

# THE STOIC



*Number Eighty-one*

APRIL 1950



Photo by ]

EAST COLONNADE

[J.F.R.

# THE STOIC

VOL. XIV

APRIL 1950

No. 2

## NOT TO BE MISSED

ONLY the ruthless application of logic has prevented us from saying that you will probably not be bothering to read this article; it is the fate of Editorials to be passed over unglanced at in an eager search for rigger notes or a study-mate's first venture into fiction or verse. This being so, all our colleagues in the wide world of Editing are continually searching for some new way even to catch the reader's eye, let alone to hold his attention or stimulate his thoughts; if we condemn their efforts, it is not as claptrap, but as unsuccessful claptrap; to them we would offer a few suggestions, which we ourselves have not dared to put into practice.

The quest for the leading article "which steals men's hearts and women's souls amazeth" could, like some literary treasure-hunt at an intellectual party, be enlivened in several ways. Why not, for eksampel, hav wun in sum nu sistem ov riformd speling? *vel Latine?* ἢ Ἑλληνικῶς; or (but of this last we are unable to give a sample) in pictures? Captious and conservative critics might advance many reasons why not; it has never been done before; it would spoil the look of the front page; it would not be easily understood of the people. And to these critics do we unwillingly but inevitably bow. As a last resort Editors expound the difficulties which beset the path of the unwary leader-writer; let it never be said that we have ever resorted to such well-worn devices: you must regard these two paragraphs more as an introduction to and an apology for an editorial on general subjects and of general interest.

Much water has flowed under the Palladian Bridge since we were last in print: as much, at any rate, as the limitations of Stowe's irrigational system ever permit; the Green Book that came to you hot (or rather wet) from the press is now obsolete, and, if you are industrious, full; the copy of *Lettres de Mon Moulin* or *Horatii Carmina*, that was at the beginning of the term no more than an Order Form, has now had its last notes taken, has been shut for the last time and been projected into

the limbo of the House Pound ; the ball of the immediate future is round, not oval, red, not brown ; the trees, once gaunt, begin, as they say, to burgeon ; the ubiquitous Harry Lime has given place to the ridiculous Nicholas ; and each of us is a good four months older. The record of these four months cannot be judged in terms of success or failure, conquest or defeat, goodness or badness : the proverbial indelibility of the moving finger renders such judgments unreliable.

In four months you, our reader, may have got your house colours ; or a record number of standards ; or both. No matter ; you will not find either fact mentioned in the *Stoic*, however important they may have seemed to you ; that is not what the *Stoic* is for. But it is unlikely that you will notice these necessary but heartless omissions unless your attention be drawn to them ; and your attention will probably not be drawn to them, as it is more than likely (and here we abandon any pretence to such logic as we hinted at in our opening sentence) that you will not have bothered to read this article, whatever the title may be.

## UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

- S. A. M. ADSHEAD (B) has been awarded an Open Scholarship in History at Christ Church, Oxford.
- B. F. BRINDLEY (G) has been awarded an Open Scholarship in History at Exeter College, Oxford.
- P. E. LESLIE (C) has been awarded an Open Exhibition in History at New College, Oxford.
- D. J. M. CAMPION (W) has been awarded an Open Scholarship in Classics at Clare College, Cambridge.
- J. C. TURNER (G) has been awarded an Open Exhibition in Natural Sciences at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.
- J. LOCKWOOD (W) has been awarded an Open Exhibition in History at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.
- M. A. R. FREEMAN (T) has been awarded a Mawson Scholarship in Natural Sciences at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. He has also been elected to the Savory Exhibition.
- J. P. ARNOLD (G) has been awarded an Open Exhibition in Natural Sciences at Christ's College, Cambridge.
- D. F. D. POPE (C) has been awarded an Open Exhibition in Natural Sciences at St. John's College, Oxford.

## STOICA

*School Officials—Easter Term, 1950.*

*Prefects* :—P. G. Shinner (B), Head of the School ; E. H. Trimmingham (W), Second Prefect and Prefect of Chapel ; M. A. R. Freeman (T), Prefect of Library ; G. T. Laing (B), Prefect of Gymnasium ; C. S. Anson (G) ; D. L. E. Evan-Hughes (C) ; D. S. Duckworth (G) ; P. A. Cullum (C) ; R. J. Ruhemann (C) ; N. E. Wates (B) ; F. R. G. Lowe (G) ; W. J. Grice (T).

*Cross-Country* :—Captain, C. J. S. Marler (G).

*Hockey* :—Captain, R. D. Miskin (T).

*Squash* :—Captain, R. Lush (C).

Dr. Arthur Wallace Pickard-Cambridge, Chairman of the Governors, was created a Knight Bachelor, for services to education, in the New Year Honours.

The following visitors have preached in Chapel :—Sunday, February 5th, The Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Buckingham ; Sunday, February 19th, The Rev. J. C. Vaughan Wilkes, Warden of Radley ; Sunday, February 26th, P. H. B. Lyon, Esq., late Headmaster of Rugby ; Sunday, March 12th, The Rev. Owen Chadwick, Fellow of Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

Chapel Collections this term have been as follows :—January 29th, for the S.P.C.K., £18 14s. 10d. ; February 26th, for the Missions to Deep Sea Fishermen, £23 os. od.

The seventeenth annual Dinner of Cambridge Old Stoics took place in Cambridge on Wednesday, March 1st, and was attended by about forty members. Also present were the Headmaster (President) and Mr. Capel Cure (Permanent Member) ; and, as guests, Mr. R. Meldrum from Cambridge, A. M. Quinton (T, 1942) from Oxford, and Mr. Hunter from Stowe.

The Sports have not this year been held in March but will, as an experiment, be held in July instead.

School Colours have been awarded as follows :—

*For Hockey* :—G. R. T. Sorley (C), W. J. Grice (T), P. D. Stern (W) (re-awarded); J. N. Vinen (W), E. B. J. Williams (T), R. G. Cunningham (T), H. J. Lloyd (T).

*For Squash* :—P. G. Harris (C), T. D. Whitson (T), B. C. Harris (C).

*For Cross-Country* :—O. T. Wall (C) (re-awarded); M. V. K. Friend (T), D. K. Helm (G), F. R. D. Blythe (C), M. Preece (G), R. Brazil (C), T. E. B. Sopwith (G).

## OLIM ALUMNI

In the General Election in February, J. A. BOYD-CARPENTER (C, 1927) (Cons., Kingston-upon-Thames), T. V. H. BEAMISH (T, 1935) (Cons., Lewes) and P. B. LUCAS (G, 1934) (Cons., Brentford and Chiswick) were elected Members of Parliament; the first two were members of the last House. DR. S. J. L. TAYLOR (C, 1927) (Lab., Barnet) and S. T. SWINGLER (G, 1930) (Lab., Stafford and Stone), both previously Members, were defeated. J. B. FRANKENBURG (C, 1940) and P. M. SYRETT (C, 1937) stood unsuccessfully as Liberal Candidates.

In the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society's tournament held at Rye in January for the President's Putter, P. B. LUCAS (G, 1934) the holder, reached the Final; and J. D. A. LANGLEY (G, 1936) reached the Semi-Final.

## BIRTHS

To the wife of J. A. HAYWARD (C, 1941), a daughter, on August 12th, 1949 (in Durban.)

To the wife of A. K. FRAZER (T, 1938), a son, on October 14th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT J. S. DAWES, M.C. (B, 1941), a daughter, on December 6th; to the wife of C. A. ASHCROFT (C, 1938), a son, on December 13th; to the wife of F. W. BLAIR-IMRIE (C, 1927), a daughter, on December 14th; to the wife of D. L. VERE HODGE (G, 1942), a daughter, on December 15th (in Kenya); to the wife of H. D. SECCOMBE (C, 1934), a son, on December 16th; to the wife of P. H. DE B. STEPHENS (C, 1928), a son, on December 19th (in Kenya); to the wife of L. A. PIRIE (G, 1935), a son, on December 19th; to the wife of R. D. R. LYCETT GREEN (T, 1942), a son, on December 19th; to the wife of SQUADRON-LEADER J. P. BENTLEY (C, 1940), a daughter, on December 28th; to the wife of R. E. A. MASON (C, 1935), a daughter, on December 28th.

To the wife of J. G. WRIGHT (C, 1934), a son, on January 5th; to the wife of LORD BANBURY (T, 1932), a daughter, on January 5th; to the wife of C. E. N. GRAHAM (C, 1943), a son, on January 6th (at Sourabaya); to the wife of F. H. V. BEAZLEY (B, 1940), a son, on January 17th; to the wife of DR. P. C. J. NICHOLL (B, 1938), a son, on January 18th; to the wife of MAJOR G. F. L. GILBERT (T, 1930), a son, on January 19th; to the wife of J. C. NESS (C, 1934), a son, on January 21st; to the wife of MAJOR H. R. HOLDEN, M.C. (C, 1934), a daughter, on January 23rd; to the wife of MAJOR A. C. LYNCH-STAUNTON (T, 1936), a son, on January 26th (in Kenya); to the wife of DR. S. J. L. TAYLOR, (C, 1927), a son, on January 27th; to the wife of MAJOR J. H. S. MARTIN (T, 1933), a daughter, on January 28th; to the wife of C. G. WALTON (G, 1932), a son, on January 29th; to the wife of W. O. J. COKE (C, 1928), a son, on January 30th.

To the wife of B. M. KNOX, M.C. (B, 1934), a daughter, on February 1st; to the wife of J. W. CORNFORTH (G, 1942), a daughter, on February 20th; to the wife of M. B. HICKLING (C, 1939), a daughter, on February 20th; to the wife of A. W. TORRANCE, M.B.E. (C, 1933), a son, on February 22nd; to the wife of MAJOR I. R. L. SHAW (C, 1939), a son, on February 26th; to the wife of G. G. RIDDICK (C, 1938), a son, on March 4th (in Pakistan); to the wife of S. BIRCH (W, 1938), a son, on March 6th; to the wife of A. E. BOLTON (C, 1928), a son, on March 7th; to the wife of CAPTAIN F. J. T. DURIE, M.B.E. (C, 1938), a daughter, on March 9th; to the wife of MAJOR J. P. FANE, M.C., (B, 1939), a daughter, on March 16th; to the wife of P. SHERRARD (C, 1937), a daughter, on March 17th; to the wife of S. J. H. SHERRARD (C, 1933), a daughter, on March 20th (in Buenos Aires).

## MARRIAGES

J. A. HAYWARD (C, 1941) to Miss J. Forder, on June 11th, 1948; P. SPENCER THOMAS (W, 1938) to Miss L. Robertson, on November 12th (in Calcutta); J. W. GOODY (G, 1930) to Miss B. M. Atkinson, on November 19th; C. FILMER-SANKEY (C, 1945) to Miss C. E. Seely, on December 2nd; A. R. BARROWCLOUGH (C, 1942) to Miss M. A. Pery-Knox-Gore, on December 17th; D. E. STEER (B, 1943) to Miss P. M. Muntz, on December 28th; I. J. H. LEWISOHN (C, 1941) to Miss L. N. Prince, on January 10th; W. A. BROWN (W, 1936) to Miss B. Morrison, on January 14th; SQUADRON-LEADER H. S. L. DUNDAS, D.S.O., D.F.C. (W, 1938) to the Hon. Enid Rosamond Lawrence, on January 28th; J. St. J. CRAIGEN (C, 1940) to Miss M. L. Somerville Johnston, on February 18th (in U.S.A.); B. DE C. S. MONTAGU (C, 1934) to Miss E. Weiser, on February 21st; J. A. LLOYD-WILLIAMS (T, 1940) to Miss A. A. Griffin, on February 24th.

## STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS

Telephone : PADdington 5452.

423a, EDGWARE ROAD,  
LONDON, W.2.

9th March, 1950.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

SIR,

The past three months have been memorable ones for the "Pineapple." The chief event, the highly successful Pineapple Ball, is fully covered in an accompanying article by Michael Sandwith and needs no place in this letter, but I would like to emphasize how much Stowe and the Pineapple owe to him for having devoted himself so wholeheartedly to its organisation. The result is a better tribute than any words of mine could be.

Foremost among the Club's recent achievements is undoubtedly our double victory at the Albert Hall on February 27th, when Geoffrey Smith and Jimmy Leahy won their contests in the finals of the inter-Club Boxing Championships organised by the London Federation of Boys' Clubs. These two boys have been chosen as Federation representatives in the inter-county championships run by the National Association of Boys' Clubs. When it is remembered that there are now 290 Clubs in the London Federation, it will be realised how much their victory means to them and to the Club. Much of the credit for their success must go to our Old Boy instructor, Dennis McCarthy, himself a former "Fed" champion, who has worked unsparingly at training them and the many other boxing enthusiasts in the Club.

The Pineapple does not, unfortunately, shine at football this year—our senior team has so far won barely half the matches played—but in table-tennis (never to be called 'ping-pong,' please, by visiting Stoics!) both senior and junior teams are unbeaten after twenty-eight Federation matches. As table-tennis is one of the main indoor activities in almost all the London Clubs, the standard is extremely high. Another field in which we are beginning to do well is running. The Club team, wearing the "Pineapple" vests presented for the Ball, is now running regularly against other Clubs, and, for the first time since before the War, we shall be taking part in the Federation Cross-Country on March 25th.

So-called cultural activities also find their place in the programme. Quizzes, debates and discussion groups are always well attended by an enthusiastic (though mainly rather young) audience, as are also music recitals given by a highly-qualified Old Stoic.

This brings me to the general attitude of Stoics and Old Stoics towards the Club. I cannot help feeling disappointed that more interest is not shown in the "Pineapple" by past and present members of the School. One has only to visit the Club once or twice to realise what a very real need it supplies for its 200 odd members aged 11 to 18 and for those Old Boys—some 50 or so—who come in on Old Boys' nights twice a

week. The London boy for whom we cater is not, generally speaking, short of money—many have more than is good for them—but he does lack, all too often, facilities for mental and physical recreation, as well as that firm foundation of healthy comradeship and group loyalty which alone can satisfy his greatest need—a sense of moral purpose. It is entirely erroneous to imagine that such a need is already, or ever could be, met by State-run schemes; responsibility for the physical and spiritual needs of the bulk of the country's youth, beyond that which the home can give, must continue to rest with voluntary organisations like the Pineapple.

