

THE STOIC



Number One Hundred and Thirteen

DECEMBER 1960

THE STOIC

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EDITORIAL

THE felling and replanting this summer of long stretches of the Buckingham Avenue, an authoritative account of which appears on a later page, has inevitably caused some heart-searching and not a few protests. The latter are, we think, illogical. However much we may personally regret individual veterans, an avenue is not a collection of individuals but a single entity. The state of the trees being what it is, there is no reasonable alternative to complete replanting.

The gaps in the Avenue are uncomfortable at present, but will not long remain so; indeed, we think that the writer of the article referred to may even be a little pessimistic in his estimate of the time needed for renewal. Trees have a quicker growth in their early years than we believe when we see them planted; the Buchanan Avenue, for instance, is already beginning to fulfil its function. Sometimes, in fact, the vigour of our trees can be an embarrassment. In the twenty-nine years since *Comus* was acted at the Temple of British Worthies a crop of poplars has invaded the slope on which the audience sat and many have had to be cleared. Casual or overgrown trees quickly obscure a vista such as that from the Octagon to the Gothic Temple; and it is unlikely that Horace Walpole's glimpse of the Palladian Bridge and Stowe Castle through the Doric Arch can have been at its best for more than fifty years. Landscape cannot remain static, and we in our turn should not be afraid of the idea of renewal, or even of originality, in our trees and buildings. It was only in Victorian times that Stowe settled into the Sleeping Beauty trance in which the School found it.

Nevertheless, though the Stowe scene is always changing, there are elements in it which must be preserved. It is unthinkable that we should ever destroy the view from the South Front steps to the Corinthian Arch; unthinkable that the Northamptonshire skyline should be interrupted by anything but the statue of George I. But the fact that we are limited

in one direction does not forbid expansion in others; there is still room for building and development, especially on the fourth side of the Chapel Court and between the Grafton Arch and the Temple of Concord. Stowe has suffered much in the past from haphazard siting and the consequent attempts at concealing eyesores. We welcome the replanting of the Avenue as an act of faith not only in the past but in the future, and we believe that it is a symptom of a rational, long-term approach to the problems of a School which is to educate our grandsons as well as ourselves.

STOICA

School Officials—Christmas Term, 1960.

Prefects :—T. A. S. Dufty, Head of the School and Head of Bruce; D. H. Bate, Second Prefect and Head of Grenville; C. H. Clucas, Head of Walpole; T. J. L. Gauvain, Head of Temple; B. L. Irving, Head of Cobham; J. S. Jackson (C), Prefect of Gymnasium; L. J. D. McIntyre (G), Prefect of Hall; H. H. Marshall (T), Prefect of Library; L. M. Thomas (B), Prefect of Chapel; M. J. R. Wightman, Head of Chatham; A. R. Woodbridge, Head of Grafton; M. P. Woosnam-Mills, Head of Chandos.

Rugby Football :—Captain, C. H. Clucas (W); Secretary, A. J. C. Hamp-Ferguson (W).

Squash :—Captain and Secretary, J. S. Jackson (C).

Fives :—Captain, R. B. B. Ivory (T); Secretary, C. P. Robinson (T).

Fencing :—Captain and Secretary, M. H. Waring (C).

The following have preached in the Chapel this term :—on September 25th, the Headmaster; on October 2nd, the Rev. E. L. Barnes, Vicar of Hillesden; on October 9th, the Rev. J. H. B. Elkerton, Vicar of Buckingham; on October 16th, R. J. Knight, Esq., Headmaster of Oundle; on October 23rd, the Rev. D. J. Challis; on October 30th, the Rev. L. V. Wright; on November 6th, the Rev. G. Helft, The Missions to Seamen; on November 13th, the Rev. J. E. C. Nicholl; on November 20th, the Rev. D. J. Challis; on December 4th, the Rev. O. K. de Berry, Rector of St. Aldate's, Oxford; on December 11th, the Rev. J. E. C. Nicholl.

The Collections in the Chapel were as follows :—on October 9th, for the Pineapple, £30 os. od.; on October 30th, for the British and Foreign Bible Society, £27 13s. 2d.; on November 13th, for the Earl Haig Fund, £103 14s. 4d.; on November 27th, for Dr. Barnardo's Homes, £36 14s. 11d.; on December 18th, for the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, £29 3s. 7d.

