

# THE STOIC



*Number Seventy-two*

MARCH 1947



Photo by ]

THE QUEEN'S TEMPLE  
MARCH 1947

[ J.F.R.

# THE STOIC

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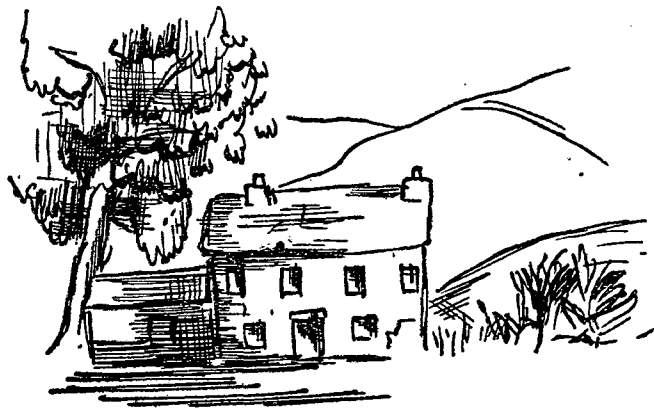
## WINTER'S TALE

**I**N the hardest Winter since 1880-81 it is not surprising that the routine of the School should have been more than usually upset by Easter term unpleasantness. Until now, eight weeks after the beginning of term, only the first day of term has been free of snow, while the low temperature, in itself even more remarkable than the snow, has been unparalleled for over sixty years. The temperature was below freezing point throughout most of February, and only once rose to the 39 degrees which is the average for the month, and on the 24th thermometers recorded as much as 28 degrees of frost. Until now the effect of this has been to allow only two afternoons of hockey, one of which was hampered by the concealment of the ball in the first fall of snow; neither rugger nor soccer has been played so far. Lack of training prevented the inter-house cross-country from taking place, even had illness spared enough people to make up the teams. The one school match, on March 1st, against Uppingham, was run on thick ice in extremely cold weather and the relief at seeing the runners return at all was only increased by the knowledge that Stowe had won.

Little more encouraging than the thought of a cross-country run, was the running-track cleared in the snow on the South front. The danger of slipping on the icy surface was only compensated by the high walls of snow on either side which would soon have broken one's slide. But since nearly half of February passed in snow storms, it is not surprising that this useful track was soon filled in and out of use.

The climax of troubles arrived on Thursday, March 6th, when not only was Stowe cut off from Buckingham, but Buckingham in turn was isolated and an Army lorry had to bring supper. For over a week Stoics enjoyed the benefits of an extra half hour in bed in the morning and experienced the discomforting novelty of two periods before, instead of after, tea, and an ungodly gain to free time in place of evening chapel. Exercise in the open was out of the question; snow put a final stop to the skating on the lakes which had hitherto occupied many afternoons, and few were bold enough to take the ice in the leaking squash courts. The J.T.C. was obliged to accept classroom-work as a necessity and not merely a convenience, and greatcoats were appreciated not only on corps days

After many false starts, the long-expected thaw set in on March 15th, and the ice that bridged the Grecian Valley was inundated by a layer of water, and the lightest footstep on grass formed a puddle. The gale of March 16th celebrated the departure of ice and snow with a deluge of rain and a multitude of broken trees, and succeeded in laying a large cedar to rest on the middle of the Armoury. After that the weather contented itself with threats through meteorologists, and might well allow cricket next term.



## ON LETTERS

“I hate letters—nobody knows how to write letters.”

—(CONGREVE—Way of the World)

It has been fashionable for literary men to lament the decline of letter-writing since the days of Pliny. There is more cause for lament to-day than ever before. The ponderous grandeur of the salutation “C. Plinius Tacito suo s.” has been reduced to the perfunctory “Dear John” . . . while in leave-taking we have passed from the austere “Vale” to “Lots of love from . . .” or to the thankful “In haste to catch the post.” One can no longer send one’s courier with the weekly mail to catch the packet boat. Instead, the idle scrawl of a few desultory lines and the dash down to the pillar-box, as the merciless post-van drives away, its glaring red the symbol of the age, where materialism has triumphed over art:

The leisured letters of Horace Walpole will always be read, but never again written. Abbreviations, automatic ellipse and illegibility have reduced letter-writing to an irritable necessity. The Biro, which rescues the indolent from filling their fountain-pens with the fluent ink of Mr. Swan, and the type-writer, that petrol-pump of the Socialist State, have between them killed *belles lettres*. We will no longer receive our monthly letter from our grand-parents, written in faultless copper-plate. Yet notes, cards, and printed paper-matter with other flotsam and jetsam fill the mail-bags in ever-increasing volume.

With the decline in the substance of letters go the pedantic peculiarities of English spelling and punctuation. Dots, dashes and exclamation marks have replaced the calm dignity of the colon and the comma. One is reminded of Sam Weller’s obiter dictum, who, when asked by the judge whether he spelt his name with a V or a W, replied, “That depends upon the taste and fancy of the speller, my Lord.”

However, the inherent craving for correspondence has evidently not left the rising generation. From quarter to eight until the letters are ready for the house-room table the North Hall is thronged with a restless excited crowd of boys, large and small, of Matrons and Masters; while the unruffled sorters deftly allot the mail to various piles. The genuineness of the desire for letters is shown by the heart-rending dismay evinced when the customary post failed to appear during the great blizzard in March. What pleasure some obtained from their epistolary medley, the editors cannot imagine, and sympathise with Congreve when he says that “letters only serve to pin up one’s hair.”

## STOICA

*School Officials—Easter Term, 1947.*

*Prefects* :—G. J. Chibbett (C), Head of the School; S. D. M. Robertson (B), Second Prefect; A. C. B. Chancellor (C), Prefect of Chapel; M. E. J. FitzGerald (G), Prefect of Library; J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W), Prefect of Gymnasium; G. H. B. Carter (T); E. M. L. Latham (C); D. S. Withers (G); M. D. T. Loup (T); J. D. Lloyd (B); G. P. Tobin (G); W. C. O. Munks (C).

*Athletics* :—Captain, J. D. Lloyd (B).

*Cross-Country* :—Captain, D. G. A. Airey (C).

*Hockey* :—Captain, G. J. Chibbett (C); Secretary, P. V. Rycroft (C).

*Squash* :—Captain, M. D. T. Loup (T).

The following visitors have preached in Chapel this term: On Sunday, February 16th, the Rev. R. W. Tuesday (Toc H); on Sunday, March 9th, the Rev. Cyril Brown (Missions to Seamen).

Chapel Collections this term have been as follows:—January 26th, for The Pineapple, £22 11s. 6d.; February 23rd, for the Buckinghamshire Service Club Appeal, £18 2s. 4d.; March 23rd, for the Missions to Seamen,

A pencil drawing by Gwen John has been presented to the Art School in memory of the late Lieutenant A. P. de Pass (C, 1941), Rifle Brigade.

Included in this number are reproductions of six paintings shown at last term's Old Stoic Art Exhibition (reviewed in *The Stoic*, No. 71).

The tail-pieces which appear in this number are the work of J. K. Binns (W).

A Prize has been founded in memory of Lieutenant A. R. G. Pearce, R.N.V.R. (G, 1935), who was killed in action in 1943. The Prize will be called the Anthony Pearce Prize for Latin Oration.

A Prize for Art has been founded under the will of A. G. E. Howard (C, 1938) who was accidentally drowned in 1946. It will be called the Anthony Howard Prize for Art and awarded for work which shows qualities likely to lead to success in the profession of architect.

It was inaccurately stated in the last issue of *The Stoic* that the Pearman Smith Prize for Mathematics had been awarded to C. A. Wauhope (C). What should have been recorded is that he was winner of the Stewart Prize for Mathematics, and that the Pearman Smith Prize was won by Lord Primrose (W).

Not only has the severe weather caused the complete abandonment of the term's Hockey programme, but it has been impossible to hold the School Cross-Country races and even the Sports and the Athletic Match against Eton have had to be cancelled. It is hoped that the Relays will take place.

## UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

The following honours were won in the University Scholarship Examinations of December 1946:—

- A. C. EASTGATE (C) was awarded a £100 Entrance Scholarship in Classics, and the Savory Exhibition, at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.
- M. F. A. E. TRIEFUS (W) was awarded a £60 Entrance Scholarship in History at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.
- A. P. CLARK (G) was awarded a £60 Entrance Scholarship in Natural Science at Clare College, Cambridge.
- E. C. SKEPPER (T) was awarded an Exhibition in Modern Languages at Trinity College, Cambridge.
- J. O. ARNOLD (G) was awarded an Entrance Exhibition in Mathematics at Clare College, Cambridge.
- M. P. M. WARBURTON (C) was awarded an Exhibition in Natural Science at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

## THE "RECORDER"

The School is deeply grateful to R. G. Chittenden, Esq., for the gift of a Recording Outfit. The instrument has been used to record concerts and speeches, and has already proved its worth. Apart from its recording apparatus, it is remarkably good as a gramophone. There are tremendous possibilities in the use of this instrument, and it is a most valuable gift, which is greatly appreciated.

After maturing for a year, the Recorder eventually arrived at Stowe just in time for the Orchestral concert in December. An apparition resembling a cocktail bar appeared in Assembly, surrounded by various people obviously of the electrical and not the musical breed. At the end of the rehearsal the orchestra were amazed to hear some familiar discords emerging from the machine.

Since then the Recorder has travelled to the Chapel and the Library, and has been kept meanwhile in Dr. Huggins's room, where musical enthusiasts have enjoyed its superb qualities of reproduction. Although some of the first experimental recordings were not of a high standard, the records of the Carol Service show us what possibilities the machine has and what we can expect from it in the future.

## OLIM ALUMNI

The King's Gold Medal for Poetry was presented by Mr. John Masfield, Poet Laureate, to R. M. THWAITES (T, 1929) at Oxford on January 4th.

J. DAVAN-SAINSBURY (G, 1945), The Life Guards, was awarded the Belt of Honour when passing out from the R.A.C. O.C.T.U., Bovington.

K. J. S. RITCHIE (T, 1938) has been elected to a Choral Scholarship at St. John's College, Cambridge.

M. B. SCHOLFIELD (T, 1940) is a member of the Cambridge team which is to meet Oxford in the University Golf Match.

## MARRIAGES

C. J. C. HAYCRAFT (T, 1928), to Miss W. Player, on January 6th; P. A. J. CHARLOT (G, 1927) to Miss S. Agin, on September 21st (at Las Vegas, Nevada); CAPTAIN I. MONCREIFFE (C, 1937) to Miss D. Spicer, on December 19th; J. E. P. C. HENNIKER-MAJOR (B, 1934) to Miss O. Courtney, on December 18th; MAJOR N. P. D. BAIRD (T, 1935) to Miss S. Davidson, on November 30th; A. W. CHEYNE (C, 1939) to Miss J. Stanton, on December 21st; D. D. WITHOF-KEUS (B, 1936) to Miss S. Thwaites, on December 24th; C. J. D. RENNY (G, 1928) to The Hon. Nicola Gifford (correction), on July 20th; R. STORRY-DEANS (G, 1935) to Miss J. W. Barber, on January 2nd; DR. DAVID WATSON (T, 1941) to Miss R. Colman, on January 18th; J. R. MCCARTHY, M.C. (G, 1940) to Miss J. C. A. Fetherstonhaugh, on February 22nd; W. B. HAY (B, 1936) to Miss A. G. Jones, on December 26th; J. D. W. STOBART (B, 1938) to Miss A. V. Heywood, on February 14th; C. A. WESTON (G, 1937) to Miss D. P. Langrishe, on July 3rd; J. F. GIBSON (B, 1936) to Miss L. Pickering, on March 17th; R. W. ALEXANDER (C, 1941) to Miss J. Searby, on March 17th.