Recent correspondence in *The Times* has emphasized the extent of this responsibility and paid tribute to the great work already achieved by the vast network of boys' clubs that covers the country. We of the Pineapple London Committee are glad to have a share in this work, but we do want your help and support. Many of the Stoics who visit the Club on Fridays are genuinely impressed with what they see, and it would give us the greatest pleasure if some of them, when they leave, could find time to come regularly (or even occasionally) and take part in running the numerous activities of the Club. They would then realize how deeply satisfying boys' club work can be.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

MARTIN BUCKMASTER (C, 1938).

Hon. Secretary, Pineapple London Committee.

## THE PINEAPPLE BALL

The accounts below show clearly enough what a great success the Pineapple Ball was financially, but I am delighted to tell you that the Ball itself was the pleasantest, gayest affair ever, at which all present seemed to be enjoying themselves. I noticed, as late as one o'clock, that only a handful of people were not dancing. I don't remember going to a dance at which Tommy Kinsman played without enjoying myself, and there was little doubt that once again he had woven his own particular brand of magic over us all.

The chief money spinners at the Ball were a raffle and the Tombola. The prizes for the raffle were presented by Mr. D. F. N. Rowlett and other Old Stoics of Calcutta, and we were grateful for this very generous support. Tombola is nothing more than a lottery in which one ticket in five wins a prize; there were about 350 prizes, ranging in value from about five pounds to two shillings. Most of the prizes were presented by London shops, and their collection represented many weeks of loyal and arduous work by a small band of helpers.

Eight Pineapple boys were there selling programmes, looking very smart in white with a Pineapple design on the singlet. This striking uniform gained for one of them a photograph in the *Evening Standard*.



Tickets were quickly sold out, so plans for the future must try to avoid disappointing two or three hundred people, whom we had to turn away, by finding a larger ball-room—perhaps at Grosvenor House. We can also offer even better value by having a Dinner-Ball, but the price of a ticket will have to be increased to two guineas to cover the cost of the dinner.

I hope this Pineapple Ball may become the precursor of many, and if the Old Stoics who come on future occasions are as nice a lot as those who supported us on January 11th, 1950, no future organiser need have much to worry about.

MICHAEL SANDWITH (W, 1939).

The Organisers of the Pineapple Ball are very grateful for the sympathetic support they have received from the Patrons and Committee, and from Old Stoics, Stoics and their parents. Tickets for the ball were sold out by 23rd December to the disappointment of very many people, while donations have amounted to £238 13s. 0d.

A cheque for £588 11s. 8d. has been paid to the Stowe Club for Boys, and an account of this amount is given below.

MICHAEL SANDWITH (W, 1939),  
*Chairman of the Committee, The Pineapple Ball.*

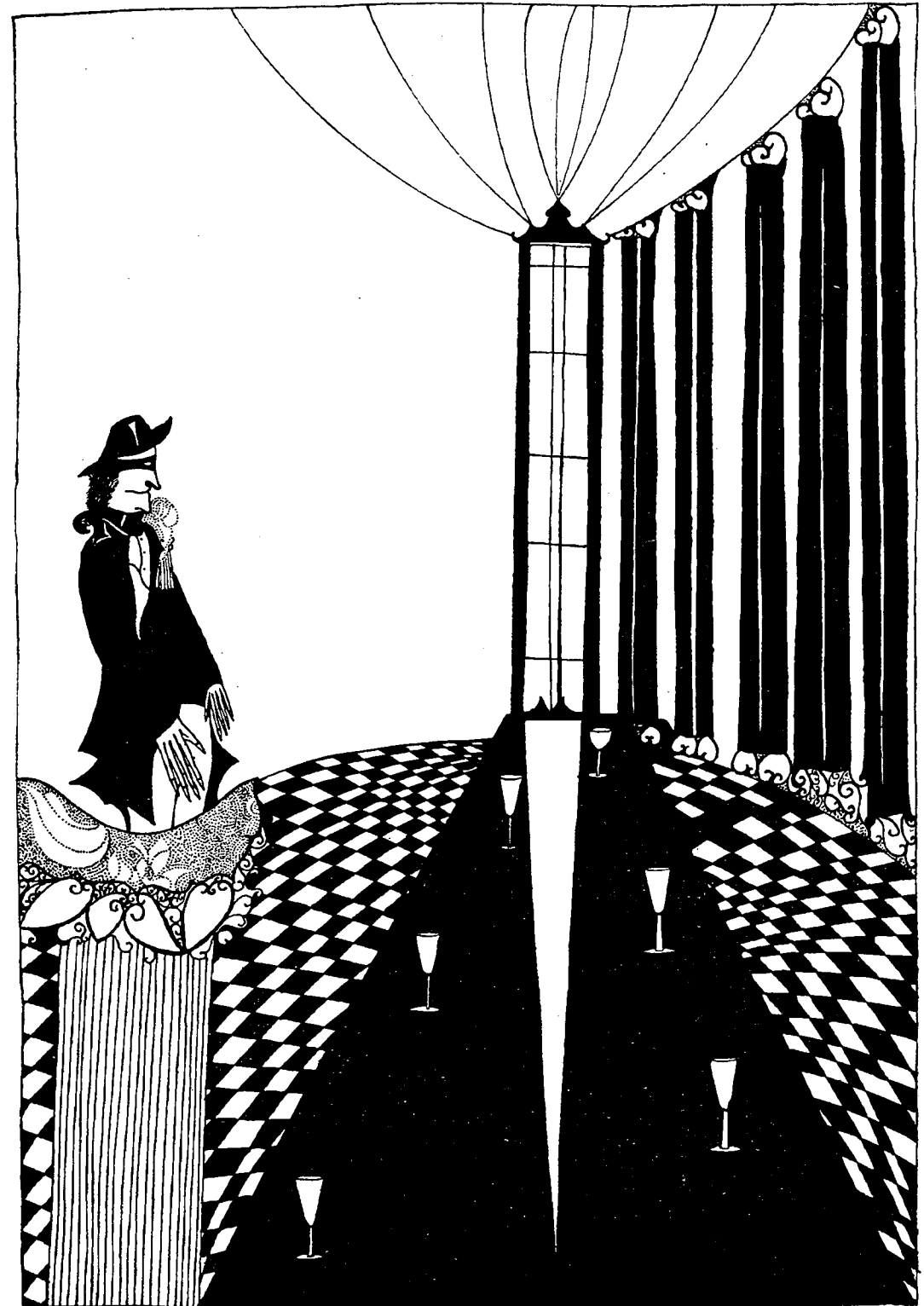
J. R. C. KENYON (T, 1932),  
*Honorary Treasurer, The Pineapple Ball.*

H. G. MORISON (G, 1929),  
*Chairman of the London Committee, The Stowe Club for Boys.*

8th February 1950.

#### SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

	£	s.	d.
Profit on sale of 553 tickets at 35/- each ... ..	371	9	3
Profit on Tombola, Raffle, Programmes, etc. ... ..	133	5	2
Donations ... ..	238	13	0
	<u>£743</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>
	£	s.	d.
<i>Less Administrative Expenses:</i>			
Printing, Postage and Stationery ... ..	79	18	11
Secretarial and General Expenses ... ..	74	16	10
		<u>154</u>	<u>15</u> 9
AMOUNT PAID TO THE STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS ... ..	<u>£588</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>



Drawing by ]

[ A.E.W.

## THE HAND OF FAMINE

Seven of us were seated round an ebony table, sipping our red wine. There were seven walls in the room, and on each wall there was a high gilded mirror which reflected seven cut-glasses, seven tall candles, and seven pale faces.

We were blind with drink, and we laughed and sang and shouted in our merriment, and then we would all go to one of the seven mirrors, and we would look at ourselves; and there would be a silence, for each time we would be reflected more ghastly than before.

There was famine outside in the streets, and the rats came out under the moon and gnawed the bodies to the bone; there were dead in the churches and dead in the gutters, and dead on the boulevards. Gamblers fell dead in coffee-houses, madmen fell dead in the gin-shops, actors fell dead on the stage, bakers fell dead on their counters, and vintners fell dead in their vats; only the rats lived to be hungry. They chewed up satins, they cobbled up fingers, they bit through shoes, they drank down blood; while people fell dead in the streets.

"This is excellent wine!" I cried to our host.

"Excellent," he said.

"And very good meat," said my friend, "very good indeed!"

"The mirrors tell bad," said a young man suddenly, who had turned in his seat and stared at himself in the glass.

Our host shrugged his caped shoulders and finished a draught of wine.

"Fill yourselves well," he said, "to-morrow we shall begin to starve."

We broke our wine-glasses in a toast to him, replaced them, and each drained off another draught.

It was very bad wine, but we drank it well—the meat was yet worse, but we ate it hungrily and without reluctance. I was eating a thin spare piece of veal that had been left in a frozen crate for months; but it tasted better than the dirt on the cobbles.

"Are you hungry?" they asked me.

"Famished!" I said.

"Bring him more veal!" cried our host;—"Bring us all more veal, you starving idiot!" And the butler crawled out in his hunger for the food that he was never allowed to taste.

I was served with a still sparer piece of veal that was drawn tightly over the bone. But I made no protest.

"The citizens would have paid you well for this, good host," said my friend.

"Only friends taste my food in a famine," our host replied, draining off his wine once more.

Suddenly a tremble crept through my body and froze the speech on my lips. For this was not veal on the plate before me!—for I saw before my own bleared eyes the form of a thin human hand, charred in the ovens of our benevolent host.

"Villain!" I shrieked, hurling the foul claw into his face, "What does this mean!"

"I have at least fed you," he replied playfully, "I have given you meat that you might not starve!"

"But this is not veal you have been serving us!" I cried. "This is not the pure veal that you promised had come from your cellar. We have been eating the dead that lie rotting in the gutters!"

He laughed and drank down another glass of claret.

A.E.W.

## THE WOUNDED SHEPHERD

### A FRAGMENT

He lay upon the bank  
 And in the river bath'd his bruised limbs  
 Filling the waters with dissolving blood  
 Wash'd o'er the stony bed, until it reach'd  
 The sea, there to be lost for evermore  
 In the great salty mass. Beside him lay  
 Half of his broken spear, while there beneath  
 The rippling water lay its shiny barb  
 Snapp'd from the shaft under his falling weight.  
 His crimson'd fleece was dampen'd by the stream  
 And smoothly lay, clinging around his form  
 Like a wild clump of some white water-weed  
 Blush'd an unhealthy red. He lay there still  
 Rack'd with the pain, unable yet to move  
 Though he would gladly leave the water's cold  
 Now that his wounds were washed. He moved his hand  
 And pass'd it soft across his throbbing brow;  
 Then rais'd his head, and look'd around a space,  
 Lay back once more exhausted in the stream  
 Till he might gather strength to roll aside.  
 High up above, the boulder'd mountainside  
 Hung over him, silently triumphing,  
 And seem'd to smile, or frown, he knew not which,  
 Mocking or menacing his piteous state.  
 At this he mov'd and turn'd upon his side  
 And slowly, painfully, short inch by inch  
 Up on the bank he rolled, till he had raised  
 His body from the water, all except  
 One dangling, lifeless arm.

B.F.B.

## LAST MOMENTS

I am in the condemned cell and I have only half-an-hour left in which to live. The suspense must have driven me out of my senses since I don't seem to have the faintest idea what I did to get here. My mind is almost numb with fear, but one sentence is madly drumming into it over and over again, "to be hanged by the neck until dead." Dead, dead, dead! What's it like to be dead? Why do they want to kill me? What have I done? I can't remember anything. It can't be true, it must be all a dream. My mind begins to seethe wildly with thoughts, but through them all the morbid death sentence unceasingly tattoos.

The warder's rhythmic steps sound hollowly along the passage. A key grates in the lock and the door swings silently open. They roughly seize my arms and march me off . . .

Now here I am on the trap-door. We have gone through the usual ghastly ritual of shaking hands, and now as my last moment nears my brain is roaring with a hundred fleeting thoughts. I am trembling all over, my heart is throbbing like a sledge-hammer, and my body is covered in streaming perspiration.

Zero hour—the word is given and the platform beneath me is jerked away. I fall into space; there is a frightful sinking feeling and a rush of air—then thud.

"Freddy dear, do get up off the floor. If you fall off your chair like that often, you'll wear a hole through the carpet."

R.D.T.

## ENTERTAINMENTS

ORDERS ARE ORDERS, By IAN HAY and ANTHONY ARMSTRONG.

The success of a play of this kind depends to a very large extent on the tempo, which must be not merely fast but uniformly fast. There must be no slackening, chiefly because, in contrast to more serious plays, there is no need for slackening. The pace of the whole production must be shown in more than one way. Cues must be promptly picked up, in some cases even anticipated, movements must be bold and decided, though in this lies a serious danger. Overacting in farce can be as bad or worse than in a more serious play. Judged by these tests the Chandos House production of *Orders are Orders* can without hesitation be considered a success. There was no flagging of the action, entrances were made promptly, there was no drawling of lines, the whole thing was slick and, with one or two exceptions, unforced. The humour of a sequence of rapidly alternating incidents was exploited to the full. The producer, E. C. Hardwicke, who also played the part of the General, is to be congratulated heartily.

Judged by other standards, the success of the production depended on the acting of some half-dozen players in a large cast. These were the film-producer, the colonel, the two mess-waiters, the quarter-master, the sergeant-major and the film-star Wanda Paluka. All of these, though inevitably in varying degrees, proved worthy of their responsibility.

If it is necessary to be invidious, perhaps the first of these essential few must be particularly singled out. R. V. Jaques, as Ed. Waggemeyer, acted with ease and naturalness. He moved about the stage almost incessantly, but always with restraint, he spoke his lines with the necessary speed but without gabbling, he gesticulated with vigour but also with moderation. More successfully than any of the others he sank himself in his part. J. M. N. Newton, as Colonel Bellamy, gave us another sound performance. His abrupt transitions from annoyance to gratification were convincing, but he did not on all occasions resist the extreme temptation to overact. As for Privates Slee and Goffin, played respectively by D. H. Livermore and R. Blaker, the entire play to a very large extent turned upon their sly machinations. They worked excellently together as a pair, so that we thought of them as two parts of a whole, as we were meant to do. This involved teamwork and careful rehearsing and was a triumphant success. R. E. Hichens, as Captain (Q.M.) Ledger, with his recurrent motif of the rat and its depredations, conveyed successfully the lugubrious single-mindedness of the man to whom nothing is of the slightest interest except the details of his job. We heard perhaps a little too much of the infamous rat, but that was not the fault of the actor. R.S.M. Benson, played by C. T. A. Hammond, raucously vociferous throughout the third act, quickly made himself everyone's favourite, a conventional figure certainly, but ably portrayed, hovering dangerously close to the brink of overacting, but never quite taking the plunge. Last comes Wanda Paluka, played by M. J. Fenwick. His was the role of the unruffled mediator between heated and bewildered personages, and he conveyed calm, humorous detachment most successfully.

