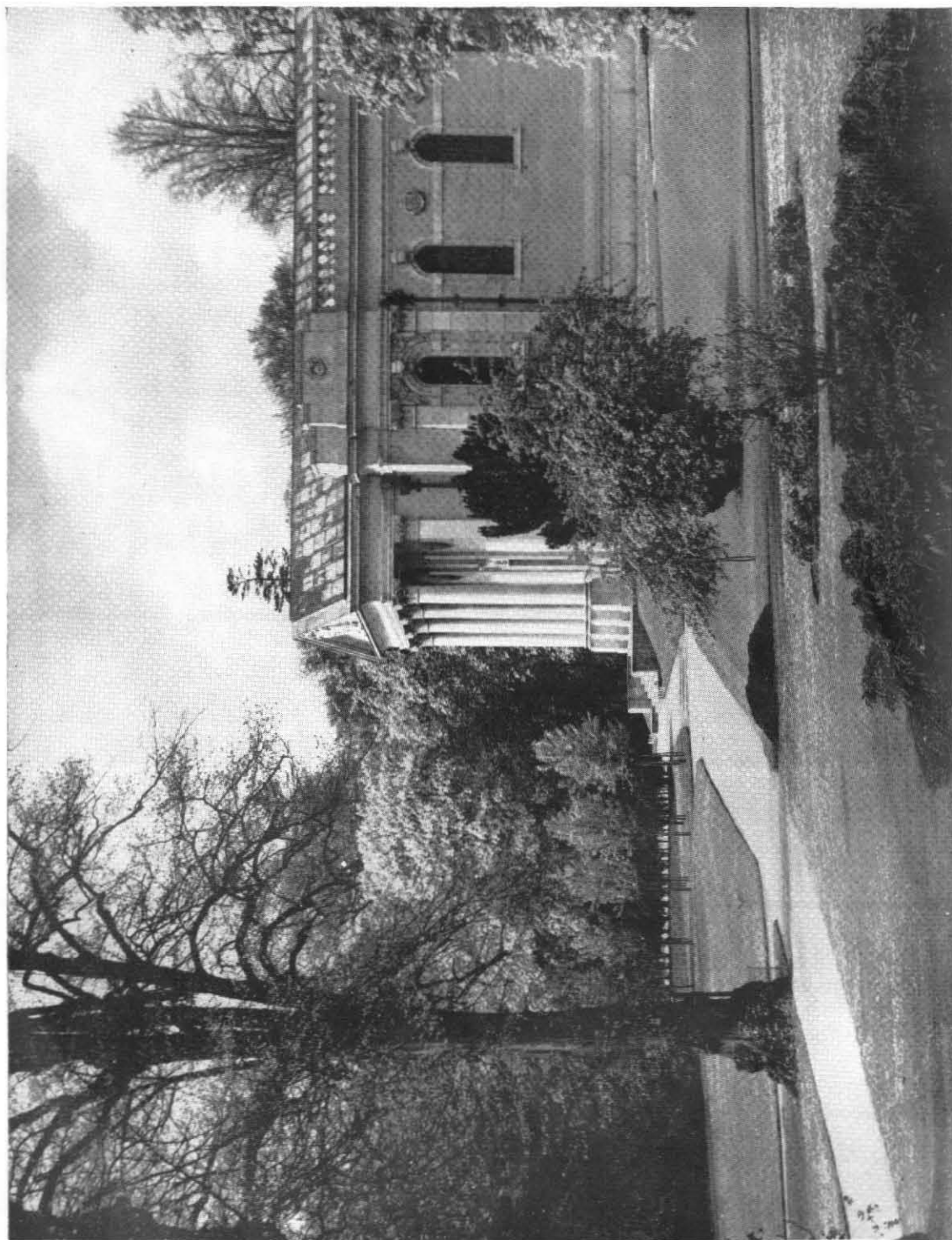


# THE STOIC



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THE CHAPEL

# THE STOIC

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## SEVENTEEN TERMS OF WAR

**W**HEN in May 1945 the war in Europe and Stowe's twenty-second year came to an end together, we realized with something of a shock that more than a quarter of the School's entire existence had been passed under blackout conditions. During this time more than one whole generation of Stoics had come and gone, and until this term began no-one now in the School had ever seen Assembly without the patch over its eye. The spectacle of the South Front pouring light from every window on the night of May 8th must have seemed a strange one indeed to every present Stoic who saw it. But to those of us who knew the place of old it was much more than strange. It was the most moving thing that we had seen since September 1939.

Darkness is not natural to us here. Our windows are many and large, and we are more accustomed to "walk delicately through clearest air," as the Athenians did of old, than to creep about in a perpetual penumbra. Our deliverance was as welcome as our durance had been vile.

It was welcome but it was not rapid. The blackout took a long time to remove—and some of it is still with us. It had also taken a long time to put on. It cost the Housemasters and some of the resident staff ten days of hard work in September 1939 to get enough screens made and enough paint put on to enable the domestic staff to return and make things ready for the School. That was very necessary, because boys began to arrive long before term began—which it did a week earlier than the date arranged. It was some weeks before all our thousand windows had been dealt with. The Art School and the Chapel were the last of all to be made usable at night, and for several months all Chapel Services were held in the morning. Since then the blackout has been continually with us—a cause of depression by day and exasperation by night. Blackout patrols by House Officials, by Prefects and by Masters occurred every night and in every sort of weather—including what seemed an excessive proportion of snow and rain.

For two terms the blackout was the worst of our war worries. But in the Summer of 1940 came the collapse of France, with all its resulting anxieties—now so difficult to recapture. One consequence was the evacuation of many of our new boys to distant lands. Thirty-two youthful Stoics went West altogether, and there was much anxious debate as to whether more should go. Then the L.D.V., soon to be renamed the Home Guard, came into being. All through the late summer (including the holidays) and the Christmas term of 1940, parties of senior Stoics patrolled the district at dawn and dusk, gaining useful experience and making acquaintance with the out-door world under new conditions, but finding no German paratroops.

The activities of the Home Guard involved much hard work for the older members of the School and for many of the Masters. The very active "Stowe Platoon" included a few Dadford men who did first-rate work and were greatly liked by the Stoics serving with them. The Platoon was considered highly efficient, and on one occasion, after a visit from the Major General who was then Inspector of Training, Home Guard, it was chosen to give a demonstration of battle drill before the whole Battalion. The responsibilities of everyone connected with the Home Guard here were heavy and the labour involved was not light. Apart from the weekly parades, there was a whole day's training each month in the winter and a whole night's training each month in the summer. Administration, too, involved long hours for those in command. All the Home Guard work had to be done in addition to the J.T.C. parades and to the ordinary occupations of a busy term, but the enthusiasm never flagged and for most people the experience gained proved itself of value later.

The Royal Observer Corps, too, when its time came, took its toll of the manpower and nervous energy available. Selected Stoics watched the sky by day from the Buckingham observation point and Masters took their turn at night, going out and returning at the most uncomfortable hours.

The bombing of London and (on one famous occasion) of Coventry did not directly affect us, but the London barrage was clearly visible night after night from the South Front, and on the evening of the Coventry raid we saw the parachute flares blazing far to the north and clearly heard the successive waves of bombers purring high overhead. On a later evening two unpleasantly near "land mines" shook the windows of the North Front as they had never been shaken before, and were greeted with derisive cheers by the inhabitants of Temple and Grenville dormitories.

During all this time and until almost the end of the war the School was regularly practised in getting to the "Out-door Shelters" and "In-door Positions" (strutted-up changing rooms), and in the North Hall the boards were covered with elaborate notices explaining the bell signals and the action to be taken on them.

The "Matrons' Mess" was the heart of the School's Civil Defence activities, and was dignified with the name of Report Centre. It was equipped with two most uncomfortable beds, several bell pushes, a selection of tin hats, a multitude of typed notices and two telephones. (Our telephone had to be manned throughout the twenty-four hours, and all raid warnings were received direct by means of it, sometimes before and frequently after the Buckingham siren sounded). The two Alert Sergeants, recruited from different Houses each night, occupied the room till 11 p.m. when they were relieved by the Alert Officers, who spent the rest of the night there taking active and passive roles alternately—and occasionally correcting exercises.

Gas-masks were merely a nuisance. But they were certainly that. Every term they had to be checked in and re-fitted, and during the worst part of the war they had to be worn for short spells in Preparation, in order that if need arose it might not seem quite impossible to live in them. For a long time the law compelled us to carry them with us wherever we went. But gradually the law lapsed into desuetude and the masks themselves into oblivion.

Fire parties were trained by every House, and the patrolling of inaccessible roofs and the manipulation of stirrup pumps in uncomfortable nooks and crannies became a habitual feature in the lives of many of us. No incendiary could have fallen anywhere upon our many acres of roof without being rapidly located and sprayed or suffocated by agile Stoics in eccentric dress.

First Aid courses were frequent, and term by term teams worked at stretcher drill, practised mutual bandaging and learned about "pressure points."

It all seemed rather unreal, and in fact our preparations were never tested by reality. Only once were we bombed and then manifestly by accident. At 2.30 a.m. on May 9th, 1941—a night on which in London an even more august institution was attacked—a German plane, presumably fleeing from night fighters and certainly trying to gain height, dropped eight small bombs to the south of the School. The craters formed an arc of a circle which began 180 yards to the south of the South Front steps, passed near the second green and through the cricket-bat willows and ended in Chatham field, north of the lake. Over a hundred windows were broken and a large piece of plaster fell from the ceiling of the south portico on to the tin hat of the watching Alert Officer. The plaster has not yet been replaced. Some bomb fragments were found as far to the north as the most distant Cricket nets, and the South Front grounds were covered with pieces of metal which would have troubled the groundsmen sorely had they not been collected next day by souvenir hunters. No-one was hurt even by the broken glass, but a fragment of steel struck the wall of a Chatham dormitory just above a sleeping Stoic's head. The bombs were not large but if they had hit the buildings there must have been loss of life. We had been lucky and we knew it. But we felt some satisfaction in realizing that we were not, after all, as indecently safe as we had sometimes thought ourselves. We, too, had had our bombs.

In the same summer, appropriately enough, the A.T.C. was founded and seventy-two cadets went over to it from the J.T.C.

Farming and Forestry Camps were now regularly held, and Rendcomb is a name which will bring back mixed memories—mostly agreeable—to many Stoics. At Stowe itself, volunteers assembled each year in the summer to help with the local harvest. There were many laborious days and many days on which labour that would have been welcome was made impossible by rain. To feed the harvesters a cook-house of villainous appearance was erected on the lawn outside the Bruce Dining Room. It disappeared unlamented in May of this year and the scar which it left behind has been temporarily masked by dahlias and antirrhinums.

Many Masters had left at the very beginning of the war and soon everyone of military age disappeared into the Services. Ultimately out of a staff of forty-two not less than twenty-two had gone. Two of these unhappily can never return.

Meanwhile the Old Stoic casualty lists were lengthening. On Armistice Day 1940, 22 Old Stoics had been commemorated; in 1941 the number had risen to 50; in 1942 it was 95. It became a misery (as it still is) to look at back numbers of *The Stoic*. In the July number of 1941 "Coriolanus," given in modern dress, had been criticized and illustrated. The three principal actors, who took "Coriolanus," "Menenius Agrippa" and "Volumnia," had gone on to the Rifle Brigade, the Grenadier Guards and the Black Watch. It was not long before we heard that they would not act again. In almost every number as one turns the pages one finds stories, articles, poems and photographs by Stoics whose names have since been read out in Chapel on Armistice Day. But on this aspect of the war—the one which has touched us most nearly during all these years—nothing can properly be said at present.

In the 1940 Blitz the original Pineapple building in Frampton Street, Marylebone, had been badly damaged. In the Summer of 1942, we learned that it had been completely destroyed by incendiaries. The Club has since led a somewhat restricted existence in the Maida Hill premises.



In the same summer, we were nearly bombed again. An hour before breakfast on July 7th, 1942, five small bombs fell six hundred yards to the north-east of the buildings. A barn and a hay elevator belonging to a neighbour were destroyed. The only damage to Stowe was the cracking of one north-facing window. What the high-flying bomber hoped to effect on such a morning (with rain pouring down and a cloud-ceiling of four hundred feet) must remain a mystery. The theory that he had been sent specially to destroy the elevator was not felt to be tenable.

During the summer holidays of 1942 when, as we afterwards learnt, American troops were pouring into England in preparation for the African landings, we were asked to make room at Stowe for a displaced British unit and did so willingly if without enthusiasm. The newcomers proved to be excellent neighbours and although they occupied twelve classrooms, the pavilion, the hostel and much other accommodation, they were on personal grounds most welcome. As the Commanding Officer was a noted Rugby Football player, his occupation of the pavilion was not allowed to interfere excessively with the convenience of our own XV. There were, however, certain disadvantages in addition to the loss of rooms. The cook-house which was built outside the Vanbrugh classrooms produced more noise, smell and smoke than was conducive to either concentration or comfort in Rooms 6 and 19. The N.A.A.F.I. wireless too, which seemed to be kept on all day, was sometimes rather too audible from Rooms 14 and 15. But these were small matters and did not outweigh the help given to us by the soldiers in the solving of some practical problems. When they left at Christmas 1943 they were genuinely missed.

During this year military necessity compelled the felling of the trees on Mr. Davies' Avenue, and the immediate approach to the School took on an air of desolation which has become more and more depressing with the passage of time and the growth of innumerable elm suckers. Only now has a modest start been made on the rehabilitation of this "devastated area."

As the war dragged on and both paint and painters became harder to come by, the buildings grew steadily more shabby. Weeds too flourished on paths and in courtyards, of whose trimness we had once been proud. Yet all the time the lawns nearest to the School were kept well cut and the Cricket Fields looked nearly as good in 1944 as they had looked in 1939.

Decorations were being recorded in increasing numbers during all this time. In July 1943 the School's first V.C. was gained by J. T. McK. Anderson at the capture of Longstop Hill. In the following April, G. L. Cheshire was awarded his third D.S.O. and in the summer holidays his V.C. was announced on the wireless.

The Old Stoics' letters printed in *The Stoic* continued for a long time to describe the North African fighting. But the moment came when they were filled with accounts of Italy (always flattering) and of the Italians (generally critical).

The J.T.C. had of course been working at pressure from the beginning of the war. The death of R.S.M. Sherwood in the spring of 1943 was a blow to the contingent, but two excellent P.S.I.s were soon found. The Corps did not work only for itself. During several school holidays in 1942 and 1943 courses of instruction were held at Stowe for Army Cadet Force Officers, of whom 187 were carefully prepared for Certificate A. In May 1944 the Naval Section of the J.T.C. was founded and the flow of Stoics to the R.N.V.R. increased rapidly in volume.

In *The Stoic* of July 1944 came the first reference to the landings in Normandy. Two months before that the School had come of age, and some hundreds of telegrams had been received from the various battle fronts.

On the Armistice Day of 1944 the death in action of 190 Stoics was commemorated. The number rose rapidly in the following months and by VE-Day had almost reached the present total of 234.

VE-Day itself occurred, unluckily for us, on the first day of the new term. Exactly half the School returned and for forty-eight hours amused itself as it could, scraping black paint from windows with razor blades and collecting material for what proved a very satisfying bon-fire. On the night of May 9th our victory bon-fire blazed where precisely four years before the first of our eight bombs had made its modest crater.

## DECORATIONS

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

### BAR TO D.S.O.

GROUP-CAPTAIN H. S. L. DUNDAS, D.S.O., D.F.C. (W, 1938), R.A.F.V.R.