## BIRTHS

To the wife of the REV. A. J. PLUMMER (G, 1927), a daughter, on December 27th; to the wife of J. W. EVANS (C, 1929), a son, on October 17th; to the wife of A. J. HILL (C, 1928), a son on May 15th, 1941, and a son on September 18th, 1946; to the wife of L. G. DARLING (G, 1939), a son, on November 25th; to the wife of C. W. N. MILES (C, 1933), a son, on December 2nd; to the wife of J. B. CHARLES (G, 1929), a son, on December 3rd; to the wife of D. LOCKHART-MUMMERY (C, 1933), a daughter, on November 17th; to the wife of O. E. CRASTER (C, 1934), a son, on December 23rd; to the wife of R. B. MATTHEWS (B, 1934), a daughter, on December 23rd; to the wife of N. A. USSHER (C, 1937), a son, on December 28th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT A. R. AMBERTON, R.N.V.R. (C, 1934), a son, on December 7th; to the wife of M. T. D. PATMORE (T, 1926), a son, on December 26th; to the wife of J. A. FIREBRACE (B, 1934), a son, on January 19th; to the wife of E. G. G. HANROTT (G, 1935), a daughter, on February 17th; to the wife of DR. J. C. B. NESFIELD (G, 1929), a daughter, on February 12th; to the wife of A. V. FARNELL-WATSON (W, 1940), a son, on February 8th; to the wife of H. WROHAN (C, 1931), a son, on August 24th; to the wife of D. H. VILLIERS, D.F.C. (B, 1939), a son, on October 20th, 1945; to the wife of W. R. L. THORNE (C, 1933), a son, on July 24th; to the wife of R. W. MCDOWELL (G, 1929), a son, on January 1st; to the wife of W. G. T. MUTTER (B, 1928), a daughter, on February 27th; to the wife of THE HON. P. B. R. VANNECK (B, 1939), a daughter, on February 26th; to the wife of A. H. P. HOPE (G, 1936), a son, on February 27th; to the wife of H. J. MIALI (B, 1929), a son, on March 1st; to the wife of R. A. PEARSON (B, 1937), a son, on March 5th; to the wife of R. F. NIGHTINGALE (B, 1935), a son, on January 15th; to the wife of C. H. G. KINAHAN (T, 1933), a son, on March 4th; to the wife of M. W. G. GREENLEY (G, 1937), a daughter, on March 6th; to the wife of M. R. JACKSON (T, 1936), a son, on September 27th.

## DEATHS

LIEUTENANT P. H. W. DAVIE (C, 1929), Royal Artillery, died as a P.O.W. in Japanese hands in 1944.

SQUADRON-LEADER A. C. GODFREY, D.F.C. (G, 1932), killed in an air accident in Norway, in August 1946.

G. R. DE HAVILLAND, O.B.E. (C, 1927), killed in an air accident on September 27th, 1946. (A full Obituary Notice appeared in the last issue of *The Stoic*.)

R. P. M. D. MACIVER (G, 1946), on December 17th, 1946.

## STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS

Tel. : PADDINGTON 5440 and 5452.

423a, EDGWARE ROAD,  
PADDINGTON,  
LONDON, W.2.  
March, 1947.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

SIR,

The Pineapple has had a term of great interest. Football has been cruelly curtailed—probably not half-a-dozen matches have been played—but table tennis has boomed, and boxing is really becoming a major interest. We had four competitors in the Federation Boxing Championships, a strong team took part in an inter-club match, and we are staging our first home inter-club show since before the war on Monday, March 17th.

The bitter weather has had its effect on the club attendance, which has averaged only about 80 to 100.

An innovation which has started well is the opening of the club to members on Sunday from 3 o'clock to 7 o'clock.

We do so urgently now want help in running club activities. We are poised on the brink of a great step forward. The interest in and the desire of the members for many further activities exists. If we can supply the leaders, then I believe the Pineapple will become one of the great clubs—not merely in numbers, but in the finest sense.

We adopt the policy here of getting the members to run themselves as far as possible, but for all the activities existing and wanted (boxing, fishing, swimming, discussion groups, running, cricket, football, music, camping, drama, cycling, table tennis, painting and drawing, theatre groups, design and so on), adult leaders are being keenly sought.

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

## SHARK HUNTING IN THE HEBRIDES

## A NEW INDUSTRY FOUNDED BY A STOIC

When Major Gavin Maxwell of the Scots Guards (C, 1930) spent a short wartime leave yachting on the west coast of Scotland, he noticed the large number of Basking Sharks which haunt those waters and wondered whether they could be hunted on a commercial scale. It seemed to him that if they could be caught they might provide some of the valuable products now obtained from whales.

The Basking Shark is a true shark, though a harmless one. It is one of the two largest fishes in the world, measuring 30-35 feet in length and weighing anything up to 10 tons. In the summer it swims near the surface (the nearest it gets to basking) in order to feed on the floating plankton, and its great dorsal fin with the huge shadowy form half-seen, half-imagined, in the water beneath it, is familiar to all who have cruised among the Hebrides in the summer months.

As soon as Major Maxwell was demobilized he returned to the West Highlands to see what could be made of this formidable fish. He found that much could be made of it, though the making would not be easy. In his first efforts at shark-hunting he lost a great deal of tackle, suffered several minor injuries and occasionally found himself being towed by an indignant shark all round the Hebrides. Later when the art of harpooning had been mastered, different problems had to be solved—the treatment of the dead fish, the marketing of the products and all that is involved in the establishment of a new industry. This was a period of squalor and discomfort, of endless paperwork and frequent frustration. But through it all the fishing went on, Major Maxwell himself being chief harpoon-gunner.

At last the worst difficulties were overcome and the main lines of the new venture laid down. The headquarters were established on the Isle of Soay, which Major Maxwell bought for the purpose. The ex-Admiralty M.L. *The Sea Leopard* was acquired as the principal vessel and harpoon guns designed for whaling were adapted for the new art of "sharking." Men were trained in dealing with the carcasses, and a factory for the processing of the products was built. The new sharking industry was launched.

The shark products have proved to be as valuable as Major Maxwell had expected. The most important one is the oil. This is contained in the liver, which in a large shark weighs about a ton and may contain 150-160 gallons of oil. Then there is the flesh, which has a high value as food, is pleasant to eat and commands a ready market for human consumption. The skin is beautiful and after treatment is like the finest reptile skin used for luxury goods. About a ton of offal remains and this together with the bones is made into fish manure. The factory handles about twelve fish a week in the fishing season.

The processing is not all pleasant work and the fishing though it can be exciting is subject to long waits and many disappointments as well as to the exasperating vagaries of the West Highland climate. But the result of it all is the successful exploitation of resources never touched before, and Major Maxwell's initiative has brought into being a new British industry of real importance. He must be hard to please if he does not find satisfaction in that thought.

He has, perhaps, another source of pleasure. His work is done in a region which in a fine season is of unequalled loveliness, and when he has time to look around him, he must feel glad that his sharks have chosen those enchanted waters for their summer feeding-grounds.

## O YE ICE AND SNOW

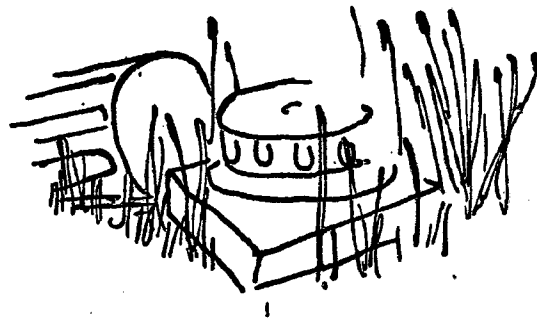
Take a mole; now you see, without going into it biologically, one would say that the mole is a lucky animal. Lucky mole! Secure in the bosom of the earth. Take a squirrel; poor squirrel! How thin, how cold, how helpless! Poor squirrel! Take a pigeon—unhappy pigeon! What vain hope of nutriment prompts the fluttering of her wings and the palpitation of her tiny breast. Take a bear. Fortunate, ponderous bear! snuggled in his furry hibernation; content in the contemplation of by-gone honey-days. Take a cow. A lean and hip-protruding cow, rubbing the remaining hairs of her wretched neck on a gate, with twitching tufted tail hanging in disillusionment. Poor cow!—the ice is already forming in her milk. Take a serpent, happily shedding hand-bag covers in some sleepy retreat, his sleek and spotted body wound comfortably round in slim coils. What world of billowed white startles in vain his scaly reverie. Self-contented serpent! Take a man, even in rubbers. Enough.

A.C.S.

## SNOW

The leaden clouds, the gloomy light, with care  
 And mournful brooding lay my spirits low.  
 Upon the winter landscape, bleak and bare  
 Nature seems not her beauty to bestow.  
 But see! a lone snowflake before my eyes  
 Appears, hovers some glad news to foretell,  
 Then falls. Its myriad comrade host soon flies  
 In swift pursuit. Now doth my heart rebel  
 Against sad sorrow and is uplifted high  
 With joy to see the gay flakes play aloft,  
 Nor cease their frolic, till at rest they lie  
 Upon the earth, a carpet white and soft.  
 Where once was bareness, now is beauty found,  
 And where did sadness, now doth joy abound.

R.A.H.



## MIRAGE

A dense and warm mist covers the scene. Close by, the water, with sinuous wisps of fog rising, is seen, but farther off we can only guess at its existence. The surface of the water, hemmed in on either side by tall and smooth cliffs of a fairness surpassing the finest marble, is smooth, except when ruffled by ripples set up by the motion of two steep crags which rise from its surface and which from time to time heave, as though attached to some active but invisible substance. When the mist lifts a little, a glimpse can be caught of the farther extremity of this singular fjord (for such it appears to be) and it seems to be of the same material and as steep as the other two cliffs. There is a difference however. At the top of the cliff there are two huge shining THINGS, perched on the very edge and leaning over. From the cliff-top, between the two things, descends a huge rusted chain which . . . But, stay . . . SOMETHING has jerked the chain skywards. There is an awesome roaring, gurgling noise like that uttered by the "Gaumont-British" lion on a bad sound-track. At the same time the two crags begin to rise out of the water . . . No, it is the water level falling. It is not new land, it is a huge and dripping monster. It is emerging. Shield your eyes from the frightful sight. It is not usual to look at people getting out of their bath.

P.M.D.

## SPECIAL REAGENT

The weary form sprawled in various attitudes of inattention, as the still more weary master droned ceaselessly on about the formation of isotherms and the construction of isobars. It was the last period of the afternoon in one of our "Great Public Schools," so renowned for their highly intellectual tastes, and the usual atmosphere of refined lethargy prevailed. And yet in every eye, if studied carefully, there was a faraway glint of something imminent, something of world-shattering importance on which every brain was concentrated, and for which every muscle itched to break away. Those who were not glancing furtively at their watches were lolling with their heads in their somewhat grubby hands, gazing vacantly into space. Was the cause of their earnest expression the lure of a Mozart concert, or the prospect of a quiet Shakespearean play after the period was over? Suddenly there encroached upon the somnolent air the harsh but gladsome sound of the bell which augured freedom. The drowsy classroom sprang into life; the still-droning master was politely but firmly silenced, books slammed, dangling feet disentangled themselves into liberty, doors opened, and the corridors hummed with activity. There were shouts in the darkness outside as bodies collided in their heedless rush, no doubt towards the Botticelli exhibition a few hundred yards away. But surely there must be some mistake? Presently an observer, standing at the entrance to the main building, might have seen boy after puffing boy streak by to his study, where each collapsed expectantly in a separate heap, just in time to hear from the wireless the last strains of the "Devil's March," followed by the usual announcements made at 6.45 p.m. on the *Light Programme* . . .

J.R.J.B.

## JUNIOR TRAINING CORPS NOTES

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

To *Under-Officers* : Sergeants G. P. Tobin (G), M. D. T. Loup (T), J. D. Lloyd (B), G. H. B. Carter (T).

To *Sergeants* : Corporals C. M. Mosselmans (C), T. R. Winser (T), R. N. B. Gubbins (T), S. B. Lloyd (C), R. M. Bartlett (T).

