

# THE STOIC



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# THE STOIC

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## EIGHTEENTH CENTURY STOWE

*in "Country Life"*

**I**N *Country Life* of September 12th, 19th and 26th, Mr. Christopher Hussey wrote at length on the development of the grounds, gardens and "temples" of Stowe. His articles were illustrated with superb photographs, mostly recent but a few dating from before the foundation of the school.

Mr. Hussey is chiefly concerned with the period 1713-1770, during which the old formal garden was expanded and reshaped into the most elaborate of the great Eighteenth Century landscape gardens and adorned with the temples and bridges which are so familiar to us today. He describes the contributions made by the different architects and gardeners—particularly Vanbrugh and Kent, Bridgeman and Brown—under the inspiration of Cobham and Pitt, and he is able to establish with some assurance the order of the successive changes and additions, though few exact dates can now be ascertained.

There has long been some dispute as to the share which Lancelot Brown ("Capability" Brown) had in the remodelling of the grounds. Mr. Hussey says that the evidence on this question "as on almost everything at Stowe, is conflicting." In 1814 the Stowe Librarian was telling visitors quite definitely that Brown had "laid out" the grounds, while Lysons, writing in 1806, says that he had done nothing of the sort, having arrived here after the work was finished. Mr. Hussey points out that the work was certainly not finished by 1740 when Brown came here from Wotton, and that Brown, when he left Stowe, had become experienced

enough as a landscape gardener to set up as an independent professional. Here the question must be left. It is clear at least that Capability Brown was trained at Stowe, and it can hardly be doubted that he played some part in the later stages of the great transformation.

One of the most interesting themes which Mr. Hussey develops in his articles is thus stated in an early paragraph :—

“It is scarcely coincidence that the ideas of liberal imperialism, Whig humanism and English idyllic landscape design germinated together here in the spacious atmosphere of Stowe . . . Each betokened a faith in disciplined freedom, a respect for natural qualities, a belief in the individual, whether man or tree, and a hatred of tyranny.”

Under Cobham and his successors Stowe became “the capital seat of what has been called the Grand Whiggery . . . the geographical and artistic centre of the cult of humane and political liberty . . .” Liberal ideas were applied to “state-craft on the one hand and garden-craft on the other.” Liberal landscape became a reality when Bridgeman mastered the use of the sunk fence or ha-ha and learned to substitute the brush for the rule. The effects of this change from brush to rule can be seen clearly in the contrast between the view from the South Front as it is now and the layout pictured in the Rigaud and Baron engravings of 1739 which hang in the Ante-Library and the Quadrant.

Apart from the influence of political ideas, political events had an effect on Cobham's work in the development of Stowe. His withdrawal from politics in 1713 sent him back temporarily to his gardens, and his quarrel with Walpole in 1733 gave him permanent leisure for his creative activities here. His association with the supporters of Frederick, Prince of Wales, brought him into touch with Cornet Pitt, “the greatest recruit” of the Boy Patriots or Cobham's Cubs. Pitt was destined to marry Cobham's niece, Hester Grenville, and on his frequent visits to Stowe he undoubtedly inspired his host and friend in the great work of adorning and developing his estate. Mr. Hussey considers that Pitt was “an outstanding amateur of the art” of landscape gardening. He quotes Warburton as stating that Pitt excelled Capability Brown at “pointing his

prospects, diversifying his surface, entangling his walks and winding his waters.” It is certain at any rate that Pitt encouraged that side of Cobham's work which involved the “striking of the moral chords” and the exposition of liberal sentiment. Mr. Hussey writes :—

“Stowe's landscapes, in the evolution of which Pitt shared his patron Cobham's enthusiasm, can aptly be cited as a work of art in which imaginative balance gradually took the place of symmetrical definition, the later handling of its vistas differing from the earlier precisely in that imaginative, dynamic quality which distinguished Pitt's and Cobham's Whiggism from that of Walpole and his reactionary followers. The mind attuned to its historical and social implications can still regard the scenery of Stowe, as it was indeed conceived, in the shape of a didactic poem; a vast poem in the medium of visual instead of verbal images designed to elevate the mind and implant virtuous ideals.”

Mr. Hussey surveys the whole of the grounds, showing how the buildings with which they came to be adorned group themselves about two “rivers” (the “Worthy River” and the chain of lakes East of the waterfall). The Western area consists essentially of the original straight lines and right angles as resolved by Bridgeman and his successors under the inspiration of Pitt and glorified by Vanbrugh's Rotundo. The Eastern area is “a complex of romantic elements . . . elaborated, if not originated, by Kent,” and bounded by the Cobham Monument, the Queen's Temple, the Gothic Temple, the Palladian Bridge and the Temples of Friendship and Ancient Virtue. Each of these buildings is reviewed, as are all the others of importance, by Mr. Hussey, who comments with sympathy on their significance and quality. He assigns dates where he can, using such evidence as there is and in particular the successive editions of Seeley's “Guides.” The Palladian Bridge he dates between 1753 and 1769. It is however described in the Seeley of 1747. The proto-type at Wilton was completed by Morris in 1737, and Mr. Hussey thinks that the Prior Park example, the only other one in England, is also earlier than ours. He regards the Stowe bridge as “less effective than the Wilton bridge for being raised less above the water; instead of being approached by steps its passage-way is almost level so

that chaises could cross it." This is a judgement from which some of us who know both bridges well will be disposed to dissent. A bridge may look more like a bridge if it can be driven over and does not have to be climbed over. Mr. Hussey does not refer to the wall which apparently once took the place of the pillars on the eastern side of our bridge and is described as carrying a relief by Scheemaker similar to his pediment over the portico of Concord.

A photograph, of early date, represents the Temple of Bacchus as it was before it lost the Herms which once flanked it and the plaster which once covered its clumsy carcass of brick. We knew it only as a ruin, but this photograph will cause none of us to regret that the Chapel now stands upon its site.

Our feelings about Concord, which is also shown in an old photograph, may be somewhat different. Had it proved possible to restore its ancient glories we should have done so gladly, for it must have been a lovely thing. But the disintegration had gone too far. As it is, something of its beauty has been recovered, though more remains to be done, and the sixteen pillars which Sir Robert Lorimer repaired and took to adorn our Chapel are at any rate protected from the weather which had wrought their ruin. They contribute in a new way to the sum of beauty in the place.

These articles are founded so securely on historical knowledge and illuminated by such a sympathetic understanding of the age and the men which they describe that everyone who cares for Eighteenth Century Stowe must feel himself deeply in their author's debt.

## THE REVEREND E. H. EARLE

All those who knew Stowe in its early days must have been distressed to hear of Mr. Earle's death on November 19th. He had recently retired from his parish of Bishopstrow—though, as he said himself at the time, his eye was not dimmed nor his natural force abated—and gone to live at Milford-on-Sea. He died as the result of a bicycle accident for which no one appears to be to blame.

Ernest Earle, who had succeeded his father as Headmaster of Bilton Grange but had handed the school over to his brother in order to go as a Bush Missioner to Australia, came back to England early in 1923 and was invited by the Headmaster-elect of Stowe to join the staff of the new school at its opening. He became the first Housemaster of Bruce and remained in it until Chatham was opened in September 1925, when he moved there with some of his boys. He retired in July 1934.

During his eleven years at Stowe, Mr. Earle impressed his personality deeply upon the young school and secured the affection of everyone in it. He was the finest type of clergyman, schoolmaster and Englishman. His Christian character, his sound scholarship, his sporting tastes (he was a beautiful horseman and an eager follower of the Grafton Hounds), his skilled and humorous teaching and his compelling personal charm made an immediate and lasting appeal to those who served with him or worked under him. We shall not forget him as long as we live.

And he did not forget us—or the school. He kept in touch till the end, frequently referring to old photographs, constantly demanding new ones and following our fortunes closely in the newspapers and *The Stoic*. Stowe has lost not only one of its creators but one of its most faithful and devoted friends. Peace be to his soul!

## STOICA

*School Officials—Christmas Term, 1947.*

*Prefects* :—E. M. L. Latham (Q), Head of the School; M. D. T. Loup (T), Second Prefect; J. D. Lloyd (B); M. Morland (B), Prefect of Chapel; C. A. Wauhope (C), Prefect of Library; L. R. S. Marler (G), Prefect of Gymnasium; F. G. Everard (G); H. F. Cotton (C); N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W); C. S. Edwards (Q); S. B. Cunningham (T); D. A. MacL. Connell (G).

*Rugby Football* :—Captain, S. B. Cunningham (T); Secretary, N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W).

The following visitors have preached in the Chapel this term :—September 28th, The Rev. R. L. P. Milburn, Chaplain of Worcester College, Oxford; October 19th, The Rev. George Snow, Headmaster of Ardingly College, Sussex; November 9th, The Rev. Kenneth Riches, Principal of Cuddesdon College, Oxford; November 23rd, The Rev. Canon Trevor Lewis, Vicar of All Saints, Northampton.

Chapel Collections this term have been as follows :—September 21st, for The Pineapple, £21 14s. 11d.; October 12th, for Buckingham Hospital, £27 16s. 5d.; November 9th, for The Earl Haig Fund, £60 14s. 0d.

A Confirmation Service was held in the Chapel on Thursday, November 27th, when 93 members of the School were confirmed by the Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Oxford.

An Old Stoic Evening Reception was held in London at Grosvenor House on Saturday, November 22nd. Some 230 Old Stoics attended. Speeches were made by the Headmaster, by Dr. Huggins, and by N. G. Annan (T, 1935).

In honour of the wedding of Princess Elizabeth, Thursday, November 20th, was observed as a whole-holiday.

The marriage of Dr. Ewald Zettl to Miss Elizabeth Duncan took place quietly near Staines on Thursday, May 15th; and that of Mr. J. C. T. Uttley to Mrs. Helen Nottidge took place in Guernsey on Saturday, April 12th. Sincere apologies are offered for the omission of these notices from the last issue of *The Stoic*.

Mr. E. H. Boyd is leaving Stowe at the end of this term and is returning to Australia to take up a post at The King's School, Parramatta. Mrs. Boyd was, of course, also on the staff for several years during the war.

*The Times* of September 24th, 1947, contained the announcement of one Old Stoic engagement and of three Old Stoic births, two of the children having been born on the same day and in the same nursing home.

On December 5th, Mr. J. P. L. Thomas, M.P., Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party, gave an Upper School lecture on "Conservatives and the Future."

The Quince Tree in the Masters' Garden, already a friend to many in these days of shortages, surpassed itself this season and yielded no less than 242 lbs. of fruit.

A Prize for Modern Languages has been founded in memory of Flying Officer D. J. Webster (W, 1940), R.A.F.V.R., who was killed in action in August 1943. The prize will be called the John Webster Memorial Prize. The first award of this prize has already been announced.

An annual prize has been founded in memory of Flying Officer E. A. Harding (B, 1942), R.A.F.V.R., who was killed in a flying accident in April 1946. The prize will be called the Edward Harding Memorial Prize and will take the place of the present Junior Reading Prize.

The Pearman Smith Prize for Mathematics, which is given on the result of the July School Certificate Examination, has this year been awarded to K. McC. Reynolds (G).

G. J. Chibbett (C, 1947) won the Junior Lawn Tennis Association Singles Championship (under 21) at Manchester, and he and C. M. Mosselmanns (C) were defeated in the final of the Doubles.

School Colours for Football have been awarded as follows :—

1st XV. :—J. M. Shinner (B) (re-awarded); J. F. Conington (B), L. R. S. Marler (S), M. D. T. Loup (T), R. G. Macmillan (C), P. G. Shinner (B), J. L. Paxton (C), N. N. Proddow (C), J. K. H. Torrens (C), R. J. Roberts (C), D. E. Conington (B).

2nd XV. :—C. H. Bartlett (T), D. S. Paravicini (C), H. T. Bowles (T), G. L. D. Duckworth (C), P. M. Dempster (B), W. R. G. Short (S), H. F. Cotton (C), F. A. Ruhemann (C), M. H. Ewbank (C), T. R. Lambert (S), A. T. W. Innes (T), D. J. Wilkin (C).

3rd XV. :—J. W. A. Downing (T), N. R. Cunningham-Reid (G), G. W. Scott (C), G. R. A. Miskin (W), M. Doyle (C), D. C. Williamson (C), R. A. Hird (C).

Colts' Stockings :—P. M. Horley (B), A. M. Whitty (T), J. F. Pearce (B), W. M. Patterson (B), C. C. Malden (S), C. C. McNeil (T), R. G. Cunningham (T), G. J. E. Dixon (T), T. P. Grossmark (C), C. R. P. Meyjes (B), N. E. Wates (B), P. R. Antrobus (C), M. S. Turnbull (B), A. J. Macintosh (T), P. M. Rossiter (C).

## OLIM ALUMNI

The O.B.E. has been awarded to B. W. DAY (T, 1926), Indian Civil Service, who joined the school at its opening in May 1923.

J. W. STOYE (C, 1936) has been elected to a Research Fellowship at Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

P. JOHNSTONE (C, 1939) gained a First Class in his History Finals at Oxford in July.

S. P. E. C. W. TOWNLEY WORSTHORNE (C, 1940) has been awarded the Luca Ruffini Scholarship at Oxford.

M. B. SCHOLFIELD (T, 1939) is Captain of Golf at Cambridge this year.

N. C. S. BARLING (S, 1944) played for Major Stanley's XV against Oxford University on November 20th.

A. J. O. RITCHIE (T, 1946), Rifle Brigade, was awarded the Belt of Honour when passing out from the 163rd O.C.T.U., Maresfield.

## BIRTHS

To the wife of A. J. F. FERGUSSON (B, 1940), a daughter, on February 5th; to the wife of C. A. WESTON (S, 1937), a son, on May 22nd; to the wife of C. M. HEATH (C, 1929), a daughter, on July 13th; to the wife of G. C. WYNDHAM (S, 1933), a daughter, on July 21st; to the wife of W. E. WALROND (C, 1933), a daughter, on July 27th; to the wife of H. E. LOCKHART-MUMMERY (C, 1935), a son, on August 7th; to the wife of J. K. TODD (S, 1932), a son, on August 14th; to the wife of B. C. BRIANT (B, 1935), a daughter, on August 16th; to the wife of CAPTAIN W. W. CHEYNE, M.B.E. (C, 1938), a son, on August 20th; to the wife of D. S. MONTAGUE SCOTT (T, 1926), a daughter, on August 21st; to the wife of G. T. BETTERIDGE (G, 1938), a son, on September 1st; to the wife of SURGEON-CAPTAIN P. R. WESTALL (C, 1938), a daughter, on September 10th; to the wife of N. FORBES (C, 1930), a daughter, on September 11th; to the wife of MAJOR S. D. A. S. AYLMER (C, 1926), a daughter, on September 12th; to the wife of FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT J. P. BENTLEY, R.A.F. (C, 1940), a son, on September 16th; to the wife of C. E. B. THOMPSON (B, 1938), a daughter, on September 17th; to the wife of MAJOR G. S. C. TRENCH (C, 1931), a son, on September 17th; to the wife of MAJOR K. W. L. ROBERTS, M.B.E. (C, 1933), a daughter, on September 22nd; to the wife of P. SHERRARD (C, 1937), a son, on September 22nd; to the wife of DR. L. A. McAFEE (B, 1934), a daughter, on September 2nd; to the wife of J. B. KENNEDY (C, 1939), a son, on April 10th; to the wife of SIR JOHN CLERK, Bart. (G, 1933), a daughter, on June 4th; to the wife of J. P. E. C. HENNIKER-MAJOR (B, 1934), a son, on September 29th; to the wife of P. G. AGNEW (C, 1932), a son, on October 1st; to the wife of G. A. DICK-LAUDER (C, 1935), a son, on October 3rd; to the wife of P. A. G. DIXEY (B, 1933), a son, on October 4th; to the wife of I. EARLE (C, 1934), a daughter, on October 9th.

To the wife of R. H. SCOTT (T, 1928), a son, on May 12th; to the wife of DR. A. E. DE LA T. MALLETT (B, 1935), a daughter, on October 16th; to the wife of P. T. HAYMAN (S, 1933), a son, on October 30th; to the wife of H. L. GILBERT (T, 1936), a daughter, on October 11th; to the wife of M. E. FAWCUS (W, 1942), a daughter, on October 22nd; to the wife of I. D. DAWSON-SHEPHERD (T, 1930), a daughter, on October 15th; to the wife of G. McN. BOWLE-EVANS (T, 1939), a son, on September 27th; to the wife of DR. P. K. A. ANDREWS (C, 1932), a daughter, on June 15th; to the wife of J. D. BUCHANAN (W, 1935), a daughter, on November 15th; to the wife of K. CAMERON (G, 1931), a daughter, on November 3rd; to the wife of D. R. BARBOUR (C, 1938), a son, on November 11th; to the wife of G. R. BARBOUR (C, 1929), a daughter, on November 3rd; to the wife of A. W. R. DE HORSEY (S, 1929), a daughter, on November 12th; to the wife of MAJOR W. B. DRYSDALE (S, 1935), a son, on October 30th; to the wife of

M. L. CASE (C, 1929), a son, on November 7th; to the wife of DR. C. L. HALL (C, 1933), a daughter on November 10th (at Mwanza, Tanganyika); to the wife of C. S. MCCALLIN (C, 1930), a daughter, on 20th August, 1947.

