

THE STOIC



Number Sixty-six

APRIL 1945

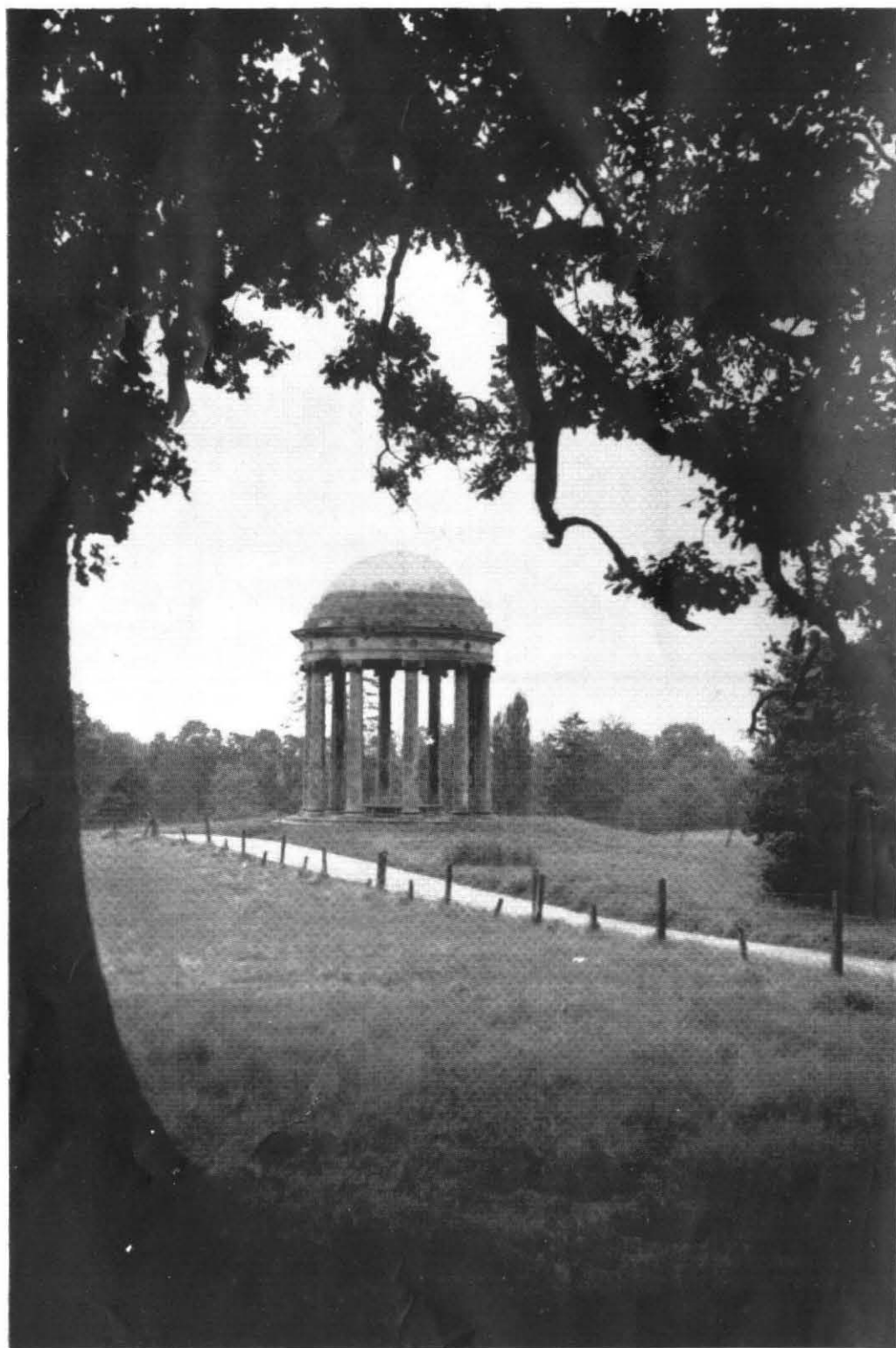


Photo by

THE ROTUNDO

[J.F.R.]

THE STOIC

VOL XI

APRIL 1945

No. 5

DECORATIONS

The following awards have been made to Old Stoics, in addition to the one hundred and seventy-four already recorded.

D.S.O.

MAJOR N. A. C. CROFT (C, 1925), Essex Regiment (att. Special Forces).

LT.-COLONEL H. A. C. BLAIR-IMRIE (C, 1930), The Black Watch (since killed in action).

LT.-COLONEL J. A. HUNTER, M.B.E., M.C. (G, 1932), Rifle Brigade.

CAPTAIN W. O. CHURCHILL, M.C. (C, 1933), Worcestershire Regiment.

D.S.C.

LIEUTENANT J. J-F. AIMERS (G, 1935), R.N.V.R.

LIEUTENANT D. G. FELCE (G, 1935), R.N.V.R.

LIEUTENANT R. O. RICHARDS (T, 1939), R.N.V.R.

SUB-LIEUTENANT I. A. P. RUMSEY (G, 1942).

BAR TO M.C.

MAJOR B. M. KNOX (B, 1934), Ayrshire Yeomanry.

M.C.

MAJOR A. C. C. BRODIE (B, 1929), The Black Watch.

MAJOR G. N. BELL (C, 1933), Rifle Brigade.

MAJOR H. V. HOLDEN-WHITE (B, 1933), Royal Sussex Regiment.

CAPTAIN W. O. CHURCHILL (C, 1933), Worcestershire Regiment.

MAJOR J. P. E. C. HENNIKER-MAJOR (B, 1934), Rifle Brigade.

CAPTAIN B. M. KNOX (B, 1934), Ayrshire Yeomanry.

MAJOR M. E. FLETCHER (C, 1936), Royal Engineers.

CAPTAIN A. M. SPROT (C, 1936), Royal Scots Greys.

LIEUTENANT A. SHAW (C, 1938), 27th Lancers.

MAJOR J. R. MCCARTHY (G, 1940), 4/16 Punjab Regiment.

CAPTAIN R. C. H. COLLIER (B, 1941), Cameron Highlanders.

LIEUTENANT F. W. E. GROENINX VAN ZOELLEN (C, 1941), The Royal Horse Guards.

M.M.

PRIVATE J. H. JORDAN (T, 1942), Devonshire Regiment.

BAR TO CROIX DE GUERRE

ASPIRANT P. O. WILLING (C, 1939), F.F.F.

CROIX DE GUERRE

LIEUTENANT F. B. RICHARDS, D.S.C. and Bar (T, 1936), R.N.V.R.

CASUALTIES

KILLED

CAPTAIN A. C. C. MACPHERSON (C, 1928), Royal Fusiliers. (Died as a result of an accident in Central Mediterranean Area, in February.)

MAJOR M. F. PARKER (C, 1930), Lincolnshire Regiment, in December.

FLYING-OFFICER H. P. LEE-WARNER (G, 1931). (Previously reported missing: now reported killed in action August 1944.)

LIEUTENANT L. N. BETHELL (C, 1931), R.A.S.C., in January.

FLYING-OFFICER A. B. LANGTON (C, 1936), R.A.F.V.R., in December.

CAPTAIN J. O. H. BEAMISH (T, 1937), Royal Artillery, in January. (Killed in action in Burma.)

LIEUTENANT G. L. L. DODSON (C, 1938), Gloucestershire Regiment, in November.

LIEUTENANT H. W. J. E. PEEL (G, 1938), Welsh Guards, in February. (Died of wounds.)

PRIVATE M. C. DODWELL (G, 1940), Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps. (Died in P.O.W. Camp.)

PILOT-OFFICER T. M. J. SHERVINGTON (C, 1941). (Previously reported missing: now reported killed in action June 1944.)

SERGEANT W. R. MALLORY (C, 1943), R.A.F.V.R., in January.

PRISONER OF WAR

MAJOR J. T. B. NOTLEY, D.S.O. (B, 1933), Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

MISSING

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT P. A. BATES, D.F.C. (C, 1940), R.A.F.V.R., in February.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM OLD STOICS IN THE SERVICES

IMPERTINENCE

The people in these parts regarded their liberation as a piece of impertinence on our part. The only thing that tended to reconcile them to our presence was that we were prepared to pay Bond Street prices for Woolworth goods.