At the Confirmation Service in the Chapel on Advent Sunday, November 27th, 88 candidates were confirmed by the Bishop of Oxford.

The Rt. Hon. the Viscount Wimborne, O.B.E., D.L., has been succeeded as Chairman of the Governors by Mr. David J. Robarts. A new committee of Governors, known as the General Purposes Committee, has been formed and meets frequently at Stowe. It consists of the Chairman of the Governors; Mr. P. G. Agnew, O.B.E. (C 1932); Mr. N. G. Annan, O.B.E. (Provost of King's) (T 1935); the Rt. Hon. the Viscount Caldecote, D.S.C.; Mr. A. M. Quinton (T 1942); and Mr. P. L. Sherwood (B 1930).

The following have joined the staff this term :—The Rev. D. J. Challis, Mr. C. B. Dicks, Mr. A. B. Stokoe, Mr. R. C. Rawcliffe, Mr. R. J. F. Proctor, Mr. B. K. Clark, Mr. K. I. Meldrum, Mr. P. Millward. Mr. M. M. Maynard is away from Stowe on six months' leave of absence.

We are sorry to say farewell to Mr. M. A. Pearce, Headmaster's Secretary since 1955, and wish him all success in his new appointment at King's School, Canterbury.

We have heard with deep regret of the death on November 20th of Mrs. Sheila Radice, the mother of Miss Iona Radice, who did invaluable work in the Library and as a musician during the War, and of the Rev. A. A. H. Radice (T 1933). Mrs. Radice was a constant friend of the School from even before its foundation, and presented the relief of Marcus Aurelius in the Aurelian Room. She was also the author of a novel, *Not All Sleep*, which has eighteenth-century Stowe as its setting.

The portraits of the first Duke and Duchess in the North Hall have been restored, as have also those of Queen Anne and of the second Duke

in the Garter Room. Other paintings from the Garter Room and the Blue Room are in process of restoration.

Meets of the Grafton Hunt, the Sandhurst Beagles, and the Radley College Beagles were arranged at Stowe this term but unfortunately had to be cancelled owing to foot-and-mouth restrictions.

The Old Stoic Dinner was held on December 3rd in the Members' Dining Room of the House of Commons. Speeches were made by the Rt. Hon. J. A. Boyd-Carpenter, M.P. (C 1927), the Headmaster, Mr. R. G. Gilbert, and the Rt. Hon. the Lord St. Oswald, M.C. (T 1933). 136 Old Stoics were present.

The second Northern Dinner was held at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on October 22nd. Speeches were made by D. S. Bramley (Chairman) (T 1927), P. B. Lucas, D.S.O., D.F.C. (G 1934), Mr. J. C. Saunders, and the Headmaster. 60 Old Stoics were present.

The Oxford University Old Stoics' Dinner was held in Christ Church on November 10th. Speeches were made by D. R. Speight (B 1955), Mr. P. G. Hunter, and the Cambridge guest, R. B. Skepper (T 1956). 36 members were present.

House dances have been held by Temple and Chandos. Parties from Stowe attended dances at Hawnes Girls' School and at Tolmers. A Reel Club party was held at Stowe with guests from Tudor Hall.

The Pineapple Ball is to be held at the Grosvenor House Hotel on Thursday, January 5th, 1961. Tickets (47/6 each, including dinner) can be obtained from the Hon. Organizing Secretary, The Pineapple Ball, 14, Napier Place, London, W.14.

The following are reported on other pages: the winning of the Youll Cup for the second year in succession, the partial felling and replanting of the Buckingham Avenue, and the shooting of the forthcoming film "V.I.P." at the former P.W. Camp at the Water Stratford cross-roads.

A Pineapple Bulletin is at this moment being prepared, and will be sent to all parents and Old Stoics next term. This will give a full report of Club Activities and the latest developments about the building of a new Club.

SCHOLARSHIPS

T. J. L. GAUVAIN (T) was awarded a State Scholarship for Classics on the results of the Certificate Examinations in July.