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### MARRIAGES

R. U. P. de BURGH (G, 1940) to Miss M. F. Ashburner, on August 9th; C. M. O'ROKKE (C, 1938) to Miss R. A. Henshaw, on August 2nd; R. N. BARCLAY (C, 1937) to Miss G. Blewitt, on September 6th; MAJOR D. W. BASSET, M.C. (G, 1934) to Miss J. M. Rendall, on September 6th; C. J. MORNBY (B, 1932) to Miss A. M. Ezra, on August 21st; E. R. COX (G, 1925) to Miss M. M. Hogarth, on July 23rd; SURGEON-LIEUTENANT J. F. FERGUSON-SMITH (G, 1939) to Miss D. Prentice, on July 30th; MAJOR T. G. N. ROWLAND (C, 1928) to Miss J. R. Dawson, on September 27th; CAPTAIN P. J. DAVIES (T, 1941) to Miss M. Wilson, on August 16th; CAPTAIN F. W. BLAIR IMRIE (C, 1927) to Miss L. Peacock, on September 6th; SQUADRON-LEADER A. H. PIPER (B, 1933) to Miss C. E. J. Hill, on September 20th; MAJOR J. H. S. MARTIN (T, 1933) to Miss P. M. Fielder-Johnson, on April 11th; J. B. SUMNER (C, 1940) to Miss H. M. Studd, on September 6th; H. P. CROOM-JOHNSON (T, 1929) to Mrs. Jane Richardson, on September 15th; F. L. ASHCROFT (C, 1935) to Miss J. R. Mellalieu, on September 26th; J. M. ASHBY (B, 1931) to Miss U. Vogt, on August 9th; M. G. T. WEBSTER (W, 1938) to Mrs. J. A. Bucknill, on September 20th; D. McL. LEA (C, 1931) to Miss J. T. H. Scott, on June 25th; D. T. WESTON (G, 1940) to Miss S. A. H. Mummery, on September 6th; J. H. PENTON (B, 1934) to Miss H. Milburn, on September 5th; B. J. G. KAYE (G, 1938) to Miss A. Grisewood, on September 26th; N. Q. LAWRENCE (C, 1939) to Miss Milne, on October 25th; J. E. HUTTON (C, 1940) to Miss P. Armstrong, on November 8th; J. H. THOMLINSON (B, 1939) to Miss L. Thomson-Glover, on November 1st.

D. M. LEACH (G, 1939) to Miss L. Edwards, in July; SQUADRON-LEADER A. I. SLADEN, D.S.O. (G, 1935) to The Hon. Mrs. Greville Baird, on November 15th; K. M. CHITTENDEN (T, 1936) to Miss C. M. Bateman, on October 18th; J. MacK. BINNEY (B, 1931) to Mrs. M. M. Fenez, on November 15th; CAPTAIN P. F. GREENWELL M.C. (G, 1938) to Miss A. S. Doxford, on November 15th.

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### DEATHS

LIEUTENANT P. D. F. KELLY (C, 1943), Coldstream Guards, killed suddenly in Palestine, on July 18th, 1947.

CAPTAIN A. R. IZAT (G, 1925), Royal Artillery, died on July 20th, 1947, after a long illness caused by wounds.

## DECORATIONS

### D.S.O.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. B. JONES (G, 1926), Middlesex Regiment.

SQUADRON-LEADER A. I. SLADEN, (G, 1934), R.A.F.V.R.

### M.C.

MAJOR C. F. TRACY (W, 1937), Royal Engineers.

### A.F.C.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT W. A. SMITH (T, 1933), R.C.A.F.

### THE BRONZE STAR (U.S.A.)

SQUADRON-LEADER H. G. MORISON (G, 1929), R.A.F.V.R.

### C. de G.

LIEUTENANT C. J. D. RENNY (G, 1928), R.N.V.R.

### O.B.E.

B. W. DAY (T, 1926), Indian Civil Service.

WING-COMMANDER A. R. F. DE SALIS (B, 1930), R.A.F.

### M.B.E.

MAJOR S. L. A. CARTER, M.C. (C, 1930), The Sherwood Foresters.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. G. E. DAVIES (B, 1934), Royal Artillery.

CAPTAIN W. W. CHEYNE (C, 1938), The Seaforth Highlanders.

## JEWISH CONVOY

(From an Old Stoic's letter.)

We are accompanying three ships carrying illegal Jewish immigrants from Haifa to Hamburg. I have great sympathy for some of these people, but a large percentage of them are neither Jews nor immigrants but just riff-raff from Poland and Czechoslovakia with a leavening of recruits for the terrorist organizations. The whole lot are passionately and fanatically anti-British. When they first came aboard they imagined us to be slaving wolves with blood dripping from our hands. They have had some weeks in which to reconsider their opinion, and now they are merely puzzled by the sleepy "couldn't-care-less" attitude of our troops. Even the more intelligent of these Jews have never heard (or at least do not believe) that there are any Arabs in Palestine at all. They think that we are keeping them away from their own country out of sheer spite.

The theory that Jews stick together in adversity is contradicted by all that I have seen. Among these people it is every man for himself—in particular as between men and women. At first the men took all the bunks and made the women and children sleep on the floor. They were amazed as well as indignant when we insisted on reversing this arrangement.

## STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS

Tel: PADDington 5452.

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

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

DEAR SIR,

The "Pineapple," after a slow start to the present winter season, has begun to thrive.

The senior football team is head of the St. Marylebone Junior League and has been entered for the first time for many years in the Middlesex F.A. Minor Cup Competition.

The two junior football teams are playing with more vigour than skill at the moment, but they are sticking to it in spite of heavy defeats.

At table tennis and boxing we are doing extremely well, the boxing team being very keen and well-coached; there is every hope that we shall have some new championship cups in the Canteen by next March.

The lack of club helpers is still a great handicap, and people willing to take the drawing and poster class would be most welcome.

The visit to Stowe on November 2nd was very much enjoyed by everybody from the club, and we are looking forward to the Spring visit.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,  
C. F. JUPP (*Warden*).

THE PINEAPPLE,  
423a, EDGWARE ROAD,  
LONDON, W.2.  
November, 1947.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

SIR,

It is now almost a year since the London Committee of the "Pineapple" was reconstituted with the help of Mr. Clifford, and Gordon Morison and John Lilley, who were Chairman and Secretary before the war.

Its main aim is to advise and help the Warden in the day-to-day running of the Club, and, in particular, to create interest in the Club among present and past Stoics. This latter appears to be a difficult task.

One of the first acts of the Committee was to send out a request for practical help, addressed to about 430 Old Stoics living in or near London. The response was as follows:—about 414 Old Stoics did not reply at all; 9 replied that they could give no help; 3 replied that their help was not possible at present; and only 4 said that they were willing and able to help.

The actual position is now the same as it was before the circular letter went out. The only regular helpers are Michael Patmore, Martin Buckmaster and Philip Syrett. Clemens Reiche and Michael Sandwith have given invaluable help during the year, but are no longer able to do so.

We still urgently need about 20 people who can come regularly once a week, or once a fortnight, to help organise indoor and outdoor activities both for the ordinary members and for the Old Pineapple Boys' Section, which numbers over 50, the great majority of whom are ex-Service men.

Apart from this regular help we would warmly welcome any visits at any time when the Club is open (8.30—10 p.m., Mondays to Fridays). Supper can be provided if the Warden is given a few hours' notice.

We feel strongly that if the Club is to retain its true personal connection with Stowe, and not become a Government-controlled institution—a real danger now—present and Old Stoics will have to make some greater effort to help us by taking an active interest in the Club.

At present the Committee consists of the following Old Stoics—Gordon Morison, Walter Morison, Dick Kenyon, George Pick, Michael Patmore, John Lilley, Martin Buckmaster, Clemens Reiche and Philip Syrett; there are also two Old Club Boys, Bob Fleming and Ben Worley. It meets at the Club once a month. The membership is not yet complete, and we should be glad to have any keen newcomers.

Yours faithfully,  
THE LONDON COMMITTEE.



## MODERN STUDIES

On November 13th, the Members of the "Modern Studies" Side spent a day in London. In the morning they attended the proceedings at Bow Street Police Court. The presiding Magistrate, Mr. L. R. Dunne, M.C., had kindly arranged the visit, and before the Court opened the Police Inspector gave a stimulating talk on the history of Police Courts and the procedure.

In the afternoon the Side was the guest of The London Hospital in Whitechapel. The visit had been arranged through the kindness of Mr. Alan Brews. For several hours the party was shown in detail the organization of this great hospital, and was afterwards entertained to tea by the Dean and the Governor of the Hospital.

On December 2nd, Dr. Edmund Martin, Senior Medical Officer at the Ministry of Health, gave a talk on "The National Health Act."

## THE DARIUS AND CARACTACUS RELIEFS

The Darius relief, on the east wall of the North Hall, is an alto-relievo in white marble by Christophe Veyrier, a French sculptor who died in 1690. The relief portrays Alexander visiting the tent of Darius Codomannus, the Persian king, after the battle of Issus in 333 B.C. when Darius was defeated and fled, leaving his family to the mercy of Alexander. The latter treated them with great kindness and in the relief can be seen raising Sisygambis, Darius' mother, who has kneeled before him. Behind her stands Statira, Darius' wife, who had the reputation of being the most beautiful woman in the world. At the extreme left can be seen Darius' young daughters.

The earliest reference to the existence of this relief is made in Seeley's book on the gardens and house of Stowe, as published in 1759, where the following description of it can be read: "Over the Chimney is a very curious Piece of Alt-Relief: The Story is Darius' Tent."

Around the top of the relief the following words are inscribed: CHRISTOPHORUS VEIRERIUS TRITENSIS FECIT AQUIS (Aix). In view of this quite legible inscription, it is surprising that in both the 1848 and 1922 sales at Stowe the relief is attributed to the Dutch sculptor, Peter Scheemaker, who was responsible for the alt-relief that adorns the pediment of the Temple of Concord.

On the opposite wall of the North Hall is another alt-relief, again in white marble, by the English sculptor Thomas Banks (1735-1805). It represents Caractacus, the rebel king of the Silures, a British tribe, who was betrayed to Rome in 51 A.D. by Cartimandua, the queen of a North British tribe, and brought to Rome in chains, before Claudius the Roman Emperor. The latter is said to have been so impressed by Caractacus' noble manner of speech that he pardoned him.

It was originally surmised that the Caractacus relief was specially commissioned as a pendant to the Darius one, but this view is precluded by the different styles and size of figures.

S.B.L.

## A ROYAL VISIT TO STOWE 1764

Of all the magnificent banquets given upon the visit of Royalty to Stowe, perhaps none was so magnificent and displayed so much opulence as that occasioned by the visit of the Princess Amelia, the daughter of George II, in the July of 1764.

It is an interesting reminder of the days when Stowe was at the height of its fame, when money flowed as freely as a mountain torrent, and when England was ruled from the drawing-room of Earl Temple. Stowe's owner liked to fill it with all that was noblest and best in the English aristocracy; and Pitt, Walpole, Pope and Chesterfield, all knew the hall that we know.

On the 23rd of July, 1764, towards one o'clock, the coaches bearing the Princess Amelia and her suite drove up to the North Front steps past lines of cheering servants. One of the lady's maids noted down what she saw:

"At three went for dinner, the first course consisting of twenty-one dishes, elegantly served and well arranged, a second course of twenty-seven dishes, the capital dishes in the first course twice removed, and a well filled side table of wholesome cheer all served on plate. Her Royal Highness ate off gold. Twelve gentlemen, well dressed, waited at table and twenty-four in livery waited in the next room, and in the grand hall (now the Assembly) near the dining room was a grand concert of music; the same evening, and every evening during her Highness's stay, apartments were illuminated with 120 wax lights. At half-past ten Her Royal Highness retired to her bed-chamber and the nobles to supper, consisting of twenty-one dishes and a fine dessert."

For the next few days the guests roamed round the gardens and explored, and admired the elegant classic monuments and temples which surrounded the house.

On the last day of the Royal visit, a grand fête was given in the grotto. At nine, Horace Walpole and Earl Temple, so crippled by gout that they were unable to go down the steps and had, perforce, to be lifted down to the ground, went to review the gardens and grotto—all well illuminated, in spite of the rain.

"At ten," my informant continues, "the gardens were illuminated with above a thousand lights, and the water before the grotto was covered with floating lights. At the further end of the canal on a ship, which was enormously figured with lights, was a place for the music which was performed all supper time. Upwards of a thousand people came from all parts to see the company at supper, which greatly added to the grandeur and magnificence of the place. Her Highness walked down to the grotto at half-past ten, and was pleased and delighted with the grand prospect which was presented to her view; nothing was seen but lights and people, nothing was heard but music and fireworks and nothing was felt but joy and happiness. Her Highness then walked through the people and lights with great satisfaction and sat down in company for an elegant cold supper. Came home before twelve."

The next day the Princess left after having reiterated many times her enjoyment of the visit. Other guests appear to have been not so well satisfied with their entertainment; one of them wrote: "Stowe Party ended badly; the weather bad—the wine bad—and the ceremony intolerable."

P.E.L.

## SQUASH À L' IRLANDAISE

Most people are aware of the fundamentals of the game. Yet to me the word "Squash" conjures up not just a strenuous affair in which four walls, a small and elusive ball and 0-8 figure largely but some other and yet more intriguing aspects. A game of squash is not won by placing the ball where your opponent cannot reach it. There are other and subtler means.

First amongst these is the art of choosing whom you intend to "play" with. Always choose, never be chosen. In this way you may be able to select a timid, retiring and polite creature who, no matter how good he is at the "game" of Squash, as distinct from my method which entails regarding Squash as a kind of duel, may be defeated, if my instructions are closely followed. Do not choose distinguished Rugger Players, as they are apt to be rude, forthright fellows who might adopt the methods I shall outline and apply them with added vigour.

Having chosen your opponent or victim proceed to the court. The toss for service follows. *Nota Bene* (I know a few people on Side One): Never let your opponent toss the racquet—in so doing it is possible for him to win the toss. Turn the racquet several times in your hand and then say to him "Rough or Smooth?" "Smooth," he replies. You glance at the racquet; it is smooth. "Bad luck," you say, "Rough." Serve immediately, lest he approach and detect the artifice.

Let us say the score stands at 4-0 to him. Now is the time to adopt subtler methods of play. Somehow you must cripple, terrify or injure your opponent. Now is your chance! You have played a clever, gentle shot (your best legitimate effort so far) into the front right hand corner. The opponent, now crouching in the corner, has managed to get the ball up, but it is a clumsy shot to the centre of the court, where you are standing. Quick, lash the ball at him! Yes, you fool, AT HIM!! Hit him anywhere. You've got him; just above the left ear; what luck for a novice! Some authorities hold that the impact of a squash ball upon the human body is most detrimental in the region of the neck, where if the initial velocity of the missile is violent enough a slight paralysis may follow. Many of my friends prefer this locality. As for myself I recommend the ear and its surrounding area. Yet this question is purely academic and of no interest to the casual player. Any portion of the body is better than none.

The next development will probably strike you as certain proof of the mental deficiency of your opponent. Holding his glowing ear or bruised neck, he'll say "That's your point." This has never ceased to amaze me. Whether it is in order by The Laws of the Game, I know not, but I do know that if you have chosen your opponent skilfully the chances are he'll either give you the point spontaneously or believe you when you tell him it's yours. You have now gained a point and reduced your opponent to a state of nervous terror.

A blow with the racquet is generally more painful, but more care will have been exercised in its execution lest it appear premeditated. Thus the blow will generally have to be on the backswing of the racquet. This is the procedure. Your opponent is crouching in one of the back corners of the court where you have trapped him. You are just in front of him and the ball is bouncing towards you. As it approaches raise the racquet, swing it forward, thereby providing plenty of room for a good backhand swing. Now swing the racquet back, striking your opponent smartly on the kneecap. If he sees the blow coming he will cry out, in which case strike him upon the mouth. It is delightfully exhilarating to hear the cry cut short. You have now



Photo by ]

THE PALLADIAN BRIDGE, STOWE.

[ J.F.R.



THE PALLADIAN BRIDGE, WILTON



Photo by ]

THE DORIC ARCH

[ R.S.D. ]

injured him, thereby curtailing his manoeuvrability and you may of course claim a replay owing to the fact that he was obstructing you.

Blows on the forward swing permit greater violence but are less easy to achieve without suspicion. All blows must of course always appear accidental.

Two final tips. Never say "Was I in your way"? even if you have purposely darted between your opponent and the ball. If he is a "sportsman" and a fool, and he generally is, he will say nothing. Lastly, if at Stowe, always choose Courts 3, 4 or 5. Here the privacy is greater and the cries of pain are muffled. Spectators are unusual and thus the methods I have outlined may be freely used and even improved upon.

Using these methods, it is possible you may yet win at Squash. Yet do not use them over often in the same game, or the results may be startlingly violent. As a very distinguished gentleman said recently, "You've had the dope, but remember: 'Enough is as good as a feast.'"

P.M.D.

## ARMA VIRUMQUE CANO . . .

*(With apologies to our valued Captain).*

Few people in the School can realise that, amid the welter of rigger-players and squash-racketeers, a few well-intentioned souls are keeping alive that ancient sport of kings, the art of fence. Indeed, most would be hard put to it to discover these anachronistics, for their habitat is normally the near right-hand corner of the Gym. But once a year, or sometimes, when the Secretary has been unusually daring, even twice, these strange beings come into the limelight: a match has been arranged! Excitement mounts to fever-pitch, and for weeks beforehand the team can be seen practising its most lethal thrusts and surest parries.

