

THE STOIC



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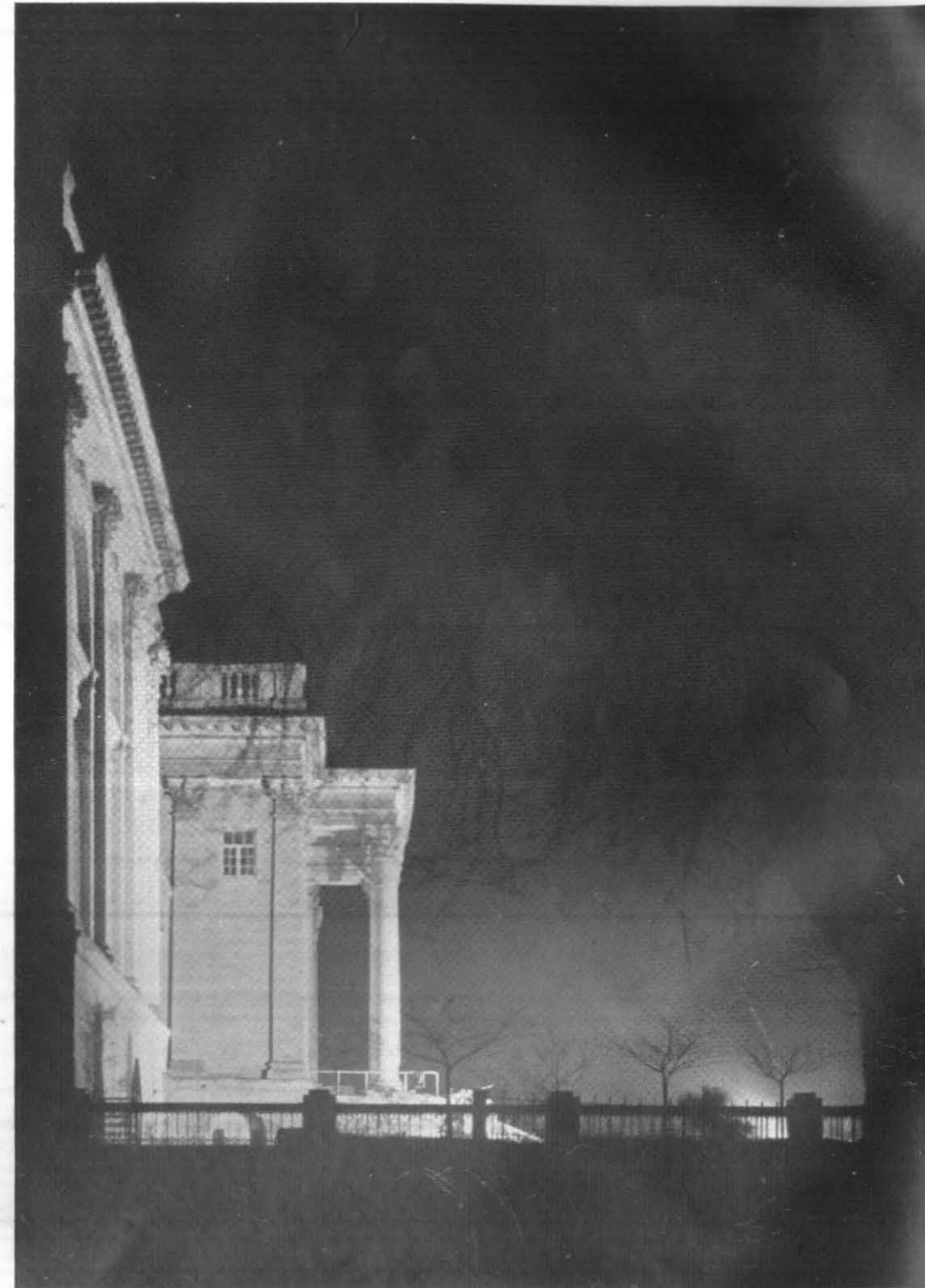


Photo by]

FLOOD-LIT SOUTH FRONT

[J.F.R.]

THE STOIC

VOL XIII

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No. 2

ON TRAINS OF THOUGHT

In medio tumulus erat paulo editior. 'In the middle of the tumult,' one candidate had written, 'was a little editor.' Unorthodox, perhaps, as a translation: but he knew the feeling all right, the littleness of insufficiency when time presses and the fount of inspiration trickles slow.

Some men think best when buried in a deep arm-chair. Others find their stimulus in conversation. And for yet others, it is alleged, thought flows most quickly when the body, itself at rest, is conveyed in gentle motion.

We like the first but have found it end in sleep. We can discover none with leisure for the second. We have doubted the efficacy of the third; but it depends, perhaps, upon what line you take.

It is a Sunday and we are London-bound. The line we have taken is a quiet one even on a week-day. It is hardly the main artery of British Railways and it lacks now even the distinction of a name. Yet it has jolted us already. No, not in that way, but by the accurate promptness with which it has seen us off. Our train of thought has set out.

Half-an-hour has gone by, and we have come quite a distance. There has been, let it be confessed, nothing spectacular. But our hope of inspiration, like Caesar's tumulus, is 'slightly raised.'

Perhaps too soon, for our journey is punctuated by full many a pause and the last was nothing short of twenty minutes. We remember that the hour is already late ('Presses time,' the printer told us standing by his relentless machinery) and we despair of reaching our true destination. But there is one advantage in a quiet, rustic line. Opportunity does not lack for reaching a Halt.

HŌKEN—"TREASURE-SWORD"

It is one of the rarest things possible to find a serviceable European sword of earlier date than the sixteenth century. Fashions in weapons were continually changing in Europe, and the older types, having gone out of date, were discarded, and, in many cases, scrapped. It was not so in Japan, where the sword has remained the same in all essentials for over twelve centuries. Japanese blades, therefore, never went out of date, and the best of them were meticulously cared for and handed down from father to son as the most precious heirlooms. One of the finest examples of these blades, unique in age and quality outside Japan itself, can be seen in the Library at Stowe.

The earliest historical Japanese swordsmith was Amakuni, who flourished at the beginning of the eighth century, but the first to bring the technique to perfection, and to establish the characteristic form which the Japanese blade has retained ever since, was Yasutsuna, the maker of the Stowe blade. He was born in the province of Hoki, on the northern coast of the Japanese main island, in the year 749—exactly a century before King Alfred—and died in 811; so this blade was already more than two hundred and fifty years old at the time of the Norman Conquest.

Practically nothing is known of the life of Yasutsuna, but he is said to have been divinely inspired in his work. Indeed, forging a blade in old Japan almost amounted to a religious ceremony. The swordsmith first purified himself, and hung the smithy with paper charms to keep away evil spirits. Then, dressed in the ceremonial robes of a court noble, he forged the blade from two or more bars of alternate hard and soft iron, doubled over and hammered out countless times. This gave the body of the blade an extreme toughness and elasticity, whilst the edge (which can be clearly seen as a cloudy white strip) was separately tempered to such a hardness as would take an edge like a razor. At this critical stage the swordsmith would often lock himself in and work alone, lighted only by the glow of the charcoal forge and the red-hot blade.

The finished article is a masterpiece of craftsmanship, whilst the unerring precision of its curves and planes, the subtle graining of the steel,

and the cloudy white sheen along the edge, make it a thing of amazing beauty. As a cutting weapon the Japanese sword has no equal; such blades have been known to cleave a bar of iron or a pile of copper coins without nicking or bending, and when tested by an expert swordsman on the battle-field or in the execution-yard have cut through three and even four bodies at a stroke. Records of such tests were not infrequently engraved on the tangs of the blades concerned.

The sword at Stowe was presented in 1912 to the Agenda Club by M. Sugiyama, a Japanese connoisseur, and from that time until 1923 was exhibited on loan in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Meanwhile the Agenda Club had ceased to exist, and on the foundation of Stowe in 1923 Sir Owen Seaman, one of the three trustees of the sword, decided that the purpose for which it had originally been given to the Agenda Club, namely, to stand as a symbol of patriotic service, would best be served by its preservation and exhibition in the new public school. It was therefore formally presented to Stowe on June 26th, 1923.

It is an excellent and typical example of the craftsmanship of Yasutsuna, agreeing in every respect with the characteristics of his best work recorded by the Japanese authorities. On the dark surface of the tang can be faintly made out the two ideographs that make up his name, where he engraved them eleven hundred and fifty years ago. Japanese swordsmiths were often said to infuse some of their own spirit into their best blades; and perhaps if one were in the Library at Stowe some night in the second or eighth month (the favourite months for forging blades), one might sense a Presence in the voluminous silken robes of a Japanese courtier—the spirit of old Yasutsuna, probably rather puzzled to find one of his masterpieces in such strange surroundings, but pleased nevertheless to see it well cared for and occupying the position of honour and dignity it deserves.

(The above article has been kindly contributed by Mr. B. W. Robinson, Assistant Keeper of the Department of Metalwork at the Victoria and Albert Museum.)

STOICA

School Officials—Easter Term, 1948.

Prefects :—J. D. Lloyd (B), Head of the School ; F. G. Everard (G), Second Prefect ; H. F. Cotton (C), Prefect of Chapel ; N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), Prefect of Gymnasium ; D. A. MacL. Connell (G) ; P. M. Gibbs (C) ; M. Birkett (T), Prefect of Library ; S. B. Lloyd (C) ; A. F. Barton (S) ; D. H. Gaskell (C) ; O. B. Sayer (T) ; P. M. Dempster (B).

Athletics :—Captain, J. D. Lloyd (B).

Cross-Country :—Captain, R. J. P. Corry (C).

Hockey :—Captain, S. B. Lloyd (C).

Squash :—Captain, N. R. Cunningham-Reid (G).

The following visitors have preached in Chapel this term :—On Sunday, March 7th, the Rev. E. Knapp-Fisher, Chaplain of Cuddesdon College, Oxford ; on Sunday, March 14th, the Rev. Dr. J. S. Whale, Headmaster of Mill Hill ; on Sunday, March 21st, the Rev. Kenneth Riches, Principal of Cuddesdon College, Oxford.

Chapel Collections this term have been as follows :—January 25th, for The Pineapple, £24 os. od. ; February 15th, for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, £23 2s. 6d. ; March 7th, for St. Dunstan's, £28 2s. 6d.

On Friday, February 6th, Mr. Noel Newsome, Public Relations Officer of the National Coal Board, lectured to the Upper School.

The Cambridge Old Stoic Dinner was held on Wednesday, March 3rd. Dr. Zettl was the guest from Stowe and was accompanied by the Headmaster and Mr. Capel Cure. About thirty-five Old Stoics were present.

Brigadier A. J. Knott, O.B.E., joined the staff in January as Bursar, Mr. Macdonald having retired at the end of last term. Mr. J. M. Osborne has taken the place of Mr. Boyd.

The birth has been announced of a son to the wife of Mr. R. E. Snell, on February 22nd.

“The Natural History of Stowe” will be produced and will be on sale in July. It will contain articles on the grounds, the geology, the birds and the bird collection, the butterflies and moths, the trees, the cricket bat willows, the microplots and so forth ; also a flora list and many photographs. The price will be half-a-crown. Further details will be given next term.

The John Holland Memorial Prize for Craftsmanship has been awarded to G. T. Beer (S).

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

Football Colours were awarded at the end of last term as follows :—

1st XV. :—D. S. Paravicini (C).

2nd XV. :—J. W. A. Downing (T), G. W. Scott (C).

3rd XV. :—M. R. D. Gayford (W), M. C. A. Mott (C), R. H. van Stirum (B), O. L. Rodgers (C), R. N. Langley (G), J. C. Turner (G), R. E. Wadsworth (W), I. M. Morton (B), P. B. W. Pumfrey (C).

Colts' Stockings :—D. C. F. Kimber (B), J. Darnley-Smith (C), G. H. Schmiegelow (W).

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

E. M. L. LATHAM (C) was awarded an Entrance Scholarship in Modern Languages at Clare College, Cambridge, in December.

M. BIRKETT (T) was awarded an Exhibition in Modern Languages at Trinity College, Cambridge, in December.

C. S. EDWARDS (C) was awarded an Exhibition in Mathematics at King's College, Cambridge, in December.

N. N. PRODDOW (C) was awarded an Exhibition in Modern Languages at Jesus College, Oxford, in January.

OLIM ALUMNI

J. R. FREELAND (C, 1945) has been awarded a Tancred Studentship for Law at Lincoln's Inn.

G. C. W. JOYSON (W, 1945) was a member of the all-R.A.F. team which represented Great Britain at bob-sleighting in the Winter Olympic Games at St. Moritz in February.

D. L. PIKE (G, 1945) represented Cambridge as second string in the High Jump in the University Sports held at the White City on March 20th.

BIRTHS

To the wife of C. M. BAKER (S, 1930), a son, on October 19th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT A. R. AMBERTON (C, 1934), a son, on December 15th; to the wife of CAPTAIN J. R. MCCARTHY (G, 1940), a son, on January 2nd; to the wife of G. M. WOLFE (S, 1929), a son, on December 1st; to the wife of DR. A. STORMONT (G, 1927), a son, on January 4th; to the wife of H. D. SEAL (S, 1935), a son, on April 7th, 1947; to the wife of LIEUTENANT T. L. MARTIN, R.N. (S, 1938), a son, on January 29th; to the wife of J. H. S. MARTIN (T, 1933), a son, on December 23rd; to the wife of P. B. LUCAS, D.S.O., D.F.C. (G, 1934), a son, on November 29th; to the wife of M. LORIMER (S, 1930), a daughter, on February 3rd; to the wife of CAPTAIN N. C. A. LOGAN (C, 1928), a son, on January 10th; to the wife of A. HELLAWELL (C, 1935), a son, on December 2nd; to the wife of P. R. H. HASTINGS (T, 1939), a son, on January 30th.