R. C. OSNER (C), who left in April, has been awarded a State Scholarship for Chemistry and Biology.

L. J. D. MCINTYRE (G) has been awarded a Foundation Scholarship for Mathematics at King's College, Cambridge.

THE REV. T. W. G. ACLAND

Theodore William Gull Acland (he was, however, known as 'Charlie'), who died on October 13th, three weeks before his seventieth birthday, was on the staff at Stowe from September 1923—Stowe's second term—until 1930.

He was the first Housemaster of Cobham, where he began with fifteen boys in January 1924. The House quickly reached its full complement and became under him a flourishing, friendly and remarkably efficient community.

In the classroom, he began as a Form Master and included English subjects and French within his range. But, as the school grew, he turned fully to the teaching of Science, in which at Cambridge he had gained a First in Part I of the Natural Sciences Tripos and a First in the Tripos (Chemistry) the following year.

His cheerful disposition, his enthusiasm, his high ideals and loyal temperament, as well as his organizing ability, made him a valuable asset to Stowe; but it was right and inevitable that he should move on to greater responsibilities, and in 1930 he became Headmaster of King Edward VI School, Norwich.

From there, after thirteen happy and successful years, he retired in 1943. During the years that followed, living in London for some while, he devoted himself to public service on a considerable scale as governor or council member of several public bodies, educational, ecclesiastical, and medical.

In 1944 he married; and in 1953 he was ordained. He was, at the time of his death, engaged in church work in Winchester, which he had made his home during recent years.

OLIM ALUMNI

R. J. MAXWELL-HYSLOP (C 1949) was on November 17th elected as Member of Parliament for Tiverton (Conservative), with a majority of 3,040.

D. P. CHOYCE (C 1932) has been awarded a Hunterian Professorship by the Royal College of Surgeons of England for his original contributions to eye surgery. He is the first Old Stoic to receive this distinction.

Major General R. A. PIGOT, O.B.E. (G 1932) has been appointed Chief of Staff to the Commandant General, Royal Marines.

The proposed amalgamation of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders with the Seaforth Highlanders is very much an Old Stoic affair. The 1st Seaforth Highlanders are at present commanded by LT.-COL. W. W. CHEYNE, M.B.E. (C 1938), who took over from LT.-COL. P. C. MITFORD, M.B.E. (C 1936) this year. The first Commanding Officer designate of the amalgamated Regiment is LT.-COL. N. P. D. BAIRD, O.B.E. (T 1935), who commands the 1st Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

J. I. G. CAPADOSE (T 1943) was, in April, appointed Assistant Military Attaché (Technical) at the British Embassy in Paris.

J. J. HARTLAND-SWANN (B 1926) has been appointed to the Chair of Philosophy at the University of Malaya.

O. A. W. DILKE (B 1933) has been elected Professor of Classics at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, S. Africa.

S. A. M. ASHEAD (B 1950) is Lecturer in History at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.

C. F. CULLIS (W 1941) has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Science (Oxon) for work on combustion and related fields.

J. F. NYE (C 1941) has won the Kirk Bryan award of the Geological Society of America.

D. MORTON JACK (C 1954) has been awarded the Cholmeley Scholarship at Lincoln's Inn.

M. L. A. ANDREWS (C 1957) and A. B. HOWARTH (C 1956), with four other members of the Cambridge University Explorers' Club, are travelling nearly 25,000 miles on two Land Rovers from the southernmost tip of South America to Fort Yukon in Alaska, the longest possible south-north overland route in the world. The object of the expedition is to make a comparative study of animal husbandry in the countries along the route, and the team is expected to be away approximately fourteen months.

W. C. O. MUNKS (C 1947) is this year's Captain of Richmond Rugby Football Club.

THE EARL OF BECTIVE (C 1949) has succeeded to the title of Marquess of Headfort.

We regret an error of initials in our July 1960 number; it is of course the HON. J. P. E. C. HENNIKER-MAJOR, M.C. (B 1934), who is Ambassador to Jordan.