As for the other members of the large cast, it is barely possible to give them individual mention. Faults of construction in the writing of the play made three or four of them oddly superfluous, and there was one character, to whom our sympathy went out, who was given scarcely any lines to speak at all. What can be said without any hesitation is that each one of them played his part in contribution to the provision of a very amusing evening.

L.H.R.

## DEBATING SOCIETY

The standard of Debates this term has alternated regularly between the ridiculous and the sublime. Perhaps the choice of motion for the first Debate "That this House would rather never have loved at all" was a trifle injudicious, but the example of bad taste set by certain members of the Society was followed and improved upon by a House which showed that its sense of the relevant was greater than its sense of propriety. The House was adjourned, therefore, before the motion was put to the vote.

On February 1st, speakers committed themselves to speak on either side of the Motion, "That this House deploras the result of the General Election," a debate which was duly held on the first Wednesday after the Election. In spite of what, from the Society's point of view at any rate, was a disappointing result of the Election, this Debate was the best within recent years; there was none of that re-hash of Hansard or plugging of party propoganda which is so often the corollary of a political debate.



S. A. M. ADSHEAD (B), proposing, maintained that a Government majority of 5 was a contradiction in terms. He was seconded by an anachronistic T. M. IRVINE (T), dressed as a 19th Century Squire, who deplored the repeal of the Corn Laws—and pulled it off. To meet this F. R. G. LOWE (G) unfortunately abandoned his usual practice and read his speech. The result, if not amusing, was at least convincing; his seconder, R. C. S. THORNTON (W), rather more solid than good, delivered what was almost a Conservative Party speech.

Nor at this stage did proceedings degenerate into a reading of papers: the emphasis was distinctly on "Debate" and speeches were as original as amusing. B. F. BRINDLEY (G) saw in the reduction in the number of seats the thin end of an oligarchic wedge—and as a nephew of an underwriter of Lloyds deplored the Liberal landslide.

S. E. DIGBY (W) maintained government was superfluous, and that this was the first step to a blissful State of Nature.

J. R. J. BURNHAM (T) spoke as an ex-inmate of an American gaol, and C. GRAHAM-BONNALIE (T) spoke of the Ministry of Food.

After a very even Debate, the Motion was carried in the Upper House but lost in the Lower.

There have also been two closed Debates, wherein were mooted such frivolous motions as "Those who can do; those who can't teach", "That a test match just is not cricket" or "That this motion be defeated."

During the term J. W. L. Adams (B), E. M. R. Critchley (C), R. A. Duncan (C), S. J. F. Harbord (C) and B. J. Hill (B) were elected members of the Society.

The Officers this term were:—N. E. Wates (B), Secretary; J. R. J. Burnham (T), ex-Secretary; S. A. M. Adshead (B), Librarian; and T. M. Irvine (T), Treasurer.

N.E.W.

## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

### THE TWELVE CLUB

There have been, so far, two meetings of the Club this term. The first took place at Vancouver Lodge on Thursday, March 2nd, when B. F. Brindley (G) read a paper entitled "Distractions, Urban and Rural." This paper proved to be concerned with the entertainment provided during the nineteenth century for Londoners and others during moments of leisure. The paper fell naturally into two halves, the first dealing with clubs such as Almack's, where the Duke of Wellington was twice black-balled, Crockford's, White's and Brook's; with gardens where lovers could ramble unmolested; with public houses like the "Eagle" which caused the weasel (no rodent, this) to be popped, with fairs and with zoological gardens where the safety of the animals was considered to be of but slight importance compared with the capacity for attraction offered by a firework display.

The second half of the paper dealt with the theatre, and the importance he gave to it was justified by the reader because, he said, in his opinion, it typified its own age. There were only two licensed theatres, the Royal ones at Drury Lane and Covent Garden; any other theatre had to incorporate songs into the plays, making them "burlettas" if they were amusing, and "melodramas" if serious. "Maria Marten" was cited as an example of the latter, and proved only too familiar to some of the society. Those were the days when the true "ham" actor flourished, since he played to a gallery whose construction precluded appreciation of any but the most flamboyant acting. In fact, the be-all and end-all of entertainment then was indeed distraction.

On March 10th, we heard a paper read by T. M. Irvine (T) on "The Mystery of Borley." This paper was about ghosts; poltergeists, to be exact. It appeared that there were romantic theories invented to account for the nun, but these were brusquely discounted by the reader. His job, he said, was to present facts, and leave the conclusions to the Society. Nevertheless, it was obvious upon which side of the fence he himself came down. We heard of the Rev. H. Bull, the first who experienced anything unusual. This haunting became worse; the incumbent, a Mr. Smith, quitted the rectory in 1929, and in 1931 the Foysters took on the house. Mrs. Marianne Foyster was the recipient of a number of messages written on the wall. The words "Light Mass Prayers" seemed to have significance for the spirit, which suspended bricks and dropped rings, medallions and coats around. The subsequent deductions of experts led them to assume that these "apports" meant that the lady was a French girl and a Catholic; theory adduced that she was the secret wife of one of the Waldegrave family, and was murdered by him. The exhumation of a girl's skeleton from a well indicated by the nun bore this out to a certain degree.

On the whole, the Society accepted the evidence of the existence of poltergeists but argued as to the reason for them. Their belief was substantiated by the tale of some first-hand experiences of the President.

This meeting was held in the Aurelian Room, as the Vice-President and Mrs. McElwee were unfortunately unable to offer us the hospitality of Vancouver Lodge.

One more meeting this term is expected, when an outside guest will read a paper.

New members this term were:—P. G. Shinner (B), J. Lockwood (W), D. F. D. Pope (C), J. R. Banks (C), S. A. M. Adshead (B).

D.L.E.E-H.

### THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

One meeting has been held, on February 28th, when I. G. Williamson (C) read a paper on "Roman Society." He emphasized that history did not consist in mere maxim-learning, and that the study of society was essential to its proper appreciation. There were three strata of Roman society, the plebeians, the knights, and the senators (he was dealing mainly with the Republic). The first of these were despised by the other two, and were inferior to them in a great degree. Mostly they lived in large communal buildings called "insulae," and lived a common life together. They numbered about half a million souls. Their economy was precarious, and plebeians were always liable to run into money difficulties, the only remedy for which often was to sell oneself as a slave. The senators were rich landowners, and the knights too were very wealthy; at one time Julius Caesar was in debt to the tune of £280,000, although he was a senator. But Atticus, Cicero's friend, was an exceedingly wealthy banker owning land in Epirus.

The reader continued with an account of the various customs in common use with regard to marriage, funerals, dress, banquets, sport, bathing, schools, and other kindred subjects, telling the society of strange habits in connection with these and quoting the Romans' own opinions of them with one of which, from Seneca, some of the Society, at any rate, were well-acquainted. The ensuing conversation was heterogeneous in the extreme, circling round Pompeii, Caractacus, Beer and Babies.

It is hoped later in the term to have a paper from D. S. Duckworth (6).

D.L.E.E-H.

#### THE CONGREVE CLUB

The Club's activities, as is usual in the Spring Term, have necessarily been devoted to House Plays and the Opera, and, although we hope to have an expedition before the end of term, the only official function will be a lecture by Miss Barbara Burnham, the well-known producer, later in the term.

C.G-B.

#### THE MUSIC CLUB

On Thursday, February 9th, a bus-load of members speeded to Oxford to hear a concert given by Sir Thomas Beecham and The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The programme, which started 35 minutes late, opened with Mozart's *Prague* Symphony. This was written soon after *Figaro* and the orchestra showed off its Figaroesqueness to perfection. Then followed three movements from the Handel-Beecham Suite *The Great Elopement*, a work very familiar to the orchestra who played these charming pieces delightfully. These provided a sharp contrast to the two little-known and interesting works of Delius which followed: *Summer Evening* and *Marche Caprice*. The second half of the programme opened with five movements from Mozart's *Haffner* Serenade: an early and rather dull work which, however, was given an admirable performance particularly notable for David McCallum's excellent solo violin playing. This was followed by Debussy's *Petite Suite* which, like the Delius, although out of place in this eighteenth century programme, had considerable charm. To end, the orchestra played a March in D by Mozart: a scintillating little vignette. Sir Thomas and the Orchestra were in the best of form, and the concert was enjoyed by everyone who was lucky enough to be able to go.

It is hoped to hold an informal meeting at the end of term when a member will read a paper.

C.G-B.

#### THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

At the end of the Winter term the Society was lucky enough to persuade two Old Stoics, J. K. Beney (6, 1940) and J. S. Hillyer (6, 1943) to come down and talk about the South coast of France. This they did ably, illustrating what they had to say with some very fine photographs taken mostly by themselves. A short film in technicolour also taken by the two lecturers completed a very enjoyable evening.

This term Lt.-Col. N. A. C. Croft, D.S.O. (C, 1925), another Old Stoic, gave a fascinating lecture on Arctic exploration in Northern Canada. There is little that Colonel Croft, who is a member of the Royal Geographical Society Council, does not know about life and conditions in this part of the world and he succeeded in holding



By courtesy of]

PINEAPPLE BALL  
January 11th

[Press Illustrated



his hearers spell-bound both by his immense grasp of the subject and by the vitality and evident enjoyment which attended everything he said.

A silent, though coloured, film of considerable merit depicting "Operation Musk-Ox," a Canadian Army expedition to which Colonel Croft had been invited, provided the central theme of the lecture and the Society saw some wonderful scenic effects as well as having the benefit of Colonel Croft's commentary. After the film members showered questions on the lecturer, and the President, Mr. H. V. G. Kinvig, had some difficulty in adjourning the meeting.

Next term it is hoped to undertake an expedition to a Coal Mine.

F.R.G.L.

#### THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

At the end of the Winter Term, B. J. R. Hodge (T) gave a paper on "Sound." His talk was accompanied by profuse demonstrations, and was much enjoyed by all the members present.

On two Tuesdays, March 9th and March 16th, films dealing with the distillation of petroleum, cracking of heavy oils, and octane number were shown. They were supplied by the Petroleum Films Bureau. We have also, thanks to the Rhodesian Selection Trust Ltd., seen films showing in great detail the work and the life of Europeans and Africans in the great copper belt.

The Society will hear papers read by Mr. P. C. Caldwell on "Chemotherapy" and R. E. Hichens (C) on "Artificial Dyes" later this term.

Members of the Upper School have attended a lecture on "Plate Glass," given by two representatives of Pilkington Bros. An hour's length of film was shown on the manufacture of polished plate glass and its conversion to Armour Plate glass. The lecture was concluded with a few convincing tests of the strength of certain specimens of glass, while a discussion on the merits of different kinds of glass continued after the meeting had been officially adjourned.

M.C.C-S.

#### THE RADIO CLUB

The two main items proposed for this term were a Television set and the usual commentary on the School Cross-Country Race.

Technically the Cross-Country was superior to anything we had previously attempted. On the Junior course there were four telephones and two wirelasses; on the Senior course we used the same two wirelasses (transport very kindly provided by Mr. Griffiths and the President) and there were also four telephones and the Dadford Call Box. It was arranged with the G.P.O. to take an extension line from the North Hall exchange to the Radio Hut. We had decided to get the best possible commentators regardless of their technical qualifications. This, with certain notable exceptions, proved rash. The commentaries were of a higher standard than we have ever had before, but owing to faults beyond our control, a proportion remained unheard.

Certain members are building a Television Set largely of war surplus components to work on the Sutton Coldfield station.

J.M.O.  
N.B.



R. & H. Chapman

OFF TO THE POLL.  
February 23rd

Photo by

## THE JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

At the first meeting of our Society this term, H. R. Campion (C) was elected Vice-President, A. P. Moynihan (S) Secretary, and F. L. Sanderson (C) Committee-man.

Among the better debates this term came "That all public schools should be co-educational," "That it is better to be tall than short," "That transport 100 years ago was better than to-day."

We also had a mock election in which the Conservative candidate was returned with a majority of 17. It is a notable fact that the Society is a growing concern; many new members were enrolled this term.

A.P.M.

## THE MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

The Society has been functioning regularly and successfully as usual this term. Four meetings have already been held on Sunday evenings.

We have read an old friend of the Society, "La Grammaire," by Labiche. This amusing one-act comedy was new ground for most members and was therefore appropriately appreciated.

On receiving the news that our copies of "Le Docteur Knock," by Jules Romain would not be ready for us for some time, it was decided to read "Le Tartuffe," by Molière in its place. This we did, and everyone agreed that this superb comedy shows Molière at the height of his great ability.

Members this term are Mr. Hart Dyke (President), Mr. Capel Cure, M. Thill, P. M. Rossiter (C) (Secretary), J. I. Holt (C) (Committee-man), P. H. Molloy (C), J. R. Banks (S) and T. Knight (B).

P.M.R.

## THE TOXOPHILITES

The last meeting of the Christmas term was held on December 8th when R. P. L. Kaye (S) read a paper to the Society entitled "Farming." The speaker described at length the problems of running a dairy farm with special reference to his own farm. The whole paper was written and read in an entertaining style and the discussion that followed was brisk and hilarious.

There have been two meetings so far this term and it is hoped to hold one more later in the term with J. D. Davis (T) speaking on "Radar." The first meeting of the term was held on February 9th and J. P. C. Catty (W) read the Society a paper on "The Postage Stamps of Great Britain." It is to be regretted that this meeting was attended by so few members.

The second meeting was held on March 3rd, when M. W. Nightingale (C) entertained the Society with a paper on "Ghosts." The speaker first explained some theories of the supernatural and thought transference and then went on to describe the activities of some of the more active poltergeists. The most notable of these seems to be the Borley Rectory Ghost who is the spirit of a nun and whose activities include brick throwing, bell ringing, bottle rolling and writing on walls. A lively discussion followed with members showing disbelief of most of the paper.

A.M.V.