To *Corporals* : Lance-Corporals W. C. O. Munks (C), A. C. B. Chancellor (C), J. F. Law (C), A. T. V. B. Bik (C), P. G. Waddilove (C).

To *Lance-Corporals* : Cadets A. B. Maxwell-Hyslop (C), M. Morland (B), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), P. B. E. Gibson (B), A. Caiger-Smith (T), J. B. Chittenden (T), E. A. A. Bruell (W), J. H. Withinshaw (C), J. O. de Salis (B), P. W. Horlock (W), G. M. Booth (C).

Total numbers this term are 312, an increase of about 20 on last term.

As far as the officers are concerned, the loss of Capt. Hamer has been compensated by the arrival of Capt. Uttley, late R.A., who has made a noble effort to recover his knowledge of Infantry tactics and pilot the Part II Certificate "A" Platoons through a very difficult term. This welcome reinforcement has, however, been offset by another sad and sudden loss—that of Capt. Selby, who has gone to be a senior and permanent instructor at the new Sandhurst, leaving the Survey Section for the time being without expert guidance, though here again Capt. Uttley has given some valuable help and Sgt. Cunningham has done an excellent job in keeping things going.

Though the J.T.C. has been luckier than many other school institutions in that it can function even in the appalling conditions that have prevailed without missing any parades, it has had a very tedious term of almost exclusively indoor and classroom work. There have been no exercises and no outdoor parades; and but for the providential issue of greatcoats in the Christmas holidays, it is doubtful if it would have been possible to hold any uniformed parades at all. As it is we have managed to turn out in uniforms on every Tuesday except one, and all ranks have had an opportunity of getting accustomed to the Beret, which has replaced the old 'fore and aft' and which, when properly worn, certainly improves the appearance of battle dress and has the further merit that it will stay on the head.

Since the Examination only takes place on the 21st and 22nd of March, it is too early to comment on the work of the Certificate 'A' Platoons.

The Signal Section has had a useful term, largely thanks to the distinguished results obtained by Under-Officer Tobin in the Eastern Command Signal Course last holidays, as the result of which he has qualified as an Assistant Instructor. Another great advantage has been the technical assistance of Lance-Corporal Chittenden, who seems at last to be mastering the problem of keeping the Wireless Sets in action.

The I.C.E. Section goes on from strength to strength and has a lovely toy—a complete cut-down chassis supplied by the generosity of Henry Ford. Meanwhile the old Instructors' Class, now transformed into a Musketry Class under Capt. Saunders, is making real progress towards mastering the Bren Gun. All in all, in spite of the handicap, it has been a valuable term.

W.L.McE.

## CROSS COUNTRY

The season has been short, successful and enjoyable. After the first postponement of the School Cross-Country events, it never appeared probable that they would actually take place, and ultimately both Senior and Junior Races were abandoned. Despite the complete absence of inter-House competitive running, Cross-Country has been among the very few normal outdoor activities which have continued on an organized House basis.

Two representative School matches had been arranged, against Rugby on February 26th, and against Uppingham on March 1st. It became necessary to abandon the Rugby fixture, but Uppingham visited us as planned. As if greeting such moral and physical courage with a smile, the sun shone brightly and made possible an enjoyable and interesting afternoon's athletics.

The course of just under four and a half miles had to be entirely on macadamised roads, the start and finish being located in a novel position at the east corner of the North Front. From this point the course proceeded out of the main gate, along Buchanan Avenue to the Oxford Lodge Gates and thence straight on to the Radcliffe Cross Roads. A left turn here led down to the water splash and another left turn and a straight mile reached the Chackmore-Dadford Road. From there, the course followed the normal route back to the North Front by way of the Oxford Cross Roads, Bridge and Hill.

A large gathering witnessed the start under the Headmaster's flag, and the field went away very leisurely, neither side wishing to force the pace on the treacherous road surface. Still packed tightly together in a miniature phalanx, the runners passed from view but not from contact, on to the Roman Road. It was apparent, even at this stage, that tactics were to play an important part in the conduct of the race.

The spectators now concentrated their attention on the loudspeaker (by courtesy of the Signals Section, J.T.C.), and some eight minutes after the start the mechanism sprang to life, and a loud and not unrecognisable voice pronounced fortissimo: "C—t in the lead," then immediately relapsed, embarrassed or exhausted, into contemplative silence. There was a further lengthy pause; suddenly the voice returned, fulsomely didactic, and in lucid terms gave a bewildering description from which it was satisfactorily concluded that all the runners were in the lead together, consecutively, and one by one.

In fact at this point (the Chackmore turn) subsequent research established beyond doubt that Uppingham held the first three places, closely followed by Calkin, Tobin and Chibbett.

At the next W/T check point, the Oxford Cross Roads, a voice more controlled and factually correct placed Calkin and Tobin in the lead, followed by two Uppingham runners. At the finishing post the rise of optimism could be sensed, as all eyes were focussed upon the gate beyond the Pavilion.

Then quite suddenly it was over, and Stowe had won both the individual and the team race by decisive margins. Calkin produced a splendidly timed and beautifully



sustained finish from the top of the Oxford Hill, and finished easing up, eighty yards in front of his nearest Uppingham opponent. There was a very close race for fifth place which Chibbett only just lost by a yard, and though Uppingham had three men home in the first five, the effective packing of the next five Stoics gave us the match with seven runners in the first ten.

Outstanding features of the race were the tenacious wearing down tactics of Calkin, Tobin and Chibbett, and the splendid packing of the three substitutes, Corry, Waddilove and Marler.

Result :—

- |     |                       |                   |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1.  | I. B. Calkin (W).     | 28 mins. 43 secs. |
| 2.  | Uppingham.            |                   |
| 3.  | Uppingham.            |                   |
| 4.  | G. P. Tobin (G).      |                   |
| 5.  | Uppingham.            |                   |
| 6.  | G. J. Chibbett (C).   |                   |
| 7.  | R. J. P. Corry (C).   |                   |
| 8.  | P. G. Waddilove (S).  |                   |
| 9.  | L. R. S. Marler (S).  |                   |
| 10. | J. H. Withinshaw (C). |                   |
| 11. | Uppingham.            |                   |
| 12. | W. C. O. Munks (C).   |                   |
| 13. | Uppingham.            |                   |
| 14. | Uppingham.            |                   |

Score :—*Stowe* : 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 = 35 pts. *Uppingham* : 2, 3, 5, 11, 13, 14 = 48 pts.

It was unfortunate that the School Cross-Country Captain, D. G. A. Airey (C) and two other runners initially selected were unable to run owing to indisposition.

School Colours for Cross-Country were awarded as follows :—Re-awarded : D. G. A. Airey (C), I. B. Calkin (W), G. P. Tobin (G). Awarded : G. J. Chibbett (C), R. J. P. Corry (C), L. R. S. Marler (S), P. G. Waddilove (S), J. H. Withinshaw (C).

## SQUASH

Owing to disease and inability to travel, it has only been possible to arrange one match, against Radley. The School lost 0—5, the team being as follows :—M. D. T. Loup (T), G. J. Chibbett (C), J. F. Conington (B), J. K. Binns (W), N. R. Cunningham-Reid (G). M. E. J. FitzGerald (S) was unfit.

Earlier in the term the Masters were beaten by the School 6—4.

At the end of last term, M. E. J. FitzGerald (S) beat M. D. T. Loup (T) in the final of the Open Individual competition. N. R. Cunningham-Reid (G) won the Juniors from J. F. Conington (B).

## THE RUGGER HOUSE MATCHES

### SENIORS

On paper it looked as if Temple should win the competition : they had three 1st XV colours and four 2nd XV. R. M. Bartlett at scrum-half did not have enough space in which to get going : it would have been better had he played at stand-off or centre three-quarter. However, they lost to Chatham in the second round after a grim struggle. Chatham did not have a strong side on paper, but hard tackling, good leadership and determination carried them through to the final.

Walpole had an easy passage to the final. They beat a very weak Grenville team by the huge score of 56—3 ; this was entirely due to the failure of Grenville, who had one or two seasoned three-quarters, to tackle. In the second round, Grafton were fairly easily disposed of by 17—3.

The final had to be played the day after the semi-final and it was lucky it had to be, as the ground has not been fit since. The game was played on the 1st XV ground under deplorable conditions, which suited Chatham admirably. Had the ground been dry and had Asbury-Bailey been fit the score might easily have been reversed. As it was, two scoring passes were cast to the ground during twenty minutes hectic attack by Walpole, with Chatham pinned to their '25.' In the first half the only score was by Airey, of Chatham, who led by 3—0.

In the first twenty minutes of the second half, Walpole should have won the game ; a drop at goal hit the post, passes were dropped with the line at their mercy and players were tackled in possession with unmarked men outside them—a chapter of misfortunes and mistakes. During this time Chatham defended with grim determination and the tackling of Corry was of the top class. Then Chatham broke free and the result was never any longer in doubt. Young scored for Chatham and he converted, making the score 8—0. Mitchell countered with an unconverted try, but Walpole did not look like pulling off a victory. Eventually Chatham scored an unconverted try from a "Piccadilly," i.e. a push-over try. Credit must go to Young and Airey for raising a great enthusiasm in their house and Chatham fully deserved their first victory for thirteen years.

*Teams.—Chatham* :—G. L. D. Duckworth ; J. J. Wheatley, R. J. P. Corry, J. K. H. Torrens, J. E. Gamble ; P. M. Young (Capt.), R. Hodgson ; B. A. Platt, D. I. Hird, M. H. Ewbank, F. A. Ruhemann, T. P. Grossmark, M. Doyle, J. F. F. Le Poer Trench, D. G. A. Airey.

*Walpole* :—G. R. A. Miskin ; W. J. G. Brown, D. R. North, J. J. Asbury-Bailey, R. E. Wadsworth ; R. J. Broadley, I. Scott-Elliot (Capt.) ; N. J. R. J. Mitchell, E. A. A. Bruell, D. G. J. Gordon-Dean, I. S. Rutherford, R. A. Roxburgh, J. M. Kahn, I. B. Calkin, P. W. Horlock.

The results in each round were as follows :—

SENIORS.

Cobham	}	Temple	}	Chatham	}	Chatham
Temple		8-0		8-4		
Chatham	}	Chatham	}	Walpole		
Bruce		14-3				
Chandos	}	Grafton	}	Walpole		
Grafton		17-6			56-3	
Grenville	}	Walpole	}	Walpole		
Walpole		56-3				

JUNIORS

Cobham	}	Cobham	}	Bruce	}	Bruce
Walpole		44-0		12-8		
Bruce	}	Bruce	}	Temple		
Chatham		15-6				
Temple	}	Temple	}	Grafton		
Grenville		12-3			24-0	
Grafton	}	Grafton	}	Grafton		
Chandos		24-0				

KICKING COMPETITION

Result :—1, Grafton, 146 pts. ; 2, Temple, 118 pts. ; 3, Cobham, 103 pts. ; 4, Walpole, 99 pts. ; 5, Grenville, 92 pts. ; 6, Bruce, 90 pts. ; 7, Chatham, 59 pts. ; 8, Chandos, 41 pts.

