veteran players."

A new book on Stowe and its history, *The Dynasty of Stowe*, by Mr. G. Wilson Knight, is expected to be published by The Fortune Press during the course of the Summer.

The passage in the last issue of *The Stoic* from *The Times* of August 10th, 1943, was quoted by kind permission of *The Times*.

Medical Examination Result (Christmas Term, 1943) :—*Cambridge 1st M.B.*, Parts I and II : P. Wintersgill (B).

The following School Colours have been awarded :—

*Cross-Country* :—G. H. R. Jenkins (G), I. H. Robinson (W), R. C. B. Chancellor (C), C. Dansie (C), D. V. Palmer (C).

*Hockey* :—N. C. S. Barling (G), P. R. Boys-Stones (G) (re-awarded) ; E. D. Good (B), D. C. Low (G), G. J. Chibbett (C), J. A. R. Anson (G), E. M. Arnold (G), J. M. S. Mansfield (W), R. F. Wright (G).

## STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS

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

March 1944.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

Dear Sir,

You at Stowe who know our area will appreciate the fact that the boys and girls of the immediate neighbourhood are by no means easy to handle, and the war is not helping matters. But we hope still to see good material going out from the Club after a few years' training. There are now 190 of our Old Boys serving ; as they join up, their places are quickly filled by school-leavers.

Football goes on, not too successfully from the winning point of view, but the games are good and sportsmen are being made. Table-tennis is keenly played. We are very strong at it and are looked upon as one of the best London Club teams. In our House system points are given for all activities inside and outside the premises. Grenville leads at present, with Temple a close second, Bruce third and Chandos last.

We have been honoured by being the first Club in the Borough to entertain the Youth Leaders' Council of St. Marylebone, a body of some 40 boys and girls, each representing a particular organization ; their ideas and suggestions are put before the local Youth Committee every month.

R. Baker, age 15, won an Essay Competition with a piece of writing which was eventually reproduced in the British Film Institute's Journal *Sound and Film*, and we were given a long article entitled "Stowe Club sets a Lead" under the heading of "Films in Clubs."

The Christmas parties were grand ; old visitors like Mrs. Jagger came along, and letters from many others poured in. The theatre party was 65 strong, and 33 youngsters under 14 had a party on their own. So, thanks to help from Stowe and each boy's contributing what he could afford, our tradition was upheld.

It was most interesting to hear from Sapper Len Barnes of the B.N.A.F. ". . . I expect you are surprised at hearing from me after all this time, but I was only thinking just now of some of the good times I had at the Club . . . When I look back on those days I can quite imagine what I must have seemed to you . . . Is there any chance of us boys, such as S. Fry, D. Murphy and myself, and of course all the other lads, setting up an Old Boys' Club ? I know that Stowe themselves are not concerned with chaps after they reach the age of 18, but don't you think, Mr. Crewdson, all that good that is done by club workers is so suddenly smashed in a little time ? . . . I hope you will write and let me know what plans you have in mind, as I think I would be very interested."

We were grateful for the visit of four members of Bruce House in February and are sorry that the Blitz is suspending others. The voluntary helper is the most missed part of a good Club. Stoics in town, please remember us !

Our best wishes to all of you at Stowe, and may your visits soon be possible again.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ALBERT E. CREWDSON (*Warden*).

## HOCKEY

This is the second year that hockey has been played as a major school game, and the general standard is steadily improving. Though six weeks is little enough time in which to teach the uninitiated, to play off House Matches and to select and train a school side, the weather has again been favourable, and by using both periods of the afternoon the maximum amount of hockey has been played.

There is an acute shortage of qualified coaches, and it has not been possible, as was hoped, to run a Colts game, but members of the Thirty have frequently given the whole afternoon to the game, and by this means both Senior and Junior Leagues have been kept going and to a certain extent trained. The House Matches in both divisions have produced some energetic contests and one or two unexpected "finds," and it is perhaps significant that the house with the greatest number of players of repute, regarded as a certain winner of the Senior Cup, went down in the first round to a side that was generally considered the weakest.

Hitherto, the difficulty with Stowe hockey has been that in the main those who are nimble on their feet—the "natural" games-players—have been clumsy with their sticks, while those who from previous experience or diligent practice have gained some familiarity with a hockey-stick have been too slow of eye and foot to make really good players. Consequently games have either been slow and fiddling or fast and crude—and neither technique makes a very impressive spectacle. This year's House Matches, besides being faster and more open than last year's, began to show some idea of combination; there was more dribbling and less wild hitting, and the ball did not so inevitably move from right to left. With some of the younger players learning to push as well as hit the ball there is hope that we may see some effective passing movements next year.

At the time of writing four school matches have been played, two of them won, one drawn and one lost. All might well have been won. The School Eleven is strong in defence, having two excellent full-backs in N. C. S. Barling (S) and E. D. Good (B), experts in intercepting and very hard hitting. C. S. Wallis-King (S), at centre-half, the captain, is not a pretty player, but he is an effective tackler who covers a great deal of ground, and his energy and judgement have been invaluable. P. R. Boys-Stones (S) and D. C. Low (S) are dependable wing-halves, neat in stick-work but too slow on their feet. Stowe has not yet produced a forward of any great merit. G. J. Chibbett (C) is young and promising, and should develop into a good outside-left. J. M. S. Mansfield (W) can shoot quickly and hard but is weak in constructive play. R. D. C. Reynolds (B) has been largely absent from the side through illness. Both he and J. A. R. Anson (G) are clever with their sticks but very slow-moving.

Several matches remain to be played, among them the Uppingham match, which had to be postponed. If the forward line can combine better than they have hitherto, and can work up more individual dash and opportunism, the Eleven should complete a successful season.

### THE SCHOOL v. ST. LAWRENCE

Played at Stowe on Saturday, February 12th. Won 2—1.

The first school match of the season—and the conditions were good. It was clear after the first three minutes that the St. Lawrence forwards knew their tactics and knew how to pass the ball effectively and quickly. For the first part of the game the ball was in the Stowe half of the field with their forwards pressing us. Our defence, however, held fast. The wing-halves, Low and Boys-Stones, had their men well in hand and our backs were clearing effectively and sensibly. By a series of hard passes the defence swung the game into the enemy side of the field and kept it there. Here the going was not altogether good. The Stowe insides were missing a variety of opportunities at goal. After several attempts the ball came out to Wallis-King on the edge of the circle who drove it into the goal. 1—0. After this the game was up and down the field. The St. Lawrence forwards, who were for the most part good on reaching our half of the field, were confronted by Barling and Good whose hard hitting left the St. Lawrence forwards where they started from. At half-time the score was 1—0.

