

O.S.S.

THE STOIC



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GONE TO GROUND

THE unseasonable reappearance of the Green Book in October is compensated only by its utilitarian value. For the enjoyment of the moment is so closely linked to a knowledge of when and where, that many people are already thinking of their previous terms, like the electric cable, as one long hell. But now that the short-lived pleasure of flipping through irrelevant pages is over, and the chances that one may put

“One’s fingers into glue,
Or madly squeeze a right-hand foot
Into a left-hand shoe.”

or make any other silly mistake, are made negligible and our adherence to the straight and narrow path depends on forty pages of flimsy paper, we may look for a moral collapse, or, from care released, a *joie de vivre* that knows no bounds. We may. But the nature of the average Stoic is so fundamentally British that such possibilities stand but a very slender chance. He digs in his heels to watch with maddening imperturbability the substance of Mother Earth being churned and piled near ‘George’ by the multitudinous buckets of a mechanical digger, and then is ready for more before the cable’s trench has reached the Gym. Indeed, this worthy link with Towcester has been responsible for so impressive a cross-section that the rapt attention of Stoics meandering through the day’s work could only be less surprising were they archaeologists, or carrying to the fundamentals the study of the rise and fall which the Roman Road, the Oxford Bridge, and Stowe itself, so metaphorically represent.

But Stowe is no longer what it was ; it is considerably more. Stowe provides reading matter for most of this country and oral entertainment

for half the United States, while its pictures embellish those pages which were graced, not so long ago, by a yet more notorious institution.

Seasons must return faster than Miltonic placidity will allow if Stowe is to be saved by the warmth of Spring. We may, being deprived of the electrical stimulus to life, find the Wild West Wind no longer a thing of beauty, and join the pestilence-stricken multitudes of leaves and die; or perhaps we shall survive this and succumb to the cold cold snow.

MAJOR CLOSE SMITH

Major Thomas Close Smith, of Boycott Manor, who died on November 18th, had been a friend and benefactor of the School since its foundation and a member of its Governing Body since 1939. He was closely connected by marriage with the family to whom Stowe formerly belonged, Mrs. Close Smith being daughter of the Baroness Kinloss and granddaughter of the last Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. His interest in the School was deep and lasting. In our difficult early years he gave us invaluable advice and guidance and helped us inconspicuously in the solution of many problems. When the Chapel was being planned he responded generously to the appeal for funds, and one of the stalls in the building is his gift. After he became a Governor, his local knowledge, his steady judgment and his affection for the School gave great weight to his opinion, which was always listened to with special attention. By his death Stowe loses a friend and counsellor who must remain irreplaceable.

CASUALTY

KILLED

• MAJOR J. D. B. DORAN (G, 1931) at Tel Aviv, Palestine, on September 9th, 1946.

GEOFFREY DE HAVILLAND

*Ab yet would God this flesh of mine might be
Where air might wash and long leaves cover me,
Where tides of grass break into foam of flowers,
Or where the wind's feet shine along the sea.*

Geoffrey Raoul de Havilland was born at Crux Easton in Hampshire, on February 18th, 1910, near the site and during the period of his father's first flying experiments, and was educated at Stowe. He joined the de Havilland Company in 1928, served three years as an apprentice and learned to fly in the R.A.F. Reserve at Stag Lane, Edgware. After experience in several departments he spent some time in South Africa. On his return in 1932, he was a flying instructor at the de Havilland Technical School and later at the London Aeroplane Club and he turned from this kind of flying to test piloting in 1935.

The first aircraft he tested was a Dragon and his first handling of a clean monoplane was obtained with the Albatross in 1937 and 1938. He became chief test pilot on October 1st, 1938, when his predecessor, R. J. Waight, was killed. Taking his place was quite a step for one who had not then a large collection of types in his log book. Three months later he flew the first Flamingo liner, and he made the first flight of every D.H. prototype from then up to 1945 when he invited Geoffrey Pike to give the Dove light transport its initial take-off. The intervening series were all high-performance military aeroplanes of the war, the fastest in their categories—the Mosquito in its various marks from November 25, 1940, the Vampire jet fighter from September 20, 1943, the Hornet from July 28, 1944. He was awarded the O.B.E. at the end of the war for these services.

He took part in a great many races and contests, always using high skill and sometimes getting past the handicappers and he shone in the low turns of pylon racing. He had mishaps, natural and expected in experimental work. A specially aft-loaded Moth Minor had to be abandoned in the air when he and John Cunningham were testing it. When passing out repaired war-time Hurricanes a canopy came off and struck his nose, and it was unusual tenacity on that occasion which got him safely down. Other incidents could be named, every one ably handled.

Geoffrey de Havilland died at the young age of thirty-six, at the height of his career as a test pilot of high-performance aircraft and on the eve of an essay which was expected to raise the world speed record by a considerable margin.

He died as he had long thought that he might, in the heat of life, in the moment of endeavour. It was always difficult to imagine him living to become old, mainly perhaps because he would not want to be old. A vigorous youthfulness radiated from him; a wholesome, artless eagerness was the outstanding thing about him. He liked the natural things that a young man ought to like and he made his career in a calling that gave expression to his senses and did not entangle them in the thwarting complications of a business world.

Flying was his consuming interest and delight, and so his work was fired with an enthusiasm which brought out the highest qualities.

Thoughts that he might be killed while flying were completely free from any morbid element. He was fearless and accepted the risk clearly, even a trifle amusedly, for love of the work that he was doing. His fearlessness was of the best kind for he also took great care and avoided any foolhardiness in his flying. His own brother, John, youngest of the three sons of Sir Geoffrey and Lady de Havilland, was killed in this way; a Mosquito which he was testing on August 23, 1943, collided with another flown by his friend and colleague, George Gibbins, and all four occupants of the two aircraft lost their lives.

Geoffrey's skill was innate and was developed in the most favourable circumstances by flying progressively finer aircraft. He became possibly the best demonstration pilot in the Empire, and his performances were exquisite. In an unusual way he combined with this adeptness a flare for appreciation and a technical understanding which made him one of the most capable test pilots that the industry has had. Doubtless this must be largely attributed to his parental upbringing and his apprenticeship training, in the course of which he was steeped in an atmosphere of authenticity. Thus prepared, and thereafter encouraged by the engineers for whom he flew, it was natural that he should become the kind of analytical test pilot most useful to the aerodynamicist and the designer. His quick and direct diagnosis, his plain reporting, contributed greatly towards the expeditiousness with which de Havilland prototypes have been developed, while the lightness of his touch was reflected in their handling qualities. The importance of good test flying is often not fully recognised. A test pilot can make or mar a firm.

His love of flying and the civilian path along which he graduated, by way of the Moths and the Dragons to the faster and then the fastest types, all of de Havilland make, gave him something of the amateur status and spirit which other pilots recognised in him. This explains why even the Mosquito and later types remind one of the Tiger Moth in the way they handle—an important fact. And it explains Geoffrey's taste for sporting events, which lured him away on Saturday afternoons before the war, to race his little T.K.2 for pleasure. It was he who pressed to enter the Vampire in the Folkestone race four weeks before his death, for the fun of seeing what he could do with it against other fast types around a small circuit.

But he took his work very seriously. He seized every opportunity of flying aircraft of other makes and accumulated a wide experience. Realistic enough to recognise his ability and the responsible position in which it placed him he would react harshly to unqualified opinion or criticism or to any attempt to divert him from major issues. In such instances he could be biting if not bitter, and the funny side would well up in him afterwards, to be relished time and time again.

He was sensitively appreciative of poetry and music, though few realised it, and had a special liking for Swinburne, engendered perhaps by his headmaster in the latter part of his schooldays. This would reveal itself unexpectedly among his intimates, and the lines which are reproduced at the head of this notice are some that he was quoting a few evenings before he was lost, and almost as if in premonition.

Sea bathing meant much to him and he would swim at almost any time of the year, whenever the opportunity offered. He had physical attributes of a high order, a fine form with a fine heart to back it up, and his endurance and recovery were always surprising. He was no mean runner in his day and to see him easily win the "mile" three years in succession at the works sports, without preparation, was a revelation of wind and limb.

Modest and never self-seeking, he nevertheless found himself becoming a public figure. People in the limelight are called upon to show a special control, and it may be said that he was not spoiled by the publicity which he could not avoid.

In an age that gives approval to mediocrity nothing about him was ever mediocre.

(By courtesy of the de Havilland Aircraft Company)

DECORATIONS

O.B.E.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER K. A. GOUDGE, D.S.C., R.N. (C, 1928).

STOICA

School Officials—Christmas Term, 1946.

Prefects:—E. C. Skepper (T), Head of the School; J. O. Arnold (G), Second Prefect; C. A. Hancox (G), Prefect of Chapel; G. J. Chibbett (C), Prefect of Gymnasium; S. D. M. Robertson (B), Prefect of Library; R. J. Broadley (W); A. C. B. Chancellor (C); P. M. Young (C); A. C. Eastgate (C); M. E. J. FitzGerald (G); C. E. Taylor (B); J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W).

Rugby Football:—Captain, M. E. J. FitzGerald (G); Secretary, P. M. Young (C).

The following visitors have preached in Chapel this term:—October 20th, The Rev. Kenneth Riches, Principal of Cuddesdon College, Oxford; October 27th, The Rev. L. J. Collins, Dean of Oriel College, Oxford; November 3rd, The Rev. V. H. Jenkyn, Secretary of the Oxford Diocesan Missionary Council.

A Confirmation Service was held in the Chapel on Thursday, November 28th, when eighty-seven members of the School were confirmed by the Bishop of Oxford.

Chapel Collections this term have included:—September 29th, for the Pineapple, £27 6s. 3d.; October 20th, for the Canterbury Cathedral Appeal Fund, £35 15s. 2d.; November 10th, for the Earl Haig Fund, £91 7s. 8d.; December 15th, for the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children.

The second post-war Old Stoic Dinner was held in London at Grosvenor House on Saturday, November 23rd. Some 240 Old Stoics attended the dinner. Speeches were made by the Headmaster and

Major W. L. McElwee, M.C.; and by H. A. L. Montgomery-Campbell (C, 1928) and J. D. Murray (C, 1928).

The Grafton Hounds held their first post-war Meet at Stowe at 11.0 a.m. on Saturday, November 30th. A dozen members of the School followed on horse-back and many on foot. A fox was killed near the Temple of Concord.

On Tuesday, October 22nd, the Upper School and others listened to an address from Field-Marshal the Viscount Montgomery of Alamein. After his address he presented the School Library with the two volumes of his own account of his campaigns.

At the request of Field-Marshal Montgomery, Thursday, November 21st was observed as a whole-holiday. Expeditions were undertaken by different parties and societies, to Oxford, Cambridge, Northampton, Whipsnade and London.

Of 36 candidates for the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board's Higher Certificates in July, 29 gained Certificates. Of 87 candidates for the School Certificate, 77 were successful.

The relatives of the late Captain A. R. McDougall (C, 1936), Coldstream Guards, have founded a Musical Scholarship to be called the Robert McDougall Scholarship for Music, which will be held at Stowe by boys selected by the Director of Music.

The father of the late Major C. P. O'Farrell, M.C. (C, 1937), Royal Irish Fusiliers, has founded a Bursary to be called the Charles O'Farrell Memorial Bursary, which will be held at Stowe by boys selected by the Trustees. Priority will be given to sons of Regular Officers or ex-Officers of the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

A prize for Middle School Geography has been founded under the will of Squadron-Leader P. A. Bates, D.F.C. (C, 1940) who was killed in 1945. It will be called the Peter Bates Prize for Geography and awarded to the candidate who gets the highest marks in the School Certificate each July.

The Pearman Smith Prize for Mathematics has been awarded to C. A. Wauhope (C).

Mr. D. I. Brown returned from war-service at the beginning of this term and has resumed the Housemastership of Cobham.

Mr. A. B. E. Gibson has been appointed Housemaster of Grenville, in succession to Mr. R. M. Hamer.

Mr. R. M. Hamer has left Stowe to take up his appointment as Headmaster of the Queens Royal College, Trinidad. Mr. E. Cawston is also leaving in order to take on the joint headship of Orwell Park Preparatory School; and Mr. J. M. Selby in order to become a Senior Lecturer at the R.M.A., Sandhurst.

The birth has been announced of a son to the wife of Mr. D. I. Brown, on October 22nd; and of a daughter to the wife of Mr. R. Walker, on December 6th.

School Colours for Football have been awarded as follows:—

1st XV. :—G. J. Chibbett (C), R. M. Bartlett (T), G. H. B. Carter (T), I. Scott-Elliot (W), R. J. Broadley (W) (re-awarded); W. C. O. Munks (C), S. B. Cunningham (T), N. J. J. Mitchell (W), D. G. A. Airey (C), C. A. Hancox (G), C. M. Mosselmans (C), G. M. Booth (C), J. M. Shinner (B).

2nd XV. :—D. S. Withers (G), J. D. Lloyd (B), P. J. Norris-Hill (G), L. R. S. Marler (G), R. N. B. Gubbins (T), J. O. Arnold (G), C. H. Bradly (B), J. F. Conington (B), J. L. Freeman-Cowen (B), S. B. Lloyd (C).

3rd XV. :—B. A. Platt (C), G. L. D. Duckworth (C), M. T. Paxton (C), R. A. Roxburgh (W), F. A. Ruhemann (C), D. A. Connell (G), M. H. Ewbank (C), J. K. H. Torrens (C), R. J. Posnett (C), W. J. H. van Stirum (B), R. Hodgson (C), A. J. Struthers (C), D. H. Lorrimer (C), R. J. P. Corry (C), P. V. Rycroft (C), N. N. Proddow (C), C. A. Wauhope (C), A. W. Murdoch (T).

Colts' Stockings :—R. G. Macmillan (C), J. F. Conington (B), C. H. Bartlett (T), M. C. A. Mott (C), J. W. A. Downing (T), W. R. G. Short (G), J. L. Paxton (C), R. J. Roberts (C), R. W. D. McKelvie (B), T. R. Lambert (G), J. E. Gilbey (G), J. J. Wheatley (C), G. W. Scott (C).

OLIM ALUMNI

N. G. ANNAN (T, 1935) broadcast 'Tonight's Talk' in the B.B.C. Home Service on Sunday, December 1st. His subject was 'Ourselves and our Ancestors.'

J. W. STOYE (C, 1936), has been elected to a Dixon Scholarship at Christ Church, Oxford.

M. B. SCHOLFIELD (T, 1939) has been appointed Secretary of Golf at Cambridge for 1947.

MARRIAGES

G. M. WOLFE (G, 1929) to Miss J. Davson, on October 7th; J. R. C. HOLBECH (C, 1939) to Miss J. S. Palethorpe, on October 22nd; Major W. W. CHEYNE (C, 1938) to Miss L. Hutchison, on October 1st; LIEUTENANT (E) J. W. FRAZER (T, 1935) to Miss E. J. Hammond-Chambers-Borgnis, on November 16th; P. SHERRARD (C, 1937) to Miss A. B. Stacey, on November 9th (in Stowe Chapel); THE HON. T. C. F. PRITTE (G, 1932) to Miss L. D. Dundas, on August 29th; H. A. HELLAWELL (C, 1935) to Miss L. Harrison, on September 16th; P. M. JEAVONS (G, 1938) to Miss P. M. Woodhouse, on September 7th; MAJOR O. CHURCHILL, D.S.O., M.C. (C, 1933) to Miss R. Briggs, on August 31st; CAPTAIN P. A. DILLON (C, 1939) to Miss G. M. Pilnacek, on July 28th; LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER K. A. GOUDGE, O.B.E., D.S.C. (C, 1928) to Miss E. R. Wilson, on October 12th; S. HOBBS (B, 1939) to Miss C. R. Thom, on July 24th.

MAJOR A. P. NESS (C, 1930) to Miss P. Janssen, on August 10th; J. D. WHITBY (B, 1938) to Miss U. M. Ruddock, on August 11th, 1945; C. L. HALL (C, 1933) to Miss O. M. E. Keir, on October 9th; R. I. FRASER (C, 1937) to Miss Teague, on December 4th; FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT J. D. LE BOUVIER, R.A.F. (T, 1940) to Miss J. McDonald, on September 20th; J. T. HOLMAN (W, 1939) to Miss V. Carlyon, on November 18th; LT.-COLONEL H. D. NELSON-SMITH (C, 1932) to Miss F. R. Oakey, on November 2nd; MAJOR J. D. BUCHANAN (W, 1935) to Miss J. M. Pennycuik, on November 9th; SQUADRON-LEADER H. E. LOCKHART-MUMMERY (C, 1935) to Miss J. Crerar, on November 5th; S. M. SOWERBY (C, 1932) to Miss D. B. Burrell, on November 2nd; R. I. K. MONCREIFFE (C, 1937) to the Countess of Erroll, on December 12th.