## MUSIC

A hunting accident, from which he is happily recovering, has deprived us of Dr. Huggins's direction for the time being. The energies of the Choral Society and the Orchestra are fully absorbed in preparation of the opera "Carmen" due to be performed on the last Friday and Saturday of term.

The Music Competitions will take place on Sunday, April 2nd, and will be judged by Mr. Ronald Dussek, Precentor of Radley.

It is with regret that we shall be losing C. Graham-Bonnalie (T) who as a singer has contributed so valuably to our programmes, and as Secretary of the Music Society and Music Club has worked so hard and efficiently.

CONCERT BY THE ORCHESTRA AND MADRIGAL SOCIETY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14th.

The orchestral items sounded well. During the weeks of rehearsal in the Queen's Temple most of the players had learned to watch the conductor, not only for their entries, but also for the ends of their phrases. This ability "to take it from the stick" is essential to good playing in Assembly where conditions are far more exacting than those in the Queen's Temple. The performance of the overture to "Hänsel and Gretel" deserves special mention in this respect and for the successful way in which the climaxes were built up and sustained.

The pause before the Madrigal Society's singing of the carols was applauded, was a tribute to a beautiful performance.

A large number of soloists contributed ably to this concert in which the playing of the Mozart Piano Concerto in F by P. R. Cutforth (S) was outstanding for its round tone and steady rhythm.

The last item was provided by a team of masters who were seen and heard to perform Haydn's Toy Symphony in the Stowe manner. And very good it was.

## PROGRAMME

- |    |  |             |
|----|--|-------------|
| 1. | Overture to "Egmont" ... ..                      | Beethoven   |
| 2. | Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G ... ..           | J. S. Bach  |
|    | Andante—Presto                                   |             |
|    | <i>Solo Violin</i> —DOROTHY CHURTON.             |             |
|    | <i>1st Flute</i> —J. M. BREMNER (C).             |             |
|    | <i>2nd Flute</i> —M. DAVIS (T).                  |             |
| 3. | Prologue to the Opera "I Pagliacci" ... ..       | Leoncavallo |
|    | <i>Baritone Solo</i> —C. GRAHAM-BONNALIE (T).    |             |
| 4. | Piano Concerto in F major—First Movement ... ..  | Mozart      |
|    | <i>Solo Piano</i> —P. R. CUTFORTH (S)            |             |
| 5. | Overture to the Opera "Hänsel and Gretel" ... .. | Humperdinck |
| 6. | Piano Solos—(a) Reflets dans l'eau ... ..        | Debussy     |
|    | R. JAMESON (G)                                   |             |
|    | (b) La Cathédrale Engloutie ... ..               | Debussy     |

7. Symphony No. 8 in F major—First Movement ... *Beethoven*
8. Four Christmas Carols :—
- (a) See Amid the Winter's Snow ... .. *J. Goss*
- (b) Deck the Halls ... .. *Traditional*
- (c) We Three Kings of Orient are ... .. *Traditional*
- (d) Ding, Dong, Merrily on high ... .. *Traditional*
- THE MADRIGAL SOCIETY
9. Pantomime and Fire Dance from "Love the Magician" *De Falla*
10. Sonata in G. major for Violin and Piano ... .. *Mozart*  
Allegretto  
*Violin—J. A. BURROWS-WATSON (G)*
11. Serenade Espagnole ... .. *Glazounov*
12. Surprise Item.

## THE MUSIC SOCIETY

On Wednesday, February 8th, Alec Wyton gave an Organ Recital just before he left for America to take up a post at Dallas University.

His playing was brilliant and showed the Stowe organ to perfection.

The chief item in the programme was the Bach Passacaglia and Fugue which was magnificently played. The organist's rhythm was superb and the work mounted to its climax leaving the listener amazed at its profundity. Three Brahms Choral Preludes were well contrasted in mood and the three 17th century French pieces showed the beauty of the various stops. Daquin's Variations on an old French tune was particularly charming with its echo effect.

The recital ended with a brilliant performance of Vierne's 1st Symphony—1st movement.

L.C.L.N.

On Wednesday, February 22nd, Eve Maxwell-Lyte gave a Recital of Folk Songs from All Countries in the Library. Miss Maxwell-Lyte has the reputation here of being "The Ruth Draper of Song" and no one was to be disappointed. To a large audience, many of whom remembered her visit to Stowe in 1946, Miss Maxwell-Lyte first sang six folk-songs from the British Isles, the most popular of which were the Scottish ones: *Maggie Lauder*, *The Old Crone's Lilt*, and *Our Gude Man*, which brought the house down. After a short interval Miss Maxwell-Lyte sang four French Folk-songs charmingly arranged by Benjamin Britten. The most beautiful of these, and incidentally in the programme, was *La Belle est au Jardin d'Amour*, a song which gave the singer full scope for her beautiful soft singing. Then some songs from the New World: the Highwayman ballad, *Well Sold the Cow*, was the most amusing and was made more so by the singer's facial contortions. Lastly, in four different languages, came six songs from foreign lands all of which deserve a mention here; after two delightful Spanish and Portuguese songs, came the well-known *Miracle de Saint Nicholas* and the extremely amusing *Phyllis und die Mutter*. Lastly came two French songs, *Sainte Marguerite* and *Le Cycle du Vin*.

A PIANO RECITAL GIVEN BY NANCY WEIR ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8th.

The programme was as follows :—

Sonata in F major	... ..	<i>Haydn</i>
Sonata in B minor	... ..	<i>Chopin</i>
Moment Musical	... ..	<i>Schubert</i>
Impromptu in F minor	... ..	<i>Schubert</i>
Seguedillas	} ... ..	<i>Albeniz</i>
Malagueena		
Navarra		

Throughout Miss Weir's technique was brilliant although the programme itself was a little disappointing. The Haydn, unlike the majority of his sonatas, was not at all dull and was impeccably played; it was obvious from the first that Miss Weir had it at her fingers' ends, and it could not have been better or more scintillatingly played. The Chopin too she knew how to deal with, but after the first two movements there crept in a uniformity of tone that was definitely inclined to bore. This was a great pity, especially after the first two movements had been so delightful. The two Schubert pieces, through no fault of the player who executed them both impeccably, were disappointing. The *Moment Musical* was so untypical and so dull it was hardly true, and the Impromptu, after a magnificent opening, tinkled away into nothing and did not seem to justify the tremendous amount of work Miss Weir must have put into it, for it is an extremely difficult piece. However, the last half of the programme was completely redeemed by the Albeniz which was quite delightful, especially the *Seguedillas*.

The net impression of the concert was that, had the programme been better chosen, the occasion would have been even more memorable than it was for Miss Weir's superb playing.

C.G-B.

## THE LIBRARY

The Library has run very smoothly this term, and if nothing spectacular has occurred, cataloguing the gallery has made continuous progress and a steadily increasing number of people have made use of the Library's opening on Sundays. S. A. M. Adshead (B) has been our only new librarian.

The following presentations have been made :—

*The Goldfish* (G. F. Hervey and J. Hems), from Lady Connor.

*Mountain and Flood* (George Blake), from the 52nd (Lowland) Division, Historical Committee.

*British Ballet, British Parliament, British Film Year Book 1949-50*, by the Publisher, P. Skelton Robinson.

J.L.

## ART SCHOOL

## CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION

The violent and flamboyant patterns executed by Lower Four B, the first sight to confront a visitor to this exhibition, caused considerable apprehension. Was this art—or mere doodling? The eye travelled on in alarmed anticipation, and sensed method in this madness. It was then explained that it was wrong to call this doodling, for doodling is unconscious, and these patterns were clearly deliberate, and an exercise which, because of its very meaninglessness, enables boys new to painting to use colour and design boldly in a way which fear would have prevented in representational painting.

This freedom and courage was certainly evident in a number of pictures from higher up the school, among which should perhaps be singled out C. W. J. Butler's (T) for its quiet colours and clearly constructed depth, and A. Bernstein's (C) most vigorous trees; T. Hill (B) had two interesting pictures, including one of a vase of flowers against a fire-place that in its clarity and colour-sense reminded one of Matisse. Most promising, too, was M. Grieve's (S) sharply conceived tree, burning with its autumn colour and set against a grey classical building, a first effort that suggests he may one day have a talent for stage-design. In striking contrast was a picture by N. M. Bates (G) of a soft row of trees, clad lightly for spring, with railway wagons behind them. J. D. Scott (C) captured in a variety of interesting reds the curious animated laziness of a fun-fair. Finally in this group there was the work of B. R. Waddilove (S) both confidently experimental and very pleasing.

In another group was a careful and rather charmingly coloured sextet of picture-maps from Shell A, J. L. Gale's (C) perhaps standing out for clarity. There was a jolly desert and sea-scape from Shell C, in the form of a composite frieze, but this was worked very unevenly. Still in contrast, and showing much more restraint and deliberation, were the landscapes from the Twenty and the Forty. Next to these were collections of Christmas card designs, School posters and architectural drawings.

In the Inner Room—in the Salon des Arrivés, so to speak—the still life work of M. N. Boggon (T) and C. B. F. Rathbone (C) stood out prominently, while R. M. Tulloch's (B) three water-colours showed a fine appreciation of how nature is filled with light. Mention, too, should be made of J. C. V. Ridley-Day's (B) draughtsmanship, and J. R. Tattersall-Wright's (W) pastel work. A. A. Fairrie (C) showed some charming little battle scenes, very well executed and thoroughly lively. All on their own as regards imagination and technique were two paintings of a fiery fantastic, A. R. Williams (S), who richly celebrated his admiration, it seems, for Victor Hugo and S. T. Coleridge.

One would not wish to end this review of a stimulating exhibition without a reference to the moving classical triptych of the Madonna and Child by D. M. G. Hirst (S). (This was hung, though not exhibited, being work of the previous term.) One left the building wondering whether the grace, sincerity and promise of this painting was not both the aim and the logical outcome of a process which, as just demonstrated, begins with violent and meaningless patterns, and continues through freedom and boldness to order and purpose.

B.S.

## WINTER BIRD NOTES

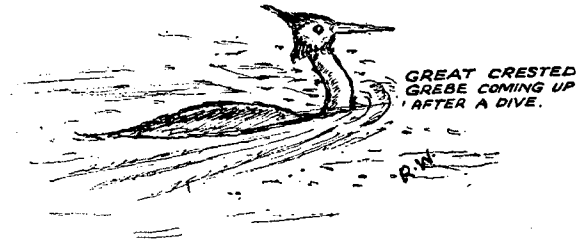
The fact that only two birds have been found dead shows that the weather has been kind to our avifauna.

As a consequence the sprinkler beds have had quite a number of common birds throughout the winter. In brief, there were thirty Chaffinches, eleven Pied Wagtails and spasmodic records throughout the winter of its more dainty cousin, a Grey Wagtail, as well as six Reed-buntings and the usual Wrens, Robins, etc.



The too common Jackdaw has produced two freak black-and-white birds, and by watching these it has been possible to state for certain that Jackdaws keep to their own little part of park. The most interesting fact about the Jackdaws is that there is a nightly exodus of most of them at sundown to roost in the woods beyond Parkfields Farm.

The lakes attracted many welcome birds this winter; in the middle of last term we were permitted to enjoy a short visit from a pair of what appeared to be Black-necked Grebes. Observation was difficult because these birds spent most of their time skulking deep in the reeds, only appearing for short periods to feed when the coast was clear. The four points on which the above statement is based are: firstly, its small size; next, the very definite black and white plumage, which distinguished it at once from its more common relative the Dabchick; thirdly, its dove-grey "tail" down; lastly its rapid left to right phalerope snatch after surface insects, which it adopted when feeding. One noticed also small points such as its not very distinctive eye.



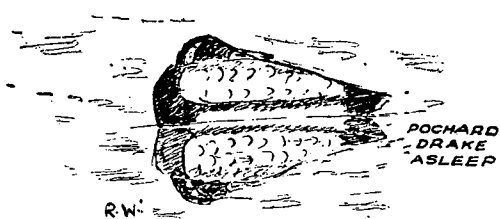
There are seventeen potential breeding pairs of Coots—many too many, and about a third of that number of the more loveable Moorhens. Also there are four pairs of Mallard on the lake most mornings, but by the afternoon they have gone, except for one breeding-pair. The only other duck seen this winter was a Pochard Drake, which is still with us at the time of writing after a fortnight's stay.

We welcomed with great joy the return of the male Great-crested Grebe on February 16th; last year it appeared on February 14th; it will be interesting to see when it arrives next year. Its mate joined it a week later, and now, as they swim around in their quite unparalleled plumage, they are a pleasure to all who see them. There are a fair number of Snipe in suitable places in the neighbourhood.





The Chaffinches and Greenfinches have banded together in flocks of about 60; there being a far greater percentage of Chaffinches in the flocks in the park, while the converse holds true for the flocks outside. Linnets are to be found in small numbers in suitable places along with scattered charms of Goldfinches. The writer knows of thirteen pairs



of Bullfinches in the grounds; the cocks resplendent in the brightly contrasting salmon-pink and satin-black plumage; there are also a fair number of Nuthatches and the more secretive Treecreepers, and everywhere you go, Coal, Blue and Great Tits scold you and Marsh Tits have become quite common. Those delicate little birds the Long-tailed Tits are with us in good numbers, and probably would have been in even greater numbers if most of their nests had not been destroyed by human hands. The Goldcrests are once again happily with us in small numbers.

In conclusion, may it be wished that the birds may have a happy breeding season, and that those selfish and ignorant folk who take a definite delight in destroying birds' nests and eggs will cease their stupid practice and turn to something more constructive.

The accompanying sketches are by R. P. A. F. Williams (B); and much useful and reliable information has been contributed by J. M. Harrop (C).

H.J.G.

## GENERAL PAPER

Sort each group of names into appropriate pairs:—1-5. The Royal Martyr; The Oxford Martyrs; The Tolpuddle Martyrs; The Lord Protector; The Merry Monarch; The Man of Blood; The Dorchester Labourers; Old Ironsides; Old Rowley; Latimer and Ridley. 6-10. Alloy; bakelite; benzine; by-product; cinnabar; mercury; metal; ore; plastic; solder. 11-20. An animal; an insect; a flower; a tree; a regiment; an opera; a sculptured frieze; a mirage; a kind of china; a megalithic circle; Crown Derby; Elgin Marbles; Rollright Stones; Green Howards; The Olympians; King Alfred; Trae Service; Bishop Barnabee; Lien Ho; Fata Morgana.