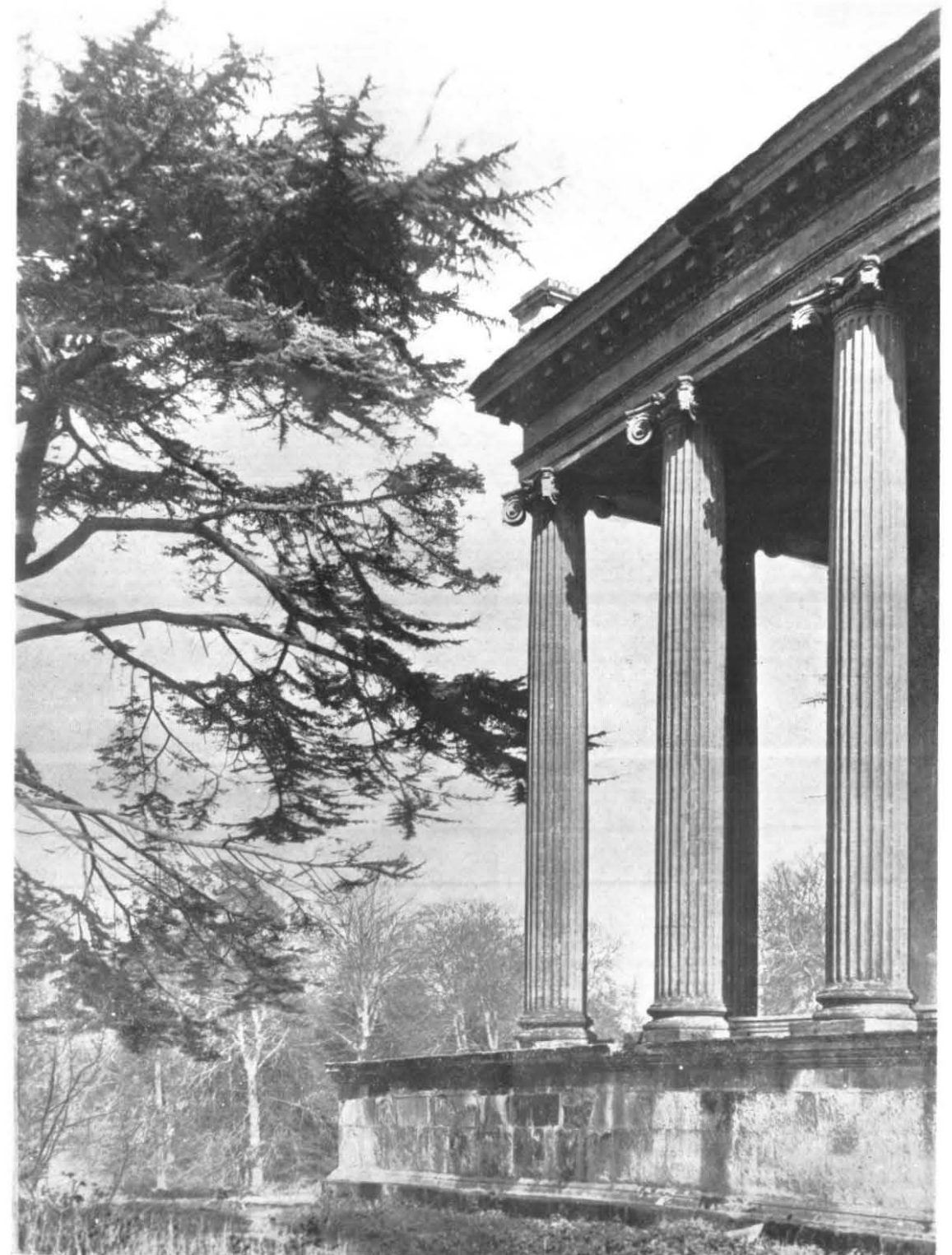


Photo by

THE GRECIAN VALLEY FROM THE TEMPLE OF CONCORD

J.F.R.



Photo by

A CORNER OF ELEVEN-ACRE

J.F.R.

## THE STOIC

33

Ten minutes after half-time Anson scored our second and final goal. On the whole our insides were not fast enough; when given the ball they seemed to be incapable of getting under way. In addition they were hanging too far up, making our own defence work very hard. Of the rest of the forwards Chibbett was doing most of the work. He was dealing with his half quite cleverly and was sending across some really good centres. Even with the advantage of two goals to nil Stowe was not having it all its own way, and when St. Lawrence scored the game became fiercer still. It is due, however, to the backs and halves, who played a hard game, that the St. Lawrence forwards were kept out. The last part of the game became scrappy, but when time came the score stood at two goals to one. The result on the whole was satisfactory, but it showed us that there was a lot of room for improvement in our forward-line.

*Team* :—E. M. Arnold (♣); N. C. S. Barling (♣), E. D. Good (♣); D. C. Low (♣), C. S. Wallis-King (♣), P. R. Boys-Stone (♣); G. J. Chibbett (♣), J. V. Bartlett (T), J. A. R. Anson (♣), J. M. S. Mansfield (W), G. A. Bakewell (♣).

### THE SCHOOL v. RADLEY

Played at Radley on Wednesday, March 1st. Lost 3—2.

From the beginning of the game it was clear that the Radley forwards were very much faster onto the ball than were ours. Within a minute of the start, their centre-forward had broken through, run down the field and scored. For the next twenty minutes, however, the ball was kept almost continually in the enemy half and as usual our forwards missed numerous chances by being too slow. On the other hand there were several rushes on the part of the Radley forwards, the majority of which the defence, depleted of two 1st XI colours, managed to cope with. In one of these rushes the centre-forward, who had received a long pass, defeated the backs and scored. In the following period of time Stowe had a number of short corners, but failed to score from any of them until very nearly the end of the first half, when Mansfield put a hard shot into the corner of the goal.