BIRTHS

To the wife of W. B. DRYSDALE (G, 1935), a son, on July 16th, 1945; to the wife of D. E. FREAN (C, 1932), a son, on July 15th; to the wife of CAPTAIN R. H. HAWKINS

(C, 1941), a son, on October 1st; to the wife of SQUADRON-LEADER J. C. BREESE, D.F.C. (C, 1935), a son, on September 24th; to the wife of C. C. CHESHIRE (C, 1937), a son, on September 21st (at Bogota, Colombia); to the wife of M. E. J. HOOS (B, 1930), a son and a daughter, on September 1st; to the wife of CAPTAIN H. W. BLYTH (C, 1929), a daughter, on September 19th; to the wife of CAPTAIN R. A. ALSTON-ROBERTS-WEST, M.C. (G, 1938), a son, on July 6th; to the wife of O. H. J. BERTRAM (T, 1927), a daughter, on August 14th; to the wife of R. H. CALVERT (G, 1929), a daughter, on August 5th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT H. E. JOSSELYN, D.S.C. (T, 1931), a daughter, on July 31st (in Kenya); to the wife of M. LORIMER (G, 1930), a daughter, on July 15th; to the wife of J. P. McDONAGH (G, 1928), a son, on August 10th; to the wife of G. M. STEWART-WALLACE (C, 1927), a son, on July 13th; to the wife of M. F. VILLIERS-STUART (T, 1930), a daughter, on July 18th; to the wife of J. J. BARCLAY (C, 1931), a son, on August 15th; to the wife of D. C. L. CHIDELL (G, 1933), a son, on August 16th.

To the wife of WING-COMMANDER J. R. KAYLL, D.S.O., O.B.E., D.F.C. (G, 1931), a son, on April 7th; to the wife of MAJOR F. W. KENNEDY (G, 1930), a daughter, on October 19th; to the wife of R. A. ATTHILL (C, 1931), a daughter, on October 20th; to the wife of H. F. CASSEL (C, 1933), a daughter, on October 18th; to the wife of MAJOR K. P. P. GOLDSCHMIDT (C, 1935), a daughter, on October 12th; to the wife of C. A. WILLINK (C, 1932), a daughter, on October 19th; to the wife of G. W. EMRYS-ROBERTS (C, 1932), a son, on October 21st; to the wife of E. M. M. BESTERMAN (W, 1941), a son, on October 31st; to the wife of W. R. K. SILCOCK (C, 1927), a son, on October 10th; to the wife of A. C. R. ALBERY (G, 1933), a son, on October 8th; to the wife of M. J. GIBBON (G, 1929), a son, on October 14th; to the wife of G. O. WYNNE (G, 1941), a son, on October 2nd; to the wife of PRINCE YURKA GALITZINE (C, 1937), a daughter, on November 13th; to the wife of Squadron-Leader R. E. W. HARLAND (C, 1938), a son, on November 12th.

THE OLD STOIC GOLFING SOCIETY

The first post-war meeting of the O.S.G.S. was held on Sunday, September 29th, 1946, at Sandy Lodge G.C., Northwood, Middlesex. The Buchanan Trophy for the best scratch score was won by P. B. Lucas (G, 1934) with a score of 76. P. B. Lucas was also the winner of the prize for the best score under handicap, $76 + 1 = 77$. This prize will take the form of a new Memorial Trophy, for which a fund has been opened and which will serve as a memorial to the eleven members of the O.S.G.S. who lost their lives during the war.

The foursomes against bogey were won by C. A. Ashcroft (C, 1938) and J. P. Phillips (C, 1939).

M. H. BLUNDELL, *Secretary*.

THE ART SCHOOL

Exhibition of Works by Old Stoics, November 27th to December 9th, 1946.

At the end of last term, Mr. and Mrs. Watt circularised about eighty of those Old Stoics whose painting had shown most promise, and invited them to send works for exhibition. Twenty-five of these did so; others had hoped to contribute, but to our great regret were eventually prevented by their absence abroad. Nevertheless some 200 works were hung in the Art School, 41 of these being oil paintings and the remainder mostly in water-colour or pen and wash; some architectural designs were also included, and some stage settings with photographs of actual performances. The leaving dates of the exhibitors varied between 1931 and 1945, and the pictures themselves between the professional (some have been shown in London galleries) and the purely personal, such as the striking pencil 'Portraits in Prison Camp,' by H. F. Sassoon (G, 1939) and the pleasant reminiscences of his cruises by T. Lisney (G, 1942). To have assembled an exhibition of such size and scope is, it will be agreed, a complete justification for all the hard work that has fallen upon the organisers, even if one disregards the amazingly good quality of the exhibits themselves. We look forward to the next exhibition of this kind, which, it is understood, will be in two years' time.

Fortunately there is no question of prizes or orders of merit, and it is possible to pass at random from painting to painting as they occur most readily to mind, and to assure the exhibitors that lack of mention implies nothing more than lack of space. One's most lasting impressions are of the colour of 'Chinese Carving' and two flower-pieces by C. B. Cash (G, 1936); the light in a dozen or more water-colours by E. N. Rolfe (B, 1939); the quality of paint in 'Still Life,' by Earl Haig (C, 1935); the crystalline landscapes of F. B. Richards (T, 1936); the facility of I. E. T. Jenkin (C, 1938); the clean-cut self-sufficiency of 'On the Thames' and 'Canal' by A. G. E. Howard (C, 1938); the intensity and character of the portraits by J. G. Drew (C, 1936); the economy and efficiency of the stage settings by N. Q. Lawrence (C, 1939); the depth and modelling of 'Trees' and 'Blossoms,' by J. E. G. Gentilli (C, 1943); and, above all, of the general dignity, sanity, and good manners, the lack of flamboyancy and avoidance of false emphasis, that make this exhibition so different to what one might expect from twenty-five young artists.

Can one discern the beginnings of a Stowe "school" of painting? Its qualities are hard to define: perhaps one can reach them best by saying

what this exhibition does *not* contain. In the first place there are, thank Heaven, no “-isms.” No Old Stoic is, as far as one can tell, a promising disciple of the Gaga School. There is no surrealism, except in Lawrence’s ‘Bottled,’ and there it is no more than a good joke; there is only the slightest hint of cubism, in such paintings as Richards’s landscapes; above all, there is no aggressive insistence on ugliness for its own sake. These pictures do not attempt to preach nor to shock. Every one of the twenty-five exhibitors had his normal life radically changed by the war; yet there is not one battle-piece in the exhibition nor any exploiting of horror and devastation. That is not to say that these artists have sentimentalised their subjects or “escaped” from them: they have painted what they saw, in whatever continent they might be, with a feeling that is typically English; indeed, to S. J. Whitwell (C, 1939) the North African scene is not so very different to what he sees in Yorkshire. They have, in fact, painted for the sake of the picture, without introducing extraneous figures or anecdotes to “give life” to the scene; if they have learnt nothing else, they know that the saying “Every picture tells a story” is one of the Famous Last Words of Art.

The essence of all good creative work, whether in literature, music, or the plastic arts, is that it should possess an inner life of its own, even if its subject-matter is dead wood or stone. It is, to adapt one of Paul Nash’s titles, a “found object interpreted.” You find a few unrelated tunes or rhythmical figures, and out of them you fashion a symphony; you find two or three characters and a place and a situation, and from their interplay and development you create a play or a novel; you find a beetroot and an old kettle and a piece of red cloth, a type of expression in a type of face, a particular kind of light on a building against a particular kind of sky, and you make a picture. Your technique may not be equal to the subject, or your memory may be too short; but the important thing is to have the Seeing Eye, and to recognise an oasis of life in a desert of matter. It is the good fortune of these Old Stoic painters that the lot fell to them in a fair ground, and that there were those who could train their vision beneath the trees and arches and skies of Stowe. If they had learned to paint beneath a pall of soot, and among walls of clammy yellow brick, they might, from very desperation at the dreariness of their surroundings, have turned to the grotesque or to the strident to relieve their feelings; they might have dug into their subconscious in search of the marsh-gas of originality; they might have preached; they might have shouted. Instead, they have learned that what is worth saying will be audible however quietly it is spoken.

J.C.S.

A SHORT AMERICAN DIARY

We started on August 2nd on the *Drakensberg Castle*. It was a small and pleasant ship which would have been much more pleasant had she not suffered from repeated engine-trouble. We moved usually for two days and stopped for one, but after some fishing in mid-Atlantic we did arrive in New York on August 16th, a week behind schedule.

The British Consul met us in New York and we succeeded after an endless wait at Brooklyn Docks in getting a private taxi for the relatively short journey to Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt’s house (our headquarters). Price of taxi: \$20.00—5 pounds! We soon learnt about American prices—7/6 for a haircut, 1/- for washing a handkerchief—and all our financial plans had been based on English currency.

Our hostess thought that we were tired and asked us for a “quiet weekend” in her country house at Oyster Bay—Theodore Roosevelt’s home. About 60 distinguished people were in the house the first night, and we got our first taste of American hospitality—until 3 a.m. As exhausting as delightful and generous.

The following Monday we travelled in boiling heat for over 300 miles to Geneva (N.Y.) where we were staying for a week as the guests of Hobart College, a small College of great reputation. We attended classes, we mixed with our American contemporaries, we got an insight into American student life. From there we visited factories—the Kodak Works at Rochester and the Bethlehem Steel Works (the greatest in the U.S.A.) in Buffalo; we drove to the Niagara Falls; we attended farmers’ meetings and peasant dances; we met scholars, workers, industrialists and unemployed.

At the end of the week we proceeded to Washington. There we stayed at the Y.M.C.A.—an enormous hotel. Lord Inverchapel himself had made all plans for us. We went bathing at Dumbarton Oaks, we visited Howard College (the greatest American Negro centre of learning), we were entertained at the Embassy, we spoke to Senators and Congressmen, we went to the great Naval Academy at Annapolis, we spent hours inside the White House.

And from Washington back to New York. Shopping in Fifth Avenue was interrupted by a day’s visit to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt’s house at Hyde Park. At lunch we met Henry Morgenthau and other distinguished Americans who tried to explain to us the American point-of-view. Sight-seeing in 42nd Street and on Broadway stopped for a day when we went to visit Princeton and had a very long private interview with Professor Einstein.

We were due to leave on September 15th on *The Washington*. But just then a nationwide shipping strike started. We had spent all the money the Treasury had allowed us to take. How we managed to get six passages back to Halifax, travelling from New York for 36 hours to Canada, how we succeeded in financing all this, how in the end we were back at Stowe a few hours before term started will remain a mystery.

It certainly was a unique trip which cannot possibly be described in a few hundred words. But it may, perhaps, just be said that without the untiring assistance of the Ministry of Education, the generosity of Lord Inverchapel—our Ambassador in Washington—and the hospitality of the Roosevelt family the expedition could never have taken place. We owe to all of them our most genuine thanks.

(Note.—A further account of this tour of five Stoics with Mr. P. F. Wiener appeared in *The Times* of Wednesday, October 2nd.)

Below, from the *Washington Post* of August 27th, is an American impression of the party from Stowe that visited America during the Summer holidays.

"Boys may be boys, but take five English schoolboys and you've got the toughest news assignment in the book.

They just won't be interviewed—they interview the interviewer.

It started like a real enough question-and-answer session. They were seated nice and comfortable in the reading room of the Y.M.C.A., 1736 G st. nw, where they're staying. They had just come from Union Station and a gruelling coach trip from a visit upstate New York; they had ridden a freighter across the Atlantic; they even admitted they were too tired to do more than just answer questions.

But no. Names and the fact that they're from Stowe School in England was all the information they gave before they began asking about America and Washington. Then they trotted off—on foot—to see the Capitol at night.

They did indicate that they were impressed with: The food, America's fear of another war, the size of the Y.M.C.A., our 'industrial efficiency,' the 'speed of American life,' the hospitality they've received.

'But don't you see,' said Julian More, who is 18 and the oldest of the group, 'we didn't come here to see what we like or dislike. That's what's largely wrong with people. We came only to try to understand.'

The other boys, all 17 years old, are Michael Bate, Antony Chancellor, Toby Robertson and Michael Ruthven.

The idea behind the tour, which has the blessing of the British Ministry of Education, is the hope that in the future both American and English schoolboys can see something of the others' country."

LECTURES

A Current Affairs lecture this term on October 22nd was an outstanding event at Stowe: Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery was the lecturer.

The whole School cheered him on arrival. He was accompanied by his A.D.C., Major Chavasse. The Head Master, Major Haworth and the Head of the School received him. He then saw the school buildings, and at 4 p.m. he met the Upper School in the Library.

The meeting was entirely a private one, and a promise had been given to the Field Marshal that no report of his talk would be published. But it might be said without indiscretion that he spoke for about forty minutes and then answered many questions in a very frank way for another quarter of an hour. It can also be stated that he told the audience that he came across a good many Stoics during the war and that he was always highly impressed by their attitude, outlook and achievements.

After the lecture, Field Marshal Montgomery had tea in the Head Master's Rooms, and before he left the whole School was awaiting in Assembly to cheer once more. He spoke again for a few minutes, saying that he had enjoyed his visit so much that he hoped to come again. And after renewed cheering he asked the Head Master to give the School a whole holiday. The noise from then onwards until his car disappeared in the dark may be left to imagination.

STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS

423a, EDGWARE ROAD,
PADDINGTON,
LONDON, W.2.
October 1946.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

SIR,

The "Pineapple" is beginning to hum with activity—hampered rather by "boiler" trouble perhaps. However, the membership is increasing steadily, and the varied activities provided for the boys are well patronised. At Football and Table Tennis we are doing well, and the more recreational sides, such as drawing, dancing, chess and vocal music, are doing more than well.

The Old Boys' Association has restarted; a very successful football team has been formed by them, and their meetings on Tuesdays and Fridays become almost overcrowded.

The visits from Stowe of House parties are a magnificent revival of old custom and are much appreciated here.

We would welcome more help from Old Stoics. Patmore and Syrett are a great standby, but are only two, and we really want a dozen.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

C. F. JUPP (*Warden*).

"CIRCULATION"

During a recent visit to Paris, what struck me most about that delightful city was what the French call 'la circulation,' a word which approximates to the English word 'traffic.' To every stranger the way in which Parisians handle their cars is exhilarating and overwhelming. This special technique is most obvious in the western part of the city, where it is possible to travel at a steady 40 or 50 miles per hour for several miles down the big avenues without having to stop. For there are no traffic-lights and few policemen, since Paris considers her road-junctions wide enough for the hit-or-miss game to be played in safety, despite the fact that there may be ten or twelve roads running into the junction.

When an English driver sees an obstacle looming up ahead, another car, a cyclist or a pedestrian, his reaction is immediately to slow down. However, in Paris they have a different method. Their immediate reaction is to press the horn button rather than the brake pedal, and to step on the accelerator, reasoning with true Latin logic that if, for instance, at a cross-roads another car is trying to cross in front of one's own vehicle there would be much less likelihood of hitting it or of it hitting you if you immediately increase speed. And since the French, indeed an artistic race, lavish much care and attention upon their horns, making the sounding of one almost a skilled occupation, the general effect is not unpleasing, although a little startling for the stranger.

Other factors in favour of speed are that the main avenues like the Champs Elysées are fifty or sixty yards wide, much wider than any London street, and there are no islands in the middle of the road. Therefore the only obstacle the driver is likely to encounter is either another car, or—some unfortunate pedestrian. And that is where the trouble begins. For if you can cross the Champs Elysées about eight o'clock in the evening without a car missing you by inches, you have achieved something of which you may be justly proud. Believe me, it is an experience to stand helplessly in the middle of the road watching cars with glaring headlamps shooting out of the darkness at 60 miles per hour and rushing up towards the glittering Arc de Triomphe, every driver with his finger on the horn button.

You may ask why there is no speed limit. But there is a limit, which, however, in typical French fashion, no one ever observes and which no one ever enforces. Besides, if one was enforced, one of the city's greatest charms would be removed. That gait, that 'joie de vivre' which one naturally associates with Paris would disappear. That powerful impression which every visitor receives as he gazes down the glittering Champs Elysées would be destroyed.

If you are thinking of the appalling death-rate, rest assured that it is less than in England. French driving is far too bad for there to be many accidents.

Where, indeed, would Paris be without her 'circulation'?

E.M.L.L.

FOR EXPORT ONLY

More and more hogs are sent to Ireland to be fattened. Fishguard, Holyhead and Liverpool enjoy a lucrative trade in handling empty Guinness casks. After three or four weeks stay in Dublin they return brim full.

What is the fellow raving about? Only the studious of Side 9 and other pseudo-intellectuals will understand; so perhaps I'd better explain.

Daily from these ports trips a stream of voyagers to "Erin's Emerald Isle" (so sings the brainless bard). They talk of the wonders of Killarney and of Wicklow, and their hopes for a good hunting season. But Killarney and hunting soon slip from mind. They make for Shelbourne, Hibernian or Jammets (they are fully licensed). Furtively they shamle to their seats, uncertain of their position. They begin by munching the hors d'oeuvre, but they finish by gorging down the savoury. They drink through from the claret to the brandy, and generally linger for a while at the brandies. Finding no Night Clubs in Dublin, they stagger to bed.