On the day itself, Assembly is requisitioned: the Masters' Common Room stair-carpet is carefully unrolled upon the flags of Assembly, care being taken to hide that nasty-looking tear about three-quarters of the way down: an ample audience, both of whom are medical for rigger, has arrived in anticipation of bloodshed, and gazes with awe, nay even jealousy, at the eight stalwart individuals "plated in habiliments of war," who are knowingly bending their weapons to and fro and discussing the relative merits of the French, Spanish and Portuguese grips. The fights themselves appear to the onlookers, who have undoubtedly been expecting some nifty Errol Flynn-like action, but a farce. Two individuals step on to the mat, perfunctorily salute a herd of judges, presidents, scorers, referees and timekeepers, enmask themselves and then line up swords. "Play" (or "jouez," according to nationality and education), calls the president, and the drama is on. But after a few seemingly futile jabs, a halt is called and, presumably for the benefit of any judge or other official whose attention may have wandered, a lengthy synopsis of the moves is given. The judges are then called upon to verify a hit which the audience has not yet perceived. This is invariably the signal for an outburst of petty bickering; phrases like "passé—abstain—with confirmation—good for me"—(the last not meaning what one might think) pass back and forth, while the duellists themselves stand with martyred expressions upon their semi-visible features.

After deep cogitation the president (and not a soul would disagree) decides that the matter is too tricky for him to solve, and calls, "I can't award that point." Honour is satisfied on both sides, and the fight is resumed.

The sabre is undoubtedly the most convincing weapon: the audience sits up—"That's more like fighting." The air is filled with the clash of steel and a hum of excitement goes up as one of the competitors sinks dazed to the floor following a full-arm smash to the head. But sympathy is excluded: a hit was undoubtedly scored, and that is what counts. The player is dragged to his feet, hoarsely encouraged and pushed forward to face his smugly-smiling opponent again. But, such are the vicissitudes of fortune, the erstwhile victor himself is, a few minutes later, paralysed and incapacitated by a savage hook to the shoulder. At last the match is over; the spectators retire, after desultory applause, firmly convinced of the superiority of the Mossbergs, while the teams amble slowly off, with the happy prospect of sugar in their tea and a return match next year.

S.B.L.

## IMPRESSIONS OF THE FIRST POST-WAR CORPS CAMP

It was with mixed feelings that I reviewed the week before me on the eve of the 1947 Corps camp. I was partly curious to know what to expect and what it was like; and partly fearful of the thought of six field-days in a row.

It turned out to be one of the hottest days of the year. We had to 'embus' to Buckingham station, 'de-bus,' and 'entrain' for Colchester. This we did without serious mishap, although someone was nearly hurled out of the W.D. truck while cornering near Chackmore.

Proceeding via Bletchley and Cambridge we eventually landed up, over an hour late, at Colchester, after ten hours' travelling. The heat was intolerable, and what made it worse was the thick battle-dress we wore, and all the impedimenta we carried. We piled into more W.D. vehicles which took us at high speed to the Roman Way Camp, which is not quite as old as its name implies.

The camp was divided into two halves, one of which was occupied by a detachment of Coldstream Guards, and the other was the Cadet Force camp. We were taken through the lines to our bell-tents, each of which contained six people. After supper we marched to the M.O. hut for a medical inspection. Next we were issued with blankets and palliasses, and we then prepared for sleep.

To get a general impression of the camp you must imagine a large open field, down one side of which is a block of tents, six deep, and with about five yards between each. In the centre of the field are the eating tents, each with a cook-house in attendance at the side. Nearby is the 'ablution' place, with running cold water. On the far side is another block of tents, store huts and the beginning of the Regular Army camp. On a third side of the field are slightly more luxurious tents for the officers, and in a corner is the entrance from the main road from Colchester to the coast. Some distance away are about half a dozen 30-yard ranges and further away are the open ranges.

That first night was mostly spent in arranging our blankets so that the numerous earwigs which appeared from the palliasses could not attack us. The night was disturbed by intermittent screams from people who had not prepared their defences sufficiently well. However, a severe shaking got rid of most of the pests next morning.

The daily routine was roughly as follows:—Reveille at 6.30 a.m., breakfast at 7.30, and then several periods of training under officers and N.C.O.'s of the Cambridge University S.T.C., with a N.A.A.F.I. break at eleven o'clock. After lunch there was more routine training until tea. We saw several very interesting demonstrations by the Airborne Division, the Sappers, the R.A., the R.A.C. and others. Amongst other things, we saw a new weapon, still on the secret list, for clearing minefields.

Since we were dismissed soon after four o'clock, and did not have to be back in the camp until ten, we had the opportunity of going into Colchester, about two miles away. The chief attraction was the 'Dodgem' car track in an amusement place. This was almost entirely taken over by uniformed Stoics from five o'clock until 9.30.

During our week at camp we had a visit from Mr. A. V. Alexander and some high-up officers. The Minister of Defence made a speech and watched us during training.

There were about 800 cadets at the camp, about 120 of whom came from Stowe, and I think that on the whole everyone enjoyed himself despite the sweltering heat which made rifle drill in a thin shirt instead of battle-dress rather uncomfortable.

I know that in my case the whole affair turned out to be far more pleasant than I had expected, but it was with some relief that I went out of the barrier for the last time in a lorry which took us to Colchester station, and home.

G.L.D.D.

## HAPPY (?) DAYS!

(A Field Day in the Recruits.)

We started the day by parading at about 9 o'clock in the morning, dressed in those warm, well-fitting, comfortable "things"—I can't think of any other word to describe them—called denims, and formed a queue for our rations. We were then given maps, told the map reference of the place which we had to find, and marched off in sections to various different places. Having reached these various different places, we were sent off in twos and threes, at meant-to-be-five-minute intervals, to find the objective.

Our group, three of us, walked along the road for a little, with the rest of the section watching us, then turned down a long wide lane, which, according to the map, would take us part of the way towards our goal. When we had strolled down this lane for about ten minutes we looked behind us and were not surprised to see the rest of the section, in three or four groups, following us at well-spaced intervals. This seemed a bit unfair, and also rather pointless, so we increased speed until we rounded a corner and got out of sight. Needless to say, they all saw us rounding the corner, so it didn't really make much difference.

However, continuing on our way, after a little while we came to a hedge covered with blackberries, whereupon we decided to stop and have our fill. On looking over the hedge we saw a couple of boys who had decided to do the thing properly, that is, sitting down, taking off their Mills equipment (which consists of a haversack and water bottle supported by hundreds of straps which are always getting twisted and entangled),

and having their "elevenses" in comfort. They asked us to come and join them, but we could not be bothered, and having finished the blackberries we went on.

Next we came to a large field, where about six couples of recruits were standing by the hedge at regular intervals consuming as many blackberries as possible. So, not yet satisfied, we decided to join them, and choosing a vacant spot we set to work. Unfortunately in a few minutes a patrolling lance-corporal decided to butt in and told us to clear off. Gradually the couples disappeared from the field, but we happened to be the last to leave. It was as I suspected. As soon as the majority had gone, the N.C.O. himself immediately began to tuck in with great gusto. This seemed rather mean, so I asked him why he should be allowed to eat them and not us. Having received the usual answer "Mind your own business and don't be cheeky," we went away, feeling rather peeved.

We then remembered that somewhere there was an "enemy" post, full of N.C.Os. who were supposed to be digging a trench or something futile in the vicinity, which we had to observe. We therefore, on coming to the next field, looked very carefully over the hedge to see if the post was there. We saw a group of corporals, etc., leaning on spades, eating blackberries, or strolling around with rifles in one corner of the field, and when one of them started blazing away in our direction with blanks, we retired, presuming that we had been seen. Anyway we had seen them, and that was all that mattered, since we could now give in our report of the N.C.Os. "digging a trench."

On coming to the end of the hedge, we looked down the hill and saw a dilapidated barn, on which half the corps seemed to be converging, so we gathered that that was our objective. We therefore strolled down the hill, gave our names in to the Sergeant, sat down, and took out our lunch rations. These consisted of one cheese sandwich, one corned beef sandwich, and one bun with jam or something inside it. Being stuffed in a small haversack plus a cape (for letting in the rain) and a pair of gym-shoes did not exactly enhance their appearance, as they were now squashed and mangled beyond all signs of recognition. However, they were something to eat (or were they?).

After the meal we were all told how bad we were at creeping up on an enemy post, and how we should never make rude remarks to N.C.Os., whereupon each N.C.O. gave a snobbish snigger. We were then informed about the "battle" we were going to have that afternoon. A battle merely consists of each section tearing round the country-side looking for another section to fight, and generally getting in a frightful mess. There is no need to go into the details of this one. Oh, by the way, there is one little addition to the battle, just to give it the right atmosphere, and that is—camouflage cream. This is a thing one dreads all morning, and is covered with all afternoon. It consists of a brown, gritty liquid, which glues up your face and hands; then, if it happens to be raining, it remains wet on your face, and forms drops on the end of your nose. Even after you have spent about an hour trying to wash it off at the end of the day, your face will still retain brown streaks all over it. However, to return to the battle. We ended up as usual, wet through, stung by nettles, thistles, ants and anything else you can possibly think of, and paraded in preparation for the march home, surrounded by the same swarm of flies which had followed us for the whole afternoon.

We marched off, feebly singing "Ten green bottles" and "One man went to mow," back to the school where a delicious tea of one cake, one bun and one boiling hot cup of water, coloured like tea, awaited us. So ended another never-to-be-forgotten Recruits Field Day.

M.F.M.

## J.T.C. NOTES

There are two innovations to record this term, both of which promise well for the future. One is the inauguration of a Demonstration Platoon under Capt. Saunders, which is intended not only to help in the training of the Cert. "A" Platoons, but also to act as a cadre for potential N.C.Os. and to add some variety to the Post-Cert. "A" work of the Corps.

So far it has made good progress towards all three objects. Three excellent demonstrations have been given, the standard of keenness and efficiency has been exceptionally high; and a number of those who were profiting very little from the few specialist activities available have been given something more interesting and profitable to do. It is hoped that this Platoon will become a permanent feature of the J.T.C. organization.

The other innovation is, alas, unlikely to be permanent. Until Government policy on the employment of Senior Training Corps has clarified the C.O. of the Oxford University S.T.C. has time and instructors free to take on a certain number of Cadets from various schools in and around Oxford and train them for Cert. "B." About 25 Cadets from Stowe have been enrolled temporarily as members of the Oxford Contingent and are in the hands of the S.T.C. instructors every Tuesday, 12 as infantrymen and 13 as gunners, and they will next Summer go to Camp with the Oxford S.T.C. Apart from the advantages that these Cadets will enjoy, when they join the army, if they get their Certificate "B," it is hoped that the Corps as a whole will benefit by a higher standard of training when a certain number of these people become available next year, unless the announcement of the Government's intentions with regard to Territorial Army Service is still further postponed.

These new activities have offset the disappearance of the Naval Section, which, without the adequate support from outside authority, had for so long only been kept in being by the energy and enthusiasm of Major Haworth. It is possible that some substitute both for this and the A.T.C., also now in abeyance, may be provided in the new scheme for a Combined Cadet Force which is now under consideration. But it is too early to forecast what that final organization will be and how far the structure of the J.T.C. will have to be altered to meet its requirements.

Promotions for this term are as follows:—

To *Under-Officer*: Sergeants S. B. Cunningham (T), S. B. Lloyd (C), O. B. Sayer (T).

To *Sergeant*: Corporals J. F. Law (C), M. Morland (B), C. A. Wauhope (C), N. N. Proddow (C), G. L. D. Duckworth (C), E. M. L. Latham (C), L. R. S. Marler (S), C. H. Bradley (B).

To *Acting Sergeant and Band Sergeant*: Corporal H. T. Bowles (T).

To *Corporal*: Lance-Corporals F. J. Hawkins (S), D. H. Gaskell (C), P. B. E. Gibson (B), R. G. Macmillan (C), J. M. Shinner (B), I. S. Rutherford (W), M. C. A.

Mott (C), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), P. J. Norris-Hill (G), A. de F. Mellor (B), J. N. W. Bridges-Adams (G).

To *Lance-Corporal*: M. Doyle (C), A. K. Thould (C), C. H. Bartlett (T), J. A. McGougan (C), M. H. Ewbank (C), F. A. Ruhemann (C), I. V. de Wesselow (C), M. E. Harding (T), D. W. Egerton (T), W. G. Brown (W), J. P. Richardson (T), C. J. Guise (T), B. R. Goulder (G), J. E. Farr (B), R. S. Dove (W), F. G. Everard (G), G. R. A. Miskin (W), D. G. J. Gordon-Dean (W), J. M. Donner (G), B. E. Smith (G), B. A. Platt (C), T. J. Greenley (W).

## SHOOTING

A "Possibles" prize of one guinea was offered again this term to all members of the J.T.C. under the same conditions as last term. Shooting for it has continued all the term and at the moment R. S. Dove (W) is leading with six out of seven possibles and J. B. Makinson (B) is second with five possibles.

On Thursday, November 6th, the team shot in the preliminary round of the N.S.R.A. Public Schools Championship, which consisted of firing ten rounds with unlimited time on "Tin-Hat" five-bull targets. The team was:—D. R. Stickland (B), J. N. Vinen (W), C. P. R. Litchford (C), R. H. F. Cox (T), M. R. D. Gayford (W), J. M. Rigg (W), R. S. Dove (W), J. A. S. Eccles (G). Major McElwee was range superintendent. 673 points were scored out of a possible 808. The results have not come through yet.

Last term, in the preliminary round of the Major-General W. M. Ozanne Challenge Shield, the School was fourth. The final round was shot at Colchester on Sunday, July 13th, in which the School came third, scoring 412 points out of a possible 440. The team was:—G. W. Dawes (B), R. S. Dove (W), C. M. Hilton (W), J. E. Farr (B), J. N. Vinen (W), C. P. R. Litchford (C), J. M. Rigg (W), J. A. S. Eccles (G). C. M. Hilton and R. S. Dove scored possibles.

Another match will be shot against Whitgift School, South Croydon, at the beginning of December and a match against the Buckingham Police may be arranged.

J.E.F.

## THE LIBRARY

J. Lockwood (W) has been the only new librarian this term. Cataloguing of the books remaining in the gallery was interrupted by examinations in the middle of the term, but has now been continued.

The following books have been presented:—By Lady Connor, *London's Natural History*, R. S. R. Fitter; *Journey Home*, E. H. Partridge; *Butterflies*, E. B. Ford; *British Game*, B. Vesey-Fitzgerald; *Britain's Structure and Scenery*, L. Dudley Stamp; *South of the Sabara*, Attilio Gatti; *The Snow Goose*, Paul Gallico; *The Golden Throng*, Edwin Way Teale. By Major Haworth, *Hawbuck Grange*, *Handley Cross*, *Plain or Ringlets*, *Ask Mamma*, *Mr. Sponge's Sporting Tour* and *Mr. Romford's Hounds*, by R. S. Surtees; and *The Times Atlas of the World*. *The British Film Year Book*, compiled by Peter Noble, was presented by the publisher, P. S. Robinson (G, 1940), who also presented *British Film Music*, by John Huntley.

## THE ART SCHOOL

As always, weather has determined any painting done in the Art School. D. B. Holt (B) has symbolised, if he has not captured, the colouring of autumn in several pictures, and the disadvantages of cold and wind appear scarcely to have affected his work.

A. Caiger-Smith (T) has produced several interesting pictures, though his interest in paint sometimes over-rides the objects represented in his pictures, making them unintelligible. He has improved his portrait of Mr. Watt and painted Mrs. Watt, inevitably in conversation. D. W. Egerton (T) has profited from time specially allotted and has painted several indoor subjects and flowers, showing unsuspected skill with colour and composition.

D. C. Part (B) has produced an admirable set for the Congreve Club production of "Tobias and the Angel," skilfully creating the illusion of varying levels, and surpassing any scenery made at Stowe for many years.

The outstanding event of this term was a visit to the National Gallery to see the cleaned pictures. The party, which included a number of scientists, was conducted through the exhibition by Mr. Ruhemann who besides being a Stowe parent is also technical adviser to the National Gallery. After seeing the pictures, watching an actual demonstration of cleaning, and having the diagnostic methods explained, even the most apprehensive were re-assured. From the painters' point of view it was interesting to see how the brown varnish had disturbed the composition. Its effect was to kill the whites and turn the blues to green, while the reds and yellows were relatively unchanged. This was particularly noticeable in the partially cleaned flower painting by Van Huysum.

At the exhibition last term the prizewinners were:—

*Headmaster's Prize*—A. Caiger-Smith (T).

*1st Arts Prize*—D. B. Holt (B).

*2nd Arts Prize*—D. C. Part (B).

A.C.S.

## THE DEBATING SOCIETY

At last the much heralded new minute book has arrived, subscribed in three-penny bits by many grudging members of past generations. The Officers of the Society for the Christmas Term were:—President, Mr. J. M. Todd; Vice-President, Mr. W. L. McElwee; Honorary Secretary, M. Morland (B); Honorary Treasurer, A. K. Thould (C); Honorary Librarian, Lord Primrose (W); Committee-man, P. M. Dempster (B).

At the 180th Meeting the Motion before the House was: "In the opinion of this House a Liberal Party is out of place in the modern world."

G. S. BAKER (T), the Proposer, tried to point out that Liberalism did not fit in with Communism or Trumanism.

J. R. J. BURNHAM (T), the Opposer, in an informative, witty and never facetious speech, defended the British Liberal Party against charges of vague idealism and out-worn theories.