The score remained 2—1 throughout the greater part of the second-half, and though our halves were generally forcing the ball up into the enemy half, the forwards were inconceivably slow in following it up. Towards the end of the game, Good swung a strong pass out to Chibbett on the left-wing, who evaded his half, then his back, and drove the ball beyond the goal-keeper into the net. 2—2. With very few minutes to go, the game became harder and faster and speed began to tell, for with only a matter of seconds before time the Radley inside-left put in a shot which hitting the post rebounded and was followed up and put in by their inside-right, giving Arnold little or no chance at all. On the whole in view of the number of our people missing, the result was satisfactory, and credit is due to Low who was playing in an unusual position and Chibbett who put in some hard centres, for both played a good game.

*Team* :—E. M. Arnold (♣); E. D. Good (♣), T. D. O. Codner (♣); H. A. S. Murray (♣), D. C. Low (♣), P. R. Boys-Stones (♣); G. J. Chibbett (♣), J. M. S. Mansfield (W), J. A. R. Anson (♣), F. B. Maxwell (♣), G. A. Bakewell (♣).

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

Played at Stowe on Wednesday, March 8th. Drawn 2—2.

With what was, in comparison with our other matches, a relatively strong team to put into the field it was a pity that we were unable to win this game and that three seconds of muddling around our goal should have deprived us of what would have been a well-earned victory.

At the beginning of the game, as far as could be seen, there was nothing that would justify one's supposing that either side would win. Their forwards were good, fast, with quite reasonable stickwork, and their defence, though not shaky, was not very good. As in other matches, speed told and in five minutes their centre-forward had put in a sharp rush and scored. It was to be hoped that we would benefit from this sharp lesson, and we did. The Stowe forwards improved and began to show more drive. Their inter-passing became more dangerous, but there was still the usual brake on their scoring impetus, namely the inability to shoot, run and pass on the move quickly. Anson scored our first goal after ten minutes of play. 1—1. The game became faster, our own defence being made to move faster than it had ever had to before. There was

a lot of hard hitting on both sides and the ball moved from one end of the field to the other. Mansfield scored our second goal ten minutes later and the score remained 2—1 almost to the end.

St. Edward's began the second half with vigour and had three short corners off us, all of which were fortunately cleared. The defence was not as good as usual. Low and Boys-Stones were slow in recovering once they were by-passed and Good's clearing lacked its usual effectiveness and punch. As the game went on, so it became fiercer and fiercer and there were many ticklish moments. Hard work, nevertheless, kept the ball out until one final incident, when our defence muddled badly and were drawn out of position. We suffered for it. 2—2. There the score remained till time, no side really having the advantage. The game was good and taught us a great deal.

*Team*:—E. M. Arnold (⊕); T. D. O. Codner (G), E. D. Good (B); D. C. Low (⊕), C. S. Wallis-King (⊕), P. R. Boys-Stones (⊕); G. J. Chibbett (⊕), J. M. S. Mansfield (W), J. A. R. Anson (G), F. B. Maxwell (⊕), R. F. Wright (G).

## FENCING

This term has seen more competition than for some years, but owing to the calls of other sports it has been difficult to train a team. In spite of the inexperience of its members, and considering the difficulties to be overcome, the team has rendered a very satisfactory performance. It has not remained constant in composition throughout the term, though C. Lyle (B) and W. T. D. Dixon (G) have fought in every match; R. D. C. Reynolds (B), when hockey allowed his attendance, has fought very well and displayed praiseworthy self-confidence. His place was twice filled by H. W. Henry (G) and the latter, considering his lack of competitive experience, has profited much by these matches and shows great promise for next season. Lyle has shown dependability throughout the season and has taken no chances in weighing up his opponents and in dealing with them. Dixon has greatly improved in his movements as his experience bore fruit, and his attacks have been determined but need to be followed up more.

STOWE v. BEDFORD. February 5th. (Home).

This was a well-fought match, deservedly won by Stowe 11—7. The team, consisting of C. Lyle (B), W. T. D. Dixon (G) and R. D. C. Reynolds (B) showed great forcefulness in attack and steadiness in defence. Reynolds was re-awarded his chevron and Dixon gained his.

STOWE v. RADLEY. February 12th (Away).

The team, C. Lyle (B), W. T. D. Dixon (G) and H. W. Henry (G), suffered its worst defeat of the term, losing 4—17, when the unorthodoxy of its opponents left the school at a loss.

STOWE v. RADLEY. February 19th (Home).

The return match amply proved that the lessons of the previous week's defeat had not gone unheeded and the team, reinforced by Reynolds, was well able to overcome Radley's tricks and defeat them 18—4. Colours were awarded to Reynolds.

STOWE v. IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION. March 4th (Away).

The team, which was the same as that which went to Radley, found themselves confronted by much older and more experienced opponents, and were defeated 6—16. The score, however, hardly does justice to the team, who fought with skill and determination, though the Imperial College were definitely the more polished side. Colours were awarded to Dixon.

We hope to have two matches with the R.A.F. before the end of term.

## CROSS-COUNTRY

### THE SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY

The Senior and Junior races were held rather earlier this year than previously in order to make way for hockey, the date finally chosen being February 14th. The weather on the preceding days had made the ground soft and in some places along the course mud of some depth had resulted. A fine drizzle, which had continued through most of the morning, only ceased after the Junior race had started; nevertheless it was not altogether a disagreeable day for running and spectators were abundant.

The course chosen for the seniors was that used for last year's school race. The race started on the North Front from where a fast and jostling descent was made to the Home Farm. Beyond Dadford, however, the severe pull up soon spread the field out, and along the road the lead was held by Palmer, Robinson, Dansie and Clarke, who were followed by Jenkins, White and Lutyens-Humfrey. The order remained thus as far as the gate where the course leaves the road; here Jenkins took the lead followed closely by White; it was only when on the North Front that the latter gained a short lead of some fifteen yards in a final sprint. Meanwhile Robinson had been following not far behind and Chancellor, after lying well back during the early part of the race, was quite close to him. This resulted in a much closer finish than last year's; the time, 26 secs. longer than that of last year, was 24 mins. 46 secs.

*Result*:—Individual: 1, J. J. White (B); 2, G. H. R. Jenkins (⊕); 3, I. H. Robinson (W); 4, R. C. B. Chancellor (C); 5, A. T. Clarke (⊕); 6, D. V. Palmer (C); 7, C. Dansie (C); 8, G. P. Wright (C).