As "Workers' Play Time" is nearing its close, horridly they descend to breakfast. Having toyed with half a plate of porridge, they devour four whole fried eggs and a cup of coffee (Be Japers, sorr, there's ne'er a pick o' tea in the house). They leave for the "Horse Show," often sitting all day in drizzling rain. They return to the Hotel. They swap a book of clothing coupons for three-quarters of a pound of tea. All buy an emerald-green tie, as a souvenir of their stay in Erin. This process continues as long as their money lasts, which is not long with ham at 5/- per lb.

The traveller then quits for England, with yards of real Donegal tweed wrapped round his swollen belly, and arrives in England well satisfied with his travels.

The Guinness casks have returned brim full.

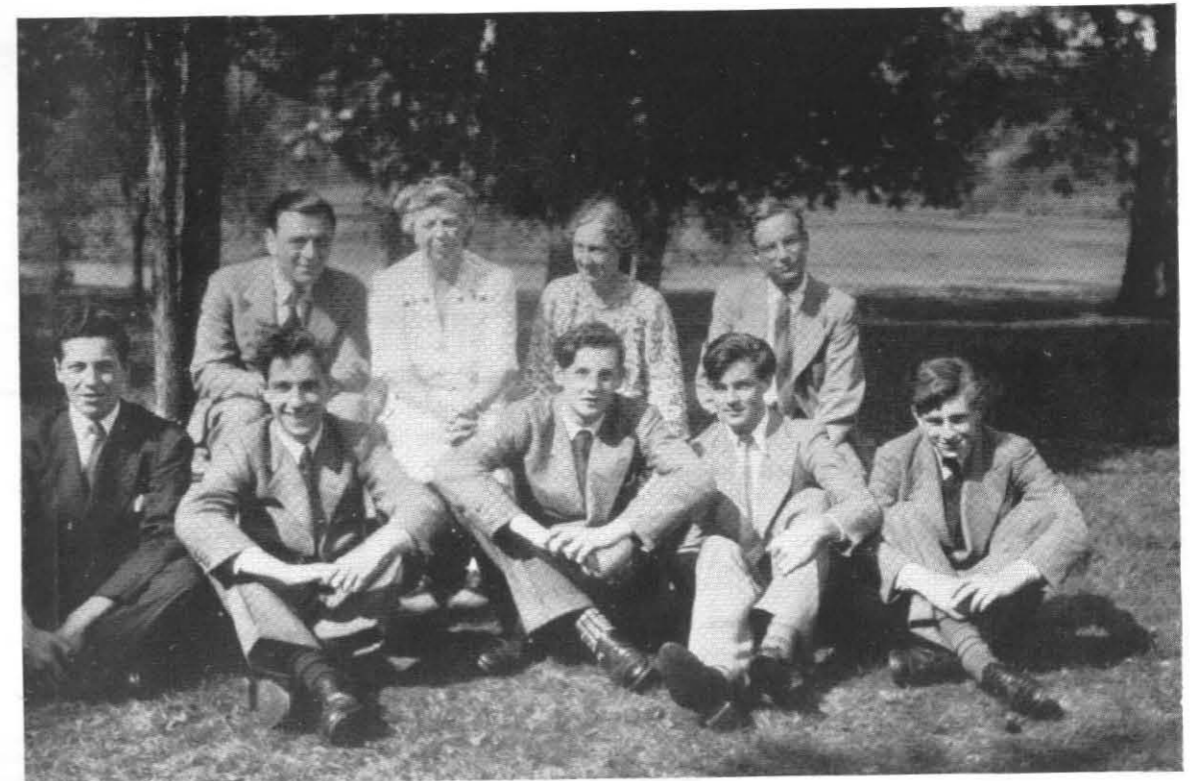
P.M.D.



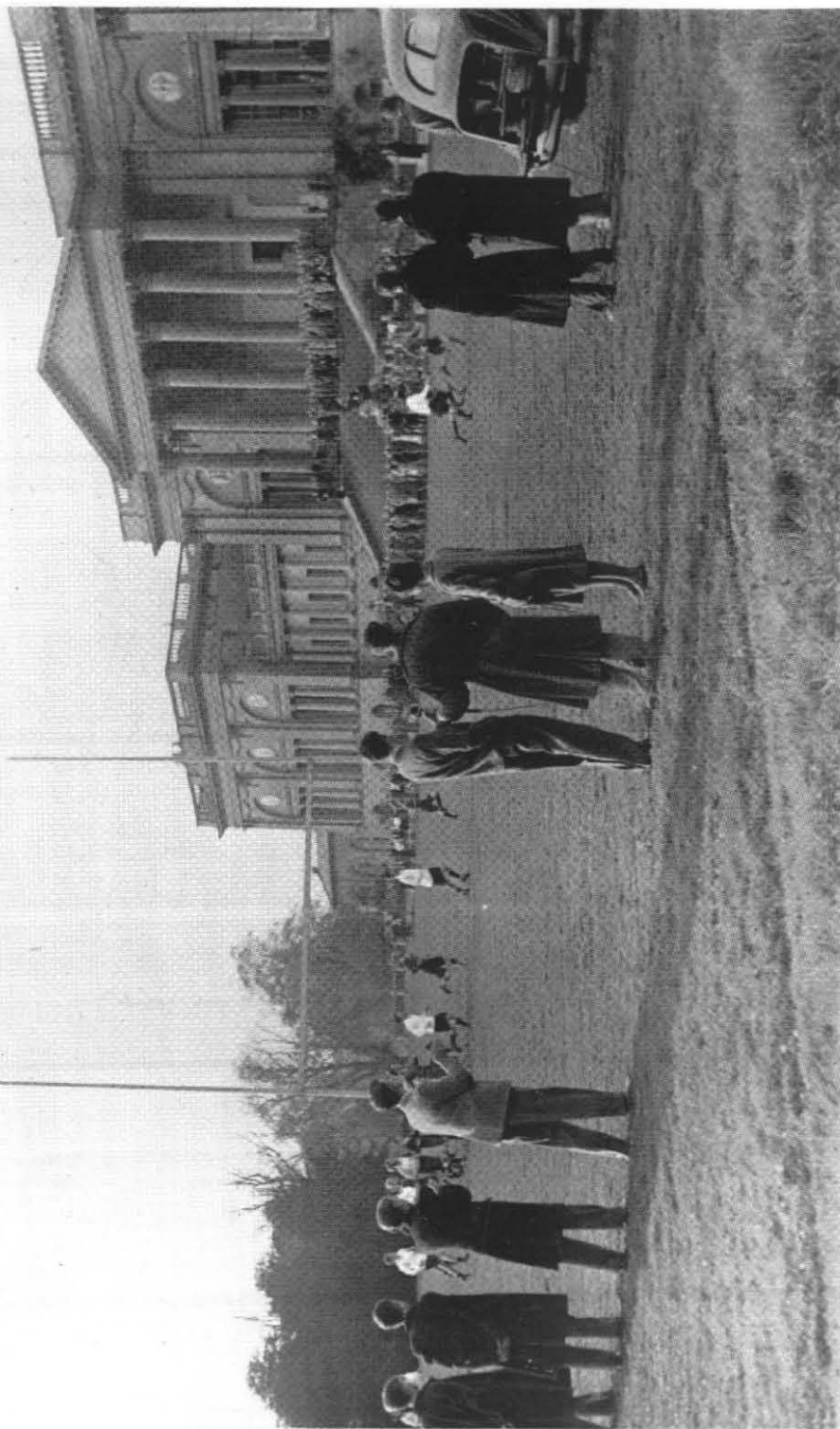
Photo by]

VIEW OVER THE OCTAGON

[A.C.R.



Back row: P.F.W. WITH MEMBERS OF THE ROOSEVELT FAMILY
 Front row: M.R. de B.B., A.C.B.C., S.D.M.R., J.B.M., M.St.C.R.
 STOWE TRAVELLERS AT HYDE PARK, N.Y.



By courtesy of]

STOWE v. OUNDIE (COLTS), OCTOBER 30TH, 1946

[The Times



By courtesy of]

F.M. THE VISCOUNT MONTGOMERY
WITH THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOL (E.C.S.)

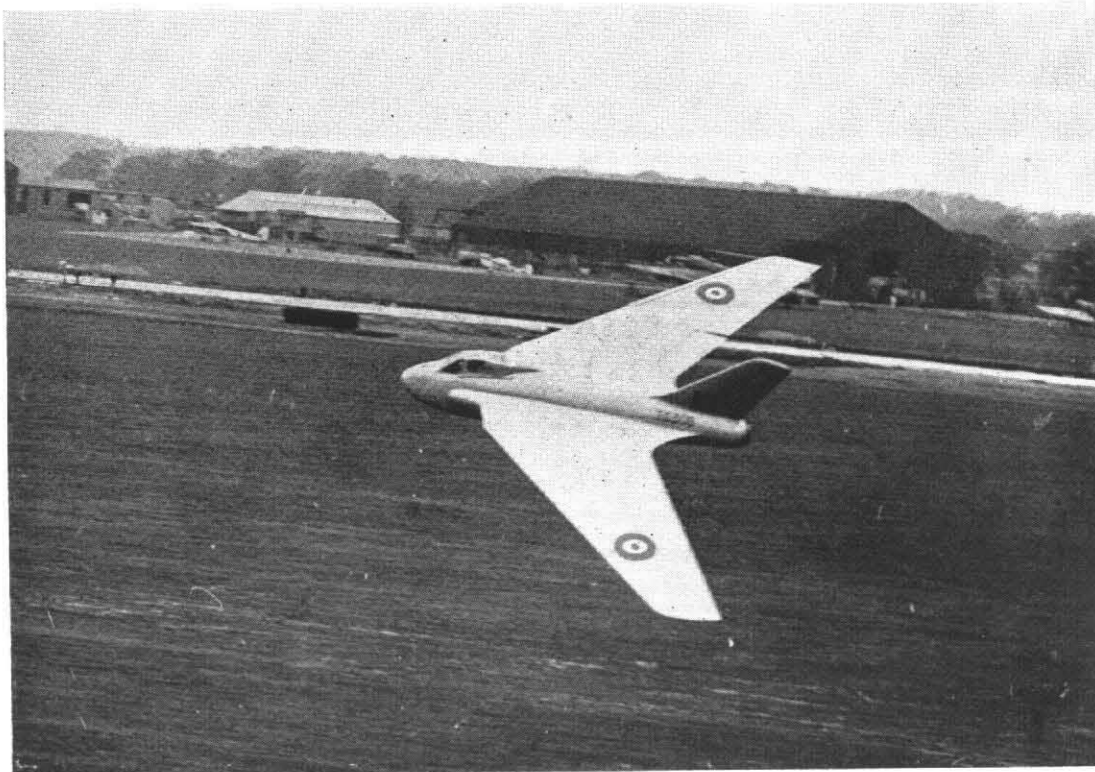
[The Sport & General
Press Agency



By courtesy of]

GEOFFREY DE HAVILLAND

[The de Havilland Aircraft Co.



By courtesy of]

THE DE HAVILLAND SWALLOW
JET-PLANE AT SPEED

[The Keystone Press Agency

THE STOIC

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HANTISE EN VOYAGE. AOUT 1946.

Des spectres obsèdent la route où j'ai passé
De Calais à Paris, alors Tours, et puis Nantes.
Ils se griffent toujours, le chasseur le chassé ;
Le combat infini des idées sanglantes.

Et les morts m'accostèrent, fuyant vers le Rhin,
Poursuivis de morts, las de cinq ans de supplice ;
Des amis victimes de l'effort clandestin,
Les revoici debout, malgré le sacrifice.

Que de foi, que d'amours en ces temps avilies,
Où la fuite les traînait au long désespoir !
Les ombres des chassés ne sont jamais jolies ;

Mais les chasseurs ? Regardez notre horizon noir,
Et rouvrez aux humains une fière ascendance
A Calais, Paris, Tours, voire partout en France.

R.E.J.D.

FEUILLES d'AUTOMNE

The wind snatched up the withered leaves
And would not put them down again ;
He drove them up across the plain
Into the autumn rain ;
They rose in glory o'er the hill, ¹
Past the fantastically turning mill,
And on across the fields, until
He tossed the golden hoard
Full in the face of heaven.
They tell me there was autumn's charm abroad :
—The flight of birds, which cut the tempest's windy height
And scattered 'gainst the broad cloud-line
To make the darkened heavens bright
To the perceptive eye. But not to mine.
I could not tell late autumn's loveliness
Nor yet the ethereal loveliness
Of birds in flight.
And autumn always blinds me so,
Blinds me with all the gales that go
About her wind-dishevelled woods.
I see that reason has no wings
To catch the freshness of imaginings
And autumn leaves.

M.B.

DULCE ET DECORUM

No more are we than spirit, flesh and blood :
 Each gift we value dearly. Yet this cage
 Of life unbarred its gates, as in the flood
 Of war our saviours drowned. Their pilgrimage
 With death has ceased their journeying. They fell ;
 Yet frozen words come melting in our ears
 From lifeless lips. In eerie tones they tell
 Of grave, sadistic sights of war, of fears,
 Of dangers, horror, bloodshed, toil and pain.
 Pray, therefore, for the souls of those who fought
 With shame or chivalry: seeking to gain
 Our liberty, they perished whilst they sought.
 Wait we our turn, who, till our time, are fed
 On thoughts and admiration for those dead.

D.R.N.

JUNIOR TRAINING CORPS NOTES

The following promotions and appointments have been made this term :—

To *Under-Officer* : Sergeants J. O. Arnold (G), G. J. Chibbett (C), D. I. Hird (C),
 C. E. Taylor (B).

To *Sergeant* : Corporals G. P. Tobin (G), J. J. Davis (T), M. T. D. Loup (T), J. D.
 Lloyd (B), G. H. B. Carter (T), J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W).

To *Corporal* : Lance-Corporals A. W. Murdoch (T), M. F. Triefus (W), R. N. B.
 Gubbins (T), S. B. Lloyd (C), J. D. Vernon (G), P. M. Young (C), A. T. R. Fletcher
 (T), R. M. Bartlett (T), H. L. P. Hingston (T), O. B. Sayer (T), L. R. S. Marler (G),
 J. F. Wells (C), S. B. Cunningham (T).

To *Lance-Corporal* : A. R. Bateman (C), E. M. L. Latham (C), I. Scott-Elliot (W),
 G. L. D. Duckworth (C), I. B. Calkin (W), J. M. Kahn (W), N. N. Proddow (C),
 J. N. W. Winch (C).

The strength of the Corps this term is 292 and it is to be hoped that we shall main-
 tain it at, or slightly above, that. The advantages enjoyed by holders of Certificate
 'A' when they are called up are now sufficiently clear and there should be no recruiting
 problem for some time to come.

The most important changes this term have been among the officers. It was sad
 to lose Mr. Fawcett, who has held the fort so well throughout the war and the difficult
 transition to peace-time conditions ; and Major Hamer will be another who will be
 very difficult to replace. On the other hand we can welcome the accession of another
 returned warrior in Captain Saunders, whose specialised knowledge of weapon training
 and musketry is going to be of immense value to us.

Training has continued to develop along the normal lines. After the company
 battle of last term, the whole-day exercise was this time mainly devoted to the quieter
 pursuit of map-reading, which gave a good many people a lot of exercise chasing
 treasure-hunt clues about the countryside and had the additional merit that the most
 incompetent map-readers walked farthest and were the last to get their lunch. The
 Survey Section have blossomed out into a Surveyor's Badge which may stand in good
 stead any who subsequently do their military service in the R.A. ; and the I.C.E. Section
 continues to flourish under the kindly guidance of the Padre and has had a whole-day
 exercise all to itself, when it went to Luton and was once again royally entertained by
 the staff of the Vauxhall Motor Works.

In all, it has been a quiet and uneventful, but successful term—a judgment which
 has been confirmed by the results of the War Certificate 'A' Examination held on
 November 26th and 27th, when 20 out of 23 candidates passed Pt. I and 41 out of 57
 were successful in Pt. II. The Best Cadets were : in Pt. I, Cadet H. W. Burke (G),
 and in Pt. II, Cadet R. G. Macmillan (C).

W.L.McE.

NAVAL SECTION

Strength, 18.

Passed examinations :—For Cadet Petty Officer, 7 ; Cadet Leading Seaman, 6 ;
 Cadet Able Seaman, 3. Four Cadets returned to the J.T.C. for the term in order to
 take Part II of Certificate 'A.'

The following ratings have been made :—*Cadet Petty Officer*, Corporal P. M. Young
 (C) ; *Cadet Leading Seaman*, Lance-Corporal I. B. Calkin (W).

The report on the Annual Inspection of the section, held in July 1946, included the
 following remarks :—Boat Drill—Very good indeed. The Section has very good
 knowledge, is keen and has the right spirit.

The whole day training, on October 15th, took the form of a visit to Greenwich,
 where a tour was made of the National Maritime Museum and of the Royal Naval
 College.

R.H.

RIFLE CLUB

The training of a team, of which G. P. Tobin (G) has been appointed captain, to
 represent the School in the *Country Life* (.22) competition in March 1947, has been
 carried on throughout the term.