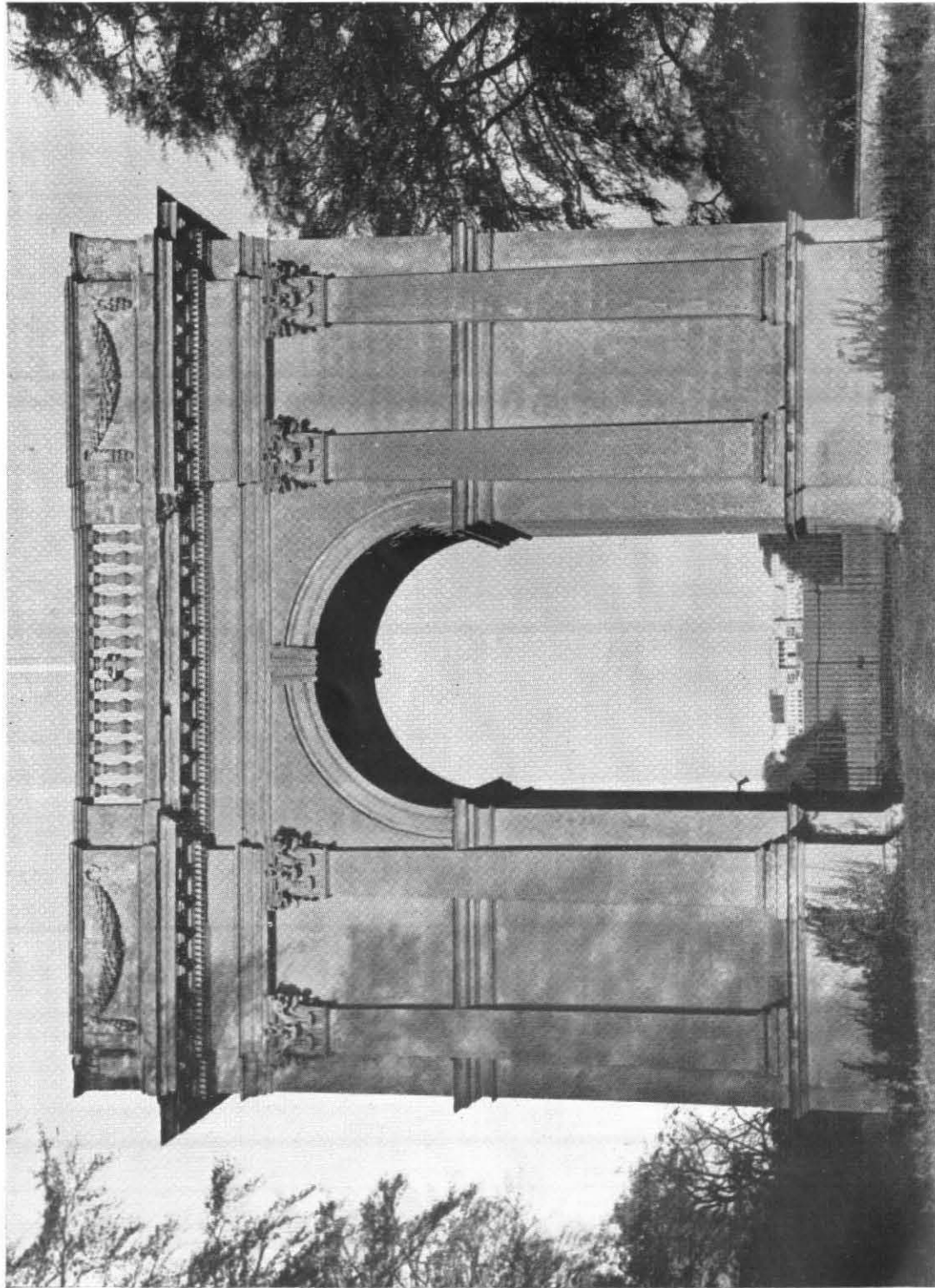


['Picture Post']



SHARK HUNTING IN THE HEBRIDES (See article on p. 213)

By courtesy of



[ ' Picture Post ' ]

FROM THE CORINTHIAN ARCH

By courtesy of ]

## CRICKET FIXTURES 1947

### FIRST ELEVEN

Sat.,	May 17.—	CRYPTICS	Home.
Wed.,	May 21.—	BRASENOSE COLLEGE	Home.
Sat.,	May 24.—	BEDFORD SCHOOL	Home.
Wed.,	May 28.—	AUTHENTICS	Home.
Sat.,	May 31.—	BUCKINGHAM	Home.
Wed.,	June 4.—	FREE FORESTERS	Home.
Thurs.	June 5.—	OUNDLÉ SCHOOL	Away.
Sat.,	June 7.—	M.C.C.	Home.
Wed.,	June 11.—	TRINITY COLLEGE, OXFORD	Home.
Sat.,	June 14.—	ETON RAMBLERS	Home.
Wed.,	June 18.—	RADLEY COLLEGE	Home.
Sat.,	June 28.—	ST. EDWARD'S	Away.
Sat.,	July 5.—	OLD STOICS	Home.

### SECOND ELEVEN

Sat.,	May 17.—	HARROW	Home.
Wed.,	May 21.—	OUNDLÉ	Home.
Sat.,	May 24.—	BLOXHAM	Home.
Wed.,	May 28.—	BLETCHLEY	Home.
Sat.,	May 31.—	RUGBY	Home.
Wed.,	June 4.—	ST. EDWARD'S	Home.
Thurs.,	June 5.—	OUNDLÉ	Away.
Sat.,	June 7.—	HALTON	Away.
Wed.,	June 11.—	BUCKINGHAM	Home.
Sat.,	June 14.—	BEDFORD	Away.
Wed.,	June 18.—	RADLEY	Away.
Wed.,	July 2.—	HALTON	Home.
Sat.,	July 5.—	OLD STOICS	Home.

### THIRD ELEVEN

Sat.,	May 24.—	BLOXHAM	Away.
Sat.,	May 31.—	BEDFORD	Home.
Wed.,	June 4.—	ST. EDWARD'S	Home.
Sat.,	June 14.—	BLAKESLEY	Home.
Wed.,	June 18.—	RADLEY	Away.
Sat.,	June 28.—	HARROW	Home.
Sat.,	July 5.—	BLAKESLEY	Away.

## COLTS' ELEVEN

Sat.,	May 17.—	BERKHAMSTED	Home.
Sat.,	May 24.—	HARROW	Home.
Sat.,	May 31.—	RUGBY	Away.
Sat.,	June 7.—	BEDFORD	Home.
Wed.,	June 18.—	RADLEY	Home.
Wed.,	July 2.—	ST. EDWARD'S	Away.

## JUNIOR COLTS' ELEVEN

Wed.,	May 21.—	OUNDLÉ	Home.
Sat.,	May 24.—	BLOXHAM	Away.
Sat.,	May 31.—	RUGBY	Away.
Thurs.,	June 5.—	OUNDLÉ	Away.
Sat.,	June 7.—	BEDFORD	Home.
Sat.,	June 14.—	BERKHAMSTED	Away.
Wed.,	June 18.—	RADLEY	Home.
Sat.,	June 28.—	HARROW	Home.
Wed.,	July 2.—	ST. EDWARD'S	Home.

## SKATING AND ICE HOCKEY

The worst February since 1841 has been partially compensated by a long period of skating, the standard of which seemed to be surprisingly high. Mr. Capel Cure combined some very fine continental figure-skating with refereeing ice-hockey matches; while Mr. Lucas kindly gave some well-attended lessons. Other masters were seen moving somewhat nervously about the ice, as if expecting some badly-directed snow-ball or puck to disturb their hopeful balance.

There were fortunately few accidents and only one notable occasion when someone foolishly slid through a hole in the ice.

Ice Hockey was possible for anyway the first fortnight. Walpole retained the cup with the aid of a good team and a proper ice hockey stick, Bruce and Cobham being the principal challengers.

It was a great pity that falls of snow later spoiled the ice and brought to an end an exceptionally long skating season.

R.W.D.McK.

## MUSIC

Musically speaking, it has not been a successful term. The weather cancelled one outside concert, which was likely to prove stimulating; and illness and other difficulties over rehearsal made it regrettably necessary to cancel the School Concert also.

Denis Matthews gave a Pianoforte Recital in the Library on February 19th. His programme was:—

Fantasia and Fugue in C (K. 394)	...	...	...	...	Mozart
Sonata in E flat (No. 49)	...	...	...	...	Haydn
Allegro					
Adagio cantabile					
Tempo di Menuetto					
Sonata in C, op. 53 ('Waldstein')	...	...	...	...	Beethoven
Allegro con brio					
Introduzione: Adagio molto, leading to					
Rondo: Allegretto moderato					
Six Dances in Bulgarian Rhythm	...	...	...	...	Bartok
(from 'Mikrokosmos')					
Variations and Fugue					
on a Theme of Handel	...	...	...	...	Brahms

It was a pity that the programme he chose was somewhat dull. Neither the Mozart Fantasia or the Haydn Sonata are of great value intrinsically and not even Denis Matthews' brilliant technical skill could make them interesting. His performance of the Waldstein Sonata, however, was superb, especially in the more fiery passages, and this was the high light of the evening.

The Bartok which followed was played with great verve, but was barely worth the time spent on it. The Brahms Variations, which Denis Matthews played last, are an extraordinarily fine piece of logical thinking, although some of the variations are in themselves only links in the mental sequence and not lyrically attractive. Denis Matthews played these variations with great force and obviously followed the logical sequence, but his interpretation of even some of the most beautiful sections was inclined to be dull. Moreover, his touch was hampered by the dreadful tone of the piano and he was forced to rely, for his legato effects, upon the soft pedal. However, his occasional blurring of the pedal was due only to his own faulty judgment of sustained passages.

The Dolmetsch Family gave a recital in the Art School on March 16th. Their programme consisted of music by sixteenth and seventeenth century composers which they played on the instruments for which it was written. The whole recital was one of extraordinary interest and was greatly appreciated by the whole Society.

The programme was as follows:—

1. TWO PIECES FOR "BROKEN CONSORT" OF  
Recorders, Viols and Harpsichord.
  - (i) The Gipsies Round
  - (ii) Jigg ... .. *William Byrd*  
(1542-1623)
2. CONSORTS FOR TWO AND THREE VIOLS.
  - (i) Fantasy for two treble viols "Il Lamento" ... *Thomas Morley*  
(1557-1603)
  - (ii) Fantasy for three viols No. 8 in A Minor ... *John Jenkins*  
(c. 1630)
3. VIOLA DA GAMBA AND HARPISCHORD.  
"Divisions" (Variations) in B flat major ... *Christopher Simpson*  
(c. 1650)
4. TREBLE RECORDER AND HARPISCHORD.  
Sonata in A minor ... .. *G. F. Handel*  
Larghetto—Allegro—Adagio—Allegro. (1685-1759)
5. CONSORTS FOR FOUR RECORDERS  
from the Suite "L'Ile de Beauté"
  - (i) Deux Menuets
  - (ii) Gigue ... .. *Nicholas Chédeville*  
(1705-1782)
6. SOLO HARPISCHORD MUSIC.  
Fantasia in C Minor ... .. *J. S. Bach*  
(1685-1750)
7. "QUATRIEME CONCERT" for Violin, Viola da Gamba and  
Harpsichord.  
Prelude—Sarabande—Rigaudon—Forlane ... *François Couperin*  
(1724)
8. ARIA FOR SOPRANO VOICE with obligato for two Recorders,  
accompanied by Harpsichord and Viola da Gamba.  
"Sheep May Safely Graze" ... .. *J. S. Bach*  
(1685-1750)

At the School concert, held in Assembly last term, M. E. Harding (T) played Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto. He himself gave a fine and sensitive performance, but the Orchestra lacked the strength to support him in the big climaxes and much of the blending between the piano and orchestra was lost. For this reason, more depended

on the soloist than usually, but Harding was equal to the occasion. It was a memorable feat and he more than deserved the great ovation he received. The concert began with the Coriolan Overture, and the Orchestra then gave a performance of Haydn's Surprise Symphony.

S.D.M.R.