COLD SPELL IN THE ARDENNES

The cold was really horrible. We were stuck there on the top of our hill, and no transport of any kind—Jeep or Weasel—could reach us. We had to go down hill on foot quite a long way to get any food, but in a way it was a blessing that we had to do so much tramping. Our great coats and blankets were frozen stiff, and icicles formed on the more hirsute parts of our faces. Only rapid movement kept us alive. Externally we applied every sort of woollen thing that we could lay hands on and luckily we had something for internal application also. Bottles of neat whisky and brandy went down my unaccustomed throat without producing a choke or a splutter. All the same in spite of the cold the weather was lovely. There was a bright sun and the trees were outlined with silvery frost. It is a hilly country and well-wooded and some of the views were glorious. I should like to see it in peace time, and in summer—if possible in a heat wave.

TEMPORARY USHER

While I was waiting to be called up I became a temporary schoolmaster. I had all sorts of jobs to do including, during someone's absence, the teaching of Latin to quite a high form. I learnt more Latin in a few weeks than I had absorbed in several years at Stowe. Another job I had to do once was to look after the Headmaster's dog when it was in the throes of an epileptic fit. There is no lack of variety in a prep. schoolmaster's life. Anyway I enjoyed it thoroughly and it was nice to be living with intelligent people. My present comrades-in-arms are a funny lot. They are all extreme communists, passionately devoted to a creed which they obviously don't in the least understand.

STREET FIGHTING

Well, I sent my runner to tell the reserve platoon to creep forward; meanwhile, I went stealthily towards the Germans, and at the place where the side street they were clearing entered the main road where I was, I met a good L/Cpl. and a section from the platoon I had originally crept forward to meet. They had heard the shooting and had slipped forward, taken the Germans in flank and driven them into the courtyard of the monastery hospital in the main street, just before you got to the Church. A German was shooting from round the gate. We chased him away with grenades and rushed across the street into the courtyard. It was slowly getting light and we had an exciting sort of gangster battle in among the buttresses and corners and so on in the courtyard. It was still darkish, but I could see people bending round corners and over low ornamental walls to pot at us. I shot away all my revolver ammunition and threw several grenades, handed up to me by the section, and at last we got them all into the hospital, a big, partially ruined building. At this time my Reserve Platoon arrived (I had just been wounded by a splinter in the left shoulder); so I sent my section back to its own platoon and rushed the newly arrived platoon up the steps into the house and made them clear the ground floor. I told them merely to guard the ways into the cellar, so that the Boche had to stay down there and wait till I got up some flame throwers from behind. Meanwhile, I threw assorted grenades into the cellar. I also tried to throw a smoke grenade through the little glass panes of a door leading along a passage. I missed and the thing bounced back and burst near me and gave me painful phosphorous burns on the left hand and face.

Soon after this, a Boche Lieutenant came and gave himself up. So I took his rather useless little pistol. The platoon sergt. and the troops wanted to polish him off. At last they had got their blood well up and I knew I no longer had to set them an example. However, I stopped them and sent him back. This was as wise as humane, because there were in the hospital about twenty Boche soldiers, who could probably see and hear what was going on. It was getting lighter all the time. If we had shot this man, I think the others would have fought on and I should have had more casualties.

Anyway, a whole lot of Boche—about 15 to 20—then came in with their hands up and I had no more fighting in that building. I went back to the platoon on the side street and while I was away an elegant middle-aged Major came up from the cellars with a white flag to surrender himself and the Colonel with him, who, I later learned, was O.C. troops in and around the town. He had been hurt by one of the casual grenades I had thrown into the cellars. I was sent for when they packed in. The Colonel was a bit of a brute, but behaved correctly. The Major told me he was a Doctor of Philosophy at some University and he hated the whole war. He had been in the last war too and he wanted to be a prisoner of war and would like being in England which he knows well. I got his pistol which was hidden in the bed-clothes and gave the Lieutenant's to one of my Company runners.

GREECE

We are now in Greece of all places. It is extremely cold at the moment, but the country is most beautiful. Greece has lovely mountains, sunshine, flowers and sea views, but it has the most exasperating population imaginable. Things are better here now—thanks to us!—but I don't know what will happen when we have finally cleared out. When I read about the debate in the House of Commons I just could not believe that some of the things reported had really been said. How those people could have the nerve to barrack the P.M. on a subject about which they obviously know nothing at all I cannot imagine.

VIEWED FROM THE AIR

When one realizes that one can now fly to India in two and a half days, one gets a notion of what the possibilities of travelling in the future will be. The trip itself is an unforgettable experience. On a shivering November night you walk out onto the runway in England. You fall asleep in the heated cabin and wake to find yourself stepping from the plane into blazing Mediterranean sunshine, which dazzles your eyes and makes your thick English clothes feel intolerable. Then after a few hours for refuelling you go up again over the blue waters of the "Med," which reflect their blue onto the under surface of the wing. Then suddenly you are crossing a desert and then up you go over a baked mountain range, and at last you see below you the green valley of the Nile. Soon you stop for refuelling again, this time in the middle of nowhere with sun and flies and flies and sun all round you. Once more you are over a desert, but this desert looks like the surface of the moon seen through a telescope. When at last you see India you get an impression of nothing but baked plains and brown hills bare of vegetation. You can trace the courses of the rivers (mostly dried up now) running down the mountain sides and converging into a single bed; then branching out again like the fronds of a leaf, to form the primitive irrigation systems. Here the brown of the plain gives way to a dull green and you know that you will soon see a little town. When you land you are certainly in India and have done what you set out to do. But you probably have to go on by air to your various jobs, and actually during the short time I have been in India I have flown over six thousand miles. Air travel has a tremendous future out here—and our American friends are well aware of it!

I confess to feeling profoundly depressed by the small amount I have seen of India, but I will not embark on a political disquisition.

MOTORING WEEK-END

People are very hospitable here and we get an enormous number of invitations. Hitherto I have managed to limit my acceptances to a manageable number. But poor B—— has not been very careful about it and he found the other day that he had promised to join two separate parties for the same week-end at Palm Beach. He wired to one hostess to say that after all he could not get away and duly appeared at the house of the other. But he became so terrified that the rejected hostess would recognize him among the visitors on the beach that he spent most of the Saturday and Sunday hiding in his car. The rest of us had a grand week-end with plenty of sun and some good surf.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

- C. S. O'D. SCOTT (B) has been awarded an Open £100 Foundation Scholarship in Mathematics, at King's College, Cambridge. (March.)
- O. G. TAYLOR (C) has been awarded an Open £100 Foundation Scholarship in Mathematics, at King's College, Cambridge. (March.)
- C. A. COOPER (G) has been awarded an Open £80 Scholarship in Classics, at Pembroke College, Oxford. (January.)
- P. A. MULGAN (G) has been awarded an Open £80 Exhibition in Classics, at Wadham College, Oxford. (January.)
- A. M. WESTERN (C) has been awarded a £60 Scholarship in Natural Science, at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. (March.)
- J. R. FREELAND (C) has been awarded an Open £40 Exhibition in Classics, and the Savory Exhibition, at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. (March.)
- M. G. MANTON (C) has been awarded an Open £40 Exhibition in Modern Languages at Trinity College, Cambridge. (March.)
- D. L. PIKE (G) has been awarded an Open £40 Exhibition in History at Magdalene College, Cambridge. (March.)
- W. H. ATKINSON (B) has been awarded an Open £40 Exhibition in Natural Sciences at Clare College, Cambridge. (March.)

OLIM ALUMNI

MARRIAGES

LIEUTENANT G. B. S. OSBORNE (G, 1940) to Miss S. M. Thomson, on December 2nd; LIEUTENANT G. T. BETTERIDGE (G, 1938) to Miss M. E. Hill, on July 17th; CAPTAIN THE HON. J. R. C. GEDDES (T, 1932) to Miss D. Swift, on May 3rd; LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER R. A. NEWBURY (C, 1930) to Miss S. H. Kennedy, on December 21st.

SUB-LIEUTENANT J. M. G. RITCHIE (W, 1939) to Miss M. T. Gilliland, on January 30th; MR. P. V. JONES (T, 1930) to Miss D. A. W. Stevenson, on January 30th; CAPTAIN L. G. DARLING (G, 1939) to Miss M. F. Anderson, on February 15th, in Melbourne; MAJOR S. R. G. SCOTT (G, 1939) to Miss D. Willamson, on March 28th, in Delhi.