The Junior course was rather longer than that of last year, being as follows:—start on North Front, Rotunda, Pavilion Lodge, Corinthian Arch, across the fields, Copper Bottom, Boycott and finish on North Front. Length, 3 miles, 1 furlong.

As usual the start was fast. The lead was taken by Shirley, who led as far as the ditch in the fields before Corinthian, after which it was taken by Chancellor. At Corinthian the order was Chancellor, Shirley, Asbury-Bailey, FitzGerald, Chibbett. Just before the Boycott, Bartlett gained the lead, which he shortly yielded to Chibbett who held it for the rest of the race with Asbury-Bailey not far behind.

The time was 17 mins. 36 secs.

*Result*:—Individual: 1, G. J. Chibbett (⊕); 2, J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W); 3, M. E. J. FitzGerald (⊕); 4, R. W. Shirley (T); 5, D. R. Grossmark (C); 6, R. M. Bartlett (T); 7, O. Dansie (C) and A. J. Struthers (C).

#### House Positions:—

|              | <i>Junior Points.</i> | <i>Senior Points.</i> | <i>Combined Points</i> |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Temple    | 308                   | Chatham 825           | Chatham 1108           |
| 2. Grafton   | 306                   | Bruce 738             | Grafton 1032           |
| 3. Chandos   | 301                   | Grafton 726           | Chandos 988            |
| 4. Chatham   | 283                   | Walpole 690           | Walpole 932            |
| 5. Cobham    | 274                   | Chandos 687           | Cobham 886             |
| 6. Walpole   | 242                   | Cobham 612            | Bruce 824              |
| 7. Bruce     | 86                    | Temple 486            | Temple 794             |
| 8. Grenville | 54                    | Grenville 378         | Grenville 432          |

Up to the time of writing, we have been unable to have any school matches, for although one was arranged with Uppingham on February 26th, a hitch in the transport arrangements made it necessary to postpone it till March 14th. There will, however, be a match against Rugby on March 11th. It is unfortunate that these two fixtures are so close, but quite unavoidable.



## JUNIOR TRAINING CORPS NOTES

The following promotions have been made this term:—

To *Senior Under-Officer*: Under-Officer C. S. Wallis-King (G).

To *Under-Officer*: Sergeant R. H. M. Pease (G).

To *Sergeant*: Corporals C. H. Blamey (C), D. V. Palmer (C), F. I. Watson (G), G. A. Bakewell (G), G. C. Rogers (W), D. C. Low (G), C. Dansic (C).

To *Corporal*: Lance-Corporals N. E. F. Coleman (C), P. R. Boys-Stones (G), C. G. Dealtry (T).

Appointed *Lance-Corporal*: Cadets D. T. M. Service (W), R. B. Hutchison (C), P. A. Mulgan (G), A. R. Lucas (B), M. C. Bagshawe (B), A. J. Raper (G), J. V. Bartlett (T), M. J. A. Davies (T), H. A. S. Murray (C), J. M. Fimister (W), G. H. R. Jenkins (G), A. W. B. Hayward (G), P. D. P. Duncombe (C), B. B. Croom-Johnson (T), A. T. Clarke (C), E. M. Arnold (G), W. E. Lord (C).

Altogether, including a few older cadets ready to prepare for Certificate "A" forthwith, 70 boys have joined the Contingent this term, bringing the strength up to 329 cadets. Influenza seriously interfered with the last War Certificate "A" examinations, and the results were that 16 out of 27 candidates passed the "Individual" and 13 out of 26 the "Section Leader's" tests.

### PRIZES

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Individual), November 1943:—D. I. Hird (C).

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Section Leader's), December 1943:—B. B. Croom-Johnson (T).

Best Recruits (May 1943 intake):—(1) R. J. Broadley (W); (2 equal) J. J. Crossley (G) and M. E. J. FitzGerald (G).

### TRAINING

A new feature of routine has been the institution of an N.C.O.'s Class for Weapon Training, the instruction being given by the two P.S.Is. and 50% of the N.C.Os attending each parade afternoon for a period. The arrangement is working smoothly and producing immediate results.

There is likely to be an abnormal number of Certificate "A" candidates for the March examinations owing to a lag through illness last term, but their preparation has been satisfactorily covered and is going forward well. It is a mercy that the weather, though often bitterly cold, has not been wet.

On February 18th, Major A. H. Bull, of Eastern Command, talked to the Contingent on "Concealment and Deception," and showed three recent Army films on the subject as well as a number of personal exhibits. His visit was of high practical value and stimulated considerable interest.

This month we are to have a talk on Physical Training by Lt.-Col. F. A. M. Webster, of Eastern Command, and a demonstration of the use of the Toggle Rope by a team of A.P.T.C. Instructors.

A Naval Section has been formed unofficially while a Permanent Instructor is being sought. At present a Naval Officer visits to give lectures, but shortly, it is hoped, there will be scope for practical instruction in such subjects as Seamanship. The Section will remain a part of the Contingent and continue to wear khaki.

The Home Guard recently took part in the all-night exercise organized in the County. Routine arrangements, particularly on the administrative side, were put to a welcome test, and much operational experience was gained by all commanders and men. The fact that it snowed twice during the night and froze hard towards morning gave further realism to conditions. Keeness and initiative led to repeated tail-chasing. We were all-too-ready for the "enemy," and, when at last he did come, we were disappointed of a "battle" by the "Cease fire" and the lorries that whisked him away to breakfast.

## A.T.C. NOTES

Results of the Advanced Training Examination held in October last were received during the holidays. Out of six candidates four passed in all subjects (Navigation, Meteorology, Law and Administration, Hygiene, Principles of Flight, Engines, Recognition and Anti-gas). The other two passed in all but Navigation and Meteorology. Ten cadets have sat for various parts of this examination this term. Proficiency Part I results received in January brought the total of successes in this stage of training up to sixteen for last term.

Arrangements for flying have worked very smoothly this term; whenever the weather has been favourable up to five cadets have spent the whole day at the parent Station. Two officers and twenty cadets are spending a week at an A.T.C. Camp at the end of term.

On February 22nd F/O Whiteman visited the Flight from the parent Station and gave a lecture on Air Gunnery, explaining the principles of fighter tactics and combat manoeuvre. A lecture on the work of the Pathfinder Force is arranged for March 28th.