To the wife of J. F. G. FLETCHER (T, 1938), a son, on January 8th; to the wife of H. O. EVERSOLE (B, 1930), a daughter, on January 28th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT-COLONEL D. B. DRYSDALE, M.B.E. (S, 1934), a son, on December 11th; to the wife of A. E. CHESHIRE (B, 1927), a daughter, on December 12th; to the wife of H. A. L. CHAPPLE (C, 1932), a son, on November 24th; to the wife of SQUADRON-LEADER A. C. BARTLEY (S, 1936), a daughter, on December 27th; to the wife of MAJOR J. M. ASHTON (C, 1933), a son, on January 12th; to the wife of G. G. D. CARTER (S, 1934), a daughter, on February 15th, at Hongkong; to the wife of M. H. FRANKLIN (T, 1934), a son, on October 5th; to the wife of G. J. A. EVANS (C, 1926), a son, on December 12th; to the wife of SQUADRON-LEADER J. C. BREESE, D.F.C. (C, 1935), a son, on February 23rd; to the wife of E. R. AVORY (T, 1927), a son, on February 26th; to the wife of MAJOR P. W. FORBES (T, 1932), a daughter, on February 20th; to the wife of R. A. NEWBERRY (C, 1930), a son, on February 23rd; to the wife of T. H. CLARKE (C, 1931), a daughter, on March 5th; to the wife of M. L. B. WILLIAMS (W, 1937), a daughter, on February 28th.

To the wife of S. S. WILLIAMS (C, 1931), a daughter, on February 2nd; to the wife of MAJOR R. T. BASSET (G, 1931), a son, on February 27th; to the wife of MAJOR J. H. N. WESTON, R.A. (C, 1931), a son, on March 7th; to the wife of A. W. TORRANCE (S, 1933), a son, on March 10th.

MARRIAGES

C. K. SIMOND (T, 1937) to Miss A. Foster, on March 4th; J. O. THOMPSON (C, 1940) to Miss P. Tyler, on December 23rd; D. ROSSDALE (T, 1942) to Miss P. Stuart Harris, on February 10th; R. H. M. PEASE (G, 1944) to Miss W. Briggs, on December 30th; W. OVENSTONE (G, 1935) to Miss J. Beloe, on November 15th; J. D. G. NIVEN (S, 1927) to Mrs. H. Tersmeden, on January 15th; MAJOR J. T. B. NOTLEY, D.S.O. (B, 1933) to Miss G. Chenevix-Trench, on December 16th; D. G. MACLEOD (G, 1933) to Miss R. Ingram, on December 19th; R. KEE (S, 1937) to Miss J. Sinclair-Loutit, on January 21st; J. P. GRUNDY (C, 1938) to Miss M. Thornton, on February 7th; CAPTAIN J. C. G. FRANCIS (C, 1937) to Miss P. Quane-Walsh, on December 11th; J. S. B. BUTLER (S, 1941) to Miss S. Swan, on December 13th; MAJOR A. T. BARDWELL (C, 1933) to Miss J. Cameron, on January 24th; C. M. ARGLES (C, 1930) to Miss T. Fenton, on January 20th; P. D. J. HIPPISEY-COX (C, 1943) to Miss O. Kay, on February 27th; THE HON. W. HILTON-YOUNG (W, 1941) to Miss E. Adams, on January 24th; E. D. CAMPBELL (C, 1933) to Miss L. Zarich, on December 15th; A. D. THOMSON (C, 1941) to Miss Y. R. Hall, on February 28th; F. R. PERKINS (G, 1927) to Mrs. J. Wallace, on July 25th; J. D. MILNE (C, 1942) to Miss J. Akroyd, on March 6th.

DEATHS

FLYING-OFFICER N. C. DAVISON, R.A.F. (S, 1944), the result of an air accident on January 17th, 1948.

J. O. STANLEY (T, 1938) on December 21st, 1947, on Penrhos Beach, Anglesey, accidentally by the fall of a cliff.

MAJOR A. T. BARDWELL (C, 1933) lost his life in the aeroplane Star Tiger on January 30th, 1948, when flying to Bermuda on a honeymoon trip. He had been married on January 24th.

DECORATIONS

M.B.E.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL D. B. DRYSDALE (S, 1934), Royal Marines.

STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS

Tel. : PADddington 5452.

423a, EDGWARE ROAD,
PADDINGTON,
LONDON, W.2.
March, 1948.To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

SIR,

Since the time of your last issue of *The Stoic* club membership has increased by some seventy new members and returned old members. A welcome occurrence has been the large number of visits to the club of "new" Old Boys of the "Pineapple," mainly from those in the Services.

The club senior football team has won the Marylebone Football Cup Competition and has hopes of landing a Shield Competition as well. Two other teams have played whenever a pitch has been obtainable.

Very strong interest in table-tennis, darts and snooker is now taken, and in each of the two former games four club teams exist.

Help in the evenings from Old Stoics is still very urgently hoped for. Captain Straker now helps on Mondays, Michael Patmore on Wednesdays, and Reggie Harland on Thursdays. Both Straker and Harland are available only during the tenure of their staff appointments in London.

The Club would like to express its warm appreciation of the hospitality accorded by the School when Stowe was visited on February 22nd.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

C. F. JUPP (*Warden*).

"SAHRNA"

Why did Sahrna die?
What is the reason for the dull, cold, crumbling
Of a body wonderful,
Brilliant, translucent as a veil,
Into dust, putrescent with the slime
Of myriad worms, writhing
Snakelike round the festering bones
Of what was once a source of wonder,
Joy, amazement, to mere men?
Once gay, tune-filled, clad in colours
Various as any humming bird
Or butterfly, fluttering round the flame
Of man's regard, as moth round any candle;
Now cold, rotting in the grave she lies,
Her life cut short, a very Juliet.
Why should Sahrna die?

P.B.E.G.

WHAT IS ALL THIS TORQUE ABOUT?

It was as Neddy Napier and his Flogarithm Band, nervously starting their new 'Sum-a-Series' entertainment, struck the first chord of the evening that the great ruler Timeo Danaos and Dona Ferentes, his escort, entered the Rhombus Restaurant. To the accompaniment of a harsh discord from cymbal, harmonica and triangle they took their seats. On a sudden impulse the General ordered two π s, some Descartes Oval biscuits and a bottle of H.P. (550 ft.-lbs. and all that) sauce. The dancers in the restaurant milled perilously near and the sauce bottle, knocked spinning by the arm of a certain couple, fell to the floor. Looking up, Timeo saw his old enemy, Sir Cumference, dancing slowly near his table; evidently the knight was not only completely unaware of his presence but also was on the point of proposition to his partner, the sinuous Witch of Agnesi. Dona Ferentes being absorbed in conversation about Hooke's Law with an angler sitting at the next table, Timeo rose and firmly removed the Witch from the Baronet's arms; he danced the Quadrille at her, although he hardly knew a step of it, for half an hour.

(Yes, I can see them coming round the bend now. The tortoise is just one hundred yards behind Achilles.)

Sir Cumference, stung to wrath, reclaimed his partner as soon as he was decently able, and with a haughty glance at Timeo, made as if to leave the building, first telling the head waiter, resplendent in his uniform, "If such a thing should recur—ring DECimal 999 and I'll come and give the blackguard a hiding!" Once clear of the crowded building, he turned on the faithless Witch, β , and δ a heavy blow: through the door of the restaurant, however, Timeo saw it all, and leaping out, he tried to 'cosh' Sir Cumference over the head. As a result of this friction, Timeo forced the knight to a duel. A couple of seconds were immediately procured, and they all agreed to meet the following morning, when the sun should first start to shine, by the tree with the square roots.

(The tortoise is doing very well; he is now only ten yards behind Achilles!)

The party met at the appointed hour; the Witch came too and was very embarrassed when her friend Perry met 'er and angrily blamed her for causing the duel. "You lever alone," cried Sir Cumference, and to her, "U-nit quietly for a moment or two, my dear, until this business is all over." The Witch replied that she was inclined to agree, "'cos it is rather dangerous where I am," as she admitted, and retired beyond the compass of the combat. The seconds were quickly ticked off for having supplied pistols of subnormal curvature, and then the two principals were given the command "At—tension" and soon after came "You will fire alternately with only one shot each."

(Oh! Well done, Sir; the tortoise is doing magnificently, and he is now only one yard behind Achilles.)

The Witch, eagerly awaiting a graphic description of the *melée* from Perry, murmured to herself presently, "Arc! There were two shots." Perry rushed up, crying, "The result, my dear, is negative, and neither was injured." "Watt! Are you positive?" cried the erect, angular female. "Yes—not a mark to show for themselves," replied Perry. "Both men have shaken hands and are returning now. It is all over."

(The tortoise is still doing well, but will he catch up? Achilles is now only one tenth of a yard in front.)

Heaving a dΨ of relief, and having once made sure that poor Sir Cumference's condition was no cause for gravity, she went home in a fair degree of exhaustion that was plain to see. Later that evening Sir Cumference arranged to metre, to take her out for the evening to celebrate his miraculous deliverance. She agreed, and they set off at once for a round of pleasure. Finding a suitable café, the two figures entered, sat down and after a very short wait, ordered a meal.

(Will this race ever end? The tortoise is now one hundredth of a yard behind Achilles.)

The Baronet's ex-opponent, however, had the same idea in mind for his partner, and it was as Neddy Napier and his Flogarithm Band, nervously starting their new 'Sum-a-Series' entertainment, struck the first chord of the evening that the great ruler . . .

M.D.

G.L.D.D.

CROSS COUNTRY COMMENTARY

The starter drops his flag. "They're off!" Our sporty friend gasps the obvious. There's a patter of many pairs of feet upon the grass, a simultaneous click from the inevitable battery of cameras, and the starter, who has, rather imprudently we think, taken up his position along their direct line of advance, is now inundated by the sudden onrush of white-clad bodies; however, he reappears to view on the far side, miraculously unharmed, as the noble 56 hurtle past, down into the valley of Dadford. We see an historically-minded bore approaching us; he foils our attempt to escape, and booms, "This is too warm work, Hardy, to last long." We ignore him, but silently agree. As we turn to walk back to the loud-speaker, our mind is filled with painful recollections of the last commentary. We remember the promising beginning, before the actual arrival of the runners, with such remarks as "Er-it's a magnificent day for running-er-not too hot and not too cold-er," but then, with the arrival of the runners, someone had blundered, and the commentary, if memory serves aright, went something like this: "Here come the leaders, all of a bunch. First is mamimimimimi crackle anybody's race, followed by crackle, pop, splutter BANG." Deathly silence, finally broken by the announcer explaining that we had just been listening to a commentary from the Deer Barn. This year's loud speaker does little to allay our apprehensions; for some time now it has been emitting the familiar crackles, but these are suddenly interrupted by a muffled voice, which informs us that we are to be handed over to the top of Dadford Hill. A pause and more crackles, then a faint voice: "Hallo, North Front. Here we are at the top of Dadford Hill-er- there's nobody in sight yet." Another pause: then, tense with excitement, we hear the voice announce: "Here comes the first runner. Yes, he's a boy." A sigh of relief at this from his audience. "I can't see who he is yet. Yes I can, he's Withinshaw." Faint cheer from Cobham fans, suppressed by angry murmurs of "Hush!" "Withinshaw followed by Brown and Everard, followed by—" "Speak slowly and loudly," interrupts an Important Voice. Profuse apologies from the other end. "But they have nearly all gone by now. There goes Blank, and people like him." "There are not many people like him," says Important Voice. The commentator ignores this one, and continues, "Here comes the last one; at least I think he must be last, because here come the cyclists, stretcher-bearers

and camp-followers. I am sorry not to have given more names, but they were all so bunched up." "Don't worry, that was a very good commentary," says Important Voice.

We hope the commentator feels suitably flattered. Andrew, the announcer, tells us we are going to be handed over to the Black Pit. Dead silence, not even relieved by our old friend, the crackles; at last there is an announcement that the apparatus has broken down; sardonic cheers from the crowd; we suspect someone has pinched the wire; however, the announcer has it from a cyclist that Withinshaw was still in the lead there. My sporty friend says that they ought to have racing pigeons as an auxiliary to wireless, "They're just as efficient as this wireless commentary," he says; bicyclists are even more so, we point out, and far more economical. Suddenly, unannounced, and hardly according to plan, we think, the Deer Barn commentator starts up: "Here come the first two runners. Withinshaw and Everard absolutely neck and neck; no, Everard half-an-inch in front: next Brown, forty, no forty-five yards behind." Rather a pedant, evidently. Then follows a series of word portraits of individual runners as they go past: he has more time than the other commentator, for the runners are more spread out. Even so, his efforts are punctuated by such remarks as "I'm sorry, I missed a group then," or "I don't know who this one is." As he has not mentioned our "certainty," we hope he is one of the "group I've just missed." The detailed descriptions of the faint but pursuing are now interrupted by a cheer from the direction of the Roman Road. Two weary figures, white of garment, red of face, are coming up the straight to the finish, to fall exhausted on the necks of their seconds in the enclosure. The rest of the field pants on, pants in, in varying stages of exhaustion.

Our ship has come home now, and we enter the paddock, now looking more like a casualty-clearing station, to cover him with coats and congratulations. He sinks to the ground, exhausted.

How wonderfully fresh we feel. What was it that Kipling said about "muddled oafs and flanneled fools"?

N.E.W.

ABSENT JOYS

A few brave climbers from great heights have seen
The stream's full course across the plains below,
A vein of silver on a deep jade-green,
Which broadens into muddy ocean flow.

The old man on its banks would seek its source
But finds the path too steep for limbs grown old;
The boy would follow down its whole long course,
Hoping those silver springs may turn to gold.

But at the river's seaward broadening
He finds at last no sail upon the sea,
No glint of gold, nor any other thing
Save ocean's grey implacability.

But we for whom nor Death nor Time can wait
Must live, at least, before it grows too late.

M.B.

MUSIC

The Orchestra has been in good form and attendance has been excellent. The Wood-wind section is now complete. The works rehearsed have included Beethoven's Egmont Overture, Rossini's William Tell Overture, a Folk-Song Suite by Liadov, Mozart's Piano Concerto in D minor, with M. Birkett (T) at the piano, and "The arrival of the Queen of Sheba," from Handel's Solomon.

The small number of boys learning Violin and 'Cello is greatly to be deplored, and, although the String players in the Orchestra at the moment have reached a high standard of playing, the outlook for the future is not too bright, unless more players are forthcoming.