In what plays do the following occur? 21. "Out, damned spot!" 22. "Mr. Stanley, I presume." 23. "Is this the face that launched a thousand ships?" 24. "We take the Golden Road to Samarkand." 25. "How happy could I be with either, Were t'other dear charmer away!"

What political parties are in office in:—26. Egypt? 27. U.S.A.? 28. New Zealand? 29. Canada? 30. Jamaica?

31. In whose zone of Germany is the Ruhr? 32. How many members are there in the French Academy? 33. By what year are we being told that we must become self-supporting in foreign trade? 34. Where in England has a new television trans-

mitting-station recently been opened? 35. Who is Chancellor of the new Federal Republic of Western Germany?

36. Who hypothetically cared for nobody? 37. Who Biblically cared for none of these things? 38. In what French novel does a Latin nobody appear as a captain? 39. Who claimed that he was a Greek nobody? 40. Who was said to be everything by starts and nothing long?

Supply the appropriate Biblical name:—41. ....had a rod which budded. 42. ....was a mighty hunter. 43. ...., the Beloved Physician. 44. ....was a proper child. 45. ....was called the friend of God.

A slave trader bought in July 100 slaves. How many would he have for sale in August if meanwhile they had been:—46. Decimated? 47. "Quadrated"? 48. Emancipated? 49. Sequestered? 50. Geminated?

What famous scientist:—51. Is said to have studied weighty matters under a fruit-tree? 52. Is said to have used lack of perpendicularity in the study of weighty matters? 53. Needed only a fulcrum to be able to weigh the earth? 54. Gave light weight? 55. Weighed electricity?

56. Who is the conductor of the Hallé Orchestra? 57. What famous composer habitually wrote both the words and music of his operas? 58. How many semitones are there in an octave? 59. What form of British musical entertainment recently earned dollars in the U.S.A.? 60. Which of these would be in the brass section of an orchestra: dulcimer; rebeck; psaltery; virginals; sackbut?

61-63. What three kinds of snake are to be found in England?

64. Which of these is normally first noticed in the year: the arrival of the chiff-chaff; the emergence of the brimstone butterfly; the flowering of the yellow crocus; or the song of the hedge-sparrow?

65. Which one of the following cannot lay eggs: a yaffle; a duck-billed platypus; a gannet; an emmet; a tercel; a dipper; a comma?

Which of these is the correct answer? 66. The architecture of Stowe South Front is correctly described as—Gothic; Renaissance; Romanesque; Byzantine? 67. "The Haywain" was painted by—Gainsborough; Turner; Constable; Botticelli? 68. Rembrandt was chiefly distinguished as a painter of—Portraits; Landscapes; Still Life; Frescoes? 69. The site of the 1851 Exhibition was—Wembley; Crystal Palace; Earl's Court; Hyde Park? 70. The population of Britain since the last Census in 1931 has—increased by about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  million; 11 million; 30 million; or decreased by 2 million?

Write down ten proper names which you associate with the following pairs: (E.g., Oranges—Barber. Answer: Seville). 71. Roger—"Novum Organum." 72. Nuffield—"The Earthly Paradise." 73. Hardy—Hamlet. 74. Whist—Abbey. 75. Disobedience—Disinfectant. 76. Apple—Architecture. 77. "Pygmalion"—T. E. Lawrence. 78. John—Octavius. 79. Ferdinand—"Pot of Basil." 80. Dibdin—Lindwall.

Strike out the intruder in each of the following groups: (N.B. Petty differences, as in name-endings or spellings, should be ignored.) 81. De Gaulle, Bidault, Queille, Moch, Mayer. 72. Karens, Shans, Chins, Cachins, Capuchins. 83. Cinnabar, Burnet,

Hail, Brimstone, Pug. 84. Burbage, Goldsmith, Kean, Garrick, Irving. 85. Miltiades, Epaminondas, Ephialtes, Leonidas, Lysander. 86. Monet, Manet, Millet, Millais, Maurois, Morland. 87. Bucephalus, Sleipnir, Rosinante, Ruksh, Copenhagen, Victoria. 88. Franciscans, Dominicans, Augustinians, Benedictines, Carmelites. 89. Cos, Chios, Lesbos, Samos, Setebos. 90. Dalton, Attlee, Cripps, Lloyd George, Asquith.

Who was or is :—91. Brother of Pope Urbane? 92. Father of the Man? 93. Sister of the swallow? 94. Daughter of the Voice of God? 95. Mother, Wife and Queen? 96. Son of the Morning? 97. Uncle of Tristram Shandy? 98. Grandfather of Wilhelmine? 99. "Discomfortable cousin" to Richard II? 100. Aunt to the Pobble?

## C.C.F. NOTES

This has been another successful and not very eventful term. There have been no Field Days and no spectacular visits to record. On the other hand there have been surprisingly few absentees from Parade through sickness for an Easter Term, a circumstance which has made training and instruction very much easier. It also meant that there were only three of the very large body of candidates for Certificate "A" Part I who were unable to parade.

The most welcome news of the term is that Mr. Fox is joining the Corps and so bringing a much needed increase of Officer strength. We have not yet got him into uniform but he is already giving a hand with the rifle shooting.

To meet the changing needs and numbers of post-Certificate "A" training, a small Instructors' Squad has been formed of twelve potential N.C.Os., which has been given intensive training by Captain Saunders with very good results. Captain Uttley has now taken over the Survey Section as a whole-time responsibility and is staging a much needed revival of interest and activity. Recruits have had a successfully active term with only one unusually disastrous afternoon in the sand-pits, when a series of minor injuries culminated in R. Davis having the bad luck to break an ankle. Signals Section has been working for the usual Qualifying Tests, the results of which are not yet published. The I.C.E. Section has now so many different kinds of engines to play with that it can hardly get into its hut. It carried out a very interesting visit to the Standard Works at Coventry on the 13th March where it was entertained with the usual generosity and whence the Padre returned, it is rumoured, armed with the promise of yet another enormous machine as a free gift. The Air Training Section has postponed its major assault on Proficiency Tests until next term; its training this term has been much assisted by the loan of two Armourer Sergeants from 62 Corps R.A.F. who have been initiating the Cadets into the mysteries of the Browning gun.

Certificate "A" work has been delegated as an experiment to Under-Officers, without any direct Officer supervision, and with very successful results. Out of 11 candidates for Part II, 9 passed; and out of 63 for Part I, 56 passed. These results are particularly creditable in view of the increasing severity of Examining Boards, which is due to War Office policy and not, as has been rumoured, to the ever larger numbers of Old Stoics who come down as Examiners. The President this time was an Old Stoic

whom we were particularly pleased to see again, Major D. A. H. Toler, M.C., (G 1939) who delighted the School with the most highly-polished pair of field boots ever seen at Stowe.

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

To *Senior Under-Officer* : M. G. D. O'Donovan (T).

To *Under-Officer* : Sergeants B. J. R. Hodge (T), J. R. Banks (G), M. A. R. Freeman (T), N. E. Wates (B).

To *Sergeant* : Corporals J. Broom-Smith (C), W. J. Grice (T), R. Brazil (C), D. L. E. Evan-Hughes (C), H. W. Gray (W), D. N. T. Murray (G).

To *Corporal* : Lance-Corporals P. G. Shinner (B), E. H. Trimmingham (W), M. Colston (G), G. T. Laing (B), R. B. de Zouche (G), R. C. Thornton (W), P. M. Rossiter (C), D. C. Part (B), P. J. Harkness (T), R. D. Miskin (T), J. K. Hirst (G).

Appointed *Lance-Corporals* : Cadets D. G. L. Adams (B), C. F. N. Hope (C), P. J. Tickell (B), F. F. Graham (W), R. M. Posnett (C), H. A. C. Fenwick (C), D. F. D. Pope (C), D. S. Duckworth (G), P. G. Dennison (G), J. N. Vinen (W), I. G. Williamson (C), W. E. J. Allen (G), D. A. R. Murray-Brown (C), C. H. Lezard (C), S. J. Twist (G).

Strength of Corps, 321. Recruit Intake, 58.

*Certificate "A" Results*—Part I : 56 Candidates successful out of 63. Part II : 9 Candidates successful out of 11.

## SHOOTING

Last term our final postal match was fired on Thursday, November 24th, against Cranleigh School under the 1949 *Country Life* conditions without the Landscape target. The School VIII (G. F. Appleton (G), R. W. S. Gentle (B), C. F. N. Hope (C), P. J. Harkness (T), J. N. Vinen (W), J. G. Rigg (W), M. W. Grattan Holt (W) and H. W. Gray (W)) scored 526 out of the possible 680 to our opponents' 587 and the match was lost by the wide margin of 61 points.

At the beginning of this term, so keen was the competition to get into the Rifle Club that it had to be enlarged to twenty members. As there seems to be a lack of good shots in the C.C.F., some promising marksmen who have not yet joined have also been shooting on Thursday afternoons. Although the new Mossberg rifles promised by the authorities have not arrived, the standard of shooting has risen considerably because the VIII has had two regular extra practices a week. No one, however, has succeeded in winning either of the "Possibles" prizes offered.

The following have represented the School VIII this term :—G. F. Appleton (G), D. V. Fanshawe (W), M. W. Grattan Holt (W), H. W. Gray (W), P. J. Harkness (T), C. F. N. Hope (C), J. G. Rigg (W), G. R. T. Sorley (C) and J. N. Vinen (W). The absence of R. W. S. Gentle (B) has been a serious loss to the team. All matches have been fired under the 1950 *Country Life* conditions (without the Landscape target) which require a half-inch group in the Snap practice for the maximum total.

The first postal match, against St. Paul's School, was fired on Thursday, February 9th. The VIII shot very well, scoring 593 out of the possible 720, and won by 14 points.

On Thursday, February 16th, there was a postal match against Wellingborough School, which was lost by 66 points. Stowe scored 558 against their 624.

In the postal match, against Epsom College, fired on Tuesday, February 21st, the team scored the good total of 589. But the Epsom score, when it eventually came, totalled 601, and we lost by 12 points.

The same scores were used twice for our next two matches which were both in the following week. Our grand total was 597, the best so far, but it was not sufficient to beat All Hallows' 663 and Oundle's 633.

In a six-a-side match on Sunday, March 12th, the Rest beat Walpole by three points.

In a shoulder-to-shoulder match the following Sunday, the School beat the Masters by 61 points.

The result of the postal match against Lancing College, fired on Thursday, March 9th, is not yet known but will be published next term with that of the *Country Life* Competition and of our remaining fixtures against Radley, Cranleigh and Whitgift Schools.

We are grateful to Mr. Fox for his kind help on Sundays. The results this term would have been even more encouraging but for the obvious disadvantages of an open-air range in winter.

J.N.V.

## HOCKEY

The standard of Hockey in the "30" this term has been higher than in recent years, and although the season has been short, the improvement made has been most marked. The 1st XI was much stronger than last year and has met with no heavy defeats, the only school match providing us with a convincing win over St. Edward's. Unfortunately the other school match against Radley had to be cancelled.

After only two days for practice, the first match was played against St. John's College, Oxford, and the team made an encouraging start; after being 3-1 down at half-time, the team-work began to improve and in the second half each side scored one goal. Three days later the side played very well together to beat Christ Church 2-0, and if the forwards had been quicker in the circle the score must have been higher. Stern and Miskin both played well at half, and Williams dealt effectively with a tricky inside in Philips, the Indian Olympic sprinter.

The shooting had greatly improved when we played St. Edward's, and the inside trio, combining well together, gave the St. Edward's defence an anxious time, but in spite of some fine shots we could not score. However, this did not discourage Stowe, and after half-time the whole team gave a fine display.

The best performance was against the Bandits, a team which consisted of the larger part of the Bromley 1st XI, with a sprinkling of county players. The pace and quick passing of the Bandits was new to Stowe Hockey—the School were quickly three goals down. However, the team showed great spirit in fighting back and began to copy the Bandits' tactics; for the rest of the game, play was very even and a great deal was learnt from this match. Last year R.A.F., Halton, overwhelmed us, but this year the match was a very close one. Halton brought several players from Pakistan who were notable for their bewildering stick work. Early in the game Stern was unlucky not to score

from four fine shots at penalty corners, which were all brilliantly saved. Although play remained even, the Stowe forwards were not quick enough to take their chances in the circle. On March 18th, the match against Upper Heyford having been cancelled, the School played a scratch Buckingham side; the ground was wet and heavier than previously and Stowe never adapted themselves to the conditions, although they made a creditable recovery after being three goals down.

W. J. Grice (T) has been a sound if unspectacular goal-keeper, keeping cool in many an awkward situation. The backs, E. B. J. Williams (T) and R. G. Cunningham (T) were both sound tacklers, and Williams positioned himself well bringing off many good interceptions, but neither was constructive enough in his clearances. R. D. Miskin (T), right half last year, changed to left, where his good stick-work and sense of position were a great strength; he was the most constructive player on the side and proved himself an enthusiastic captain. P. D. Stern (W) played some good games at centre-half although occasionally over-exuberant in his hitting; with H. J. Lloyd (T), who stopped the ball, he made a dangerous combination at corners. Right half has been a problem and, with two more matches to go, is still unsettled; J. M. Bremner (C) flicks well, but his hitting is weak; the best performance at this position so far has been by C. H. Lezard (C) when playing for Buckingham against the School; his stick-work is good and he makes up for his slowness by anticipation. We were fortunate in having four good wings from which to choose; on the right, the choice has been between H. R. V. Whitcombe (B) and R. F. Proctor (G); Whitcombe was cleverer with his stick-work and in timing his passes, but Proctor has the most important attribute for a right wing, great dash, and with the ball he was a long way the fastest person on the side. On the left there was much the same situation, A. W. Fraser (C), the faster, but R. M. Hinds (W) had the cleverer stick-work, essential for this position. The insides have been a variable quantity in combination; against St. Edward's and the Bandits they played extremely well, otherwise they have been rather uncertain. H. J. Lloyd (T), although a good shot, lacks the dash necessary for a really good centre-forward, and his real place is probably in the half-line. G. R. T. Sorley (C), at his best, was the most dangerous attacking player on the side; he is a very good dribbler, but was inclined to use the dribble in mid-field instead of for entering the circle. J. N. Vinen (W) has combined well with his wing in the difficult inside-left position, and was good up to the circle.