BIRTHS

To the wife of:

- S. A. DEG. ABBOTT (C 1951) a son, on July 3rd, 1960.
 A. J. BARRATT (G 1944) a son, on March 18th, 1960.
 S. N. L. CHALTON (B 1951) a son, on November 12th, 1960.
 G. J. CHIBBETT (C 1947) a son, on July 6th, 1960.
 J. P. G. GOLDFINGER (S 1951) a son, on August 22nd, 1960.
 S. S. F. HORNOR (C 1939) a son, on October 13th, 1960.
 R. M. INSTONE (C 1953) a daughter, on July 11th, 1960.
 J. D. MURRAY (C 1928) a son, on May 17th, 1960.
 P. C. PAISLEY (W 1949) a daughter, on April 12th, 1960.
 THE LORD PRIMROSE (W 1947) a daughter, on July 11th, 1960.
 T. B. PULVERTAFT (C 1957) a daughter, on November 15th, 1960.
 A. P. RIDDELL (S 1948) a son, on June 18th, 1960.
 R. J. ROBERTS (C 1949) a son, on June 15th, 1960.
 P. J. TICKELL (B 1951) a daughter, on October 7th, 1960.
 G. P. TOBIN (G 1947) a son, on July 6th, 1958.
 D. H. W. VEY (W 1946) a son, on March 15th, 1960.
 C. A. VANDERVELL (B 1944) a daughter, on May 13th, 1960.
 R. S. WATSON (B 1940) a daughter, on March 28th, 1960.
 J. M. WEBB (C 1935) a son, on February 12th, 1959.

MARRIAGES

- A. J. BEERBOHM (C 1953) to Jacqueline Eliot, on February 27th, 1960.
 N. R. CUNNINGHAM-REID (G 1949) to Tessa Milne, on December 1st, 1960.
 W. J. M. EDDY (C 1949) to Ana Maria Gonzalez Bonarino, on March 15th, 1960, in Buenos Aires.
 J. D. FINCH (C 1950) to Barbara Jane Kerr, on November 12th, 1960, in Toronto.
 H. L. FLETCHER (C 1945) to Mary Ann Varga, on July 16th, 1960, at Windsor, Ontario.
 M. A. FLEURY (W 1954) to Gillian Diana Ackland, on June 1st, 1960.
 I. R. MCL. HENDERSON (T 1952) to Louise Howard, on September 24th, 1960.
 R. E. HICHENS (C 1950) to Mariquita Frances Cleeve, on March 28th, 1958.
 R. E. JAMES (C 1949) to Sheelagh Thompson, on June 7th, 1958.
 G. W. A. KENT (C 1952) to Angela Virginia Sarie Day, on April 30th, 1960.
 D. C. F. KIMBER (B 1951) to Joan Wylie, on April 18th, 1959.
 G. R. LEES (T 1942) to Lois Marian Scrimgeour, on December 13th, 1958.
 P. J. LE VAY LAWRENCE (B 1951) to Carol Rosalind Abrahams, on July 16th, 1959.
 P. A. T. LOUP (T 1953) to Allah Plumer, on February 20th, 1960.
 K. A. LOW (C 1949) to Susan Mary Peck, on December 20th, 1958.
 A. J. LUMSDEN-COOK (B 1953) to Christine Rissen, on August 8th, 1959.
 C. R. LUNT (S 1954) to Judith Hamilton-Adams, on January 16th, 1960.
 A. J. MACINTOSH (T 1949) to Pamela Mary Walford, on April 2nd, 1960.
 A. J. MACMILLAN (C 1944) to Letitia Norah Parker, on July 4th, 1959.
 R. G. L. McCRONE (S 1952) to Alexandra Bruce Waddell, on June 27th, 1959.
 W. MILBURN (G 1944) to Patricia Carroll Butler, on June 1st, 1957.
 T. M. U. MOLOSSI (G 1953) to Ingrid Angela Pillans, on October 31st, 1959.
 H. J. H. NELSON (S 1942) to Dorothy Margaret Shaw, on June 4th, 1959.