*Flight-Sergeant*: R. F. Wright (G).

*Sergeants*: R. D. C. Reynolds (B), N. C. Davison (G), A. W. Mosselmans (C), F. B. Maxwell (C).

*Corporals*: B. A. Stewart (B), M. S. Withers (G), A. J. Wells (C).

*Promotion*: P. G. Shepherd (C) to Corporal.

## DEBATING SOCIETY

There has been a shuffle round of the Committee this term. G. C. Neale (C) (ex-Secretary) has become Librarian; A. G. H. Melly (C) (ex-Librarian), Treasurer; P. W. I. Rees (T) (ex-Treasurer), Secretary.

Two debates have been held this term, "This House approves of Nonsense," and "This House should be Tory." In the first the House was definitely unresponsive and the pick of Edward Lear, Osbert Sitwell and Aeschylus was quoted in vain to them.

G. P. LEWIS (B), proposing the motion, was escapist and indulged in some obscure subjective idealism.

C. S. O'D SCOTT (B), opposing, successfully produced white mice and other irrelevancies, but was less successful with his logic.

THE TREASURER inevitably was superficial and original. He relied less on eloquence than on imitation of his gardener's granddaughter and a rather perplexing and disconcerting record.

THE PRESIDENT, who consented to speak fourth, was erudite. High Mathematics, the Classics, Nazi Philosophy and Lowland folk jingles figured largely in his speech.

The debate of the Motion "This House should be Tory" was turgid but faintly spirited.

R. D. C. Reynolds (B) proposed in a Swan Song. After an amusing but totally incorrect account of English Constitutional History, he came to the conclusion that the slow evolution that his party stood for was the only sane policy.

C. L. BROOK (C), opposing, culled his material from "Tory M.P." by Simon Haxey, and enshrined it in an aura of American sentimentality. In spite of this and his illogicality, his speech was the best heard.

H. J. F. MARRIOTT (C) did little to improve the Tory position and lost the interest of his hearers in a disjointed mass of verbiage.

H. A. CHAPPLE (C) read reams of Socialist abuse consisting of a wholesale attack on capitalism and the conditions of the Lower classes.

The debate that followed was enthusiastic if not lucid.

P.W.I.R.

## THE LIBRARY

The two-fold policy of stimulating interest in books in general and of improving the library itself has been carried forward this term by the vastly increased part taken by the school as a whole in the selection of new books. The librarians themselves were given the job of re-organizing, as best they could, sections of the library allotted to them, by suggesting both books to be added and books to be removed, and (in imitation of Eton Library, which a party of librarians was very kindly shown during the holidays) a suggestion book has been introduced.

It is hoped that, with this policy continued and with increased interest taken by the masters, the library may be made a more useful instrument than at present.

## DRAMATIC CLUB

In December last the S.S.D.C. gave a performance of "Androcles and The Lion," by George Bernard Shaw, preceded by X=O by John Drinkwater, and dogged by Influenza (author unknown). The producers, Mr. Dams and Mr. Reid, and all concerned defied the active germ so well that, whatever their ruined ideals may have been, their actual performance could stand squarely on its own merits, and commanded an appreciative audience: appreciation naturally extended more readily to the Shaw than the Drinkwater play. X=O, the tragedy of the individual caught up in a long war, whose issues are apparently alien to those of his own life, is a serious theme, expressed in a way which makes convincingness difficult except through the medium of adult actors. It was, therefore, an ambitious venture, and the cast did well to get over some of the Shakespearean power of impressing an audience even in spite of the actor. It needs all the help that dramatic experience can give it. J. V. Bartlett (T), as Capius, used it with skill and was impressive. S. D. M. Robertson (B), as Pronax, though a trifle querulous in tone, sustained it gallantly. The military accoutrements, though splendidly flashing, did not suggest a long and bloody campaign, and were a strong obstacle to a feeling of imminent death and tragic mortality.

The two main settings in Androcles were excellently devised to give an air of spaciousness, and with the groupings of soldiers and martyrs were a constant pleasure to the eye. There was a happy proportion between actors and square yards: one had no sense of over-crowding, nor of dismal agoraphobia. One had the illusion that the walls had been lived and died in by other soldiers and martyrs. Of the merits of the play as a play, this is not the place to treat at length. To some the use of martyrdom, as a means to raise laughter or its various substitutes, may seem rather distasteful, especially as the seriousness of the situation is expressly emphasized by the dramatist; but one has grown used to giving G.B.S. a fool's pardon; and at least, if he is devoid of artistic sense, he presents a cast with an ample assortment of stage devices; and these were well used by a cast working well together. Of the principals, the Lion (I. P. Guinness (C))—why G.B.S. in his quest for humour did not insist on a lion with hind legs, is inexplicable—made a very suitable Monarch of Gamins, blending pathos with natural instincts. The combination of sincere humility and little man sentimentality was well suggested by A. G. H. Melly (C)—though he is still inclined to contrive a telling effect and then fade out on it. Lavinia (A. J. O. Ritchie (T)) spoke her convictions with a clarity and tone so pleasant that one imagined them to be quite sincere. The Captain (M. G. Manton (C)) seemed rather too statuesque, but it is difficult to connive at one's own "debunking" with any great liveliness. As Ferrovius, G. C. Neale (C) gave a telling presentation of the he-man dangerously explosive with the new wine of intellectualism and morality. C. L. Brook (C) gave to Caesar that mixture of cynical bonhomie and tolerant intolerance, designed to flatter the average audience. Deputising as Spitho, Mr. Dams was able to enjoy producing an actor who understood his aims implicitly, and gave a skilful and finished study of a martyr, to whom the romance of the Lion and his Androcles was anything but an amusing episode.

Space forbids mention of further parts in detail. C. S. Wallis-King (G) was provokingly "Silver Latin" as Metellus, R. C. Norton (C), as the Centurion, was as prognathous and amoral as any Duce could desire, J. Davan-Sainsbury (G) was a suitable foil to her husband. Altogether an interesting and successful tribute to our most adolescent playwright; reflecting very capable collaboration from the many workers in the crowded areas behind the scenes.

R.M.

## NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Bird books from the School and Biological libraries have been placed in a shelf in "Sigma" with the portion of the Hart Collection so well arranged there by Wright and M. S. Withers. Reference books may there be consulted; and these books with the stuffed birds themselves provide excellent facilities for identification of species seen in the field. Some of the books in this small library may be taken out. Suggestions for additions thereto will be welcomed, especially if accompanied by information about booksellers from whom scarce and desirable books may be obtained. "Concord" houses the balance of the bird collection, those seldom seen near Stowe, with various other animals. The arrangement of these birds must be undertaken next term; but their present overcrowded state makes such arrangement impossible without some judicious pruning.

Fears were entertained that moth and mould might corrupt this valuable collection. But we have had a visit from Mr. A. H. Bishop, the chief taxidermist at S. Kensington, and he has prescribed for the prosecution of chemical warfare against both these enemies; and has assured us that the attacks are not serious, and can be held in check.

There have been no records of visits of great rarities this term. Redwings have been numerous; but bramblings apparently absent, due presumably to the mildness of the mid-winter period. Flocks of tits have been well in evidence, including marsh tits, common round Octagon Lake and the Bourbon pit. Some of our numerous nuthatches have been seen feeding on the ground; and there has been a very fair population of tree creepers. The sprinkler beds have provided insect fare for starlings, chaffinches, reed buntings, tits, meadow pipits, wagtails, goldcrests and wrens on the coldest of winter days; and these insects themselves might repay study by a keen entomologist. A wisp of snipe has often been flushed in Chatham fields. Flocks of tree sparrows, greenfinches, chaffinches, gold finches and yellow hammers are usually to be found feeding round a haystack just north of the Roman road, where a flock of skylarks may also be seen.

The lakes have provided neither large nor varied companies of duck. Seventeen mallard on "Copper Bottom," and two tufted drakes with five ducks on the "Eleven Acre," would appear to be the largest gatherings seen. A permanent pinioned population of ducks of various species should do much to attract wild birds; and such a collection would provide great beauty and interest in itself. But this must remain a post-war dream; for all the places where such birds were bred have now closed down.

The skylark was first seen in spiral song flight on January 29th. The cock greenfinch began his "tswee" spring note early in March. Quarreling males among the winter flocking birds show that they will soon be staking out their territories. Jackdaws are nesting. For some the egg-collecting season is at hand. The problem "to collect, or to watch and study," making observations such as those by Prestwich and Illingworth incorporated in this note, or to transfer collecting enthusiasm to something inanimate, must always be settled between the would-be egg collector and his conscience, rather than by national, local, or school rules. In taking a single egg one destroys one potential bird. Compared with the pilferings of the clutch collectors, this may seem but a petty theft from the parent birds, and from the people who enjoy bird company. But wherever there is a dense population of collectors, as there may be in schools, the knowledge of the whereabouts of a nest travels fast; so that this may be robbed time and again. Frequent disturbance may lead to desertion by the hen bird, who may have been so exhausted in her efforts to make good recurrent losses of eggs that she is unable to lay again, even though normally capable of rearing more than one brood. Let us try then, to curtail this drain on the bird population which may so easily be caused by a school in which the individual may think he is doing so little harm. It should be our pride to welcome and encourage, rather than to despoil these birds which make Stowe their summer home.

N.A.B.

### EXPERIMENTAL MICROPLOTS

Experiments on the microplots on the South Front are being continued this year. On the upper set early dwarf peas (Kelvedon Wonder) are being grown on the same organic manures as have been used on these plots for the past two years, i.e., farmyard manure, savital, Birmingham sludge, and Middlesex sludge, with the usual five unmanured control plots. The peas will have been sown before the end of the term and should be ready for picking during June. On the lower set two manures only are being tested, farmyard manure and Middlesex sludge, with and without additional nitrogen provided in the form of sulphate of ammonia. A main crop potato (Majestic) is being used.

B.A.B.

## MUSIC

The Music Society was re-formed this term, and consists of members of the School music organizations such as the Orchestra, Choral Society, J.T.C. Band, and all music pupils. Attendance at concerts, excepting those given by these organizations, is restricted to members. A considerable number of honorary members have also been elected.

So far we have had two concerts: a piano recital by Madeline Lawrence on February 9th, and a violin and piano recital by Loris Blofeld and Dr. Russell on February 23rd. We also expect to have, before the end of term, a flute recital by John Francis and a two-piano recital by Mrs. Negus, Mr. Snowdon and Boddington.

The orchestra is doing the whole of Mozart's "Jupiter" symphony, Schubert's Overture to Rosamunde, Mozart's D major Violin Concerto No. 4 (Soloist—Hubbard), and the first movement of Mozart's A major Piano Concerto (Soloist—Boddington). As will be known, the "Jupiter" is one of the last three symphonies of Mozart, and in many ways the greatest. Its last movement is particularly noteworthy as one of the most ingenious in structure ever written, and as containing a lot of very intricate counter-point.

The Choral Society are engaged on Haydn's Creation, but do not expect to finish it this term. They have revived the Amen in the evening service, and sang "Jesu, joy of man's desiring" in Chapel one Sunday near the end of term.

The J.T.C. Band held a concert, postponed from last term by illness, on February 27th. They put up a magnificent performance in face of the difficulties with which they are confronted, and of the fact that they had not been able to have a full practice before the day of the concert.

It is expected that the House Music Competitions will take place near the end of term.

O.G.T.

## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

## THE XII CLUB

Mr. G. Wilson Knight, Vice-President, has read the only paper this term, on "Persia." It was, in fact, a general introduction to the Middle East where his war service had taken him. His paper was colourful and erudite and left the Club with an unsubdued hankering for a pilgrim age to Mecca or some other suitable spot. Dr. Zettil, it is hoped, will read his paper on "Imperial Austria," which owing to the strong Habsburg sentiments of the Club should be received with great interest and enthusiasm.

P.W.I.R.

## THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

There have been two meetings of the Society so far this term. The 85th meeting, at which H. R. Marten (T) read a paper on "Liquid Air," relied more for its success on liquid air than on Mr. Marten, but, although his paper was not distinguished by any exceptional accuracy, his demonstrations were interesting and most effective, and gave the Society an unusual opportunity of observing the properties of matter at unfamiliarly low temperatures. At the 86th meeting, D. E. Watson (G) read a paper on "The Sun: Its Age and Energy." He concluded, after a paper noted for its exceptional clarity and wealth of information, that its age was 3,000,000,000 years and its energy was obtained by the building up of elements from hydrogen.