The Choral Society has been rehearsing Bach's Peasant Cantata, a cheerful, invigorating work which has proved very popular.

The Madrigal Society will be giving a performance of Passion Music on Good Friday. The music includes Chorales and Choruses by Bach, Dvorak, etc.

There has been a remarkable improvement in the playing of the J.T.C. Band, thanks to the able tuition of Mr. Webb, who has taken over the teaching of Wind instruments, and who seems able to play every instrument with equal efficiency.

The House Music Competitions will be taking place on Easter Sunday. The School Concert, by the Choral Society and Orchestra, will take place on Wednesday, March 24th.

L.P.H.

THE MUSIC SOCIETY

The Music Society has held two concerts this term, the first, on Wednesday, February 18th, being a Pianoforte Recital by Eileen Joyce.

PROGRAMME.

Ballade in G minor	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Chopin</i>
Impromptu in A flat	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Chopin</i>
Prelude in D minor	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Chopin</i>
Waltz in A flat	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Chopin</i>
Moonlight Sonata	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Beethoven</i>
Papillons	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Schumann</i>
Andante and Rondo Capriccioso	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Mendelssohn</i>
Jeux d'Eaux	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Ravel</i>
Impromptu in A flat	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Fauré</i>

Miss Joyce delighted all hearers by her brilliant technique and by the great character of her playing, but in all the works chosen, one felt her performance to be lacking in something—in the Beethoven it was contrast and tempo, in the Chopin a real understanding of his idiom of piano writing. This is very likely due to the influence of gramophones and broadcasting. The ease with which one can hear the finest pianists in the world, under ideal conditions, playing the works they interpret best, makes one inclined to set up an impossible standard to be achieved by every professional pianist. Still more dangerous is the tendency to go entirely upon one recorded performer's interpretation, say Cortot's Chopin or Schnabel's Beethoven. Nevertheless, Miss Joyce missed much of the poignancy of Chopin's G minor Ballade, and even in the two waltzes she played as encores she did not quite capture the lightness of Chopin's mood, although generally her touch was beautifully light and sensitive. The Beethoven "Moonlight Sonata" was curiously interpreted, especially in tempo, so curiously in fact that it seemed quite an unfamiliar work. One would have to hear her play it again to make up one's mind about her playing of it. Miss Joyce was at her best with the Ravel and Fauré which she played with tremendous élan and which she obviously knows really intimately. Her interpretations of modern French composers are deservedly popular. In all, in spite of these almost too fastidious comments, Miss Joyce delighted everybody by the great personality and independence of her playing, which, coupled with an impeccable technique, made the recital a very welcome experience.

The second concert was given by the Intimate Opera Company on Wednesday, March 31st.

PROGRAMME.

"Bastien et Bastienne," a Comic Opera	...	...	...	...	<i>Mozart</i>
"The Bachelor's Bond," a Comic Opera	...	...	...	...	<i>Offenbach</i>

The Intimate Opera Company, consisting of only three singers and bringing with them only the bare essentials of scenery, gave one of the most delightful concerts we have heard at Stowe. Both the operettas they performed were charming and lively and they certainly got the most out of each. The Mozart was sung simply and effectively by all three singers. Miss Keturah Sorell's lower notes were a little thin but her upper register was exceptionally pure, especially in view of the bad cold from which she was suffering. Frederick Woodhouse, as always, was the favourite and during the interval sang two very amusing songs called "The Leather Bottel" and "Dicky Dolus," which many people enjoyed more than anything. The Mozart operetta, written at the age of 12, although very charming, was a little unrelieved in style. The Offenbach, however, was most lively and perfectly acted, especially by Stephen Manton, the third singer of the three. Generally, a more delightful evening could not be imagined.

M.B.

DEBATING SOCIETY

This term attendance at debates has improved and the speeches have tended to become shorter, more interesting, and less conscious efforts for wit, all of which is to be encouraged.

The first Debate took place in the Library on Wednesday, February 11th. The Motion before the House was "That in the opinion of this House, Public School Life is better in Fact than Fiction."

MR. R. G. GILBERT proposed and quoted from a book by the name of "The Shaping of Jepson." His speech was well constructed, though at first it was a little slow.

Mr. J. C. T. UTTLEY opposed, and he too quoted, only this time at great length, from a large library of books. The Society was greatly amused.

G. L. D. DUCKWORTH (C) and T. M. IRVINE (T) spoke third and fourth respectively. Their speeches were frivolous but humorous.

A Closed Debate took place on Sunday evening, February 22nd. It was in the nature of a riotous foregathering. The motions, gleefully chosen by the President, were: "That Columbus went too far"; "The Higher the Fewer," and "This House would rather be a Snake in the Grass than a Bull in a China Shop." Speeches were quick, amusing and wholly impracticable, as indeed they were meant to be. The main speakers were I. V. de Wesselow (C), J. D. Nightingale (C), R. S. McConnell (T), O. B. Sayer (T), G. H. Rooke (C), R. C. Thornton (W), J. I. K. Gornall (B), B. F. Brindley (G), T. M. Irvine (T), J. F. Pim (B) and G. L. D. Duckworth (C).

The second open Debate of the term occurred on Wednesday, March 10th, the Motion before the House being, "In the opinion of this House, a Public School Boy needs no University Education."

O. B. SAYER (T) proposed and divided the virtues given a public school boy into three—commonsense, morality, courage. J. F. PIM (B) opposed and made his swan song by extolling the advantages of a University Education.

MR. R. E. J. DAVIS spoke third and argued that the advantages offered by a University were not needed today.

A. K. THOULD (C) spoke fourth and maintained that a University Education followed as a logical consequence to a Public School one.

Later in the evening some very good speeches were made by members of the Lower House.

The following were elected members of the Society:—R. G. Macmillan (C), B. F. Brindley (G), P. J. Tickell (B), S. A. M. Adshead (B), N. E. Wates (B).

The Officers of the Society this term were:—Secretary, A. K. Thould (C); Treasurer, J. R. J. Burnham (T); Librarian, J. F. Pim (B); Committee-man, J. F. Marsden (W).

A.K.T.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

THE EPHEMERALS

Owing largely to the exertions of Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald, the Society's second term was as successful as its first. Because of the claims of the Twelve Club, R. R. E. Chorley (G), I. V. de Wesselow (C), F. A. Ruhemann (C), O. B. Sayer (T) and J. C. Turner (G) were elected members at the beginning of term; and J. Lockwood (W) was elected at the first meeting, J. F. Marsden (W) becoming Secretary.

The first meeting of the term took place on February 6th when J. N. W. Bridges-Adams (G) read us a paper on "Beau Brummell." This was an excellent example of the biographical type of paper at which Historians excel, partly informative and partly anecdotal. At the second meeting on March 5th, C. H. Bradly (B) read us his paper entitled "Rasputin and Prince Youssouppoff." This was the most vivid paper the Society has yet had, and led to an excellent discussion. At the last meeting on March 19th, G. L. D. Duckworth (C) displayed his wide knowledge of music in a paper on the history of Opera.

This term's members were Mr. Macdonald (President) and Mrs. Macdonald; C. H. Bradly (B), J. N. W. Bridges-Adams (G), B. F. Brindley (G), R. R. E. Chorley (G), I. V. de Wesselow (C), M. Doyle (C), G. L. D. Duckworth (C), J. Lockwood (W), J. F. Marsden (W), G. H. Rooke (C), F. A. Ruhemann (C), O. B. Sayer (T) and J. C. Turner (G).

J.F.M.

THE MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

The most important event of the term has been the 250th meeting of the Society, the occasion being celebrated by an evening of simple potation, mingled with homely games, in the President's rooms. The plays we read this term have been highly successful: we began with Labiche's superb comedy "Un Chapeau de Paie d'Italie," whose humour delighted and entranced the Society. In addition, we have read "Le Jeu de l'Amour et du Hasard," by Marivaux, the 18th century playwright. Although he relies too much on the farcical element for the success of his comedy, this play, too, was thoroughly enjoyed by the whole Society.

H.T.B.

THE SYMPOSIUM

So far this term there have been two meetings of the Society. The first was held on February 12th when R. Barry (G) read a paper on "Demonology." He traced the influence of the "supernatural beings termed demons and devils" from the time when the Devil and his host of Evil Ones was first recognised, about 400 B.C., until the present time, when, he claimed, the Christian Church no longer required the example of evil so personified. The paper was a very interesting one and stimulated vigorous discussion afterwards, which centred largely on the subject of superstition in religion.

On February 26th the second meeting was held and D. S. Duckworth (G) delivered a paper on "European Craftsmanship in Armament throughout the Ages." He explained the development of both armour for defence and weapons for offence from the time of

the Stone Age until the early period of fire-arms. He also pointed out the difference between those arms that were made entirely for war and those that were too ornate for fighting. Weapons illustrating various stages of development from an Aborigine's cudgel to a double-barreled pistol of about 1830, were passed around and explained. The subject was such a large one that he was unable to do more than outline it. It was also unfortunate that he had to leave early and did not have the opportunity to enlarge on his otherwise excellent paper.

It is hoped that S. A. M. Adshead (B) will read a paper later on in the term.

M.C.A.M.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

There have been fewer bright days this term, but photographers have taken any opportunities which offered themselves.

The Society has recently been affiliated to the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain and any member of the school can now enter photos for advanced exhibition. We are holding our own exhibition and competition next term and if the many photographers in the school enter their best photos it should be of a high standard. All prints entered must be $4\frac{3}{4}'' \times 6\frac{1}{2}''$ or over and they will be judged in two or three separate groups. We hope to give good prizes but our resources are rather limited.

Mr. Parker gave a practical demonstration on enlarging to a few members and he has very kindly offered to lecture in the future.

Now supplies are improving, and as there are many keen photographers in the school it is hoped that the pre-war standard will soon be reached.

This term the committee was made up as follows:—M. R. D. Gayford (W), Hon. Secretary; R. R. E. Chorley (S) and R. R. Glover (S), Treasurers; R. S. Dove (W), Curator.

M.R.D.G.

THE TOXOPHILITES

There has been only one meeting so far this term, at which G. L. D. Duckworth (C) read a paper on "Music down the Ages," with illustrations on the piano. In the interesting discussion that followed, several other members also tried their hand at the piano, if a little less competently.

It is hoped to have another meeting in the near future to hear a paper on "The Martian Myth," by J. F. Law (C).

F.A.R.

THE MUSIC CLUB

There has to date been only one meeting of the Music Club, which was held on Friday, February 27th, when M. Birkett (T) read a brilliant paper on "Concerti." His illustrations were admirably chosen; his actual talk was unusually lucid and packed with carefully gleaned information.

A prospective expedition to London to hear Eileen Joyce and the Philharmonia Orchestra had to be called off, but it is hoped that one will eventually be arranged.

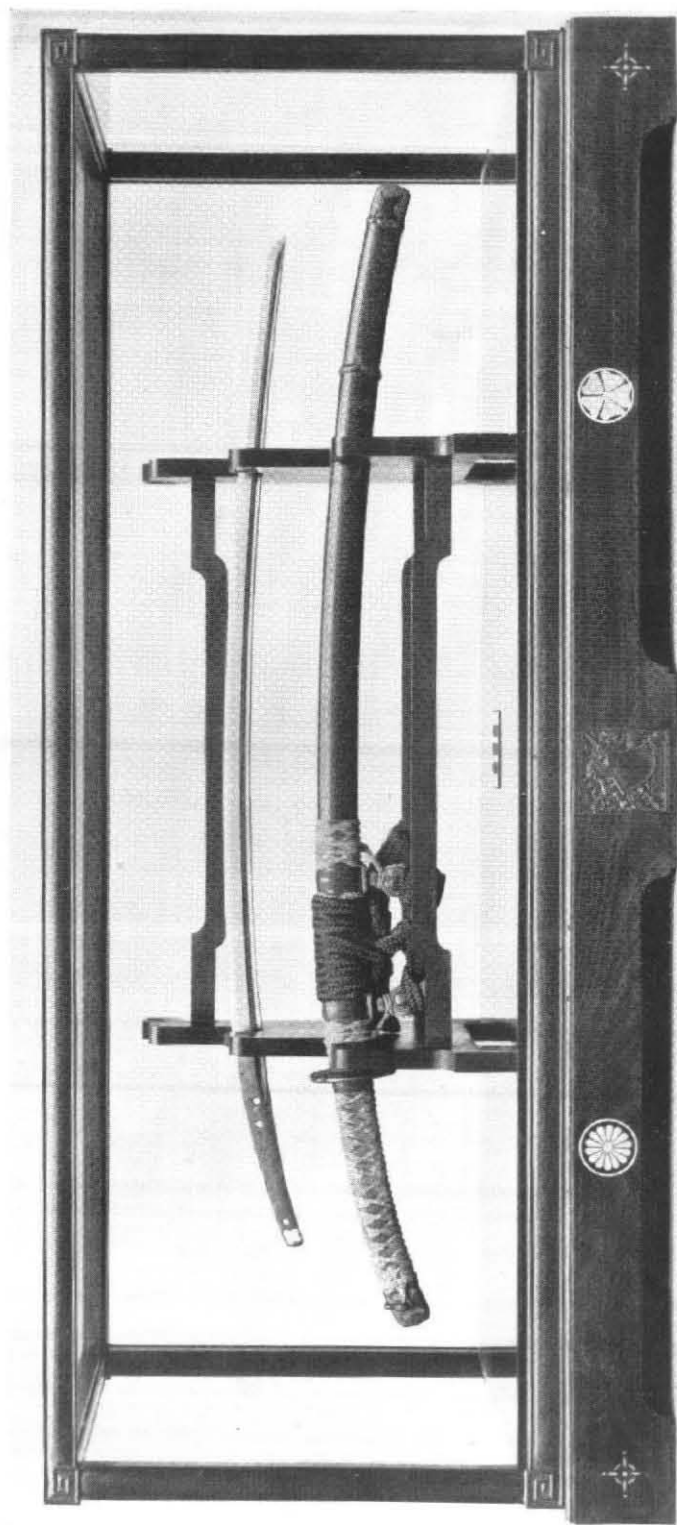
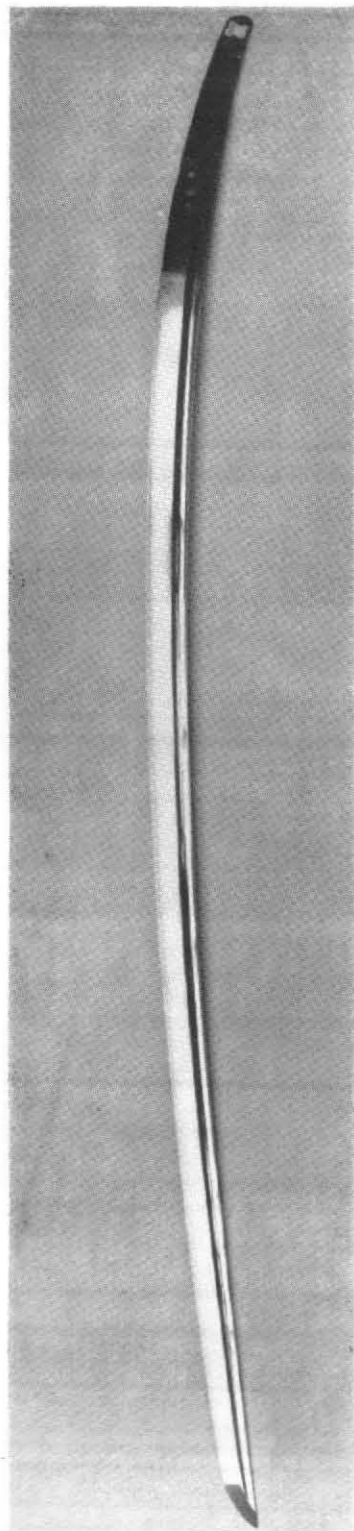
S.B.L.