The following have been the winners at the weekly 'Spoon' shoots :—I. B. Calkin
 (W), I. V. de Wesselow (C) 2, R. G. Knight (B) 2, J. F. Marsden (W), G. P. Tobin (G),
 J. N. Vinen (W) 2.

R.H.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

THE 1ST XV.

Played 12 ; Won 7 ; Lost, 5 ; Points for, 148 ; Points against 111.

Every member of this year's XV can feel justly proud of his achievements. Admittedly they began their school matches with a complete fiasco against a good Bedford side losing by 40—0, but this defeat remains only in their memories as a bad dream: in view of future results it still cannot be fully explained. Five days after this defeat the team went to Rugby fully determined to avenge it and they did, playing splendid courageous rugger. This match was followed six days later by the Oundle match, which was played in the true tradition of the Stowe-Oundle game, the latter getting the only try of the match in the last minutes. FitzGerald then joined his team for the first time and the scoring power of the side was increased greatly. The remaining schools were easy meat, in the three games against Radley, Harrow and St. Edward's 65 points being scored against 6. Discounting the Bedford game the defence has been excellent, only 15 points having been scored against us in the five school games.

Taking the backs as a whole they have come up to expectations and, if the attack was not always good, the defence has for the most part been excellent. Individually the star has been Bartlett; his kicking, tackling, giving and taking of passes, and penetration have been little below first-class. FitzGerald, on his arrival in the team at half-term, gave stability and thrust to the three-quarters. A word of praise should be added for all the backs who have come up from the 2nd XV to substitute in the 1st XV; they have never let the side down and, indeed, have always played well up to 1st XV standard. Conington has much to learn yet, but in view of his age has played extremely well.

The forwards at times have played magnificently as a pack. They have steadily improved throughout the term and in the second half of the Rosslyn Park game every man went like a 'ding-bat,' as they did also against Oundle. They do not form a well-fitting scrum but by good team-work they have managed to get their full share of the ball from the tight. Good features have been their line-out work, loose rushes, covering in defence; their weakness has been loose scrumming. But this has

also improved. Individually Young has been outstanding for his fast, powerful and elusive running; Cunningham for his stirring leadership; Munks for his dribbling; Mitchell and Carter for their good all-round hard work and efficiency. To fill the eight places in the pack were nine possible forwards; and the unfortunate one was Skepper, who at times has played as well as any of the others.

It only now remains for the rest of the School to follow the excellent example set by this year's XV and build up a Stowe tradition of hard tackling, good kicking, courageous falling and the will to win for the sake of the team and the School. If this comes to pass, and only if, Stowe will remain on a level with such well-known rugger schools as Oundle, Bedford, Uppingham and Sedbergh. It is up to those remaining next year to ensure this.

THE SCHOOL v. BEDFORD

Played at Bedford on Thursday, October 17th, Bedford winning by two goals and ten tries (40 points) to nil.

From the first whistle the initiative lay with Bedford. Stowe were a disorganized team, both in the forwards, who appeared to have no leader, and in the three-quarter line.

In the first ten minutes of the game Bedford were allowed to score seventeen points, four tries and one goal. They saw most of the ball from the tight scrums and in the loose, though Stowe were better in the line-outs.

Bedford's main attacking power lay in their outside half, who was not worried by Bartlett his opposite number, or by the open wing-forward. They also possessed a strong and straight-running centre three-quarter, who was able to find gaps in the defence.

After the first ten minutes Stowe settled down to a better defensive game, once almost scoring, and at half-time Bedford had only increased their lead by three points. It looked as though Stowe might be able to hold the Bedford side in the second-half to make the best of a hopeless situation.

However, they were still a disorganized team, the efforts of the forwards having no cohesion, and the positioning and tackling of the backs being faulty. Bedford scored intermittently during the second half, adding five tries and one goal, to make the final score 40—0.

The only encouraging aspect of the Stowe side was provided by Munks, the hooker, a good loose forward, and Shinner the full-back, who both played a courageous game in disheartening circumstances.

Team :—J. M. Shinner (B); G. J. Chibbett (C), L. R. S. Marler (S), C. A. Hancox (G), D. S. Withers (G); R. M. Bartlett (T), I. Scott-Elliot (W); A. T. V. B. Bik (C), W. C. O. Munks (C), G. H. B. Carter (T), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), G. M. Booth (C), P. M. Young (C), S. B. Cunningham (T), C. M. Mosselmans (C).

THE SCHOOL *v.* RUGBY

Played at Rugby on Thursday, October 24th, the School winning by a dropped goal, one try and one penalty goal (10 points) to two penalty goals (6 points).

It was clear right from the start that this was a very different Stowe side from that which had given such a disappointing display at Bedford. The reorganized three-quarter line, it is true, still showed a lack of finishing power in attack which made it difficult for them to develop an effective scoring movement and Scott-Elliott's passes from the scrum were sometimes dangerously wild. But there was an occasional dash in the centre and a grim determination about their tackling which were very heartening and the forwards under the leadership of Cunningham played like a different pack altogether and more than held their own against the heavier Rugbeians.

From the kick-off Stowe began to exercise a steady pressure which kept them almost throughout the first half in the Rugby half of the field and which, with a little more luck and skill, should have resulted in several scores. As it was, faulty passing and a tendency to run across the field robbed the backs of any real scoring chances. Bartlett was continuously aggressive and there were one or two sudden dashes by Hancox which promised well, but neither of them could get quite the opening that he wanted. The Rugby side were suffering from much the same weaknesses and on the few occasions that their movements became really dangerous Shinner, who played an admirably cool and dependable game throughout, had little difficulty in getting there in time. The result was a dour struggle, with some good forward rushes by both sides, and with Stowe always having slightly the better of it; and they certainly deserved their lead of three points at half-time—the result of a good penalty place-kick by Bartlett ten minutes after the start.

The pattern of the game in the second half remained much the same. Stowe at once resumed their attack, though with disappointingly meagre results, until Bartlett at last brought off a quick cut-through close inside the scrum and Young got up to take his pass and score the only try of the match. Bartlett rather surprisingly failed to convert this and Rugby immediately counter-attacked strongly. There were one or two anxious moments, but on the whole the attacks were well held, though they were given two good chances with penalty kicks right in front of the Stowe goal, the second of which was successful. After this, with the score 6—3, Stowe woke up again and pinned Rugby back into their own twenty-five where, after a series of scrambling attacks, Bartlett dropped a spectacular goal which really settled the result. Rugby again counter-attacked desperately, but were never quite able to force the issue home; and their only reward was another penalty goal. Immediately after that the whistle went, leaving Stowe the victors by ten points to six—probably a narrower margin than they deserved on the run of the play, but a very fair and encouraging result of a hard fought game.

Team :—J. M. Shinner (B); G. J. Chibbett (C), D. S. Withers (G), C. A. Hancox (G), J. D. Lloyd (B); R. M. Bartlett (T), I. Scott-Elliott (W); G. H. B. Carter (T); W. C. O. Munks (C), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), S. B. Cunningham (T), D. G. Airey (C), E. C. Skepper (T), P. M. Young (C), C. M. Mosselmans (C).

THE SCHOOL *v.* OUNDLE

Played at Stowe on Wednesday, October 30th, Oundle winning by one try (3 points) to nil.

It has been customary in the past to play the Oundle match, the most important event on Stowe's rugby fixture list, on a fine Saturday afternoon as near as possible to Armistice Day. The adjective 'fine' has been abundantly justified by past experience. This year, however, it was played on the last Wednesday in October, which meant a considerable, and regrettable, decline in the number of supporters, although the weather was as kind as ever. The game promised to be most interesting, because Stowe had recovered from a resounding 40—0 defeat by Bedford to the extent of defeating Rugby by 10—6 on the ground immortalised by William Webb Ellis and his 'fine disregard for the rules of the game as played in his time.' Bedford had already beaten Oundle by the same margin, so it was clear that Stowe would have to play distinctly well to avoid being comfortably and decisively defeated. The team was the best available, but lacked the sting which would have undoubtedly been given to the attack by the presence of M. E. J. FitzGerald, the captain, who was still resting a leg-injury. All fifteen of them had played in the Rugby match.

The opening gambits of this match are often strikingly similar. From the kick-off Oundle almost invariably settle down to a period of steady and remorseless pressure. Their forwards heel the ball with solid efficiency from tight and loose scrums alike, and Stowe's defences are rigorously and persistently tested. The future and ultimate result of the game generally depend on the Stowe reaction to this initial thrust. On this occasion the opening proved no exception to this rule, but it was good to see Hancox show the way with a heavy tackle in the first few minutes, and Bartlett begin a series of neat and accurate kicks to touch which were to be a feature of the match. This first phase lasted fifteen minutes, and contained some particularly exciting moments, as when Lloyd ran clean across the field to find touch on the far touch-line, and when Shinner was beaten by one of the wickedest bounces of which that wayward creature a rugby ball is capable, and the ugly situation which followed was only saved by the quick rallying forwards. But by this time the quality of our defence was beginning to reap its reward. Bartlett was admirably filling the defence role of the fly-half by following behind his three-quarters ready for any break-through, and on one occasion he brought off the most punishing tackle of the game. Oundle's three-quarters were definitely faltering. The ball was still coming out well, but passes were being dropped or knocked on, and our attack began to develop. After Oundle had missed a free-kick at goal, Bartlett broke through, and Hancox and the forwards took the ball right down to the left corner-flag at the Sanatorium end and very nearly scored. A minute later Young had a fine run down the right wing, and from a scrum on their line Bartlett tried a drop-goal. It was near enough for no one on the ground to say that he ought to have passed, and, in the case of a drop-goal, that means mighty near. Oundle came back to the attack and Shinner was heavily tested: he missed his kick, but amply atoned by the quality of the tackle which followed. Then it was all Stowe, and Young broke away with the ball in his hands, to be followed a little later by a grand dribbling rush by Munks, who, incidentally, played magnificently throughout the match, turning up in places where, by all the laws of nature, a hooker has no right to be. About this point Chibbett, who was captaining the side, was injured, and for a desperately long time could only limp. The fact that he was marking Oundle's fastest man might have

proved fatal but for the stubborn Stowe defence, which made it hard for them to develop their attacks to the full. The final ten minutes of the first half were mainly Oundle's. Lloyd marked with fine judgment on one occasion, and on another repeated the run from wing to wing which he had employed before. Half-time came with Oundle battering away on the goal-line of a very hard-pressed Stowe.

The second half began with a Stowe fumble from the kick-off which brought Oundle swarming on our line. Their scrum-half was only just held-up as he threw himself over, and there were all too many anxious moments until Young cleared from a free-kick, and there were many sighs of relief as the ball sailed over the twenty-five and into touch. A little later Hancox broke away, and actually saw the enemy's line with no defender in between—a most uncommon sight in this game. Unfortunately he was overhauled and brought down about fifteen yards from the posts. A period of Stowe pressure was brought to an end by a very dangerous Oundle raid, in which Lloyd seemed rather too eager to keep the ball in play with two eager Oundle players harassing him on the touch-line, and it took a fine save by Hancox to bring Stowe round a particularly nasty corner. Later Bartlett brought the game to the half-way line with a typical break-through, and then a very strong tackle by Withers enabled the forwards to rush the ball down the field, and later to handle finely in a combined passing-movement, which enabled Bartlett to try another drop-goal, though the range proved to be somewhat too great. Oundle were back on the attack immediately afterwards, and Shinner caught the ball most admirably and kicked touch from under the noses of the charging forwards with the coolness and assurance of a veteran. The game was now no longer a series of heavy pressures as in the first half, but made up of lightning raids which swung the play dizzily from one end to the other. One moment one saw Young hurl himself for what looked like a certain try, and the next Oundle were pouring like quicksilver up the field. Now Lloyd was bringing off a desperate tackle on the left-wing, and the next Skepper was leading the forwards down the field and over the half-way line. Next the Oundle full-back was being forced to mark a kick ahead by Bartlett, and a moment later Oundle would have scored if the ball had not touched the right corner-flag as it crossed the line. By this time there were five minutes to go, and in this period of raid and counter-raid Oundle had shown greater penetration. It was this that gave them the only try of the match. There was a scrum on the Stowe line. We had had plenty of these already, and their usual tactics had been a quick heel or an eel-like dash by the scrum-half. On this occasion, however, they changed them most adroitly. They got the ball well and truly in their scrum, and then suddenly and with one concerted heave they carried it over our line for a perfect shove-over try. And that was the end, and a thoroughly appropriate one, because, if Oundle possessed a superiority over Stowe, it was undoubtedly in the scrum, and particularly in the tight.

In summing up the game it should first of all be stated that the result was a very fair one. With some luck Stowe might have drawn, or even won, but Oundle were definitely a better side, and would have shown themselves a very much better one but for the solidity of the Stowe defence, and fire shown by the forwards, a fire kindled and most liberally stoked by Cunningham, whose leadership throughout was most impressive and inspiring. Among the backs Bartlett played a magnificent game, and his steadiness undoubtedly helped all the three-quarters to reach great heights in their defence. Shinner was inclined to be nervous in his first Oundle match, but he showed so many signs of real promise that he can feel confident of the future. The game itself was most thrilling; and gave enormous satisfaction to all Stowe supporters who were

lucky enough to see it. One felt that the result did not matter a scrap. What did matter was that the old days were with us again, the wheel had come full circle, and that Stowe had, once again, a fifteen of which she could be deservedly proud.

Team:—J. M. Shinner (B); G. J. Chibbett (C), D. S. Withers (G), C. A. Hancox (G), J. D. Lloyd (B); R. M. Bartlett (T), I. Scott-Elliot (W); N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), W. C. O. Munks (C), G. H. B. Carter (T), S. B. Cunningham (T), D. G. Airey (C), E. C. Skepper (T), P. M. Young (C), C. M. Mosselmans (C).

THE SCHOOL v. RADLEY

Played at Stowe on Wednesday, November 6th, the School winning by one goal and six tries (23 points) to nil.

The School showed promise, for the first time this year, of having the ability to become a first-rate side. The three-quarters at times moved in attack as they have not moved before this year, the direct result of the inclusion of FitzGerald, who had been nursing a knee injury all term. The thing which prevented the Stowe side attaining anything above the ordinary was the disinclination of the forwards to get their heads into the loose scrums, shove and hook the ball back: there were always at least two forwards getting in the scrum-half's way and another two on the fringes of the scrum. There is no excuse for this; so let every forward get his head into the loose scrums and push on the ball in the future.

For the first quarter Stowe were repeatedly driven back into their own '25' and had good fortune in keeping Radley out: fumbling led to more fumbling, missed kicks to more and had they been playing a better side the score might have been about 15—0. Radley, however, were not good. Eventually Stowe got going and from a line-out Young, who was unmarked, forced his way over: FitzGerald's kick failed. Not many minutes before half-time Broadley found himself with no opposition and scored in the corner: this kick also failed. Half-time: Stowe 6, Radley 0.

The forwards got the ball back well in the tight but still not in the loose and the spate of scoring in this half was not the result of good forward play. Bartlett picked up a loose ball, ran well, and passed to FitzGerald, who beat the opposition to score in the centre: Bartlett converted. Two tries were started by Shinner at full-back, and after making ground he handed to Scott-Elliot and Lloyd, both of whom scored. Bartlett on another occasion broke away and his high pass to Broadley was well taken, the latter player scoring. Bartlett did a stock blind-side move leaving all the opposition on the open side and he had no difficulty in scoring.

Team:—J. M. Shinner (B); R. J. Broadley (W), M. E. J. FitzGerald (G), C. A. Hancox (G), J. D. Lloyd (B); R. M. Bartlett (T), I. Scott-Elliot (W); G. H. B. Carter (T), W. C. O. Munks (C), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), D. G. A. Airey (C), S. B. Cunningham (T), E. C. Skepper (T), P. M. Young (C), C. M. Mosselmans (C).

THE SCHOOL v. HARROW

Played at Stowe on Saturday, November 16th, Stowe winning by two goals and five tries (25 points) to two tries (6 points).

Conditions were not ideal for fast constructive rucker, rain having fallen for forty hours on the previous Thursday and Friday: the ball, however, was not greasy and handling was freely indulged in despite the treacherousness of the foothold.

For the first time this term, Stowe went off with a bang, drove Harrow back to their line; Bartlett cut through and Hancox scored. FitzGerald converted. There were three more Stowe tries in the first half by Shinner, Young and Scott-Elliot. Young's try was quite outstanding and will be remembered for years. He picked up a loose ball behind the scrum at half-way, stole round the blind side, accelerated away from would-be tacklers, sold a beautiful dummy to the full-back and raced away from his pursuers to score fairly far out. Half-time score: Stowe 14, Harrow 0.

Stowe played some excellent rucker in the second-half; the forwards indulged in passing movements and lengthy rushes, the backs penetrated the defence with regularity, but there were only three tries scored owing to poor finishing. The tries were scored by Airey, FitzGerald and Scott-Elliot, one of them being converted by Bartlett.