### D.S.O.

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

On 20th February, 1945, the Battalion attacked South of Goch to capture three strongly held positions on the enemy line of communications. Major Brodie, commanding "D" Company, had as his objective a house and trenches strongly held by the enemy. When some 200 yards from the position, his Company came under withering fire from several enemy machine guns in and around the house, and the advance was checked. Realizing that the situation called for desperate measures, Major Brodie immediately dashed forward with a few men completely regardless of the intense enemy fire. On the way to the house he shot dead with his revolver two enemy machine-gunners in a pit and continued straight to the house where he forced an entry with his revolver and grenades. During this time he was twice wounded in the legs, but he paid no attention to the wounds. His Company were so inspired by his action that they followed after him and cleaned up the enemy posts near the house and the remaining enemy in the house, collecting some 37 prisoners. There were still some enemy in an orchard and buildings nearby who were firing bazookas and machine guns at his position. Undeterred by this fire or by the considerable pain of his wounds, Major Brodie now assaulted this position with five men. During this assault he was twice more wounded, but continued undaunted to storm the position and kill or capture the enemy in it. By now he was weak from loss of blood, but would not allow himself to be evacuated until he had re-organized his position satisfactorily. He completed this so well that at dawn, when his Company was counter-attacked by two self-propelled guns and infantry, it was able to beat them off. Major Brodie's courageous and heroic leadership, his dauntless determination and devotion to duty were largely responsible for the capture of a vital position, which completely dominated the main Goch road and denied its use to the enemy.

MAJOR R. L. COKE, M.C. (C, 1935), Scots Guards.

### BAR TO M.C.

LIEUTENANT J. L. ELVY, M.C. (T, 1934), S.S.B. Armoured Division, U.D.F.

MAJOR A. C. R. ALBERY, M.C. (G, 1935), R.E.

MAJOR J. P. FANE, M.C. (B, 1939), Gloucestershire Regiment.

### M.C.

MAJOR S. D. WILLIAMS (B, 1932), R.E. (att. Airborne Division).

CAPTAIN C. H. K. DALY (G, 1934), R.A.M.C.

CAPTAIN R. O. M. WILLIAMS (W, 1935), Royal Corps of Signals.

- CAPTAIN T. L. DEWHURST (B, 1938), Rifle Brigade.  
 CAPTAIN D. A. H. TOLER (G, 1939), Coldstream Guards.  
 CAPTAIN J. E. C. NICHOLL (B, 1939), Royal Artillery (att. No. 2 Commando).  
 MAJOR M. B. SCHOLFIELD (T, 1939), 27th Lancers.  
 LIEUTENANT G. M. SCOTT (G, 1940), 10th Royal Hussars.  
 LIEUTENANT J. F. L. ROBINSON (W, 1941), 27th Lancers.

**D.F.C.**

SQUADRON-LEADER W. E. M. EDDY, D.S.O. (G, 1926), R.A.F.V.R.

SQUADRON-LEADER P. A. FRIEND (B, 1932), R.A.F.V.R.

**O.B.E.**

MR. G. R. DE HAVILLAND (C, 1927), Senior Test Pilot, De Havilland Aircraft Co.

**M.B.E.**

MAJOR A. G. HOWLAND JACKSON (T, 1929), Grenadier Guards.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT D. C. L. CHIDDELL (G, 1933), R.A.F.V.R.

## CASUALTIES

**KILLED**

- LIEUTENANT E. R. WILLIAMS (G, 1927), Royal Tank Corps, in 1945.  
 MAJOR D. H. A. KEMBLE, M.C. (T, 1930), Scots Guards, in April 1945.  
 MAJOR E. A. F. WIDDRINGTON, M.C. (G, 1932), 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.  
 CAPTAIN R. H. MONTEITH (B, 1935), Grenadier Guards, in March 1945.  
 CAPTAIN C. E. W. ROBINS (T, 1935), Royal Engineers, in April 1945.  
 SUB-LIEUTENANT A. R. G. PEARCE (G, 1935), R.N.V.R. (Previously reported missing).  
 FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT T. P. WALSH (T, 1937), R.A.F., in April 1945.  
 CAPTAIN P. BASSETT WILSON, M.C. (C, 1937), 9th Commando, in April 1945.  
 CAPTAIN J. M. HENRY (C, 1939), The Parachute Regiment, at Arnhem in September 1944.  
 LIEUTENANT R. H. ANSTEY (C, 1939), 8th K.R.I. Hussars, in March 1945.  
 LIEUTENANT A. B. HUTCHISON (G, 1941), 10th Royal Hussars, in April 1945.  
 FLYING-OFFICER J. L. GRIFFITH (G, 1941), R.A.F.V.R. (On active service.)  
 LIEUTENANT M. H. A. ROBINSON (W, 1943), Rifle Brigade, in April 1945.  
 LIEUTENANT W. H. STRUTHERS (C, 1943), Scots Guards, in April 1945.

## EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM OLD STOICS IN THE SERVICES

**THEY TURN TO THE BRITISH**

It is very moving to see how every nation turns to the British for protection and fair treatment. German P.O.Ws. fall on our shoulders when we arrive to release them from the Partisans; the Italians weep on our necks when we release them from the Jugoslavs, and the Jugoslavs sob with joy when we release them from the Germans. If the British have done nothing more in their history they have made themselves known all over the world as a nation that plays fair and insists on fair play for others . . . The P.O.Ws. are coming in by hordes appealing to us, the British, as soldiers to protect them from the Partisans. Our Staff Captain rescued 300 Germans from a living death the other day. They had been shut up by the Partisans in a cave for four days without food or water. They wept, these Germans, when they saw us. Up the Herrenvolk! Extraordinary, isn't it, that at the end of it all it is only to the English that they can turn with the certainty of receiving merciful treatment . . .

. . . Everywhere it is a case of my country first, but if there is a second then England! The Regimental drums are doing a stirring work and already the Tommy is his usual popular self. It makes one proud of one's country to see how our chaps behave. There is no conceit nor brassing; they are just their natural selves, prepared to fraternize with the toughest Partisan (of whatever breed) armed to the teeth or with the latest German P.O.W. Needless to say, while everyone else is armed our fellows walk about with side-belts only—and not one of them has ever been assaulted . . . No-one is going to stop the Tommy from fraternizing. You should see the way the hordes of German P.O.Ws. are treated here. And one cannot stop it. It is in the English nature to be kind, and if we begin to try and act agin' our nature a fat lot of chance there will be for world peace. Kindness certainly did not prevent the second world war, but brutality would not have prevented it either; it was the conduct subsequent to the kindness that messed up the last peace. So I am all for fraternization and being our natural selves.

**TOADYING AND TRUCULENCE**

Our reception by the Austrians has been good, but the released British P.O.Ws. tell me that as a nation they are pretty two-faced. They were very hard on the prisoners when Germany was winning, but swung round like Vicars of Bray when the tide turned. The German soldiers are incredible: they positively enjoy creeping and crawling to one and asking for orders. One takes an interpreter to a house and points out that it will be evacuated for the military immediately; the German in charge delights in toadying and getting it all laid on. Actually, of course, being British, we heartily dislike turning people out of their homes and we are apt to put ourselves in the worst part of the building, giving way (inconveniently) to our human instincts. It is just the way we treated the Italians. Can anybody fail to like the English soldier, however much they try to hate him? And, of course, fraternization is proceeding flat out! I am just waiting for the first chap to come up and ask for permission to marry a fraülein. Only one or two Panzer Generals, including one Corps Commander—an absolute swine—have we really jumped on, and by Jove it gave me some pleasure to do the jumping!

**RACIAL MISCELLANY**

Our present area is the racial sump of Europe: Chetniks in their thousands, Titoists, German P.O.Ws., Austrian P.O.Ws., Austrian patriots, Czechs, Roumanians, Poles, French, ex-British P.O.Ws., ex-Yank P.O.Ws., Russians still fighting, Russian ex-P.O.Ws. of Germans—these are a few of the diverse types that arrive in their thousands, hungry, in rags, too weak sometimes to walk. We have to sort them out, trying all the time to retain friendly relations with the Russians and the Jugoslavs. It is one of our principal jobs to prevent troubles which are always just going to break out—from looting, pillaging and rape, to strikes and civil war.

## A GERMAN ARMY H.Q.

On VE-Day I had a chance to visit the Headquarters of the 25th German Army. It was in the residential district of Hilversum and it took the form of a large and excellently camouflaged concrete bunker. It was a huge affair—at least 100 yards long by 20 yards wide. The walls were 10 to 12ft. thick and the roof consisted of 15ft. of solid reinforced concrete. After penetrating the gas-proof doors and passing the defence posts you came to the offices—Operations, Intelligence and Administration—and the telephone exchange manned by German A.T.S. Then came the luxurious living quarters of the Staff Officers. First of all we interviewed the German Chief of Staff, who was quite a fine looking soldier of about fifty and less of a Prussian in appearance than one would have expected. But I felt at once that his affable and disarming manner did not in the least represent what was going on inside his mind. Then we interviewed the Intelligence Staff—a most efficient body of automata. I think we all came to the conclusion that day that it is essential for the life of Europe that the German General Staff should be completely and finally uprooted and destroyed. At about five minutes to three we asked for a wireless in order to hear Churchill's VE-Day speech. There we stood with four or five German Senior Staff Officers beside us listening to the P.M. announcing and explaining the utter defeat of Germany. When the speech came to an end, the B.B.C. began to play "God save the King." Immediately the German officers snapped to attention and stood rigid.

## BELSEN

The people in the camp are of all nationalities, French, Belgian, Dutch, Poles, Russians, Czechs and Hungarians, only about fifty per cent. being Jews. Their condition was so horrifying that it made one's brain reel. Seven hundred to one thousand people had been crammed into one small hut, without any vestige of sanitation, and the dead were intermixed with the living—although in some cases a few of the living had had just sufficient strength to push the corpses through the windows. The smell of rotting foecal matter and of death spread for miles beyond the camp boundaries. I could go on describing such horrors indefinitely, but I won't. I can assure you however that there is nothing any journalist could find in this place which it would be necessary to exaggerate or distort in any way. In fact the truth is so frightful that no paper would dare print all of it . . . .

. . . . The typhus and the dirt are the result of Germany's collapse, but the gas chambers and crematoriums are, or were, part of the normal routine of these places.

Most of the inmates are mentally and culturally of a low type, although you find hundreds of exceptions. The head cook in my camp kitchen is an old lady of great dignity, the Countess of K——, whose only crime was that her daughter of eighteen wrote to a friend saying she disliked the Nazis. Because of this, her husband and son were sent to Buchenwald, her two daughters and herself to Belsen. One daughter has died of starvation and the old lady looks like death herself . . . .

Eugenically, Hitler was perhaps right in deliberately attempting to destroy these races. In spite of their great histories they are a collection of tired and brutish peasantry. However, you cannot justify his action by any principle of Christianity. Many of these people have only been confined in these camps during the last few months. They were part of Germany's forced labour gangs of men and women who worked in the war factories and who in the evenings were herded into the large barbed-wire compounds that you find in the yards of nearly every German factory.

I live in the old Officers' Quarters and the contrast between them and the camp two miles away is terrific. The comfort is almost excessive, the baths are magnificent, and the walls are decorated with pretty-pretty pictures of mothers and children and some very German pin-up girls! I have a squad of Germans doing some of the dirty work for me in the other camp, and they, also, are very typical. They are very clean and work like the devil. When I ask them why they allowed their country to perpetrate these horrors, they shrug their shoulders and say:—"Herr Kommandant, it was nothing to do with us—and anyway these people are of an inferior race."

## CORVETTE AND COALER

Actually it was by mistake that I got onto this French Corvette. We were standing by to coal her, but when she began to come alongside there was the most frightful shimozzle. Nobody on the Corvette understood the instructions we shouted to them, and we did not understand them either. Finally in her attempts to get into the right position the Corvette managed to ram us.

I thought it was time to air my Stowe French. So I clambered up from the grimy depths of our coalhold and tried to make the two sides understand each other's requirements. I also made it clear to the Frenchmen that I should quite like to stay with them for a bit, and, as they did not seem shocked by the suggestion, I did so. After three lively and diverting days a signal was received saying that I was to proceed on leave immediately. This was an order which I had no objection to obeying and my skin has now been comparatively clear of coal for several days.

## BELGIUM AND BELSEN

Paris was charming. Brussels was more delightful still. Nijmegen was foul (we were shelled there all night and every night for three months). Sittard, where I went next, was nastier still.

Then came the Ardennes, where I had a fortnight of glorious weather with fifteen inches of snow—as good as a holiday.

On the way to the peaceful spot which I now occupy I had a look at the concentration camp at Belsen. Nothing that I had read in the papers had prepared me for the ghastliness of the place. I won't give you details. But perhaps it was the stench that will remain longest in my memory, though the sight of the people (dead and alive) was the most appalling experience I have ever had.

## R.A.C. CADET

Life here is quite tolerable. We have now got through the stage of being shouted at by leather-faced sergeants on the square and chased everywhere by corporals whose sole ambition is to get us off their hands and themselves out of the Army. Nor are we now informed daily (by people who have never been there) that Burma is the most frightful place on earth. In our new existence we spend our time climbing about inside tanks where there is no room to climb and tightening up nuts that are tight already—meanwhile getting our clothes, hair, skin and soul saturated with oil. For a change we occasionally swing ourselves over rivers on ropes suspended from tree-tops or climb painfully and perilously over walls which it would have been very much easier to go round.

## OCCUPYING GERMANY

It is difficult to generalize about the people, since they vary so much. But in the country at least my experience of them is that they are all desperately fed up with war and have been so for a long time. When we arrived they seemed grateful that they were not shot out of hand and they don't seem to be up to any tricks. Still, we take no chances. We find too that it never pays to accept a German's first statement. The other day we went out in search of wine, of which we had been told there was plenty about. A farmer told us with every sign of conviction and sincerity that he had not a drop left. However, one of the Russian "slave workers" who had been working on his land heard what he said. This chap came over with long strides, took the farmer by the scruff of his neck and shook him till he rattled. The farmer thereupon called for mercy and produced half a dozen bottles of high quality Schnapps from under a heap of potatoes. There has been plenty of hoarding of all kinds—particularly among the leading Nazis. In the quarters of one of them we discovered hundreds of boxes of sweets and chocolates. After taking what we wanted for our own men we threw handfuls to the village children, thereby contravening several regulations at the same time.

The German soldiers vary as much as the civilians do. But though some of the civilians are tolerable, I don't like any of the soldiers. In particular their Paratroops are absolute swine. Towards the end of the fighting it was quite common for them to shoot at men of their own side who had been taken prisoner. Some of them blazed off at a batch of prisoners that I was bringing in the other day. That made me pretty angry—especially as they nearly hit me!

## COMBINED OPS IN BURMA

This landing incidentally was the worst from the physical point of view that Combined Ops. have had to do. It took twenty minutes from the time they left the landing craft to the time they reached land. The heaviest loaded had to be dug out of the mud. Once they got ashore, tanks, Commandos and in the later stages Gurkhas made short work of what Japs were left.

. . . . The whole coastal strip is intersected by tidal mud-baths called "Chaungs." In the past we held the headwaters of these while the Jap held the mouths, so that they had the use of them for supply and manoeuvre. However, when we took Akyab, although there were no Japs there, it completely turned the tables. We went haring up the Chaungs shooting up the Jap L. of C. and in fact had quite a bit of fun.

## OLIM ALUMNI

MR. C. F. CULLIS (W, 1941) has gained a First Class in the Final School of Chemistry at Oxford.