J. F. PIM (B), speaking third, showed that equality and liberty were incompatible. He displayed a penetrating study of the French Revolution with its Rights of Man and Girondins.

THE HONORARY LIBRARIAN, speaking fourth, replied by launching a crusade of Liberal conservatism.

The Motion was defeated in both houses easily.

At the 181st Meeting, the Motion before the House was that "In the opinion of the House, music is the most dangerous drug of modern life."

S. B. LLOYD (C) proposed with the help of bobby soxers, Frank Sinatra and tom-toms.

G. H. ROOKE (C) opposed with such excessive erudition and wit that the Lower House imagined that they were at a divinity lesson.

H. T. BOWLES (T) speaking third used a symphony concert to further the motion.

A. CAIGER-SMITH (T) speaking fourth picked the motion to pieces by means of arithmetic.

The Motion was lost by large majorities in both houses.

At the 182nd Meeting, the Motion before the House was: "In the opinion of this House, scientific discovery has brought more evil to the world than good."

THE HON. SECRETARY proposed, claiming that material development had outstripped the spiritual and physical.

M. H. EWBANK (C) opposed, slyly accusing the proposition of Historians as carnal indolence.

G. N. BEVERIDGE (C) argued with great brilliance. This third speech was the best debating effort of the term.

G. L. D. DUCKWORTH (C) used his amazing fund of wit at the expense of the President.

The Motion was carried in the Upper House, but lost in the Lower.

The average attendance for the term was about fifty.

M.M.

## CONGREVE CLUB

Two full-length plays in one term is the Club's latest experiment, which, though not likely to be repeated, has been fruitful in two respects at least. The 'Junior' play has been useful for finding new actors and has had inevitably to be directed and produced without adult help. J. R. J. Burnham's (T) production of "Lady Precious Stream" would have been a worth-while venture, even if it had not been, as it certainly was, an artistic and financial success. The Club's major resources have been concentrated on James Bridie's "Tobias and the Angel," which demands a high degree of acting, and which is supported by scenic and lighting effects more ambitious and complex than anything so far attempted. Both plays are reviewed below.

Much valuable work has been done in the Gymnasium, with the construction of a cyclorama and an enlargement of the acting area. An accurate plotting of sight-lines on the principle advocated in Mr. Southern's lecture, skilful designing by D. C. Part (B), and some gruelling work by M. F. Mellor (B), P. G. Powers (C), G. H. Rooke (C) and others, has resulted in some effective sets. The costumes designed and made by Mrs. Watt have not only been better than anything that could have been hired, but perfectly matched to the scenery.

There has been one Club expedition, to Oxford, for the Old Vic. production of "The Taming of the Shrew."

### "TOBIAS AND THE ANGEL"

The choice of "Tobias and the Angel" as the Congreve Club's main play of the year was both happy and bold; happy, because any means of transport from our austere and now almost completely insulated island to the warmth and colour of the East was exceedingly welcome, and bold, because the necessary warmth and colour were clearly going to be difficult to achieve in times more remarkable for a uniformly chilly drabness, whose monotony can generally be broken only by vast expenditure of coupons, permits, units, docketts and the like. One felt that, if these external difficulties could be overcome, the internal construction of the play was sound enough to allow both actors and audience to enjoy its performance. The work of a very experienced playwright, it makes no attempt to move deeply, aspires to no greatness, and sets out merely to entertain, a function it performs most adequately by a skilful use of situation, dialogue, and most piquant inroads of modernity into the age and atmosphere of "Mesopotamia and Northern Persia before the reign of Ahasuerus."

This contrast in the realm of time is matched by a similar contrasting of characters. Apart from the obvious juxtaposition of Tobias and the Angel, there is the contrast between Tobit and Anna, and also, in a different way, between Tobit and Raguel, between the Angel and Asmoday, and even, particularly strikingly, between Sherah and Azorah. This piece of dramatic technique, of course, makes it easy for the various characters to play to each other. The dignity and detachment of the Angel is set off by the easy familiarity of Tobias, Anna's worldliness acts as a foil to Tobit's impractical idealism, and the shrewd business sense of Raguel seems to stretch across the Acts in the same direction. And finally the felinity of Azorah is pleasantly matched with the vacillancy of Sherah.

With this propulsive power behind them, the actors did very well indeed. G. R. A. Miskin (W) as Tobit had a pretty thankless task—a bore remains a bore even if a lovable one—but he certainly succeeded in expressing Tobit's charm and individuality. His was a capable performance in the duller part in the play. G. H. Rooke (C) had a much easier task in portraying the worldly tactless Raguel, a shorter and much more incisive part, and he got full value out of it, being greatly helped by quick and crisp speech and an admirable sense of timing. In the smaller male parts, which were all highly unpleasant, the producer Mr. Dams metamorphosed himself into a peculiarly repulsive bandit; I. S. Rutherford (W) nobly allowed himself to be transformed into a coffee-coloured Aethiopian slave with obviously hours of washing in front of him, while J. D. Lloyd (B) became Asmoday, a demon, and a most impressive one.

R. G. Macmillan (C) and A. I. MacGregor (B) made an effective team as Tobias and the Angel. Macmillan gave a good interpretation of Tobias: he had plenty of gaucherie and ingenuousness, but did not over-play these sides of the character at the expense of its real warm-heartedness and natural goodness. MacGregor had the physical presence, if not quite the voice, for the Angel, and by a wise economy of gesture and a subtle significance of expression, both in great contrast to the gesticulations and general formlessness of Tobias, he slowly but surely built up a most interesting figure from whom we were sorry to have to part at curtain-fall.

The female roles were less important, but were all well cast. J. D. Nightingale (C) gave definite personality to Anna, which must have been of great help to Tobit in his long and arduous part. C. M. C. Royds (C) was very fascinating as the pretty slave, and D. B. Holt (B) sufficiently Junoesque as the not so pretty one. As Sara, R. G. Sparrow (W) was most admirable. His movements and gestures were very effective indeed, and he made excellent use of both face and voice to surround himself with an atmosphere which was a nice admixture of the languorous and the sinister.

But, as has already been said, the real difficulties of the play were the lighting, scenery, and costumes, and its undoubted success was due to a great extent to the skill with which these difficulties were overcome. The lighting, which was in the capable and experienced hands of Lord Primrose (W) and A. de F. Mellor (B) was immensely effective, and, though called upon to reproduce pretty well every phase of daylight and darkness, never failed to rise to each occasion. The first curtain, with the Angel's head enhaloed in the dark hovel, and the storm in the second Act were particularly striking. D. C. Part (B) was most successful in designing the scenery. The main problem with the Gymnasium stage is always its smallness, and Part did manage to produce a real feeling of depth in all his scenes, and, with the help of the lighting we really did get the colour and warmth of the Orient. But for the colour we were particularly indebted to the costumes, which were quite brilliant. The Angel's final elaborate garment was hired, but everything else was designed, made, and fitted by Mrs. Watt. In normal times this would have been a considerable achievement: in these coupon-ridden days it was nothing short of a miracle.

The general impression left by the performance was one of very great competence. The play was a comfortable witty extravaganza; possessing no greatness it could not evoke any, but it was not, for that reason, an easy play to produce. That so many problems were solved, and so many obstacles surmounted is very much to the credit of the Congreve Club, and, once again, we are exceedingly grateful to them for allowing us to leave the cold rawness of a December evening and take, as it were, with them the Golden Road to Samarkand.

A.M.

### "LADY PRECIOUS STREAM"

*Produced by members of the Congreve Club*

This entertainment, of a decidedly gravity-removing nature, was in the opinion of this unassuming person one of the very pleasantest which he has seen in the local Hall of Distorted Bodies and Intellectual Coloured Lights. Garlands of felicitation, and perhaps even gifts of food, should be placed at the doors of all definitely concerned, in particular at that of the Chief Arranger, J. R. J. Burnham (T). Such was the accuracy of the players regarding their words and actions that no undignified pauses calling for remarks from behind curtains were noticed, and therefore the effects which rested upon preciseness of timing were produced with confidence and intrepidity. The setting was very delicate and beautiful, and the music entirely proper and attention-compelling, though this person will continue to place his confidence in the efficacy of beating a hollow wooden duck. Further, the self-effacing thoroughness of the Men of Property in their ministrations to the players must be mentioned with respectful kow-tows.

Of the players themselves adequate discussion is invidious where all were good. His Excellency the Prime Minister Wang (G. S. Baker (T)) was unremittingly effective with his condescending affability, and his times on the stage were never periods of no-life. He was particularly good towards the end. The Dragon General (J. Lockwood (W)) and the Tiger General (J. R. J. Burnham (T)), the one a figure of a conspicuous arrogance of stomach and the other a huddle of calculating and assured felinity, made an entrance which was one of the most impressively gravity-removing sights of the evening, and had no hesitation in justifying the expectations aroused. The female personages, especially Madam Wang (R. S. McConnell (T)) and Precious Stream (R. Jameson (G)) were of an adequately terrifying sweetness and ability. One of the main vertebrae, thus to speak, of the play was the Heroic Youth (C. Graham-Bonnalie (T)), though it may be admitted that his style of acting has been seen before. Indeed, this person, who has sojourned long in the not really cultured Western Regions, ventures to say that he was irresistibly reminded afterwards of a brilliant presentation of one Gwendolen in an imagined work written by an aptly-named barbarian. He is told that the Scene of Inspiring Potations, which he incapably missed, was one of the most distinguished successes of the evening, and indeed the thought of a Gwendolen elated by a superfluity of rice-spirit is sufficiently diverting.

The Princess of the Western Regions (T. M. Irvine (T)) displayed with admirable spiritedness the contrast between the ways of civilized society and those of the Outer Barbarians, but, in the opinion of this offensively-minded critic, it was at the cost of disturbing too much the dignified serenity of the play, and though her arrival was a matter for congratulation, her exit was no less so.

As regards the portrayal of the members of the less refined classes of society, this person would devote special praise to the attitude of A. K. Thould (C) to his duties as Chief Transport Official and Executioner.

Of the important moments of the play, the efficient conclusion of the punishment of the Tiger General struck, in a way of speaking, most nearly home to the feelings of the more sensitive members of the audience and inspired the most concentrated satisfaction and sympathy.

This person may now be permitted to express his hope that the collecting bowl of the providers of the entertainment was well filled with rice and other acceptable commodities, for the whole play seemed greatly to the taste of the civilized and discriminating among those present. Doubtless it was an effort of amateurs, and a trained band of



professional story-putters-on could have displayed matters of subtlety of which this person remained ineptly unaware ; but the charm of the presentation was such that the indolent and obtuse-minded writer of these printed words has definitely no wish to attend a professional performance of the play, though he would gladly see the Stowe production again.

J.M.T.

## MUSIC

The Orchestra started this term under rather a severe handicap, having lost many of its best players at the end of last term. There is still a shortage of Horn and Bassoon players. But in spite of this the general standard of playing has been very fair if not quite up to the standard of last term. De Falla's *El Amor Brujo* Suite has proved very popular and the Orchestra has done some of its best playing in this. Mozart's *Symphony No. 40, in G minor*; Holst's *Marching Song*; "The Gods go a-begging" Suite by Handel, arr. Beecham; and Jarnefeldt's *Praeludium* have also been rehearsed. All of these were played at the School Concert on December 10th.

We shall be very sorry to lose Michael Harding at the end of this term. His achievements have been remarkable. His playing of Franck's *Symphonic Variations* with the City of Birmingham Orchestra was a worthy climax to a very successful career at Stowe.

Some mention must be made of his playing of Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* with the School Orchestra at the end of last term. This extremely complicated work was played by him with complete confidence and with a fine interpretation.

The Choral Society have been doing a large proportion of the choruses from the "Messiah," and the whole school took part in four of the most important choruses, when the work was performed in Chapel on December 7th.

J. D. Nightingale's performance of Handel's *Organ Concerto in G minor* with the orchestra half way through the performance of the "Messiah" was admirable. So also was M. Bredin's playing of the Trumpet obligato in the aria "The Trumpet shall sound" which was sung by Mr. David Carver.

The choruses "Worthy is the Lamb" and "Hallelujah," in which the whole school took part, went particularly well.

The Madrigal Society has already given one Carol Concert and will be giving two more before the end of term.

There have been two Sunday Concerts, neither of which was well attended.

A successful auction of old Gramophone records has enabled us to add considerably to our stock of Gramophone records.

## THE MUSIC SOCIETY

PIANO RECITAL, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND; CYRIL SMITH.

### PROGRAMME.

Sonata in D minor, No. 9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Scarlatti</i>
Sonata in C major, No. 32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Scarlatti</i>
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Bach-Hess</i>
Impromptu in E flat, Op. 90, No. 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Schubert</i>
Sonata in C sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2 (The Moonlight)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Beethoven</i>
Gnomenreigen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Liszt</i>
La fille aux cheveux de lin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Debussy</i>
Golliwog's Cake-walk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Debussy</i>
Prelude in G sharp minor, Op. 32, No. 12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Rachmaninoff</i>
Prelude in G flat major, Op. 32, No. 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Rachmaninoff</i>
Naila	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Delibes-Dobnanyi</i>

Cyril Smith chose a programme of well-known and popular works for his piano recital. In playing such a programme an artist is taking something of a risk, for he is necessarily competing with the interpretations of the finest musicians in the world, well-known to many through the medium of radio and gramophone records. He must then add something of his own personality to the works he plays in order to give them that freshness that can always be imparted to an audience as long as it exists in the artist himself. This in part Cyril Smith failed to do. There seemed to be not enough distinction between the classical works of the first part of the programme and the essentially Romantic pieces of the second. His attempt at an individualistic performance of the *Moonlight Sonata* took the form of mere abolition of accepted tempo and contrast. The result was that the last movement was spoiled by being played too fast. Nevertheless, Cyril Smith showed a wonderful technique and a remarkable clarity even in the most rapid passages. His touch was light and delicate and the *Scarlatti* was beautifully executed. It was a treat to hear someone with such consummate mastery over every effect of the piano.

M.B.

WOODWIND RECITAL, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH.

### PROGRAMME

Trio Sonata in C minor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Loellet</i>
Grave; Poco Allegretto; Adagio; Andante; Vivace.								
Sonata for Flute and Oboe	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Pietro Locatelli</i>
Largo; Allegro; Andante; Presto.								
Sonata in D minor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Michael Blavet</i>
Andante; Allemande; Gavotte; Sarabande; Finale. (1700-1768)								
Trio in A major	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Domenico Scarlatti (arr. Gordon Bryan)</i>
Introduzione e Prestissimo; Quasi Minuetto; Notturmo;								
Rondo alla Danza.								
Pastel Portraits for Trio	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Alec Rowley</i>
My Lady Frivol; Colin Clout; Belle Marquise; Tom Tug.								

Two Inventions for Flute and Oboe	...	...	...	Gordon Jacob
Piano Solos—Etude in B flat minor	...	...	...	Szymanowski
Gopak	...	...	...	Arnold Bax
Pastorale and Harlequinade for Trio	...	...	...	Eugene Goossens

On Wednesday, November 26th, the twice postponed visit of Evelyn Rothwell took place. With her came Edward Walker, the eminent flautist, and Wilfred Parry, the accompanist. The programme selected showed an enterprise which is rarely to be found nowadays; instead of running through some well-known Handel or Mozart sonatas, the Trio played four comparatively unknown works by early composers, which occupied the first part of the evening. After the interval they settled down to four extremely modern works; two Trios, an invention for flute and oboe by Gordon Jacob and two piano solos. The technique and ensemble of the trio was faultless and it was a positive joy to realise that the players had taken such an immense amount of trouble to render their performance as perfect as possible; for the need of adequate practice and rehearsal are too often forgotten by the sometimes complacent professional musician of to-day. Evelyn Rothwell, on the oboe, gave the most faultless performance of the evening. It was apparent that she was the helmsman of the Trio, and she played throughout with outstanding skill, with never a slip nor a slur even in the most speedy and intricate passages of the modern works. Leon Goossens, whose pupil she was, must feel proud to have produced such a perfect oboist. Edward Walker gave a solid and masterful performance on the flute, playing always in complete accord with Evelyn Rothwell. Wilfred Parry made an excellent accompanist and played his two solos with such finesse that an encore was requested and granted. It was a very great pity that the audience was so small, for a trio as expert as this cannot easily be found and thanks go out to them for providing us with such an accomplished display of perfect technique and matchless style.

H.T.B.

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT, ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD: CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
ORCHESTRA.

## PROGRAMME.

- |   |     |     |     |                             |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------------|
| 1. Overture, "Benvenuto Cellini," Op. 23        | ... | ... | ... | Berlioz<br>(1803-1869)      |
| 2. "The Walk to the Paradise Garden"            | ... | ... | ... | Delius<br>(1863-1934)       |
| 3. Symphony No. 7 in A, Op. 92                  | ... | ... | ... | Beethoven<br>(1770-1827)    |
| (i) Poco sostenuto, leading to Vivace.          |     |     |     |                             |
| (ii) Allegretto.                                |     |     |     |                             |
| (iii) Presto.                                   |     |     |     |                             |
| (iv) Allegro con brio.                          |     |     |     |                             |
| 4. Symphonic Variations for Piano and Orchestra | ... | ... | ... | César Franck<br>(1822-1890) |
|   |     |     |     | Piano—MICHAEL HARDING (T)   |
| 5. Overture, "Cockaigne," Op. 40                | ... | ... | ... | Elgar<br>(1857-1934)        |
| In London Town.                                 |     |     |     |                             |

The concert began with the overture to "Benvenuto Cellini," a rarely heard work but one showing to the full Berlioz's magnificent orchestration as well as containing some beautiful melodic writing. It was played with tremendous vigour and the effect of brass and strings in the climaxes was thrilling. The wood-wind, however, had neither the richness nor the clarity of tone necessary to make the contrast of the lyrical passages effective.