Although the ground seemed sticky to us, Harrow thought it too fast after their home pitches and they did not settle down until the second-half, when they scored two tries from well-directed kicks-ahead.

Bartlett was the star player on the Stowe side, but he was ably supported by Scott-Elliot, FitzGerald and Hancox. The forwards played well as a pack; Airey was outstanding.

Team:—J. F. Conington (B); J. M. Shinner (B), C. A. Hancox (G), M. E. J. FitzGerald (G), G. J. Chibbett (C); R. M. Bartlett (T), I. Scott-Elliot (W); N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), W. C. O. Munks (C), G. H. B. Carter (T), G. M. Booth (C), S. B. Cunningham (T), D. G. A. Airey (C), P. M. Young (C), C. M. Mosselmans (C).

THE SCHOOL v. ST. EDWARD'S

Played at Stowe on Wednesday, November 20th, resulting in a win for the School by one goal and four tries (17 points) to nil.

A water-logged ground at Oxford caused this away fixture with St. Edward's to be transferred to Stowe and history was made by playing a School game on the Bourbon Field. Considering the heavy rain that had fallen throughout the morning the ground was in remarkably good condition and both teams contrived to play open football. The School repeated their performance of the Harrow game by scoring in the first five minutes. From a loose scrum in the visitors' '25' the ball was passed with speed along the three-quarter line and Marler crossed in the corner with an unconverted try. Play continued to be quite fast with the Stowe forwards supplying their backs with a fair share of the ball. It was not, however, a paying proposition as the greasy ball was very difficult to handle and with the St. Edward's backs lying close up the Stowe outsides were repeatedly smothered in their attempts to make headway. The forwards now took more of a hand in the game, and after twenty minutes Young broke away with a beautifully controlled dribble and scored an unconverted try. Half-time came with the School leading by two tries.

The second-half was mostly with the forwards, and from a Stowe rush play was carried to the visitors' line where Booth finding himself unmarked in a line-out dropped over for another unconverted try. St. Edward's were now being hard pressed and after some scrambling play near their line Carter forced his way over for a try which was converted by Young with a magnificent kick from the touch line. St. Edward's fought back and their right wing made ground with several spirited runs, but apart

from this player, who reminded us of a former Chatham wing, it must be recorded that they did not look like crossing the Stowe line. In the last few minutes, with the Stowe forwards hammering the visitors' line, Shinner picked up a loose ball and forced his way over for the final try.

Team:—J. F. Conington (B); R. J. Broadley (W), J. M. Shinner (B), M. E. J. FitzGerald (G), L. R. S. Marler (G); R. M. Bartlett (T), I. Scott-Elliot (W); G. H. B. Carter (T), W. C. O. Munks (C), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), G. M. Booth (C), S. B. Cunningham (T), E. C. Skepper (T), P. M. Young (C), D. G. A. Airey (C).

Other 1st XV. results were:—

Sat., Oct. 5th. v. LONDON SCOTTISH (Home).	Won, 23—7.
Wed., Oct. 9th. v. OXFORD NOMADS (Away).	Lost, 3—5.
Wed., Oct. 16th. v. R.A.F., HALTON (Home).	Lost, 6—15.
Sat., Nov. 2nd. v. RICHMOND (Home).	Won, 17—14.
Sat., Nov. 23rd. v. ROSSLYN PARK (Home).	Lost, 12—15.
Wed., Nov. 27th. v. OLD STOICS (Home).	Won, 12—0.

SECOND FIFTEEN

This was undoubtedly a successful season for the Second Fifteen, as it defeated every other Second Fifteen it played. But when it came up against Grammar School 1st XV's it seems to have been psychologically affected and was beaten; this may partly be due to the vigorous 'taking' policy of grammar school forwards. The balance of games lost and won remained very favourable to Stowe. The team improved steadily throughout the season, being hampered at first by lack of a scrum-half.

The scoring power of the Second Fifteen lay in its extremely fast three-quarter line, whose speed in attack would have made them formidable to any side. Kicks ahead by Asbury-Bailey also came to be a feature of the Second in attack. The tackling in defence, however, remained very weak and we were fortunate in never meeting a really thrusting side. They were well fed by the halves Loup and Bradly, the former being probably the steadiest player on the side.

The forwards, though light, were lively in the loose, Gubbins being especially notable for his speed and enterprise. The tendency to lurk outside the scrum had been overcome by the end of the season and the binding and heeling in the loose had become most effective. Bik and Platt were typical of the entire scrum in their hard and determined scrumming. In tight scrums Stowe was consistently successful, J. J. Davis, who also led the forwards with much vehemence, being a competent if unorthodox hooker.

There remains one aspect of the team still unmentioned, its kicking. To no person does the Second owe more than to its full-back, Arnold, whose punting saved the side much ground and even more energy. The place-kicking of Asbury-Bailey, though often unlucky, always maintained a very high standard.

Results :—

Wed., Oct. 9th. v. BLOXHAM SCHOOL (Home).	Won, 18—0.
Sat., Oct. 19th. v. BEDFORD SCHOOL (Home).	Won, 6—3.
Wed., Oct. 23rd. v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, OXFORD (Home).	Lost, 0—14.
Sat., Nov. 2nd. v. NORTHAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL (Home).	Lost, 3—16.
Wed., Nov. 6th. v. RADLEY SCHOOL (Away).	Won, 17—6.
Wed., Nov. 13th. v. R.G.S., HIGH WYCOMBE (Away).	Lost, 8—20.
Sat., Nov. 16th. v. HARROW SCHOOL (Away).	Won, 11—8.
Sat., Nov. 23rd. v. BERKHAMSTED SCHOOL (Home).	Won, 38—0.

THIRD FIFTEEN

The Third Fifteen has played 6 of its 8 fixtures, winning three and losing three. In the first two matches the team had not properly settled down and there was little co-ordination, especially in defence. In the remaining matches increasing experience and closer team-work produced much better results; the pack had plenty of weight and used it to very good effect, particularly in the set scrums; there were, too, some strong forward scoring movements. Behind the scrum our attack had at its best plenty of drive and speed, but the defence was all too frequently left to the captain, D. R. North (W) and the full-back, G. L. D. Duckworth (C). On the whole, however, the side has worked well together, and its spirit has been admirable.

Wed., Oct. 9th. v. BLOXHAM SCHOOL (Home).	Lost, 3—12.
Sat., Oct. 12th. v. BEDFORD SCHOOL (Away).	Lost, 0—19.
Sat., Oct. 19th. v. R.G.S., HIGH WYCOMBE (Home).	Won, 17—6.
Sat., Nov. 2nd. v. NORTHAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL (Away).	Lost, 6—9.

THE COLTS' FIFTEEN

A glance at the results of the five School Matches (Magdalen College School, Brackley not included) shows that, with the exception of the Radley match, the Colts might so easily have turned defeat into victory had every member of the side showed real grit and determination. It is a striking indictment that Stowe was leading at half-time in four out of the five matches and equal in the fifth. The only two games played really well were those against Rugby and Oundle.

The season started in an unfortunate manner with the loss, through illness, before the first match of a very promising scrum-half, P. G. Shinner, and a good centre three-quarter, D. Conington, who had the misfortune to break his collar bone in a game against the Third XV. On the other hand, the loss of two men in a school the size of Stowe should not make all that difference, nor should it be irreparable.

It is invidious to single out individuals for blame, but it must be very clearly understood by all who aspire to play rugger, and not to play at playing rugger, that until tackling is low and hard, and falling on the ball instantaneous, the other side is going to win every time. In matches against schools such as we have to face the match is lost, as a foregone conclusion, if the side imagines that the defensive tackling can be left to a few plucky ones.

Macmillan has been a good captain, leading his forwards very well, and always doing his best to inspire and encourage his side. Downing stepped into the gap of

scrum-half where he did noble work and thoroughly deserved his 'stockings.' Scott and Wheatley, both new to the game of Rugby football, have done well as wing three-quarters, especially of late, when Scott has begun to realise that his natural speed and eye for an opening can be used to best effect when he goes 'all out' for the line. Both have always been most plucky in their tackling. Roberts as fly-half looks promising; he has a good pair of hands, a nice turn of speed, and a pretty swerve; all he lacks at the moment is real determination and thrust. The pack as a whole has worked hard, their chief weakness being the slowness with which the ball was heeled. With the exception of Macmillan, the most useful forward on the field was Paxton. And what shall I say of the full-back, J. Conington? Perhaps I can say no better than that the first XV stole him away. He played in six out of the seven Colts' matches and was always a tower of strength and confidence to his side. Plucky, resourceful, an excellent pair of hands, a safe kick, a very sound tackle—all that combined with the ability and foresight to come up and strengthen a weak centre three-quarter line and to do far more than his share of tackling—well, no wonder he was wanted elsewhere. Reeves who took his place at the shortest notice has much to learn, but he starts off with the best of all possible qualifications—plenty of pluck and keenness to learn to do the right thing.

Team :—J. F. Conington (B); G. W. Scott (C), A. T. W. Innes (T), W. J. G. Brown (W), J. J. Wheatley (C); R. J. Roberts (C), J. W. A. Downing (T); R. G. Macmillan (C), T. R. Lambert (S), J. E. Gilbey (S), M. C. A. Mott (C), J. L. Paxton (C), W. R. G. Short (S), R. W. D. McKelvie (B), C. H. Bartlett (T).

Results :—

Wed., Oct. 9th. v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, BRACKLEY (Home).	Won, 21—0.
Sat., Oct. 12th. v. RUGBY (Away).	Lost, 6—8.
Sat., Oct. 19th. v. BEDFORD (Away).	Lost, 8—11.
Wed., Oct. 30th. v. OUNDLE (Home).	Lost, 3—11.
Sat., Nov. 2nd. v. ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD (Away).	Lost, 8—14.
Wed., Nov. 6th. v. RADLEY (Home).	Lost, 8—26.
Sat., Nov. 23rd. v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, BRACKLEY (Away).	Drawn, 3—3.

JUNIORS COLTS' FIFTEEN

Although the season has been a disappointing one, keenness and enthusiasm have compensated for one or two heavy defeats. Injuries to our best players and a tendency to small stature, as compared with other sides, have proved very real handicaps. Nevertheless, there are several promising players, and their future will be followed with interest.

Results :—

Wed., Oct. 9th. v. BLOXHAM (Away).	Won, 8—2.
Sat., Oct. 12th. v. RUGBY (Away).	Lost, 3—19.
Sat., Oct. 19th. v. BEDFORD (Home).	Lost, 3—33.
Sat., Nov. 2nd. v. ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD (Away).	Lost, 3—34.
Wed., Nov. 6th. v. RADLEY (Away).	Lost, 3—33.
Sat., Nov. 23rd. v. BERKHAMSTED (Away).	Won, 12—3.

CRICKET

FINAL HOUSE MATCH

Temple beat Grenville by 20 runs, after a most interesting match.

Temple declared at 225 for 9 wickets in their first innings, of which Kingan scored a very painstaking 87 not out. Sayer also batted dourly and it was left to Ritchie to show that the ball could be hit.

Grenville, with the exception of Hancox, Connell and Crossley, were all in difficulties and were out for 142, leaving Temple with a lead of 83 runs. However, they collapsed badly in their second innings against the spin bowling of Hancox who had the satisfaction of performing the hat-trick. Cobham bowled very steadily towards the end of the innings. It is noteworthy that Kingan was again not out.

Left with 153 to get to win, Grenville always had a chance while either Hancox or Connell or both were there, but once they had gone, except for some spirited blows from Cunningham-Reid, there was little chance. The accurate Temple bowling was too much for the remaining Grenville batsmen. Ritchie took 11 wickets for 84 runs in the match.

Scores :—

TEMPLE, 225 for 9 wkts. declared (D. R. S. Kingan 87 not out, O. B. Sayer 42, R. M. Bartlett 23, A. J. O. Ritchie 37; J. J. Crossley 4 for 38) and 69 (O. B. Sayer 17, R. M. Bartlett 15, D. R. S. Kingan 14 not out; C. A. Hancox 5 for 21, M. D. Cobham 4 for 8).

GRENVILLE, 142 (C. A. Hancox 46, D. A. Connell 30, J. J. Crossley 32; A. J. O. Ritchie 5 for 51) and 132 (C. A. Hancox 42, D. A. Connell 24, P. J. N. Presland 24; A. J. O. Ritchie 6 for 33).

GOLF

Stowe golf, never so popular in the winter terms as in the summer, has nevertheless flourished this term. Amateur divot-hackers have sensibly decreased in number, and the standard of golf in the School is definitely on the up-grade, though there is no worthy successor to P. B. Lucas on the fairway as yet.

The greens are now in quite a reasonable condition, thanks to some hard work put in on them, but the Armoury field hole still remains a test of good golf, the gradient being anything up to 1 in 2 and the fairway far from obvious.

The number of balls lost (and subsequently found and "flogged" on the Stowe black market by non-golfers) is still considerable, but, short of bodily removing several acres of woodland, little can be done to ease the situation.

S.B.L.

LAWN TENNIS

The outstanding event in this season's programme was the winning of the Glanvill Cup for the Schools' Doubles competition, after losing in the final last year to K.C.S., Wimbledon. The trophy was first presented through the Junior Lawn Tennis Association in 1945, so that Stowe becomes the second School to hold the attractive silver cup, which is to be seen in the Library on top of the case containing the Samurai Sword.

The South Midlands Area final against Bradfield was won easily in between showers, and Stowe joined K.C.S., Wimbledon; King's, Canterbury; and Manchester Grammar School, for the final at Queen's Club on July 30th. Eventually, Manchester scratched, and Stowe won the triangular final by a clear margin. The score sheet was as follows :—

STOWE *v.* K.C.S., WIMBLEDON.

Stowe won by 2—0, with one match drawn.

1st pairs.—G. J. Chibbett (C) and J. J. Crossley (G) drew with Brown and Hiscock, 1—6; 6—2.

2nd pairs.—R. H. S. Harris (C) and C. M. Mosselmans (C) beat Mansell and Hirsch, 6—4; 6—2.

3rd pairs.—R. J. Broadley (W) and J. W. A. Downing (T) beat Colle and Pepperall, 6—1; 6—3.

STOWE *v.* KING'S, CANTERBURY.

Stowe won by 2—0, with one match drawn.

1st pairs.—Chibbett and Crossley drew with Gordon and Johnson, 3—6; 6—4.

2nd pairs.—Harris and Mosselmans beat Watson and Ferris, 6—1; 6—1.

3rd pairs.—Broadley and Downing beat Whitehead and Burt, 6—2; 6—3.

KING'S, CANTERBURY *v.* K.C.S., WIMBLEDON.

King's won by 33 games to 32, each team having won one match, with one drawn.

As in the School fixtures earlier in the season, it was the unusual strength in the second and third pairs which gave an even balance to the VI, and so made this success possible. The conditions at Queen's Club were far from ideal, with a boisterous varying wind and very dusty hard-courts. In view of this and the unevenness of the opposition, it is not surprising that the VI, and in particular the first pair, played below their normal form. The following extract from the report of the final in *Lawn Tennis and Badminton* (the official organ of the L.T.A.) is interesting, in that it emphasises the weaknesses in the play which will require prolonged practice and attention if Stowe is to retain the Cup in 1947.

"The standard of play in the Final Stage was below the average for School teams, yet most of the boys played a robust game with no semblance of 'pat-ball.' The principal weaknesses were the service delivery and volleying. None of the players possessed an attacking service, so essential for doubles, their stance, swing back and transfer of weight all being of faulty technique, while their volleys were rarely angled

and decisive. Forehand play was of good quality, and backhands adequate and safe, rather than penetrating."

School Colours for Tennis were awarded to all the members of the First VI:— G. J. Chibbett (C), Captain, J. J. Crossley (G), R. H. S. Harris (C), C. M. Mosselmans (C), R. J. Broadley (W), J. W. A. Downing (T).

Following immediately upon the Glanvill Cup success, Stowe played Dulwich on July 31st at the All England Club as the last inter-school fixture of the Schools' Week at Wimbledon. On this occasion, both the weather and the courts were ideal, and a most enjoyable match resulted in Stowe winning by four matches to one. Thus the VI completed the season's programme by preserving an unbeaten record against other schools.

The remainder of the week was devoted to representative matches. A VI was selected from among the players of those Schools who actually took part in the Wimbledon week, to play against "The Rest," the P.S.O.B.L.T.C. and the All England Club. Stowe was fittingly represented by G. J. Chibbett (C) who was chosen as Captain of the "Wimbledon" Schools' VI.

This was the first meeting of its kind at Wimbledon, and there can be no doubt that it was an outstanding success and will quickly establish itself as one of the most important fixtures of its kind in the Lawn Tennis calendar. Next season it is hoped to increase the number of schools competing, and to extend the scope of the meeting by including a knock-out singles tournament. By this means, it is hoped to encourage all School players to take a greater interest in the game outside the School, so that more of them will enter for the various County Junior Championships and also the Junior Championships of Great Britain, which are always held during the long summer vacation. In this connection it is pleasurable to record that Stoics achieved personal successes in two of this year's Junior Tournaments.