The main weakness of the team to date has been the lack of constructive play. They were too inclined to play their opponents' game. When it was against a fast side like the Bandits, it did not matter as they picked up some of their quickness; but when it was a rather ponderous Buckingham side, they played at their speed, instead of dictating the pace. However, the one exception was the St. Edward's game, when the School dominated play by making it a fast open game. It must be remembered that the season is a very short one and that most of our opponents have been playing together since September. To give such strong teams as Halton and the Bandits a close game was a very encouraging performance.

The 2nd XI have also shown improved form on last year, and some of them have picked up the game quickly. D. A. R. Murray Brown (C) has been a reliable goal-keeper. P. M. Rossiter (C), at back, has done a great deal of hard work and if his hitting had been cleaner might have found a place in the 1st XI. The halves have been the weakest department, but M. J. R. Bannister (W) and M. C. G. Fry (G) both played well at times. The forwards were the main strength, particularly the wings, who have already been mentioned. P. G. Shinner (B) was the hardest working inside

forward in the "30" and, considering the little he has played in previous years, has come on very well. P. G. Harris (C) showed promise of becoming a good constructive player; B. C. Harris (C) was a good shot but his control of the ball was poor. The 2nd XI was undefeated after their first match.

The Colts' Club, in its first official season as such, has played only two matches, both against St. Edward's. Colts I had rather the better of a drawn game; the second eleven won convincingly. The Club has well justified its creation, bringing on much promising material and providing the keenest competition for places. There is little difference between the first and second forward lines or between their respective members. Among the halves and backs, C. N. H. Hordern (W) and A. R. Griffith (C) may be particularly mentioned. No colours have been given this year, and indeed such awards would have been difficult to decide.

Results :—

1ST XI.

March 1st.	v. ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD.	Away.	Lost,	2—4.
March 4th.	v. CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD.	Away.	Won,	2—0.
March 11th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S OXFORD.	Home.	Won,	6—1.
March 12th.	v. THE BANDITS.	Home.	Lost,	3—5.
March 15th.	v. R.A.F., HALTON.	Home.	Lost,	1—3.
March 18th.	v. BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT XI.	Home.	Drawn,	3—3.
March 22nd.	v. 31 A.S.D. (TINGEWICK).	Home.	Won,	2—0.
March 25th.	v. OLD STOICS.	Home.	Lost,	2—3.

2ND XI.

March 1st.	v. 3A WING, R.A.F., HALTON.	Away.	Lost,	2—4.
March 4th.	v. ABINGDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL.	Home.	Won,	5—3.
March 11th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S.	Home.	Drawn,	3—3.
March 15th.	v. R.A.F., HALTON.	Home.	Won,	6—2.

COLTS' XI.

March 11th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S.	Away.	Drawn,	1—1.
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COLTS' 2ND XI.

March 11th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S.	Away.	Won,	4—1.
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THE SCHOOL v. ST. EDWARD'S

Played at Stowe on Saturday, March 11th, the School winning by 6 goals to 1.

The game opened with some swift moving attacks by the Stowe forwards who swung the ball about with considerable skill and completely unsettled the St. Edward's defence, with the exception of the goalkeeper, who again and again stopped seemingly impossible shots, until he was at length beaten by a ball slammed in at close quarters, and Stowe became one up after about ten minutes' play. At this stage, it looked as if the result was a foregone conclusion and that, despite their goalkeeper, St. Edward's would be completely swamped. Instead of this, they rallied fiercely and swept down into the home circle, and although the defence made strenuous efforts to clear the ball, play remained in their vicinity and Grice had some rather lucky escapes in goal, before

a St. Edward's forward, taking advantage of one or two miss-hits by the backs, rushed the ball through to make it one-all.

Stowe, however, quickly replied with a rush that left the opposing defence no chance and put us in the lead once more. Although the game moved up and down the field with now one side, then the other, attacking, the Stowe forwards always looked much more dangerous, while they were helped by the fact that the positioning of the St. Edward's backs was weak and left several openings, and after half-time goals came fairly regularly.

The most outstanding players for Stowe were the backs, E. B. J. Williams, who covered and intercepted well, and R. G. Cunningham, whose sound tackling and hard clearance were invaluable. R. D. Miskin, at left-half, played a very sound game throughout and his clever stick-work often fooled the opposing wing and half; P. D. Stern, at centre-half, seemed to be almost everywhere at once and saved many dangerous situations; G. R. T. Sorley played a fine constructive game at inside right; H. J. Lloyd, at centre-forward, with J. N. Vinen, did most of the scoring with some brilliant shots.

The side's overwhelming success, however, was in fact due to better tactics and sense of position, not only by a few but by the whole team.

Team :—W. J. Grice (T); E. B. J. Williams (T), R. G. Cunningham (T); R. D. Miskin (T), P. D. Stern (W), J. M. Bremner (C); R. M. Hinds (W), J. N. Vinen (W), H. J. Lloyd (T), G. R. T. Sorley (C), H. R. V. Whitcombe (B).

THE SCHOOL v. THE BANDITS

Played at Stowe on Sunday, March 12th, the Bandits winning by 5 goals to 3.

Stowe lost the toss and played the first half with their backs to the sun. Owing to an injury to their goal-keeper before the bully-off, the Bandits were obliged to play with ten men for the first ten minutes. However, this handicap did not appear to affect them. From the start they attacked, swinging the ball about from wing to wing, and baffling the Stowe defence with their quickness in giving and taking passes. After about ten minutes play they scored their first goal. Their centre-forward picked up a pass that had split the home defence and raced through. He flicked the ball wide of the advancing goal-keeper for the right-wing to nip in and score with a nicely taken shot from a narrow angle. A few minutes later the centre-forward broke through again and this time rounded off a fine individual effort by scoring himself. By now, Stowe had begun to settle down. The forwards were beginning to get the ball moving about the field, and on several occasions made useful openings. A nice pass from Sorley sent Whitcombe away down the wing. His centre was stopped by an opponent's foot. The resulting penalty corner was missed. The Bandits returned to the attack. They forced a corner. It was well saved by Grice, but he was unable to clear it. They took another shot, but a defender on his knees managed to stop it with his hand. He could not clear it, however, and the ball was rushed into the net. With the scoring of this goal, Stowe woke up. Their inside trio of Vinen, Lloyd and Sorley began to look really dangerous. Stern was sending out good long passes to his wings, who were putting over now and again some good centres. Just before half-time, Sorley broke through on the right. From a very narrow angle he fired in an excellent shot, which gave the goal-keeper no chance. A minute later he broke through again, and put in another beautiful shot. However, this time, it was saved very well indeed by the goal-keeper. The half-time whistle blew with the score 3—1 in favour of the Bandits.



Right from the start of the second half, Stowe began to play as if they really meant to win. They stormed the Bandits' circle, and if their finishing had been a little better, must have scored several goals. As it was, about ten minutes after the re-start Vinen shot the ball past a helpless goal-keeper from close in. With the score 3—2, Stowe made a real effort. Any attacks by their opponents were confidently dealt with by the backs, Williams and Cunningham. On two occasions they were beaten, but both times a dangerous situation was well cleared by Grice. Then a surprise breakaway, and the Bandits were through. They made no mistake and the advancing goal-keeper was helpless. 4—2 down and Stowe played even harder. A faulty clearance was seized upon by Miskin. He brought the ball up and passed to Lloyd. The centre-forward beat his man, flicked the ball past the goalkeeper, followed up and swept the ball into the net. A fine individual effort. Stowe pressed again, and missed a good opportunity of scoring when Whitcombe centred the ball right across the goal-mouth. However, Vinen just missed the far post. Right on time a mistake by the Stowe defence let the Bandits through. They made no mistake and the goalkeeper was given no chance.

Se ended a really fine game. Stowe put up an excellent performance against a faster and more experienced side. The defence, after a shaky start, was very safe, and hit the ball hard and cleanly. The forwards showed good combination and were well-backed up by their halves. Stern played a very good game at centre-half, and excelled in feeding his forwards with well directed passes. The whole side played well, and showed real promise for future games.

## RUGBY FOOTBALL

### THE SCHOOL *v.* ETON

Played at Stowe on February 18th, the School winning by 17 points to nil.

This match was played on the South Front under good conditions.

Territorially there was not much in the game, but when Stowe put in their attacks they were much more dangerous-looking than those of their opponents, whose backs moved slowly and lifelessly. The Stowe back play was not very enterprising and orthodox moves were easily countered by a stern Eton defence. On the two occasions when the blind side was used tries were scored. On the first Goldfinger worked his way through a maze of players and passed to Shinner who had no difficulty in scoring; on the second a quick heel gave Kimber his chance and when confronted he passed to Laing who again only had to hold his pass and run.

The battle forward was a grim one. The Eton pack were tall and heavy. They had some good rushes and were particularly prominent in the line-outs. Stowe also had some penetrating dribbles and these led to Wates scoring twice. On another occasion the scrum wheeled over the line and Wates again was awarded the touch. Of these five tries only one was converted.

*Team* :—H. R. Herrington (C); G. T. Laing (B), J. P. G. Goldfinger (S), D. C. F. Kimber (B), P. G. Shinner (B); P. M. Salt (G), M. S. Turnbull (B); J. Darnley-Smith (C), W. M. Patterson (B), P. J. Harkness (T), R. G. Cunningham (T), C. C. Malden (S), N. E. Wates (B), S. Pendle (G), P. A. Cullum (C).

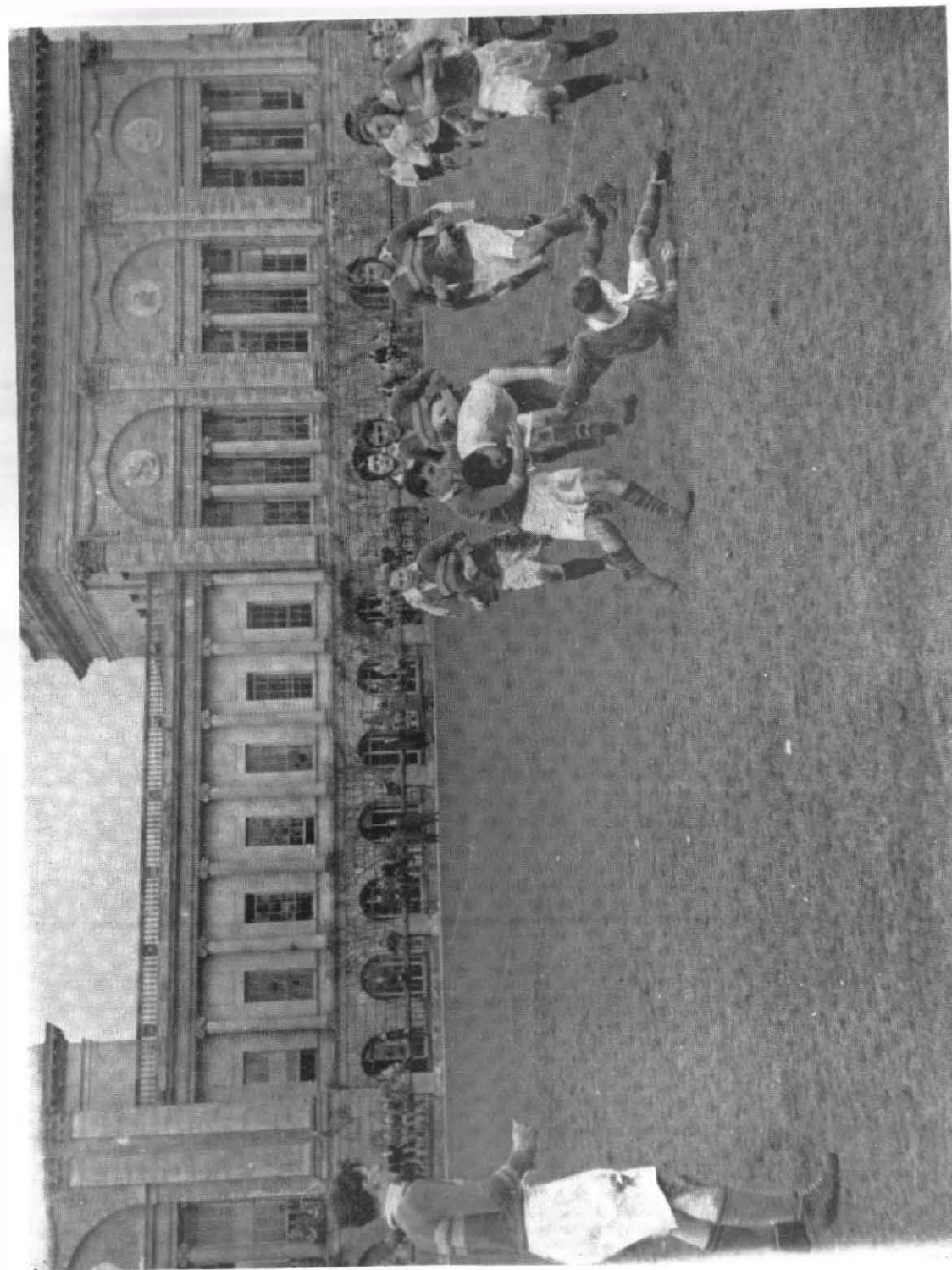


Photo by

STOWE *v.* ETON  
February 18th





Photos by

CHANDOS HOUSE PLAY

O.T.W.

Saturday, February 18th. STOWE COLTS v. ETON. Stowe won 16—3.

The team was :—C. N. H. Hordern (W) ; R. H. Lloyd (C) ; R. F. Butlin (G) ; E. K. O'N. James (T) ; C. J. S. Cullum (B) ; D. C. Campbell (G) ; A. S. R. Villar (C) ; P. L. Morris (C) ; E. B. J. Williams (T) ; J. R. M. Thompson (G) ; H. J. Gray (W) ; A. J. P. Campbell (C) ; A. W. Fraser (C) ; T. R. H. Lewis (B) ; P. Burgess (G).

Try scorers were :—Cullum (2) ; James (1) and Villar (1).

#### SENIOR HOUSE FINAL

It was generally expected that Bruce would emerge very easy victors from this contest with Temple. On paper they were incomparably the stronger side, having seven members of the 1st XV against Temple's one and in addition a stronger supporting "cast." Yet the struggle was surprisingly close. At half-time the score stood nil-all, and the honours were all with Temple, and though in the second half Bruce redeemed their reputation the victory never became a rout and the final score 13—0 was a very fair reflection of the run of the game.