It is hoped that before the end of the term B. K. T. Barton (G) will read a paper on "Psychology."

C.S.O'D.S.

## THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

A Geographical Society has been formed. Membership has been made eligible to the Upper School. The Society hopes to hold three or more meetings a term, at which a lecture will be given or a paper read on some subject with a geographical aspect. A talk has already been given by Mr. Reid on "Life in the Canadian Forests" and Dr. Raymond Greene is coming down later on in the term to give a lecture to the school on Mt. Everest.

I.F.W.

## THE VITRUVIANS

The number of members last term was twenty-seven, and on balance this has so far been increased by two. The meetings this term till now have been three in number, the first a business meeting. At the second, Mrs. Watt gave a very interesting lecture on "Interior Decoration." At the third meeting, A. J. Perceval-Maxwell (B) gave a lecture on "Baroque." The future meetings of the term are still somewhat indefinite, but there is to be a lecture on March 15th on "Architecture and the Universal Church." There will probably be an expedition on March 19th to Easton Neston, near Towcester. The closing date for the "competition" has been fixed for March 11th. The Society regrets the loss of its former capable and hard-working Secretary who left at half-term.

A.G.R.A.

## THE SYMPOSIUM

Three new members were elected at the beginning of term: I. B. Church (W), J. J. Davis (T) and T. C. P. Whidborne (T). At the thirty-third meeting, A. J. O. Ritchie (T) read an engrossing paper on "Superstition throughout the Ages," which provoked a lively discussion. At the next meeting, "Contemporary Art" was knowledgeably and exhaustively described by J. A. Harris-Reed (G), while at the thirty-fifth meeting H. A. Chapple (C) read, with dynamic power and phraseology, a fiery paper on "Education and the Future." The teaching of selflessness was essential, he thought, to achieve the ultimate aim of civilization, happiness. A fourth meeting this term was prevented by the illness of the President.

C.L.B.

## THE MODERN LANGUAGE SOCIETY

This term one new member has been elected, N. C. Davison (G). Therefore, the Society consists of: E. Hart Dyke, Esq., President; A. R. Lucas (B), Secretary; M. G. Manton (C), committee-man; C. S. Wallis-King (G), C. L. Brook (C), W. T. D. Dixon (G), N. C. Davison (G), with W. E. Capel Cure, Esq., as permanent member.

We have read "Les Boulinard" and duly enjoyed it, and are hoping to read "Les Jeux de l'Amour et du Hasard," before the end of term.

R. M. Sayer (B) has been absent all the term.

A.R.L.

## THE JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

A Junior Debating Society has been formed this term which meets weekly during the Hobbies Prep. There are twenty-five members and the Secretary is W. C. O. Munks (C). Topics debated have included "Co-education," "The J.T.C.," "The Value of Radio," and "Capital Punishment." A successful joint meeting was held with the Junior Gramophone Society when the subject debated was "That this House prefers Jazz to Classical Music." Mr. Todd took the chair, and good speeches were given by D. R. Grossmark (C), D. G. Airey (C) and B. T. Grieves (T).

## THE JUNIOR SCIENCE SOCIETY

This term, the Junior Science Society was re-instituted. So far two meetings have been held, the first of which was held on Wednesday, February 9th, when the question of electing a Secretary was discussed. The election was postponed until the next meeting, as there were only about six members present.

The second meeting of the Society was held on Saturday, February 26th, when the question of electing a Secretary was raised again and, on its being put to the vote, R. M. Macnaughton (C) and G. F. D. Loftus (B) were given the posts of joint Secretaries. At this meeting R. P. Chatelanat (T) delivered a most interesting lecture on the Cathode Ray Oscilloscope, and its uses. He also showed, with the aid of the Oscilloscope, the stages through which a wireless signal passes before it reaches the output. The attendance at this meeting was not exceedingly good, which may have been because there was a meeting of the Vitruvians Society being held simultaneously. As a whole, though there have been few meetings of the Society this term, it has not been an entirely unsuccessful one.

G.F.D.L. and R.M.M.

## ART SCHOOL

The Art School, it must be admitted, is inert. The entourage, one remarks, is to be noted for the designing of smug houses, and for the production of swift but erring comments on the German war; practices in themselves doubtless commendable, but when pursued on such a rank scale, tepid approval readily gives way to nausea. G. C. Neale (C), who is chef, has contributed a few very delicate and subtle pencil drawings to the term's work, but no paintings; J. A. Harris-Reed (G) continues to drift from one mannerism to another without any apparent desire to be wildly original, except in his choice of colour; A. G. H. Melly (C) would seem to have recanted his surrealist theories and has returned in some measure to sobriety; T. C. P. Whidborne (T) has executed some very competent still lifes; J. V. Owen (T) has done little this term, while J. K. Binns (W), alone of the younger generation, shows any promise for the future. It is hoped that an exhibition will be held at the end of next term.

J.A.H.R.

## THE FILM SOCIETY

There have been two films this term and a third will be shown after this goes to press. Of the films that have been shown, one was French and the other German. The French film, which was shown first, was called "Nitchévo," with Harry Baur and Marcelle Chantal. It dealt with the valour of the French Navy in general and a certain submarine in particular, in bringing to justice, in the form of a torpedo, an exceedingly villainous gang of gun-runners of indeterminate nationality. After the absorbingly important question of how the Lieutenant could explain to the Commandant that he was not in love with the latter's wife, the more fundamental and powerful German film, "Der Schimmelreiter," with Matthias Wiemann and Marianne Hoppe, acted as something of a stiffener. An adaptation of Theodor Storm's novel, it dealt with the struggle of the Frieslanders against the sea, which continually threatened to break the dykes and flood the countryside. In the course of the film this nearly happens, but the situation is saved by the heroic action of the young engineer, who, overcoming the superstitious opposition of the peasants, has built a new dyke, against which he diverts the flood, and thus saves the village, sacrificing his life in doing so. The most striking thing about the film was the excellent photography. The third film will be Austrian, called "Maskerade," with Anton Walbrook and Paula Wessely.

M.G.M.

## COLLOQUIAL CATS

Pieces of string no more resemble Dutch cheeses than dogs resemble cats. For a cat is an animal which has such a variable character that you would sometimes think that it had some sort of subconscious human ego. Maybe I'm mad—but when you start organizing local cats into football teams, making old "Smoky," who lives down the King's Road, goalkeeper because he has the mark on his head where the cloth cap goes, you certainly are a bit dotty.