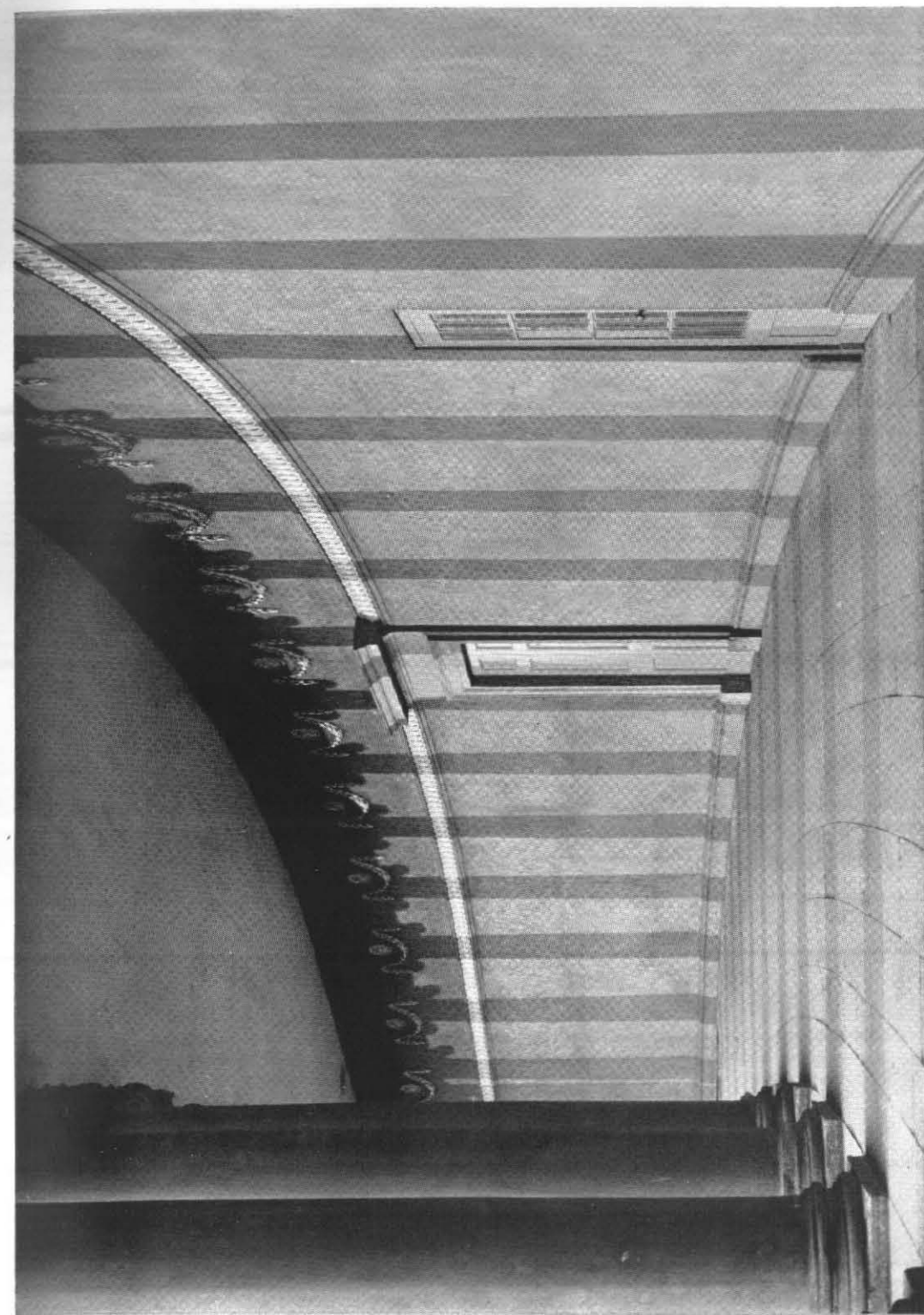
G. J. Chibbett (C), with C. W. Fox of Eton, won the Doubles at the Manchester Junior (under 18) Championships, and was runner-up in the Singles.

J. W. A. Downing (T), entering for the All England Junior Championships (under 18), won the All England Junior Plate; a performance of exceptional merit.

The Mornington Singles Championship was played between G. J. Chibbett (C) and J. J. Crossley (G), before one of the largest gatherings ever to witness this event. The match was interesting to watch, though robbed of much of its potential attraction by over-caution and prolonged defensive play. Crossley put up a determined fight and by slowing down the game with many deep lobs managed to level the match at one set all. It seemed that in making this effort he broke up the rhythm of his own ground strokes to a greater extent than that of his opponent's, and Chibbett, by deep driving to both corners, won the third set and the match at 6—2; 4—6; 6—2.

The Final of the House Matches provided some exciting Tennis, if not of very high quality, and once again, as in the semi-final, it was the strength of the Temple third pair which gave them victory over Walpole by 3 matches to 2.

In concluding this account of the first post-war season, it is evident that in spite of the legacy of restrictions, shortages and difficulties much has been achieved, and the successes gained were deserved because everyone persevered whole-heartedly all the time. Next year competition from outside will be even keener, but with the facilities available, and with more normal supplies, there is no reason why the 1946 record should not be maintained and surpassed, for there appears to be plenty of talent in the School.



[J.F.R.]

EAST COLONNADE

Photo by]



Photos by]

“THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST” [R. & H. Chapman
(Performance by the Congreve Club, November 1946)

SQUASH

Owing to numerous cancellations there have been only two matches this term, both of which were lost 0—5; the first against the Escorts Squash Rackets Club, the other against Oriel College, Oxford. The following played in the matches:—T. J. Greenley (W), M. E. J. FitzGerald (S), J. F. Conington (B), R. A. Hird (C), J. K. Binns (W), P. Few-Brown (S), N. G. Cunningham-Reid (T). M. D. T. Loup (T), P. M. Young (C) and J. J. Davis (T) were unavailable owing to rugger.

A match of ten strings was also played against the Masters. The School won 6—4.

The draw for House Matches was as follows:—

SENIORS

Bruce	}	Chatham	}	}
Chatham		Walpole		
Chandos	}	Grafton	}	
Walpole		Temple		
Grafton	}	Temple	}	
Grenville		Cobham		

JUNIORS

Grenville	}	Grenville	}	}
Chatham		Bruce		
Chandos	}	Temple	}	
Bruce		Grafton		
Temple	}	Walpole	}	
Cobham				

FIVES

The draw for the Senior House matches was as follows :—

Walpole	}	Temple	}	Temple	}	Temple
Temple						
Grenville	}	Cobham	}	Chandos		
Cobham						
Chatham	}	Grafton	}	Chandos		
Grafton						
Bruce	}	Chandos	}	Chandos		
Chandos						

The draw for the Junior House matches was as follows :—

Walpole	}	Walpole	}	Temple	}	Temple
Grenville						
Bruce	}	Temple	}	Chandos		
Temple						
Cobham	}	Cobham	}	Chandos		
Grafton						
Chatham	}	Chandos	}	Chandos		
Chandos						

ENTERTAINMENT

“THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST,” by OSCAR WILDE.

In presenting “The Importance of Being Earnest” with a young and comparatively untried cast, and at such an early stage of the term, the Congreve Club was taking a risk of which the producer, Mr. A. A. Dams, and his assistant, G. R. A. Miskin (W), were evidently aware. To keep the satirical wit of Wilde at comedy level and to prevent it degenerating into farce is in itself a problem, and it is to the credit of the producer and actors that they maintained the right balance. Wilde is a hard master; for his characters are never real, but merely puppets to deliver Wilde epigrams and witticisms. To overcome this, there is a danger in being natural, whereas the characters in “The Importance” are in fact little better than caricatures—Wilde himself describes the play as “A Trivial Comedy for Serious People”; it is the serious people whom Wilde is mocking. It was here, in this desire for naturalness, if anywhere, that a production, so excellent in other respects, failed—a production, which, although at times lacking in the essential preciousness of Wilde, was never pretentious but always clear and straightforward.

J. F. Pim (B) and H. T. Bowles (T), in the difficult parts of Earnest and Algernon, failed largely through this lack of preciousness, for, while struggling hard for some degree of nonchalance, they tended to hold themselves too much in reserve; Bowles, in the easier part, was the more successful. As the evening progressed, both improved and Pim played the scene in which he announces his brother's death with a nice suggestion of tragic hypocrisy.

In his casting of the women, Mr. Dams was particularly successful, for not one of them is an easy part and, while they might easily have been an embarrassment, they were in fact a pleasure. It was I. V. de Wesselow (C) as Lady Bracknell who started the play moving, dominating the stage and everyone on it. From the first moment he entered, he gave the part everything he had, which although amusing was regrettable as it meant he had nothing left in reserve, and it is Wilde, rather than himself, whom he must thank for the fact that he avoided monotony. Gwendoline was not Lady Bracknell's daughter for nothing, and as such C. Graham-Bonnalie (T) rose easily to the occasion. Playing Gwendoline as a cold sophisticated society girl (was she not perhaps a shade too cold to merit such attention from Earnest?) he was perfect throughout and in the quarrel scene in Act II he brought the play to a biting climax with the help of J. A. McGougan (C) as the naive Cecily. T. M. Irvine (T) made a hilarious, if somewhat improbable, Prism, and was the perfect match for G. R. A. Miskin's (W) Dr. Chasuble—a masterpiece of characterisation. Miskin came near to over-acting, but one could have forgiven him anything on account of his laugh, so perfect in its authenticity; he was indeed the complete priest. A. I. MacGregor (B) and R. A. Roxburgh (W) completed the cast as Manservant and Butler respectively, doing all that was expected of them with efficiency that was wonderful to behold.

A play stands or falls with its actors and this production certainly stood, but it was disappointing that the scenery did not give more support to the actors. After the superb simplicity of his “Saint Joan” sets, J. L. Hargrave (S) managed to contrive a set which was neither impressionistic nor an exact replica of an Edwardian room. To do the latter, at any rate on the stage in the Gym, would require a miracle; Har-

grave tried and failed. If only he had hung the sets on curtains, how much more successful he would have been! Yet, however disappointing his indoor sets might have been, in his outdoor set for Act II he was more successful, because there he had to create an atmosphere out of virtually nothing. The lighting, always a weak spot in Congreve Club productions, was adequate, but by no means as good as it could be, while the make-up was the best we have seen at Stowe. The Congreve Club has good reason to be grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Watt and to Mrs. Dams.

If one ended an amusing and successful evening with the feeling that one was grateful in larger measure to Wilde than to the Congreve Club, then one is doing the Club and one's self an injustice; the Congreve Club was the means by which we had such an enjoyable evening, and without it we would have had no such pleasure.

S.D.M.R.

THE CONGREVE CLUB IN BUCKINGHAM

A notice appears above of the Club's production of "The Importance of Being Earnest." It was in every sense an ambitious undertaking. The presentation in the Gymnasium was not, perhaps, in the opinion of your correspondent, as effective as some of the Club's previous productions. This "Trivial Comedy for Serious People" is a difficult play, and only accomplished performers aided by a sophisticated audience can hope to extract full value from its subtle and concentrated satire.

Two nights is a very short time for actors to get the measure of their audience. The first night was spoiled by inexperienced performers choking off their laughs, and the second was slowed up by their uncertainty as to when the laughs would come, as they did though not always in the expected places. It was not until they went down to Buckingham that they achieved something like the proper tempo, and it is significant that Friday's performance there was no less than twenty minutes shorter than Tuesday's at Stowe. Indeed the performance of the play in Buckingham was in every respect a more remarkable achievement than its Stowe counterpart, and it is the main purpose of this article to pay tribute to those who made the venture possible, organisers and technicians, many of whose names did not appear on the programme, but whose preliminary and post-scenic work was as whole-hearted as it was indispensable.

Buckingham had been promised a show six months before, and so the School play must be put on there. We little knew the difficulties. The Town Hall has no theatrical equipment whatever; the stage is little more than a speaker's platform; the existing lighting-points will pass only a trickle of current; you cannot even hang anything from the walls. There was nothing for it but to build a complete stage frame-work, thirty-six feet by sixteen by eighteen feet high.

Six weeks ahead a detailed survey was made; the three sets of scenery were built to fit both Gymnasium and Town Hall; a complete set of lighting was specially made; a temporary cable was installed. In due course a lorry-load of steel scaffolding was dumped in the adjoining yard. These arrangements and the planning of the stage were made by Lord Primrose (W), who started work in the Town Hall on the week-end of the Stowe dress-rehearsal. The construction went more slowly than was hoped,

and at this point, for the first and last time, professional help and advice were called in, which possibly prevented the whole proscenium arch, weighing over a ton, from falling forward and annihilating the four-and-sixpenny stall-holders.

Even so on the day before the show all there was to be seen was a steel skeleton, vast, slightly drunken and wholly hideous. People came in and talked about Heath Robinson. The desolation was intensified by the deployment of two cart-loads of scenery, curtains and furniture from Stowe.

But there also arrived the appropriate experts, who clambered like apes over the structure and hummed and heaved from two till ten. By that time the thing was ready, the stage set, the curtains operating smoothly, the electricians installed in their improvised tower. There followed a quick dress-rehearsal, and the Club arrived back at midnight, exhausted but satisfied.

The two subsequent performances were mere child's play and ran very smoothly. The total casualties were four electric bulbs. Among a mass of equipment, one box of gramophone needles was forgotten.

In this most successful combined operation, three outstanding contributions may be singled out for special mention: Lord Primrose (W) designed and largely executed the whole stage mechanism. A. de F. Mellor (B) was efficient and very quick in rigging up an elaborate and untried lighting-set. Count W. J. H. van Stirum (B) organised the collection, transport and return of an inordinate quantity of borrowed furniture and properties.

Such was the Congreve Club's first "away" production. Whatever other excursions may be attempted in the future there could hardly be any more difficult, or more resourcefully accomplished.

A.A.D.

THE LIBRARY

The Library this term has been carrying on rather in the manner of a car which after being driven at high speed for some time, when the engine is suddenly cut off, still carries on, driven by the impulse of its former speed. The energy that drove the Library forward in previous terms has sufficed to keep it moving this term. We have continued in the tracks that had already been laid down. The cataloguing in the gallery has continued and so has the far greater task of checking the card index.

A sale is being arranged in the gallery, which will contribute towards the clearing of the extraordinary mixture which has up till now filled its shelves. The sole new Librarian this term was C. H. Bradly (B).

Field Marshal Lord Montgomery, on his visit to Stowe, presented the Library with autographed copies of his two accounts of his campaigns, *El Alamein to the River Sangro* and *Normandy to the Baltic*.

Other presentations were:—Colonel Lord Cottesloe, C.B., *The Englishman and the Rifle*, by Sir Everard Duncombe; J. T. Hankinson, *Cricket for Schools*, by the Author; H. Wood Jarvis, *Let the Great Story be Told*, by the Royal Society of St. George; *Bridging Normandy to Berlin*, by the Chief Engineer, War Office; Seeley, *A Description of the Gardens at Stowe*, by J. B. Frankenburg (C, 1940); Edwin Atherstone, *Dramatic Works, Israel in Egypt, Fall of Nineveh*, by R. H. M. Cooper (G, 1940).

MUSIC

This term has seen many varied musical activities. Apart from the Music Society Concerts, an account of which appears below, a series of Concerts on Sunday evenings has been given by the Chamber Music Society and by members of the musical staff. No less than four members of the school have been doing Piano Concertos, one of which, the Rachmaninoff No. 2, will be played by M. E. Harding (T) with the School Orchestra at the School Concert.

The Orchestra has changed the time of its weekly rehearsals to Thursday afternoons; this has given more time for rehearsing, although there have been interruptions owing to a whole holiday and the Confirmation Service both occurring on a Thursday. The works rehearsed in addition to the Concerto have been Beethoven's Coriolan Overture and Haydn's Surprise Symphony.

The Choral Society started the term by being the biggest on record (140 members), but there has been a slight falling-off in the numbers attending rehearsals in recent weeks. A varied programme of music has included choruses by Beethoven, Haydn, Mendelssohn, and from Bach's Christmas Oratorio.

The Madrigal Society distinguished itself by acting as the choir for the wedding held in Stowe Chapel, on November 9th. Their singing of "Be still, my soul" and "God be in my head" was particularly effective.

The Society has also given two recitals of carols, one in Paulerspury Church on December 1st, and the other in Stowe Parish Church on December 15th.

On October 30th, the Orchestra had the unusual experience of being recorded for a broadcast to America. The work recorded was the opening portion of Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto with M. E. Harding (T) playing the Piano part. The effect was not at all bad and the piano came through splendidly. A broadcast from Chapel of the hymn "Immortal, Invisible," sung with Descant, also came through well.

On Sunday, December 8th, the Choral Society and Orchestra, combining with the Buckingham Musical Society and Orchestra, gave a concert in Assembly at 7.45 p.m. A feature was the playing of Bach Trumpets in the Bach Choruses by M. Bredin (B), G. Roy Thomas (B) and T. R. Winser (T).