BIRTHS

To the wife of LIEUTENANT-COLONEL E. R. G. RIPLEY (C, 1930), (killed in action June 1944), a daughter, on December 1st; to the wife of LIEUTENANT THE HON. P. B. R. VANNECK, R.N. (B, 1939), a daughter, on December 2nd; to the wife of MR. S. J. R. STOKVIS (C, 1933), a son, on December 10th; to the wife of CAPTAIN P. L. STILEMAN (B, 1936), a son, on December 20th; to the wife of MR. W. R. K. SILCOCK (C, 1927), a son, on January 1st; to the wife of THE VISCOUNT PARKER (G, 1932), a son, on January 2nd; to the wife of LIEUT.-COLONEL J. A. HUNTER, D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C. (G, 1932), a son, on January 4th; to the wife of the late CAPTAIN A. D. FISK, a daughter, on January 6th.

To the wife of MAJOR C. D. HARRISON (C, 1927), a daughter, on October 6th; to the wife of FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT J. R. GENTH (T, 1936), a son, on January 20th; to the wife of FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT J. L. TWEEDIE (B, 1933), a son, on January 22nd; to the wife of CAPTAIN M. N. WILLIAMSON-NOBLE (T, 1937), a son, on March 3rd; to the wife of SURGEON-LIEUTENANT N. L. M. MACMANUS (C, 1935), a son, on February 10th; to the wife of CAPTAIN THE LORD NEWTOWN-BUTLER (T, 1934), a daughter, on February 23rd; to the wife of MR. E. D. O'BRIEN (C, 1928), a daughter, on February 27th; to the wife of the late LIEUTENANT D. N. COX (W, 1941), a son, on February 7th; to the wife of SQUADRON-LEADER L. R. B. CARR (T, 1935), a daughter, on February 3rd; to the wife of CAPTAIN J. G. MOULTON (T, 1933), a daughter, on March 2nd; to the wife of FLYING-OFFICER H. L. GILBERT (T, 1936), a son, on March 3rd; to the wife of LIEUTENANT B. W. GIBBON (G, 1929), a son, on February 8th.

STOICA

School Officials—Easter Term, 1945.

Prefects :—J. V. Bartlett (T), Head of the School; D. L. Pike (G), Second Prefect and Prefect of Library; R. C. B. Chancellor (C), Prefect of Chapel; E. M. Arnold (S); J. S. B. Gubbins (T), Prefect of Gymnasium; A. W. B. Hayward (G); C. G. Dealtry (B); C. B. S. Dawson (C); D. T. M. Service (W); M. G. Manton (C); J. R. Freeland (C); H. A. S. Murray (C).

Athletics :—Captain, D. L. Pike (G).

Hockey :—Captain, J. A. R. Anson (G); Secretary, E. M. Arnold (S).

A Prize has been founded in memory of Captain J. B. B. Aimers, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (S, 1933), who was killed in action in June 1944. The prize will be called "The Basil Aimers Prize for Reading" and will be awarded each year in the Summer Term.

This term has seen great activity in the production of House Plays :—Temple performed an adapted "Aladdin." Walpole gave two short plays, "The Ghost of Jerry Bundler" and a pirate fantasy called "Under the Skull and Bones." Chandos produced "Emperor Jones," by Eugene O'Neill; and Bruce a pantomime by members of the house and entitled "Saint George and the Dragon."

We record with pleasure the following births :—

Of a son to Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Clifford, on December 23rd; of a son to Mr. and Mrs. B. E. N. Fawcett, on January 6th; of a son to Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Barr, on January 26th; of a daughter to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. R. H. Pott, on February 17th.

Copies of Nos. 58 and 59 of *The Stoic* (July and December 1942) are required to make up the set in the School Library. The Librarian (Mrs. Watt) would be very grateful if anybody possessing either or both of these numbers were willing to present or sell them to the School.

Medical Examination results, December 1944 :— Cambridge 1st M.B. : Chemistry, W. M. Browne (C), P. D. Rossdale (T), J. V. Nicholl (S), A. N. Griffith (B); Physics, A. N. Griffith (B); Biology, W. M. Browne (C). Oxford First Preliminary Examination in Natural Science :— Chemistry, J. A. R. Anson (G).

The following visitors have preached in Chapel this term :—On Sunday, February 4th, the Rev. Noel B. Slater (United Aid to China Fund); on Sunday, February 18th, the Rev. George G. Cragg (C.M.S.).

Chapel Collections this term have been as follows :—For the Pineapple, £24 os. 5d.; for the British Aid to China Fund, £26 3s. 0d.; for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, £31 2s. 2d.; for the Red Cross Parcels for Prisoners of War Fund, £29 17s. 3d.

School Colours have been awarded as follows :—

For Cross-Country : J. R. Freeland (C), G. D. E. Lutyens-Humphrey (C), A. P. Clarke (G).
For Hockey : G. J. Chibbett (C) (re-awarded), N. J. Philon (C), H. A. S. Murray (C), P. M. Young (C), D. M. S. Baxter (W), P. V. Rycroft (C), D. R. S. Kingan (T), M. E. J. Fitzgerald (S), J. R. Freeland (C).

A TREE CENTENARY

(Reprinted from the *Illustrated London News*, of January 25th, 1845; and from the *Stoic*, Vol. I, No. 2, of December, 1923.)

"A most interesting scene occurred on Friday afternoon (Jan. 17th, 1845), the locality being that portion of the grounds in which is placed the Temple of Concord and Victory, whence is seen, to great advantage, the Grecian Valley, beautifully planted. Shortly after three o'clock her Majesty left the mansion, leaning on the arm of the Duke of Buckingham, and proceeded to the above spot. Prince Albert followed with the Duchess of Buckingham; and many of the other guests were of the party. On reaching the south side of the Temple, the Royal party paused; and the Duke of Buckingham having handed the Queen an oak sapling, her Majesty placed it in the ground, and then received from Mr. Ferguson a spade, with which the Queen covered the roots. The Duke of Buckingham and Mr. Ferguson then completed the work, whilst her Majesty kept the tree in an upright position.

"Prince Albert then planted a young cedar tree at a short distance from the spot; and her Majesty and the Prince having planted two other similar trees on the north side of the Temple the Duke of Buckingham called out 'God bless her Majesty the Queen!'"

A contemporary illustration of the ceremony may be seen below.



Note.—The present measurements of the trees referred to above are as follows :—

Cedar on south side.	Girth 7ft. 2in.	height 70ft.
Oak on south side.	Girth 7ft. 8in.	height 78ft.
Cedar on north side.	Girth 8ft. 2in.	height 43ft.
Oak on north side.	Girth 8ft. 4in.	height 65ft.

LECTURES

The series of Lectures to the Upper School has been resumed this term with talks from two distinguished visitors. Mr. Arnold Lunn came to Stowe on February 25th, and the Marquess of Linlithgow on March 14th.

Mr. Lunn entitled his talk "Whither Europe?" His lecture covered a wide range of contemporary political and spiritual problems. Mr. Lunn could certainly not be called an armchair-critic; for he speaks with an authority born of many years of experience and observation. Since the outbreak of war alone he has visited over twenty different countries.

After giving his own definitions of "democracy" and "socialism," Mr. Lunn enlightened his audience as to the present political state of the major European powers. He seemed convinced that the peasantry in all countries was ultimately the most important political force. He gave a warning as to Britain's ignorance of and indifference to the political and spiritual outlook of other European nations. Nevertheless he was optimistic with regard to Britain's position in the future world, and hoped that she would be a partner, never the tool, of her great Allies.

A man with such decided views on major issues is used, as Mr. Lunn himself confessed, to considerable criticism. But his eloquence, his good humour, and his undoubted knowledge of his subject—not to mention his sincerity—impressed even those who could not share altogether his opinions.

The School was indeed fortunate in hearing on the subject of "India" perhaps the greatest living authority, The Rt. Hon. The Marquess of Linlithgow, K.G., K.T., P.C., G.S.C.I., G.C.I.E., O.B.E., D.L., T.D., Viceroy, 1936-1943.

Lord Linlithgow divided his lecture into three parts. In the first part he outlined India's geographical position and political significance in the world. He then dealt at some length with India's political organizations: Congress, the Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha. He emphasized the dangers not only for India but also for the Empire and indeed the whole world of over-simplifying such intricate and delicate problems.

In the last part of his lecture, Lord Linlithgow gave his more personal opinions on the main political parties, problems and personalities, and told his audience of many of his own experiences during his long term of office. He was kind enough to answer questions at the end of his talk.

His audience appreciated to the full the great honour of being addressed by so eminent a statesman.

DEBATING SOCIETY

Officers of the Society:—President, Mr. J. M. Todd; Secretary, G. P. Lewis (B); Treasurer, D. L. Pike (G); Librarian, C. S. O'D Scott (B); co-opted members of committee, J. J. Davis (T) and M. G. Manton (C).