Photo by

CONCERT IN ASSEMBLY

[M.R.D.G.]



[The Victoria and Albert Museum

THE SWORD OF YASUTSUNA

By courtesy of

THE STOIC

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THE RADIO CLUB

The above Club was re-formed this term after a lapse of several years, but membership was restricted owing to lack of accommodation and also because of the fact that a certain amount of technical knowledge is required. Mr. J. M. Osborne, who joined the staff this term, very kindly consented to act as President, and as he himself is very keen on wireless he has been of great help in many ways.

The fortnight which followed the re-forming of the club was occupied mainly in agitating for the removal of A.T.C. equipment from the club's present residence—the lab. hut in the store yard—but up till now, all efforts in this direction have been met with polite refusals and vague promises. We still live in hope.

The first half of the term was occupied in preparation for the cross-country commentary. In spite of the fact that one or two of the telephone lines ceased to operate for various reasons, communication was re-established in time. Apart from some rather hectic moments experienced by two radio operators on the farthest section of the course, everything went according to plan.

There has only been one lecture this term, a treatise on "H.F. Oscillators," by the President, a subject which interested every member of the Society. There have, however, been several informal meetings which took place throughout the term.

The officials of the Society are :—President, Mr. J. M. Osborne ; Secretary, W. J. M. Gratrix (T) ; Treasurer, B. J. R. Hodge (T) ; Records Officer, A. de F. Mellor (B).

W. J. M. G.
A. de F. M.

THE "46" CLUB

There have been two very good papers so far this term, on "Archaeology," by R. R. Glover (S) ; and on "Evolution," by M. Doyle (C). A third paper, by J. C. Turner (G) on "Plastics," is expected for the end of term. For an Easter term the meetings have been surprisingly regular and successful.

M. H. E.

THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

At the first meeting of the Society this term P. M. Gibbs (C) gave a short lecture on the subject of the polarisation of light. In a lucid and well-delivered lecture, it was evident that the lecturer possessed a wide knowledge of his subject. But perhaps the most successful part of the lecture consisted in the numerous demonstrations which were employed to illustrate the lecturer's thesis. These included the colours of crystals in polarised light, pieces of celluloid being stretched and twisted, and the lines of strain produced in a plate of glass on gentle heating.

The "pièce de résistance" of the Society's activities this term was a series of ten reels shown in the Gymnasium on two consecutive Wednesdays on the subject of atomic energy. These films were opened to the entire school and we were relieved to find that they were appreciated by scientist and non-scientist alike. They explained with a remarkable degree of clarity the growth of the theory that led eventually to the development of the Atomic Bomb. One was conscious the entire time that everything was building up, relentlessly, to this great inevitable conclusion. It ended in an optimistic vein. The audience left with the grim conviction that atomic energy as an aid to every-

day life is only just around the corner. It is merely a question of time—but we must be careful.

A conversazione on the usual lines is to be held on the last Saturday of term.

P.M.G.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

There have been two meetings this term, the first of which was held on February 20th, when the Hon. Secretary read a paper entitled "A brief Survey of World Exploration," in which he sketched the history of discovery from classical times to the end of the nineteenth century. He made particular mention of the expeditions of Marco Polo, Vasco da Gama, Columbus, Magellan and Captain Cook. The paper was followed by a most interesting discussion on colonial administration and the colour problem in South Africa.

The second meeting was on Monday, March 15th, when M. C. A. Mott (C) gave an informal talk on his eight-week tour of Africa, which took place last Summer holidays. He told the Society of his speedy visits to Tripolitania, Egypt, the Sudan and Kenya, and gave a more detailed description of Southern Africa, where most of his trip was spent. He was able to give some first-hand information on the rivalry between the Boers and the British and their attitude towards the native. Mott concluded an extremely informative and enjoyable paper by giving an account of a big-game hunt, in which he participated.

I.V.deW.

THE XII CLUB

Ireland, faith and trivialities of every description have been the conversational diet of the Club this term, whilst the two papers read were on "Lord Carson" and "Superstition."

J. F. Pim (B) defended Lord Carson and his anti-Home Rule Bill policy for Ireland with great vigour, besides giving an account of his remarkable legal career. Pim used the life of Carson as a basis for his own Unionist views, which were attacked, the minute the paper was finished, by the considerable Nationalist element of the Club. "Ulster versus the South" kept the Club debating fiercely for a long time, and when the subject changed to religion, by way of the Irish Catholics, the Club became more argumentative than for a long time.

At the second meeting R. J. Roberts (C) held forth on Superstition. The chief attraction of this paper was the wealth of strange customs and delightful stories of superstition and mystic rites of the past which it contained. Roberts was coldly impersonal about superstition and showed no regret at its more colourful form disappearing with the growth of scientific knowledge. Perhaps as a reaction to this, the Club proceeded to admit to a great many more superstitions than members really believed in. The conversation turned from superstition to mere eccentricity and thence to the most ridiculous and whimsy habits, the whole Society confessing to all manner of strangeness! The meeting, however, preserved some semblance of unity and order.

New members this term are: G. N. Beveridge (C), D. J. M. Campion (W), P. M. Gibbs (C), R. A. Hird (C), J. D. Lloyd (B). Permanent Guest, A. F. Barton (G).

M.B.

THE VITRUVIANS

The first meeting of the term took place on Wednesday, February 18th, when Mr. Eric Jarrett delivered a lecture on "English Abbeys and Cathedrals." Mr. Jarrett showed the Society many slides and sketched the history of the Christian Church Buildings from early times up to the 16th century.

On February 28th, Mr. Bulmer lectured to the Society on "Modern Architecture." He started by showing how architecture, as it is to-day, began at about the time Euston Station was built and progressed slowly up to the beginning of the second decade of this century. With the advent of reinforced concrete, it progressed greatly, although even now it is still in its infancy.

On March 20th, R. D. Shepherd (C) read a paper to the Society on "Railway Architecture and its Design."

Attendance at meetings this term has been much improved and a high standard of lectures maintained.

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

A.K.T.

TEMPLE'S TEN

Producers differ substantially one from another, not only in what they conceive to be the proper purpose of a House Play, but also in their desire for public recognition. Hence, it has not in general been the policy of *The Stoic* to review such performances with any regularity; and, in particular, through their own wish, no previous notice has been taken of Temple's many productions. But exceptions are made, and quite certainly an exception is justified on the completion of a decade. For the audience at "World Dixième" this March was witnessing a landmark in a series of considerable distinction.

The series began in December 1937 and has gradually developed its more characteristic features. Ian Hay's "Crimson Cocanut," and V. C. Clinton-Baddeley's "Cinderella," in that year, provided a very tolerable entertainment but perhaps not very much more. The following Christmas saw another alien production, Clinton-Baddeley's "Aladdin," but with a difference. Local talent had begun to step in, and among many musical numbers were some from the hand of the Housemaster (whose gifts in this direction, by the way, have reached more exalted stages). In particular there sticks in the memory the compelling figure of Peter Hastings luring his audience into bolder and better renderings of "Violet and Primrose," the first of those theme-songs which now annually expand our thawing lungs.

The coming of the war was bound to cause a check, but it was not for longer than it had to be. "April Folly" came in the spring of 1941 and definitely improved morale. We forgot our gas-masks as instructed and were entertained by two hours of admirable Variety, all home-produced and ranging from Grand Opera to Recitation—A. J. Manley's 'breathless hush.' A bonus of talent was accumulating: in addition to Manley, there was A. M. Quinton, J. F. Tuohy and J. E. M. Irvine (all of whom two years later gained Major Scholarships at Oxford). Quinton's "Babes i' the Wood" (December 1941) and Tuohy's "Luscious Lavender" (April 1943) perhaps represented the high-water mark of Temple pantomime—for this, spiced with a proper degree of topicality, now came to be the traditional type of show—both in composition and in production and performance. J. M. Bryan's "Aladdin" could not quite compete with these, though it had its bright spots and produced a memorable Fairy Godmother in A. G. Maclean.

After a revival, three years ago, of the 1938 "Aladdin," native ability came into its own once again with H. L. P. Hingston's "Cinderella," and, last year, A. Caiger-Smith's "Puss in Bags." Of these, the former was noteworthy as the last of three occasions on which we enjoyed the excitingly melodious voice of A. J. O. Ritchie and were stunned by the demoniac presence of J. J. Davis; and the latter for the substitution at the piano (normally struck by the strictly invisible Mr. Capel Cure) of M. E. Harding, perhaps the most able pianist ever at Stowe. This year's play, from the nostalgic pens of Quinton and Manley, with J. R. J. Burnham as Red Riding Hood, needs no special comment, for it is fresh in the memory of those who saw it.

I have mentioned names of authors, actors and composers, but they have been only those suggested by personal memories. There might have been many others, for the striking achievement of these plays has been that they were not the work of individuals but of a large proportion of the whole House, including, but by no means dominantly, Housemaster, House Matron and Assistant Housemaster. If they have been favoured by much talent, they have deserved it for they have developed it. Each play has owed much to its assistant writers and composers, to its minor characters and its fetching choruses, to its scene-painters and its electricians, its effects men and its stage carpenters, even to its Box Office Managers. (Mrs. Watt, almost solitary non-member of Temple, will not think that her services to dress and make-up are forgotten.)

Within a single House, the technical standard is bound to vary over a period of ten years; and it has varied, though it has never seriously failed to give a great deal of pleasure to the majority of those who have come. But, aiming at no more than a House Play should, each production has certainly succeeded in its appropriate purpose, which is to give a lot of scope to a lot of people within a community small enough to be intimate and upon a scale small enough to limit vanity on one side of the footlights and suffering on the other; and at the same time to entertain. Long may this series continue.

P.G.H.

THE GRENVILLE HOUSE PLAY

"TEN LITTLE NIGGERS," by AGATHA CHRISTIE.

Anyone reading this piece should realise that at the time of performance of the play the reviewer had no idea that it was to him that the honour of reviewing it should fall. Blithely and with an open and uncritical mind, minus notebook and lour expression, tripped he towards the Gym, ready to enjoy the performance as an ordinary member of the audience. Thus, as at the time of writing his remembrance of certain details of décor, production, even of acting may appear to some hazy, he would take this opportunity of apologising to anyone in the cast who finds that, "The fool didn't notice . . ." or "But the whole point of my performance was . . .!" He is not apologising for what might be called by some 'rudeness' or what he would term 'searching criticism' but for any apparent neglect of duty.

As a whole the performance was good, in places excellent. A criticism of the plot as a whole seems to this reviewer idle, yet surely there could have been devised some more probable ending than that which was actually adopted. "Thank God women can't shoot straight"—a very painful line. The actors, however, struggled manfully to overcome what must have been an embarrassing situation, and it was largely due to their efforts that the audience did not carry away with them rather unpleasant memories of the last few moments of the play.

The best performances of the evening came from C.S. Anson, D. A. Connell, J. H. Whiteley and G. E. Samson. Anson's part, that of Sir Lawrence Wargrave, did not, save in the closing stages of the play, call for any extremes of emotional acting but rather for a consistently clever portrayal of a character none too well scripted. Only by consistent good acting can the audience's interest in such a character be maintained. As opposed to General McKenzie, Blore or Anthony Marstone, Wargrave is not a part to which the label 'type' might be attached. The moment Marstone opens his mouth the trend of his future remarks is patent. Wargrave, not being a 'type' character, has to rely more upon subtleties of tone and gesture in order to draw attention to his remarks. Anson played this difficult part well. High praise.

To Samson fell the rôle of Blore, the vulgar, bulbous bourgeois in the hideous waist-coat and audible tie. His portrayal of grossness was one of the most telling performances of the evening and its effect was much heightened by his excellent make-up. If the play had been on the professional stage the reviewer would have said that at times Blore tended to obtrude, but for Stowe this objection is invalid since the audience tends to prefer overacting.

D. A. Connell acted with great confidence and élan in a part which suited him admirably. It was unfortunate that his right arm seemed to have been seized with a veritable lust for movement. Forwards and backwards . . . still, this small but aggravating point need not be pursued. The only thing which marred a performance of great ability was a tendency to monopolise the stage and thereby to render it difficult for the audience to remember that there were other actors with equally telling parts still thereon. Yet it was refreshing to see a character portrayed with such unmistakable confidence.

The reviewer enjoyed J. H. Whiteley's performance more than any other in the play. Technically he found in it few faults, the most important being a tendency to rely more upon volume than upon tone of voice, especially in the more dramatic moments. Yet he obviously enjoyed himself in a part which was none too easy. His gestures were eloquent as were his flashing spectacles, and his voice, when subdued, was extremely clear and effective.