- D. H. SANDERS (♾ 1948) to Primrose Elisabeth Dunkley, on January 30th, 1960.
 R. T. SHELMERDINE (W 1942) to Caroline Judith Harris, on March 2nd, 1957.
 C. K. SIMOND (T 1937) to Margaret Anne Foster, on March 9th, 1948.
 A. S. G. SPARROW (W 1950) to Maureen Violet Thomas, on February 3rd, 1960.
 P. E. STEVENS (W 1952) to Dorothy Pamela Thomas, on October 15th, 1960.
 G. P. TOBIN (♾ 1947) to Margaret Mary Bickersteth Birks, on August 14th, 1953.
 S. H. G. TWINING (T 1951) to Anne Brodie, on October 8th, 1960.
 P. G. WADDILOVE (♾ 1947) to Edwina Anna Kay Carroll, on January 30th, 1960.
 C. B. WALKER (W 1943) to Ann Caroline Phillipa Cross, on April 2nd, 1960.
 D. R. WALLACE (B 1953) to Julia Varley, on November 25th, 1955.
 J. A. WALTERS (C 1944) to Susan Caroline Lockwood, on December 11th, 1958.
 J. R. WARDEN (T 1954) to Susan Lewis, on January 2nd, 1960.
 J. H. N. WESTON (C 1931) to Patricia Rosamonde Frideswide Pakeman, on May 26th, 1945.

 DEATHS

- F. S. D. BURGIS (C 1932) in an air crash in 1958.
 C. L. H. DENNIS (C 1935) on May 13th, 1960.

 THE OLD STOIC RUGGER DAY

Old Stoics were able to field three full XVs against the School on Saturday, October 8th, 1960. The only difficulty was the sorting out of forwards when rather too many were backs.

The 1st XV under Patrick Sefton (G 1955) won a good game despite the driving rain. Two opportunist tries by Jeremy Arnold (B 1956), one of which was converted by Sefton, proved the decisive factors. C. M. St. J. Knight scored for the School.

The other Old Stoic XVs both lost: the 2nd XV 0—21 and the 3rd XV 3—11.

The following Old Stoics played:—

- Bruce* A. J. Arnold, D. E. Conington, P. J. S. Griggs.
Temple E. J. Ivory, J. M. Bryan, C. J. W. Gauvain, A. S. T. Steel, J. H. Temple.
Grenville J. D. Powell-Rees, P. J. Sefton.
Chandos D. D. Barlow, P. J. Blayney, G. W. Horner, J. R. Hunter-Coddington, J. L. Hunter-Coddington, J. R. Kerr Muir, J. R. Perriss, D. J. Rimmer.
Cobham J. A. Boyd-Smith, P. C. Bucknall, T. G. Garratt, R. T. C. A. Hall, A. L. King-Cline, M. B. McKee, W. D. Morgan, R. Osner, P. M. Rossiter, C. H. Scott, A. J. White.
Chatham M. C. Houghton, E. S. Kennedy, S. P. W. J. Simpson, J. R. Wingad.
Grafton J. H. Arkell, N. G. Clayton, P. W. Loxton, R. M. Smith, N. B. Venning.
Walpole C. N. H. Hordern, J. E. G. Nayler, G. D. Parkinson.
 N. C. S. Barling (♾ 1944) refereed.

THE AVENUE

It is perfectly natural that many people should think that the cutting down of trees in the Avenue is shocking vandalism. It is necessary therefore to state the reasons for it.

In places large gaps already existed and many standing trees were in a bad condition, possibly dangerous. When this happens to an avenue it is always difficult to decide what is the best thing to do, because everyone is reluctant to fell trees which look lovely as they are; but it has to be remembered that it must at all times be considered as a whole and, what is more, as a thing of beauty whose life is likely to be at least two hundred years.

It is not the slightest use nibbling at the problem. The only satisfactory way of renewing an avenue is to replant it. Any method which attempts renewal little by little, leaving existing trees standing for as long as possible, will fail.

One method often adopted, of planting new trees where gaps occur through decay, will produce in fifty to a hundred years' time lines of trees, one could hardly call it an avenue, of all sorts of shapes and sizes; different sizes because of the difference in age, different shapes because young trees planted near to bigger ones do not have a chance to grow properly. They either grow with all their branches on one side or they lean away from the bigger trees, for they must grow towards the light. Examples of this are very common. Another method, namely to remove the outer or inner lines of a double avenue and replant, results in the new trees all leaning outwards, away from those left standing. The final result would be appalling. As already stated, the problem must be considered as a whole, for an avenue is not merely lines of trees on either side of a road or space, it is two or more lines of reasonably matching trees which go on matching throughout its entire length.