MR. J. G. CAMERON (C, 1943), who gained a First Class in the first part of the Mechanical Sciences Tripos at Cambridge in June 1944, gained a First Class in the second part of the same Tripos in June 1945.

MR. H. P. WOOD (B, 1943) stroked the Trinity College boat which went head of the river at Cambridge in the May Races of 1945.

## MARRIAGES

LIEUTENANT J. S. DURLACHER (C, 1930) to Miss G. Adams, on May 18th; LIEUTENANT R. C. GORDON (C, 1939) to Miss S. E. Hanby, on February 23rd (in Virginia, U.S.A.); LIEUTENANT R. A. H. GRAHAM (B, 1933) to Miss R. Diserens, on August 28th, 1944; LIEUTENANT A. K. FRAZER (T, 1938) to Miss N. L. Hughes, on March 30th, 1944; MAJOR S. D. WILLIAMS, M.C. (B, 1932) to Miss M. Tayler, on January 29th, 1944; CAPTAIN B. H. G. SPARROW, M.C. (W, 1939) to Miss Patricia Cox, on July 7th; LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. W. A. LLEWELLEN-PALMER, D.S.O., M.C. (C, 1930) to the Hon. Veronica Saumarez, on July 12th.

LIEUTENANT E. R. WILLIAMS (G, 1927) to Miss B. M. Kemball, on July 31st, 1940; MR. N. P. CROOKSTON (T, 1930) to Miss Byriell, on August 22nd, 1944 (in Sydney); MAJOR A. G. HOWLAND-JACKSON, M.B.E. (T, 1929) to Miss E. Bruce Nicol, on June 2nd; LIEUTENANT D. N. DAVIES (B, 1939), R.N.V.R., to Miss P. Trehearne, on July 21st; SUB-LIEUTENANT (A) W. V. MACHIN (W, 1941) to Miss E. Thomas, on May 30th.

## BIRTHS

To the wife of CAPTAIN L. W. A. JOHNSON (T, 1933), a son, on November 26th, 1944; to the wife of LIEUTENANT M. F. VILLIERS-STUART (T, 1930), a daughter, on March 16th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT SIR JOHN CLERK, Bt. (G, 1933), a son, on April 3rd; to the wife of CAPTAIN THE HON. J. R. C. GEDDES (T, 1932), a son, on April 6th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT D. A. YELLOWLEES (C, 1939), a daughter, on March 29th; to the wife of FLYING-OFFICER J. MELVIN (G, 1930), a daughter, on April 11th; to the wife of CAPTAIN P. E. DAWSON (C, 1933), a son, on April 16th; to the wife of MAJOR K. P. P. GOLDSCHMIDT (C, 1935), a son, on April 17th; to the wife of MR. L. M. MIALL (C, 1930), a daughter, on April 18th; to the wife of MAJOR A. H. ROOSMALE-COCQ, M.C. (C, 1928), a daughter, on March 29th; to the wife of CAPTAIN H. J. MIALL (B, 1929), a son, on April 26th; to the wife of MAJOR C. W. HESKETH (C, 1927), a son, on May 10th.

To the wife of MAJOR P. E. M. HOLMES (B, 1929), a daughter, on June 22nd; to the wife of FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT T. P. WALSH (T, 1937) (killed on active service), a son, on July 3rd; to the wife of LIEUTENANT E. R. WILLIAMS (G, 1927), a son, on June 25th, 1942; to the wife of LIEUTENANT J. S. FILLEUL, D.S.C. and Bar (G, 1938), a son, on May 28th; to the wife of DR. P. G. H. GELL (T, 1932), a son, on June 12th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT H. E. JOSSELYN, D.S.C. (T, 1931), a daughter, on June 1st; to the wife of CAPTAIN J. H. PENROSE (G, 1933), R.A.M.C., a daughter, on July 11th.

## STOICA

*School Officials—Summer Term, 1945.*

*Prefects*:—J. V. Bartlett (T), Head of the School; E. M. Arnold (G), Second Prefect; J. S. B. Gubbins (T), Prefect of Library; C. B. S. Dawson (C), Prefect of Gymnasium; J. R. Freeland (C), Prefect of Chapel; H. A. S. Murray (C); I. B. Church (W); J. A. R. Anson (G); W. H. Atkinson (B); J. F. Elliott (C); M. J. A. Davies (T); R. K. Kurk (G); A. J. O. Ritchie (T); J. F. Chance (C); G. P. Lewis (B).

*Cricket*:—Captain, J. V. Bartlett (T); Secretary, E. M. Arnold (G).

*Lawn Tennis*:—Captain, K. W. Milligan (C).

*Swimming*:—Captain, M. B. Le Poer Trench (C).

The following visitors have preached in Chapel this term:—May 20th, The Rev. Dr. H. J. Chaytor, Master of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge; June 10th, The Lord Bishop of Buckingham; June 17th, The Venerable C. H. Ritchie, Archdeacon of Northumberland; July 15th, Reverend Kenneth M. Carey, Secretary of the Central Advisory Committee of Training for the Ministry.

Chapel Collections this term have been as follows:—May 13th, Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, £35 16s. od.; May 20th, The Pineapple, £32 os. 4d.; June 24th, St. Dunstan's, £29 os. od.; July 15th, King George's Fund for Sailors, £30 11s. 1d.

A prize, to be called the Wallace Prize for Geography, has been founded to commemorate the association with the School of M. R. Wallace (C, 1940), D. C. Wallace (C, 1941), who was killed in action in July 1944, and I. F. Wallace (C, 1944).

Of the two-hundred odd Active Service Decorations so far gained by Old Stoics, just over one hundred are Military Crosses.

Among many interesting questions answered by a Brains Trust organized for the School by the Nonesuch Club this term were: 'What suggestions would the Brains Trust offer for making men's clothes more interesting?', 'Who is the greatest man that has ever lived?' (answers ranged from Buddha to the inventor of umbrellas), and 'What are the ideal qualities of a Headmaster?'. The Headmaster was Question-Master.

The first of what may become an annual series of polls of public opinion at Stowe was conducted by the Nonesuch Club this term. 488 Stoics anonymously submitted answers to 15 questions, and the results were worked out for each house. Unfortunately, lack of space makes it impossible to print more than the results for the School as a whole. The questionnaire and the results (expressed as percentages) were as follows:

	Yes	No	Non-committal
1. Do you believe in co-education? ... ..	45	49	6
2. Do you consider work more important than games? ... ..	70	22	8
3. Are you glad you joined one of the corps (or sorry you didn't)?	53	37	10
4. Are you sorry for the masters? ... ..	39	56	5
5. Have you a definite aim in life? ... ..	80	17	3
6. Do you want to be famous? ... ..	44	44	12
7. Are you going to be married? ... ..	77	6	17
8. Do you think you contribute enough to Stowe? ... ..	44	43	13
9. Would you rather have a different face? ... ..	22	75	3
10. Would you do any work if it were voluntary? ... ..	89	8	3
11. Would you play school games if they were voluntary? ... ..	81	15	4
12. Are you satisfied with your life as it is? ... ..	43	52	5
13. Do you ever think unless you have to? ... ..	90	7	3
14. Are you the same person at school as at home? ... ..	14	82	4
15. Would you be ashamed if your answers were published with your name to them? ... ..	7	92	1

The projected date for a 1st XV match against the Old Stoics is Wednesday, November 28th. Will anyone who would like to play for the Old Stoics please send his name and position to A. D. Thomson, Middlesex Hospital, W.1.

The Basil Williamson Memorial Prize for the best Prefect of the year has been awarded to E. M. Arnold (G).

The Bruxner-Randall Memorial Prize for the best Monitor of the year has been awarded to D. B. Morgan-Grenville (W).

Medical Examination Results:—Cambridge: 1st M.B., Pt. III, J. V. Nicholl (G); Pt. IV, W. M. Browne (C). Oxford: Preliminary Examination in Natural Science: Biology, E. D. R. Campbell (G); Chemistry and Physics, M. J. A. Davies (T).

School Colours have been awarded as follows:—

Cricket.—1st XI:—A. F. Cottier (C), G. C. Robinson (W), M. E. J. FitzGerald (G), P. M. Young (C) (re-awarded); J. F. Chance (C), M. R. de B. Bate (W), D. A. Illingworth (G), W. L. N. Brinson (C), J. J. Crossley (G).

2nd XI:—M. D. T. Loup (T), F. D. A. Binns (W), M. J. A. Davies (T), M. D. K. Burns (B), R. M. Bartlett (T), C. A. Hancox (G), P. D. Lloyd (T), J. M. Lewis (T).

3rd XI:—D. R. S. Kingan (T), J. M. Lewis (T), A. J. O. Ritchie (T), N. J. Philon (C), M. D. J. McDiarmid (W), H. D. W. Rhodes (C), G. C. W. Gairdner (G), P. D. Haigh (C), J. H. Bourdon Smith (G), P. N. Briggs (C), P. V. Rycroft (C).

Colts Caps:—A. J. Struthers (C), D. A. McL. Connell (G), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), S. B. Lloyd (C), O. B. Sayer (T), D. S. Withers (G), D. E. Conington (B), C. A. Wauhope (C), M. Birkett (T), R. A. W. Pointing (B), J. F. Conington (B).

Lawn Tennis:—J. A. R. Anson (G) (re-awarded); H. R. Marten (T), M. J. A. Davies (T).

Swimming:—P. C. Murphy (G) (re-awarded); I. B. Church (W), J. C. Harper (C), C. S. Edwards (C), D. R. Grossmark (C).

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 1945

F. J. PEARCE (A. F. Fetherstonhaugh, The Leas, Glenridding); J. P. ARNOLD (W. P. Singleton, The Elms, Colwall); T. M. IRVINE (T. G. Hughes, Rosehill-Cordwalles, Wotton-under-Edge); S. J. TWIST (J. Shewell Cooper, Caldicott, Farnham Royal); N. E. WATES (W. R. Gervis, St. Aubyn's, Bettws-y-Coed); J. D. NIGHTINGALE (A. M. D. Grenfell, Mostyn House, Parkgate); B. F. BRINDLEY (H. D. R. P. Lindsay, Gadebridge, Hemel Hempstead).

## ANNUAL COMPETITION PRIZES 1945

BASIL AIMERS PRIZE FOR READING:

HAYWARD PRIZE FOR READING:

JUNIOR READING PRIZE:

PETERS BONE PRIZE:

BRYAN HENSHAW PRIZE FOR ENGLISH SPEECH—Senior:

Junior:

ROBERT BARBOUR PRIZE FOR SCRIPTURE:

BURROUGHS ESSAY PRIZE (Divinity):

CHARLES LOUDON PRIZES FOR GREEK—Prose:

Translation:

QUENTIN BERTRAM PRIZES—Essay:

Latin Prose:

PRIZE FOR LATIN ORATION:

J. G. RIESS PRIZES FOR MODERN LANGUAGES—Senior:

Junior:

SYRETT HISTORY PRIZE:

HUMPHREY FOSTER PRIZE FOR NATURAL SCIENCE:

HAYWARD PRIZE FOR CHEMISTRY:

H.M. EVANS PRIZE FOR BIOLOGY:

STEWART PRIZE FOR MATHEMATICS:

PEARMAN SMITH PRIZE FOR MATHEMATICS (Middle School):

JAMES MAYNE PRIZE FOR ECONOMICS:

J. R. Freeland (C)

J. V. Nicholl (G)

G. R. A. Miskin (W)

A. W. B. Hayward (G)

W. M. Browne (C)

Not awarded

G. L. E. Spier (G)

A. N. Griffith (B)

Not awarded

J. R. Freeland (C)

No Entry

H. A. S. Murray (C)

J. C. Matthews (G)

N. J. Philon (C)

N. N. Proddow (C)

J. J. Davis (T)

R. G. A. Pearce (B)

Not yet awarded

W. M. Browne (C)

O. G. Taylor (C)

Not yet awarded

Not yet awarded

## INTRODUCTION TO GOOD MUSIC

Francisca was her name and she did amusing but immoral dances every Saturday night on the famous thirty-five foot bar in "Nick's Saloon." We weren't very old, and so our attendance on the sixth night of the week at the Saloon was gravely frowned upon by authority (in the form of a grandmother) and we were subject to every possible means of discouragement, from the stopping of our weekly supply of pocket-money to regular trips to child psychologists. We soon decided that life was no longer possible under such conditions, and disguised our real intentions when we set off, dressed to kill, on Saturday night with a mumbled inaudible explanation which could have been "going skating."

But alas, would the gawky world of adults never understand? We liked Francisca; we liked her graceful antics on Nick's bar, and we weren't a naughty, disgusting child either. We were learning the ways of the world and enjoying ourselves very much during our holiday, when (as we pointed out) we weren't meant to be studying, but learning to be a worthy citizen.



But, our little heart was not so hard that authority's final ruse should fail—tears. They always work, especially with grandmothers, and our case was no exception. Yes, we would give up our Saturday evening next week. Yes, we would go to the Opera with her—and sit in a box—how extraordinarily thrilling! (how perfectly nauseating! but pocket money in New York is an essential).

We awaited the day with doubt—no, with fear in our mind, and when it came it was almost painful. Dismally that evening, as we reluctantly imprisoned ourselves in our best, we meditated on our fate. No Bob Haget furiously “slapping that bass,” no Willie Wilson's trumpet wailing above the murmur of happy drunk people and no—oh, God, it came and struck us like a thunderbolt—no Francisca. Instead—an opera with our grandmother.

The exact moment came, and as we climbed into our seats we remember thinking how much greater, how much more beautiful and sincere was the dowdy red plush of Nick's to this pseudo-grandeur of the Metropolitan Opera House.

Then the curtain went up.

That is the end of our story, and it may seem strange that this little episode in our life should be our introduction to good music; but believe it or not, it was. From that Saturday on, Bob Haget, Willie Wilson, Nick, and even—yes—even Francisca were left far behind in the past. We had been convinced that perhaps there was something in this music which before we had always despised, and we were determined to find and recover the thrill of that Saturday night. Every chance we had we accompanied authority to Carnegie Hall, to the Metropolitan, to the Philadelphia, and when fortune came our way you could be sure to find us huddled contentedly in a seat at some concert.

Now that years have piled on our shoulders and we find that life, even at its worst, most degenerate self, can always be sweetened and charmed by music, we look back with a grateful heart to that Saturday when we were dragged from the impressive but tame darning of Francisca and introduced to our first glimpse of “good classical music”—the Opera Salome.

J.A.C.F.S.

## THE ADVENTURE SUBURBAN

He was standing on the edge of the bath in between the taps. This was a considerable feat, for not only was there no support but the taps were very close together and were beginning to hurt his ankles. That afternoon he had been to the theatre and seen a young gallant who “dared damnation.” He had been very much moved, and it was with the intention of drowning that he now surveyed the flat end of the bath and wondered exactly on which spot he would stun himself. Falling straight would be the difficulty, he thought. He thought of his wife, who even now, he knew, was sitting in front of the mirror, with a bottle of sun-tan lotion and a pot of vaseline, pretending to be Marie Antoinette. “A woman of some imagination, my wife,” he reflected, “who can forget in an afternoon that the two precious pots, supposedly brought by the lady-of-the-bedchamber, had been bought, that morning, in Boots, for two and sevenpence. However, remembering another gentleman in the play who had thought too much, he lunged, with his head, at the bottom of the bath.

There was an explosion and a roaring in his ears and many green devils with horns and bowler hats, stamped “Mervyn & Mervyn Insurance Co.” began to leer at him. Not content with this they began to talk stock exchange and recount his financial sins, how he had bought, on his firm's money, shares at 57/6 with ——— it was too much. Regretfully and with the air of a very disappointed man he asked the way back to Clapham.