#### THE MUSIC CLUB

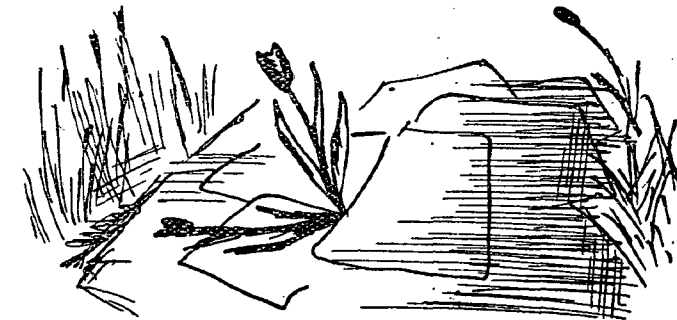
On February 25th members of the Music Club and Music Society went to Oxford to hear the Boyd Neel Orchestra play three of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos, Nos. 1, 2, 5. It was a most satisfactory evening and the thanks of the Club are due to Doctor Huggins for arranging so excellent a dinner at "The George" beforehand, and for obtaining tickets for such an enthralling concert. The following evening four members of the Club heard the other three concertos played by the same orchestra.

S.D.M.R.

## THE LIBRARY

This term there have been two new Librarians, J. F. Marsden (W) and D. S. Salt (G), making a total of only five, since it has been found that since Miss Trendgrouse has undertaken all the hard work, five librarians adequately fill the place of the eight of former days. Apart from spasmodic cataloguing in the gallery, the Library has been content with supplying books to the school, and no more adaptations for efficiency have complicated matters.

The following books have been presented:—*The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, by Sir Norman Birkett; A. W. Pickard-Cambridge, *The Theatre of Dionysus in Athens*, by the Author; Robert Gibbings, *Sweet Thames Run Softly* and E. H. Ware, *Wing to Wing*, by Lady Connor; Major B. M. Knox, M.C. (B, 1934), *Brief Historical Notes on the Ayrshire Yeomanry*, by the Author; Major J. D. P. Sterling, *The First and the Last*, by the Headmaster.



## THE ART SCHOOL

Neither portraits, landscapes, nor still life paintings have been especially popular this term. The only subject has been the snow, which, besides being accompanied by cold which makes painting almost impossible, is extremely hard to paint. One successful snowscape was done by A. Caiger-Smith (T), in which the coarseness of black and white contrast was turned to pleasant balance and pattern by red and yellow houses. The insertion of puppets into still life groups has broken the uniformity of traditional still-lives; the best of the term being painted by D. B. Holt (B) when the fascinating but laborious work on Major McElwee's shutters spared him time. D. C. Part (B) also has ability which emerges in some still-life paintings, but does not think enough before painting, so that his pictures are often incoherent. When he has formed his style and has connected colour and form, he should paint pictures and not studies. J. F. Pim (B) and D. W. Egerton (T) have painted more and better than last term and are becoming more used to oil paint, while I. H. Marshall (C) and J. R. A. Kinnes (C) continue to paint interesting and, with the former, very pleasant pictures. A. Caiger-Smith and J. F. Pim have done the only paintings outside, both among their best, and both successful from the first and unblemished by adaptation.

The exhibition usually held this term has been altered to the summer to include the outdoor paintings which should be done in good weather. It is hoped that there will be an expedition this term to the Spanish Exhibition at the National Gallery.

A.C.S.

## LECTURES

On February 20th, the Presidents of the Oxford University Conservative Association (Miss Margaret Roberts), the Oxford University Socialist Club (Mr. Harold Thomas), and the Oxford University Liberal Club (Mr. John Frankenburg) came to Stowe to state the case for their respective parties. Each speaker addressed the Upper School for fifteen minutes, and a lively discussion followed.

On February 28th, Mr. R. H. S. Crossman, M.P., explained to the Upper School the aims of a Socialist foreign policy, and he elaborated his own ideas on the subject. After the lecture he answered many questions, and after dinner he met a small group of senior boys to continue the discussion.

On March 4th, the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Cohen, P.C., spoke to the members of the "Modern Studies" Side on "Law as a Profession," and later in the evening answered many questions dealing with every aspect of law.

The visit of His Excellency the French Ambassador, arranged for March 11th, had to be postponed to next term owing to weather conditions.

## NATURAL HISTORY

One of the severest winters in living memory must have taken a heavy toll of our smaller birds, and has brought the raptorial species nearly to starvation point, as witness the frequent reports of Barn Owls hunting by day, cut off from nocturnal mice and voles by a blanket of snow; while a Little Owl, showing evidence of death from starvation, was brought in early in March. We lost our pinioned Red-crested Pochard and Tufted drakes before the final complete freezing up of the Octagon Lake. An Otter whose tracks were seen may well have been the culprit; but birds such as these, dependent on open water, could never have survived the six weeks which followed their disappearance. It is unfortunate that losses have been heavy among pinioned ornamental waterfowl at a time when devotees are attempting to build up the stock of such birds from the remnants left over from the war.

We saw nothing of the Waxwings which visited the country in such numbers this winter; but M. D. Cobham (G) reported Bramblings near the Doric Arch in the last days of January. Two unusual visitors were picked up dead: a Kittiwake, by I. D. James (E) on November 28th, and a Curlew by Mr. Dams's dog at the end of February. The Kittiwake comes inland least of our British gulls, though ranging far afield, even to Newfoundland, after dispersing from the nesting cliffs; and our bird must have been driven off its course by gales.

A long winter may set back the clock to some extent, and has already prejudiced our harvest prospects. But Yellowhammers were singing in the hedges in the first days of March, but a week behind the date recorded as average for the South of England; and the general rhythm of nature is not unduly upset.

N.A.B.

## CAMBRIDGE EXPEDITION

On Friday, February 21st, some 25 students of the Classics went to Cambridge to see Dr. Sheppard's production in Greek of the "Frogs" of Aristophanes.

In spite of icy roads, good time was made until  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the centre of Cambridge when the bus decided to call it a day. It was clearly a case of "Nil prosunt lacrimae" however, and so, muttering imprecations, the learned scholars disembarked and padded the hoof the remainder of the way.

After ascertaining the whereabouts of the nearest lunch-place, the party dispersed in good order to while away the hours till the performance (deferred until 4 p.m. owing to fuel restrictions) should start. A few noble spirits decided that the time offered an opportunity to view King's College Chapel: the remainder disappeared into the numerous establishments that cater for creature comforts and, presumably, remained ensconced there till the performance started.

The latter, when it decided to start, turned out to be an excellent performance, a not inconspicuous feature being the variety of pronunciations used: the Landlady was conspicuous for rendering her lines in Cockney-Greek, a touch that "made" her part entirely.

Unfortunately the party had to leave two-thirds of the way through to catch the last train home. Two members of the party, moreover, lost their way and missed the train, having to be forwarded later in a car.

It was well short of midnight when the party got back from Bletchley to Stowe and so brought to an end a day which the pertinacity of the weather failed to rob of enjoyment.

S.B.L.

## DEBATING SOCIETY

The Officers of the Society this term have been:—President, Mr. J. M. Todd; Vice-President, Mr. W. L. McElwee; Secretary, S. D. M. Robertson (B); Treasurer, M. Morland (B); Librarian, R. G. A. Pearce (B); Co-opted member of the Committee, A. Caiger-Smith (T).

The 177th Meeting of the Society was held in the Library on Wednesday, February 12th. The Motion before the House was: "That in the opinion of this House, England under the present Socialist Government is a Dodo rather than a Phoenix."

THE HON. TREASURER proposed the motion. "Let England die that she may rise again tomorrow." This was his challenge to the House and the theme of his speech. He declared that England was slowly but surely dying at the hands of doctrinaire socialism, and he advocated a return to the guild system. His speech was well-delivered, and it was encouraging that instead of reading his speech, as has become the deplorable habit of the Society, he only used notes.

THE HON. SECRETARY, in rising to oppose the motion, said that it was in the spirit of the people that he saw hope for the future. He pointed out to the Society that they were not representative of the average Englishman who now had a Government in which he could trust and believe, and which he knew was working for and not against him. In a speech that was otherwise persuasively delivered, he rapidly degenerated into a flow of patriotic bombast which only ended when he returned to his chair.

LORD PRIMROSE (W) gave the most amusing speech of the evening. With the aid of many quotations and the help of a picture post-card he discussed the genealogy of both the Phoenix and the Dodo and came to the conclusion that they were one and the same.

J. F. MARSDEN (W), speaking fourth, dealt, in a speech that was earnest and sincere, with the material problems and difficulties that the Socialist Government were having to face.

The debate that followed was not enlivening.

There voted: In the Upper House:	For the Motion,	5
	Against	8
In the Lower House:	For the Motion,	4
	Against	11



THE WRONG CLIMATE



Photos by

THE RIGHT POISE

[O.R.H.]

The 178th Meeting was held in the Library on March 12th. The whole standard of argument was greatly raised by the presence of several masters, to whom the Society is extremely grateful. The Motion was "That this House approves of sophistication."

Mr. J. C. T. UTTLEY, proposing, appealed to the baser nature of the House, and produced sophistication in the guise of an attractive young lady. He declared that sophistication meant civilisation and drew on historical fact to support his argument.

Mr. B. S. STEPHAN, who opposed the Motion, said that sophistication set standards which no member of a society dare call in question without running the risk of social ostracism. He traced the conflict between urban and rural communities and showed that sophistication fundamentally respected dishonesty and indolence of thought, bringing in its trail loss of individuality and of independence of thought. Mr. Stephan's whole speech was most erudite and convincing.

Mr. A. B. E. GIBSON, in an excellent speech, took the proposer further and said that sophistication included an important element of criticism. He held that Stowe endeavoured to produce sophisticated people and that without sophistication we could not hope to avoid another world war.

The HON. SECRETARY spoke fourth. In a speech which showed no signs of preparation and had little relevance to the motion, he amused, or alternatively embarrassed, the Society by behaving totally unlike himself and delivering a violent eulogy on games.

The debate was amusing, at times vaguely ambiguous, and yet there were many speeches that contained much good sense.

There voted :	In the Upper House :	For the Motion,	10
		Against	12
	In the Lower House :	For the Motion,	20
		Against	28

Mr. A. B. E. Gibson has been elected an honorary member of the Society.

The following were elected members during the term :—A. J. Struthers (C), G. J. Chibbett (C), C. M. Mosselms (C), P. M. Dempster (B), J. I. K. Gornall (B).

S.D.M.R.

THE JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

Mr. A. J. Chapman was President ; M. Colston (G) Vice-President ; J. M. N. Newton (C) Secretary ; and C. I. N. Krabbé (B) Committee-man.

Although hampered by many difficulties, this has been an eventful term, producing a high standard of eloquence, unsurpassed for a number of terms.

Of many excellent debates, the most hotly contested was, "Whether this House would prefer to be the nephew of 'Uncle Sam,' rather than of 'Uncle Joe.'" The President and J. J. Wheatley (C) furthered the cause of 'Uncle Joe' very convincingly, and C. B. Baxter (G) and J. T. B. Ward (T) supported 'Uncle Sam' with equal enthusiasm. The Motion was drawn : five for, five against, with five abstentions. There were about fifteen absentees owing to illness.

Other interesting debates included : "That the present fuel crisis demands a Coalition Government," in which E. C. Hardwicke (C) proved himself a capable speaker.

A Brains Trust proved an interesting diversion from the usual agenda. J. R. Perring (G) was another who took a prominent part in the Society's proceedings.

J.M.N.N.



PORTRAIT OF A SOLDIER  
BY J. G. DREW (C, 1936)



PORTRAIT IN A PRISON CAMP  
BY H. F. SASSOON (G, 1939)



## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

### THE SYMPOSIUM

The Society up to date has only enjoyed two meetings because of the cold and the susceptibility of its members to catching 'flu, but by careful surveillance nearly everyone was present for the first meeting. After the conversation had somewhat died down and the new member I. V. de Wesselow (C) had been introduced to the Society and to drinking coffee, the new Secretary C. H. Bradly (B) read the minutes, which were severely censured by G. H. Rooke (C). M. Doyle (C) then read his paper on "Advertisements." The paper was a comprehensive survey of advertising from the bonfire advertisements of Carthaginian days, right up to the modern times of glaring posters and American programmes proclaiming that "Beecham's Liver Pills are best." The reader also explained how papers and magazines gain their popularity by their advertisements, and how an advertisement seeks the reader and not the reader the advertisement, and drew a striking contrast between English and German newspapers, how in the former advertisements play a secondary role, while the latter are used as advertising mediums. At the end of this meaty paper, conversation became rather trivial, with the irrepressible Rooke churning out his clichés of "Return to the City State and burn all Heretics," and Lord Primrose (W) trying to force us into the Mathematical Society by talking above our heads of kilo-cycles and wireless. J. F. Marsden (W) was heard plaintively asking whether Might is Right, but he was disregarded.