Outstanding among individual performances was the versatile display by Misikin at full-back for the losers. His positional play was remarkably good and he fielded and kicked with unerring precision. For the winners, Shinner, Laing and Cullum were all fast and dangerous and fate was very just when it awarded to each a try. Perhaps, however, the best all-round player was Patterson, who not only monopolised the ball as hooker but played a very fine game in the loose. Among the Temple forwards Cunningham and Lloyd were prominent and Williams and McConnell gave a good account of themselves, though only Colts. An unfortunate accident deprived the losers of their best back, when Cooke received an injury tackling Laing and was forced to leave the field after only ten minutes of play.

It was a damp coldish day, but despite a wet ground the ball was heavy rather than greasy and fumbling in the early stages was due more to match-nerves than to adverse conditions. From the kick-off, Bruce established an ascendancy in the tight and Turnbull was able to feed Kimber with a steady stream of passes. From that point, however, things went wrong and only one attack threatened to lead to a score. This was the one in which Cooke was injured, preventing a possible try on the Bruce right-wing. For the rest, the first half was very even, with attack leading to counter-attack and both lines alternately under pressure.

The second half opened with a Bruce attack, but it was ten to fifteen minutes before an uncertain three-quarter movement led to a try by Cullum on the left-wing. Laing failed to convert, but Bruce were more confident and, following a break-through by Shinner, Laing scored from a scrum on the "25." Patterson converted. Temple were despondent but fought back and were awarded a penalty some thirty yards out. Whitson attempted a drop kick which just went wide. There was now more skill in the Bruce three-quarter line and steady pressure brought an inevitable try, when Shinner burst through in the centre and completely outstripped his opponents in a race for the line. Laing kicked a goal and the whistle blew for time. It was an interesting game and not without sparkle in the later stages. Bruce took a very long time to settle down and Temple must take full credit for putting their opponents off their game. In the long run, however, the machine began to work and from that moment there could only be one result.



## JUNIOR HOUSE FINAL

The match was played on Friday, February 24th. Chatham defeated Chandos by one penalty goal and one goal, 8-nil. An intermittent drizzle did not prevent spectators from enjoying an excellent game.

With the ball still dry the Chandos outsiders were able to start with a series of attacks which boded ill for their opponents. But the game soon became centred in the scrum, and here, with teamwork and enthusiasm added to their superiority in size and strength, Chatham always had the upper hand. The first score, the only one in the first half, was a penalty goal kicked for Chatham by Forman. Chandos, retaliating, kept within striking distance of the Chatham line until half-time.

In the second half the ball seldom got further than the scrum-halves. The Chatham forwards pressed constantly and Campbell went over to score a try which Forman converted. Play continued in the Chandos half until towards the end their outsiders, mastering the slippery ball, were only prevented from scoring several times by Radford's fearless play at full-back. The final whistle came as a relief to the winners.

Natural conditions gave Chatham an advantage of which they made full use. The scrum distinguished itself throughout. Radford excelled in every way, and Boddy, the only other outside to have much opportunity, was also outstanding. The Chandos outsiders lacked opportunity, but the two halves and particularly Fraser started many dangerous attacks. Dew made an invaluable full-back. The standard of play on both sides was remarkably high.

*Teams.—Chatham*:—H. Radford; P. V. Clegg, P. E. S. Lilley, D. Morton Jack, P. G. Rivière; J. G. R. Harding, F. J. R. Boddy; B. R. Dewing, M. R. J. Forman, P. L. Morris, M. J. R. Padmore, N. Broackes, R. J. R. Hartley, A. J. P. Campbell, A. R. Griffith.

*Chandos*:—D. G. de B. Dew; D. N. White, A. W. Fraser, A. J. Beerbohm, R. M. Instone, D. G. N. Horswell; A. S. R. Villar, W. A. Fairbairn; P. A. Fontes, E. S. M. Cameron, R. J. W. Utley, R. J. Nettleship, R. A. Duncan, J. G. Soar, J. L. Gale.

## GOLF

There were two golf competitions in the Winter term, a Senior and a Junior. The large number of entrants was an encouraging sign of the increasing interest in golf. The Senior competition was won by D. J. H. Birch (C) and the Junior by M. H. Spence (C). This term the house matches were again won by Chatham, who had a very strong team and beat Temple in the final.

Two School matches are to be played later in the term. The first is against the Masters and the second against the Old Stoics who are bringing down a formidable team including the Walker Cup Captain, P. B. Lucas (G, 1934).

P.H.M.

## CROSS COUNTRY

The inter-house races were run on Wednesday, February 8th—earlier than usual because the frosty conditions made rugger impossible.

The Junior race, which was run first, was won in fine style by A. J. P. Campbell (C) in the good time of 17 minutes 47 seconds, and resulted in a win for Walpole by a very narrow margin from Grafton.

The Senior runners left us in brilliant sunshine and conditions were nearly perfect. Soon after the leaders had passed the Black Pit, however, the sky darkened and a blizzard lashed both the runners and the waiting spectators. Under the circumstances, M. V. K. Friend's (T) winning time of 24 minutes 41 seconds was creditable. He was followed by D. K. Helm (G) and C. J. S. Marler (G) who had a fierce struggle for second place but finished in that order. The house event was won by Grenville.

In aggregate the competition was won by Walpole by a narrow margin from Grafton. The good packing of the Walpole teams was responsible for their victory.

Final results:—

1.	Walpole	250
2.	Grafton	264
3.	Chandos	320
4.	Grenville	327
5.	Chatham	375
6.	Cobham	391
7.	Temple	445
8.	Bruce	570

## THE SCHOOL v. R.A.F., HALTON

The First VIII visited Halton on February 15th and competed in a race which was as interesting for the spectators as could be hoped. The course was over reasonably flat country and from the start glimpses of the runners were afforded to those watching at intervals throughout the race. For most of the first half of the race there were two distinct bunches, with the red R.A.F. vests out in front. When the circuit of the aerodrome had been completed, however, there was a reasonable leavening of white and for the last half mile the Stowe position continually improved. M. V. K. Friend (T) was the first Stoic home, coming 3rd; O. T. Wall (C) was 5th and C. J. S. Marler (G) 8th. In aggregate Halton proved winners with a score of 33 to Stowe's 46.

## THE SCHOOL v. OUNDLE

This welcome resumption of a long lapsed fixture took place at Stowe on February 23rd where the only break for the spectators was provided by a smart horse-drawn turn-out conveying voters to the poll.

The Oundle team, as was to be expected, found our shorter course too fast for them and the match was won easily. The Second VIII's race was won by T. E. B.

Sopwith (G) in 25 mins. 28 secs. and Stowe provided the first six runners home. In the first VIII's race our showing was hardly less spectacular as Stoics filled the first five positions. O. T. Wall (C) ran a magnificent race to beat the existing course record handsomely with a time of 23 mins. 11 secs.

#### STOWE v. UPPINGHAM v. RUGBY

This triangular meeting was run on the Uppingham course on Saturday, March 4th, and both 1st VIII and 2nd VIII races resulted in good wins for Stowe. We must hasten to sympathise with our hosts whose teams were seriously weakened by illness, but nothing can detract from the good showing of both the Stowe VIIIs. They had trained with remarkable keenness and good sense, and were in the peak of condition. The heavy going and length of the course seemed only to encourage them, and the radio commentators all round the course brought evidence of Stoics en masse in the van.

In the Second VIIIs race the first seven runners home were Stoics and four of them dead-heated for first place—T. E. B. Sopwith (G), M. J. Lloyd (C), D. N. T. Murray (G) and M. B. McKee (C).

When the 1st VIIIs came home, the six placed Stoics all reported in the first nine—and the match was ours. The individual winner was Hedderwick, of Rugby, who completely outclassed everyone to win by a clear minute—a first-class performance. It was gratifying to see C. J. S. Marler (G) the first Stoic home. He had marshalled and trained his teams with thoroughness and good sense and deserved his success. The other Stowe places were filled by O. T. Wall (C) 4th; M. V. K. Friend (T) 5th; D. K. Helm (G) 7th; M. Preece (G) 8th; and R. Brazil (C) 9th.

Result of match:—

1st VIIIs.—Stowe	35	2nd VIIIs.—Stowe	21
Rugby	57	Uppingham	83
Uppingham	81	Rugby	92

## SQUASH

After losing the opening match against the Buccaneers, the team had a very successful season, winning both school matches against Eton and Harrow. A great deal of the success of the team is due to R. Lush (C) who has proved an enthusiastic captain; he is now an extremely competent player, with a fine variety of strokes, and his match tactics have greatly improved; he set the seal on his three years in the team with convincing wins over the Eton and Harrow 1st strings. J. Broom-Smith (C) did not quite reach his form of last term, when he only lost one match, but played very well against Eton. P. G. Harris (G) has made great progress since last term, and has now mastered an effectively disguised drop shot; he won all his matches. T. D. Whitson (T) has also come on very well and is a much more confident player than last term. B. C. Harris (C) did not look in the same class as the rest of the team at the beginning of the term, but he is now an extremely effective fifth string, with clean hitting down the side wall and an occasional well-judged angle shot; after an initial defeat, he has won all his

matches. One of the most encouraging features of the team's play is that no one has descended to aimless hitting, even when in a losing position.

Harrow had one change from the team that beat us at Stowe last term, their third string, while we had lost our first and third strings; and so the win at Harrow was very creditable. All the team played well. Lush started by playing very good squash and dictated the play against the Harrow captain. Broom-Smith, after winning a quick first game, put up a good fight against Harrow's best player. P. G. Harris played very well against one of the Harrow rackets pair, a fine retriever, and when the games were 2-all, it seemed as if the latter's stamina might carry him through; however, placing the ball intelligently, Harris won the last game easily. Whitson's match was the most exciting and produced some of the best squash of the day; the games were all very even and rallies were long. The fifth match did not produce the same standard of squash, but B.C. Harris played with coolness and won comfortably.

The School's win against Eton was very convincing and showed the improvement made by the team to good effect. Lush, although losing a game, was always dictating the play, and when pressed accomplished some fine retrieving. Broom-Smith, having started well, had a bad patch but at 2-all and 4-6 played with great determination; he won the final game with a fine backhand kill. P. G. Harris started with four long drop shots an inch above the tin and his opponent never had a look in; he was clearly a competent player, but he could not cope with Harris's variety of strokes and was beaten 9-0, 9-0, 9-0. The fourth string match was most interesting. The Eton fourth string hit the ball extremely hard and low and mixed this with some well-judged drop shots, but Whitson played extremely well, and mixing his shots just won an exciting game. B. C. Harris did some fine retrieving and also played many winning shots to a good length.

Results have been as follows:—

Sunday, February 5th. v. BUCCANEERS. Home.	Lost 2-3.
R. Lush 1-3; J. Broom-Smith 1-3; P. G. Harris 3-1; T. D. Whitson 3-0; B. C. Harris 2-3.	
Thursday, February 17th. v. HARROW. Away.	Won, 3-2.
R. Lush 3-1; J. Broom-Smith 1-3; P. G. Harris 3-2; T. D. Whitson 2-3; B. C. Harris 3-1.	
Saturday, February 25th. v. HENLEY. Away.	Won, 4-1.
R. Lush 3-1; J. Broom-Smith 2-3; P. G. Harris 3-0; T. D. Whitson 3-2; B. C. Harris 3-0.	
Sunday, February 26th. v. TRING. Home.	Won, 3-2.
R. Lush 3-0; J. Broom-Smith 2-3; P. G. Harris 3-0; T. D. Whitson 0-3; B. C. Harris 3-1.	
Wednesday, March 1st. v. ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD. Away.	Won, 4-1.
R. Lush 3-0; J. Broom-Smith 2-3; P. G. Harris 3-1; T. D. Whitson 3-0; B. C. Harris 3-0.	
Saturday, March 4th. v. CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD. Away.	Won, 5-0.
R. Lush 3-0; P. G. Harris 3-0; J. Broom-Smith 3-0; T. D. Whitson 3-0; B. C. Harris 3-0.	

Wednesday, March 8th. *v.* CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE. Home. Won 4—1.

R. Lush 3—1; J. Broom-Smith 1—3; P. G. Harris 3—2; T. D. Whitson 3—0;  
B. C. Harris 3—1.

Thursday, March 9th. *v.* ETON. Home. Won, 5—0.

R. Lush 3—1; J. Broom-Smith 3—2; P. G. Harris 3—0; T. D. Whitson 3—0;  
B. C. Harris 3—1.

Sunday, March 12th. *v.* WESTON MANOR. Home. Won, 4—0.

J. Broom-Smith 3—0; P. G. Harris 3—2; T. D. Whitson 3—0; B. C. Harris  
3—0.

Saturday, March 18th. *v.* WIMBLEDON. Home. Won, 4—1.

R. Lush 3—2; J. Broom-Smith 3—0; P. G. Harris 3—0; T. D. Whitson 3—0;  
B. C. Harris 0—3.

## CRICKET

### AN OUTLINE OF ORGANISATION FOR THE COMING SEASON

As there is to be some alteration in the organisation of cricket in the coming summer term, I feel that it will be of advantage to all concerned to have an outline of the programme in advance.

The Oligoi will consist only of the prospective 1st and 2nd XIs. The 3rd XI will be chosen from players taking part in Leagues, and will practise together before matches. For example, if in a week there is no match on the Wednesday, and there is a match on the Saturday, the players will, as a rule, be available to play in Leagues on the Tuesday and Wednesday, and will practise together on the Friday. Should the master in charge of the 3rd XI, however, require the players for practice at any time, he will always have first claim on them.

The Colts and Junior Colts Clubs will not be formed until the beginning of June, in which month the majority of their matches will be played. During May, and beginning from the first Tuesday of the term, Junior House matches will be played on Tuesdays and Fridays. They will be played on the split league system, and thus each house will play three preliminary matches, and the winner of each division will play in the final, which will take place later in the term, at the same time as the Senior House match final.

By this method players will get better match practice, more players will be involved, and the Colts and Junior Colts sides will be picked more on results than on reputation. Approximately 12 players only will be picked for each club, and B League, which will be limited to players of under 16, will be a reserve on which both clubs can draw.

Tuesdays and Fridays will be nets days for Oligoi, and Wednesdays and Saturdays for Colts and Junior Colts. Mondays also will be available for those not in the J.T.C.