Delius' "Walk to the Paradise Garden" was flawlessly executed and it is difficult to find a way of expressing a criticism of the performance; yet some criticism is necessary. Sir Thomas Beecham has so impressed upon the public his own interpretations of Delius and his own high standards of their execution that any other performances have come to seem poor beside his. Nevertheless, something was lacking in Mr. Weldon's interpretation. Whether this was due to heaviness, or lack of contrast or whether it was again the fault of a rather weak wood-wind section is difficult to say, but the feeling left was not one of full satisfaction.

Beethoven's 7th Symphony was played with great energy and the last two movements were certainly most exciting. The last movement was taken very fast and the strings were magnificent both in their richness of tone and in their precision. The first two movements suffered a little from lack of light and shade and a rather heavy tone all round, especially in the first violins. The wood-wind also was not clear enough in the slow movement. The power of the last two movements, however, compensated amply for any deficiency in the first two.

It is difficult to speak adequately of Michael Harding's performance of César Franck's "Symphonic Variations" without losing one's sense of proportion. For someone still at school and completely unknown in professional musical circles to be asked to play with one of the finest orchestras in the country was both a great honour and a remarkable achievement. It was, besides, one of the great distinctions in the history of the school. Perhaps the only way of paying adequate tribute to Michael Harding's brilliant achievement is to criticise his performance by the standards of soloists accustomed to playing with the foremost orchestras of the country and under the most distinguished conductors. Even considered thus, the only fault that people had to find with the performance was that in some places his tone was not sufficient to come out above the orchestra. Even with that criticism the writer would not agree. The balance of piano and orchestra seemed to be excellent throughout, except during one fortissimo passage for full orchestra where one does not expect to hear the soloist anyway. No, it is indeed remarkable that, as if he had been playing with big orchestras for years, he managed both to rise out above the orchestra and to keep such a rich and sympathetic tone. His rubato was, as usual, quite perfect—just enough to express his individual feeling, but not enough to become merely capricious—and his playing with the orchestra was remarkably polished (after only thirty minutes rehearsal), showing a deep understanding of the subtle rhythms and of the delicate nuances of contrast. All this may sound as if the performance was as perfect as it is possible to be. This, of course, is not quite true. There was the very occasional technical slip and in places a little laxity of time, but if this performance is anything to judge by (and it was by no means unusual for him, as those of us who have had so much pleasure from his inter-

pretations of Rachmaninoff will remember) he should go far towards reaching the very highest class of pianists. His performance, last term, of Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini will be remembered by many as being the high-water mark of school music anywhere. He has always that rare combination of polished technique and genuine understanding. We all wish him most sincerely all the success he deserves.

In the overture to "Cockaigne" the Birmingham Orchestra really came into its own, as in "Benvenuto Cellini." This wonderful draw on Elgar's resources of imagery demands great richness and sweetness in the strings and a great deal of noise all round. It got both. A huge, almost vulgar work, this overture nevertheless contains all that is best in Elgar and it was performed superbly.

In general, the orchestra was well co-ordinated and the brass in particular was excellent. The wood-wind section was undoubtedly weak and the second fiddles were at times a little heavy, but in general the effect was one of power and precision. Mr. George Weldon was in complete control of his orchestra though he was a little unrelieved and monotonous in some works, notably the Delius and the Beethoven. However, thanks are due to him and the orchestra for a concert which did so much to excite and refresh everybody who heard it.

M.B.

## GRAMOPHONE RECORDS

For the past few years the School's collection of records has been treated in a most haphazard and brutal manner by those who use it. A census of all records has been taken, which reveals that during the last two years a large number of records have been misappropriated by unscrupulous gramophiles, to say nothing of many more cracked, chipped or broken. This term the School has been fortunate enough, owing to funds raised by an auction of duplicate records, and by a donation from an Old Stoic, to buy a large number of new records. In future therefore, the whole collection will be kept under lock, and any member of the School who wishes to play records will have to approach his House Music Representative, who will have a key. By this means it is hoped to cut down all unnecessary breakages and loss.

S.B.L.

## RUGBY FOOTBALL

### THE FIRST FIFTEEN

This has been a most disappointing season from the point of view of the results, but there has only been one back with potential scoring power and he has rarely been given the ball with room in which to move. It has been proved that unless a team has the ability to score at least an average of ten points a match, it is difficult to win with any consistency.

On the whole the team has played according to form, but the standard of play in the Radley and Harrow games was lower than bears description. The season began with a heavy defeat by a strong Oxfordshire team including two dark "blues." The first school match against Rugby was not discouraging, when Stowe lost by a fairly narrow margin against one of the best school teams of the year. Bedford won easily, but with a more organized defence the score might have been kept down to about fifteen points. The Oundle match was well up to the traditions of school rugger, both sides attacking and defending with true dash and courage: a draw was a fair result. Harrow and Radley both looked as if they expected to be beaten but were gradually encouraged, by weak tackling, to gain confidence until they achieved complete ascendancy over a team which, through over-confidence, failed to give anything but its worst in both games. The only occasion on which the team played anything approaching entertaining rugger was against the Harlequins: during this game some sparkle was shown by the backs and tries came freely.

To sum up, there was no outstanding member of the side who could, by example, raise the others above mediocrity; and a team should have at least one, as last year's team had in R. M. Bartlett. The team did its best on most occasions, but just did not have the ability. Cunningham, when he felt like it, raised the level of the forward play by his enthusiasm and dash, but he could not be called a clever leader or captain; however, he did his best with material well below the standard of last year. Of the forwards Macmillan and Mitchell were more often to the fore in the rushes, but the tackling by all, except Cunningham, was weak. The line-out play was not up to the usual standard: forwards, tall though they may be, must leave the ground when jumping for the ball. The dribbling on occasions was first-class and much ground was made on many occasions in foot rushes.

Of the backs, Loup showed promise and a cool head but his play deteriorated. Marler was always dangerous on the left wing but rarely got the ball with space in which to move. P. G. Shinner's game improved at scrum-half as the term progressed and ought to be very good in two years' time. J. F. Conington, at full-back, occasionally played brilliantly. Of the other backs little can be said: they tried, but shewed little initiative and no penetration. The defence of the backs was good on the whole.

#### THE SCHOOL v. RUGBY

Played at Stowe on Saturday, October 11th, Rugby winning by 8 points to 3.

The game was played under ideal conditions. The ground, having been watered, gave a perfect foothold: the sun, tempered by a slight breeze, made the grass dry and the ball easy to hold.

Rugby won the toss and played from the pavilion end with the sun and breeze behind them. Stowe kicked off and within a few minutes Rugby looked dangerous, but good tackling prevented tries. After ten minutes a penalty was awarded against the School and the Rugby captain made no mistake from the easy position. It was then Stowe's turn to attack and a '25' was forced. From a colossal kick Rugby found touch in the Stowe 25, but they were driven back and Stowe attacked again. Ten yards from the line Stowe was awarded a penalty and Loup put the ball over to make the score 3—3. Rugby always looked dangerous; their scrum-half threw very long passes and their wing threequarters always over-lapped ours, but Roberts and Marler always got their men somehow. Just before half-time a Rugby forward forced his way over for a converted try, making the score 8—3.

In the second half, Stowe improved and Rugby deteriorated and a ding-dong struggle ensued; it might have been possible for Stowe to draw level, had Shinner not been partially crocked. The game oscillated from end to end; Rugby made ground by running, Stowe retaliated by kicking. The tackling on both sides was so severe and effective and the kicking so accurate that no score resulted during the thirty-five minutes and Rugby finished worthy winners.

The Stowe forwards played well as a pack and got more than their fair share of the ball in the loose and tight scrums but were beaten for the ball in the line-outs. Of the backs Rugby were superior at half-back and on the wings, but Stowe excelled at full-back where J. F. Conington played a faultless game. Rugby were the more experienced footballers and on many occasions caught Stowe napping by speedily executed unorthodox moves.

It was a grand game and was thoroughly enjoyed by players and spectators alike. It was admirably refereed by Tom Pearce, Captain of Essex County at cricket.

*Team* :—J. F. Conington (B); R. J. Roberts (C), M. D. T. Loup (T), J. M. Shinner (B), L. R. S. Marler (S); D. E. Conington (B), P. G. Shinner (B); N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), T. R. Lambert (S), H. F. Cotton (C), D. S. Paravicini (C), S. B. Lloyd (C), J. K. H. Torrens (C), S. B. Cunningham (T), C. H. Bartlett (T).

#### THE SCHOOL v. BEDFORD

Played at Stowe on Saturday, October 18th, Bedford winning by 29 points to 3.

In perfect conditions Bedford, who had been reported as having a weak team, shewed themselves superior in every department of the game. Admittedly they were heavier and more experienced, but if the home team had stuck to the elementary principles of the game Bedford would not have got six tries—three of these were caused by the backs failing to stick to their opposite numbers: a fourth was caused by shocking passing in their own '25.'

Bedford, playing from the Gymnasium end, attacked persistently the whole of the first half and only very hard work by the Stowe forwards prevented the score being more than 11 points at half-time. Some ground was gained by a kick ahead to the only weakness in the Bedford team, their full-back, and a try was nearly forthcoming, but Stowe was driven back and only gained further ground by an occasional dribble or a kick to touch.

In the second half, the Stowe backs were bewildered and made some elementary mistakes most of which led to tries. However, the forwards, of whom Cunningham played an inspired game, did not give in and on many occasions drove the heavier Bedford pack back to their line, only to be forced away again. On one occasion a penalty was awarded and Loup neatly kicked a goal. Loup might have kicked another goal, but the ball was given to D. Conington who kicked tamely to touch.

One thing that can be said for the Stowe side was that it did not "pack in." The forwards stuck to their guns manfully and played themselves to a standstill. The backs did their best, but shewed their lack of experience. They put up a better show of intestinal fortitude than their predecessors of last year did against the same school when the score was 40—0.

*Team* :—J. F. Conington (B); A. T. W. Innes (T), M. D. T. Loup (T), R. J. Roberts (C), L. R. S. Marler (S); D. E. Conington (B), P. G. Shinner (B); R. G. Macmillan (C), T. R. Lambert (S), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), S. B. Lloyd (C), D. S. Paravicini (C), J. K. H. Torrens (C), S. B. Cunningham (T), C. H. Bartlett (T).

#### THE SCHOOL v. RADLEY

Played at Radley on Wednesday, November 5th, Radley winning by 11 points to 3.

The ground was hard, otherwise the conditions were perfect; but rarely has a schoolboy game been played with such lack of the vigour usually associated with such games. It looked as if Radley expected to lose when the game started, but the ineptitude of the Stowe team gave them gradually increasing confidence and by the end of the game it was Radley and nothing but Radley.

The first half ended even, 3—3, each side scoring a try; but the standard of the rucker was deplorable. Radley improved considerably in the second half and pierced the Stowe defences at will. The score was only kept down to reasonable proportions through dropped or forward passes by the Radley threequarters. The score against the School might well have been 25—3 instead of 11—3 as the game finished.

Marler ran hard when he received the ball and scored a good try. Loup and Downing were harassed at half-back by quick-breaking forwards and they found it difficult to get the attack going. Many free kicks were awarded against Stowe. Cunningham "with a fine disregard" twice picked the ball up in the scrum and ran; one of the penal-

ties thus awarded cost the School three points. On the whole a most disappointing match played with poor spirit and little constructive thought and action: not a good omen for the Oundle game.

*Team*:—J. F. Conington (B); L. R. S. Marler (G), J. C. R. Spencer (G), D. E. Conington (B), R. J. Roberts (C); M. D. T. Loup (T), J. W. A. Downing (T); R. G. Macmillan (C), N. N. Proddow (C), J. L. Paxton (C), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), D. S. Paravicini (C), J. K. H. Torrens (C), S. B. Cunningham (T), C. H. Bartlett (T).

#### THE SCHOOL v. OUNDLE

Played at Oundle on Tuesday, November 11th, the game being drawn, each side scoring 6 points.

The neighbourhood of Armistice Day has been associated with the Oundle match for many years, and indeed it was on Saturday, November 11th, 1938, that we first defeated these most redoubtable opponents on our own ground. This year we had the appropriate date, but the day was Tuesday, and even the thoughtful granting of a half-holiday could prevail but little against the withdrawal of the basic petrol-ration, so that only a few cars with suitably elastic tanks succeeded in accomplishing the fifty-mile journey to Oundle and providing a modest band of Stowe supporters who made up in enthusiasm what they lacked in numbers. St. Martin has usually been kind to us on these occasions, but this year he proved capricious, and apparently decided to end his summer on the previous day, so that the weather, though mild, was heavy and overcast, with a strong wind blowing from the north-west. The match was played on the Oundle upper-ground which had been liberally watered and proved to be in very fair condition, but which made one think rather ominously of the débacle suffered there in 1941, and wish that it could have taken place on the pitch made famous for all Stoics by Farnell-Watson's match in 1939.

The Stowe Fifteen had had a definitely chequered career up to date. Some club-matches had been won, but, after a promising début against a good Rugby side in which they had been beaten by only 3—8, they had been heavily defeated by Bedford, and had also lost to Radley in a game which they might well have won. Fortunately their most recent encounter had resulted in a comfortable win over Harlequins A, which had at least given them back some confidence, and taught them a lot about scoring tries. Oundle were known to be below their usual high standard, and so we felt we could face the issue, if not with confidence, at least with hope.

The game began as dramatically as anyone could have wished. From the kick-off we were treated to one of these full-back duels which always seem to give wild amusement to the spectators, and bitter resentment to the forwards of both sides as they rush backwards and forwards beneath the shuttling ball. This, however, was merely a curtain-raiser to what was to come. We forced a twenty-five in the first minute, and from the drop-out Loup caught the ball and made a beautifully accurate kick down-wind to the Oundle corner-flag. From the consequent line-out the ball fell to the ground and Bartlett was on to it like a flash. The way in which he snapped it up and hurled himself over the Oundle line showed that he had not entirely forgotten his scrum-half days. The kick, taken by Loup, missed narrowly, but the fact still remained that Stowe were three points up against Oundle in three minutes, and one felt prepared to bet five thousand pounds to a tinker's cuss that that had never happened before.

Oundle naturally came back at us after this, but we were heeling the ball pretty regularly in the tight-scrums, and Loup was kicking extremely well, using the wind with the utmost skill and judgment, and constantly driving Oundle back. Then the forwards broke away and with Mitchell in the van swept finely down the field. Very shortly afterwards we were awarded a free-kick from straight in front and about thirty-five yards out, and Loup made no mistake. The ball was climbing steadily as it crossed the bar, and Stowe six points up and a length ahead.

From the kick-off Paravicini caught the ball and made, for a forward, a perfectly indecent amount of ground with his kick. Oundle, however, were now thoroughly roused and began to deliver some smashing attacks mainly towards their right wing. Fortunately the Stowe defence rose to the occasion and J. M. Shinner and Marler brought off some hard effective tackles. On several occasions one had the impression of a wave breaking on a rocky shore, and that is what good tackling looks like. Pressure was, however, maintained, and Stowe had some bad moments, notably when an Oundle player actually crossed the line only to be recalled for a previous infringement. Stowe fought back from their try-line, and there was even a piece of comic-relief when Oundle's burly full-back, Wildsmith, allowed a long kick by Loup to drop on his foot instead of catching it in the orthodox manner. This was, however, very much an exception to the general atmosphere which was grim in the extreme, and was matched by the light which grew steadily darker as both sides battered at one another. Stowe had, at first, the better of these exchanges, and Bartlett broke away from the scrum to make a lot of ground, while Loup very nearly scored from another penalty: the ball was perfectly struck, but just failed to carry the distance. John Conington spoilt an Oundle free-kick by catching it and then returning the ball far over the kicker's head, while a moment later his brother broke through, only to put his kick-ahead into the grateful hands of Bell, the Oundle right-wing. Eventually, however, we were forced back into our own half, and then from a set-scrum just outside our twenty-five the ball was whipped back to Chawner, their stand-off half. He dropped his left shoulder, tore through a gap, swerved inside our full-back, and scored between the posts. It was a fine try, and well-deserved the rapturous applause it received. The kick was taken by one of the Swan twins: it would be quite impossible for a mere stranger to say which, since they resemble one another even more bafflingly than the Coningtons. Sufficient be it to say that, to the infinite chagrin of Oundle, and the unspeakable relief of Stowe, he missed the easy conversion. (6—3.) There were still about five minutes to go before half-time, and they were all Oundle. Stowe defended very stoutly, and succeeded eventually in breaking away from a series of scrums on their line, and the final incident of the first-half was a long and unsuccessful attempt at goal from an Oundle free-kick.