The 163rd Meeting was held in the Library on Wednesday, January 31st. The Motion was "That this House views with apprehension the threatened decline of the leisured classes." There was a crowded house, and this debate was one of the best of recent years.

C. S. O'D. SCOTT (B) proposed, arguing that great works of art could not be produced without leisure, which he defined as the absence of pressing work. The Average Man (whose remarkable attributes he mercilessly described) attacked leisure as an unfair privilege of the few, but showed by his envy what value he set upon it, and accordingly, as it was neatly argued, must consider it a good thing.

J. J. DAVIS (T), the opposer, was somewhat nonplussed, having relied on picking the proposer's speech to pieces for his material; and as the proposer's speech was largely concerned with picking his own presumed speech to pieces in advance, there was nothing for him to do but to turn on the vitriol, impromptu; which, however, he managed to do without trouble.

M. G. MANTON (C) was lofty and philosophic, speaking of the true use of leisure as a necessity for a civilized society.



Photos by

SKATING ON THE ELEVEN-ACRE

JANUARY 1945

J.F.R.



THE JUNIOR RACE

Photos by]



J. R. F. WINNING THE SENIOR

SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY, FEBRUARY 19TH

[M.G.M.]



Photo by]

APPLIED PHYSICS

TESTING FOR A LEAK ON AN UNDERGROUND CABLE

[E.S.P.]

N. J. PHILON (C) spoke with admirable if somewhat lengthy fluency about the workers and the hard facts.

There was great vigour and variety in the many speeches which followed :—

There voted :	In the Upper House,	For the motion,	8.
		Against,	13.
	In the Lower House,	For the motion,	70.
		Against,	22.

The 164th Meeting, held on February 21st, was open only to Members of the Upper House. No less than 69 speeches were made on the following impromptu motions.

"That this House believes in Fairies." Carried, 17—12.

"That in the opinion of this House it is better to reign in Hell than to serve in Heaven." Lost, 12—18.

"That this House disapproves of learning Latin." Lost, 12—18.

"That this House believes that a Partition of Germany is expedient." Lost, 5—23.

"That in the opinion of this House Women and Children should not be saved first." Lost, 11—12.

The following have been elected members of the Society :—C. B. S. Dawson (C), H. P. Senhouse (B), M. F. Triefus (W), Count W. J. H. van Stirum (B), M. P. M. Warburton (C).

G.P.L.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

THE FILM SOCIETY

The Film Society has seen three films this term, all of them French. The first was a film called and about Beethoven. Many people might have enjoyed it for the music had the sound reproduction been better. As it was, the foggy music and the even foggier plot left many unsatisfied. The use made of sound when Beethoven, played by the ubiquitous Harry Baur, was going deaf, must be described as daring. Whether its originality was equalled by its success is a matter for some doubt.

"Le roi s'amuse" was a farce amusing as only the French can make it. Raimu gave a superb performance as the nouveau riche democrat who was still enough impressed by royalty to sacrifice his political principles and his marital honour in return for royal favour. This was altogether a most enjoyable film; it is a pity that the Film Society cannot get more films like it.

The last programme consisted of two short films—so short that some members were heard complaining that they had not had their money's worth. One of these films was about Paris, had an American commentary and a French singer, but no point. The title was "The next time we see Paris," but it was not evident why. The other film, "Journal de la Résistance," was the complete version of the liberation of Paris. Most of it, better edited and less repetitive, had already been seen by many people in British news reels, but the French commentary, sometimes over-riding the noise of machine guns, helped to produce an authentic atmosphere, if not a better understanding of what was happening. And it was quite inspiring to see again General de Gaulle striding unsmilingly through the crowds handing bouquets nonchalantly back to his aide-de-camp.

M.G.M.

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At the beginning of this term we had several falls of snow, followed by severe frost. This affected the status of our avifauna considerably. The once plentiful flocks of Redwings and Fieldfares disappeared, presumably going South, and few have been seen since. The number of Long-tailed Tits and Golden-Crested Wrens has been greatly diminished, and specimens of the former species have been found dead on the ground. To make up for this loss, several observers have seen Bramblings. As many as thirty were seen in one large flock of Chaffinches. These birds had not been observed here before for several years.



THE JUNIOR RACE

Photos by]

SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY, FEBRUARY 19TH



J. R. F. WINNING THE SENIOR

[M.G.M.]



Photo by]

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CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

THE FILM SOCIETY

The Film Society has seen three films this term, all of them French. The first was a film called and about Beethoven. Many people might have enjoyed it for the music had the sound reproduction been better. As it was, the foggy music and the even foggier plot left many unsatisfied. The use made of sound when Beethoven, played by the ubiquitous Harry Baur, was going deaf, must be described as daring. Whether its originality was equalled by its success is a matter for some doubt.

"Le roi s'amuse" was a farce amusing as only the French can make it. Raimu gave a superb performance as the nouveau riche democrat who was still enough impressed by royalty to sacrifice his political principles and his marital honour in return for royal favour. This was altogether a most enjoyable film; it is a pity that the Film Society cannot get more films like it.

The last programme consisted of two short films—so short that some members were heard complaining that they had not had their money's worth. One of these films was about Paris, had an American commentary and a French singer, but no point. The title was "The next time we see Paris," but it was not evident why. The other film, "Journal de la Résistance," was the complete version of the liberation of Paris. Most of it, better edited and less repetitive, had already been seen by many people in British news reels, but the French commentary, sometimes over-riding the noise of machine guns, helped to produce an authentic atmosphere, if not a better understanding of what was happening. And it was quite inspiring to see again General de Gaulle striding unsmilingly through the crowds handing bouquets nonchalantly back to his aide-de-camp.

M.G.M.

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At the beginning of this term we had several falls of snow, followed by severe frost. This affected the status of our avifauna considerably. The once plentiful flocks of Redwings and Fieldfares disappeared, presumably going South, and few have been seen since. The number of Long-tailed Tits and Golden-Crested Wrens has been greatly diminished, and specimens of the former species have been found dead on the ground. To make up for this loss, several observers have seen Bramblings. As many as thirty were seen in one large flock of Chaffinches. These birds had not been observed here before for several years.

As a result of this cold period spring song was retarded; but since half-term the weather has been marvellous, and the songsters have made up for time lost during the earlier part of the term. The Woodpigeon was first heard "cooing" on February 3rd, and the Skylark first seen in its spiral song flight on the 10th; the "oo-oo" of the Stock Dove was first heard on the 11th. Since then all the finches have started singing, and the latest addition is that of the Golden-Crested Wren. The majority of Goldfinches, Greenfinches and Chaffinches, are still in flocks. It is clear, however, that these flocks are breaking up, by the fact that the males have been seen quarrelling amongst themselves, and that the females have been seen singing alone at the tops of trees, probably taking up their summer territory. Several species have been noticed displaying, including the Woodpigeon and Moorhen.

Visitors to the lakes besides Mallard were an occasional pair of Widgeon, several Tufted Duck, and a Little Grebe. M. D. Cobham (G) and D. A. Connell (G) report a drake Garganey on the Octagon on March 10th. This may not have been a truly wild bird; otherwise, if the report is true, it is an exceptionally early summer visitor.

To return to dry land. Three Red-legged Partridges were seen down past Copperbottom. This species was not observed here last year, but the year before there were a few pairs about, and several nests were found.

As we end this term later than usual, we expect to see Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers and Sand Martins arrive before we go home. At present Chiffchaffs are being continually looked out for. It is to be hoped that, when nesting starts, the destructive habit of nest-robbing will be discontinued.

D.A.I.
R.H.P.

THE VITRUVIANS

On February 21st, a Committee meeting was held, when the term's programme and various business matters were discussed. On the following Saturday, the Headmaster gave a most interesting and enlightening lantern lecture on "Modern Architecture," and on March 7th G. H. Rooke (C) gave an illustrative talk to the Society on "Canterbury Cathedral." On March 24th, Mr. W. Llowarch very kindly gave a demonstration lecture on "Acoustics."

It is hoped that next term we shall have two expeditions and three lectures, one of which will be on "The Growth of English Domestic Architecture."

The Committee this term has been as follows:—President, the Headmaster; Vice-President, Mr. L. H. Reid; Secretary, D. H. W. Vey (B); Treasurer, R. P. Marshall (C); Librarian, C. E. Taylor (B); co-opted member, E. D. R. Campbell (G). The membership for the term was 62.

D.H.W.V.

THE SPOTTERS' CLUB

The previous Secretary resigned at the beginning of the term and D. R. Grossmark (C) was elected in his stead.