His wife was considerably relieved to see him in the morning enter the porch, albeit drenched. She did not see, however, the little green man in the bowler hat who leaped through the window stirring the lace curtains.

“Oh, my dear,” she exclaimed, relief giving way to habitude, “why didn't you take your umbrella? You look as though you had been through hell!”

M.B.

### JOURNEY THROUGH THE WAR

There was no other way.  
I was told you could go on  
To the end of life  
When the mind disintegrated  
Greyly  
Leaving, perhaps, a word  
Registered here on paper  
Or a stone sentinel  
Guarding an empty skull.

I was told that life  
Could finish in a gentle medley  
Of weak tea in late afternoons;  
Life, like a provincial train  
Stopping at all the stations,  
Soothing the traveller  
Clasping a single ticket  
In a wrinkled hand.

September the third was a new page in my diary;  
Sunday was meek, gothic,  
Holy and clean on the white page,  
Smelling of the starch in the choir boy's surplice,  
Suggesting the organist  
Turning the thumbled pages of the canticles.  
The bitter air hung limp  
When history had made its old  
Incorrigible sounds.  
Frosted and cut off from feeling,  
We only knew that this had happened  
Many times before,  
Thinking the old things about war,  
Making the silence a mocking interpreter  
Of all our vacant speeches.

The smell of old shoes and wine standing in the sunlight  
Seemed like defeat lying in damp pools  
Stirring the dust under endless hedges.  
Autumn saw courage drift like a black streak  
Lazy across the evening sky.

The hot blood sinks into the sand,  
Congeals in hard lumps at Russian zero:  
And the bones of the tortured  
Lie like a rotten fence  
Pleading with sun and shadow.

To meet the moment  
Where hand clasps hand,  
And avoid the dull whine of bullets  
Reaching their crescendo in the brain,  
We held sanity an unattainable Calvary;  
We saw the Spirit  
As a white-hot point of light,  
A point without magnitude  
Amid the waste matter of starvation  
Or between the yellowed skin  
And the indignant bone.  
Yet now in this windless city  
Humanity returns to the wheezy chair  
Poking the ashes at sundown.

G.M.J.

## OBLIVION

Forget. Can you ever forget the golden draught  
 Drawn from priceless springs  
 In the icy heart of some unknown rock?  
 How we stood together, motionless, watching  
 The night, mirrored in the silent depths of the pool?  
 How the jagged traceries  
 Of the unbending trees fret the horizon  
 In presentiment of sorrow—  
     But at that time emphasising only  
     Our peace together, with each  
 Precious moment falling over us like garlands . . .  
     Merging into the last warm strain of music  
     Which dips in ripples on a sea of harmony—  
 Depths frail consciousness can never reach;  
 Calm glowing coals, that need never be extinguished?

Oh floods! Waves of forgetfulness never engulf us.  
     But, banks once broken,  
     Back to our primaeval forests  
 Rotting silently through each Millennium,  
     Under the sea.

M.F.T

## THE LIBRARY

Librarians are chosen nowadays more for their activities outside the Library than in it, and the unusual number of distractions this term has prevented any spectacular change being made in the face of the Library. Behind the scenes, however, a great step forward has been made, in the reduction to a system of the deciding what books shall and shall not be added. All suggestions from all sources, chief among which is the suggestion book in the Library, are submitted to the Masters in charge of the appropriate Departments, and, if they pass this stage, to a Selection Committee of four masters who meet once a week to make decisions of high policy and to accept or reject suggestions according to these decisions. Thus, it is hoped, bad books will be kept out, and good ones ordered promptly, before they have had time to go out of print. The Chaplain has submitted a formidable list of new and better books on religion, and if a good proportion of these are obtainable, we may expect to see a substantial improvement in this slightly neglected section.

Not only have we tried to make sure that a steady flow of good books shall go into the Library; we have also arranged for an equally steady flow of bad books out. Many temporary or obsolete books have been removed this term, notably from the Philosophy, Fiction and Economics cases.

People have often complained that the books in the Library labelled Fiction could be described more accurately as an exercise in the art of chewing concrete. On the assumption that the real Philistines are adequately catered for in the Outer Darkness of the House Libraries, it has accordingly been decided that besides an unlimited amount of classical fiction a certain definite amount of the less permanent kind shall be bought every term and removed when it is no longer attracting a fair number of readers.

A number of books formerly belonging to the late R. C. Hurley (C, 1942) have been presented to the Library. They are on many different subjects and include several that we have been trying to obtain for a long time.

We are glad to say that the Library is still as untidy as ever, and that the now despairing attempts of Librarians to interfere with the scheme of things by extracting a little order from the prevailing chaos have again been relatively unsuccessful. It would be too bad if people started realizing that *they* are responsible for keeping the room in a respectable condition, and that without *their* co-operation everything else is useless. There exists among members of the School a playful little habit of casting odd volumes of *Country Life* or the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* into one of the borrowing shelves, so as to scatter ten or fifteen small books all over the shelf and floor. In short, there is a delightful atmosphere of hideousness and confusion, somewhere between a farmyard and a rest-centre for the Hitler Youth.

H.A.C.



GREEN AND GREY

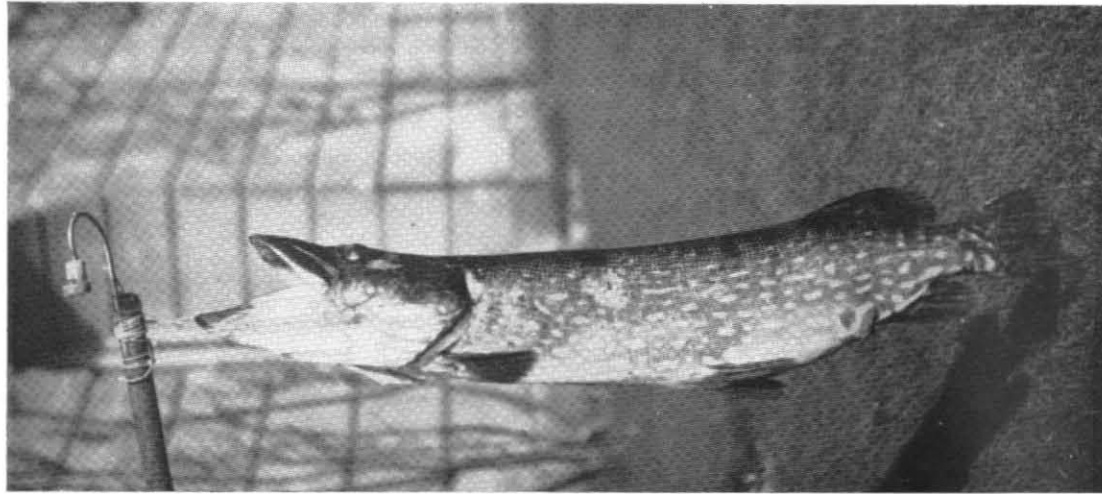


Photos by

DISPOSAL OF A DICTATOR  
PREPARING THE VE-DAY BONFIRE

[J.F.R.]





[J.F.R.]

THE FISH

THE FISHERMAN  
(R.M.M.)

Photos by]

## JUNIOR TRAINING CORPS NOTES

The following promotions have been made this term:—

To *Under-Officer*: Sergeants E. M. Arnold (☉), J. S. B. Gubbins (T), M. J. A. Davies (T), J. V. Nicholl (☉).

To *Sergeant*: Corporals N. J. Philon (C), A. G. Maclean (T), A. J. O. Ritchie (T), J. M. Lewis (T), J. H. W. Pooler (T).

To *Corporal*: Lance-Corporals J. R. Freeland (C), R. W. Shirley (T), E. C. Skepper (T), J. E. D. Fottrell (T), W. H. Atkinson (B), R. K. Kurk (☉), J. F. Elliott (C), I. B. Church (W), J. L. W. Hancock (W), D. E. Granger (C), G. F. Armitage (W), R. H. S. Harris (C), D. I. Hird (C), M. H. G. Sharp (C).

Appointed *Lance-Corporal*: Cadets A. S. Wright (C), D. B. Morgan-Grenville (W), A. K. H. Bull (G), J. A. C. Forbes-Sempill (C), D. S. Howard (☉), P. C. Murphy (☉), G. J. Chibbett (C), D. J. Brown (W), H. L. Fletcher (C), L. B. Hose (G), J. H. Smith (☉), C. J. S. Wood (☉), J. H. Bourdon Smith (☉), R. M. Macnaughton (C), D. M. S. Baxter (W), G. L. E. Spier (G), F. Cator (C), J. O. Arnold (☉), P. D. Haigh (C), M. G. Morris (W), R. H. Prestwich (☉), R. P. Marshall (C), M. R. S. J. Mackey (C), M. T. Riddell (☉), J. J. Davis (T), I. Granger (C), J. C. Matthews (☉), R. J. Broadley (W), G. P. Tobin (G), A. C. Eastgate (C), G. S. Chadwick (C), C. H. Corfield (T), G. H. Toothill (☉).

The strength of the Contingent is now 422 cadets, showing an increase of nearly 100 since September, and includes 74 U/Os. and NCOs.

In the War Certificate "A" examinations held last March, 37 out of 50 candidates passed the "Individual" and 26 out of 38 the "Section Leader's" tests.

### PRIZES

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Individual), March 1945:—C. K. Jopson (G).

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Section Leader's), March 1945:—D. B. Morgan-Grenville (W).

### ANNUAL INSPECTION

On June 8th the Inspection was carried out by Major-General The Viscount Bridgeman, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Deputy Adjutant-General, The War Office, the first General Officer to inspect us since Lord Wavell in 1939.

His subsequent written report made the following points:—

"Ceremonial well carried out . . . Discipline as it should be . . . General remarks—This Contingent has, to my knowledge, a consistently good record . . . A vast majority of the Old Boys are now in H.M. Forces. The school list shows a proportion of a little under 90% roughly of commissioned and O.C.T.U. to Other Ranks. . . The work seen was the ordinary work of a parade day . . . There was nothing spectacular or outstanding, but abundant evidence of solid groundwork and high standard of leadership and power of instruction on the part of the Cadet NCOs., who clearly get a run for their money. The junior NCOs. are well above the average. . . The Contingent as a whole can most certainly be considered as 'efficient.'"

### RECRUITMENT

With the approach of peace-time conditions it has been decided to make admission to the Contingent selective as well as voluntary. Accordingly, this term for the first time, 64 Recruits were accepted on a provisional basis, their formal enrolment depending on their passing during the term the Physical Efficiency Standards laid down by the War Office for their age-group. This condition was thought necessary owing to the requirements of a similar nature to qualify for taking War Certificate examinations at later stages. Permanent and genuine physical disability will be taken into consideration, but exceptions are likely to be rare.

Recruits are, accordingly, first issued with denims only; on passing their tests they "win" serge battle dress in addition. The system is working satisfactorily, and Recruits are keen to justify their admission to the Contingent. At the Annual Inspection some 50% had earned the privilege of parading in battle dress, and did so.

## TRAINING

## NAVAL SECTION

The strength of the Section this term is 45, of whom 17 are candidates for the Cadet Petty Officer, 9 for the Cadet Leading Seaman and 7 for the Cadet Able Seaman examinations.

In the last term's examinations 8 passed for Cadet Petty Officer, 16 for Cadet Leading Seaman and 7 for Cadet Able Seaman.

The following have been rated Cadet Petty Officer :—U/O J. S. B. Gubbins (T), Sergt. C. B. S. Dawson (C). The following have been rated Cadet Leading Seaman :—Cpl. J. R. Freeland (C), L/Cpls. J. H. Bourdon Smith (S), H. L. Fletcher (C), L. B. Hose (G), R. M. Macnaughton (C), J. H. Smith (S), C. J. S. Wood (S).

## GENERAL

One of the features of the term has been the expansion of post-Certificate "A" work; numbers alone, apart from other considerations, have made both the Signal Platoon and the Survey Section very busy, and they have been able to go further in their training in a most gratifying way.

Experience and experiment have enabled the system of further training for NCOs. to be now very satisfactorily organized, and their Courses in Map Reading, Weapons and the I.C. Engine have gone particularly well.

The first Whole-day's Training had its special interest in the small-scale demonstrations laid on in the afternoon by a Grenadier Guards Platoon, as arranged by Capt. G. C. Maxwell (G, 1936). In the morning there had been some Ceremonial practice and exercises by categories, and further exercises followed after tea. A month later, the second Whole day's Training varied the programme by more advanced Ceremonial drill and exercises until tea-time, and then, following a short talk on the subject, the Contingent (less the Survey Section and the Recruit Company, who, as usual, were having a capital day on their own) went for an hour's marching and got going well when once it had settled down to the road. On each occasion a voluntary bathing parade before supper put the day's exertions into proper perspective.

This year the results of the Empire Test shooting have improved enormously on those of 1944. Whereas then less than 10% of the cadets were 1st class shots, now nearly 50% are so qualified. This is due in large measure to the efforts of QMSI Reynolds on the Range and the co-operation of House NCOs. House averages were :—

1. Chandos	...	55.7	5. Temple	...	50.8
2. Chatham	...	55.1	6. Cobham	...	49.9
3. Grafton	...	52.6	7. Walpole	...	48.5
4. Grenville	...	51.0	8. Bruce	...	45.1

Highest possible score, 80.

The Individual championship was won by C. K. Jopson (G) with 80 out of 110; M. StC. Ruthven (B) came 2nd with 77, and D. C. Mackenzie (C) 3rd with 75.

A most welcome innovation for us has been the assistance of the Coldstream Guards in examining Certificate "A" candidates this summer, and it was a particular pleasure to have 2/Lts. C. S. Wallis-King (S, 1944) and R. H. M. Pease (G, 1944) serving on the Board.

It would seem that we are becoming drum-minded. Cpl. J. L. W. Hancock (W) has given drill more precision, RSM Lee was teaching the NCOs. last parade to fall in by the drum, and perhaps there is more in store for the Contingent next September.

## A.T.C. NOTES

This term we had a very successful field day when 20 cadets were taken for a cross-country tour in Lancasters, and later some were taken up in Mosquitos. We are very grateful to Air Commodore Boyce, C.B.E., for arranging it all. Fourteen cadets are sitting for the Proficiency Examinations at the end of the term. Next term we hope to be able to cut down parades to one per week for the majority of cadets.

Present strength, 26.

## CRICKET

Before your correspondent retires again to that obscurity from which the War caused him to emerge in 1943 it is his duty and pleasure at last to report a successful cricket season. Through the gloom of contemporary events in the last two years better things had been prophesied; now, in a measure, those (to many people) seemingly wishful prophecies have been justified. The 1945 Eleven played matches against four other Schools and won them all. Of the other nine matches four were won, one drawn, and four lost. True, none of the Schools which Stowe defeated seemed to have very strong teams, but no Eleven can do more than defeat its rivals, and this the 1945 Eleven has done.

The School matches are dealt with in detail elsewhere in this issue, and it remains therefore to say something about the other games. Of the four defeats this can be said: that the Buckingham C.C. put into the field a side which would normally beat any School, that the M.C.C. owed their victory almost entirely to the work of two accomplished professionals, that against the R.A.F., Wing, the Stowe batting was too bad to be true, and that against a very competent R.A.F. side from Halton, Stowe had to play without two of their most successful bowlers. These observations are offered, not as excuses, but as explanations. The four wins were not in any way remarkable achievements, but they were satisfactory in their way, and they were certainly valuable in that they enabled the Eleven to develop a habit of winning which was to prove most precious in the more important games against the Schools. One of the best performances of the season was the drawn match with the Buccaneers. Cottier, Young, and Brinson bowled admirably to dismiss a strong side for 188 on a good wicket, and the Stowe batsmen had put their side in a reasonably comfortable position before rain, which had always threatened, put an end to the game.