On Wednesday, December 11th, the School Concert took place in Assembly. In accordance with tradition, the concert ended with a burlesque of Haydn's Toy Symphony, by members of the staff.

We shall be very sorry to lose two great supporters of music in the School, J. O. Arnold (C) and G. L. E. Spier (G). Arnold, besides affording valuable support in the Orchestra on the 'cello, has also been a most efficient Secretary of the Music Society. Spier has delighted many audiences with his flute playing, and has been the chief source of inspiration of the Chamber Music Society since its formation two terms ago.

THE MUSIC SOCIETY

The first Concert of the term was given by the Boyd Neel String Orchestra in the Gymnasium on Wednesday, October 30th. The programme was as follows:—

Symphony No. 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	Boyce
Clarinet Concerto	...	...	...	...	...	...	Stamitz
Eine Kleine Nachtmusik	...	...	...	...	...	...	Mozart
Serenade for Strings	...	...	...	...	...	...	Elgar

The soloist in the Clarinet Concerto was Frederick Thurston.

The climax of the evening was the Serenade for Strings by Elgar. It was played with all the expression and skill which the work demands and was enjoyed by all. The symphony by Boyce was really a suite for string orchestra in that form, and though there was not a great deal in it as a piece, it was interesting and full of life, especially the Vivace at the end which was in the form of a jig. The Clarinet Concerto suffered from the fact that it was in many ways of the same style as the previous work, but this was overshadowed by the playing of the soloist who seemed to specialise in never taking a breath. The Nachtmusik was perhaps better known as representing the type of music one found in the cafés in the evening in the days of Mozart. This was one of the best played pieces of the evening and was greatly appreciated. The orchestra played an encore under pressure from the audience who knew a good thing when they had it and did not want to let it go. The performance was noteworthy for the little pieces of information given by Mr. Boyd Neel before each piece, which helped considerably to make the evening a very enjoyable one.

The second Concert of the term was an unusual one in that it was given by a soprano and a pianist; a type of concert we have not had at Stowe for a long time. The recital was given by Eve Maxwell-Lyte (soprano) and Joan Davies (piano) in the Art School, where suitable pictures were hung. The programme was as follows:—

PIANO SOLOS—

The Bagpipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	Guerini
Sheep may safely graze	...	...	...	...	...	...	Bach
Toccat and Fugue in D minor	...	...	...	...	...	...	Bach

FOLK SONGS FROM THE BRITISH ISLES AND U.S.A.—

Shule Agra (Ireland)	...	...	...	...	...	arr. Somervell
Spinning Wheel Song (I.O.M.)	...	...	...	...	...	arr. Foster
Suo Gan (Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	arr. Evans
Corkle Gatherer (Hebrides)	...	...	...	...	...	arr. Fraser
Sweet Nightingale (England)	...	...	...	...	...	arr. Broadwood
Poor Old Maids	} (Appalachian Mtns.)	...	...	...	...	arr. Sharp
The Rich Old Lady						

PIANO SOLOS—

Mazurkas in B minor and F minor	<i>Chopin</i>
Serenade Impromptu	<i>Debussy</i>
Bruyères	<i>Debussy</i>
Russian Dance : Petrouchka	<i>Stravinsky</i>

The programme consisted of three piano solos including the Toccata and Fugue in D Minor by Bach which was played with all the force that Joan Davies could muster. These were followed by six folk-songs from the British Isles and U.S.A. Evc Maxwell-Lyte not only sang these with plenty of expression and reality, but acted them with the same reality so that the songs were brought to life in a way unfortunately so rarely seen in performances of this kind. Some more piano solos followed and then a series of songs of foreign origin which were even better than the first set, many of them being very humorous, particularly one from French Canada and another from Italy. The performance went on long after 9.0 by when it was timed to stop, and the several encores were just as good as the rest. A most interesting, humorous and enjoyable evening was had by all in the very suitable setting of the Art School.

We were very pleased to welcome Jan Smeterlin back to Stowe which he has not visited within memory of anyone at present here. He gave a very varied and popular piano recital in the Library on Wednesday, November 13th. The programme was as follows :—

Sonata in F major K332	<i>Mozart</i>
Variations on a theme of Paganini, Op. 35	<i>Brahms</i>
Ballade in G minor, Op. 23	<i>Chopin</i>
Berceuse, Op. 58	”
Waltz in A flat minor, Op. 64	”
Fantaisie Impromptu, Op. 66	”
Triana	<i>Albeniz</i>
Poissons d'or	<i>Debussy</i>
Brazilian Dance	<i>Camargo Guarneri</i>

The Variations by Brahms is a very difficult work, both in interpretation and speed, but Smeterlin overcame them with ease. This and the Chopin group were perhaps the best of a very good programme which was brilliantly played. Of particular note was the Berceuse which was beautiful and delicate in comparison with the more vigorous moods of the Ballade and the Fantaisie Impromptu. The last three pieces were of an entirely different style, particularly the last one which had a queer rhythm. Perhaps the rather portly and aged figure of Smeterlin produced some sort of endearment for he was not allowed to go till he had given five encores, mostly Chopin pieces. The Library was full of a large and appreciative audience which heard a first class performance at least equal to those given by Moiseiwitch and Solomon the last two terms.

The last concert given by visiting artists was given by the Dennis Brain Wind Quintet in the Library on Wednesday, November 20th. The players were :—*Flute*, GARETH MORRIS ; *Oboe*, LEONARD BRAIN ; *Clarinet*, STEPHEN WATERS ; *Bassoon*, TOM WIGHTMAN ; *Horn*, DENNIS BRAIN ; *Piano*, GEORGE MALCOLM.

The programme was as follows :—

Divertimento for Wind Quintet	<i>Haydn</i>
Horn Sonata	<i>Beethoven</i>
Quintet for Piano, Oboe, Bassoon, Horn and Clarinet ...	<i>Mozart</i>
Quintet for Wind Quintet—Three short pieces	<i>Ibert</i>
Quintet for Wind Quintet	<i>Matthews</i>
Quintet for Wind Quintet :	
Kleine Kammermusik in Five Movements	<i>Hindemith</i>

The Divertimento by Haydn contains the famous St. Antony Chorale on which Brahms used to write a set of variations. The performance of this work was noteworthy for its precision and phrasing. The Horn Sonata by Beethoven was played brilliantly by Dennis Brain, a player of outstanding merit. The last three pieces were all by more modern composers and they had some very odd sections in them which were very well expressed by the Quintet. At the end of the performance the Quintet allowed us to question them about their instruments and technique, and Dennis Brain gave an exhibition of how he played two notes at once on his horn which astounded our budding horn players.

The Concerts this term have been of high standard and have been thoroughly enjoyed and acclaimed by all who went to them. Audiences have been large and we have been able to welcome a few regular subscribers from Buckingham. It has been noticeable this term that the best, though not the largest, place to give concerts, is the Library.

J.O.A.

THE MUSIC CLUB

There has so far this term been only one meeting, which took the form of an expedition to Oxford to hear the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham. The programme included Schubert's 5th Symphony, Delius's Piano Concerto, and Sibelius's 2nd Symphony. Of these the Schubert was the least well-performed, the strings having the main part throughout and being the weakest section of the orchestra. The Delius Piano Concerto, with Betty Humby-Beecham, was given a good performance, which was enjoyed even by those members of the Club prejudiced against that composer. The best piece, however, was the Sibelius symphony, in which the brass was truly magnificent. It was also a great pleasure to watch Sir Thomas Beecham from comparatively close quarters.

Later on in the term, the President, Dr. Huggins, read a paper on "Ballet Music."

G.L.E.S.

DEBATING SOCIETY

The 174th Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, October 9th. The Motion was "That this House desires the abolition of the death penalty."

C. S. EDWARDS (C), proposing, based his argument on the "judge not that ye be not judged" principal. The effectiveness of his speech was unfortunately marred by poor delivery.

A. W. MURDOCH (T), opposing, spoke quietly and persuasively, with an air of having considered everything most carefully beforehand. The logic of the speech was doubtful however, and somehow he reached the conclusion that if the death penalty were abolished all other forms of punishment would have to go as well.

R. A. ROXBURGH (W) thought the death penalty insufficient punishment, for he had visions of murderers repenting and going to heaven. He therefore supported penal servitude.

M. MORLAND (B) made a most versatile speech. He used law, statistics, psychology, full employment for prison warders and a plea from the murderers' trade union to press home his argument.

The debate started slowly, but livened up considerably later in the evening. Altogether 12 speeches were made from the House, with very little repetitiveness and a good deal of clear thinking.

The Motion was lost in the Upper House by 9 votes to 6 and in the Lower House by 31 votes to 8.

The 175th Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, October 23rd, the Motion being "That in the opinion of this House, the future of the world lies with the black and yellow races."

The Hon. Secretary (G. L. E. Spier (G)), proposing, was suitably coloured for the occasion. He tried to prove that the way to an empire lies through sweated labour and cannon fodder.

A. CAIGER-SMITH (T), who opposed, used the atomic bomb as his main weapon to defeat the threatened coloured supremacy.

The Ex-Secretary and Hon. Librarian (J. M. KAHN (W)) said that the white civilisation would fall because its material progress was far in advance of its moral standard.

M. D. T. LOUP (T) made many good points, but without developing them enough. He stated that the coloured races were not united, that educated blacks did not return to their countries, and that their uneducated brethren would have nothing to do with them if they did.

The debate was quite animated, although most of the speakers were opposing. As many as 19 speeches were made, and every conceivable argument was used, including those from economics, science, climatic conditions, the birth-rate, politics, art and soldiery.

The Motion was lost in the Upper House by 14 votes to 7 and in the Lower House by 23 votes to 10.

The 176th Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, November 27th, and took the form of a closed debate. The following Motions were discussed:—

"That this House approves rather of Queen Victoria than Queen Cleopatra."

The Motion was carried by 15 votes to 12.

"That this House considers that Photography is a more sensible pursuit than Painting."

The Motion was lost by 16 votes to 11.

"That this House would rather fish in troubled waters than pour oil thereon."

The Motion was carried by 18 votes to 7.

"That this House prefers History to Fiction."

The Motion was carried by 15 votes to 11.

The standard of impromptu speeches was quite high, and while there were none that were brilliant, there were many that were good. 54 speeches were made, and the President rarely had to use his power of compelling people to speak.

G.L.E.S.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

THE SYMPOSIUM

The new members were initiated in the rites of drinking coffee under the guidance of the President, Mr. Stephan, and the Secretary, J. F. Pim (B). The new members were G. H. Rooke (C), C. H. Bradly (B), Lord Primrose (W), J. N. W. Bridges-Adams (G), D. Read (T), D. S. Salt (G), D. J. M. Campion (W), M. Doyle (C), J. F. Marsden (W), R. J. Roberts (C) and G. L. D. Duckworth (C).

G. H. Rooke read the first paper in the shape of a somewhat superficial though nevertheless very amusing history of entertainments, including for some reason the story of St. Anthony and the fishes. He told us how he preferred the aesthetic pleasures of climbing Canterbury Cathedral to the more brutal pastime of rugger. After taking a little while to get used to the informal nature of its gatherings, the Society quickly found its feet and turned to its inevitable topics, ethics and religion, to be parted unwillingly at eleven o'clock.

At the 66th meeting Lord Primrose delivered a paper on "A Plea for a Downward and Backward Movement in the Arts." He covered an immense field including music, painting, poetry and architecture, and quoted Burns to substantiate his statements. It was a long paper, but it held our interest and never became tedious. The discussion afterwards was stimulating in the highest degree and the only difficulty was to prevent everyone from speaking at once.

The third paper of the term was given by D. Read, entitled "The Dying Art of Conversation." He demonstrated how conversation had flourished under Coleridge, Carlyle and Oscar Wilde and how in our own days it has descended to a vulgar bandying of words, and to mere stating of facts. Unfortunately he failed to suggest any remedy, though this may have been a blessing in disguise. For it has often been found that a good paper, covering all its subject fully, does not always stimulate discussion, whereas one which opens up unexplored regions makes for a good meeting.

Towards the end of the term C. H. Bradly read a paper on "The Consequences of Nuremburg."

J.F.P.

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

The Society met in Mr. Todd's room on Tuesday, October 22nd, to hear the broadcast performance of Aeschylus' "Agamemnon" in Louis Macneice's translation.

The Secretary, A. C. Eastgate (C), read a paper on Friday, December 6th. His subject was "The Chorus in Greek Tragedy."

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

There have been two meetings this term, when G. H. Rooke (C) gave an entirely impromptu and unrehearsed talk on his recent visit to Switzerland, illustrating his remarks with photographs.

Towards the end of the term D. I. Hird (C) read a paper on "Hydro-Electric Power."
E.M.L.L.

THE FILM SOCIETY

Three films have been shown this term.

The first film *Der Spiegel* was Austrian and as such was welcomed by the Society, wearied by a string of mediocre French films. Conrad Veidt takes the lead in this film which was made before he went to Hollywood to win fame as a U-boat commander. Here he is portrayed in a more sympathetic light as a young doctor training at a hospital in Vienna. He held strong views on the dangers of quack medicine, and the plot clicked neatly into place as we saw that he had fallen in love with a fellow student, the daughter, curiously enough, of a well-known quack doctor. The production was admirably handled, though in thinking about this film, what leaps into the mind first of all is not the memory of the more dramatic scenes but that curious little tune played and sung in the scene at the Viennese night club.

The second film was *Les Bas Fonds*, a dreary French production describing life in a Russian doss-house. Jean Gabin was an obvious ingredient in any mixture of this description, and it almost seemed as if the film had been cast for him, rather than he for the film. However, in this case his tight-lipped grimness was overshadowed by the brilliant performance of Louis Jouvet playing the part of a penniless Baron crippled by gambling debts who decides to disappear and who becomes an inmate of the doss-house.

This production fully emphasized that fervent desire for realism which from time to time grips all French producers, but was scarcely outstanding even as an expression of realism.

E.M.L.L.

(An account of the third film will be found under *Late News*).

THE XII CLUB

At the 199th meeting of the Club, G. P. Lewis (B) read his paper on "Immortality," in which the brilliance of his wit covered the sparsity of his thought.

On the solemn occasion of the 200th meeting of the Club, Mr. Wyn Harris, the mountaineer, showed a film of the 1933 Everest expedition, which he accompanied by a commentary which by its very simplicity enhanced the grandeur of his subject.

For the 201st meeting, J. J. Davis (T) gave a paper on "The Hapsburg Monarchy," a mixture of violent prejudice and well-worn platitudes which produced only bewilderment.

G. L. E. Spier (G) lectured on "Socialism" at the 202nd meeting, with knowledge and balance, producing one of the best discussions the Society has ever enjoyed.

The following were elected members:—M. Birkett (T), A. Caiger-Smith (T), J. M. Kahn (W), M. Morland (B), S. D. M. Robertson (B) and A. W. Murdoch (T).

J.J.D.

THE VITRUVIANS

Towards the end of last term, Mr. Alister MacDonald, F.R.I.B.A., visited the School to give us a lantern lecture on "Science in Architecture." Although the lecture was not as scientific as some members had hoped and it was not too well attended, owing to a hot spell of weather, it was a great success.

There was an expedition on July 28th to the churches of Bloxham, South Newington and Adderbury, all of them exhibiting good work of the Decorated and Perpendicular periods. Mr. Esdaile very kindly showed us round the first two.

On October 5th, a general business meeting was held when our main preoccupation was the emendation of the 1941 constitution, parts of which had become otiose and irrelevant. A week later, we visited Broughton Castle, the home of Lord Saye and Sele, Broughton Church and King's Sutton Church.

On November 2nd, Mr. Wilfred Valder, A.R.I.B.A., delivered a lantern lecture on "The Design of Cinemas and Theatres," in which he dealt with the development of the theatre from Grecian times to the scientific planning of cinemas and theatres to-day.

On the whole holiday we visited Cambridge, leaving Stowe at nine o'clock. After some unavoidable vacillation which upset certain members' arrangements, we could not fill the bus and had to open the expedition to non-members. The rain mercifully spared us during the whole day and everyone agreed that the visit was most enjoyable. We are most grateful to E. H. Archibald (G, 1945), D. L. Pike (G, 1945), W. L. N. Brinson (C, 1946) and A. N. Griffith (B, 1946) for so kindly showing us round, and to W. H. Atkinson (B, 1945) for making all the necessary arrangements. The University Library and King's College Chapel were undoubtedly the two finest buildings there.

On November 23rd, the Secretary (D. H. W. Vey (B)) gave a lantern lecture on "The Cathedrals of England," in which he dealt with those cathedrals which had been consecrated by 1550.

The membership for the term was sixty, of whom twenty-nine were in the Upper School. The Committee was the same as last term, except that D. D. Casstles (B) held the post of Photographer and J. J. Davis (T) was a co-opted member.

D.H.W.V.