The Club this term has been completely reorganized and the membership has risen from 20 to 210. Altogether there have been four meetings so far this term. The first was a lecture on "Radar" by the Secretary.

During the second meeting there was a Quiz Test consisting of Lantern Slides, Flying Photos, large and small scale Test Silhouettes. The standard of the results was fairly high.

The third meeting of the term was held in the Gym. and about 130 members were present. Arrangements were made to see films this term and next. A vote was taken to decide on the subscription for next term and it was unanimously fixed at 3/- for Full and Associate members and 2/- for Class A and B members.

The fourth meeting of the term was on the 11th of March in the Gym. It consisted of some Silent Aircraft Recognition Films. The first two reels were instructional and a commentary was given by the Ex-Secretary, then two test reels of 60 aircraft were shown. The results were satisfactory; the top four members were D. J. B. Lethbridge (T) with 46, C. L. I. Muntz (G) and R. S. Dove (W) with 35, and J. D. Irlam (W) with 32.

Other meetings have been arranged for this term. There will be Sound Films on the 18th and 24th of March, which are about the R.A.F. and they are either action or training films.

We hope to have at least eight Sound Films next term and to bring the membership up to 300.

D.R.G.

THE SYMPOSIUM

At the end of last term, H. L. P. Hingston (T) read a paper on "The Cinema and its Effect upon the Modern Generation." This term we have heard J. B. More (C) on "Jazz," A. P. Clarke (G) on "Roumania," C. A. Wauhope (C) on "Alchemy," and M. Morland (B) on "The Balkans." We hope to hold another meeting when N. N. Proddow (C) will read a paper on "The Organ." T. R. Winsor (T) has been elected a member of the Society.

R.M.M.

THE XII CLUB

In theory, Stowe coffee is not the companion par excellence of exquisite wit, good, broad humour and far-reaching erudition and, therefore, the fact that in practice when C. S. O'D Scott (B) spoke to the Club on "The Superconscious Mind" all four blended together to perfection is worthy of record.

Scott described the superconscious state (with some help from Tennyson, William James, Mr. Churchill and others), explained how it arose and proved (by argument, it should be said) the occasional use of drugs in attaining it to be harmless.

The Club was interested, amused and, before the evening was finished, somewhat unhealthily curious; so curious, in fact, that after the meeting various informal and amateurish experiments were made among members in producing hypnotism, super-consciousness, unconsciousness and insanity. There were varying degrees of success.

The Club hopes to hear, later this term, C. A. Cooper (G) on "Forerunners of Christ." Space allows me no explanation of this title but, since it is not intended to be so controversial as it may sound, any raised eyebrows among readers can be safely lowered.

D.L.P.

THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

There have been three meetings of the Society this term. At the first meeting, A. M. Western (C) read a paper on the "Quantum Theory," in which he rapidly discussed many branches of modern science. At the following meeting, A. J. Boumphrey (T) read a simple, but instructive, paper on the manufacture and uses of "Lead Paints." At the last meeting, the Society was greatly honoured by a visit from Professor I. M. Heilbron, D.S.O., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S., who gave a most interesting lecture on "The Combating of Insect Enemies."

Professor Heilbron told the Society of some of the research work which he and other scientists had done on D.D.T. and other insecticides, but naturally many details could not be disclosed. Samples of preparations and the special apparatus designed for their efficient use were demonstrated, including that employed to stamp out the typhus epidemic at Naples. Perhaps the most interesting part of the lecture was devoted to explaining the influence which these discoveries might have on the development of tropical countries under peace-time conditions. It was emphasized that this work may be severely handicapped if a sufficient number of trained scientists is not forthcoming. The formal meeting ended at 6 p.m., but individual members of the Society continued to bombard the Professor with questions for at least another hour.

W.H.A.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

At the end of last term, R. K. Kurk (G) read a paper on "West African Exploration." Slides were shown and many items of interest were pointed out.

Early this term, Major R. Haworth gave us a comprehensive lecture on the "British Merchant Navy," and later in the term D. T. M. Service (W) read a paper on "The Barbary States."

In the near future, we hope, Mr. A. G. Archer will give us an account of his world tour which should prove very interesting.

R.K.K.

THE MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

The following were elected members last September:—G. S. Chadwick (C), B. B. Croom-Johnson (T), R. H. S. Harris (C), D. A. Illingworth (G), A. J. O. Ritchie (T) and E. C. Skepper (T); G. M. Jones (W) was elected this term. A. J. O. Ritchie (T) was committee-man.

The plays read were all French comedies. They were: 'La Grammaire,' by Labiche; 'Un Chapeau de Paille d'Italie' by Labiche and Marc-Michel; Molière's 'Médecin malgré lui'; Tristan Bernard's 'L'Anglais tel qu'on le parle' and 'Le Barbier de Séville' by Beaumarchais.

E.C.S.

THE LIBRARY

This term has been one of great excitement for the Library, first by reason of the continual inflow of new books, secondly because of the great clear-out that has been and is going on in the Upper Library. The History section there has now been dealt with, the valuable and interesting books being kept, and the useless and uninformative sold to the uttermost 32mo. Classics will soon be ready for a like purge, and the rest of the unwanted will follow next term. The Upper Library will then be free to receive the considerable overflow from downstairs. In addition to our normal purchases we have bought a copy of the Grenville Homer. The origin of its name is not known, but the Grenville arms appear in Volume One. We have also bought "Anecdotes of Painting," edited by Horace Walpole from material collected over many years by the artist Vertue, in 5 volumes, and printed at Walpole's private press (The Strawberry Hill Press) in 1762. The Headmaster has presented several classical works, including a fine Thucydides in translation (1753), and the Complete Works of Bossuet (Paris 1841).

Another gift is worthy of especial mention. Major Oliver Bertram (T, 1927) has presented "L'Art du Facteur d'Orgues" (1766) by Bedes de Celles. This book is extremely rare, the only other copy known to exist being in the British Museum, and it comes from the library of Major Bertram's father, the late Mr. Julius Bertram, an early benefactor of Stowe.

MUSIC

There has been one concert this term, a piano recital given by Kendall Taylor. He played the Beethoven Sonata Op. 111, the Chopin F minor Fantasia, and a wide selection of smaller works, ending with Balakirev's "Islamey."

It is expected that the orchestra may give a concert this term, and their programme will be the first movement of Beethoven's 8th Symphony, the Overture to Fauré's "Masques et Bergamasques," and the Nocturne from Mendelssohn's music for "Midsummer Night's Dream."

The Choral Society is at present working on Brahms' Requiem, and hopes to give a performance next term.

The House Music Competitions are expected to come off near the end of the term, and will be judged by Mr. H. V. Anson, Registrar of the Royal College of Music.

JUNIOR TRAINING CORPS NOTES

The following promotions have been made this term:—

To *Senior Under-Officer*: Under-Officer C. G. Dealtry (B).

To *Under-Officer*: Sergeants J. V. Bartlett (T), H. A. S. Murray (C).

To *Sergeant*: Corporals M. J. A. Davies (T), C. B. S. Dawson (C), D. L. Pike (G), P. D. P. Duncombe (C), B. B. Croom-Johnson (T), A. T. Clarke (C), A. M. Western (C), J. V. Nicholl (G), C. B. H. Gill (G), R. J. Havard (C).

To *Corporal*: Lance-Corporals A. M. Cathcart (T), J. M. Lewis (T), J. H. W. Pooler (T), A. J. O. Ritchie (T), M. G. Falcon (C), J. A. R. Anson (G), G. D. E. Lutyens-Humfrey (C), N. J. Philon (C), A. N. E. Watt (G).

Appointed *Lance-Corporal*: Cadets W. H. Atkinson (B), E. C. Skepper (T), R. W. Shirley (T), G. C. Robinson (W), A. P. Dewing (C), D. R. S. Kingan (T), G. F. Armitage (W), D. E. Granger (C), D. I. Hird (C), M. H. G. Sharp (C).

The strength of the Contingent is steadily rising and is now 388 cadets. In the War Certificate "A" examinations held last December, 53 out of 67 candidates passed the "Individual" and 30 out of 47 the "Section Leader's" tests.

PRIZES

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Individual), December 1944:—M. Birkett (T).

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Section Leader's), December 1944:—E. C. Skepper (T).

Best Recruits (May—December 1944):—1, J. F. Law (C); equal 2, D. J. Wilkin (C) and R. J. P. Corry (C).