For their success Stowe owed most to the captaincy of Bartlett. As a player he was nothing like the force that he was in 1944, but as a captain on the field he displayed a remarkable knowledge of the game, which he used with great skill, and if the elderly pundits in the pavilion sometimes found themselves raising their eyebrows when a seemingly unwise bowling change was made such bowling changes were often justified in the event, and, even if they were not, Bartlett could always supply a perfectly good reason for making them. The field, too, in match after match, was set sensibly, and few opportunities were missed of blocking a batsman's favourite stroke or playing upon his weakness.

The outstanding players were Arnold and Cottier. Of the former's wicket-keeping something is said elsewhere; suffice it here for the critic to offer his meed of praise to him for his many skilful performances. Cottier was required to do a lot of bowling and, except for the rare occasions when the batsmen mastered him and he seemed to go to pieces, he was attacking persistently and usually with success. His record of 38 wickets for 450 runs in 13 innings speaks for itself. As a batsman, too, he was invaluable. His methods, as they were last year, are his own. He hits with tremendous power and some discretion, and the great thing about him was that he came in towards the end of the innings to make runs when they were really needed, as he did against Bedford, Radley and a side somewhat quaintly entitled, The Masters. Of the others Bate and Illingworth, the former a stylist and the latter a more workmanlike performer, made a good opening pair, who always made their runs at a fair pace, rightly spurning a silly convention to the great benefit of their side. At Number 5, Robinson, who has not yet let us see all his strokes in a School match, was a tower of strength—a point which his rather ordinary figures do not emphasize—and Fitzgerald, if he did not make all the runs expected of him, improved considerably on his figures of last year and averaged 22. Chance had nimble feet and played slow bowling delightfully, and the tail-enders all succeeded in making runs at least once. Even so, this cannot be called a strong batting side; there were too many occasions when these tail-enders simply had to make runs and sometimes this was beyond them.

Cottier's chief assistants as bowlers were Young, who, losing his powers as a batsman, found that he had a considerable and unexpected aptitude for bowling, and Chance, whose curious mixture of guile and fury was of decisive importance in the School matches. Brinson, who brought variety to the bowling with his left-hand slows, deserved more wickets than he got, and Crossley and Loup did very adequately what was required of them when the other four needed a rest.

The fielding could be good, but was not always so, and in this respect alone could this side suffer in comparison with its predecessor. The throwing was not accurate enough as a rule and the catching was far from reliable. There were too many people (mostly the younger players)



who had to be "hidden." On the other hand, Robinson and Illingworth held some sensational catches, and Young never looked like dropping anything that came to him in the deep.

The Second Eleven had a good season and contained some more than useful players, the Colts (very strong in bowling but rather weak in batting) won most of their matches, and the Junior Colts have some very promising batsmen. And so it seems likely that this season's improvement will be maintained. The omens are good.

B.E.N.F.

"Considering all sorts of wickets and bowling throughout a season, a wicket-keeper does well if he only concedes 4% of the total in byes." So wrote R. T. Stanyforth.

During this season, E. M. Arnold has conceded 71 byes out of a total of 1,748 runs (just under 4.1%), and in eight consecutive matches towards the end of the term, only 25 byes out of a total of 1,136 runs (2.2%). In addition to this, Arnold has had a hand (by catching or stumping) in the taking of 25 wickets out of a total 117 that have fallen; this is just over 21%.

In my opinion he is not only the most successful, but also the best wicket-keeper we have yet had at Stowe.

W.E.C.C.

v. BUCKINGHAM. Played at Stowe on Saturday, May 19th. Lost by 9 wks. Stowe, 56 and 141 for 8 (J. V. Bartlett (T) 56). Buckingham, 197 for 6 dec. (M. D. T. Loup (T) 2 for 9).

v. BEDFORD. Played at Stowe on Saturday, May 26th. Won by 97 runs.

Your correspondent does not propose to write a balanced account of this match; it is our first school cricket win for two years, and the first time we have beaten Bedford since 1940. If, therefore, this account is a one-sided one, he feels sure Bedford will be the last people to grudge us our gratification.

Bartlett won the toss on a grey threatening day and we went in. There was little in the before-lunch play which suggested that we were really likely to win. True, we saw Bate play the best innings of the match, never appearing in the slightest difficulty, and always having plenty of time to play his well executed shots; but we also saw Young. The value of Young's innings cannot be over-stated; he came in when the score was 41 for 4, and stayed in till the 100 was up, but no account would be complete which did not mention the ever increasing gasps he drew from the spectators when, before he had scored, he went through the motions of a confident forward drive with a full swing at five consecutive balls without so much as touching one of them.

Nevertheless, he was still in with Bate when lunch was taken with the score 78 for 4. After lunch there was play for only five minutes, during which Bate increased his score to 42 and was caught at the wicket off the last ball before the rain came and drove the players in.

When play was resumed, the score soon reached 100, and Young was bowled for an invaluable 30. The real fun started when, with the score 131 for 8, Cottier joined Robinson. Cottier treated every ball with complete disrespect, his footwork was the same whether he intended a drive to long-on or a late cut, he was missed once or twice, and his ferocious hitting all over the field (even occasionally over the heads of the slips) scored runs at a huge pace. At the other end, Robinson, playing the second best innings of the match, kept his head admirably during the circus performance of his partner, and twice treated us to the grand sight of an effortless, perfectly-timed cover drive. These two added 72 runs in half an hour, and Bartlett was able to declare, after 145 minutes batting, with the satisfactory score of 203 for 8 wickets. The Bedford bowling had been steady till assaulted by Cottier, though their fielding was hampered by a slimy ball and slippery grass.

We hoped to get a wicket in the 15 minutes before tea, but nothing came our way, and the opening Bedford batsmen scored 14 runs without much difficulty.

From after tea till nearly 6 o'clock there was again nothing to suggest that a conclusive result was going to be reached. The early batsmen were tied down by steady, though not wicket-taking, bowling, and runs came at a steady, though not a match-winning, rate.

Then Chance and Arnold took matters into their control; the score went from 70 for 3 at 6 o'clock to 85 for 9 at 6.25. Chance, varying his flight and speed as cleverly as a leg-break bowler has done here for a long time, did a hat-trick, and the phlegmatic Arnold stumped 4 people. The match was virtually ours, but an excellent innings by Thorn, the Bedford No. 11, and stubborn defence by Kerr delayed the end, which came, properly enough, when Arnold added a fifth wicket to his bag.

This was perhaps not a great match for an outsider to watch, though it had its exciting periods; but a great one for us it most certainly was, and we are grateful to our opponents, who, after many alarms, managed to get here, and, having got here, appeared to enjoy playing in the dark and drizzle as much as we did.

Stowe:—M. R. de B. Bate (W), c Sawtell, b Wagstaffe, 42; D. A. Illingworth (G), c Sawtell, b Kerr, 4; J. V. Bartlett (T), c Spencer, b Wagstaffe, 6; M. E. J. FitzGerald (G), c Braby, b Wagstaffe, 4; M. D. T. Loup (T), c Sawtell, b Thorn, 0; P. M. Young (C), b Wagstaffe, 30; G. C. Robinson (W), not out 42; J. F. Chance (C), c Pickett, b Thorn, 13; E. M. Arnold (G), c Pickett, b Thorn, 1; A. F. Cottier (C), not out 53; J. J. Crossley (G) did not bat; extras, 8; total (for 8 wks. dec.), 203.

Kerr 1 for 63; Pickett 0 for 32; Wagstaffe 4 for 51; Thorn 3 for 41; Fleming 0 for 8.

Bedford:—Goudge, b Cottier, 12; Braby, b Loup, 30; Wagstaffe, st Arnold, b Chance, 18; Meadows, st Arnold, b Chance, 0; Spencer, b Chance, 7; Kerr, c Arnold, b Cottier, 7; Daughtry, st Arnold, b Loup, 1; Fleming, lbw, b Chance, 2; Pickett, st Arnold, b Chance, 0; Sawtell, b Chance, 0; Thorn, not out 20; extras, 9; total, 106.

Cottier 2 for 28; Crossley 0 for 10; Loup 2 for 14; Chance 6 for 45.

v. QUEEN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD. Played at Stowe on Wednesday, May 30th. Won by 73 runs. Stowe, 134 (M. E. J. FitzGerald (G) 41, J. F. Chance (C) 32). Queen's College, Oxford, 61 (A. F. Cottier (C) 6 for 14).

v. PUBLIC SCHOOL WANDERERS. Played at Stowe on Saturday, June 2nd. Won by 14 runs. Stowe, 100 (G. C. Robinson (W) 35). Public School Wanderers, 86 (P. M. Young (C) 5 for 23, A. F. Cottier (C) 4 for 25).

v. M.C.C. Played at Stowe on Saturday, June 9th. Lost by 8 wks. Stowe, 84 (J. V. Bartlett (T) 29, A. F. Cottier (C) 25 not out). M.C.C., 157 (A. F. Cottier (C) 4 for 52).

v. R.A.F., WING. Played at Stowe on Wednesday, June 13th. Lost by 82 runs. R.A.F., Wing, 156 for 8 dec. Stowe 74.

v. RADLEY. Played at Stowe on Saturday, June 16th. Won by 33 runs.

This match will be remembered chiefly for two things; the batting of Cheshire, who, going in first for Radley, scored 66 out of the first 91 runs in just under an hour, and for the untidy fielding of Stowe, which so nearly cost them the match.

But this is starting at the end, and there were plenty of things worth recording before we saw Cheshire.

Winning the toss, Bartlett sent in Bate and Illingworth to face the fast bowling of Wheeler-Bennett, the Radley captain. He set an imposing field: wicket-keeper 15 yards back (perhaps about 3 yards too far back for his own convenience?), 3 slips, a deep third man, a gully, a short mid-off and a close mid-on, a short-leg near the umpire, and a man rather indeterminately placed in the neighbourhood of extra. His first spell was good but not deadly—he bowled 6 overs for 15 runs and no wickets; later he lost his pace, and his attempts to place a less attacking field were not all successful. In particular, his failure to have a short leg to stop the many singles run by Bartlett and FitzGerald gave Stowe at least 30 runs.

Runs came steadily at about one a minute, till, with the score at 38, Bate became a trifle over-confident, and failing to profit by being dropped twice, was caught and bowled for a promising 22. Illingworth soon followed, being bowled playing right across a slightly overpitched ball. Then came Stowe's best batting. Bartlett and FitzGerald taking every possible run and no risks at all took the score to 67 for 2 at lunch, and afterwards went on unseparated to 148. This stand of over 100 took 85 minutes during which time both batsmen reach their 50's.

As so often happens, when one of them got out the other did (it should, perhaps, be more stressed than it is that when a long partnership is broken the remaining batsman should play himself in again as if he were at the beginning of his innings); and then Radley staged a good recovery and Stowe momentarily collapsed. The score had been 148 before the fall of the third wicket; Chance, Murray, and Young all failed, and the score was a few minutes later 158 for 7.

Then Arnold and Cottier had an invaluable partnership of 50, made in just over half an hour. This was fast, but not as fast as Cottier sometimes scores. He was, on this day, much more selective than usual, took far fewer risks, and was, therefore, much more reliable; he hit very well (three consecutive boundaries off the indefatigable—though by now over-bowled and little more than medium-paced—Wheeler-Bennett gave particular pleasure to the spectators), but also defended stubbornly. Arnold at the other end gave a polished display, scoring when opportunity offered, but chiefly concentrating on not getting out. After Cottier had gone, Crossley showed that he too could hit an over-pitched ball and the score went briskly on. Your correspondent would censure the Stowe organization which allowed the last pair to bat for two and a half overs and score off only one ball; if a declaration is imminent, it is surely desirable that the batsmen shall know. Stowe's 236 had taken 3 hours and 20 minutes, and Radley were left with 2 hours and 40 minutes to get the runs.

So long as Cheshire was in, this feat seemed very probable. He took complete command of the bowling, making Young in particular look entirely innocuous, scored his 50 out of the first 60 in 45 minutes, and used his feet quickly to drive easily and powerfully. This was perhaps the best innings seen this year on our ground. He was in the end beautifully caught in the deep by Illingworth, who made a lot of ground to take a difficult catch perfectly. Things went well for us for a time, catches were caught, Chance had more than one success with his faster ball, and well before 6 o'clock, Radley had lost 6 wickets for 112. As stumps were not to be drawn till 7.15, the match looked good for us.

Your correspondent will not mention names, but it is a fact that, between 5.50 and 6.50, six possible chances were missed; nevertheless we had three more wickets and, with the score 175 for 9, there were still 25 minutes to play. Between the fall of the ninth wicket and the fall of the tenth, there were no fewer than five more chances missed, and the end was thus tantalisingly delayed, and it was not till 7.10 that the last Radley wicket fell. The last few minutes were, of course, exciting, and Stowe is to be congratulated on having the real tenacity to insist on Providence being ultimately kind to them.

Stowe:—M. R. de B. Bate (W), c and b Gardiner, 22; D. A. Illingworth (♠), b Gardiner, 19; J. V. Bartlett (T), lbw, b Wheeler-Bennett, 55; M. E. J. FitzGerald (♠), c Blackley, b Burgess, 54; J. F. Chance (C), c Wolton, b Burgess, 2; H. A. S. Murray (♠), b Wheeler-Bennett, 0; P. M. Young (O), lbw, b Wheeler-Bennett, 0; A. F. Cottier (♠), c Wheeler-Bennett, b Blackley, 38; E. M. Arnold (♠), c Cheshire, b Wheeler-Bennett, 16; J. J. Crossley (G), c Wolton, b Wheeler-Bennett, 18; W. L. N. Brinson (C), not out, 3; extras, 9; total, 236.

Wheeler-Bennett 5 for 66; Blackley 1 for 64; Gardiner 2 for 32; Macdonald 0 for 37; Burgess 2 for 28.

Radley:—Wolton, c FitzGerald, b Cottier, 0; Cheshire, c Illingworth, b Crossley, 66; Gardiner, b Cottier, 0; Wheeler-Bennett, lbw, b Chance, 21; Reid, c Crossley, b Brinson, 8; Bennett, c Bate, b Chance, 8; Hudson, b Chance, 23; Blackley, not out, 48; Burgess, st Arnold, b Chance, 0; Browning, c Arnold, b Crossley, 3; Macdonald, lbw, b Cottier, 17; extras, 9, total, 203.

Cottier 3 for 49; Young 0 for 34; Chance 4 for 60; Crossley 2 for 27; Brinson 1 for 24.

v. BUCCANEERS. Played at Stowe on Saturday, June 30th. Drawn. Buccaneers, 188 (A. F. Cottier (♠) 4 for 57, P. M. Young (C) 4 for 48). Stowe, 87 for 4 (J. V. Bartlett (T) 40).

v. ST. EDWARD'S. Played at Oxford on Monday, July 2nd. Won by 80 runs.

A most gloomy-looking early morning obligingly turned into a bright sunny day, and a match in which much good cricket was played all through the day ended with Stowe, in the persons of Young (bowler) and Illingworth (catcher), snatching a sensational win over, it must be admitted, a somewhat dilatory St. Edward's and the clock.