This is the point where the reviewer begins to chew his pencil. Recollection becomes difficult. So far he has found it relatively simple to criticise, for it is natural that the best performances are more easy to call to mind than those of less high merit. As far as he can recollect (pray remember it all happened a couple of months ago), R. Jameson made a convincing Vera Claythorne, D. S. Salt was Marstone and very amusing indeed in a part which might have been tailor-made for him. B. F. Brindley changed his sex and age and found it no strain. (No more did the audience.) F. G. Everard was crusty and appeared somnolent. (*Stop Press: The reviewer has just been informed that what appeared to be somnolence was in fact intended to have been mental instability.*) P. Jameson and J. R. Carnegie made an excellent pair of servants. Uncertainty surrounds Narracot in the memory of the reviewer. A boatman perhaps?

The décor of the play was excellent as was the make-up. M. D. Cobham's sea-gull noises were remarkable for their—well, were remarkable. It is possible that the recording-machine did not do justice to J.F.P.'s rendering of the "Ten Little Niggers" song. As a whole the performance was first-rate, and it is to Mr. Gibson, the producer, that a great deal of the credit for a very enjoyable house play should go.

P.M.D.

"TEN PAST NINE"

Ten past nine? Is that the time?
 Have I spent an hour already,
 Scribbling with vacant mind?
 Have those fleeting minutes fled for ever,
 Leaving me no recollected thoughts?
 Is there no record of the breathless dreaming
 That has reft my body from my soul,
 And left the one sated, filled with stupor,
 While the other soars on wings above the world?
 What of the sights it saw?
 What of the road that leads to Samarkand?
 What of the crowded clangour of the East,
 To Western eyes romance-filled,
 And yet so sordid?
 What of Baghdad the Beautiful,
 Flushing rose-pink as the dawn comes up;
 What of her people, evil, dirty,
 Riddled with disease, while some that pass
 Are redolent of mysteries from 'Arabian Nights';
 What of all these?
 Ten past nine, you say? It's half past now.

P.B.E.G.

BOOK REVIEWS

"IF PITY DEPARTS AND OTHER POEMS," by ROBIN ATTHILL (C, 1931).

(*Andrew Dakers—5/-*)

This is the first collection of Robin Atthill's verse to be published, though some of his work has appeared in such periodicals as *The Spectator* and *Penguin New Writing*. One of the poems in this volume—*In Memoriam: Charles Spencer*—was printed in *The Stoic* in December 1941.

This collection consists of thirty-four short poems which are quietly attractive and, though in no way conventional, refreshingly free from the pretentious irrelevances and arrogant mannerisms which make the reading of most modern verse a mixture of intelligence-test and all-in-wrestling-match. Some of Robin Atthill's poems employ strict metre and rhyme; others are linked by assonances or near-rhymes ('storm'—'devoured'—'foam'—'charred'). The lines are at times, I feel, too irregular in length; one is led by the predominant rhythm to expect regularity, and the disappointment of this expectation is not always accompanied by sufficient emphasis to justify it: but this is an infrequent fault and does not seriously interfere with the easy flow and clear meaning of the verse.

The impression which one retains from a reading of the poems is of windy skies and hills, and often of a terrifying insecurity, as in *The Road to Xanadu*:—

"Under the dim cliffs whose terror leans
 on the sleeper: through dream-vaulted stone
 whose loneliness crushes the perplexed soul;
 down glooming channels of tormented fear
 raced the blind river."

Permeating the majority, especially those inspired by the war, is the sense of broken threads, of the interrupted holiday and the closed customs-house; and still more urgent is the feeling of waste and breakage, the dead friend, the hospital ship, the fall of Icarus or of a bomb or of a bomber,

"the suave voice with its casual arithmetic
 of death booming in a million shuttered homes."

These are not poems of action; they are the meditations of an observer. Indeed, one section of the most significant poem, *Variations on a Theme*, is a translation of Lucretius' *Suave mari magno*. But they are not the poems of a fatalist, and the Lucretian apathy is replaced by a faith which is best exemplified in the following lines:—

"Always the growling emptiness of to-morrow
 and only memory to feed
 our longing for friends whom we loved much.
 Hard to endure the knowledge
 that the leaves upon the tree of life concealed
 from them the bitter fruit of death.

Sowing the spring asks faith.
Seed falls into the dark
and private mind; but there's no knowing
how long the silence, or where
leaf will suddenly break ground
to its far flowering beyond our sight.

Man's true contentment asks
no quick or tangible return—
like one who plants a naked landscape
with a frail avenue of beech,
strong in the assurance that his sons' sons
will walk gratefully in the green shade."

J.C.S.

"THE CURE," by WILLIAM McELWEE. (*Andrew Melrose*—8/6.)

If one is looking for a book by an author with a sense of style and of literary taste, one does not feel much attracted to a bright yellow spine, with red and black lettering, glaring at one across a bookshop. We know another author who has something of a monopoly in this particular style. And even if one should take the book down, the design on the dust-jacket does nothing to increase one's hopes for the book—a man, with shoulders far too square and a waist far too narrow, stands on a balcony in an attitude of studied negligence. But if one should glance at the back of the dust-jacket one will find a tribute to the author by no less a stylist than J. D. Beresford and one will find him compared to David Garnett and Walter de la Mare. Perhaps the tawdry dust-jacket is deceptive. But it is the familiar figure of the Stowe History Tutor, whose name appears in more appropriate style under the title "Charles V," which resolves all doubt. That dust-jacket is almost a lie.

"*The Cure*" is a story of two people falling in love—no more. It has no wider implications than the effect on these two lives. The time is between the two wars; although several references are made to the recent war, the whole atmosphere of the book is that of a time remote from our post-war worries. The scene is Parves-les-Eaux, whither Mr. Darcy Thompson has come for "the cure," a process described with a realism worthy of Zola. The whole book is devoted to the love story of Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Mills, from its first desperately contrived beginning by Darcy Thompson to its hopelessly disillusioned ending by Elizabeth Mills. Moreover, the whole story is told from the standpoint of Darcy. The only glimpses we get of Elizabeth's thoughts or reactions are those either of Darcy's observation or of his imagination. The very self-sufficiency and strict limitations of Mr. McElwee's theme provide him with his great strength. For into the one episode he can pack all the analysis and observation which he possesses. No change of mood or scrap of self-analysis on the part of Darcy remains unclear to the reader. The reader is forced to put himself in Darcy's position, and once there he can never get out of it. The problems are all too vital and urgent for him to stop thinking of them for a second. For the reader to lose his own personality so completely in Darcy's, the author too must have identified himself even more completely with Darcy. It is here that lies the weakness, or rather less convincing part, of the story. The author's supposedly impersonal observation of Darcy's feelings sounds, on account of this, all too like self-analysis carried to an almost neurotic degree. Each change of mood is so carefully noted and commented on that it seems as if Darcy

were consciously aware of everything going on even in his subconscious mind, rather like a surgeon operating upon himself under a local anaesthetic. Such preoccupation with his own mind is incompatible with Darcy's character as otherwise shown. Nevertheless, so firmly does the story and its problems hold the reader that he has no choice but to accept Darcy's character as his own, inconsistencies and all. He finds himself taxing all his ingenuity and all his acting power to engineer an apparently chance meeting with Elizabeth, summoning all his courage to declare his love, disregarding all his past life in a sudden, ephemeral passion, and feeling with Darcy all the anti-climax and disillusionment of the ending. The ending is handled with great restraint and the sense of disappointment is most carefully built up and comes with such inevitability from the circumstances that the reader feels, like Darcy, completely resigned.

There then is the theme of the book, a theme treated by others often incidentally, often superficially, often inadequately. What makes "*The Cure*" outstanding is that Mr. McElwee's treatment of the theme is none of these things. Having all the delicacy of observation, it needs no artificial stimulus.

It is not a book to treasure or even to read twice. But that is no stigma; much of the world's great literature cannot be read twice; many of the finest short stories do not bear re-reading. "*The Cure*" cannot be re-read, for the subtlety of the moods through which it moves the reader is too fine to be recaptured, but it is a book that must be read once and that, I am sure, with very great pleasure.

M.B.

"A CROWD IS NOT COMPANY," by ROBERT KEE (G, 1937).

(*Eyre & Spottiswode*—9/6.)

Even those who hate all kinds of war book—and they seem at the moment to be the vast majority of the reading public—will find themselves compelled to go on reading Robert Kee's first novel if once they start. It is hard to define exactly what it is that lifts this particular book clean out of the ruck of prison camp and escape stories and gives to episodes all of which have been written up before a new vividness and excitement. Clearly it is largely autobiography. The author tells his tale in the first person. He is shot down, and captured, escapes and almost gets out of Germany, is hauled back at the last moment, and finally takes part in one of those nightmare forced marches which, for so many inmates of prison camps in Eastern Europe, were the last prelude to freedom. What is remarkable is the degree to which the reader is compelled to re-live the story with him. The technique is that of the best modern reportage—a technique reminiscent of the better sort of film—which tells the story in a series of scenes and flashes and views, each one observed with a brilliant eye for detail, recapturing completely the hopes, fears and passions heightened by a life of loneliness and frustration, and forcing the reader to see the picture and share the emotion. In consequence this becomes a very exciting book.

Robert Kee is already busy on another novel and it will be extremely interesting to see if he can keep it up. Nothing, of course, can deprive him of his technique: the immaculately restrained prose style and the ability to tell a story. But one cannot tell, yet, if he can handle equally well characters and situations created entirely in his own imagination. If he can, he may well become one of the outstanding writers of his generation. If not, his output will be somewhat restricted, for no lifetime is long enough to live through many novels at the pace set by this one. But such speculation should not obscure the fact that this first book is already a distinguished achievement.

W.L.McE.

GENERAL PAPER

1-4. In the following list underline the four words which denote a school of painting:—Laxative, Abortive, Expletive, Primitive, Hortative, Plagiarist, Parallelist, Impressionist, Exhibitionist, Surrealist, Contortionist, Baba, Dada, Gaga, Haha, Nana.

5-6. The recent exhibition at the Tate Gallery of the work of (a) Van Dyck? Van Beeke? Van Eyck? Van Gogh? Van Loo? has been followed by another of the work of (b) Chirico? Chagall? Cézanne? Churchill? Chardin? Name the two artists.

7. What plant is said to shriek? 8. What moth is known to squeak? 9. What braggart swallowed a leek? 10. What nation declaimed from The Beak?

After which Peer, each a well-known historical figure, were the following named:—11. A knitted, woollen waistcoat, with or without sleeves? 12. Boots coming up to, or nearly up to, the knee? 13. A one-horse, closed carriage? 14. Two slices of bread with meat or other relish between them? 15. A loose, wide-sleeved overcoat?

In what town would you be, if you were walking in or across:—16. Red Square? 17. Ringstrasse? 18. Unter den Linden? 19. Piazza san Marco? 20. Cannon Corner?

21. At the Massacre of Glencoe, which of these—the Camerons, the Campbells, the Macdonalds, the Covenanters, Black Douglas, or Cumberland the Butcher—slew which of these: the Camerons, the Campbells, the Macdonalds, the Covenanters, Redgauntlet, or Bonnie Prince Charlie? (One mark for the two names.)

22. What French painter had the same name as a King of Israel? 23. What modern general has the same name as an ancient conqueror? 24. What team game has the same name as a mediaeval traveller? 25. What Old Testament people had the same name as fossils? 26. What English poet had the same name as a disinfectant?

27-31. Which five of the following are or were locomotives? The Great Bear; Cock o' the North; Cheltenham Flier; The Flying Dutchman; Bailie Nicol Jarvie; Caerlaverock Castle; Bluebird; Biggin Hill; Bamburgh Castle; City of Truro; Black Arrow; Goblin Hall; The Golden Bough.

Sulphuric acid, sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, carbon tetrachloride, magnesium, ammonia, copper, lime—Which of these would you use:—32. In gardening? 33. For washing-up? 34. In a car battery? 35. In smelling salts? 36. For electrical wiring? 37. In photographic flash powder? 38. In baking powder?

39. When Big Ben strikes noon on any June day in 1948, what time will be shown by the shadow on an ordinary sundial?

40. Which of the following scientists was secretly flown from occupied Europe during the war to help in atomic research?—Born? Bohr? Blackett? Berzelius? or Dirac?

41. If you found some phenobarbitone, would you:—(a) Use it as fishing-bait? (b) Put it into the petrol tank of your car? (c) Take it to a police station? (d) Use it as a vitamin pill? (e) Recognize it as the common plant usually known as rhubarb?

42. Who wore an ass's head? 43. Who was given an ass's ears? 44. What squire to a knight rode upon an ass? 45. What was the name of the ass in "Winnie the Pooh"? 46. Whose sleep was undisturbed by the stamp of an ass?

Give the Roman name for:—47. Aphrodite. 48. Artemis. 49. Ares. 50. Hermes. And the modern English equivalent of:—51. Cathay. 52. Muscovy. 53. Lusitania. 54. Helvetia. 55. Iberia.

56-57. Who lived first and last of:—Themistocles, Euripides, Catullus, Epicurus, Plutarch, Sappho, Constantine and Erasmus?

Complete the following pairs:—58. Scylla and..... 59.and Euryalus. 60. Castor and.....

61. Strike out whichever of the following is not in the City of London—Thread-needle Street, Lombard Street, Cornhill, Cheapside, Fleet Street.

Tick the correct definition:—62. Streptomycin is a remedy for tuberculosis (), a virulent bacillus (), the connecting-rod to the torque-tube ball socket (), an edible fungus (), or the trade-name of a species of glue ()? 63. Benelux is a soap substitute (), a Customs union of the Low Countries (), an import duty on Belgian tobacco (), or the prize given to the winner of three "benes" ()? 64. Bishop Barnaby is a Dickens' character (), the name of a move at chess (), the country name for a lady-bird (), a race-horse (), or a rock off the Lipari Islands ()? 65. Buff Rock is the name of a recent novel (), a child's sweetmeat (), the highest peak in the Andes (), a strain of poultry (), or the popular name for agricultural salt ()? 66. Umslopogaas is a mountain in Sierra Leone (), a character in a well-known novel (), the Danish national anthem (), the Swedish pole-vault champion (), or the capital of Sumatra ()?