TRAINING

NAVAL SECTION

The strength of the Section this term is 38, of whom 11 are candidates for the Cadet Petty Officer, 20 for the Cadet Leading Seaman and 7 for the Cadet Able Seaman examinations.

In last term's examinations 12 candidates passed for Cadet Leading Seaman and 10 for Cadet Able Seaman.

The following have been rated Leading Seamen:—U/O M. G. Manton (C); Sergts. J. S. B. Gubbins (T), C. B. S. Dawson (C); Corpls. A. W. B. Hayward (G), D. T. M. Service (W); Lance-Corpl. W. H. Atkinson (B).

GENERAL

Normally the weather is such a limiting factor in the Easter term that a good deal of work has to be done indoors. But, apart from the severe January frost, conditions outside have been exceptionally favourable, although not sufficiently stable to justify planning more than routine training.

Particular points of interest are not lacking. The intake of 72 Recruits is larger than usual. The size of the Instructors' Class is double what it often is. Volunteers quickly filled the Survey Section to capacity, and cadets joining the Signals have been of good quality. The Certificate "A" entry is a large one; Physical Efficiency tests, however, may prove a stumbling block to a fair proportion of the candidates. It would seem that the youth of a number of N.C.Os. detracts from their performance; they lack assurance and finish. At this stage in the progress of the Contingent, when its numbers are approaching 400, opportunity of promotion is greater, but, at the same time, this extension of responsibility calls for a full measure of initiative and thoroughness in gaining experience.

A.T.C. NOTES

This term four Cadets have completed the requirements for Proficiency Certificate B, three for Proficiency Certificate A and nine more have become Cadets 1st Class.

We have been fortunate in obtaining Link Training for four cadets every week.

The Ministry of Information has sent us several interesting films showing the many aspects of training in the R.A.F.

Promotions:—

To *Sergeant*: M. B. Le Poer Trench (C).

To *Corporal*: A. J. Boumphrey (B), E. H. H. Archibald (G).

Present strength, 28 Cadets.

STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS

95, FRAMPTON STREET,
LONDON, N.W.6.
March, 1945.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

SIR,
I write my first letter to you since being appointed Warden of the Pineapple with great pleasure. When I took over at the end of July last year the Club was in almost a moribund condition because of the ill-health of the retiring Warden.

The Club has revived and now has a roll-membership of over 150, of whom just over half are new members. The active membership is some 80 to 100 with a solid core of some 60 members.

The activities of the Club include football, swimming, fishing, dramatic group, theatre and concert visiting parties and the usual P.T., boxing and indoor activities.

The Club senior XI at football has survived a disastrous start, and since Christmas has won the majority of its games.

The table-tennis team, defeated in its London Federation Divisional Final, has swept the board in the local competitions and friendlies.

It is most regrettable that more spacious accommodation cannot yet be found, as the membership fully justifies it.

Strenuous efforts are still being made to find bigger premises, and it is hoped that the search will soon succeed.

Camping and cricket are now being prepared for, and a successful summer at both activities is certain.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
C. F. JUPP (*Warden*).

THE BOOTS

Until yesterday I was not one of those travellers who appear to take a vow of Trappist silence. I took delight in drawing as many people as possible into conversation. This is not, I must admit, the foible of an earnest student of humanity, but the result of my own conceit. With a stranger I start from scratch; my thwarted soul finds compensation for the dullness of reality in a dream of adventure and romance. I can pretend to be anyone I like.

This garrulous habit had never led to anything very unpleasant—nothing more than a black look and ostentatious readjustment of a forbidding newspaper. But yesterday I wished I had cultivated a cold and insular reserve.

It all started at Nottingham. The station there is a vast cathedral of a place, giving an impression of desolate loneliness with its sooty cast-iron scroll work. After an hour's wait in this gloomy vault I boarded the slow cross-country train hungry for company. I put my bag on the rack, took off my hat and coat, put them on an empty seat, and, preparing to open fire, sat firmly in the corner opposite the only other occupant of the compartment.

He looked forlorn, sitting there hunched in a black overcoat. A straggling moustache fringed the top of his coat collar. Above it a long and prominent nose sprang from between two beady eyes that gleamed at me under large and horny lids. A tuft of thin brown hair sticking up against the dirty cushion behind his head gave him the appearance of a disgruntled parrot.

I was still deciding what part to assume when a clear, cultured voice startled me by saying, "Are you going far?"

The conversation continued for a minute or two on these somewhat conventional lines. And then this extraordinary man said, "Do you mind if I tell you a story?"

Well, I was a trifle annoyed at having my thunder thus stolen, but I could not very well refuse to listen to him, and so I assumed an air of rapt attention while he told me this story.

* * * * *

I don't like (he said) burdening other people with my troubles, but I have not spoken to anyone for three days and if I don't tell somebody I shall probably go mad. When I have finished you will probably think that I am a bore, and a liar or a lunatic into the bargain. But you look sympathetic, so please be kind.

I am an insurance agent, and my job takes me about the countryside a good deal. I happened to be in Manchester on business. The hotel at which I usually put up had been bombed during the week, and so I had to set out to procure other accommodation. I had thought a bed for the night would be easy enough to find, but I spent the whole of a wet and very midland afternoon tramping from boarding-house to boarding-house through miles and miles of grimy monotony entirely without success. Eventually I found a small and poky little room, which I regarded as better than nothing. I sank wearily down on the creaking bed, trying to summon up the energy to go out and get some tea. Suddenly I noticed that my boots, which were very old, had decided to collapse. Both soles were through, and parting from the uppers. Seeing that the next day's appointment was an important one, I thought that a good impression would be desirable, and that it would hardly be created by such ramshackle footwear. I saw that there was nothing for it but to go out into the rain and buy another pair.

I was walking dejectedly along a side-street towards the centre of the town, watching in the dusk the filth and the cigarette packets swirling down the flooded gutter, when, absorbed in the general atmosphere of sordidity, I tripped over a projecting doorstep. Recovering myself, I noticed that it led into a small shop, whose tiny, unlit window displayed a few tins of boot polish dimly discernible in the murk. Unwilling to go any farther than was necessary I went in.

It was dark inside. The light from the window seemed unable to penetrate the woolly blackness. As I moved the door a little bell began to ring with a persistent jangle that shattered the air of dusty preservation in the shop. I imagined the spiders scuttling back to their lairs. The bell gave a final strangled clink and was silent. Nothing happened. I had just turned to go when an odd noise started from the depths of the blackness. I strained my ears to identify it as it came nearer. Shuffle, scratch-thump, shuffle, scratch-thump, shuffle, scratch-thump. I waited as it approached. It was quite close. Then came a scratching and fumbling and the rattle of a door handle.

Suddenly the blackness was melted by an oil lamp that appeared, smoking hard up the long glass funnel. Behind it there was an old man. I don't think I could ever describe him properly. He was very small, much shorter than I am. He had a great shock of white hair, the sort you would expect to find on a mountain prophet. His face was deeply lined and covered with short white hairs about half an inch long. Not close together like an ordinary beard, but sparse, almost like a badly plucked chicken. His skin was white and puffy like that too. His eyes were sunk so deep that at first, in the shadows thrown by the lamp, I thought he was blind. Then I saw his eyes glint as he raised the lamp to look at me.

"Yes?"

The voice startled me with its aged croak.

"Can you sell me a pair of good stout boots?"

"Boots?"

"Yes, I thought this was a boot shop."

"It is that."

There was a pause. I was nonplussed. The old man came nearer, and as he did so I realized what the noise had been. He made it again as he stepped towards me. On his right foot there was an old carpet slipper. He had no left. A stick about an inch and a half across stuck out from the greasy trouser leg. He must have seen me looking at his foot, for he spoke again surlily

"Don't know as how Ah can fit tha' oop."

"Oh."

Another pause.

"I'm prepared to pay a bit for a really good pair," I said. This seemed to thaw him.

"Don't get many customers these days. Don't sell many boots. Only got one pair." As he said this he lowered his head and leered up at me with what was almost a cunning look.

And then, eagerly, "Would tha like to try them?"

Soon I was sitting on a dusty chair with my foot on a warped rest. The old man had hobbled to a dark corner and was poking about in the blackness. He returned with a box.

"Grand boots, they are."

And indeed they were. Such newness and efficiency was strange in the dirty old shop. The leather gleamed and shone in the light, a deep, rich red, like chestnuts in the sun.

Again eagerly: "Like to try them on?"

Hastily, with fumbling fingers, he pushed one boot on. Without asking whether it fitted, he pushed on the other. They fitted perfectly, and I told him so. But he wasn't listening. He was lacing them up as fast as he could, breathing quickly in little pants and grunts.