As usual Bartlett won the toss and Stowe, also as usual, batted first. Bate played the first over comfortably, and after Illingworth had made a single off the first ball of the next one Bate hit a full toss hard to silly mid-off who caught the ball at the third attempt. It was a fine catch, but Bate had made a bad stoke and Stowe a bad start. Bartlett came in to play an entertaining but, to the writer's way of thinking, irresponsible innings until he committed suicide. Meanwhile, Illingworth had been playing well, but he was out at 42, and it was left to FitzGerald and Robinson to repair the damage. They started a little shakily, but eventually they settled down and batted well, FitzGerald, with straight and off driving, doing most of the scoring. Before lunch they added 50 runs, and afterwards, if somewhat more quietly, they took the score to 121. At this point Robinson was bowled, having once more proved his value as a Number Five. FitzGerald,

with Chance as his partner, went on making runs stylishly until, with his own score 63 and his side's 142, he was caught by Graham off Rutherford. His had been an excellent innings, and it was a real pleasure to see him hitting the ball hard and confidently in front of the wicket. Chance and Loup now added 56—good runs from an academic point of view, but scored too slowly to suit Bartlett's plans. After they were out the remaining Stowe batsmen had a somewhat ineffective bang, and the innings closed with the score at 207.

In the forty minutes left before tea St. Edward's lost their opening batsmen, Cottier getting Woodcock l.b.w., and Hick being caught at the wicket off Young. All this happened in the first two overs. The St. Edward's batsmen now decided that they could not win the game, and accordingly they put the shutters up. It remained to see whether the Stowe bowlers could take the other 8 wickets before 6.45. For a long time it seemed that the match must be a draw. The score crept up to 52 and then, at last, Chance made his leg break turn and bowled a bewildered Kitchin round his legs. Now wickets began to fall, and 7 were down for 99, of which McKenzie, the captain, had made 31. Like Bartlett, his opposite number, he had entertained the spectators, but whether these two captains had really helped their sides by the type of innings they elected to play is open to doubt. McKenzie, after being missed by Bate in the deep off the previous ball, played the same stroke to the next one, but this time Illingworth, at short leg, putting himself in the way of a full-blooded hit, brought off a beautiful one-handed catch.

It now looked as if Stowe would win with a little time to spare, but Graham and Rutherford had other ideas and batted most courageously. Time passed, 25 runs were added, and—sad to relate—catches were dropped. Once again a draw seemed certain.

The miracle happened. There were seven minutes left for play and Young went on to bowl. For the third time this season he was to prove that he could bowl straight to tail-end batsmen when he really had to. With his second ball he had Rutherford l.b.w.; off the next Herdon, who to Stowe supporters had seemed an unconscionable long time in coming in to bat, made a single; off the fourth Graham made two; then came the fatal fifth ball; Graham played it hard to second slip where stood the faithful Illingworth, who held another catch in his right hand. Lattey, the last batsman, came to the wicket with such deliberation (not to mention a little practice that he had in the course of his stately progress) that it would obviously be impossible to start another over. There was thus one ball to go. Could Young bowl a straight one? He could, and Lattey, for all his practice, found it too much for him.

It was said by some that Stowe, by missing vital catches at vital moments, hardly deserved their win. Your correspondent, who is a partisan, prefers the other view—that in spite of missed catches the Stowe side never gave up trying, and were determined to win even when any reasonable man would have regarded their chances as hopeless.

Stowe:—M. R. de B. Bate (W), c Rutherford, b Kitchin, 0; D. A. Illingworth (♠), lbw, b Kitchin, 17; J. V. Bartlett (T), c McKenzie, b Kitchin, 19; M. E. J. FitzGerald (♠), c Graham, b Rutherford, 63; G. C. Robinson (W), b Rutherford, 25; J. F. Chance (C), c McKenzie, b Herdon, 28; M. D. T. Loup (T), c Rutherford, b Kitchin, 28; A. F. Cottier (♠), b McKenzie, 2; P. M. Young (O), b Kitchin, 1; E. M. Arnold (♠), b McKenzie, 0; W. L. N. Brinson (C), not out, 0; extras, 24; total, 207.

Kitchin 5 for 70; Lattey 0 for 16; McKenzie 2 for 38; Graham 0 for 33; Herdon 1 for 10; Rutherford 2 for 16.

St. Edward's:—Woodcock, lbw, b Cottier, 0; Hick, c Arnold, b Young, 0; Kitchin, b Chance, 33; Livingston, st Arnold, b Brinson, 21; Gaskell, st Arnold, b Brinson, 7; Lowe, b Young, 3; McKenzie, c Illingworth, b Chance, 31; Rutherford, lbw, b Young, 12; Graham, c Illingworth, b Young, 13; Herdon not out, 1; Lattey, b Young, 0; extras, 6; total, 127.

Cottier 1 for 23; Young 5 for 24; Brinson 1 for 11; Chance 3 for 58; Loup 0 for 5.

v. A MASTERS' XI. Played at Stowe on Wednesday, July 4th. Won by 29 runs. Stowe, 143 (A. F. Cottier (♠) 48, D. A. Illingworth (♠) 40). Masters, 114 (A. F. Cottier (♠) 6 for 30).

v. MERCHANT TAYLORS'. Played at Stowe on Saturday, July 7th. Won by 111 runs.

This game, though never an exciting one, showed that the XI had settled down into a workmanlike match-winning team; indeed the comparative dullness of the day's play was probably largely caused by the fact that the result always seemed to appear inevitable.

Bate and Illingworth gave us a splendid start, and runs came at a good pace. Illingworth was, as he is apt to be, rash with balls outside his off stump, but he batted strongly till a chance in the slips was well accepted by Ellis. Bate played a really good innings, and it was a pity

that tiredness caused him to play a lazy shot just before lunch. Before he got out the score had reached 127 for 2, and, though Robinson for once failed, the lunch total of 131 for 4 was at least promising.

FitzGerald and Chance took the score along at a roaring pace, and the three-quarters of an hour's play immediately after lunch produced 70 runs.

FitzGerald was not as good to watch as he sometimes is, but Chance showed, not for the first time, how well he knows how to use his feet, and he was unlucky to miss his 50 by only 3 runs.

The bowling of our opponents was of limited variety, but they stuck to their task well, and it was a good performance on their part to get the last four of our wickets for a dozen runs in just over 10 minutes.

From the start of their innings it was clear that they were not going to get the runs, for their opening pair treated every ball as if it was full of some terrifying explosive and required stopping as gently as possible—the first 25 minutes' play produced only 7 runs. From their point of view there is little to be said of this innings until Keighley came in at No. 10 and scored a brave and forlorn 32; from our point of view it was a spectacle of a well-drilled team going through the formal routine motions of getting a side out. A fair comment on the whole proceedings is that Young bowled 11 overs and had only 4 singles scored off him.

Stowe:—M. R. de B. Bate (W), lbw, b Coombes, 59; D. A. Illingworth (C), c Ellis, b Murray, 37; J. V. Bartlett (T), c Murray, b Pearson 12; M. E. J. FitzGerald (C), c and b Murray, 24; G. C. Robinson (W), b Coombes, 2; J. F. Chance (C), c Roberts, b Ellis, 47; A. F. Cottier (C), b Pearson, 4; P. M. Young (C), b Pearson, 10; J. J. Crossley (G), b Ellis, 2; E. M. Arnold (C), not out, 8; W. L. N. Brinson (C), b Ellis, 0; extras, 11; total, 216.

Ellis 3 for 52; Coombes 2 for 36; Murray 2 for 53; Pearson 3 for 49; Keighley 0 for 15.

Merchant Taylors:—Hockaday, b Cottier, 2; Hawkins, c Robinson, b Cottier, 9; Pearson, b Young, 18; Roberts, b Brinson, 3; King, c FitzGerald, b Chance, 12; Baker, b Chance, 0; Joyce, b Chance, 16; Murray, c FitzGerald, b Cottier, 3; Ellis, b Chance, 7; Keighley, lbw, b Crossley, 32; Coombes, not out, 0; extras, 3; total, 105.

Cottier 3 for 23; Young 1 for 4; Brinson 1 for 31; Chance 4 for 41; Crossley 1 for 3.

## 2ND XI.

May 23rd. v. R.A.F., WESTCOTT. Home. Lost by an innings and 96 runs. R.A.F., 253 for 4 dec. Stowe, 78 (F. D. A. Binns (W) 26) and 79.

May 26th. v. BLOXHAM 1ST XI. Away. Lost by 4 wickets. Stowe, 166 for 2 dec. (H. R. Marten (T) 45 not out, J. R. Freeland (C) 76 not out). Bloxham 167 for 6 (C. A. Hancox (G) 3 for 48).

June 16th. v. RADLEY. Away. Drawn. Stowe, 162 for 6 dec. (M. D. K. Burns (B) 72 not out). Radley, 80 for 5 (F. D. A. Binns (W) 3 for 27).

June 20th. v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, OXFORD. Home. Won by 36 runs. Stowe, 164 for 9 dec. (M. D. K. Burns (B) 59 not out). M.C.S., 128 (R. M. Bartlett (T) 7 for 36).

July 7th. v. MERCHANT TAYLORS'. Home. Won by 19 runs. Stowe 186 (M. D. K. Burns (B) 49, M. J. A. Davies (T) 32). Merchant Taylors', 167 (C. A. Hancox (G) 4 for 41).

## AN OLIGOI XI.

May 30th. v. 31 A.S.D. Home. Won by 7 wickets. 31 A.S.D., 44 (C. A. Hancox (G) 3 for 11, J. J. Crossley (G) 3 for 14, M. D. K. Burns (B) 2 for 4). Stowe, 177 (F. D. A. Binns (W) 38, R. M. Bartlett (T) 26).

June 2nd. v. R.A.F., CROUGHTON. Home. Won by 5 wickets. R.A.F., 87 (R. M. Bartlett (T) 7 for 17). Stowe, 137 for 7 (J. J. Crossley (G) 41, H. A. S. Murray (C) 26).

June 13th. v. R.A.F., WING. Home. Won by 67 runs. Stowe, 158 for 8 dec. (D. A. Illingworth (C) 42, M. D. K. Burns (B) 34, F. D. A. Binns (W) 28). R.A.F., 89 (R. M. Bartlett (T) 4 for 19, J. J. Crossley (G) 3 for 19).

## A STOWE XI.

June 27th. v. R.A.F., LEIGHTON BUZZARD. Home. Won by 5 runs. Stowe, 89 (H. R. Marten (T) 27). R.A.F., 84 (J. J. Crossley (G) 5 for 16).

June 30th. v. R.A.F., TURWESTON. Home. Drawn. Stowe, 95 (P. D. Lloyd (T) 38, D. M. S. Baxter (W) 29). R.A.F., 30 for 4 (F. D. A. Binns (W) 3 for 9).

## COLTS' XI.

May 26th. v. BEDFORD. Home. Won by 6 runs. Stowe, 72 (D. A. McL. Connell (G) 31). Bedford, 66 (N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W) 4 for 10, D. A. McL. Connell (G) 4 for 22).

June 13th. v. ST. EDWARD'S. Away. Won by 4 runs. Stowe, 41. St. Edward's, 37 (D. A. McL. Connell (G) 6 for 13, N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W) 4 for 15).

June 16th. v. RADLEY. Home. Won by 41 runs. Stowe, 85. Radley, 44 (N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W) 5 for 6, S. B. Lloyd (C) 3 for 10).

July 7th. v. BEDFORD. Away. Lost by 95 runs. Bedford, 209 for 8 dec. (D. A. McL. Connell (G) 4 for 58). Stowe, 114 (D. A. McL. Connell (G) 37).

## JUNIOR COLTS' XI.

June 27th. v. BLOXHAM. Home. Won by 8 wickets. Bloxham, 60 (I. M. Morton (B) 6 for 13). Stowe, 156 (R. A. Hird (C) 38, J. F. Conington (B) 31, C. H. Bradly (B) 29).

July 7th. v. MERCHANT TAYLORS'. Away. Drawn. Merchant Taylors', 130 for 5 dec. (P. M. Dempster (B) 3 for 47). Stowe, 95 for 1 (W. R. G. Short (C) 59 not out).

July 14th. v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, OXFORD. Away. Lost by 2 wickets. Stowe, 80 (C. H. Bradly (B) 27). M.C.S. 92 for 9 (P. M. Dempster (B) 6 for 22).

## LAWN TENNIS

The only remaining members of last year's Six were K. W. Milligan (C) who was appointed Captain, and J. A. R. Anson (G), to whom colours have been re-awarded. These two made a very useful first pair, playing tennis of a noticeably higher quality than that of the rest of the side. H. R. Marten (T) and M. J. A. Davies (T), two cricketers, proved themselves an effective pair when available. G. J. Chibbett (C) and C. M. Mosselmans (C) had an excellent understanding, Mosselmans being a remarkably agile player, while Chibbett had the better strokes. R. W. Shirley (T) and R. H. S. Harris (C) worked hard, improved considerably and often played for the Six. W. M. Browne (C), C. M. Morris (W), A. B. S. Mackay (T) and C. H. Corfield (T) were the remaining members of the "ten."

By beating Wellingborough School in the first round of the Glanvill Cup, Stowe will now play in the semi-finals at Wimbledon at the end of term. Other matches included several with R.A.F. teams, one versus Bedford School and one with West Heath—all of which were won easily. A match against Radley College resulted in a draw in favour of Stowe (4-2). In the final of the house matches Cobham beat Grenville. Temple beat Grafton in the final of the leagues.

## STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS

95, FRAMPTON STREET,  
LONDON, N.W.8.  
July 1945.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.  
Sir,

Since I contributed to your Easter Term issue, the long-awaited opportunity for expansion of the Club's activities has assumed a concrete form, and I would like to occupy most of this letter with that subject.

The Club has run smoothly since I wrote, the football team did well in its closing matches, and an "A" team formed towards the end of the season performed vigorously but erratically.

We are negotiating for and have decided to acquire new premises in the immediate vicinity of the present Club, and they will allow for an eventual development in membership to some 400 boys.

The districts of Paddington and Marylebone, between which the Club is placed, have been heavily bombed, they have few new blocks of workers' flats or Council houses, and there is a teeming population with only a very small percentage living in decency, let alone comfort.

To be able to have a Club which has room for 400 of the boys of these areas will mean much to them, and the necessity for money, equipment and, above all, personal service and energy should and will be, I am sure, accepted willingly by those who have interests in the Club locally and by past and present members of Stowe, which founded the Club very early in its history and has now been sponsoring it for nearly 20 years.

Particularly in view of this post-war prospect, I welcome the able services of Mr. S. H. Tallant, who joined me last month as Deputy-Warden.

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

## MUSIC

The music competitions, which were held at the end of last term, were judged by Mr. H. V. Anson, of the Royal College of Music. Both the instrumental and the singing competitions were won by Grenville. The quartet which was sung was "The White Paternoster," by Walford Davies.

The winners of the individual competitions were as follows:—*Piano*—Grade I, O. G. Taylor (C); Grade II, J. B. Chittenden (T). *Strings*—P. A. Mulgan (G), 'Cello. *Woodwind*—G. L. E. Spier (G), Flute. *Brass*—G. P. Lewis (B), Horn.

Mr. G. G. Gilling Lax, who was killed on active service with the R.A.F., has left to the school a sum of money which is to form a senior and a junior music prize. The prize consists of two parts: one a written paper, of a very general nature, which this year was set by Mr. H. V. Anson, and the other a purely practical one.

The senior prize was awarded for the first time last term and was won by A. G. Maclean (T). It is hoped to award both the senior and junior prizes next year.