There was then no alternative. Many of the trees had to be felled because they were rotten, dying and possibly dangerous. The avenue must be replanted, therefore it must be felled. Available labour made it impossible to do it all at once, so it will be done in three stages with an interval of a few years between each. The sections felled this year will be replanted at once and the trees planted in stages two and three will be larger so as to reduce the difference in age. By this means those who are children now will live to see a lovely young avenue. There was no other way of achieving this.

It might have been better if the felling had made more gaps of much shorter length, but this was governed by the state of the trees and there was no choice. For instance, not long ago a poplar fell down simply because it was rotten; it seemed likely that all the other poplars would be rotten too; one of the largest gaps was where they grew. Felling proved the precaution justified. Even now, with gaps unfortunately long, the effect of an avenue is maintained.

It is all very sad for those of us who will not see an avenue here again, but by the time our children are middle-aged, it will be beautiful once more and will remain so for generations.

M.J.M.

MUSIC

One thing which strikes the curious observer of the Stowe musical world is that for the first time in its history it has a director who is not an organist; Mr. Proctor, new this term, has taken over the organ and the choir, and Mr. Watson, though in general charge of the Chapel services, has in his new capacity devoted much of his energy to a thorough re-shaping of the music programme as a whole. There have been other breaks with tradition too; I cannot remember seeing before this term a member of the School conducting his own composition as Wayne did in the concert on November 20th, or (for a long time at any rate) a member of the School leading the orchestra as Spira did on the same occasion; likewise, in the absence of Miss Rhuna Martin, Bushell led the 'cellos; and the unavoidable inclusion of just one performer from outside that evening spoilt what would, I am pretty sure, have been another innovation, a concert produced entirely (apart from the soloists) by the Stowe community.

The School music as arranged for this year falls roughly into three categories: the outside professional, the local professional, and the amateur. Visits by the 'Opera for all' Group (in *The Marriage of Figaro*), the distinguished guitarist Julian Bream, and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra should be tremendous occasions capable of attracting even the normally indifferent; interspersed with these are the Library concerts, given by the music staff, their friends, and Old Stoics such as John Melvin and Simon Whistler; these, consisting of chamber music, have in the pleasant intimacy of the Library so far been very warmly received, particularly the Mozart Oboe Quartet and Dvorak's American Quartet on October 16th. Last, and in a sense most important, are the School choral and orchestral concerts, and the military band concert; in these fields we have had two first-class performances during the term; on November 20th, though the whole programme was of a remarkably high standard which augured well for future concerts, the main work was of course the *Ode for St. Cecilia's Day*; for this Mr. Watson had before him a gathering that might have vied with the hordes in the second act of *Aida*, including not only boys but two Old Stoics, several masters, and some masters' wives (these latter invited to serve, I understand, owing

to the perennial dearth of trebles these days); the result was magnificent. I regret only that there were not more choruses and fewer solo items, though these did give various members of the orchestra some excellent practice in obbligato playing. Whitfield's trumpet-playing that evening ought not to pass unnoticed, and this leads me on to the military band concert. Mr. Webb's concert always ranks as one of the events of the year; for whatever reason, the rousing appeal to many of massed brass and wood-wind, the cunning inclusion of such evergreen favourites as Jerome Kern, or the general air of *joie de vivre* that pervades his concerts, Mr. Webb must have felt on October 30th, as on many previous occasions, that his enthusiastic reception well repaid his labours during the year.

The term's amateur events closed with a concert by members of the School on December 11th; C. S. Wintle played a composition of his own for piano, and the various performers were accompanied by their own contemporaries; it is good to hear that Mr. Watson is fostering among his musicians the exacting and useful art of accompaniment, instead of letting them rely too much, as they have hitherto, on the sympathy and guidance of Mr. Burke and other members of the music staff.

B.S.S.

PROGRAMMES OF CONCERTS

MUSIC IN THE LIBRARY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2nd

PAUL MOSBY (<i>Oboe</i>).	MR. WATSON, LESLEY MELVIN (<i>Violins</i>)
ANNE WOLFE (<i>Viola</i>)	MISS MARTIN (<i>Cello</i>)
Oboe Quartet (K. 370)	Mozart
Allegro—Adagio—Rondo.	
Quartet in F (Op. 96) "The American"	Dvorak
Allegro ma non troppo—Lento—Molto vivace—Finale : vivace ma non troppo.	