At the second meeting P. G. Powers (C) was elected to an honorary membership, and after the minutes a schism was almost reached when it was advocated that the Society should in future wear bow ties. All ended peacefully, however, and the proposal was carried by 7 votes to 3.

A paper was then read by J. W. N. Bridges-Adams (G) on Poltergeists; although there were rather too many stories, the paper was most enthralling, so that when part of the ceiling fell down the worthy members became apprehensive, but were reassured on realising it was only Grenville dormitories.

The ensuing discussion was a lively one, everyone telling stories of ghosts and friends' of a friend's experiences. From there we drifted by way of Doyle's arrogance to an argument between Scientists and Historians, which the Historians won after confounding the Scientists with the origin of First Causes.

Then the Society discussed American and English sentiment, whether America was a nation and whether values should be assessed by money. Argument ended with the well-worn theme—should the lower classes be educated, and what is the object of education. Slightly heated the Society retired at 10.20.

C.H.B.

### THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Although the adverse weather and the consequent abundance of free time should have promoted greater activity in the Society, little work has been done, possibly owing to the rather chilly atmosphere of the darkroom.

We finally came to the conclusion that our enlarger was more or less useless (except for miniature films) and are now waiting until we are able to buy a new one. Developing and printing are interesting, but most of us feel we would like to attempt something

a little more advanced and start entering our prints for competitions, a procedure which necessitates the use of an enlarger.

The first official function of the Society was a lecture given by Mr. Francis Reis. (Stoics will remember him taking nearly 200 photos at Stowe last term for the *Picture Post* article.) His subject was Press Photography. He talked about his cameras, showed us his Stowe photographs and finally took a picture of the entire audience with a press flash unit. We are indebted to him for a most interesting talk.

We read with interest in the *Stoics* of pre-war years of the various activities of the Society, including sound recording and coloured cine-film making. I should be very grateful if any Old Stoic member, who can spare the time, would write to me (A. T. R. Fletcher (T)) describing in more detail the activities of the Society before the war.

A.T.R.F.

### THE MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

The Society has met more or less regularly this term, usually "chez M. Capel Cure." M. Birkett (T) and N. N. Proddow (C) were re-elected Secretary and Committee-man respectively and three new members were elected: H. T. Bowles (T), T. R. Winsor (T) and C. M. Mosselmans (C). This term the Society has devoted itself entirely to the reading of "Cyrano de Bergerac," by Rostand. This has proved to be by far the finest play the Society has read for a long time. In spite of the difficulties of informal and unprepared reading, and in this play above all they are very plentiful, everybody has enjoyed it and would agree that it is a remarkably fine play.

The play itself is one of those fortunate works of art which have defied all attempts to place it in a "school" or "class." It remains a work in a class of its own. It has a thousand difficulties for the producer, since the lengthy and almost continuous stage directions border on the impracticable. It is half comedy, half tragedy, the whole being staged almost in the guise of a pageant. There are passages which are extremely amusing, passages which are infinitely pathetic and passages which are stormy, crowded and confusing. Briefly, it is the story of Roxane's two lovers—Christian, who is handsome, but cannot express his love for Roxane, save through the medium of the enchanting letters of Cyrano de Bergerac, who is ugly, on account of his huge nose, but nevertheless is equally enamoured of Roxane. The character of Cyrano, of course, dominates the play, and a very wonderful character he is. His bravery and his love for Roxane contrast strangely with his awkward appearance and above all his very long nose. His speech about his nose, summing up in single sentences the reactions to it of various types of people, is one of the cleverest and wittiest bits of characterisation imaginable.

All this wonderful mixture of wit, tragedy, splendour, ugliness and charm has been welded into five acts of beautifully written French. The play is above all one to be seen, but even to read it is to be aware that one is reading a rare masterpiece.

M.B.

### THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

The Society's first meeting of the term was held on Saturday, February 9th. After tea, the new President, Mr. E. H. Boyd, called the meeting to order and asked C. A. Wauhope (C) to deliver his lecture on "X-Rays and Crystals." Wauhope proceeded to show the Society, with the aid of a large number of models and demonstrations, how

our present knowledge of the basic structure of the crystal had been formed. He cleverly imitated the use of X-rays by shining a beam of light onto a cut-glass decanter stopper and then throwing the reflected rays onto a ground glass screen.

On Wednesday, February 19th, the Society was shown a Russian sound film entitled "The Conquest of the North." This was an interesting film based on the expedition to the North Pole in 1937, but unfortunately, like all Russian films, it was rather too liberally splashed with Soviet propaganda.

The Society diverged slightly from its usual rigorously scientific attitude to listen with great interest to an entertaining lecture on Wednesday, March 12th, by D. M. Lorrimer (C) entitled "The Science of Palmistry." Lorrimer, after giving the Society a brief outline of the history of palmistry, proceeded to explain all the complex variations of this ancient art and ended up by reading the fortunes of some of the members present.

It is hoped to hold, in the last week of the term, a conversazione on the lines of the one last year.

P.M.G.

## THE CONGREVE CLUB

This has been a disappointing term for the Congreve Club, for inactivity has been predominant. This was due to the weather conditions and illness which prevailed throughout the term. An expedition to the Oxford Playhouse had to be postponed, and all play-readings were cancelled. At the beginning of the term it was decided that the Club should put on three one-act plays, but pressure of work put an end to this idea; and so Temple, with their annual show, were the sole entertainers of the School this term. Apart from a few suggestions about the Club there has been little to discuss: the term passed without a meeting being held.

Despite all difficulties, the Club was fortunate in having Mr. Southern down to Stowe. He gave a worthy and detailed lecture on "Scenery Design" to a somewhat small but interested audience.

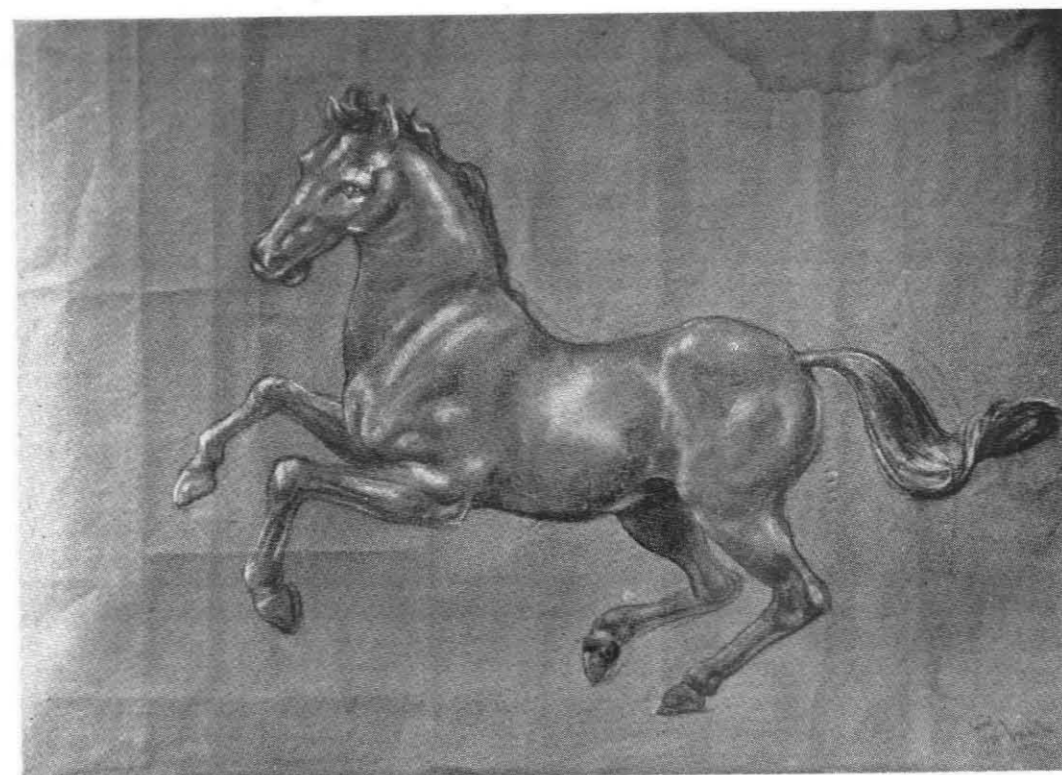
W.C.O.M.

## THE FILM SOCIETY

On January 29th, the Society assembled (or rather "scrambled" in the traditional manner for as many of the most uncomfortable chairs as possible, on which to recline during the performance) to see *La Tarkanova*, a French film on a Russian subject.

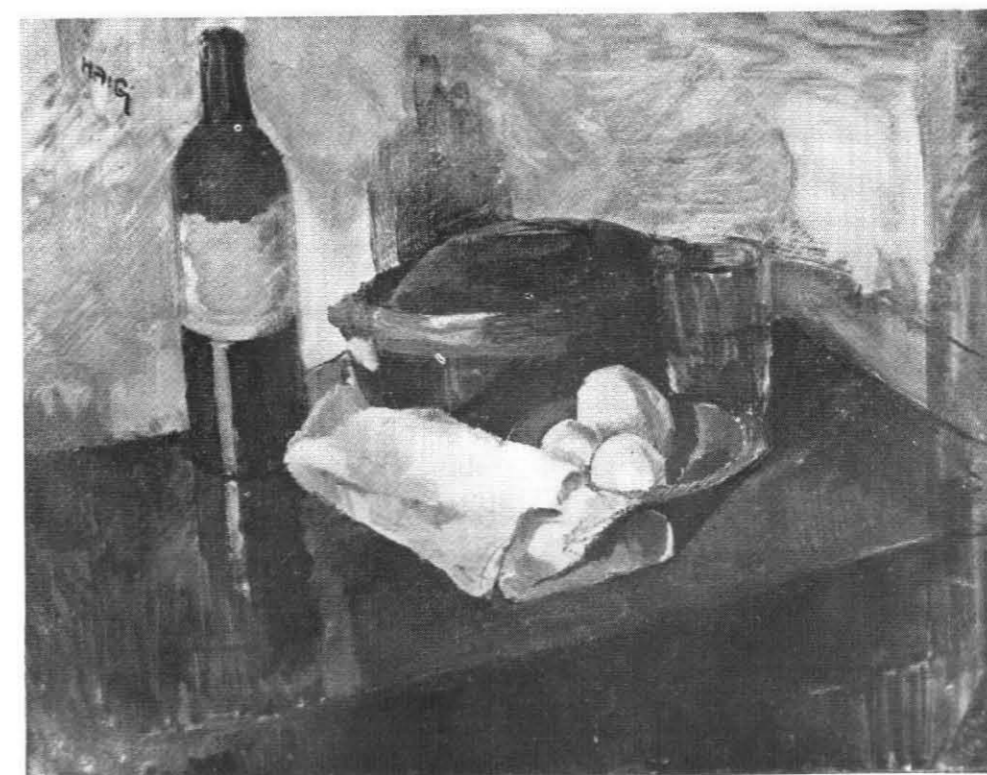
This film was typical of French productions for two reasons. Firstly it portrayed a tale of the eighteenth century, suitably attired with powdered periwigs, glittering uniforms, and expansive and expensive dresses, which seem to have a powerful attraction for French film producers. Hence it is not surprising that French 'period pieces' are so much more effective than those of other countries. Their producers seem to be able to achieve the correct atmosphere, while British and American producers are always bewildered.