## ORCHESTRA

The Orchestra contains many new players this term, and for this reason its performances are rather of the hit-or-miss variety. But it is tackling a large programme: the Overture "Der Freischütz," by Weber; the March from Prokofiev's "Love of Three Oranges"; the Ritual Fire Dance from "Love, the Magician," by de Falla; the Dance of the Flutes and Waltz of the Flowers from the Casse-Noisette Suite, by Tchaikovsky; the Serenade from "Hassan," by Delius; and the Chopin Piano Concerto, with M. Birkett (T) as soloist.

## J.T.C. BAND

The J.T.C. Band excelled itself at the General Inspection in June. In spite of the substantial number of new players, its standard was considerably above the average and its contribution to the success of the inspection was invaluable.

## THE CHORAL SOCIETY

At the beginning of last term, the Choral Society began work on Brahms' Requiem. From the start it was obvious that, in order to give a reasonably finished performance of such a work, it would be necessary to take two terms over it. Far too great a number of the Society have failed to make the required effort and those members of the Society who heard the broadcast performance of the work realized how much the Stowe Choral Society would have to put into it to reach a reasonable standard. It was performed towards the end of term, with Mr. Alec Wyton at the organ.

G. L. E. Spier (G) has organized music to be played later on this term in conjunction with the reading of an anthology of verse and prose. The music consists of Purcell's Golden Sonata and some madrigals which are to be sung by the Madrigal Society, and for the the Orchestra, more Purcell, and the Venus and Adonis Suite by Dr. John Blow.

## THE MUSIC SOCIETY

On Wednesday, May 16th, Mr. Albert Sammons (violin) gave a concert to the Music Society. He was accompanied at the piano by Mr. Geoffrey Tankard. The programme consisted of three major works: Sonata in A by Mozart, the Delius Sonata No. 3, which is dedicated to Mr. Sammons, and finally the Kreutzer Sonata by Beethoven. The audience was obviously impressed and very grateful for the chance to hear such superb playing.

A.G.M.

## THE ART SCHOOL

Owing to examinations and the usual distractions of the Summer term the amount of painting done has been far from large and yet the painting that has been done has, on the whole, been of a higher standard than much produced during the last year.

Possibly the most marked development has been made by A. Caiger-Smith (T) whose still-life paintings show a fine sense of colour and form; his landscapes, however, are not usually so satisfactory.

J. V. Owen (T) has painted a number of water colour landscapes which possess the same colourful vitality as his gouaches.

The scenery for "The Duke In Darkness" was painted very competently by A. A. Macdonald (G).

The annual Exhibition was held on Saturday, July 21st.

O.G.C.

## DEBATING SOCIETY

The Officers of the Society for this term were:—President, Mr. J. M. Todd; Secretary, C. S. O'D. Scott (B); Ex-Secretary, G. P. Lewis (B); Treasurer, J. J. Davis (T); Librarian, H. A. Chapple (C).

The 165th Meeting of the Society was held at the end of last term on March 29th. The Motion was "That peace is more dangerous to humanity than war."

A. W. B. HAYWARD (G), proposing the motion, took as his motto "dulce periculum," urged us to fight to save our souls, if not our bodies, and seemed to prefer death to decadence.

The Worshipful Opposer, M. C. J. WHITBY (G), held up his hands in pious horror at the atrocities and savagery of war, and beamed beatifically as he enumerated the joys of peace and contentment.



M. MORLAND (B) said that not only was war an invaluable stimulus, but also it killed off the mob—though, not, apparently, Mr. Morland.

C. A. COOPER (G) was so eminently reasonable that he saw simultaneously the irrefutable arguments of both sides and confessed that he could reach no conclusion.

The debate that followed was lively and entertaining and unusually relevant.

The Motion was lost in the Upper House by 6 votes to 8, and in the Lower House by 17 votes to 32.

The 166th Meeting of the Society was held on May 30th. The Motion was "That the British Commonwealth can no longer expect to exert a commanding influence in world affairs."

H. A. CHAPPLE (C), proposing with a sensible and logical speech, showed that, whether we liked it or not, the British Empire no longer had sufficient strength to hold the balance of power.

J. V. BARTLETT (T), opposing the motion, had been playing cricket, which made his speech short, but helped, he said, to give the British Commonwealth a commanding influence over the playing fields of the rest of the world, and therefore over world affairs.

R. G. A. PEARCE (B) could be heard quite distinctly from where the Secretary sat and seemed to be making a very intelligent speech. But whether it reached enough of his audience to convert many of its members is a more doubtful point.

C. B. S. DAWSON (C) re-discovered the motion and brought the house back to brass tacks.

The ensuing debate was lively almost to the point of rowdiness.

The Motion was lost in the Upper House by 9 votes to 10, and in the Lower House by 4 votes to 34.

The 167th Meeting was held on June 20th. The Motion was "That the first aim of the public school should be the production of a scholar rather than of a gentleman."

G. P. LEWIS (B), proposing with a scathing and witty analysis of the products of public schools, said we were dead, but successfully made many of us turn in our graves.

A. N. GRIFFITH (B), opposing, proved his point with statistics followed by perverted logic, in a speech that was amusing if unsound.

M. P. M. WARBURTON (C) claimed that the wisdom of the scholar in itself gave to its owner the chivalry of the gentleman.

H. P. SENHOUSE (B) enumerated the necessary qualifications required for gentlemanliness with all the precision and perfection of detail of the connoisseur.

In the debate that followed the House showed more than its usual intelligence, and demonstrated that the products of Stowe, whatever they were intended to be, contained a proportion of both scholarliness and gentlemanliness.

The Motion was carried in the Upper House by 11 votes to 6, and lost in the Lower House by 9 votes to 17.

The following have been elected members of the Society:—W. M. Browne (C), C. S. Edwards (C), J. F. Pim (B), N. N. Proddow (C), J. R. J. Burnham (T), R. M. M. Wills (B).

C.S.O'D.S.

#### THE JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

Election fever gripped the Junior Debating Society this term and a mock election was held which ran for four weeks. In that time candidates nominated by "party interests" in the House addressed the members on election issues. For the Conservative Party M. C. A. Mott (C) was the speaker, for the Labour Party R. F. D. Brews (C); the Liberals had F. R. G. Lowe (G) and J. P. Tweedie-Smith (B); the Independents, M. M. Duke (C). Party feeling ran high, but on the whole the House proved itself definitely Conservative.

In addition to the election meetings, three debates were held on the Lublin Government Issue, on Naval Disarmament and on Past v. Present. Some good speeches were made by Mott, Tweedie-Smith and T. C. B. Potts (B), but the outstanding achievement of the term was the epic speech of the Secretary in defence of the Lublin Government and the noble support rendered him by his seconder M. M. Duke. The Society had thirty-five members, including seventeen ex-members.

R.F.D.B.

## THE GENERAL ELECTION

Stowe owes its thanks to the Nonesuch Club, which proved that it had the energy and ability to carry through successfully such an enterprise as the mock General Election which was held during this term.

There were four parties, Conservative, Labour, Liberal and Independent. A total of three days was given for the election campaigns and canvassing, the climax of the affair being in Assembly on the night of July 4th, when the candidates made their speeches. Overnight, the School was transformed. Where before had been blankly bare cream enamel, there was now a tapestry of posters, varying in colour, size, shape, and party. They varied also in wit: most were prosaically in prose, but a few ventured with small success into what passed for verse. Statements of policy published profusely by Labour flourished in unexpected places, while one party had a model of a tired-looking fish hanging upon the wall, with a suitable tract of propaganda attached.

The Conservatives had two points in their policy; they held that Labour would institute a Belsen at Stowe, and they demanded beer for lunch, knowing perfectly well that there was no chance of their getting it. Otherwise, they appeared to rely upon the personal popularity of their candidate to obtain votes. The Independents had no very clear policy of any nature, and merely hung on to the Victorian skirts of the Conservatives. Labour produced a well-planned and sensible policy which advocated more consideration for the workers, who, after all, are the backbone of this country. Their campaign was the best arranged and most imaginative of any party but the Liberals, the keynote of whose policy was the inevitable "Reform Without Restriction." The Liberal advertising proved to be the best and most attractive to be found. Their best show-piece was the creation composed of a parachute and paper stretched as a canopy across Assembly; unfortunately, it became a target for the unscrupulous, who threw coins and pebbles on to the parachute; however, the high spot of their programme was the "Grand Liberal Meeting" held in Assembly on the Wednesday afternoon, when the spurious "Mrs. Melville-Price" made a most amusing speech in spite of the early discovery of her disguise and initial difficulties with her false teeth.

Wednesday, July 4th, was polling day. The buildings were bedecked with posters, and from early morning until late in the afternoon the loud-speakers, which had been installed in strategic areas by the scientific section, poured forth torrents of political verbose balderdash, intermingled with some of the less desirable creations of Lionel Hampton and the like. All day, bands of amateur politicians patrolled the School, giving forth speeches. At one time a lively altercation developed between the Labour candidate on the statue of George I and the Conservative candidate on the balustrade above the North Front portico, to the strains of "Rule Britannia" played by the Liberal candidate on the chimes of the North Front clock. During the late afternoon, the hustings, which had been growing in fervour and violence, ceased until, at 9 p.m., there was a meeting in Assembly, under the Chairmanship of the Headmaster, when the final speeches were made and polling took place.

The first of the candidates to speak was J. R. Freeland (C) (Independent). In a short but extremely well-delivered speech, he outlined a policy which seemed patriotic but somewhat indecisive.

C. S. O'D. Scott (B) (Liberal) followed him, saying a good deal that was true but unfortunately inaudible.

G. P. Lewis (B) (Labour) made an extremely good and intelligent speech which gave all the good in the Labour party, without the bad.

J. V. Bartlett (T) (Conservative) relied upon a cigar, a V-sign, and a 19th century policy to gain his votes. He got them.

Immediately after the speeches, polling took place. The results were as follows:—Conservative, 247; Labour, 102; Independent, 89; Liberal, 76.

R.M.M.

## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

## THE XII CLUB

Conceit, prejudice, ignorance and stupidity cause Man to believe that "Master of the Universe"—the title of a paper read to the Club by H. A. Chapple (C)—is an apt description of himself. Smugly he calls himself "homo sapiens," claims that a perfect God made him in His own image, and appoints himself as the leader of creation and the only remaining bearer of the torch of progress. But in Mr. Chapple he made a mistake, a traitor and informer with the objectivity and open-mindedness to give the show away and expose the deception. "My corpse is as good a man as I am," said Mr. Chapple; and proved his point with a wealth of ingenious and amusing arguments in a paper both clever and entertaining. The club hotly disputed his humiliating accusations and defended its conceit in a lively discussion. But if it proved Mr. Chapple to have exaggerated a little, it spent an anxious few days afterwards haunted by the fear that we are all inefficient, irrational, useless, unconscious machines—even when it wasn't Tuesday or Friday afternoon.

Mr. Keeffe, of Mississippi, a sergeant in the U.S. Army, later gave a talk to the Club on "American Education." Among many other interesting things, Mr. Keeffe told us that no languages, ancient or modern, were learnt in America before the age of 14, roused our admiration for the fairness and equality of American education, shattered our Hollywood-born belief that co-education was almost universal in America, and confirmed our suspicions that the almost fanatical American enthusiasm for games resulted in a lower general standard of mental education in America than in England. The talk was followed by a long and vigorous discussion, and the Club was grateful to Mr. Keeffe for a most stimulating meeting.

C.S.O'D.S.

## THE VITRUVIANS

The activities of the Society so far this term have consisted of a committee meeting, two lectures and two expeditions.

The 29th meeting of the Society was held on May 26th when the Secretary gave an informal lecture to the Society, with the aid of the epidiascope, on "The Growth of English Domestic Architecture from Primitive times to the Post-War Era." The first expedition took place on June 16th when the churches of Twyford, Steeple Claydon, Middle and East Claydon were visited. It was the first expedition we had had for four terms and proved to be very popular. On June 23rd, Mr. E. A. L. Martyn, F.R.I.B.A., came down from the C.E.A.P.E. to give a simple but most instructive lantern lecture on "Architectural Appreciation." The second expedition was to Sulgrave and took place on July 8th. We first looked round the church and then we moved on to the manor which was the home of George Washington's ancestors. The village itself contains several interesting houses and cottages and is a very complete example of an Elizabethan village which has altered comparatively little in four centuries.

Since this last expedition, the Society's library has been open once more. New books have been added and it has been entirely re-organized. The library had of late been rather lacking in up-to-date architectural books, and the number of books in it has now been brought up from 59 to 76. We hope to purchase another dozen recently published books, which are at present reprinting, next term.

Another lantern lecture has been arranged for July 21st. It will be from Mr. Richard Sheppard, A.R.I.B.A., A.A.Hons. Dipl., on "Post-War Reconstruction." We hope to hold an expedition by bus to Olney, Chicheley and Tyringham on the last Sunday of term.

The Committee this term has consisted of the following:—Secretary, D. H. W. Vey (B); Treasurer, R. P. Marshall (C); Librarian, C. E. Taylor (B); co-opted members, E. D. R. Campbell (G) and M. P. M. Warburton (C). The membership for the term was 60, of whom 14 were in the Upper School, 26 in the Middle School and 20 in the Lower School.

D.H.W.V.

## THE '46' CLUB

This Club was formed in November 1944 to meet the need for a less formal society than the existing Science Society where topics of scientific interest could be discussed.

At the first meeting of the Club, Mr. Boyd was elected President and I. B. Church (W) Secretary. Members of the Club are elected from sides 4 and 6 only and the number of members is restricted to about twelve. The name of the Club was eventually decided on last term after much discussion. Members of side 6 wished to call it the "64" Club, while those on side 4 preferred "46" Club. On being put to the vote, members of side 4 predominating, the name "46" Club was decided upon.

The first paper was read by Mrs. Boyd at the first meeting in November and was entitled "A Short History of Chemistry." Since then there have been four meetings. In the Easter term A. M. Western (Q) read a paper entitled "Is Science a Cook?" and E. D. R. Campbell (G) on "Schrodinger's Theory of Genes and Gene Mutations."

This term there have been two papers so far, and it is hoped that W. H. Atkinson (B) will read a paper before the end of term. At the first meeting W. M. Browne (C) read a paper called "Science and the Future" in which he showed that Science could really bring man many benefits and greater happiness if only it were not corrupted by the politician who used it as a weapon to obtain power and dominate the world. The politician needed to have a scientific education to appreciate the real values of science and to use them in the right way.

At the second meeting the Secretary read a paper entitled "Twenty-five years of Radio." This paper dealt with the history of radio from its very earliest beginnings at the end of the last century up to the incredible complexities of modern radio and electronic devices which amaze the world to-day.

At this latter meeting, C. B. S. Dawson (C) was appointed to make a brief report at the beginning of each meeting on any notable scientific discovery recently made.

We are much indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, in whose rooms the meetings of the Club are held, and especially to Mrs. Boyd who provides such excellent refreshments at each meeting.

I.B.C.

## THE LITERARY SOCIETY

Next term the Poetry Society intends to expand its scope and membership into a general Literary Society, under the Presidency of Mr. C. S. D. Moore. Applications, either for further details, or for membership should be made to M. F. Triefus (W).

M.F.T.

## THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

At the end of last term, Mr. A. G. Archer gave the Society a talk on his travels in Western Canada, Japan and Formosa. It proved most illuminating and many items of interest were pointed out.

Early this term, the Society was fortunate in having a most interesting lecture on "Japanese Imperialism." The speaker was Mr. E. Conrad-Baker, of Cambridge. Besides telling us much of the strategy and methods that the Japanese employed in their swift conquests, he enlightened us on many other points of interest.

Later on in the term, C. B. S. Dawson (C) read a paper on the early exploration of the Pacific. It was unfortunate that few people were present, but those that were enjoyed learning about a comparatively unknown subject.