67. Who is reputed to have been born and to have died on St. George's Day? On what day of what year did: 68. Great Britain and the United States declare war on Japan? 69. The Allied Forces land in Normandy?

70-71. Taking the general direction N. E. S. or W., if you travelled from Stowe fifteen miles towards the place where Captain Scott died, then ten miles in the direction from which comes the "breath of Autumn's being," then fifteen miles towards Eboracum, then seven miles towards Nelson's Walk, in what direction is your starting point and how far away? (Two marks.)

72-74. What three kings of what three countries died in 1947? (N.B.—The name of the king and of the country must be given for each mark.)

Cross out the intruder in each of these groups:—75. Piano, crescendo, rondo, andante. 76. Menuhin, Solomon, Pouishnoff, Kentner. 77. Harpo, Karl, Groucho, Chico. 78. Irving, Beerbohm, Tree, Garrick. 79. Bassoon, cor anglais, tuba, piccolo. 80. Etna, Hekla, Olympus, Popocatepetl. 81. India, Newfoundland, Ceylon, Rhodesia.

82-85. Pair off eight names from the following list, in the order Father—Son. (One mark for each correct pair.) David, Jonathan, Isaac, Barnabas, Saul, Solomon, Lazarus, Zebedee, Moses, Jacob, Dives, James.

From what plants are the following obtained:—86, Digitalin? 87, Atropine? 88, Opium? 89, Quinine? 90, Hashish?

91, What is the surname of the Archbishop of Canterbury? 92, What kind of tree fell on the Armoury last March? 93, What is the native language of Bizonia? 94-95, In what county are you at (a) Finmere Station? (b) Syresham? 96, If you heard someone say that he had seen a bull and a cow with a pod of pups in a rookery, of what would he be talking?

Fill in the missing word:—97, Quart - Gallon - - Bushel. 98, Pin - - Kilderkin - Barrel. 99, - Earl - Marquess - Duke. 100, "Ingredientes Custodi Domine Deus."

J.T.C. NOTES

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

To *Under-Officer*: Sergeants J. F. Law (C), G. L. D. Duckworth (C).

To *Sergeant*: Corporals D. H. Gaskell (C), P. B. E. Gibson (B), F. J. Hawkins (S), H. T. Bowles (T), M. C. A. Mott (C), J. M. Shinner (B), I. S. Rutherford (W).

To *Corporal*: Lance-Corporals M. Doyle (C), A. K. Thould (C), I. V. de Wesselow (C), F. A. Ruhemann (C), C. J. Guise (T), R. S. Dove (W), R. H. F. Cox (T), W. G. J. Brown (W).

Appointed *Lance-Corporals*: Cadets M. J. Gemmell (B), R. R. Glover (S), P. P. Patten (C), R. G. Bennett (W), J. F. Le Poer Trench (C), J. E. Gilbey (S), M. H. Goodhart (W), R. J. Roberts (C), R. M. Maxtone-Graham (C).

The strength of the Corps this term is 318, with an unusually high proportion of Certificate "A" holders. It has therefore been possible to continue the very successful experiment of the Demonstration Platoon which has proved itself a considerable help in training others and invaluable as a reservoir of potential N.C.Os.

There have been no whole-day exercises this term and Cert. "A" does not take place until March 22nd; so there is little to report. As a result of the change in the recruiting age a year ago we shall have the smallest Cert. "A" Part II entry on record this term—probably only about twelve candidates; but this will be offset by a field of sixty for Part I. The Certificate "B" squads continue to flourish and a certain amount of light entertainment has been provided for the idle by the drilling of the Infantry Section under the fierce eye of Sergeant-Major Brown, of the Scots' Guards.

The Band is believed by those who have ventured near the Queen's Temple on a Tuesday to be staging a spectacular reappearance at the end of the term. In fact, all branches of the J.T.C. seem to be flourishing soberly and efficiently in a manner which rightly calls for little comment.

W.L.McE.

SHOOTING

A "Possibles" prize of one guinea was offered this term, the only alterations to last term's conditions being that a 1-inch group should be equivalent to an application possible, and that previous winners of the "Possibles" prize should have to score one more target in each group. The prize was won on March 5th by E. H. Trimmingham (W).

On Thursday, February 26th, a team of 8 members of the J.T.C. fired the first round of the competition for the Major-General W. M. Ozanne Challenge Shield. The team was:—J. M. Rigg (W), M. R. D. Gayford (W), R. H. F. Cox (T), J. N. Vinen (W), E. H. Trimmingham (W), G. F. Appleton (G), R. S. Dove (W), J. B. Makinson (B). The competition this year was fired without cover; the score was 402 out of a possible 440. M. R. D. Gayford and J. M. Rigg scored possibles.

Major R. Haworth has very kindly offered to present a .22 rifle to the boy who has the highest score in the "Country Life" and "Ozanne Shield" competitions.

The "Country Life" competition takes place on March 18th. A postal match has been arranged for March 13th against St. Paul's School.

R.S.D.

SQUASH

Although the Squash results, to the time of writing, have been unimpressive, the general standard of squash has improved considerably this term. Unfortunately it has never been possible to play a full team. N. R. Cunningham-Reid (G) after a convincing victory at Radley developed elbow trouble. T. J. Greenley (W) has played three very good opponents: although at times he has played well, he is too unsteady. R. Lush (C) has showed that he is a good match player by winning his three matches, and played very well against Harrow where by keeping a good length he beat a player with a greater range of strokes but less determination. J. F. Conington (B) and D. E. Conington (B) in one appearance each retrieved well, but through lack of practice were unable to make many winning strokes. R. A. Hird (C) did not find his form against Harrow but played well against a good Christ Church opponent. D. MacL. Connell (G) lost a very exciting game at Harrow where both players made some remarkable recoveries.

A ladder for the Juniors has been started and they have shown considerable keenness and promise. Some matches have been arranged and it is hoped to play some school matches next season.

In addition to those mentioned above, S. B. Lloyd (C), P. N. J. Presland (G) and R. C. Page (C) have represented the School.

Results have been as follows:—

Wednesday, February 4.	v. RADLEY.	Lost, 1—4.
Thursday, February 12.	v. HARROW.	Lost, 1—3.
Saturday, March 6.	v. CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD.	Lost, 2—3.
Wednesday, March 10.	v. ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD.	Won, 4—1.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

THE SCHOOL *v.* KING'S SCHOOL, CANTERBURY

Played at Stowe on Saturday, December 13th, the School winning by 8 points to 3.

King's School were completing a short rugger tour by playing us. They had been defeated previously by Sherborne 11—3, but their past record shewed them to be a very successful team, having two wins of over forty points.

They were a small side and it looked as if they must suffer from lack of weight, particularly if Stowe could keep up a constant pressure. The game began with both teams attacking in turn, first they would make ground by short passing movements and then Roberts would penetrate their defences with fine bursts of speed. Once D. Conington sold a beautiful dummy and went through but had not the necessary speed to get a full reward. The only score of the first half was a penalty goal by King's—a good one from the touch line against a wind.

In the second half Stowe kept up the pressure and King's deteriorated—weight began to tell and their attacks became less penetrating and concerted. Stowe on the other hand began to get a grip on the game and it looked as if they must win—as they did. D. Conington intercepted a short pass and ran fifty yards to score. The kick at goal was touched by a defender on its way over the bar, but the referee failed to see it and the score became 5—3. Scott should have scored had he gone outside the full-back—he went in and was castled by the covering forwards. Marler got the ball twice and made rings round and through the defence. His try was a masterpiece: he swung outside his man, sidestepped in past a would-be defender, defeated half a dozen other opponents and dived over the line near the corner—one of the moments of the season: the kick failed.

The forwards stimulated by Cunningham played a great game in the loose, but surprisingly enough were pushed back by a smaller set of opponents. P. G. Shinner was slow and clumsy at the base of the scrum, but Roberts was a live wire at stand-off half. He made many penetrations and got the other backs going much faster. On the whole a great improvement.

Team:—J. F. Conington (B); L. R. S. Marler (G), J. M. Shinner (B), D. E. Conington (B), G. W. Scott (C); R. J. Roberts (C), P. G. Shinner (B); R. G. Macmillan (C), N. N. Proddow (C), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), D. S. Paravicini (C), F. A. Ruhemann (C), J. K. Torrens (C), S. B. Cunningham (T), P. M. Dempster (B).

THE SCHOOL *v.* ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD

Played at Stowe on Monday, December 17th, the School winning by 3 points to nil.

This, the last match of the term, was the most unusual of all of them. No penalties were awarded throughout the game, and this at a time when the majority of close

matches are lost or won by penalty kicks. There was more soccer played than rugger and some wag said the final score should have been 1—0 instead of 3—0.

There is very little to describe in this game: it was mostly a closely contested battle between two fiery packs who drove each other to and fro with foot rushes which could not be classed as dribbling, but rather as through-passing and quick following-up. The ball rarely got past the stand-off halves, but when it did it must be said that Stowe looked the more dangerous. My prophetic neighbouring spectator, Austin Matthews, said, "I bet the only try will be from a dribble and a lucky touch-down." Well, it did happen, five minutes later: Marler broke away from the "25" like a high-stepper with the ball at his feet, feinted to shoot when he came to the full-back who was deluded into thinking it must really be soccer, and finally just (and some said he didn't) got a touch over the line. The kick failed. Later, after a long passing movement, feet only, a scrum formed on the St. Edward's line. P. G. Shinner dived for the line and every-one was certain he had scored, but a "25" was awarded. Stowe continued to attack strongly but the defence held out till no-side.

Stowe deserved to win. They played keenly and had there been a little more science in the play the score might have been twelve to fifteen points in their favour. However, a most satisfactory finish to what had been a poorish season.

Team:—J. F. Conington (B); L. R. S. Marler (G), J. M. Shinner (B), D. E. Conington (B), G. W. Scott (C); R. J. Roberts (C), P. G. Shinner (B); R. G. Macmillan (C), N. N. Proddow (C), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), D. S. Paravicini (C), F. A. Ruhemann (C), J. K. Torrens (C), S. B. Cunningham (T), P. M. Dempster (B).

THE SCHOOL *v.* ETON

Played at Stowe on Thursday, February 12th, the School winning by 20 points to nil.

This was Stowe's first match with Eton and, I think, the first school match in an Easter Term. The game, though not of a high standard, was thoroughly enjoyed by both players and spectators alike. It was played on the South Front under ideal conditions.

Stowe pressed from the start and within ten minutes P. G. Shinner forced his way over from a scrum on the line. The kick failed. Soon after, Roberts cut through and D. Conington scored but failed with the kick. Rarely did Eton visit the Stowe half of the field, but on two occasions they reached the Stowe line only to be driven back. There followed good loose work by the Stowe forwards and Eton were pinned in their "25." From a scrum on the Eton line the ball was wheeled over and Paravicini touched down. A half-topped kick just got over. In the closing minutes of the first half, J. M. Shinner with characteristic dash forced his way over far out: the extra points were not added. Stowe 14, Eton 0.

Eton played better in the second half, and Stowe played worse. The backs sauntered in attack and penetrations were few. The Eton defence was deadly and their forwards played an extremely courageous game. D. Conington kicked the ball cleanly, for the only time in the game, to give Stowe another three points. Just before time Roberts scored the best try of the day. He cut outside his opposite number and then with a

great diagonal run rounded the opposition to touch down some twenty yards from the posts. The kick again failed.

Eton must be congratulated on their untiring defence with an inexperienced fifteen. They only play for five weeks in the Easter Term and last season had no rugger whatsoever.

Team:—J. F. Conington (B); G. L. D. Duckworth (C), J. M. Shinner (B), D. E. Conington (B), G. W. Scott (C); R. J. Roberts (C), P. G. Shinner (B); R. G. Macmillan (C), T. R. Lambert (G), J. L. Paxton (C), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), F. A. Ruhemann (C), P. M. Dempster (B), D. S. Paravicini (C), M. Doyle (C).

SENIOR HOUSE FINAL

In a hard-fought game, with a keen east wind discouraging all but the hardiest spectators, the Senior House Final was won by Bruce, who defeated Cobham by a single penalty goal. The score represents fairly the difference between the sides and reflects also the superiority of the defences over the attack. Rarely did a threat develop to either side's line and the occasions on which a try was possible could be counted on the fingers of one hand. Yet the game was interesting to watch and was as much enjoyed by the spectators as by the players. There were some good movements in mid-field, which were checked by equally good counter-measures. It was a ding-dong struggle from beginning to end, with no quarter given or expected.

If there was one feature of the game which deserves particular mention, that feature was the fielding and kicking of John Conington, the Bruce full-back. In the whole game he did not put a foot wrong and his extraordinarily accurate touch-finding was heart-breaking for the Cobham forwards. In retrospect, it was accurate kicking which won Bruce the game, since it gave them territorial advantage and prevented the Cobham forwards from getting within striking distance of the Bruce line. Only once, in the second half, did they come near to scoring a "forward" try and then it was a very close thing. Among the Bruce backs, David Conington and John Shinner played a forceful attacking game and were constantly looking for openings. Peter Shinner, at scrum-half, gave his backs even more of the ball than his forwards' heeling earned, and Bradley, on the wing, shewed how very dangerous he might have been had his centres given him a clear pass. For Cobham, Roberts played a valuable game, but was too closely marked to get away. He, in his turn, prevented his opponents from getting far, and in this task was ably supported by Scott and Rodgers, with Gaskell, on the left-wing, providing the most brilliant tackle of the match, when he brought down Bradley and prevented what seemed a certain try.

Of the forwards, Paravicini, Mott and Macmillan did solid work in the Cobham pack, which was always slightly better than Bruce, but their burly, heavy rushes were always well countered by the nimbleness of Dempster and Lloyd. The Cobham pack was superior in the tight, but Patterson hooked extremely well and often got the ball when his scrum was being shoved. Both packs played very well and there was little to choose between them.