The second reason why it was typically French was that the film was about Russia. The French film industry has produced a great many films with Russian backgrounds, and seems equally at home, whether describing the incomparable splendour of Catherine II and her court, or the harsher and more sober years towards the end of the Tsarist regime.



HORSE

BY J. J.-F. AIMERS (©, 1935)

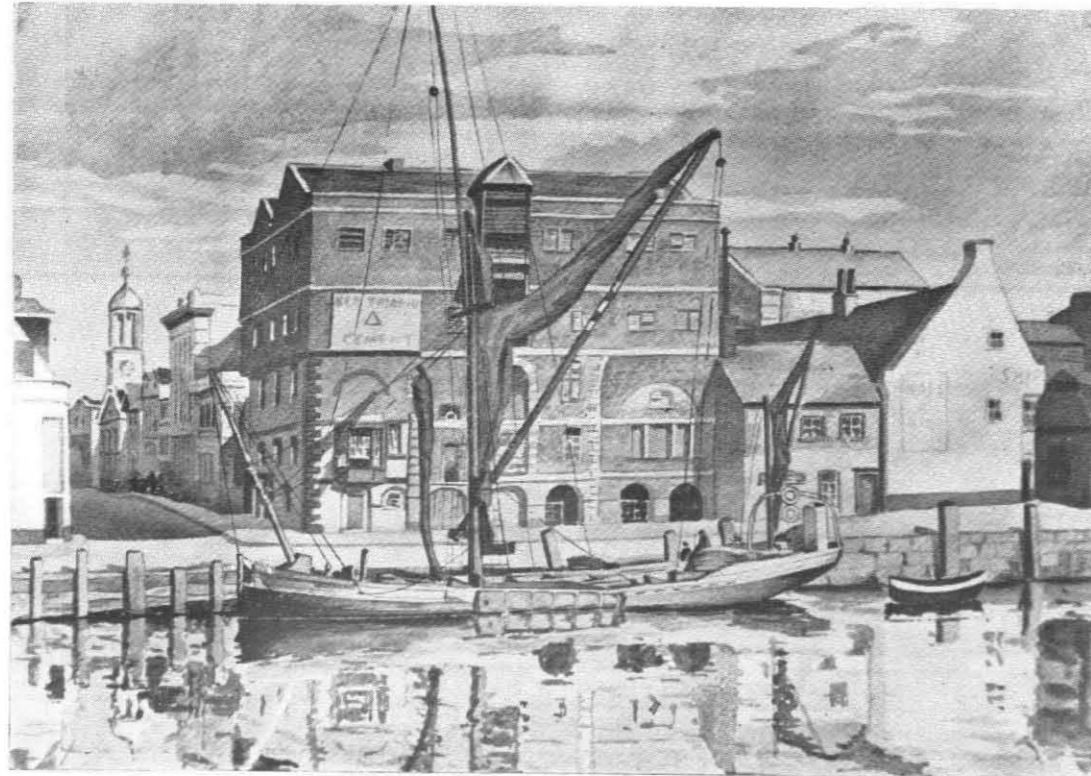


STILL LIFE WITH LEMON

BY THE EARL HAIG (C, 1935)



LANDSCAPE  
BY F. B. RICHARDS (T, 1936)



ON THE THAMES  
BY A. G. E. HOWARD (C, 1938)

On the whole the film was most enjoyable; the intrigue was passionate, exciting and effective and the producer was obviously "at home" both in the eighteenth century and in Russia.

E.M.L.L.

*Marie Louise* (Swiss). This was one of the few Swiss films we have yet had and was very different in technique from either the usual German or French production. It did not have the little ingenious touches that make a French film so attractive and subtle but it did have a quality which French films have never shown; openness. Briefly it is the story of a French girl of about 11 from Rouen, who is sent to Switzerland for a while to escape the bombing. She is adopted by a Swiss family and rather spoiled, instead of going to the chalet recently opened for children. When her time of stay in Switzerland is up, and she is going back to France, she jumps off the train and walks back from the Station at which she left the train. This time she is put amongst the other children in the chalet and goes back eventually to France with only gratitude for her kind treatment.

The main part of the film, of course, consists of her stay in Switzerland with the family. It was very well acted. The child herself gave a very remarkable performance. The long period during which she never smiles provides a wonderful contrast to the occasion when she smiles first, an event which was a great encouragement to the kindly family! She managed to convey very well that mood of depression which results not so much from unhappiness as from a lack of actual happiness. The photography of indoor scenes and scenes of limited scope was good, but disappointingly little of the potentially fine Swiss scenery was used, and such shots as were taken were very poor. However, the sincerity and excellence of the acting amply made up for these defects.

M.B.

#### THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

On February 20th, the Society was very pleased to welcome Mr. J. A. Steer, a Lecturer in Geography at Cambridge. He took as his subject "The Coastlines of Great Britain," one in which he is an acknowledged expert.

He discussed the various coastal formations, citing many examples from familiar coastal areas, and talked about the problem of erosion. His lecture was profusely illustrated with excellent slides and the Society was very grateful for the interesting information he imparted.

On March 20th, N. M. C. Isham (C) read an interesting paper, based on personal experience, on the "Argentine Pampas."

E.M.L.L.

#### THE XII CLUB

The 204th meeting was held in the President's room in the Field Houses. S. D. M. Robertson (B) read a paper on "Restoration Drama."

The 205th meeting was held in Vancouver Lodge through the kind hospitality of Mrs. McElwee and the Vice-President. E. M. L. Latham (C) read a paper on "Napoleon III."

The following are members of the Club:—Mr. R. E. J. Davis, President; Mr. W. L. McElwee, Vice-President; M. Morland (B), Secretary; S. D. M. Robertson (B), A. Caiger-Smith (T), M. Birkett (T), M. D. T. Loup (T), P. M. Dempster (B), N. N. Proddow (C), C. A. Wauhope (C), R. A. Roxburgh (W), J. D. R. Whitley (W), E. M. L. Latham (C), S. B. Lloyd (C).

M.M.

## THE VITRUVIANS

The final lecture last term was given by Mr. Chitty, F.R.I.B.A., on that burning question of the day "Pre-fabrication." We learnt to our joy that nature had at last been overcome, since now that houses were manufactured in factories, the evils of our unpredictable climate were negligible. The very informal nature of this lecture put the Society at its ease and we were very interested to see the actual materials with which the houses were made.

On February 15th, we managed to procure three films and the use of the Gymnasium where we were pleasantly surprised to find that not one of the films burst into flames as is their custom. Indeed our interest was greatly aroused by "The City," an American production, which brought to light the worst aspects of city life and showed how these could be remedied. We also saw "The Homeplace" and "Houses in History," the latter portraying famous houses in English History.

On February 22nd, we learnt from Mr. Hall, F.R.I.B.A., how State Schools are designed and about the intricate though health-promoting laws which have to be observed in their construction. Desks, for instance, must be so arranged as to prevent glare-strained eyes.

A stimulating competition is now flourishing in the Art School to design the somewhat mythical Stowe theatre, and judging by present results should produce much hidden talent.

The Society is now full to capacity with 60 members. D. D. Castles (B) is Honorary Secretary, G. P. Tobin (G) Honorary Treasurer, A. K. Thould (C) Librarian, R. R. E. Chorley (G) Photographer, G. H. Rooke (C) Committee-man, G. L. D. Duckworth (C) Co-opted Member.

D.D.C.

## STOWE CHESS CLUB

The activities of the Chess Club this term have not been extensive. In fact we have not been able to play any matches; for although the misbehaviour of the weather would not appear to have any ill effect upon the game of chess, unfortunately we had to depend upon the activities of the hockey teams for our transport. But chess is a game that can be enjoyed without matches. And every Tuesday our small company gathers together and spends a pleasant evening playing chess.

Slender though our numbers have been in the past, this term has seen them yet further reduced. So the Club would gladly welcome into its membership anyone keen to play and willing to join.

R.A.H.

## GENERAL PAPER

What is the present price of:—1, A gallon of petrol? 2, "The Times"? 3, A Penguin book? 4, The cheapest inland telegram you can send? 5, The stamp for a postcard to Australia?

Cross out whichever one of the following:—6, Was executed after the Nuremberg Trials—Himmler, Goebbels, Ribbentrop, Goering, Schacht. 7, Is a resident British bird—Nuthatch, swift, waxwing, fieldfare, redstart. 8, Is not the name of a College at both Oxford and Cambridge—Trinity, St. John's, Christ's, Pembroke, Jesus. 9, Is not an order of architecture—Corinthian, Ionic, Doric, Tuscan, Arcadian. 10, Was not a painter—Canaletto, Vermeer, Cellini, Giotto, Apelles. 11, Was not one of the twelve Apostles—Sts. Bartholomew, Luke, Matthew, Philip, Simon. 12, Is not a Book of the Old Testament—Micah, Jonah, Joab, Habbakuk, Zephaniah.

13-17. Put a tick against the five females in the following list:—Sisera ( ), Dolabella ( ), Hero ( ), Alma Tadema ( ), Atahualpa ( ), Evelyn Waugh ( ), George Eliot ( ), The Duse ( ), National Velvet ( ), The winner of the Oaks in 1946 ( ).

18, Which of these stars is the Demon's Eye—Betelgeuse, Aldebaran, Sirius, Algol, Rigel? 19, At what temperature do the readings of the Fahrenheit and Centigrade thermometers agree? 20, If you see a moon shaped like a capital C, is it waxing or waning? 21, Add the two correct letters to complete the following sequence—QWERTYUI

Which of the well-known makes of car:—22, Did nine men apparently share in Shakespeare? 23, Would Sir Isumbras be most interested in? 24, Has apparently been awarded top marks, to the delight of Juliet? 25, Seems to have been most unpopular with Chaucer's monk?

In what language was each of the following written:—26, The Decameron? 27, The motto of the Prince of Wales? 28, The motto of the Order of the Thistle? 29, The Mabinogion? 30, Virginibus Puerisque?

What island:—31, Blew itself to pieces last century? 32, Was ceded by Great Britain to Germany in exchange for concessions in East Africa? 33, Contained bees and some rows of beans? 34, Did the mutineers of the Bounty settle on? 35, In Great Britain, has a monument to Congreve?

Who was the author of the following hymns:—36, "Who would true valour see . . ."? 37, "And did those feet in ancient time . . ."? 38, "Say not the struggle nought availeth . . ."? 39, "Lead, kindly light . . ."? 40, "O God, our help in ages past . . ."?

Put in order of succession—41, (Longest first) Quaver, crotchet, semibreve. 42, (Earliest in bloom first) Daffodil, delphinium, daphne mezereum. 43, (Earliest in song first) Nightingale, chaffinch, hedge-sparrow. 44, (Earliest on the wing first) Red Admiral, brimstone, orange-tip. 45, (Greatest current value first) 100 French francs, five Canadian dollars, one English £. 46, (Earliest first) Palm Sunday, Trinity Sunday, Whit Sunday. 47, (Earliest first) Candlemas, Martinmas, Michaelmas.

48, Whose tiny hand was frozen in "La Bohème"? 49, What was the profession of Escamillo in "Carmen"? 50, What was the name of the Lord High Executioner in "The Mikado"? 51, What was the name of the Barber of Seville? 52, Who killed Cock Robin? 53, What little bird's incarceration causes heavenly indignation? 54, What bird is poetically alleged never to have been one? 55, What birds are Mother Carey's chickens? 56, What came whiffing through the tulgey wood? 57, What musical instrument was played by the damsel who sang of Mount Abora? 58, What musical instrument was played by the man who lost a chord?

Write the appropriate description—novel, play, orchestral piece or poem—against each of the following:—59, The Winter's Tale. 60, Tales from the Vienna Woods. 61, The Canterbury Tales. 62, A Tale of Two Cities.