R.K.K.

## THE SYMPOSIUM

Probably the high-light of this year's Symposium was the visit of its founder J. Ch. Simopoulos (G, 1941) to read a paper entitled "Inspiration."

Although his subject was so abstruse that it took some members out of their depth, he managed to give a detailed survey of the question to the great interest and instruction of the Symposium and its guests, Mr. and Mrs. Todd, E. H. Archibald (G) and C. S. O'D. Scott (B), a former secretary. Backed up by many quotations from authors who were merely names to most members, he guided the Society through the subjects of poetic vision and mysticism as connected with the higher forms of inspiration itself. In the discussion which followed, much attention was devoted to the subject of dreams, together with both the psychiatrist's and J. W. Dunne's interpretations of them. The meeting closed with the President's explanation of prophecy in great poetry.

This term it has been possible to invite several guests to read papers, since by half-term every member had already read a paper sometime during the year. This is a good proof of the smoothness with which the Symposium has run this year.

The first paper of the term was read by the Secretary on the subject of "Obscurity in Modern Poetry." In this, the need for a fresh view-point was stressed in approaching modern poetry, and several causes of obscurity were explained and removed by the paper.

The second paper of the term was read by M. P. M. Warburton (C), who read in great detail on "The Adulteration of Food," leaving the Society in perpetual dread of finding sand in its sugar and sawdust in its coffee.

In the third meeting of the term, the Society heard C. S. Edwards (C) give a talk on "The Incas of Peru." The ensuing discussion was philosophical in tone, and was devoted mainly to the question whether the Incas, who were incapable of original thought, had any need of it, in view of the fact that their life was so secure.

Later in the term, J. A. C. Forbes-Sempill (C) will read a paper on "American Education."

M.F.T.

## THE CONGREVE CLUB

The demands of Cricket and Certificate Examinations generally make this a difficult time for Drama, but in spite of this the Club has been as active as in any term since its formation.

In these days it is impossible in the Summer to raise enough actors for a representative School play; but, encouraged by the success of "Men in Shadow" last year, the Club has again attempted a modern play with a small cast. A review of "The Duke in Darkness" appears elsewhere in this issue.

The first Club expedition set forth on July 7th. Twenty members spent the day at Stratford-upon-Avon, saw a performance of "Othello" and were afterwards shown the theatre. The elaborate stage mechanism aroused the envy of stage technicians and inspired wistful schemes for a model school theatre at Stowe.

At present there is a discouraging dearth of every sort of stage equipment. These things are hard to get at present; but the first step has been taken with the construction of a new set of scenery flats.

Play-readings have been regularly attended, though the number of readers available is disappointing. The following plays have been read:—"Dear Brutus," by J. M. Barrie; "Justice," by John Galsworthy; "The Devil's Disciple," by Bernard Shaw; "The Ship," by St. John Ervine; "They came to a City," by J. B. Priestley.

It is felt that, at present, interest in the Drama at Stowe is too spasmodic. An impending production will evoke a spell of feverish activity, but it is too concentrated to produce permanent results and throws too great a strain on a small number. The Club appeals for more regular helpers, particularly carpenters and electricians to make more permanent stage equipment.

A.A.D.

## BOOK REVIEWS

"THE DYNASTY OF STOWE," by PROF. G. WILSON KNIGHT.

(*The Fortune Press*—10/6)

By A. A. MILNE.

In September, 1941, Mr. Wilson Knight, who had drifted years ealier, as so many before him, from schoolmastering to writing, found himself a schoolmaster again. These heroic returns to a Carthage from which one had been released win neither medals nor incidental music; they are a form of devoted war-service of which few are aware. Let us, then, give them a passing salute, before we admit that Mr. Knight was as lucky to find himself stationed at Stowe as Stowe was to receive him. For, in the expressive language of our time, he fell for it in a big way.

To many of us, looking for a school for our sons, the leisured loveliness, the spacious dignity of Stowe had made an obvious appeal; but to Mr. Knight its beauty spoke with all the voices of its historic past; and the spirit of Stowe, which once had been the very spirit of England, seemed to him to be watching over, and fashioning, the new England which was growing up there. In this book he tells something of that past. The Rise and Fall of the House of Stowe: a story which may be said to have begun and ended with the House of Hanover.

An historic short story. Anybody, unlike myself moderately well-informed, could have guessed the plot from the names of the school houses: Temple, Walpole, Chatham, Grenville, Cobham, Bruce, Chandos, Grafton; but these are only the bare bones of the story. The Palace and Gardens of Stowe, which were the glory and wonder of England, with Capability Brown himself concealed among the 400 gardeners; the great Whig House of Stowe, which was host, de haut en bas, to Royalty, patron of Prime Ministers, and provider of nephews for the odd pigeon-holes in the Cabinet; whose remittance-man was The Great Commoner, and protégé The Great Duke; whose lords rose from Sir Richard Temple to the Duke of Buckingham, and then disappeared; it is a story which died inevitably with the Industrial Age . . . and it may even be that the much shorter story of the new Stowe will die with the Mechanical Age, doomed to swing with the unlovely music which that Age has inspired.

But it is a story worth re-telling. In these days, when everybody is rushing to climb into the Left luggage van of any train going no matter where, so long as it goes without class distinction, it is well, even at the risk of being called a crypto-Fascist by "Pravda," to remember that the life which we are leaving behind us has still something to teach us. For "Employment and Security for All" is not the end of the journey. It conducts us only to the taking-off ground, whence we may rise to those uplands which have been chartered for us, however waveringly, however selfishly, by the great Private Houses and the great Public Schools: a world of Beauty and Leisure and Dignity, of Loyalty and Good Manners.

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"MARTIN LUTHER—HITLER'S SPIRITUAL ANCESTOR," by P. F. WIENER

(*Hutchison*—2/6)

Although he eats up space in protesting against the lack of it, Mr. Wiener still manages to pack a graphic impression of a teeming personality into these eighty pages; chiefly through quotations from his victim, Martin Luther. Quotations, however, isolated from their context, may make lively reading, but they may not convince, especially when their manipulator has a single or 'monistic' idea running through his mind, in this instance apparently, that 'the evil that men do, lives after them.' The effect of dislocated quotations combined with an urgent theory is one familiar in the works of those who seek to prove that Bacon wrote Shakespeare. Mr. Wiener seeks to prove that Luther indirectly wrote Mein Kampf. One can sympathise with an attitude of repugnance towards both Hitler and Luther; but to trace the spiritual descent of one from the other is a matter for a historian who can command ample book space; for it is quite possible that in the course of the investigation he might have to reckon with influences well beyond the limits of Germany.

Mr. Wiener deplors that he has not space to deal with those aspects of Luther, which he finds laudable; and against waiting until he has time to do justice both to Luther's name and his own capacity, he pleads a state of emergency; he pleads a fear that England may again fall into

an old habit of not seeing a substantial bogey in Lutheranism. It is for this reason—he says of his 'notes'—that 'if they were going to be published, they had to be published soon.' Surely this is special pleading with a vengeance. Notes on a new fashion in feminine hats may have to be published within a week or a day, or not at all; but notes on spiritual values should hardly be so ephemeral. One might almost say that the truer a thing is, the longer it can wait to see the light of day. Through his anxiety Mr. Wiener is likely to defeat his own purposes. The more he underlines Luther's grossness, immorality, vindictive hysteria and political time-serving, the more some Englishmen may be inclined to murmur, 'But he did not write the Decameron; he did not provide the Council of Constance with its uneconomical night life: he did not instruct Cesare Borgia in ethics or Torquemada in psychology, or even General Franco in both.' And other Englishmen, probably more numerous, finding that the responsibility for Hitler can be so easily and securely laid at Luther's door, may according to their particular fancies better the argument and make him responsible for anything they dislike in history or out of it, whether it be the pre-Lutheran burning of St. Joan or the post-Lutheran birth of Jack the Ripper. And that would be a pity.

R.M.

## PLAY REVIEWS

### "THE DUKE IN DARKNESS"

Presented by the Congreve Club on July 2nd and 3rd.

"Have you seen my brother George?"

"Your brother George?"

"Yes, my brother George."

"Have I seen your brother George?"

"Yes, have you seen my brother George?"

"Yes, I've seen your brother George."

—Uproariously funny in a pantomime, perhaps. But when 'George' is a red ring round the moon, when the play is a serious attempt at a character study, and when the conversationalists are battling for the life of a man whose one hope of escape is that one of them can persuade the other to get out as quickly as possible, one cannot help feeling a little impatient, even annoyed, at such snail-like unfolding of the plot. Are there dark profundities of philosophy or poetry wrapped up in these eternal repetitions? Or are they introduced with the intention of creating a realistic atmosphere in the belief that in the good old days of the Middle Ages men had so little to say and so much time in which to say it that they could afford to say everything five times running to make sure that it penetrated the presumably almost impermeable skulls of their contemporaries? Or is it merely that the author, on being assured by his literary agency that three acts are three times as popular as one, invested his capital in a dictionary of synonyms and a packet of carbon paper and made the necessary additions to stretch the plot through three long acts? We can only guess at the answer; but whatever his motives may have been, he undoubtedly succeeded in creating for the actors and directors (Mr. B. S. Stephan and Mr. A. A. Dams) a problem that might have taxed the wits of the most experienced of professionals. In fact, that the Congreve Club's presentation of "Duke in Darkness" successfully held its audience of habitually critical Stoics and sustained an atmosphere of tension almost up to the very end was due almost alone to the superbly able performance of J. A. C. Forbes-Sempill (C) in the role of the benevolent old duke, whose plan to escape after 15 years imprisonment by his enemies forms all that can be called the 'plot' of the play. With his servant Gribaudo, played by J. Davan-Sainsbury (G), who gave a most convincing and moving portrayal of a weak and persecuted character lapsing gradually into insanity, he saved, by a performance as convincing and technically perfect as any yet seen at Stowe by the present generation of Stoics, an evening that might well have been one of unrelieved boredom and restlessness and made it instead perhaps the most successful evening's entertainment that the Congreve Club has yet provided.

In the comparatively minor parts—for almost alone Forbes-Sempill and Davan-Sainsbury carried the play on their long-suffering shoulders—D. J. D. Richardson (C) as a phlegmatic but loyal supporter of the duke, and A. J. O. Ritchie (T) as his gruff captor (could he not have shown a little more conspicuously his reputed addiction to alcohol?) deserve special notice; while J. B. More (C), C. B. H. Gill (G), J. J. Davis (T), J. F. Chance (C), V. S. Greig (C) and J. L. Warner (G) effectively displayed flashy and attractive accoutrements but were not allowed to contribute much to the scintillating conversation about red rings, rain and ropes. With the exceptionally high standard of acting, the painstaking and efficient work of all those behind the scenes, and the excellence and imagination of the direction, one cannot help being led to the conclusion that if the Congreve Club could only find a play worthy of its mettle it would now be passing through a golden age that would not easily be surpassed for many years.

C.S.O'D.S.

### "THE EMPEROR JONES"

Presented by Chandos, March 26th and 27th.

The "Emperor Jones" is a play of enormous power and intensity. It is also great, having, in the conventional jargon, 'something to say.' Who cannot be thrilled, gripped, and somewhat horrified, at the gradual debasement of Brutus Jones from the dandy, self-confident emperor to the primitive, cowering savage, as superstition and terror gradually strip him of his acquired Western habits and clothes, and produce before him out of the gloom of the forest apparitions from his past life and heredity. The audience was thrilled, gripped by the increasing inevitability of his fate, as he rushes hysterically through the forest, the apparitions becoming more and more primitive, his bullets running out and the never-ceasing tom-tom of his pursuers beating out its message of doom ever nearer. Eugene O'Neill does not write plays merely for the sake of writing them. The superficiality of civilized habits applies not only to black men, but to white. The play made us think and that was why we came away from the Gym with a feeling which other productions there rarely impart.

By reason of the play it was a one-man performance; everything depends on the emperor, and as emperor J. A. C. Forbes-Sempill carried the whole show effortlessly on his shoulders. In a series of scenes of mounting drama and intensity, without help or relief, he showed outstanding power and endurance, and still, in the hysteria, never lost Jones' character.

The rest of the cast enhanced the atmosphere of the jungle most effectively, mostly without speaking. R. A. Brown had created a wonderfully cavernous forest of foreboding trunks and mysterious shapes; the production, by J. B. More, put the play over in all its power; and congratulations must not be omitted to the indefatigable beater of the tom-tom.

G.P.L.

### "THE GHOST OF JERRY BUNDLER"

and

### "UNDER THE SKULL AND BONES"

Presented by Walpole on March 21st and 22nd.

Walpole House, turning from the usual custom in house plays, presented two one-act plays. The first, "The Ghost of Jerry Bundler," by W. W. Jacobs, was disappointing, as the climax was never properly attained. O. G. Champion as Hirst gave the most convincing performance, and J. M. Kahn made the perfect country waiter. The second play, "Under the Skull and Bones," was in a much lighter vein and, even if it was a little crude for some of the audience, the actors were certainly more at home and the play was a greater success. J. L. W. Hancock was in his element as the singing sea-captain, with the more athletic members of Walpole as his somewhat rowdy crew, while A. D. Cathcart-Jones and G. R. A. Miskin as the two adventurous Boy Scouts were bursting with youthful eagerness. "Under the Skull and Bones" was especially notable for the excellent make-up and costumes of the pirates and their captain. Both plays were produced by Mr. A. A. Dams. Even if these two plays lacked finish, Walpole has shown that there is another side to house-plays besides revues and three-act plays and the audience undoubtedly appreciated this refreshing breach of custom.

S.D.M.R.



## "GEORGE AND THE DRAGON"

Presented by Bruce House on April 2nd and 3rd.

To make a successful house play from a pantomime is no easy feat. The absence of a real plot as anything more than a flimsy peg for hanging witticisms on means that these witticisms must be sustained, almost without a break, throughout the play, and this demands unusual skill from both author and actors. But Bruce showed that they possessed this skill. A really witty script, written by C. S. O'D Scott and G. P. Lewis, was turned into a first-rate entertainment by some fine acting.

The play was vaguely about George and the Dragon, but chiefly about Stowe. C. G. Dealtry, as the handsome hero with more muscle than brain, made a suitable partner to J. F. Pim, the perfect pantomimic heroine, chaste and righteous. The third corner of the triangle, the oleaginous and operatic villain Count Copperbottom, was competently played by A. N. Griffith, while the unsteadiness of King Brandybred the Unsteady was well suggested by S. D. M. Robertson, who took the part at short notice with remarkable confidence and ability. R. G. A. Pearce was a convincingly Hotchkisslike Queen Quinine, and mention must not be omitted of the dragon, mild and a little shy, of the chivalrous and well-mannered horse, and of the four Roman soldiers, whose perfectly drilled dog-latin back-chat formed one of the most amusing scenes of the play.

But everyone will agree that the laurels for the play really go to Scott and Lewis, the joint authors and producers. They appeared on the stage only in Scene III (An Interruption: the Stage of the Bruce Houserom) when the play reached an utterly irrelevant climax of hilarity. But Scott's voice was heard in some convincing imitations of Stowe celebrities (and others more widely known) and his piano throughout the show, while Lewis's scenery made a pleasant background to the farcical situations and fantastic conversations of this most uproariously entertaining of pantomimes.

P.A.M.

## CRICKET

## LATE NEWS

In the Final of the House Matches, Walpole beat Grafton by an innings and 65 runs.

In the Final of the Junior House Matches, Temple winning for the fourth year in succession, beat Bruce by 97 runs.