Cobham won the toss and played with the wind. David Conington kicked off and Bruce were soon in their opponents' "25." Pressure, however, was relieved by Roberts

and the Cobham forwards took the ball to the other end. A series of scrums led to Cobham being awarded a penalty kick for foot-up, but Paravicini failed narrowly with a difficult kick. From the drop-out Bruce pressed and play returned to the Cobham end, where a few minutes later Bruce were awarded a penalty for failure to put the ball in straight. David Conington kicked the goal and Bruce thus led after 10 minutes. From the re-start, Bruce again attacked and no less than three drop-kicks were attempted in as many minutes. All were unsuccessful, though one was no more than a yard wide. Play then returned to mid-field, and at half-time the Bruce line was under pressure from Cobham forwards.

The second half began with John Conington fielding Roberts' kick and finding touch a long way inside the Cobham half. From a scrum on their "25," Cobham heeled and Cotton went away on his own, but was brought down by Pearce. The ball then went to the Bruce three-quarters and John Shinner made a characteristic run, which took him into the Cobham "25" before he was checked by Rodgers. Shortly afterwards, Bruce were awarded a penalty for obstruction, and Stickland narrowly missed with a thirty-five yard kick. From the drop-out, Cobham attacked and Scott broke away and kicked ahead. Unfortunately he twisted his ankle in attempting to follow up, but from a line-out Paravicini carried the ball forward a further ten yards before being brought down by sheer weight of numbers. Cobham now developed a strong attack on the Bruce line from which they almost scored, but the situation was relieved by a brilliant dribble by David Conington. Peter Shinner then made a good solo run, and Roberts, with an equally good effort, took the ball back to midfield. Play then moved slowly back to the Cobham "25," with the Bruce three-quarters attacking all the time. Two more drops at goal failed and then came a good run by Bradley. He seemed certain to score when Gaskell appeared from nowhere and checked him with a beautiful flying tackle. This was really the climax of the match and four minutes later the whistle went. The game was admirably handled by Mr. Ball, whose quiet efficiency gave both sides complete confidence.

JUNIOR HOUSE FINAL

TEMPLE v. COBHAM

Played on Wednesday, February 18th, and resulted in a win for Cobham by 3 points (one try) to nil.

The prospect of hard frost caused the game to be played earlier than expected and although this may have been a handicap to Temple, who had played a Marathon semi-final two days previously, the result on the run of the play was a fair one.

It was clear from the start that Cobham intended to harass the Temple backs as quickly as possible. This they did with good effect, for G. J. E. Dixon and A. M. Whitty, the Temple danger men, found progress difficult with none willing to buy Dixon's dummy. Over-eagerness on the part of Cobham nearly cost them the game, for H. J. Lloyd went very close with several penalty kicks awarded for offside. The only score of the game came mid-way through the first-half when, after a Cobham for-

ward rush, the ball was heeled from a loose scrum and passed out to the speedy Brahams who went over in the corner for an unconverted try.

Temple, more awake in the second-half, did most of the pressing and were unfortunate when Dixon hit an upright when attempting to drop a penalty goal from near the touch-line. Towards the end of the game play became fast and furious with deadly tackling by both sides. One tackle made by H. R. Herrington in the last minute when a Temple try seemed certain will long be remembered by Cobham.

Both sides are to be congratulated on the standard of play: if they carry the same spirit into School games the success of Stowe rugger will be assured.

SENIORS

Grenville	}	Chandos	}	Cobham	}	Bruce
Chandos		12-3					27-0
Grafton	}	Cobham	}	Cobham	}	Bruce
Cobham		13-3					3-0
Chatham	}	Chatham	}	Bruce	}	Bruce
Temple		36-0					11-0
Bruce	}	Bruce	}	Cobham	}	Bruce
Walpole		21-0					3-0

JUNIORS

Bruce	}	Bruce	}	Temple	}	Cobham
Chandos		24-3					14-3
Grenville	}	Temple	}	Cobham	}	Cobham
Temple		30-0					3-0
Walpole	}	Chatham	}	Cobham	}	Cobham
Chatham		24-0					29-0
Cobham	}	Cobham	}	Cobham	}	Cobham
Grafton		23-3					3-0

CRICKET FIXTURES 1948

FIRST ELEVEN

Sat., May 15.	—CRYPTICS.	Home.
Sat., May 22.	—FREE FORESTERS.	Home.
Wed., May 26.	—O.U. AUTHENTICS.	Home.
Sat., May 29.	—BUCKINGHAM.	Home.
Sat., June 5.	—M.C.C.	Home.
Tues., June 8.	—RADLEY.	Away.
Sat., June 12.	—ETON RAMBLERS.	Home.
Wed., June 16.	—OUNDLE.	Home.
Sat., June 26.	—ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD.	Home.
Wed., June 30.	—BRADFIELD.	Home.
Sat., July 3.	—BEDFORD.	Away.
Sat., July 10.	—OLD STOICS.	Home.
Wed., July 7.	—PALLADIANS v. ADASTRIANS.	Home.

SECOND ELEVEN

Wed., May 19.	—BLOXHAM.	Away.
Sat., May 22.	—HARROW.	Away.
Sat., May 29.	—BUCKINGHAM.	Home.
Sat., June 5.	—BERKHAMSTED.	Home.
Tues., June 8.	—RADLEY.	Home.
Thurs., June 10.	—OUNDLE.	Away.
Sat., June 12.	—BEDFORD.	Home.
Sat., June 26.	—ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD.	Away.
Wed., June 30.	—BRADFIELD.	Home.
Sat., July 3.	—RUGBY.	Away.
Sat., July 10.	—OLD STOICS.	Home.

THIRD ELEVEN

Wed., May 19.	—BLOXHAM.	Home.
Sat., May 22.	—HARROW.	Away.
Tues., June 8.	—RADLEY.	Home.
Sat., June 12.	—BLAKESLEY.	Home.
Sat., June 26.	—ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD.	Away.
Sat., July 3.	—BEDFORD.	Away.

THE STOIC

COLTS' ELEVEN

Sat.,	May 22.—HARROW.	Away.
Wed.,	May 26.—MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, BRACKLEY.	Home.
Sat.,	May 29.—BEDFORD.	Away.
Thurs.,	June 3.—BRADFIELD.	Away.
Sat.,	June 5.—BERKHAMSTED.	Away.
Tues.,	June 8.—RADLEY.	Away.
Wed.,	June 16.—OUNDLLE.	Home.
Sat.,	June 26.—ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD.	Home.
Sat.,	July 3.—RUGBY.	Home.

JUNIOR COLTS

Sat.,	May 15.—BERKHAMSTED.	Home.
Sat.,	May 22.—HARROW.	Home.
Wed.,	May 26.—MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, BRACKLEY.	Away.
Sat.,	May 29.—BEDFORD.	Away.
Thurs.,	June 3.—BRADFIELD.	Away.
Sat.,	June 5.—OUNDLLE.	Away.
Tues.,	June 8.—RADLEY.	Away.
Sat.,	June 26.—ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD.	Home.
Sat.,	July 3.—RUGBY.	Home.

UNDER 14's ELEVEN

Sat.,	May 22.—BANBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.	Home.
Wed.,	May 26.—MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, BRACKLEY.	Home.

ATHLETICS

Sports Day was held on Saturday, March 20th, and although the weather had been threatening, the rain kept away and allowed a full programme to be completed on time.

The scoring system for this year's competition incorporated a Standards scheme, whereby anybody who could achieve a certain moderate performance gained one point for his House. Although the standards were not high, it was noteworthy that only one competitor gained all twelve of them in the Open Events. While standards were being run off, and before heats had started at all, Bruce took an impressive lead in the competition, and it was clear that they are capable of producing a large number of moderately good athletes as well as some outstanding performers. Grafton, however, soon began to score well too and challenged Bruce strongly.

During this stage of the programme the weather was worthy of May at its best and training was able to go on apace. The track became very fast and our hopes were raised that it would stay that way. During the last week, however, several periods of heavy rain took most of the life out of the track, though fortunately it did not make the surface slippery.

The standard of performance on the two days of the finals was quite good, and three outstanding results were recorded. On the Friday, G. T. Laing (B) shattered the Under 16 record in the Weight Put, beating C. M. Griffin's record of 1939 by nearly two feet with a magnificent put of 39 ft. 6 ins. Then on the Saturday, J. D. Lloyd (B) delighted us all by jumping 5 ft. 7 ins. to break the Open High Jump record by one inch. Very shortly afterwards A. W. Fraser (C) jumped in magnificent style to equal the record in the Under 15 event.

Other performances worthy of mention are that J. D. Lloyd repeated his victories of two years ago and won four events in the Open competition, while P. G. Shinner (B) also won four Under 16 events.

Apart from the excitement caused when Lloyd broke his record, the most thrilling races of the afternoon were the Quarter Mile and Mile. The latter race gradually developed into a battle between J. H. Withinshaw (C) and W. J. G. Brown (W). Withinshaw was in the lead at the bell but they were both running strongly and took a commanding lead on the rest of the field in the back straight. They ran stride for stride round the last bend and coming into the home straight Brown challenged. Withinshaw held him off, however, and it appeared we were going to have a close finish. But the effort had been a little too much for Withinshaw and Brown came away in the last thirty yards to win by about three yards.

In the Quarter Mile there was a very fast start, and in the back straight the pace was terrific. Lloyd and Innes led the field in a dash for the bend. Lloyd won and from there onwards the pace fell off considerably. In the last sixty yards, Lloyd came away and won easily, while Bradly and D. Conington put in a strong finish and beat Innes into fourth place.

It was indeed appropriate that Lady Lloyd was present to give away the prizes. She had seen a well-deserved Bruce victory in which J. D. Lloyd played a major part.

Results :—

OPEN EVENTS

100 Yards.—1, J. D. Lloyd (B); 2, C. H. Bradly (B); 3, P. B. W. Pumfrey (C); 4, G. W. Scott (C); 5, J. M. Shinner (B); 6, A. T. W. Innes (T). Time, 11.1 secs.

220 Yards.—1, C. H. Bradly (B); 2, J. M. Shinner (B); 3, P. B. W. Pumfrey (C); 4, G. W. Scott (C); 5, A. T. W. Innes (T); 6, D. E. Conington (B). Time, 25.6 secs.

Quarter Mile.—1, J. D. Lloyd (B); 2, C. H. Bradly (B); 3, D. E. Conington (B); 4, A. T. W. Innes (T); 5, F. J. Hawkins (G); 6, D. C. Williamson (C). Time, 55.4 secs.

Half Mile.—1, J. D. Lloyd (B); 2, J. H. Withinshaw (C); 3, W. J. G. Brown (W); 4, R. J. P. Corry (C); 5, P. J. R. Hubert (G); 6, J. F. F. Le Poer Trench (C). Time, 2 mins. 11.4 secs.

One Mile.—1, W. J. G. Brown (W); 2, J. H. Withinshaw (C); 3, P. J. R. Hubert (G); 4, M. H. Goodhart (W); 5, F. G. Everard (G); 6, R. J. P. Corry (C). Time, 5 mins. 2.5 secs.

120 Yards Hurdles.—1, D. E. Bode (C); 2, F. J. Hawkins (G); 3, D. G. J. Gordon-Dean (W); 4, J. C. Turner (G); 5, J. F. Conington (B); 6, D. E. Conington (B). Time, 18.7 secs.

Long Jump.—1, P. B. W. Pumfrey (C); 2, D. E. Conington (B); 3, J. F. Conington (B); 4, A. H. Salt (G); 5, D. E. Bode (C); 6, P. M. Horley (B). Distance, 18 ft. 6 ins.

High Jump.—1, J. D. Lloyd (B); 2, N. R. Cunningham-Reid (G); 3, D. C. Williamson (C); 4, D. E. Bode (C); 5, P. B. E. Gibson (B); 6, G. W. Scott (C). Height, 5 ft. 7 ins. School Record.

Putting the Weight (12lbs.).—1, W. R. G. Short (G); 2, P. G. Powers (C); 3, B. E. Smith (G); 4, M. D. Cobham (G); 5, G. L. D. Duckworth (C); D. R. Stickland (B). Distance, 35 ft. 1¾ ins.

Discus.—1, N. R. Cunningham-Reid (G); 2, W. R. G. Short (G); 3, B. E. Smith (G); 4, H. F. Cotton (C); 5, P. N. J. Presland (G); 6, M. Birkett (T). Distance, 100 ft.

Throwing the Javelin.—1, W. R. G. Short (G); 2, G. W. Scott (C); 3, H. F. Cotton (C); 4, S. B. Lloyd (C); 5, P. M. Dempster (B); 6, T. R. Lambert (G). Distance, 148 ft. 3½ ins.

Pole Vault.—1, W. R. G. Short (G); 2, R. J. P. Corry (C); equal 3, N. R. Cunningham-Reid (G) and P. J. Nash (C). Height, 8 ft. 3 ins.

UNDER SIXTEEN EVENTS

100 Yards.—1, P. G. Shinner (B); 2, A. W. H. Brahams (C); 3, G. T. Laing (B); 4, C. C. Malden (G); 5, P. G. Dennison (G). Time, 11.4 secs.

220 Yards.—1, P. G. Shinner (B); 2, A. W. H. Brahams (C); 3, G. T. Laing (B); 4, C. C. Malden (G); equal 5, W. R. Rees (G) and J. M. Dillon (C). Time, 26.6 secs.

Quarter Mile.—1, C. J. S. Marler (G); 2, G. T. Laing (B); 3, N. E. Wates (B); 4, H. W. Gray (W); 5, A. M. Gooch (B). Time, 59.2 secs.

Half Mile.—1, C. J. S. Marler (G); 2, C. J. V. Gornall (G); 3, A. M. Whitty (T); 4, N. E. Wates (B); 5, H. W. Gray (W). Time, 2 mins, 21.8 secs.

Three-Quarter Mile.—1, C. J. S. Marler (G); 2, C. J. V. Gornall (G); 3, N. E. Wates (B); 4, A. M. Whitty (T); 5, M. J. Lloyd (C). Time, 3 mins. 48.8 secs.

111 Yards Hurdles.—1, P. G. Shinner (B); 2, C. C. Malden (G); 3, D. G. L. Adams (B); 4, A. W. H. Brahams (C); 5, B. C. Harris (G). Time, 17.2 secs.