"There, tha' got 'em on," he said, with a weird tone of malicious triumph. I was just going to ask the price when he went on, speaking frantically, his words tumbling over one another in his haste, a little trickle of saliva seeping out of the corner of his mouth. As he talked I watched, fascinated, the sparkling drop as it trickled down his chin.

"Four years Ah've been waiting," he said "four years, for someone to come in and ask fer boots. And now tha got 'em. And tha thinks they're grand. But tha don't know where Ah got 'em, oh no! And tha don't know why Ah want thee to 'ave 'em, dost tha? Well, Ah'll tell thee. Four years back Ah bought this shop. Got a little packet and wanted to settle down, see? And one day Ah finds these boots in cupboard, all nice and shiny like what they are now, and they looks so nifty that Ah tries 'em on, see? Ah sat down in chair th'art sitting in now, and Ah puts one on, on me left foot, see? But it were too small, me 'aving big feet. So Ah starts to take it off again. Ah pulled at it, but it were a tight fit, so Ah pulled a bit 'arder. And then, all of a sudden like, it came away. It fell out me 'and ont' floor wi' a funny kinda thump, so Ah looks down, and Ah sees—Ah sees me left foot ain't there any more. It just ain't there. Ah picks oop boot, and it seems 'eavy, and Ah looks inside, and there's foot. Ah 'ollered till somebody came and got doctor; 'e didn't know what to do. But when 'e takes foot out of boot it's all green and mouldy, wi' little worms crawling about all over it, so that the whole thing looked like it were moving. All green and mouldy, and it smelt like old meat. All green and mouldy. All green and mouldy."

And then he began to laugh. A horrible, hoarse laugh that turned into a cough. And then he spat and started laughing again. His eyes flashed in the lamplight. Sending the stool flying I rushed out of the shop, leaving him laughing and coughing and spitting behind me.

I ran in the darkness all the way back to the boarding-house. I sat on the bed and looked at the boots. I didn't dare take them off. I fancied I smelt rotten meat.

That was four days ago. You may think me foolish, but I haven't taken them off yet. I daren't.

* * * * *

The voice stopped. Slowly my eyes dropped to his feet. There they were. A noble pair of boots, gleaming and shining, a deep, rich red, like chestnuts in the sun. Then I realized what it was that had been worrying me subconsciously ever since I got into the compartment. It was a smell like rotten meat.

I looked up again. The man was sweating and his eyes were staring. When he spoke it was in a low whisper.

"I can't bear it. I'm going to take them off. I can't bear it any more. I can't bear it, I tell you. I CAN'T BEAR IT!"

His voice rose and then was silent. He was breathing heavily. He looked round wildly and then stooped down with a sudden, jerky movement and began to unlace his boots. The smell of rotting meat became stronger. His hand was at the heel of the left boot as the train ground to a standstill. I jumped up, opened the door, and fell gasping on the platform. As I fell I heard an agonized, long-drawn shriek behind me. I got to my feet and ran.

M.G.M.

CRICKET FIXTURES, SUMMER 1945

FIRST ELEVEN

May	Sat., 19th.—BUCKINGHAM	Home.
	Wed., 23rd.—CHRIST CHURCH and B.N.C.	Home.
	Sat., 26th.—BEDFORD	Home.
	Wed., 30th.—QUEEN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD	Home.
June	Wed., 6th.—ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD	Away.
	Sat., 9th.—M.C.C.	Home.
	Wed., 13th.—R.A.F., WING	Home.
	Sat., 16th.—RADLEY	Home.
	Sat., 23rd.—OUNDLE	Away.
	Sat., 30th.—BUCCANEERS	Home.
July	Sat., 7th.—MERCHANT TAYLORS	Home.
	Sat., 14th.—R.A.F., HALTON	Home.

SECOND ELEVEN

May	Sat., 26th.—BLOXHAM 1ST XI.	Home.
June	Sat., 2nd.—AN R.A.F., XI.	Home.
	Wed., 13th.—R.A.F., WING	Home.
	Sat., 16th.—RADLEY	Away.
	Wed., 20th.—MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, OXFORD	Home.
	Sat., 23rd.—ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD	Away.
July	Sat., 7th.—MERCHANT TAYLORS	Home.
	Sat., 14th.—R.A.F., HALTON	Home.

COLTS

May	Sat., 26th.—BEDFORD	Home.
June	Wed., 13th.—ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD	Away.
	Sat., 16th.—RADLEY	Home.

JUNIOR COLTS

May	Sat., 26th.—BLOXHAM COLTS	Away.
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HOCKEY

Up to the time of writing it has been a successful season. The weather has been excellent excepting the snow and frost which caused some dislocation of a programme tightly packed between Cross-Country and Athletic Sports. The shortage of sticks necessarily curtails the amount of Hockey that can be played on any one afternoon, but every House was able to field at least two teams and some ran other games besides. The Senior and Junior House matches provided close competition and much better Hockey than in former years.

The First Eleven had only three old colours, but with several young and promising players coming into the Thirty it has been possible to build up a team better both individually and collectively than any hitherto seen at Stowe.

The first two matches were lost by a narrow margin. Magdalen College School, Oxford, gained the odd goal in a poor game played under very difficult conditions, and Radley again were on top at the final whistle. The first Old Stoic Hockey side was defeated fairly comfortably, while of two R.A.F. matches one, against a fast and well-trained team of young apprentices, produced an excellent drawn game, the other, a very easy victory for Stowe.

Hitherto there has been a lamentable dearth of adequate inside forwards, but J. A. R. Anson (G) has built up, and controls with some skill, a clever and constructive forward line. They are slow off the mark and not yet quick enough in shooting, but their ball control is good and their passes shrewdly placed and well-timed. G. J. Chibbett (C) was ineffective at inside-left—he needs plenty of room—but in his old place on the wing his speed and hard centring have been most valuable. P. V. Rycroft (C) moved across to take his place. He is slow on his feet, but his stickwork is very neat and he and Anson continually keep the defence guessing. J. R. Freeland (C), having never played the game until this year, came in at inside-right and is developing well. M. E. J. FitzGerald (G) at outside-right is not yet very safe in receiving passes, but is beginning to find out how to circumvent an opponent, and has made some useful openings. The halves are all new, N. J. Philon (C), really too slow for a centre but intelligent in anticipation and very hard-working, H. A. S. Murray (C), who plays an energetic, worrying game, and D. R. S. Kingan (T), a useful attacking wing-half, who should make a centre one day. The backs have combined well though their individual tactics are very different. P. M. Young (C) is the steadiest, but D. M. S. Baxter (W) tackles hard and is quick in recovering. E. M. Arnold (G) has been most reliable, and at times spectacular, in goal.

THE SCHOOL v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, OXFORD.

Played at Oxford on Saturday, February 10th. Lost, 2—3.

The first match of the season showed that Stowe had much to learn. The halves and forwards were slow, and too much wild hitting was apparent. Stowe, playing on a downhill slope, kept the ball at the opposition's end of the field for most of the first half. Fifteen minutes from the start, Asbury-Bailey scored with a hard shot from the edge of the circle. A number of further opportunities for scoring were presented, but the forwards were slow and unable to take advantage of them. Ten minutes from the end of the first half, M.C.S. put one through after a mix-up near the goal-mouth. (1—1.)

In the second half, the opposing team were again much quicker on the ball, scoring twice in the first twenty minutes, in spite of the utmost efforts of the Stowe backs. (1—3.) Snow now began to fall, making good play difficult, and much wild hitting resulted on both sides. In a very few minutes Asbury-Bailey, taking a pass from Chibbett, dribbled into the circle and scored his second goal. (2—3.) Stowe now went all out in the last few minutes of the game, but, although several chances were offered, could not draw level. Credit is due to the backs and to Arnold, who saved some nasty positions.

Team:—E. M. Arnold (G); D. M. S. Baxter (W), P. M. Young (C); H. A. S. Murray (C), N. J. Philon (C), R. J. Broadly (W); J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W), G. J. Chibbett (C), J. A. R. Anson (G), P. V. Rycroft (C), M. E. J. FitzGerald (G).

THE SCHOOL v. RADLEY

Played at Stowe on Wednesday, February 17th. Lost, 3—4.

For once Stowe started hard, and play was kept in the Radley half. At the end of the first ten minutes Kingan scored from just inside the circle. For the next twenty minutes the game continued evenly, the defence coping well with the Radley forward rushes. However, about ten minutes before the end of the first half, Radley succeeded in equalizing the score. Further play was uneventful until the half-time whistle went.