THE CONGREVE CLUB

So far this term only one meeting of the Club has taken place, but a further one is expected before the end of term. It was decided in that meeting that the Club would perform "The Importance of Being Earnest" (Wilde) sometime in mid-November; and the company was then chosen. It so happened that the Oxford Repertory Company were also putting on this play and so on Thursday, October 10th, all those connected with the Stowe production spent an enjoyable evening in the "Playhouse" at Oxford.

The dates fixed for the presentations in the Gymnasium were Monday and Tuesday, November 11th and 12th, followed by two nights in Buckingham Town Hall on Thursday and Friday, November 14th and 15th. Great keenness and enthusiasm was shown at rehearsals under Mr. A. A. Dams' genius for direction who, though he had

many critical moments, overcame them triumphantly. The play, though hard to perform, showed that the Congreve Club had lost none of its former talent.

W.C.O.M.

THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

Mr. Gabriel, from the International Wool Secretariat, delivered the first lecture of the term on "Science in the Wool Industry." He gave a most interesting account of the structure of wool and the manufacture of garments.

In October, Mr. G. Parr, editor of *Electrical Engineering*, with the help of his electroencephalograph gave a very illuminating lecture on "The Human Telecommunication System." After chapel he kindly stayed and obtained several brain signatures from members.

Later in the term the Society went by bus to visit the British Thompson-Houston works at Rugby. The work done in this vast wilderness of small factories was varied in character, but constant in interest. Certain parts were sealed to us as being on the secret list but even so we did not have time to complete our planned tour. Towards the end of the term P4 held a guest night with demonstrations on low temperatures, using liquid oxygen and solid carbon dioxide.

D.I.H.

THE 46 CLUB

This term the 46 Club entered upon the second year of its life. At the first meeting of the term, which took place on Wednesday, October 9th, as usual in Mr. Negus' room, four new members were welcomed to the Club, C. A. Hancox (G), R. G. A. Pearce (B), J. D. Lloyd (B) and R. A. Woolf (G).

Then the Secretary (J. D. Vernon (G)) read a long paper entitled "The Senses." He first considered nerve impulses. He then mentioned telepathy in different animals, and briefly noted how brain structure influenced behaviour. He finished up by relating these facts to the workings of the human mind. This was rather an overdose of a medicine designed to reform the 46 Club discussion from the "Amateur Philosophical" to the "Practical and Theoretical," although this policy was not without results. The Club welcomed back the ex-Secretary, R. M. Macnaughton (C, 1946), who was on his way up to Oxford.

The second meeting occurred on Thursday, November 7th. The organization of the 46 Club was the first main topic of discussion. This was undertaken by the President (Mr. Reynolds) who started it by presenting a large number of light scientific books. The paper was read by P. M. Gibbs (C) on "Murders." The theme was "Motive decides Method," which was argued very ingeniously with regard to the story of Cain and Abel. This highly original and able paper preceded discussion on the "Electronic Brain," Motoring and Flying.

The third meeting was held in early December, when C. A. Hancox (G) talked on the "Aerodynamics of Sailing," and A. R. Bateman (C) on "Evolution."

All members are most grateful to Mr. Negus for the use of his room for meetings.

J.D.V.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The Society was disbanded in 1940, and, beyond the use by one or two people of the darkroom at irregular intervals, nothing was done during the war. However,

at the beginning of this term the Society was re-formed, though under an entirely new constitution, since pre-war details of procedure were unknown. Our adoption of a somewhat commercial basis, though criticised, was essential, since we had no funds, and our equipment was in poor condition.

The discovery of a cupboard full of chemicals in the laboratories was made at about half term and we shall make up our own solutions in future. The 19 members have shown enthusiasm for printing and developing films and some enlargements have been made.

A lecture on Press Photography has been arranged for next term and we also hope to visit the Kodak works.

A.T.R.F.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Philatelic Society has been reorganised this term, and the numbers have been reduced to 8, all Upper School members.

Mr. Dewing has taken over the Presidency, and a varied programme of talks and lantern lectures is proposed for next term. Dr. Gordon-Hill, who was to have lectured this term, was unfortunately taken ill at the last moment. We hope, however, to hear him at an early date next term.

S.B.L.

THE MODERN LANGUAGE SOCIETY

The Society has met only three times this term, owing to concerts and the absence of many members. Two new members, elected last term, J. F. Wells (C) and G. H. B. Carter (T) have attended this term. N. N. Proddow (C) was elected Committee-man and M. Birkett (T) Secretary.

The play to be read was "Le Mariage de Figaro" of Beaumarchais. This is a comedy which has been made widely known through Mozart's opera, which follows it faithfully in story. The play is amusing and light reading and the Society read it quite rapidly and with great enjoyment.

It is hoped soon to read Rostand's "Cyrano de Bergerac."

M.B.

THE CHESS CLUB

Although the membership this term has not been as large as had been hoped, the season has been very successful. Five matches have been won this term against Magdalen College School, Radley, Bedford Modern, Royal Grammar School (High Wycombe) and Berkhamsted. No matches have been lost since the reopening of the Club a year ago.

The Chess team has been chosen from M. F. Triefus (W), Captain, A. C. Eastgate (C), Secretary, R. A. Hird (C), D. I. Lorrimer (C), A. Caiger-Smith (T), J. F. Wells (C) and V. S. Greig (C).

The Tournament for the individual championship of the Club in July ended in a tie between M. F. Triefus (W) and M. T. Thornton-Berry (C).

The Club has continued to meet every Tuesday evening. Next term many new members will be required to maintain the Club's numbers and its fine record in match play.

M.F.T.

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

There have not been any noteworthy records of rare species from the Stowe grounds; but we have imported living birds and set butterflies; while the bird watchers have interesting records from further afield.

In early September, M. D. Cobham (G) spent some ten days on the Isle of May in the Firth of Forth, and gave an interesting lecture on his experiences of catching birds in Heligoland traps, identifying them in the hand, and ringing before release. From the few which come to hand again our knowledge of migration routes is built up. His record of Wrynecks on that almost treeless island is paralleled by one of Greater Spotted Woodpeckers on the causeway between two of the Tuing Reservoirs on November 21st. There were fine companies of duck on view that day, Mallard, Teal, Wigeon, Shoveler, Tufted and Pochard. But the thrill lay in the flushing of a female Hen Harrier, whose white rump led to her certain identification as she flew away.

At last a few pinioned Duck are in the market, though seldom in pairs. C. J. S. Marler (G) and J. K. Hirst (G) have presented a Tufted Drake, which has already been seen in company with a wild duck of his species, and may well secure a mate. The Red Crested Pochard is too rare a vagrant for any hope to be entertained of similar fortune for our drake of this handsome species; but he has settled down well; and we are promised a pinioned duck for him next year, when there should be a chance to build up the stock with further species, and thus enliven the lovely views across the Octagon lake.

The Hart collection of stuffed birds is now assembled in the Temple of Concord, and Sigma dormitory has returned to its proper use. A gallery has been built in the temple on supports of tubular steel; and it will be possible to arrange the cases finally as soon as adequate wooden supports can be made.

The Indian summer at the beginning of term provided fine flights of butterflies, among them some Brimstones visiting the dahlias before going into winter retreat. No one could catch or approach near enough for identification a suspected Pale Clouded Yellow. For some time we have been building up a collection of specimens of our most variable butterfly, the Large Heath, *Coenonympha tullia*, which has distinctive forms in the several parts of its range, and is interesting to students of variation and selection. In London on November 14th there was broken up what was probably the finest collection of this species in existence; and 933 specimens were sold for the record total of £183 10s. od. We were lucky at this auction to secure more reasonably two useful series showing the degree of variation at Bala and near Doncaster. July is the month for this butterfly, but some may still be seen in early August; and any entomologist who could present to the school representative pairs or longer series from Caernarvon or Denbigh, from the mosses of Lancashire, from the lowlands or islands of Scotland, would help to fill in our map. J. B. Chittenden (T) has promised specimens from Mayo, but we would welcome any from other parts of Ireland.

On the last day of term there will be available for distribution some three dozen seedlings of the Chinese evergreen April-flowering *Clematis Armandii*. The seed was collected from both the Apple Blossom and Snowdrift varieties growing side by side on the wall of the Biology Laboratory; and there may thus be some interesting hybrids among these plants.

N.A-B.

BOOK REVIEW

"LOVE OR MONEY," by Patience McElwee. (*Andrew Melrose—9/6*)

A series of domestic disasters and intrigues is used as a setting for a fairy-tale in modern-dress, where boy meets girl and woman meets boy. The usual wicked-parent element is found in the somewhat unlikely guise of an Edwardian mother suffering from an arrested mental development which prevents her from comprehending any idea dating from after the year 1913. This leads her to make repeated attempts to make suitable marriages for her son and daughter to MONEY. They, being fairy-tale children, believe that marriages are made in heaven and not, as the plot summary puts it, in Threadneedle Street. The timely intervention of the fairy-godmother takes place as expected, but unexpectedly she snatches a husband on her own account.

The society in which the story moves, though seen in its present depressing state of impecunious decay, is easily recognised as that of Jane Austen or Evelyn Waugh. The satirical style in which it is treated has neither the placidity of the one nor the astringency of the other, but its quiet wit and authentic dialogue charm the reader, and save the plot from banality. The defect of this treatment is that it allows little opportunity to develop the minor characters, who are either caricatures—like Miss Waller-Jones—or else without life like John Corbett. This defect is not serious because the author's discerning observation of people has enabled her to put exactly the right words into her characters' mouths, thus making them credible if not profound. For example we learn that Miss Waller-Jones is a social-climber and the daughter of the Limpopo Company King. Her character is then made clear in the following lines:—

"Oh are you the lad that bought that shack?" Miss Weller-Jones inquired.
 "You must let me give you my valuable advice. I rather fancy myself at I.D."
 "I.D.?" Dan asked
 "Interior Decorating." She looked at him without a shadow of a blush, and said, "I do it for pin-money."

M.F.T.

THE TERM'S FILMS

The phenomenal success of British Films during the last few years has resulted in a restrained but firm belief in the quality of the British product. The passionate cries of bobby-soxers have yet to re-echo through the vast spaces of the local Odeons, but James Mason (representing 'box-office' success) and Laurence Olivier (representing Art) have their own vast hordes of admirers, while, instead of Hayworth and Grable, the faces of Miss Margaret Lockwood and Miss Patricia Roc peep coyly from the Toilet Soap advertisements. British Films are undoubtedly here to stay.

The term's two best films were both British and both representative of all that is best in the current British Cinema. To make *Western Approaches*, Director Pat Jackson actually took his Technicolor cameras out into the Atlantic and the visual result, though variable and disjointed, was frequently very lovely. Shots of sea and sky, moonlight, mist and sunset, blended with excitingly photographed sequences involving Submarines, Merchantmen and a Lifeboat, gave the film a sense of style and the atmos-

phere of reality usually lacking in this type of Convoy versus U Boat melodrama. The actors, chosen from Naval Personnel, gave efficient performances, spoilt by faulty sound recording. The film owed its success to the impressive incidental music and the expertly cinematic treatment.

The other remarkable British Film also relied for effect on the photographic suitability of its setting. *I Know Where I'm Going*, though whimsical and fey, was delightfully acted and again technically fine. Roger Livesy fitted neatly into the ultra-Scotch atmosphere and Wendy Hillier achieved exactly the right degree of rather common independence. The film's climax, a magnificently photographed storm, made up for the eagles, elk-hounds and Auld Scotch Curses, which kept getting between the camera and its real objective, the scenery of the Western Isles.

Of four more British Films, three featured popular comedians. If you like Trinder and Formby you like their films. The two English comics did manage to make more of their hackneyed situations than Abbott and Costello, this time in the *Naughty Nineties*. This pair of clowns are rapidly losing any comic talent they may have possessed. *Great Day* was an unpolished but sincere attempt to screen the hysterical and amusing activities of a village expecting a visit from Mrs. Roosevelt. Eric Portman and Flora Robson helped a little. *Champagne Charlie* was Tommy Trinder again, acted off the screen by Stanley Holloway, in a medium British period Musical directed with a kind of forced gaiety.

The best of the American films was *Farewell My Lovely*, a thoroughly tough, incomprehensible but suspenseful thriller. Treatment was always slick and efficient, sometimes subtle and effective. Somehow the Americans don't lose their heads over thrillers, as they did over *Weekend at the Waldorf*. Mile upon mile of lavish sets, star after star, an endless succession of luxurious garments all compete to make this a typical dreary 'Box-office' success. Luckily the stars and screenplay writers knew their business, for a certain amount of wit bubbled through the suffocating atmosphere of glamour and Walter Pidgeon, Lana Turner, Van Johnson and especially Ginger Rogers performed delightfully, making the very most of their material.

Between Two Worlds, from Sutton Vane's 'Outward Bound,' was interesting and well acted but too slow. The atmosphere was right and the dialogue reasonably intelligent, but two hours of this sort of depression is too much. Also too much for the School audience was the cosy charm of *Meet Me In St. Louis*, a period Technicolor Musical. Judy Garland's *Trolley Song* was almost inaudible. *Clive of India* was a totally unconvincing dramatisation of the great man's life. Loretta Young was coy and Ronald Colman just bad. The battle elephants at Plassey were the most entertaining feature. *The Three Caballeros* began with some real Disney touches in the story of Pablo, the Penguin who couldn't get warm, but soon degenerated into a whirl of colour and sound which left the audience physically and mentally exhausted. If only Disney wouldn't persist in using lush puces. *That Night With You* and *Because Of Him* featured songbirds Deanna Durbin and Susanna Foster. The first consisted of Miss Foster's determined attempts to fit modern vocals to popular classics. 'Santa Lucia' was sung in a New York market while 'Figaro,' performed in a beauty-parlour, was punned to 'Figure-Oh!' Thank goodness for Louise Allbritton who was responsible for at least one moment of wit. In the other affair Miss Durbin became a great actress merely because of her ability to impress Great Actor Laughton by singing 'Danny Boy' very loudly and at great length. These last two were both remarkable for a complete lack of wit, good taste, originality and plain, honest, commonsense.

H.L.P.H.

" FRENCH WITHOUT TEARS "

Chatham House presented "French Without Tears," by Terence Rattigan, in the Gymnasium on December 3rd and 4th. Enthusiastic audiences enjoyed the play, and what is more enjoyed it intelligently; hilarious laughter broke out whenever the players and author intended. The action was slick if not professional, the dialogue was lively if not polished, the decor pleasing if unoriginal. The play would have moved even faster, if the French had been spoken with greater confidence and fluency.

Professor Mangot (E. M. L. Latham), a stiff and rather stilted French "Crammer" for civil service exams., runs a small establishment in the South of France for young men. J. F. Law, who plays his intelligent, charmless daughter, lacked poise but portrayed competently an efficient "school-marm." C. M. C. Royds (Diana Lake), if rather lacking in verve, was a most artful hussy, who played fast and loose with the susceptibilities of Mangot's bored tutees until disillusioned by the arrival of the diminutive Lord Heybrook of scarcely twelve (J. A. Y. French). The outstanding actor of the evening was J. F. Wells as the Hon. Alan Howard, a dégage and cynical wit, who only just escapes the advances of the promiscuous Diana. P. M. Gibbs was a realistic Kit Neilan, an attractive and blasé youth, who ends by falling in love with common-sense Jacqueline Mangot. D. I. Hird portrayed a bluff naval commander, whose saltiness soon gives way to geniality and good humour. A. B. Maxwell-Hyslop bubbled over with coarse good fun; notwithstanding his French he was entirely at home with the ladies of the town. Everyone was delighted with Chatham for its show, its warm amusement, a welcome change in the damp, chilly December nights.

M.M.

LATE NEWS

THE FILM SOCIETY

The last film of the term was *Une femme a disparu* which fully justified great expectations. It was one of those queer masterpieces which occasionally burst forth from Continental studios reminding the world that Hollywood is not the only bright spot in the film industry. The dominating part in the film was played by that magnificent and versatile French actress, Francoise Rosay, portraying four people of potentially suicidal tendencies, all having disappeared in the same district and all having apparently drowned themselves in the lake. Joining all the characters together, a famous actress, an old peasant woman, a schoolmistress, and the wife of a bargee, there runs the thread of a striking personality, of a woman who has achieved success in her own particular way, who is admired and envied on account of her qualities. However, in each case, this sense of superiority to other people makes her miserable and unhappy because she feels that she can never be intimate with her companions. To each of the characters

this superiority, whether as a great actress, or as a wise old peasant woman, brings only loneliness, a loneliness which drives them to the point of taking their own lives.

The photography was superb, showing a complete mastery of film technique, as the photographers seemed to enjoy taking shots from unusual angles, whether of a tennis match or of the end of a play, producing a very pleasing effect. The film, though necessarily long, moved quickly, the scenes changing rapidly. Perhaps the most perfect contrast was achieved when the scene was switched from a cattle stampede on the side of the mountain to a bedroom where the farmer's town-bred wife was intently listening to a dance tune on a gramophone.

Francoise Rosay was ably supported by a strong cast, who made the film the best that the Film Society had seen for some time, and it is to be hoped that we shall see some more like this.

E.M.L.L.