A cat is a plastic sort of thing, rubbery both physically and mentally. It is really so deliciously stupid that you begin to think that it has some intelligence, some phenomenal reasoning power. When you see a cat sitting on a doorstep, looking into a land of feline ghostly shapes with glorious green eyes, you think, "It's had pheasant or grouse or caviare for its supper." But come back a couple of hours later, and see this same cat vainly striving to gain unattainable access to its former domain, where, but this morning, it ruled in green-eyed, tabby majesty, suppered, lunched and breakfasted by every wondering hand. It is then that you see the unutterable stupidity of a cat's hazy mind, where misty thoughts go lazily drifting like great white cumulus clouds before a zephyr of madness.

So, keep a dog. But indeed keep a cat. Make it either one of the rare superintelligent cats, who share your thoughts and lunch, and prefer a fire and sleep to a doorstep and the fourth dimension, or else a flower-eater, a string-chewer, or any really mad cat. It all depends on you.

M.M.

ESSAY ON THE COMPARATIVE MERITS OF  
SQUARE PEGS AND ROUND HOLES

"I am suffering from an attack of sanity," said the patient to the Harley Street Specialist. "A terrible disease which afflicts almost the whole of civilization and kills thousands every day, but, unlike any sensible disease, does not dispose of the corpse when it is all over. You can see thousands of dead people walking about anywhere you care to look; they all died of sanity at thirty—and yet here they are at fifty or sixty pretending they aren't dead at all. Of course, physically they are still alive, but mentally they reached out for the regulation tramwires of conventionality and sanity two decades ago, and they'll follow them for dear life once they've caught the habit. Some of them aren't so bad, I admit, they're merely trolley-buses, but the rest are trams through and through, obstructing the traffic and making the devil of a row, and they haven't even a driver's seat at each end so that they can see where they're going when they are in reverse. These people died of sanity, and I'm having an attack of it. Can you save me? You see what the trouble is. I'm doomed to be nice, to make polite conversation, to think that England's good and Germany bad, that hunting is good and vivisection bad, to send people who give me calendars for Christmas thank-you letters instead of poisonous snakes, and to find my week's ration of excitement in the bomb that fell in Mrs. Smuggford's pigstye half a mile away, in fact to follow the tramwires like everyone else—these are the terrible symptoms of sanity."

"It is not so bad at the moment," continued the patient, "because I haven't had the attack for long. But just imagine what it would be like if it went on for life!" The Harley Street specialist did not have to stretch his imagination far: his own experience was sufficient. "I can't bear to think of it. I should probably contract that terrible disease called 'regular habits.' I should get up at eight, be at the office by ten, work till lunch, work till six, home seven, supper eight, bed ten. Then after a few years I might get a rise and breakfast would be half an hour later, and I'd move from Bloomsbury to Hampstead. I might even be successful and settle down comfortably and conventionally with a wife and a reasonable income—and all because I'm disastrously sane! Enough! I tell you I wouldn't even be a millionaire or a Prime Minister if it meant—as all distinguished professions do mean—sticking to the tramwires of sanity and trundling along behind, or even ahead of, all the other petty little trams and trolley-buses who are so engrossed in their mode of travelling that it needs a full-sized earthquake to remind them of their dependence upon the electricity supply. The trouble with me is I'm sane, and I want to be cured."

The Harley Street specialist was inclined to think that there was very little curing to be done, but he was too conscious of the size of his fees to say so. Instead he recalled his education at a noble English Public School and said: "Surely though, you want to be a useful member of society and take your appointed place in the community."

This was the last straw and the Harley Street specialist's first successful case. The patient instantly regained his insanity and the Harley Street specialist instantly lost his life. The verdict was murder while of unsound mind, but the patient objected on the grounds that he would not have killed the Harley Street specialist unless he had been of sound mind. So the law, while of sound mind, murdered the patient while of unsound mind.

*Moral:* All great men are mad, except those with stethoscopes or judicial wigs, who are merely bad.

C.S.O'D.S.

## INCOMPLETE TARGET IDENTIFICATION

Half way up the Strand, Montague Dogstop had an idea. He went home immediately and fashioned a small but deadly poisoned dart. Then he returned to the Strand.

"I've always thought that detective story writers are over-complimentary to the police," he said to himself. "I don't believe murderers are really caught half so often as they make out. Now's my chance to prove it. If I murder the first person I see they couldn't possibly trace me; there would be no motive, and if I wear gloves, they won't be able to trace finger-prints."

So Montague murdered the first person he saw in the Strand. She died five yards away, with a look on her face which told him that she, at least, knew who was responsible; but he turned away and went on up the Strand. Suddenly a heavy hand fell on his shoulder. Terrified, and with a vacuum where his stomach normally resided, he turned round—then he felt like a man who lifts an empty case thinking it full; it was Freddie Catfog. "Come and have lunch," said Freddie.

It was a good lunch, and though the memory of the accusing face of a woman dominated Montague's imagination at first, she was soon muffled with food and drowned in wine, and he had almost forgotten her by the time they were ready to leave the restaurant.

"You'll pay for the lunch," said Freddie.

"Oh, I say, I thought —"

"You'll pay for the lunch. I shall also need £1,000 cash down and twelve monthly payments of £100. You're lucky, I might have needed more if it weren't for the insurance."

"The insurance?"

"She was my wife."

C.S.O'D.S.

## POETRY

### A FAREWELL TO FANTASY

Farewell, O Muse, for singing days are done;  
 No more shall I see in a summer dream  
 Across a shadow-lake the rippled gleam  
 Of the moon's spear, nor wander in the sun  
 Alone and wild, nor run  
 Down through the full grass to a hastening stream.

Once would I try the sun's slow feet to snare  
 Among the high trees in the white noonday,  
 And hope in the old beechwoods, far away,  
 To catch Pan's piping silver in the air;  
 I loved to stop and stare,  
 Seeing a satyr through the shadows stray.

Then, Muse, in verses did you bid me write  
 Of the deep magic that I daily saw;  
 I boldly knocked at poetry's high door—  
 None answered, and soon faded faith's pure light;  
 Now every hour is night,  
 And I must go, and seek the woods no more.

C.A.C.