Stowe was on top again at the beginning of the second half, and in a very short time Rycroft pushed one through. Anson scored from a short corner soon after, making the score 3—1. Radley now woke up, and the stick work of their forwards improved considerably, enabling them to break through our defence and score. (3—2.) A few minutes later a Radley forward dribbled through our backs, who were liable to stand too far up, and scored again. (3—3.) Stowe fought back hard to regain the lead; the Radley forwards' speed and superior stick work told, and they drove in the winning goal just as the whistle for time sounded. It was a good game and much experience was gained.

Team:—E. M. Arnold (G); D. M. S. Baxter (W), P. M. Young (C); H. A. S. Murray (C), D. R. S. Kingan (T), R. J. Broadly (W); J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W), G. J. Chibbett (C), J. A. R. Anson (G), P. V. Rycroft (C), M. E. J. FitzGerald (G).

THE SCHOOL v. ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL

Played at Stowe on Saturday, March 17th. Won, 3—2.

Stowe started well, though the general play was not up to previous standards. St. Lawrence were hustling us towards the end, and passing was liable to be wild. Our first goal came from Freeland after a muddle near the goal about ten minutes from the start. Stowe pressed hard after this and a few minutes later Anson scored with a rather doubtful shot into the top of the net. (2—0.) Play was now more even and, five minutes before the end of the first half, the St. Lawrence centre-forward dribbled through and scored. (2—1.)

Stowe pressed again at the beginning of the second half, but St. Lawrence broke away and pushed in their second goal. They were back on the defensive after the bully, and then Freeland, taking a pass first time from FitzGerald, scored again. St. Lawrence were now seeing slightly more of the ball, but were held until the final whistle blew.

Team:—E. M. Arnold (G); D. M. S. Baxter (W), R. R. Davis (T); H. A. S. Murray (C), N. J. Philon (C), D. R. S. Kingan (T); G. J. Chibbett (C), P. V. Rycroft (C), J. A. R. Anson (G), J. R. Freeland (C), M. E. J. FitzGerald (G).

CROSS-COUNTRY

The annual Cross-Country races were run on Monday, February 19th. Helped by good weather and moderately dry ground both races were fast.

P. B. Buchanan (W), having taken the lead half way round the course, won the junior comfortably from G. P. Tobin (G).

The Seniors started off at a fast pace which was maintained throughout the race. J. R. Freeland (C), the winner, broke away from the leading bunch shortly after having reached the Roman road, and having lengthened his stride went on to beat C. G. Dealtry (B) by some 60 yards.

In the only match of the season, run at Stowe, Uppingham beat us comfortably. The race was extremely fast and J. R. Freeland (C), the winner, created a record time for the course of 23 minutes 38 seconds, the previous record being 24 mins. 19 seconds.

SQUASH

Two matches have been played up to date against R.A.F. teams, and one more match against an R.A.F. team is due to be played. In the first Stowe won 3—2. As is usual with R.A.F. teams, they consisted of one or two good players and the remainder indifferent, so that the first two strings lost and the other three won. In the second game Stowe was defeated 1—4, only the fifth string winning.

E. M. Arnold (G), A. J. Rowntree (T), H. R. Marten (T), J. A. R. Anson (G), J. F. Chance (C) and J. R. Freeland (C) have played in the team.

In the individual competitions played last term, C. A. Vandervell (B) won the Seniors, and R.A.W. Pointing (B) the Juniors.

FENCING

This term has again been an uneventful one so far as the Fencing Club has been concerned. There was a further influx of new members at the beginning of term who are making good progress and showing much enthusiasm. We were able to arrange one match against the Imperial College of Science. We lost, mainly because of our inexperience and because our opponents were very much older and had more knowledge of match fencing.

E. P. F. de P. Hunter (W) has made very good progress this term, not only in foil, but also in sabre and épée. M. Deakin (W), although young, shows some promise at foil.

The Junior Foil was won by M. Deakin (W) and the Open Foil by H. W. Henry (G).

H.W.H.

ATHLETICS

The weather had been very kind throughout the heats ; but it was a little disappointing on Sports Day itself, Wednesday, March 28th. None the less the track was in good condition.

Among the Seniors, M. R. S. J. Mackey (C) and J. L. W. Hancock (W) were the best of the sprinters ; but J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W) won the Under 16 Hundred Yards in slightly better time than was recorded in the Open event. J. R. Freeland (C) won both the Open Mile and Half Mile, recording creditable time in each race. D. L. Pike (G), the Captain of Athletics, improved slightly on his last year's win in the High Jump by clearing 5 ft. 5 ins. He also won the Weight and the Javelin. G. C. Robinson (W) again showed himself a good all-rounder, but he did not reach his last year's level in any of his three victories. Performances in the Weight, the Discus and the Javelin were all better than last year.

In the Under 16 events, L. R. S. Marler (G) showed good promise ; and D. S. Withers (G) did well to win the Weight with a better distance than won the Open event.

The Inter-House Cup was won by Walpole comparatively easily.

Results were as follows :—

OPEN EVENTS

100 Yards.—1, M. R. S. J. Mackey (C) ; 2, J. L. W. Hancock (W) ; 3, R. C. B. Chancellor (C). Time, 11.2 secs.
 220 Yards.—1, M. R. S. J. Mackey (C) ; 2, J. L. W. Hancock (W) ; 3, C. S. O'D. Scott (B). Time, 23.8 secs.
 440 Yards.—1, J. L. W. Hancock (W) ; 2, M. E. J. FitzGerald (G) ; 3, G. C. Robinson (W). Time, 55.8 secs.
 880 Yards.—1, J. R. Freeland (C) ; 2, R. C. B. Chancellor (C) ; 3, G. D. E. Lutyens-Humfrey (C). Time, 2 mins. 9.6 secs.
 One Mile.—1, J. R. Freeland (C) ; 2, A. T. Clarke (C) ; 3, R. C. B. Chancellor (C). Time, 4 mins. 48 secs.
 120 Yards Hurdles.—1, G. C. Robinson (W) ; 2, G. J. Chibbett (C) ; 3, P. B. Buchanan (W). Time, 19.0 secs.
 Long Jump.—1, G. C. Robinson (W) ; equal 2, M. R. S. J. Mackey (C) and C. S. O'D. Scott (B). Distance, 19 ft. 3 ins.
 High Jump.—1, D. L. Pike (G) ; 2, E. H. H. Archibald (G) ; 3, G. C. Robinson (W). Height, 5 ft. 5 ins.
 Putting the Weight.—1, D. L. Pike (G). Distance, 34 ft. 4½ ins.
 Throwing the Discus.—1, P. M. Young (C). Distance, 115 ft.
 Throwing the Javelin.—1, D. L. Pike (G). Distance, 121 ft. 1 in.
 Pole Vault.—1, G. C. Robinson (W). Height, 8 ft. 3 ins.

UNDER SIXTEEN EVENTS

100 Yards.—1, J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W). Time, 11.1 secs.
 220 Yards.—1, J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W). Time, 25.6 secs.
 440 Yards.—1, L. R. S. Marler (G). Time, 58.4 secs.
 880 Yards.—1, J. D. Lloyd (B). Time, 2 mins. 21 secs.
 Three-Quarter Mile.—1, J. F. Wells (C). Time, 4 mins. 1.6 secs.
 120 Yards Hurdles.—1, D. S. Withers (G). Time, 19.2 secs.
 Long Jump.—1, L. R. S. Marler (G). Distance, 17 ft. 1½ ins.
 High Jump.—1, D. G. A. Airey (C). Height, 4 ft. 10 ins.
 Putting the Weight.—1, D. S. Withers (G). Distance, 36 ft. 3½ ins.

UNDER FIFTEEN EVENTS

100 Yards.—1, J. M. Shinner (B). Time, 12.1 secs.
 220 Yards.—1, M. W. L. Pease (G). Time, 29.4 secs.
 880 Yards.—1, J. H. Withinshaw (C). Time, 2 mins. 31 secs.
 75 Yards Hurdles.—1, J. F. Connington (B). Time, 12.4 secs.
 Long Jump.—1, W. R. G. Short (G). Distance, 15 ft. 1½ ins.
 High Jump.—1, D. E. Bode (C). Height, 4 ft. 6 ins.

House points were as follows :—1, Walpole, 93 ; 2, Chandos, 68½ ; 3, Chatham, 58½ ; 4, Bruce, 53½ ; 5, Grenville, 52½ ; 6, Grafton, 45 ; 7, Cobham, 34 ; 8, Temple, 25.