On Sunday, October 16th, the Norwegian bass-baritone MR. EGIL NORDSJO gave a recital of Norwegian and English songs in the Library, accompanied by Mr. M. T. Burke.

CONCERT BY THE MILITARY BAND
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30th, IN THE ROXBURGH HALL
Conductor—MR. WEBB

March: <i>The High School Cadets</i>	Sousa
Selections from <i>White Horse Inn</i>	Benatzky and Stolz
Serenade— <i>Love in Arcady</i>	Haydn Wood
<i>Nibelungenmarsch</i> on themes from <i>Der Ring Des Nibelungen</i>	Wagner
Melodies by Jerome Kern	arr. Dutboit
<i>Smoke Gets in Your Eyes</i>	
<i>Dancing Time</i> from <i>The Cabaret Girl</i>	
<i>Why do I Love You?</i> from <i>Show Boat</i>	
<i>Who?</i> from <i>Sunny</i>	
<i>Yesterday</i> from <i>Roberta</i>	
<i>All the Things You Are</i>	
Entry of the Priests from <i>The Magic Flute</i>	Mozart
(chosen for performance by the Band on the occasion of the visit to Stowe by B.B.C. Television Unit, Sunday, September 25th)	
March Finale: <i>Officer of the Day</i>	Hal

CONCERT BY THE CHORAL SOCIETY AND ORCHESTRA
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20th, IN THE ROXBURGH HALL

ANNE KEYNES (<i>Soprano</i>)	GORDON PULLIN (<i>Tenor</i>)
P. M. WHITFIELD (T) (<i>Trumpet</i>)	T. J. L. GAUVAIN (T) (<i>Organ</i>)
M. SPIRA (C) (<i>Violin</i>)	T. E. C. BUSHELL (C) (<i>Cello</i>)
Conductors—MR. WATSON and T. W. J. WAINE (C).	
Overture: <i>Nabucco</i>	Verdi
Suite for <i>The Winter's Tale</i>	T. W. J. WAINE
Rondo—Sarabande—Bourrée	
These three pieces were selected from Waine's music for the Historians' production last term of Shakespeare's <i>The Winter's Tale</i> .	
Tone Poem for Orchestra, Op. 26, No. 7, <i>Finlandia</i>	Sibelius
Ode for <i>St. Cecilia's Day</i>	Handel
Overture: Larghetto—allegro—minuetto	
Recit.: 'From Harmony'	
Recit.: 'When Nature'	
Chorus: 'From heavenly Harmony'	
Aria: 'What passion cannot Music raise'	
Aria and Chorus: 'The Trumpet's loud clangour excites us to arms'	

March	
Aria:	'The soft complaining flute'
Aria:	'Sharp violins proclaim'
Aria:	'But oh! what art can teach'
Aria:	'Orpheus could lead the savage race'
Recit.:	'But bright Cecilia rais'd the wonder high'r'
Chorus:	'As from the pow'r of sacred lays'

CONCERT BY MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th, IN THE LIBRARY

Trumpet Tune	John Stanley
P. M. WHITFIELD (T) (<i>Trumpet</i>); T. D. A. CECIL (C) (<i>Piano</i>)	
Allegro from Serenade in C major	Mozart
M. SPIRA (C), J. F. R. SAUNDERS (C) (<i>Violins</i>); T. E. C. BUSHELL (C) (<i>Cello</i>).	
Adagio from C minor Concerto for two pianos	J. S. Bach
T. D. A. CECIL (C) AND T. W. J. WAINE (C)	
Meditation on the theme of <i>Greensleeves</i>	C. S. Wintle (C)
Played by the composer	
GLEE CLUB (conducted by Mr. Proctor):	
Gaudeamus Igitur	
De Battle ob Jericho	Spiritual
You may bury me in the East	Spiritual
Doctor Foster	Herbert Hughes
The Mulligan Musketeers	R. W. Atkinson
Finale from 2nd Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra	Weber
A. R. NEGUS (B) (<i>Clarinet</i>); L. J. D. MCINTYRE (G) (<i>Piano</i>)	
<i>Le Cygne</i>	Saint-Saens
T. E. C. BUSHELL (C) (<i>Cello</i>); C. S. WINTLE (C) (<i>Piano</i>)	
Intermezzo in A Op. 118 No. 2	Brahms
Ballade Op. 118 No. 3	Brahms
L. J. D. MCINTYRE (G) (<i>Piano</i>)	
<i>Nobody knows the trouble I've seen</i>	
<i>Sometimes I feel like a Motherless Child</i>	
J. CURWIN (G) (<i>Trombone</i>), B. B. GALYEAN (B) (<i>Piano</i>)	
Divertimento for Wind Quintet	Haydn
H. B. TAYLOR (C) (<i>Flute</i>), C. J. F. GETHIN (G) (<i>Oboe</i>), C. B. TETLOW (T) (<i>Clarinet</i>), J. N. WATES (B) (<i>Horn</i>), T. A. HANKEY (C) (<i>Tenor tuba (for bassoon)</i>)	