The second-half began with strong pressure from Oundle which was resisted most ably by good kicking from both Loup and John Conington. Stowe eventually returned to the attack with their first full three-quarter movement, and later on Marler kicked ahead, and seemed clear when he unfortunately tripped in passing the last Oundle defender. Then Oundle were on the attack again, only to find a successful breakthrough come to nothing thanks to clever covering by Loup. They continued their attacks, and, after gaining forty yards through a most prodigious down-wind kick, they forced a touch-down after a long raid which had started from a very pardonable fumble by Loup of a half-volley pass. And then at the height of their attack, Alexander, one of their centre three-quarters, strained a tendon and had to leave the field. This disaster, however, seemed to galvanise the whole Oundle side into a vast compensatory

activity, and within a minute of restarting they had drawn level. The try was a very good one, and was engineered from beginning to end, if not actually scored, by Chawner. He went left from a scrum about thirty-five yards from our line, but slipped, only to rise like Antaeus with renewed vigour from the ground and swing the attack to the right. He wrong-footed the first Stowe defenders by the speed of his change of direction, and bore directly for the right corner-flag. Then at the last moment he passed the ball behind his back to Bell, the right-wing, who had come inside him. This perfect scissors-movement produced a glorious try and the scores were level at six-all. The kick, virtually from the touch-line and into a cross-wind was unsuccessful. There were still ten minutes to go, and Stowe had very much the better of them. One very heavy attack on the left wing ended with Macmillan failing to score the winning try by a matter of inches, and Marler very nearly rounded his man as the culmination of another desperate thrust, but the Oundle defence held firm, and the whistle went for no-side with no change in the score.

A draw was a very fair result. Oundle certainly scored two tries to our one, but we had had an ascendancy forward, and had done more attacking than they, while our backs, if not as good as Oundle's in attack, were quite capable of coping with them in defence. There were too many mistakes made on both sides, and too little really first-class football, for the match to take its place among the epic contests of the past, but it was a fine game to watch, and must have been infinitely satisfying to play in. The whole side played well, but three players might be cited for special commendation: John Conington, who was very sure and confident at full-back; J. M. Shinner, whose hard tackling and general steadying influence seemed to bind the three-quarter line together in defence, and finally, and very particularly, Loup, whose coolness and generalship undoubtedly saved a game with which his name should always be associated.

It was a game which could very easily have been lost, and the fact that it was drawn by a team which had not been notably successful in past matches is very much to their credit. One felt glad, as one drove away from Oundle into the damp November night, to think that the team had given such a good account of themselves, and sorry that there had been so few Stoics present to see them do so.

*Team*:—J. F. Conington (B); L. R. S. Marler (G), J. M. Shinner (B), D. E. Conington (B), R. J. Roberts (C); M. D. T. Loup (T), P. G. Shinner (B); R. G. Macmillan (C), N. N. Proddow (C), J. L. Paxton (C), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), D. S. Paravicini (C), J. K. H. Torrens (C), S. B. Cunningham (T), C. H. Bartlett (T).

#### THE SCHOOL v. HARROW

Played at Harrow on Saturday, November 15th, Harrow winning by two goals, two penalty goals and two tries (22 points) to one try (3 points).

To those Stowe supporters who had seen the game at Oundle on the previous Tuesday this game was a great disappointment. It is most difficult to explain the reason for this unnecessary defeat by a poor Harrow side and the only reasonable excuse one may offer is one of reaction after the efforts of the previous Tuesday. At Oundle we saw Stowe play as a team, a team determined to give of its best, but at Harrow we saw the same players, with the exception of the full back, give a lifeless exhibition. Indeed, during the latter part of the second half, some members seemed uninterested. Here it should be pointed out that members of the XV must realise that every time they take the field, whether it be at Oundle or at Harrow, the good name of the School is at stake.

Stowe won the toss and elected to play down the slope with the wind and a setting sun behind their backs. With such conditions in their favour and a nervous Harrow back division in front of them, Stowe were expected to press home an early advantage. This they failed to do and although they spent most of the first half in Harrow territory never looked like crossing the line. Just before half-time the Harrow captain found a gap in the Stowe defence and made an opening for one of his centres to score under the posts. The try was converted. Thus Stowe found themselves five points down whereas they should have held a comfortable lead.

With the conditions in their favour Harrow put on the pressure and soon scored when the game was resumed. This try was converted by the Harrow captain who also kicked two penalty goals in quick succession. Two further tries were scored by Harrow, and Roberts scored a belated try for Stowe just before the final whistle.

*Team*:—G. L. D. Duckworth (C); L. R. S. Marler (G), D. E. Conington (B), J. M. Shinner (B), R. J. Roberts (C); M. D. T. Loup (T), P. G. Shinner (B); R. G. Macmillan (C), N. N. Proddow (C), J. L. Paxton (C), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), D. S. Paravicini (C), J. K. H. Torrens (C), S. B. Cunningham (T), C. H. Bartlett (T).

Other results were as follows:—

Wed., Oct.	1st. v. OXFORD NOMADS (Away)	Lost	4—25
Sat., Oct.	4th. v. RICHMOND "A" (Home)	Won	7—0
Sat., Nov.	1st. v. LONDON SCOTTISH "A" (Home)	Won	14—5
Sat., Nov.	8th. v. HARLEQUINS "A" (Home)	Won	25—5
Sat., Nov.	22nd. v. R.A.F., HALTON (Home)	Lost	0—10
Wed., Nov.	26th. v. GREYHOUNDS "A" (Home)	Lost	6—13
Sat., Nov.	29th. v. ROSSLYN PARK "A" (Away)	Lost	0—14

#### THE SECOND FIFTEEN

With 2 matches won, 7 lost and 1 drawn, the season was very disappointing. A very heavy pack obtained the ball from the majority of the scrums, but in the loose never went as a pack; F. A. Ruhemann (C) and H. F. Cotton (C) were usually prominent and put in a great deal of hard work.

The great weakness was in the three-quarters, where two powerful wings hardly ever saw the ball and there was a complete lack of cohesion in the line. R. J. P. Corry (C) was notable for hard tackling and falling and G. L. D. Duckworth (C) at full-back was a safe tackle. It must be mentioned, however, that owing to injuries the same line hardly ever played together.

In general the team showed little initiative and there was a marked slowness in profiting by opponents' mistakes. They were too easily discouraged by the topography of the ground or a beard in the opposing scrum, and when they did gain a lead, as against a weak Harrow side, were inclined to relax instead of pressing home an advantage. A great deal of the lack of success of a potentially strong side was that too many of the three-quarters did not realize that playing in matches is no substitute for practice.

## Results :—

Wed., Oct. 8th.	v. BERKHAMSTED SCHOOL (Home)	Won	27—0
Sat., Oct. 11th.	v. WASPS "A" (Home)	Lost	8—11
Wed., Oct. 15th.	v. BLOXHAM SCHOOL (Away)	Lost	0—20
Sat., Oct. 18th.	v. BEDFORD SCHOOL (Away)	Lost	0—12
Wed., Oct. 29th.	v. OUNDLE SCHOOL (Home)	Lost	5—14
Wed., Nov. 5th.	v. RADLEY SCHOOL (Home)	Won	10—5
Sat., Nov. 8th.	v. R. GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HIGH WYCOMBE (Home)	Drawn	3—3
Wed., Nov. 12th.	v. NORTHAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL (Away)	Lost	0—24
Sat., Nov. 15th.	v. HARROW (Home)	Lost	4—8
Wed., Nov. 19th.	v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, OXFORD (Away)	Lost	0—9

## THE THIRD FIFTEEN

The Third Fifteen is to be congratulated on its record this term, for it has successfully defended itself against all comers and defeated all but one of them. There were a couple of hard games earlier on against Bloxham and Magdalen College School, Oxford, but the climax of the term came with the Bedford match, in which the standard of play was relatively high; backs and forwards fought unremittingly throughout and well deserved the final victory of 12—3.

As usual the side took some time to settle down and the backs in particular were for long a very uncertain quantity. R. N. Langley (G) and O. L. Rodgers (C) eventually established themselves as the most reliable centres, with R. R. Glover (S), R. E. Wadsworth (W) and P. B. W. Pumfrey (C) alternating on the wings. The forwards have throughout given the backs every opportunity from the tight scrums; supported by a strong, though not particularly heavy pack, M. R. D. Gayford (W) has usually out-hooked his opponent and R. Hodgson's (C) service has been adequate. In the loose D. C. Williamson (C), M. Doyle (C) and D. A. MacL. Connell (G) have been outstanding; R. A. Hird (C), too reticent as a captain, has nevertheless worked hard. Perhaps the most valuable player has been G. R. A. Miskin (W), whose plucky tackling has covered up many a slip in the unreliable defence of our wings. There have, of course, been weaknesses, notably high tackling and raggedness in loose play, but on the whole the side has shown unity and determination and has, at times, played quite creditable Rugby.

## Results :—

Wed., Oct. 8th.	v. BERKHAMSTED SCHOOL (Home).	Won	43—0
Wed., Oct. 15th.	v. BLOXHAM SCHOOL (Home).	Won	8—3
Sat., Oct. 18th.	v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, OXFORD (Home).	Won	9—8
Sat., Nov. 1st.	v. R.A.F., HALTON (Home).	Drawn	13—13
Sat., Nov. 8th.	v. R.G.S., HIGH WYCOMBE (Away).	Won	22—9
Sat., Nov. 15th.	v. NORTHAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL (Home).	Won	33—0
Sat., Nov. 22nd.	v. BEDFORD SCHOOL (Home).	Won	12—3
Wed., Nov. 26th.	v. RADLEY SCHOOL (Home).	Won	31—9
Sat., Dec. 6th.	v. R.A.F., HALTON (Away).	Won	14—8

## THE FOURTH FIFTEEN

The 4th XV has this term been given a somewhat more substantial existence than hitherto; though necessarily a very changeable body it has held its own against both the 3rd XV and the Colts, and has also had three experimental outside fixtures, with Kettering and Towcester Grammar Schools, and Banbury County School.

## THE COLTS' FIFTEEN

Undoubtedly it has been a successful season this time. It was quite obvious from the start that the Colts were fortunate in having a very large number of almost equally good forwards from whom to choose a pack. They have been a tower of strength all the time. Indeed it has been impossible to say, from time to time, which forward should be left out when choosing the side. So as to give as many as possible real match experience, it was felt advisable to change round quite a bit. Always, however—except, and most unfortunately, in the match against St. Edward's—there was P. M. Horley (B) to lead them. It is not too much to say that our successes this term have been due to the admirable captaincy of this excellent wing forward.

The most encouraging feature of the games, however, as a whole has been the real grit and determination shown by all and the plucky tackling. At last one can truthfully say that the side was at no time let down by three or four people who wouldn't tackle. It has been a real joy to coach the Club this year; and that goes for the others who were not quite good enough to get into the teams. The Club as a whole has been keen and played hard.

A great problem was the position of scrum-half. Right away the First Fifteen took from us P. G. Shinner (B) who, although eligible to play in the Colts, has consistently played for the First. D. C. F. Kimber (B) filled the gap for six matches and deserves high praise for his very plucky play and indeed for considerable resourcefulness. He is, however, too slow in getting the ball away, and M. S. Turnbull (B), who had been improving every game, got a chance in the match against Harrow and justified his choice in place of Kimber. Our three-quarters are weak—they always are—in that they seem incapable of getting a move on. Good in defence but hopeless at taking advantage of any mistakes on the part of their opponents, and apparently unable to exploit any opening made for them by the fly-half. G. J. E. Dixon (T), at fly-half, has been quite admirable and is perhaps the pluckiest tackler on the side, despite his still somewhat slight build; he is certainly the only natural rugby player amongst all the backs in the Club. He should do well in the future. C. C. McNeil (T) has proved himself to be a reliable full-back; in the match against Oundle he never made a mistake.

A glance at the results will show how close the games have been.

Sat., Oct. 11th.	v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, BRACKLEY (Home)	Won	15—0
Sat., Oct. 18th.	v. BEDFORD SCHOOL (Home)	Won	14—5
Thur. Oct. 23rd.	v. RUGBY SCHOOL (Home)	Lost	6—9
Sat., Nov. 1st.	v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, BRACKLEY (Away)	Won	16—6
Wed., Nov. 5th.	v. RADLEY SCHOOL (Away)	Lost	3—9
Tues., Nov. 11th.	v. OUNDLE SCHOOL (Home)	Won	6—5
Sat., Nov. 15th.	v. HARROW SCHOOL (Away)	Won	19—6
Sat., Nov. 29th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S SCHOOL (Away)	Lost	0—3
Wed., Dec. 3rd.	v. NORTHAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL (Home)	Won	11—0

## THE JUNIOR COLTS' FIFTEEN

The Junior Colts had few outstanding personalities in their ranks, but played hard football and their successes were justly deserved as they possessed a keen team spirit and considerable enthusiasm.

Their determination was conspicuously evident amongst the forwards. It was not easy to arrange the scrum, as so many odd sizes had to be fitted together. Nevertheless, cohesion was soon obtained and the result was very gratifying. A distinguishing feature was the active and vigorous play of our smaller forwards, who certainly made up for their lack of weight and inches by dashing and skilful performance. J. A. de S. Charlesworth (G), J. W. L. Adams (B) and A. M. Vinen (W), our diminutive front row, were always to be found in the thick of the fray, battling zestfully away, while A. M. Gooch (B), R. J. Ruhemann (C) and H. J. Lloyd (T) added the necessary solidity to the scrum. C. T. A. Hammond (C) and P. A. G. Brown (W) proved themselves energetic and capable breakaway forwards, in spite of the latter's frequent and unrestrained enthusiasm, which cost us several penalty kicks:

Behind the scrum we were well served by H. R. Herrington (C), T. Knight (B) and G. R. T. Sorley (C) in the middle of the field. Although they were not speedy in attack they played spirited football, even if their finishing was often awkward and disappointing. J. I. Holt (C) and J. P. D. Heyward (C) on the wings improved steadily as the term progressed, but were occasionally uncertain under pressure. P. M. Salt (G) was an energetic scrum-half and J. M. Bremner (C) saved many situations at full-back by sound tackling.

S. Pendle (G) and A. Highwood (B) were the best of those who played occasionally and both improved considerably.

The best game played by the team was against Rugby. In the second half, the solid scrummaging and harrying tactics of our forwards kept the game in our opponents' half; and active, spirited play by our backs met with adequate reward. The threes did not reproduce this form again until the match with Harrow, when they gave a convincing display of passing and backing up.

Speaking generally, the season was a successful one, and if the side maintains its promise, it should have many interesting and exciting games next season.

## Results :—

Wed., Oct. 15th. v. BLOXHAM (Away).	Won	8—0
Thur. Oct. 23rd. v. RUGBY (Home).	Won	15—3
Wed., Oct. 29th. v. OUNDLE (Home).	Lost	0—6
Sat., Nov. 1st. v. ST. EDWARD'S (Away).	Lost	6—15
Wed., Nov. 5th. v. RADLEY (Home).	Won	8—0
Sat., Nov. 8th. v. R.G.S., HIGH WYCOMBE 2nd XV. (Away).	Won	11—6
Wed., Nov. 12th. v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, BRACKLEY (Home).	Won	19—9
Sat., Nov. 15th. v. HARROW (Home).	Won	25—3
Wed., Nov. 19th. v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, OXFORD (Away).	Lost	0—42

## UNDER 14.

In their first year as a representative side, the Under 14's have proved themselves well worthy of the honour. They have won, to date, five matches out of six and have only one game left to play. In this, against Radley, they will have, for the first time, a home crowd to cheer them on.

The opening match against Magdalen College School, Oxford, was a keen tussle, but on the run of play the margin of points might have been more in our favour. The Prep.-school games were played with "A" XV's, which were still too strong for their opponents, and only keen tackling kept the scores down. Against Bloxham, too, we were much the better side, despite the absence of three regular three-quarters and two forwards.

Our best matches were those against Bedford and St. Edward's, Oxford, both very hard games against strong opposition. In the former, we led until seven minutes from the end, when a try by Bedford provoked such a hammering of the Bedford line that both Henderson and Harris crossed it before Harris was awarded a try. In the latter, a pointless draw would have been a fair result, but an unexpected try by a St. Edward's forward led to a temporary opening-up of our defence and a score which flattered our opponents.

The whole team has played so well that it is difficult to single out individuals, but the two outstanding features have been the work of the forwards, led by E. B. J. Williams (T) and A. W. Fraser (C) and the excellent combination of the halves, M. J. R. Bannister (W) and P. G. Harris (G), and the centres, M. L. Henderson (W) and J. P. G. Goldfinger (G). P. Burgess (G) has made a reliable full-back, and the side has been alternately captained by Henderson and Bannister. Altogether it has been a very promising team, and one which has inspired great hopes for Stowe rugby in the future.

## Results :—

Sat., Oct. 11th. v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, OXFORD (Away).	Won	11—9
Sat., Oct. 25th. v. WINCHESTER HOUSE, BRACKLEY (Away).	Won	6—0
Wed., Oct. 29th. v. DRAGON SCHOOL, OXFORD (Away).	Won	9—0
Sat., Nov. 15th. v. BEDFORD (Away).	Won	8—6
Wed., Nov. 19th. v. BLOXHAM (Away).	Won	30—0
Sat., Nov. 29th. v. ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD (Away).	Lost	0—11

## CRICKET HOUSE MATCHES 1947

House matches were again run on a time basis this year, and the time limit had even to be extended to the final, which has not been the case in previous years. This was made necessary by the large number of events to be decided at the end of the term. It is proposed to continue the system of a time limit for innings in house matches, but by more careful arrangement in advance it is expected that they will be played in a less anxious atmosphere and will not be so much overshadowed by the fear of not being finished.



One hopes that hitherto unrevealed talent may be unearthed for the next season in the course of playing the house matches, but no unknown star was revealed last summer term. One of the most noticeable features of the matches was the poor batting form displayed by members of the 1st XI. Apart from A. J. Struthers (C), who played innings of 119, 62, 56 and 17, no one showed consistent form.