During the weeks when Junior House matches are being played, B Leagues will be arranged so that the House match players who are not required for nets practice will be available for B league. To make this possible the B league begun on Wednesday will be finished on Saturday, and the one started on Tuesday will be finished on Friday.

A League will play matches on Tuesday-Wednesday, and on Friday-Saturday.

C League will play one match a week, starting on Wednesday and finishing on Saturday, and when there is a shortage of grounds may have to play after tea.

On Tuesdays and Fridays grounds will be available for house friendly games at the C level, if required.

The league programme allows for each house to play every other house twice in A and B leagues, and once in C leagues. A day's play will be 30 overs, to be completed before 4 p.m. (except in the case of C league) and a match will therefore consist of 60 overs. Matches will be played on the days allotted in the programme, and should no result be reached in any match owing to rain, the sides will share the points equally. Matches will not be postponed.

It has been arranged for tea on half holidays to be at 4.15 p.m., which will allow league players two hours after tea for other occupations.

Senior House matches will be played on the knock-out system, owing to shortage of time, and will start on the Tuesday after the matches against Oundle. When these have been completed, Athletic Sports will have priority, but it is probable that some cricket may be arranged for those who are keen to play and are not engaged in Athletic Sports.

As the programme begins in earnest from the first days of the term, any boys who can find the opportunity for practice during the holidays will start with a considerable advantage.

W.H.B.

### FIXTURES 1950

#### FIRST ELEVEN.

Sat.,	May 13.—CRYPTICS.	Home.
Wed.,	May 17.—OXFORD UNIVERSITY AUTHENTICS.	Home.
Sat.,	May 20.—MALVERN.	Away.
Wed.,	May 24.—FREE FORESTERS.	Home.
Sat.,	May 27.—BUCKINGHAM.	Home.
Wed.,	May 31.—ADASTRIANS.	Home.
Sat.,	June 3.—M.C.C.	Home.
Wed.,	June 7.—BRADFIELD.	Home.
Sat.,	June 10.—BEDFORD.	Away.
Tues.,	June 13.—RADLEY.	Away.
Wed.,	June 21.—ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD.	Home.
Sat.,	June 24.—OUNDLÉ.	Home.
Sat.,	July 1.—OLD STOICS.	Home.
Sat.,	July 8.—ETON RAMBLERS.	Home.

## SECOND ELEVEN

Wed., May 17.—BLOXHAM.	Away.
Sat., May 20.—HARROW.	Home.
Wed., May 24.—HALTON.	Home.
Sat., May 27.—BUCKINGHAM.	Home.
Wed., May 31.—LATYMER UPPER SCHOOL.	Home.
Sat., June 3.—RUGBY.	Away.
Wed., June 7.—EMMANUEL COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.	Home.
Sat., June 10.—BEDFORD.	Home.
Tues., June 13.—RADLEY.	Home.
Wed., June 21.—ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD.	Away.
Sat., June 24.—OUNDLE.	Away.
Sat., July 1.—OLD STOICS.	Home.

## THIRD ELEVEN

Wed., May 17.—BLOXHAM.	Home.
Sat., May 20.—HARROW.	Home.
Sat., May 27.—BLAKESLEY.	Home.
Wed., May 31.—LATYMER UPPER SCHOOL.	Home.
Sat., June 3.—TWYFORD.	Away.
Sat., June 10.—BEDFORD.	Home.
Tues., June 13.—RADLEY.	Home.
Wed., June 21.—ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD.	Away.

## COLTS' ELEVEN

Sat., May 20.—HARROW.	Away.
Sat., June 3.—RUGBY.	Home.
Wed., June 7.—BRADFIELD.	Home.
Sat., June 10.—BEDFORD.	Away.
Tues., June 13.—RADLEY.	Away.
Wed., June 21.—ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD.	Home.
Sat., June 24.—OUNDLE.	Home.
Sat., July 8.—ETON.	Away.

## JUNIOR COLTS' ELEVEN

Sat., May 20.—HARROW.	Away.
Sat., June 3.—RUGBY.	Home.
Sat., June 10.—BEDFORD.	Away.
Tues., June 13.—RADLEY.	Away.
Wed., June 21.—ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD.	Home.
Sat., June 24.—OUNDLE.	Away.
Wed., June 28.—BLOXHAM.	Away.

## ANSWERS TO GENERAL PAPER

1-5, Royal Martyr, Man of Blood ; Oxford Martyrs, Latimer and Ridley ; Tolpuddle Martyrs, Dorchester Labourers ; Lord Protector, Old Ironsides ; Merry Monarch, Old Rowley. 6-10, Cinnabar, Ore ; Bakelite, Plastic ; Benzine, By-product ; Mercury, Metal ; Solder, Alloy. 11-20, Animal, Lien-ho (Giant Panda) ; Insect, Bishop Barnabee ; Flower, King Alfred (daffodil) ; Tree, True Service ; Regiment, Green Howards ; Opera, The Olympians ; Sculptured frieze, Elgin Marbles ; Mirage, Fata Morgana ; Kind of china, Crown Derby ; Megalithic circle, Rollright Stones. 21, Macbeth. 22, School for Scandal. 23, Faustus. 24, Hassan. 25, Beggar's Opera.

26, Wafdist. 27, Democrat. 28, National. 29, Liberal. 30, Labour. 31, British. 32, 40. 33, 1952. 34, Sutton Coldfield. 35, Adenauer. 36, Miller of Dee. 37, Gallio. 38, 20,000 Leagues under the Sea. 39, Odysseus or Ulysses. 40, "Zimri" or Buckingham. 41, Aaron. 42, Nimrod. 43, Luke. 44, Moses. 45, Abraham. 46, 90. 47, 10,000. 48, 0. 49, 0. 50, 100 or 200. 51, Newton. 52, Galileo. 53, Archimedes. 54, Einstein. 55, J. J. Thomson. 56, Barbirolli. 57, Wagner. 58, 12. 59, Ballet. 60, Sackbut. 61-63, Viper or Adder, Grass snake, Smooth snake. 64, Song of Hedge sparrow. 65, Tercel (Male falcon). 66, Renaissance. 67, Constable. 68, Portraits. 69, Hyde Park. 70, 5½ million.

71, Bacon. 72, Morris. 73, Horatio. 74, Battle. 75, Milton. 76, Adam. 77, Shaw. 78, Augustus. 79, Isabella. 80, (Tom) Bowling. 81, De Gaulle. 82, Capuchins. 83, Hail. 84, Goldsmith. 85, Ephialtes. 86, Maurois. 86, Victoria. 88, Benedictines. 89, Setebos. 90, Attlee. 91, Robert (of Sicily). 92, The Child. 93, Nightingale (or Philomel). 94, Duty. 95, Victoria. 96, Lucifer. 97, Toby. 98, Kaspar. 99, Aumerle. 100, Jobiska.

## BOOK REVIEWS

"THE WORLD'S ROOM"—THE COLLECTED POEMS OF LAURENCE

WHISTLER (G, 1930), with decorations by REX WHISTLER. (*Heinemann*, 15/-.)

In this volume are collected all the published poems which Whistler himself would care to see reprinted, ranging from "Armed October" (1932) to some appearing now for the first time in a book. As it is unthinkable that he will not write much finer poetry than even the best of these, this review can be no more than an interim report which tries to trace the development of a poet and the effect which war has had on him.

I have been re-reading "Children of Hertha," with which Whistler won the Peters Bone prize in 1929. It is, of course, impertinent to refer to it—as impertinent as to recall to a grown-up the bright remarks of his childhood—for, like most juvenilia, it is a collection of *vocalises* where the poet is learning his art of expression ; but what an astonishingly fertile field if the right seed fall into it ! That the seed has borne fruit can be seen in "The World's Room."

The earlier poems, from "Armed October," "Four Walls," and "The Emperor Heart," are still, I feel, attempts to find a technique. This is not to say that they are imitations; the verse and diction are individual but assured, and there is nowhere the reaching after Eliot or Hopkins which disfigures so much modern verse. Nevertheless, these earlier works give one a picture of a writer preoccupied with observation for its own sake, and with a rather too careful dissection of his emotions. From this pre-occupation he emerges, in "In Time of Suspense" (1940), and justifies his own serious generation against the cynicism of the '20s.

"Now from those ageing pantaloons we learn  
The young are very serious. Even so;  
After the sterile gaieties of snow,  
Give us but time enough, and we will show  
These barren valleys how to laugh and sing!"

He is still, and I suspect always will be, introspective, but the problems of war have given a point to his self-examination, and have developed if not a philosophy a faith, a belief, that in the midst of death we are in life, that the answer to Negation is Self.

"What if life were no more  
Than a question put in a hollow of stars, not answered,  
A hand stretched out in a darkened room, not grasped?  
The word and the gesture rejoice, in themselves and alone."

Space will not allow detailed citation, but the reader is referred especially to "The Quick and the Dead" (though to enjoy it fully he should not read the note at the end of the book until he has read the poem), and to "Rollo Latimer." In the latter, which deserves a place in any anthology, a priest sees the ghost of his son, a pilot killed in the Battle of Britain; it is Harvest Festival, and the old man goes to hide his grief in his decorated church:

"The church, remote and listening room,  
Was charged with honey-coloured gloom.

And there above the still, unbroken  
Breakers of two sheaves,  
Wild with half-believing, he,  
Hungering for certainty,  
Searched the holy leaves,

Searched and found in many places  
Many reasons for belief,  
Neither time nor self regarding,  
Neither joy nor grief,  
'And this is the promise,' cried the pages,  
'Even eternal life.'

The apples and the marrow,  
The loaves and liquid comb,  
Washed around the silent column,  
Ringed his feet with foam,  
Because another year had spilled  
Into that naked room.

'This is the promise!' sang the apples,  
At every quarter chime.  
'World without end,' the marrow sang,  
And the comb the same.  
And brilliant on the serious wall  
The words of Faith above them all  
Burned on through seeming Time."

J.C.S.

## "MUST NIGHT FALL?"

by MAJOR TUFTON BEAMISH, M.C., M.P. (T, 1935)

In this book Major Beamish has a grim tale to tell and a grave message for his readers. Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania, as we know to our cost, are, as nations, for the time being at any rate, more off the map than on it. The author, backed by his personal experiences and his thorough documentation, gives his own vivid account of how these things happened. It is all to the good that we should have one more version of the events and their causes; and it will do us no harm to be warned again, if only because the British are so tiresome about warnings.

Of all the causes not the least was the unexpected but, as we now know, most uneasy bedfellowship of Germany and Russia, agreed to in August 1939. The ever-twisting loyalties of the ever-harassed Central European Peoples had tragic results for them all. Poland was nearly strangled from the start, though Poland today, as the book shews, has survived, so far, in slightly less miserable conditions than the others. Bulgaria backed the wrong horse for the third time in thirty years, for which, when all said and done, we should be sorry. This is no time to gloat. Hungary fought a very bewildered and bewildering war, of which Major Beamish gives as clear an account as anyone could expect. As for Rumania, the summer of 1940 saw her robbed of her Bessarabian provinces by Russia, swindled out of Transylvania by Hungary, and involved in the general war on the side of the Axis, without really knowing why.

All these unfortunate peoples were eventually "liberated" by Russia, who squatted in their territories. And so the Communists found themselves in clover. The author shews us in each case the same sickening technique whereby Minority seizes and keeps power. It is the old story of secret police (up to one member for every twenty citizens), informers, blackmail, travesties of justice, and torture. The average 'Socialist' fared worse than anyone. He found himself the first outside the Party to be invited to help; so he was the first, among high or low, to be absorbed or liquidated, according to his taste. It is not only in Central Europe that this label has a sinister smell. The author pays tribute to many patriot martyrs before he leaves these countries where we still see them—in bondage. But their religion is not dead. The family unit, to which man clings so desperately, is the main screen for the flickering flame. Education and culture have suffered cruelly, but are not yet beyond repair.

Then we come to the warning message, which is twofold, and which provides an answer to the question in the title of the book. Night need not fall if we British can keep sane at home and can conduct an intelligent Crusade, with the U.S.A., the British Commonwealth and Western Europe as our partners. For the Crusade we need a solid show of strength, determined to fight if need be. We need a policy of Economic

Sanctions. We need active and continuous Radio Propaganda, in the Religious as well as in the Political field—in fact Truth of every sort on the air. Newspapers also have a grave responsibility which they must not shirk. Truth has an uncanny fascination and hurts the Liars in the end. But, says Major Beamish in conclusion, we can contribute little ourselves to all this unless our Home Front is sane, that is, stops playing at Socialism and using its nefarious label. The whole thing is un-British, for there can be no such thing as a 'democratic' Socialist State. Many Socialists here are just Marxist-Leninists with their Sunday clothes on. The rest are not even that. Let us "rev up" progress, but Revolution will not do it, for that would not leave us sane. The Communists and all their cousins exploit the Talisman of the Future Tense, just to mesmerise the malcontents of the Present. Any halt in "Planning" gives people pause to think, and that would never do! On! Intensify the pace! "Les Dieux ont soif," wrote Anatole France, with ample demonstrations. Sanity alone will provide clear thought and wiser action.

This book was a great pleasure to read.

*Footnote.*—'Alice said she had lost her way. "I don't know what you mean by your way," said the Queen. "All ways about here belong to me." And so Alice was dragged along. . . . "Faster! Faster!" cried the Queen.'

It was the Red Queen, was it not?

R.E.J.D.

"THE IMPOSSIBLE SHORE" by ROBERT KEE (©, 1937).

This is an exciting story of the adventures of a R.A.F. Prisoner of War from the time when his camp in Eastern Germany is "liberated" by the Russians until he finally crosses the Elbe for home. The pictures Robert Kee gives of all the incidents, amusing, odd or terrible, which make up this individual saga are very vivid; and the characters in the story, whether of the medley of prisoners, the pathetic D.Ps., the unpredictable Russians, or the stunned and beaten Germans, stand out clearly. An added interest is given to this study of the kaleidoscopic backwash of war by the reactions of the hero, Johnnie Clay, whose sense of uncertainty and striving for peace and security are naturally and honestly portrayed.

J.C.T.U.



Drawing by ]

A MAN IN THE CROWD  
(Edgar Allan Poe)

[A.E.W.]



*E. N. Hillier & Sons, Ltd.*  
*Printers*  
*Buckingham, Bucks*