Long Jump.—1, P. G. Shinner (B); 2, D. G. L. Adams (B); 3, A. W. H. Brahams (C); 4, A. M. Gooch (B); 5, C. C. Malden (G). Distance, 18 ft. 3 ins.

High Jump.—1, D. G. L. Adams (B); 2, S. J. Twist (G); equal 3, N. E. Wates (B) and R. Lush (C); 5, B. C. Harris (C). Height, 4 ft. 8¾ ins.

Putting the Weight.—1, G. T. Laing (B); 2, R. W. S. Gentle (B); 3, A. M. Gooch (B); 4, J. A. van Bik (C); 5, J. D. F. Lockhart (C); 6, S. J. Twist (G). Distance, 39 ft. 6 ins. School Record.

UNDER FIFTEEN EVENTS

100 Yards.—1, C. A. Little (G); 2, T. Knight (B); 3, M. L. Henderson (W); 4, N. Cleeve (B); 5, C. G. Champion (C). Time, 12.5 secs.

220 Yards.—Equal 1, A. W. Fraser (C) and C. A. Little (G); 3, R. J. Ruhemann (C); 4, M. L. Henderson (W); 5, J. H. Bonning (C). Time, 28.1 secs.

Quarter Mile.—1, T. Knight (B); 2, R. J. Ruhemann (C); 3, J. P. D. Heyward (C); 4, A. W. Fraser (C); 5, N. Cleeve (B). Time, 64.2 secs.

Half Mile.—1, J. P. D. Heyward (C); 2, T. Knight (B); 3, C. B. F. Rathbone (C); 4, N. Cleeve (B); 5, M. Preece (G). Time, 2 mins. 32 secs.

75 Yards Hurdles.—1, H. J. Bonning (C); 2, H. J. Goodhart (W); 3, J. P. G. Goldfinger (G); 4, C. G. Champion (C); 5, R. J. Ruhemann (C). Time, 12.7 secs.

Long Jump.—1, T. Knight (B); 2, A. W. Fraser (C); 3, J. P. D. Heyward (C); 4, T. A. Trimmingham (W). Distance, 16 ft. 3 ins.

High Jump.—1, A. W. Fraser (C); 2, C. G. Champion (C); 3, C. N. H. Hordern (W); equal 4, S. C. Fenwick (C) and M. J. Fenwick (C). Height, 4 ft. 9 ins.

House Sports Cup.—1, Bruce, 427½ points; 2, Grafton, 276½; 3, Cobham, 192; 4, Chandos 157½; 5, Grenville, 127½; 6, Chatham, 127; 7, Walpole, 125; 8, Temple, 95.

CROSS COUNTRY 1948

The Cross-Country races were run on Monday, March 1st. In view of the excellent conditions good performances were to be expected, but even so, J. H. Withinshaw's (C) winning time of 23 mins. 58 secs. deserves special mention. F. G. Everard (G) ran him very close until within a few hundred yards of home, when Withinshaw came away to win in convincing style.

P. G. Shinner (B) won the Junior event from J. I. Holt (C) but the time was not remarkable.

Chatham won the Junior competition, and Cobham the Senior, the combined totals being as follows:—

1. Cobham	231
2. Walpole	262
3. Chatham	297
4. Grenville	333
5. Chandos	450
6. Bruce	523
7. Temple	572

It was unfortunate for Grafton that they were not allowed to run because of a suspected throat infection.

TRIANGULAR MATCH v. UPPINGHAM AND RUGBY

Two teams journeyed to Uppingham on Saturday, March 6th, to race against Uppingham and Rugby in two triangular matches. It was a disappointment that J. H. Withinshaw was unfit to run, and when one considers the gruelling course and the very sticky underfoot conditions the runners had to negotiate, the performances were by no means discouraging.

Uppingham were winners in both matches, and thoroughly deserved their success. Their teams were strong and well trained, and had the great advantage of knowing the course and all its difficulties. Stowe lost narrowly to Rugby in the 1st VIII's competition, but beat them handsomely in the second VIII's.

F. G. Everard was the first Stoic home in the major event.

Scores:—

1st VIII's.	Uppingham	31	2nd VIII's.	Uppingham	29
	Rugby	66		Stowe	53
	Stowe	75		Rugby	102

Cross Country Colours were awarded to:—J. H. Withinshaw (C), F. G. Everard (G), W. J. G. Brown (W), M. C. A. Mott (C), M. H. Goodhart (W), H. F. Cotton (C).

HOCKEY 1948

It might be expected that two years of inactivity and the rival claims of athletics would render any hockey team that Stowe could produce embarrassingly innocuous. However, in spite of these handicaps, the first season of hockey in its minor rôle has been in the nature of a success; and the various members of the 30 have done much to encourage the game further down their Houses.

The two XI's themselves have been keen and active; the 1st XI celebrated the opening of the season by defeating a rather mediocre St. Edward's side, and putting up a plucky if unavailing defence against a very fast and agile Christ Church side.

The second XI, but little inferior to the 1st, were a trifle unlucky to lose to St. Edward's after leading at half-time.

S. B. Lloyd has captained the side intelligently, and his clean hitting and good stick work have made him a reliable back. Pumfrey, at centre-half, is a competent player but tends to be too far back in attack. Mitchell is very energetic, if slightly unorthodox. The forwards lacked cohesion but Bradly, when he played, could shoot well.

1st XI. Hockey Colours have been awarded to:—P. B. W. Pumfrey (C), C. H. Bradly (B), O. L. Rodgers (C), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), D. A. MacL. Connell (G), G. L. D. Duckworth (C).

1ST XI. v. ST. EDWARD'S

Played at Stowe on Wednesday, March 3rd, Stowe winning by 2 goals to one.

Considering that this was the first match of the season, and that the team was a little unpractised, it gave good promise for the future. The defence was strong, although it faltered on occasion through a vain swipe. The attack was good and fast, but just lacked that final touch which would have given it more opportunity for scoring. The movements developed well but always broke down before fruition.

Right from the start the School went into the St. Edward's half, but were unable to score. But after five minutes a good movement started by R. L. Cook led to a shambles in the goalmouth from which Stowe scored. Obviously encouraged we went straight back to the St. Edward's half, but were soon repulsed by their defence. F. A. Ruhemann was quick and alert and was admirably abetted by S. B. Lloyd, who displayed great coolness in contrast to most of the players who were far too easily put out of their stride. Several attacking movements gave C. H. Bradly a chance to score, but he never got the ball into the net. Cook, on the right wing, was fast in attack, but the forwards were unable to take advantage of his centres.

Three minutes before half-time the St. Edward's captain started a movement which took them down to our end and enabled them to score. The second half began with the Stowe forwards taking the game into their opponents' half, but we still could not score. St. Edward's soon replied and began to look dangerous, but Lloyd and Ruhemann managed to avert every attempt. It was not until two minutes before the end that Bradly fastened on to a loose ball and scored the decisive goal.

Team:—O. L. Rodgers (C); S. B. Lloyd (C), F. A. Ruhemann (C); I. M. Morton (B), P. B. W. Pumfrey (C), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W); R. A. Hird (C), D. A. Connell (G), C. H. Bradly (B), G. L. D. Duckworth (C), R. L. Cook (C).

FENCING

At the time of writing there have been two matches. Both of these have been held away. A match with Winchester and a return against Cheltenham unfortunately had to be cancelled owing to transport difficulties. It is hoped, however, that there will be a home match against St. Paul's before the end of term.

The first match, against the Imperial College of London University, took place on Saturday, February 7th, and was won by a very narrow margin. The Imperial College were successful in the foil and the épée, winning both by five fights to four. Stowe, however, managed to turn the tables at sabre. D. J. Wilkin (C) made a great contribution to a 6—3 victory in this weapon by winning all three of his fights. This concluded a most exciting match, the final score being 14—13 to Stowe.

A fortnight later a match was fenced against Bedford, who gained an easy victory of 19 wins to 6. Their foilists were definitely superior by virtue of their faster and cleaner movements and corroborated this by winning 13—3. Nearly all the sabre fights were, however, extremely close, which was proved by the fact that Stowe gained 25 hits to Bedford's 28 in spite of being defeated by 6 wins to 3. Epée was not fenced.

The team for both matches consisted of I. V. de Wesselow (C), D. J. Wilkin (C), D. A. J. Gordon-Dean (W) and G. L. E. Samson (G). Of these Gordon-Dean has been most consistently successful, being the only one to win the majority of his fights.

The Fencing Club is unable to boast more than a dozen members this term, and the majority of these are only able to fence once a week owing to the pressure of other games. This means that it is extremely difficult to compete, with any measure of success, against other schools, where fencing is considered a major sport to which appropriate time is devoted.

The house-matches and individual championships are to take place before the end of term. The results of these will be published in the next issue of *The Stoic*.

I.V.deW.

KICKING COMPETITION

The Kicking Competition, after postponement, took place on Wednesday, March 17th. Results were as follows:—

	Senior Place	Senior Drop	Senior Punt	Junior Place	Junior Drop	Junior Punt	Total	Place
Temple	... 35	20	15	20	20	18	128	3
Cobham	... 20	45	15	30	25	13	148	2
Walpole	... 15	20	20	30	20	18	123	4
Grenville	... 15	25	13	30	25	10	118	6
Bruce ...	... 30	40	29	30	25	22	176	1
Chatham	... 10	15	19	25	20	11	100	7
Chandos	... 10	25	6	25	15	9	90	8
Grafton	... 45	20	15	15	10	17	122	5

GOLF

There has been a great deal of golfing activity this term. During the term a Senior and Junior Individual Tournament was played: in the Senior J. R. J. Burnham (T) defeated M. A. R. Freeman (T) in the Finals, while the Junior was left unfinished.

Towards the end of term the Golf House Matches made a welcome reappearance. The cup was eventually won by Cobham whose team, if not as brilliant individually as that of some houses, produced the most consistent golf and deserved to win.

The course has been kept in excellent condition throughout the term, and there has been a noticeable and welcome improvement in "golf manners" by those who use it.

It is hoped to hold a match against the Staff on the last Sunday of term.

S.B.L.

CORRESPONDENCE

STOWE SCHOOL,
BUCKINGHAM.
March 1948.

To the Editor, *The Stoic*.

DEAR SIR,

I deeply deplore the fact that no tuition whatever is given at Stowe in the art of ballroom dancing. I know that numerous other Stoics will agree with me that this is a shocking state of affairs.

During the holidays I am quite often asked to a dance, and when I do go I am constantly embarrassed by having to tell my friends that I do not dance the so-and-so, or that I am completely bewildered by the such-and-such, whereas most of them, boys as well as girls, are experts because they learn at school. What little I do know has been rather painfully picked up on the "battle-field," as it were. I am sure, Sir, that you will agree that the man who is unable to dance with a certain degree of competence is a pretty poor fellow.

May I suggest that since here at Stowe we import a masseuse, violin teachers and the like, we could equally well get some dancing teacher to visit the school, say, once a week. His or her tuition could be considered as an extra, or as a Thursday extra.

If this suggestion be adopted by the school authorities I am certain that I will not be the only one who will no longer be able to say that he is

Yours faithfully,

"A WALLFLOWER."

ANSWERS TO GENERAL PAPER

1-4, Primitive, Impressionist, Surrealist, Dada. 5, Van Gogh. 6, Chagall. 7, Mandrake. 8, Death's Head Hawk Moth. 9, Pistol. 10, Roman(s). 11, Cardigan. 12, Wellington. 13, Brougham. 14, Sandwich. 15, Raglan. 16, Moscow. 17, Vienna. 18, Berlin. 19, Venice. 20, Buckingham. 21, (a) Cambells, (b) Macdonalds. 22, David. 23, Alexander. 24, Polo. 25, Ammonites. 26, Milton. 27-31, The Great Bear, Cock o' the North, Bailie Nicol Jarvie, Biggin Hill, City of Truro. 32, Lime. 33, Sodium carbonate. 34, Sulphuric acid. 35, Ammonia. 36, Copper. 37, Magnesium. 38, Sodium bicarbonate. 39, 11 o'clock. 40, Bohr. 41 (c) Take it to a police station. 42, Bottom. 43, Midas. 44, Sancho Panza. 45, Eeyore. 46, Bahram. 47, Venus. 48, Diana. 49, Mars. 50, Mercury. 51, China. 52, Russia (or U.S.S.R.). 53, Portugal. 54, Switzerland. 55, Spain (or Spain and Portugal). 56-57, First—Sappho; Last—Erasmus. 58, Charybdis. 59, Nisus. 60, Pollux. 61, Fleet Street. 62, Remedy for tuberculosis. 63, Customs Union of Low Countries. 64, Country name for lady-bird. 65, Strain of poultry. 66, Character in a well-known novel. 67, Shakespeare. 68, 8th December, 1941. 69, 6th June, 1944. 70-71, E. (1 mark), 3 miles (1 mark). 72-74, George of Greece; Christian of Denmark; Victor-Emmanuel of Italy. 75, Rondo. 76, Menuhin. 77, Karl. 78, Beerbohm. 79, Tuba. 80, Olympus. 81, Rhodesia. 82-85, Zebedee—James; Isaac—Jacob; David—Solomon; Saul—Jonathan. 86, Foxglove. 87, Nightshade (Deadly). 88, Poppy. 89, Cinchona (Bark). 90, (Indian) Hemp. 91, Fisher. 92, Cedar. 93, German. 94, Oxford (shire). 95, Northampton(shire). 96, Seals. 97, Peck. 98, Firkin. 99, Viscount. 100, Exeutesque.

NIGHT AND DAY

The night lies round, immense and without end;
The woods, the hills, the fields in silence stand;
Stars coldly glint, seeking the earth to lend
Some peace, some quiet, a balm upon the land.

Daytime is harsh: the country sees the toil
And sweat of men, the horse's straining flanks.
In city's span man tramps the tortured soil
In thousands milling in their hideous ranks.

"The day for toil he gave, the night for rest";
The sun beats down forcing all life to grow:
The moon is soft, a quiet unbidden guest
Who bids us sleep, our shackling cares forego.

Sun shouts aloud and blazons every hour,
Moon and her stars sing soft—with equal power.

P.M.D.