In the Junior House matches, good performances were put up by O. T. Wall (C), P. G. Harris (C), J. S. Yates (C), R. D. Steed (C), H. R. Herrington (C), C. C. Malden (C), R. Lush (C) and P. H. Molloy (C).

In the Senior Final, R. M. Bartlett batted well for Temple in both innings. He was quick on his feet and used the late cut with great effect. S. B. Lloyd bowled very steadily for Chandos, making the ball get up awkwardly in the first innings. A. J. Struthers, the Chandos captain, looked set for another big innings when he was beaten by an excellent ball from S. B. Cunningham. Chandos led by 2 runs on the first innings, and in gaining this lead a very plucky and skilful innings was played by O. T. Wall, the Junior Colts captain.

In their second innings Temple made a good start and M. D. T. Loup looked as if he had got well off the mark when he was l.b.w. However, R. M. Bartlett, O. B. Sayer and M. Birkett all got runs, and the final total of 206 was liable to be hard to beat in the fourth innings; and so it proved.

The loss of A. J. Struthers for a small score must have taken some of the fight out of the Chandos side, and only A. T. van B. Bik and C. H. Lezard, a junior colt, put up much resistance. M. Birkett bowled very successfully for Temple in the Chandos second innings.

In the Junior final, Cobham appeared to have a considerably stronger side than Chatham, having five Colts and two Junior Colts, as against one Colt and two Junior Colts in the Chatham side. However, Chatham gave a good account of themselves and actually gained a lead of 17 runs on the first innings.

Chatham won the toss, sent Cobham in to bat, and dismissed them for 61, of which Lush made 23. Steed and Yates bowled well for Chatham. Chatham were then all out for 78, thus gaining a lead on the first innings. In their second innings, Cobham made 125, which was mainly contributed by Harris (46) and Herrington (39). Steed and Yates again bowled well. Faced with a total of 109 runs to win, Chatham were dismissed for 61, Molloy taking 6 wickets for 20 runs.

#### SENIOR HOUSE MATCHES

##### 1st Round.

GRENVILLE *v.* GRAFTON. Grenville won by 3 wickets.

Grafton 73 (Connell 4 for 35); Grenville 74 for 7 wkts. (Lambert 4 for 28).

CHANDOS *v.* BRUCE. Chandos won by 200 runs.

Chandos 260 for 4 wkts. dec. (Struthers 119, Lloyd 91); Bruce 60 (Rycroft 6 for 42).

WALPOLE *v.* COBHAM. Walpole won by 31 runs.

Walpole 119 (Bruell 46); Cobham 88.

CHATHAM *v.* TEMPLE. Temple won by 47 runs.

Temple 92 (Duckworth 4 for 15); Chatham 55 (Birkett 5 for 17, S. B. Cunningham 5 for 20).

##### Semi-final Round.

WALPOLE *v.* TEMPLE. Temple won by 5 wickets.

Walpole 85 (Calkin 23; R. M. Bartlett 4 for 25); Temple 86 for 5 wkts. (Mitchell 4 for 28; S. B. Cunningham 32 not out, Dixon 18 not out).

CHANDOS *v.* GRENVILLE. Chandos won by 125 runs.

Chandos 203 for 5 wkts. dec. (Struthers 62, Rycroft 65 not out); Grenville 78 (Rycroft 4 for 28).

#### FINAL HOUSE MATCH.

Temple beat Chandos by 103 runs.

TEMPLE.		2nd innings.	
1st innings.			
H. T. Bowles, lbw, b Lloyd.....	27	c Bik, b Lloyd.....	6
M. D. T. Loup, b Sorley.....	10	lbw, b Rycroft.....	25
R. M. Bartlett, st Bik, b Wall.....	64	c Bik, b Sorley.....	34
O. B. Sayer, lbw, b Lloyd.....	3	b Struthers.....	0
S. B. Cunningham, c Beveridge, b Lloyd.....	12	c Beveridge, b Lloyd.....	10
M. Birkett, lbw, b Lloyd.....	6	c Rycroft, b Lloyd.....	41
G. J. E. Dixon, c and b Lloyd.....	0	b Wall.....	37
C. C. McNeil, not out.....	1	c Bik, b Struthers.....	5
N. Budd, c Wall, b Lloyd.....	0	c and b Lloyd.....	14
C. H. Bartlett, b Lloyd.....	1	lbw, b Struthers.....	6
C. J. Guise, lbw, b Wall.....	1	not out.....	10
Extras.....	9	Extras.....	18
Total.....	134	Total.....	206

Bowling.—S. B. Lloyd 7 for 24; O. T. Wall 2 for 33; G. R. T. Sorley 1 for 27.

Bowling.—S. B. Lloyd 4 for 49; O. T. Wall 1 for 28; G. R. T. Sorley 1 for 10; A. J. Struthers 3 for 41; P. V. Rycroft 1 for 60.

CHANDOS		2nd innings.	
1st innings.			
A. J. Struthers, b Cunningham.....	56	b Cunningham.....	17
G. N. Beveridge, b Birkett.....	5	b Birkett.....	7
S. B. Lloyd, lbw, b Loup.....	0	lbw, b Cunningham.....	0
P. V. Rycroft, c Bartlett, b Cunningham.....	1	b Loup.....	8
A. T. van B. Bik, b Loup.....	3	c R. Bartlett, b Cunningham.....	19
C. H. Lezard, b Loup.....	1	not out.....	20
P. B. W. Pumfrey, c Sayer, b Cunningham.....	5	b Birkett.....	8
D. J. G. Makins, b McNeil.....	12	c Cunningham, b Birkett.....	2
G. R. T. Sorley, c Cunningham, b Bartlett.....	1	b Birkett.....	4
O. T. Wall, not out.....	31	c Guise, b R. Bartlett.....	0
D. C. Williamson, c Loup, b McNeil.....	8	c C. Bartlett, b Birkett.....	0
Extras.....	13	Extras.....	16
Total.....	136	Total.....	101

Bowling.—S. B. Cunningham 3 for 26; M. Birkett 1 for 33; M. D. T. Loup 3 for 25; R. M. Bartlett 1 for 13; C. C. McNeil 2 for 7.

Bowling.—S. B. Cunningham 3 for 25; M. Birkett 5 for 22; M. D. T. Loup 1 for 4; R. M. Bartlett 1 for 7.

## JUNIOR HOUSE MATCHES

*1st Round.*

WALPOLE *v.* BRUCE. Bruce won by 3 wickets.

Walpole 106 (Schmiegelow 33); Bruce 108 for 7 wkts.

COBHAM *v.* TEMPLE. Cobham won by 59 runs.

Cobham 135; Temple 76.

GRAFTON *v.* CHANDOS. Grafton won by 15 runs.

Chandos 103 (Wall 43 not out; P. G. Harris 5 for 27) Grafton 118 (Malden 53; Wall 5 for 30).

GRENVILLE *v.* CHATHAM. Chatham won by 33 runs.

Chatham 111 (A. H. Salt 6 for 34); Grenville 78 (Yates 3 for 12).

*Semi-finals.*

GRAFTON *v.* CHATHAM. Chatham won by 1 wicket.

Grafton 123 (Malden 54, Beer 37; Steed 5 for 25); Chatham 124 for 9 wkts. (Yates 44 not out; G. P. H. Chorley 5 for 26).

COBHAM *v.* BRUCE. Cobham won by 4 wickets.

Bruce 68; Cobham 69 for 6 wkts. (Lush 25).

*Final.*

COBHAM *v.* CHATHAM. Cobham won by 47 runs.

1st innings.—Cobham 61 (R. Lush 23; R. D. Steed 5 for 21, J. S. Yates 4 for 16).

Chatham 78 (J. S. Yates 29; B. C. Harris 4 for 26).

2nd innings.—Cobham 125 (B. C. Harris 46, H. R. Herrington 39; R. D. Steed 4 for 52, J. S. Yates 4 for 27).

Chatham 61 (S. C. Fenwick 13; P. H. Molloy 6 for 20).

## LIFE SAVING CLASSES

The examination in Life Saving was held on July 23rd. The examiner was Captain Biscoe, Secretary of the Royal Life Saving Society. The following awards of the Society were gained:—

*Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion.*

G. P. Tobin (G), P. G. Shinner (B), T. P. Grossmark (C), J. M. Dillon (C), W. J. M. Gratrix (T), G. Roy Thomas (B), J. Mulholland (G), M. A. Ferguson-Smith (G), P. Howell (G), J. N. W. Bridges-Adams (S), P. J. Nash (C), D. C. Gloyer (S) (who had already gained the Intermediate Certificate before coming to Stowe).

*Intermediate Certificate.*

R. Jameson (G), M. Mulholland (S), J. D. F. Lockhart (C), P. J. Lucas (G).

## LAWN TENNIS

The School team did creditably at Wimbledon to reach the final in Group A in the Public Schools' Week Competition (Youll Cup).

To reach that stage Stowe convincingly beat Downside and Bryanston by really good tennis, only to lose rather unexpectedly to U.C.S. after a very close match. The scores were:—N. R. Cunningham-Reid (G) beat their singles player 6—4, 4—6, 6—2; Cunningham-Reid and C. M. Mosselmans (C) lost to 1st pair 6—4, 3—6, 3—6; lost to 2nd pair 3—6, 2—6; G. W. Sott (C) and J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W) beat 2nd pair 6—1, 6—4; lost to 1st pair 5—7, 4—6.

Cunningham-Reid and Scott played well throughout and were selected to represent the Public Schools against the P.S.O.B. L.T.A.

In the Glanvill Cup at Queen's Club on August Bank Holiday, the School again reached the semi-final only to be beaten once more by U.C.S. in an even closer match, as the following scores indicate:—

N. R. Cunningham-Reid (G) and G. W. Scott (C) lost to 1st pair 6—8, 6—2, 5—7.

R. N. Langley (G) and J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W) beat 2nd pair 6—4, 2—6, 9—7.

C. M. Mosselmans (C) and J. W. A. Downing (T) lost to 3rd pair 4—6, 7—5, 4—6.

The average age this year was younger than usual, very nearly two years younger than that of their opponents in these two competitions. Even so, the results might have been different had our players put concentration and determination on the same level as their stroke production and court craft.

## SQUASH

October 23rd. *v.* HARROW. Home. Lost 1—4.

The team was as follows:—M. D. T. Loup (T), N. R. Cunningham-Reid (G), T. J. Greenley (W), J. F. Conington (B), D. E. Conington (B). J. Conington was the only one to win for Stowe but the other matches were all 3—2. This was a good match showing a definite improvement in the standard of play.

October 30th. *v.* BEDFORD SQUASH RACKETS CLUB. Lost 1—4.

R. A. Hird (C) and S. B. Lloyd (C) took the places of the two Coningtons. Cunningham-Reid played well to beat his opponent.

November 12th. *v.* IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION. Won 3—1.

The team was as follows:—T. J. Greenley (W), R. Lush (C), D. E. Conington (B), S. B. Lloyd (C), R. C. Page (C). All played well and with a full team the School might have won all matches.

November 18th. *v.* BRASENOSE COLLEGE. Lost 1—4.

The team was as follows:—M. D. T. Loup (T), T. J. Greenley (W), R. Lush (C), R. A. Hird (C), S. B. Lloyd (C). Brasenose were good but too many points were presented to them, giving them a victory which could have been prevented.

Although the majority of the matches were lost, there were signs of a very marked improvement. Players now use their heads and do not rely so much on brute force to win points. It was especially encouraging to see Lush and Page play so well against men.

School Colours for Squash have been awarded to N. R. Cunningham-Reid (G).

## FENCING

A match was held at Stowe against Westminster on Thursday, November 13th. Stowe was defeated in all three weapons, the scores being 0—9 in foil, 2—6 in épée and 4—5 in sabre. D. J. Wilkin (C) did well to win all three of his sabre fights. The rest of the team consisted of I. V. de Wesselow (C), D. G. J. Gordon-Dean (W) and S. B. Lloyd (C).

This disappointing result is illustrative of the low ebb to which Stowe's fencing has sunk. There are only a dozen members of the Fencing Club this term, and many of these have shown an abysmal lack of interest. If a revival is to be brought about, we must have more fencers, more time for practice and, above all, more enthusiasm.

I.V.deW.

THE LONDON FENCING CLUB,  
ST. JAMES',  
LONDON, S.W.1.  
December 3rd, 1947.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

DEAR SIR,

I note with regret that in the last few numbers of *The Stoic* there is no report on Fencing. The reason is, of course, that there is little to report, and that is a fact to be deprecated.

For several years before the war Stowe won the Public Schools Fencing Championship and at one time beat even the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. During the war matches were still held, despite the difficulties of travelling, and when the war finally ended, it was to be hoped that fencing would regain its former prestige.

Unfortunately, very few matches were arranged—and now there are none at all, with the result that it might reasonably be assumed that fencing was non-existent at Stowe. But this is not the case, and it seems to me a great shame that the present enthusiasts are not given a chance of improving their skill against other schools and clubs not many miles from Stowe.

If this were to be done, I am sure that Stowe would soon regain the name that it formerly held amongst fencing circles in England.

Yours faithfully,

W. T. D. DIXON.

*Former Secretary of Fencing.*

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In addition to the match reported above, the School has recently fought Cheltenham, who were successful by 21 fights to 6).



Photos by ]

C.W.G.R.

VOICES FROM THE PAST

R.H.

[ J.E.F.



Photo by ]

AND SO TO CAMP

[ M.R.D.G.

## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

## THE XII CLUB

The meetings, this term, have been held at Vancouver Lodge, Dadford, at the kind invitation of the Vice-President and Mrs. McElwee. The 210th meeting took place on Friday, October 17th; the Club was greatly honoured when the President read a paper "admirable as much for its wit as its reasoning." Under the title of "The English, are they human?" the President, from a French standpoint, subtly attacked Dr. Arnold's public school system and perversion of English life.

The 211th meeting took place on Friday, November 7th, when P. M. Dempster (B) read a well informed paper on his compatriot "Parnell." He maintained that Parnell was a great statesman trying to solve the Irish Question by Home Rule and continually being thwarted by Tory reactionaries and Irish extremists. The paper must have been extremely good because the discussion after the meeting was relative to the point and of a high standard, unlike the first meeting, when there was a lamentable return to gossip. Readings at the beginnings of meetings shewed diverse erudition, coming from Virgil, Proust, Coventry Patmore and Somerset Maugham.

At the end of last term, N. N. Proddow (C) read a paper on "Leopardi," the Italian lyric poet.

Old members were Mr. R. E. J. Davis (President), Mr. W. L. McElwee (Vice-President), M. Morland (B) (Secretary), M. Birkett (T), A. Caiger-Smith (T), M. D. T. Loup (T), P. M. Dempster (B), E. M. L. Latham (C), C. S. Edwards (C), P. G. Powers (C), S. B. Lloyd (C), N. N. Proddow (C), C. A. Wauhope (C), R. T. Tattersall-Wright (W); and R. J. Roberts (C) (Permanent Guest).

M.M.

## THE "46" CLUB

This term saw almost a complete renewal of the membership. On this account the first meeting of the term, when G. M. Scarrott (C) read an extremely enlightening paper entitled "Post-War Impressions of Germany," did not attain the usual standard. This was also partly due to the early hour at which the meeting ended.

Altogether there have been three meetings this term: at the other two, papers on "Wave Mechanics," by the Secretary, and "Chemotherapy," by J. F. Marsden (W), were read. The standard of all the papers this term has been high and the second and third meetings easily made up for the first.

M.H.E.

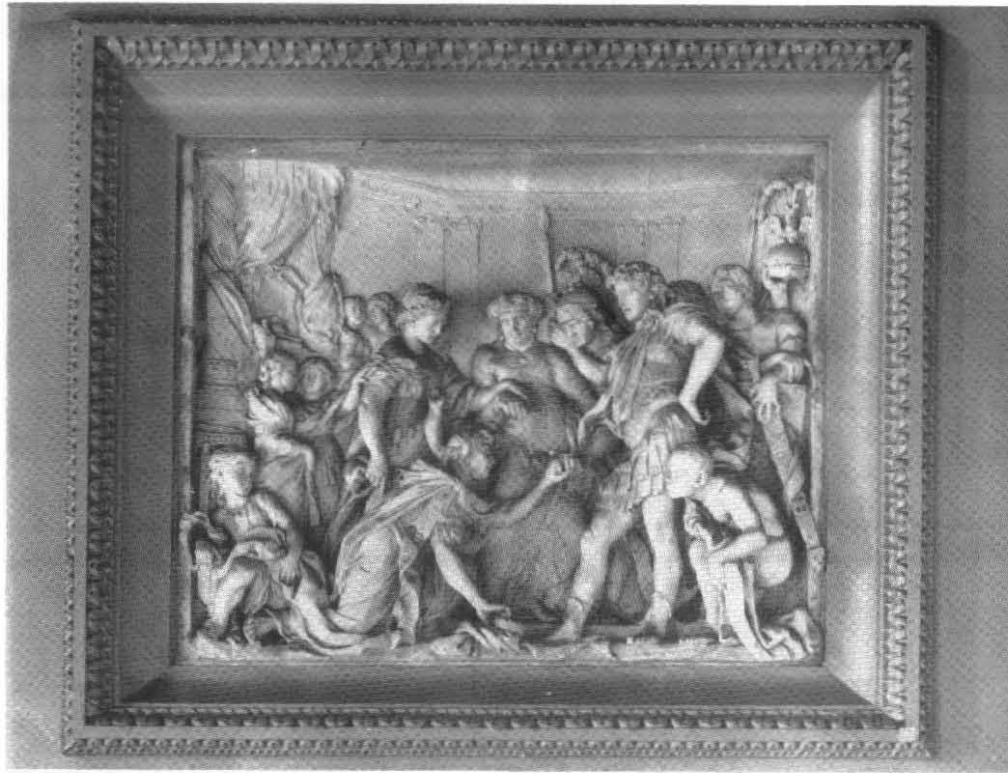
## THE MUSIC CLUB

The Club has had three meetings this term and a fourth is being arranged. On October 25th the Club went to Oxford to hear Alfred Cortot, the famous pianist, in a programme of Chopin and Schumann.