To which group of animals—crustaceans, molluscs, mammals, reptiles, fishes—do the following belong:—63, Octopus? 64, Prawn? 65, Eel? 66, Tortoise? 67, Whale?

By what name are the following usually or better known:—68, Francois-Marie Arouet? 69, La Pucelle? 70, Le Tigre? 71, Boz? 72, Maro? 73, Brummagem? 74, Auld Reekie? 75, Tully? 76, Mrs. Morley? 77, Lord Templewood?

You are Question Master of a Scientific Brains Trust comprising an anthropologist, a botanist, a chemist, a geologist, a meteorologist, a physicist, a physiologist and a zoologist. Which of them would you call first as the expert on a question concerning:—78, Hormones? 79, The existence of such a thing as a white whale? 80, The by-products of coal? 81, Cosmic rays? 82, Carboniferous limestone? 83, The cave-paintings recently discovered in France? 84, The truth of the saying, "Red sky at night—shepherd's delight"? 85, Vernalization?

Of which Kings of England were the following the Queens:—86, Henrietta-Maria? 87, Alexandra of Denmark? 88, Catherine of Braganza? 89, Caroline of Anspach?

Name the authors of the following:—90, The "Oresteia." 91, The "Phacdo." 92, The "Fasti." 93, The "Clouds." 94, "De Rerum Natura."

Three words in each of the following groups have a common factor. Strike out the irrelevant word:—95, Obol, as, denarius, sestertius. 96, Galba, Brutus, Domitian, Tiberius. 97, Constantinople, Byzantium, Ankara, Istanbul.

98, Who is Secretary of U.N.E.S.C.O.? 99, Who is the present C.I.G.S.? 100, What is the full name of F.A.O.?

## THE TERM'S FILMS

The majority of this term's films have been of the broad comedy type and they have had, with one or two exceptions, a regrettably low standard of humour. But this has been considerably relieved by the three first-class films which completed the list.

*Pimpernel Smith*, an exciting British film of organized rescues from Nazi Germany, was excellently acted and photographed; and even though some of the characters were too recognisable as types, nothing could mar the late Leslie Howard's superb performance as the lecturer-hero.

The other remarkable British film, *Spring Meeting*, which was set in the home of an Irish Baron, was extremely amusing whimsical comedy, and, although its background could have been improved, its success was ensured by its characters, the most notable of whom was the mildly wicked and most entertaining family Aunt, played by Margaret Rutherford.

The third good film of the term was adapted from A. J. Cronin's famous novel, "The Keys of the Kingdom." Excellent acting, fine technical effects and good settings combined to make this American film, about a missionary's adventures in China, with Gregory Peck in the lead, one of the best American efforts that we have seen for some time.

The remainder of the films were all of the comic type and all but two of them began stickily and ended in failure. The two successful ones were both British and both featured Will Hay. *The Ghost of St. Michael's*, a farce of life in an evacuated Public School, and *The Goose Steps Out* were seldom dull and succeeded because Will Hay prevented any songs from becoming mixed up in his humour. Flanagan and Allen fail in this respect and consequently *Here Comes the Sun* and *Dreaming Only* serve to emphasize the great truth that Music Hall should never be allowed to reach the screen.

The other American films had very little to commend them and made it quite clear that mass-produced is not the least desirable. *Lost in a Harem* moved very stickily and Abbot and Costello are clearly on the down-grade. Similarly *George Washington Slept Here* was full of the usual hackneyed situations and wisecracks and merely confirmed the fear, aroused when the film last came to Stowe, that Jack Benny's neck is unbreakable.

R.H.F.C.

## I.C.E. SECTION'S VISIT TO DAGENHAM

By courtesy of the Ford Motor Coy. it was possible for the I.C.E. Section of the J.T.C. to visit their works at Dagenham during the Christmas holidays. The party was received by Mr. Attwood, Head of the Trade School, who not only entertained us most hospitably, but also took a great deal of trouble to enable us to see those parts of the works in which we were most interested.

First we visited the great wharf on the Thames where ships were unloading coal which we saw conveyed directly to the coking plant; all along the wharf were serried ranks of Ford tractors ready for shipment. From this point we visited next the great nerve centre of the whole works, the power house. The instant impression on entering this enormous building—it really is gigantic—was one of the extraordinary cleanliness of the whole place and of terrific power under perfect control.

Next we passed on to the coke oven battery and blast furnace plant. One of the coke ovens had just been cleared; we were unlucky to have just missed a cast at the blast furnace. However, we did see the big ladles conveying the molten iron to the foundry cupolas. One of the most interesting sights of the day was the amazing skill and ease with which white hot metal was poured from big ladles into small ladles and from these into the ever moving moulds of the foundry. Here we were seeing cylinder blocks cast. It looks easy but it must take many months of practice and not a few burns before you can manipulate a ladle, which is moving all the time, and pour molten metal from it into quite a small aperture in the moulding box, which also is on the move. Here, above all, the eye must, so to speak, be kept on the ball. These men do their work with unerring skill; very little metal is ever spilt or wasted.

After an excellent lunch the party visited the assembly lines of both car and tractor. Once again the ever moving stream of vehicles in process of erection. Perfect organisation combined with accurate supply and skilled workmanship is what enables your car or your tractor to be completed in an hour or so from start to finish. Each man has his appointed task; as the car passes along the line, frame, springs, axles and wheels in place, suddenly from above will descend the engine, complete with gear box, carburettor, etc.: in a moment of time these are in position, bolted down, connected up to their various components. Before this job is completed you can see, a little way further on, the gleaming freshly painted body of the car swinging in mid-air, ready to be lowered into position in a minute or two. Tyres, batteries and all other accessories appear as if by magic and find their appointed niches. The job which strikes one as being the most tedious and finicky in this process is that of wiring the car. An intricate number of multi-coloured cables seem to stretch in all directions; somehow they are all brought under control and find their respective terminals.

Other departments visited were those responsible for the assembly of individual components such as radiators, gear boxes, differentials, springs, etc., etc. We also saw the methods employed for spraying on the paint and welding the body-work of the car.

It is impossible in a short article to describe in great detail all that the party saw. Suffice it to say that the visit was a most enjoyable and instructive one. It would, however, not be fitting to conclude without some reference to the ideal conditions which prevail in these great works. Cleanliness, excellent canteen arrangements, air

conditioning and lighting, expert instruction of the apprentices in the Trade School, all make for the efficiency which is associated with the name of Ford. Our best thanks are due to the Company for the opportunities they afforded us and we look forward with very great pleasure to another visit which they have kindly said we may make in the near future.

C.W-R.

## CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

DEAR SIR,

In a book entitled "Flower Love," published at Belfast by McCaw, Stevenson & Orr (no date and no author's name) occurs the following passage (Ch. VI, p. 106):—

"Many plants have at times a luminous appearance, others a phosphorescent, and some are surrounded by an inflammable atmosphere which readily takes fire on a light being brought near. The tuberose has been observed on a sultry evening after thunder, when the air was highly charged with electric fluid, to dart small sparks or scintillations of lurid flame from such of its flowers as are fading. The younger Linnaeus states that the flowers of the *Nasturtium*, the orange Lily, African Marigold, and other orange flowers give out similar flashes. Dowden mentions that on the 4th August 1842 at 8 p.m. after a week of dry, warm weather, he observed a luminous appearance in the common marigold; a lambent light seemed to play from floret to floret and to make a course round the disk of the flower.

"These luminous phenomena have been marked by several observers, but only in orange and gaudy flowers and during twilight.

"An exception to this, however, was observed in *the garden of the Duke of Buckingham at Stowe*—'On the evening of Friday, Sept. 4th, 1835 during a thunderstorm accompanied by heavy rain, the *leaves* of the *Aenothera macrocarpa*, a bed of which was in the garden immediately opposite the windows of the MSS. library were observed to be brilliantly illuminated by phosphoric light. During the intervals of the flashes of lightning the night was exceedingly dark and nothing else could be distinguished in the gloom except the light upon the leaves of these flowers. The luminous appearance continued uninterruptedly for a considerable length of time, but did not appear to resemble any electric effect.'

"Professor Allman and many other persons consider these appearances as merely optical illusions, but it seems difficult to set aside the testimony of direct witnesses who believe they actually saw the flashes of light given out."

I do not know if your Botany experts have any such experiences and I should be much interested to know if present day investigations bear out the above.

Is the "*Aenothera macrocarpa*" at Stowe—the evening primrose? I only know it spelled "*Oenothera*" and it may be something quite different. My Latin names are very limited!!

Yours etc.,

P.M.L.

[Replies to this are invited.]

## ANSWERS TO GENERAL PAPER

1, I/II. 2, 3d. 3, 1/- . 4, 1/- . 5, 2d. 6, Ribbentrop. 7, Nuthatch. 8, Christ's. 9, Arcadian. 10, Cellini. 11, Luke. 12, Joab. 13-17, Hero, George Eliot, Duse, National Velvet, Winner of the Oaks. 18, Algol. 19, Minus 40 deg. 20, Waning. 21, O P.

22, Morris. 23, Ford. 24, Alfa-Romeo. 25, Austin. 26, Italian. 27, German. 28, Latin. 29, Welsh. 30, English. 31, Krakatoa. 32, Heligoland. 33, Innisfree. 34, Pitcairn. 35, Monkey. 36, Bunyan. 37, Blake. 38, Clough. 39, Newman. 40, Watts.

(41-47. One mark for each wholly correct order). 41, Semibreve, crotchet, quaver. 42, Daphne mezereum, daffodil, delphinium. 43, Hedge-sparrow, chiff-chaff, nightingale. 44, Brimstone, orange-tip, red admiral. 45, Dollars, £, francs. 46, Palm, Whit., Trinity. 47, Candle-, Michael-, Martin-.

48, Mimi's (or Mimi). 49, Toreador (or bullfighter). 50, Koko. 51, Figaro. 52, Sparrow. 53, Robin. 54, (Sky) Lark. 55, Stormy Petrel. 56, Jabberwock. 57, Dulcimer. 58, Organ. 59, Play. 60, Orchestral piece. 61, Poem. 62, Novel. 63, Mollusc. 64, Crustacean. 65, Fish. 66, Reptile. 67, Mammal. 68, Voltaire. 69, Joan of Arc. 70, Clemenceau. 71, Dickens. 72, Virgil. 73, Birmingham. 74, Edinburgh. 75, Cicero. 76 (Queen) Anne. 77, (Samuel) Hoare.

78, Physiologist. 79, Zoologist. 80, Chemist. 81, Physicist. 82, Geologist. 83, Anthropologist. 84, Meteorologist. 85, Botanist. 86, Charles I. 87, Edward VII. 88, Charles II. 89, George II. 90, Aeschylus. 91, Plato. 92, Ovid. 93, Aristophanes. 94, Lucretius. 95, Obol. 96, Brutus. 97, Ankara. 98, Julian Huxley (Christian name essential). 99, Montgomery. 100, Food and Agriculture (or Agricultural) Organization.

## THE RELAYS

On Wednesday, March 26th, in defiance of weather that remained truculent to the last, the Relays were run by unpractised runners on a sodden track. A close struggle saw Bruce and Cobham finish equal in points; but prior place in the Composite gave Bruce the Cup, which was some consolation to Lloyd for all the frustration that his enthusiasm has had to suffer in this most unusual winter.

The results were:—

	Bru.	Tem.	Gren.	Chan.	Cob.	Chat.	Graf.	Wal.	Time.
100 Yards ...	5	6	1	4	7	3	0	2	51.5 secs.
220 Yards ...	6	1	3	2	5	0	4	7	1 min. 57 secs.
440 Yards ...	7	3	4	1	5	2	6	—	4 mins. 22.6 secs.
880 Yards ...	5	3	2	0	7	1	4	6	10 mins. 9 secs.
Composite Mile	7	1	4	3	6	5	2	—	4 mins. 24 secs.
Total Points	30	14	14	10	30	11	16	15	
Place ...	1	5=	5=	8	2	7	3	4	