On November 14th the Secretary of the Club read a paper on "Overtures," illustrating his talk with gramophone records of little-known overtures.

On the whole holiday the Club again went to Oxford, to hear a brilliant concert given by Sir Thomas Beecham and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The programme included Mozart's Symphony No. 35 and Schumann's 3rd Symphony.

S.B.L.



THE DARIUS RELIEF



THE CARACTACUS RELIEF

(An article on these reliefs appears on page 14 of this issue)

## THE EPHEMERALS

On Friday, October 4th, the Ephemerals had their first meeting in Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald's drawing-room. This new Society has been formed to bridge the gap between the Symposium and the "Twelve" Club and is constructed on the same lines as those societies though usurping the functions of neither. After the drinking of coffee and the eating of pastries, rolls and other delicacies provided by Mrs. Macdonald, B. F. Brindley read a water song by Sacheverell Sitwell and G. L. D. Duckworth played a record of "Jupiter," from Holst's "Planets Suite." G. H. Rooke's paper, "The English Eccentric," took the form of a conglomeration of anecdotes such as that of Thomas Gobsill who swallowed 100 pebbles to cure wind and afterwards continued to suffer from wind as well as a curious rattling in his belly. This witty and fantastical though superficial paper led to an evening's entertaining discussion, so wide-spread as to include sadism, vicarious amusement and Stowe.

The poem chosen for the second meeting by A. F. Barton was Kipling's appropriate though somewhat hackneyed "If," and the record chosen by J. N. W. Bridges-Adams was Wagner's Overture to the "Flying Dutchman." Lord Primrose's paper on "Navigation" was learned but somewhat specialized for such an unscientifically minded gathering. He indicated various methods of finding depths and speed at sea and related the history of the compass. But in spite of an excellent explanation of radar, the Society was rather left in the fog. The subsequent conversation was animated and controversial, ranging from telepathy to the school play.

The Society consists of:—Mr. Macdonald (President), Mrs. Macdonald (hon. member), A. F. Barton (S), J. N. W. Bridges-Adams (S), Lord Primrose (W), J. F. Marsden (W), B. F. Brindley (G), O. L. Rodgers (C), G. H. Rooke (C), M. Doyle (C), R. A. Hird (C), G. L. D. Duckworth (C), J. D. Lloyd (B), C. H. Bradly (B) and J. F. Pim (B) (Hon. Secretary).

J.F.P.

## THE SYMPOSIUM

As usual, the membership of the Society was revised in its entirety at the beginning of the winter term. The new members were R. Barry (S), M. G. D. O'Donovan (T), D. S. Duckworth (S), C. Graham-Bonnalie (T), H. W. Gray (W), T. M. Irvine (T), M. C. A. Mott (C), D. C. Part (B), F. J. Pearce (B), A. M. Salt (G) and J. N. Vinen (W).

The first meeting of the term was held on October 2nd when C. Graham-Bonnalie read a most knowledgeable paper on "Ballet Music." He divided the composition of ballet music into six periods and gave a detailed account of each, illustrating his paper throughout with a large number of carefully chosen gramophone records.

On October 13th, T. M. Irvine read a paper on "Spiritualism," in which he attempted to prove that all spiritualism was fraudulent and merely an advanced form of conjuring. The Society was disinclined to agree and a lively and controversial discussion followed the paper.

A meeting was held in the Art School on November 4th, when D. C. Part read a paper on "Modern French Painters." Mr. and Mrs. Watt were present as guests of the Society. With the aid of a number of prints, displayed around the walls, Part sketched a history of French art from the middle of the last century to the present day and explained the styles of the principal schools of painting.

On November 21st, M. C. A. Mott read a most illuminating and well written paper on "Negro Music," in which he traced the development of pure Negro Jazz in the United States. He aroused the indignation of the Society by maintaining that this type of music was intellectually superior to the classics.

At the fifth and last meeting of the term, M. G. D. O'Donovan will read a paper on "The History of Humour."

At the end of last term, J. F. Marsden (W) and P. G. Powers (C) read papers on "Detective Fiction" and "T. S. Eliot," respectively.

I.V.deW.

## THE TOXOPHILITES

This Society, which started in March 1947 under another name, has held six meetings to date. The first was a debate on "This Society holds that Mathematics should not aim at being useful." The motion was carried 8—4, with two abstainers.

At subsequent meetings, the following read papers:—Lord Primrose (W) on "Labour in the Middle Ages"; Mr. R. E. W. Harland (C, 1938) on "Wind Tunnels"; R. J. Maxwell-Hyslop (C) on "Jet Engines"; Mr. Maynard on "Radar"; and N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W) on "Prisons."

F.A.R.

## THE VITRUVIANS

The term's proceedings were opened with the Annual Business Meeting of the Society, at which many helpful hints as to the running of the Society were cast. The advertisement of meetings was a subject widely discussed.

On Saturday, October 4th, there was an expedition by bus to Kenilworth Castle and Warwick Castle. Time was short, but a great deal was seen, and we were shown many interesting details at Warwick, including, needless to say, the Haunted Room.

This was followed by a lecture, on November 8th, when Mr. W. W. Begby talked about "The English Parish Church." He chose as his period the Gothic Revival. A large number of slides were shown, varying from plans of Hanbury Town Church to various edifices at Brighton. This period was a great building age and about 700 churches alone were erected. Victorian architecture is not generally regarded with favour, but opinions were swayed by this interesting talk.

On November 19th, Professor W. Holford, M.T.P.I., lectured to us on "The City of London Plan." The lecture was open to the Upper School and there was a large attendance. The meeting was highly successful and very interesting, for the lecturer was excellent and the subject topical. Unfortunately time was short.

The next day, being the whole holiday, about 18 Vitruvians set off in high glee in Mr. Varney's bus for Oxford, where they were to look round some of the Colleges. Those visited were Magdalen and Christ Church in detail, and New College scantily. We are very grateful to Mr. Todd, to T. L. Dewhurst (B, 1938) and to A. M. Quinton (T, 1943) for showing us round.

The term's programme has been very successful and attendance has been good.

The Committee this term was A. K. Thould (C), Secretary; G. H. Rooke (C), Treasurer; I. V. de Wesselow (C), Librarian; R. R. E. Chorley (C), Photographer; P. E. Leslie (C), Committee-man; G. P. Finlow (B), Co-opted Member.

A.K.T.

#### THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

The strength of the Society was increased to twenty-one at the beginning of term, through the election of ten new members.

A meeting was held on Monday, November 13th, when J. D. Lloyd (B) read a paper on Newfoundland. He gave a most interesting account of his expedition to the island with "The Public Schools' Exploring Society," and described the climate, vegetation, animal life and general characteristics of the country. He concluded by answering a large number of questions and showing the Society some of the photographs he had taken.

I.V.deW.

#### THE MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

It was found necessary at the beginning of the term to elect a Secretary, Committee Man and three new members. H. T. Bowles (T) became the Hon. Secretary, and the new members of the Society were B. A. Platt (C), A. de F. Mellor (B) and A. F. Barton (C), the last being appointed Committee Man.

The Society has enjoyed a very successful term, meeting every Sunday evening in the President's room, and has managed to read two French plays. The first, "Les Corbeaux," by Becque, was not a vast success owing to the mediocrity of the characterization and the tediousness of the plot. The second play, Marcel Pagnol's "Topaze," was thoroughly enjoyed by the whole society, owing to the excellence of the humour and the high qualities of the comedy situations which were much in evidence throughout this magnificent play.

H.T.B.

#### THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

At the end of the Summer term a photographic exhibition was held in conjunction with the art exhibition. One hundred and twenty photographs were entered, but for the most part they were of too small proportions to meet with success in competitions.

A lantern lecture was given this term on "Night Photography," and it is hoped to hold a series of lectures next term which will be open to the school.

Photographic materials are now in very short supply, which greatly limits the activities of the Society, but even so we are now in a much better position than we were during the war. The dark-room has been re-equipped and we are only awaiting the time when paper and films will again be on the market in plentiful supply.

M.R.D.G.

#### THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

There has so far been only one meeting of the Society this term. This meeting, on Wednesday, October 15th, began with a short discussion on Society business. Ten junior members were elected to senior membership and twelve new junior members were duly enrolled. Mr. Griffiths was unanimously elected to the position of Vice-President in place of the unexpectedly departed Mr. Reynolds.

M. H. Ewbank (C) was then called upon to deliver his lecture entitled "The chemical Action of Light." It was an interesting lecture, well delivered and fully illustrated with colourful demonstrations and experiments. Ewbank displayed a sound knowledge of his subject as he ably withstood the barrage of questions that ensued.

It is with deep regret that the Society notes the departure of Mr. Boyd to the other side of the world. Mr. Boyd has been President for three terms and his absence will mean a great loss.

P.M.G.

#### THE FILM SOCIETY

Though this term's films may have been designed for the polyglot, their variety of language has not saved them from being the most tedious suffered in present memory. *Day of Wrath* from Denmark—a new venture and perhaps a redeeming feature—exposed a tragedy of sinful love set in a gloomy framework of seventeenth century superstition and the cold, sombre, puritan North. The slowness of the action was as effective as the awful harmonies of *Dies irae* sung by innocent treble voices to hide the screams of a burning witch. If criticisms are to be levelled at *Day of Wrath* for its torpid action, *Espoir* should be utterly condemned; for it had no action at all. This Spanish film took one episode in the civil war and left it with only its sordid reality as a stimulus to the imagination, emotions, and intellect, save a slightly increased nostalgia towards communism and guerrillas as a whole.

Better things were hoped for from the French studios and their production, *Pont-carreil*, a very little known film which will remain so. The French always fail when they attempt a costume piece; for they can never attain that high standard of lavish fantasy and colourful bad taste achieved by the Americans, though their introduction of George Sand, Chopin and Alfred de Musset in one room almost equalled it. The plot was conventional and indecisive; there was no real movement—not even a chase on horseback, in which no English-speaking film would have failed to succeed—and the photography was as uninspiring as the leading lady.

N.N.P.

## THE TERM'S FILMS

Most of the films this term have been memorable for the performances of individual actors. Some of these have merely served to lift their respective films out of varying troughs of monotony, but others, having something more substantial behind them, have rendered theirs outstanding. And Mr. Rank may rest assured that the prestige of British pictures has been greatly enhanced at Stowe during the past term.

One of the most entertaining films of the selection was undoubtedly *School for Secrets*. Peter Ustinov presented a script which in hands less capable could easily have been dull in the extreme, and the superb flippancy of Sir Ralph Richardson added just the right flavour to a very enjoyable evening.

Ranking very close behind this were two thoroughly British domestic pieces. The first, *Quiet Week-End*, based on the record-breaking play by Esther McCracken, was as quiet as its title suggests, but could hardly fail to touch anyone with its charming homeliness. The second, *The Years Between*, an extremely able adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's play by Sydney and Muriel Box, had a rare overall polish which engraved it deeply on the mind. It contained a magnificent portrayal of a homecoming but estranged prisoner-of-war by Michael Redgrave, which was, perhaps, the greatest dramatic masterpiece of the term.

*Theirs is the Glory* was a first-class documentary, and an extremely good presentation of the Arnhem epic. But its many limitations prevented it from being anything more than a documentary, and a war-worn civilisation does not take eagerly to a history of its hardships. It was in striking contrast to *Lisbon Story*, a slow-moving and rather dull musical which had the great redeeming feature of Esmé Percy back in his old part of the suave Prussian "pig."

The American films have been on the whole slightly disappointing. *Lloyds of London*, however, was a surprisingly interesting behind-the-scenes historical romance, and was the best of the transatlantic contributions. *Blood and Sand* contained far too much of both, but contrived withal to be entertaining. *Captain Kidd* was very colourful and well-directed, and presented Charles Laughton as a slightly more frivolous sea-dog than usual, while *The Time of Their Lives* lifted Abbott and Costello momentarily out of the cloud of scriptural poverty which has surrounded them of late. *National Velvet* was good in its way, but its way hardly lay through a public school. Full of open-air and catastrophes, it was notable for the excellent interpretation by Anne Revere of the mother, which won her an "Oscar" for the best performance of the year by an actress in a supporting role.

But on the other hand *Confidential Agent* emphasized only too strongly the need for the emigration of some British film executives to the United States. The photography was naive, the scenery drab, the performance of Charles Boyer branded with an earnestness certainly not demanded by the character he was playing, and the performance of Lauren Bacall devoid of any ability whatever. And *Second Chorus* showed the depths to which Fred Astaire could descend on occasion. It was disappointing to see him in a film whose entertainment value and individuality was about as great as that of a map-reading lecture by an incompetent N.C.O.

Other films were *Storm in a Teacup*, *They Knew Mr. Knight*, *Jesse James* and *Pack Up Your Troubles*.

J.R.J.B.

## LATE NEWS

### RUGBY FOOTBALL THE SCHOOL v. OLD STOICS

Played at Stowe on Saturday, December 6th, the School winning by 13 points to 11.

The incomplete O.S. side was made up to full strength by the inclusion of two masters, Messrs. Deacon and Snell. It also included a few tried favourites in B. A. Stewart, J. D. Le Bouvier, R. M. Bartlett and G. J. Chibbett.

The School side went hard from the first whistle on a soft pitch and with good tackling and forward rushes dominated most of the play. The backs were ineffective as an attacking force, and both tries in the first half were scored by the forwards, Torrens and Cunningham. Both kicks failed. The Old Stoics scored a try from their own '25': Snell picked the ball up in Deacon's absence and cut past the defence before passing to Bartlett, who could not be caught up. W. M. Savery kicked the goal.

In the second half Loup kicked well in defence and dropped a neat goal to give the school a five point lead. Later, from a scrum near the Stowe line, Stewart forced himself over for an unconverted try. The School pack got together and harried the opposition's backs all over the field. On one occasion Bartlett was forced to kick wildly: the ball went straight to J. M. Shinner, who executed some incredible swerves before scoring between the posts. Loup unaccountably missed the kick. Just on time, Stewart scored between the posts for the Old Stoics and Savery, missing the easy kick, left the School winners.

R. M. Bartlett was given no rope by a hungry pack, with Torrens always after his blood. A good game was thoroughly enjoyed by players and spectators alike.

*Teams.—The School*:—J. F. Conington (B); L. R. S. Marler (G), D. E. Conington (B), J. M. Shinner (B), R. J. Roberts (C); M. D. T. Loup (T), P. G. Shinner (B); R. G. Macmillan (C), N. N. Proddow (C), J. L. Paxton (C), F. A. Ruhemann (C), D. S. Paravicini (C), J. K. H. Torrens (C), S. B. Cunningham (T), P. M. Dempster (B).

*Old Stoics*:—J. O. Arnold (G, 1946); W. M. Savery (W, 1942), J. D. Le Bouvier (T, 1940), G. J. Chibbett (C, 1947), R. E. Snell; R. M. Bartlett (T, 1947), C. F. Deacon; J. E. C. Nicholl (B, 1939), J. J. Davis (T, 1946), H. J. M. Molloy (C, 1943), G. F. Armitage (W, 1946), R. A. Roxburgh (W, 1941), D. C. Bakirgian (C, 1945), B. A. Stewart (C, 1938), E. C. Skepper (T, 1946).

### MUSIC

#### SCHOOL CONCERT

The School concert was held in Assembly on Wednesday, December 10th.

The programme opened with a well balanced performance of the First Movement of Mozart's G minor Symphony No. 40.

J. F. Pim (B) then sang two ballads, "In summer time on Bredon" and "Trotting to the fair." He had the right voice for both songs, which differed widely in tempo and expression.

The Orchestra then played, with considerable feeling, two pieces from de Falla's suite "El Amor Brujo": first the "Ritual Fire Dance," a stirring piece of descriptive writing, and then "Pantomime," a much more tranquil composition.

The Madrigal Society sang two unaccompanied carols, and the Orchestra continued the programme with the "Dargason," from Holst's "St. Paul's" suite for strings.

M. Harding (T) then played "Reflets dans l'eau," by Debussy. This was, alas, his swan song to Stowe, and he wound up his musical career here with a magnificent performance. His loss will leave a great gap in future concert programmes.

The Orchestra continued with two pieces from "The Gods go a-begging" (Handel-Beecham, or according to some critics, Beecham-Handel), which "featured" some sparkling work on two oboes.

C. Graham-Bonnalie (T) then sang "Bois Epais" by Lully and "Vesti la giubba" from Pagliacci. He has perhaps too much of a lyric voice for opera as yet, but it was an innovation that well bears repetition.

The Madrigal Society sang two more carols; and the concert ended with two performances (the second by way of an encore) of Jarnefelt's sprightly "Praeludium."

S.B.L.

J.T.C.

The examination for Certificate A was held on Monday and Tuesday, December 8th and 9th. For Part I there were 48 candidates, of whom 46 were successful: for Part II there were 31 candidates, of whom 29 were successful.



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