A review of the 'Opera for All' Group's performance of *The Marriage of Figaro* on December 17th appears on page 187.

FILMING AT SHALSTONE CAMP

At first approach to the camp there appeared to be nothing out of the ordinary going on at all. At the gate a watchtower had been erected and also a barbed wire fence of sorts. The structure was very theatrical, being mainly kept in position by a network of scaffolding. One rather disconsolate German was wandering up and down in front of a machine-gun. The first few huts in the camp had been festooned with various notices: Production Office, Lighting, Make-up, etc. The film is called "V.I.P." with James Robertson Justice, Eric Sykes, and Stanley Baxter. It is a P.O.W. comedy involving a captured scientist who also happens to be a complete misanthropist, and a Stalag Luft full of loony R.A.F. officers.

For the production a compound has been cleared in the middle of the camp; some of the original huts have been pulled down and a few have been faked up; these have no backs to them and are just façades held up by scaffolding. Odd bits of barbed wire perimeter have been put up, but only in the gaps between the huts so that an impression of a complete fence can be given with the minimum amount of construction. Owing to the weather and the time of year it is necessary to use artificial lighting on the set, and they start shooting night scenes in the middle of the afternoon.

As I entered the compound all I could see was a great number of rather decayed R.A.F. men and some others dressed in variegated games clothes and armed with hockey sticks milling around in what appeared to be utter confusion. The hockey players look extremely cold, and some are actually bashing a ball around to keep warm. Suddenly a voice through a loud hailer—"Ready, boys, turn over." This seems to be the signal for the start of the take, for the airmen turn themselves into an enthusiastic crowd and the players produce a peculiar but energetic brand of hockey. The proceedings, however, are not truly under way until the boy with the clapper-board jumps forward yelling "Action!" as he does so.

The actual take lasts for a very short time and almost immediately the players and the crowd lapse back into their original rôles as a bunch of extremely cold extras. Coats appear from behind the cameras and everybody lights up a cigarette and waits for the next take to begin. Six takes are made of this one shot. They differ only slightly as the Assistant Director picks out faults and corrects them. For these shots in the compound the huts have to have smoking chimneys, so at the beginning of each take the assistant yells "Light up!" and smoke canisters are let off at each chimney. The one nearest me looks as if it is about to blow up. Perhaps they are slightly overdoing it as the smoke is billowing out. Throughout all this there is one chap wandering in and out of the general bustle carrying the microphone boom. This has to catch the sound of the crowd, and in his efforts to get the red basket-like contraption into the right position the operator puts himself through the most amazing contortions. In between takes make-up assistants dash onto the set to adjust false moustaches and beards. As the number of takes increases so the assistant director manages to get the crowd more and more enthusiastic while the players begin to look more as if they were actually playing hockey.

Behind the cameras, the only safe place to stand while filming is in progress, is an extraordinary variety of technicians, assistants, assistant assistants, and just odd

bods with seemingly nothing to do at all. These are all smoking like mad, and vainly trying to keep warm. The experienced members of the entourage seem to favour flying boots while the director is classically garbed in black beret. The poor guard on the watch-tower has now been up there for the whole morning. At the end of the take a professional-looking cameraman loaded down with Rolleiflex and polaroid dashes on to the set to take stills for the continuity girl who has the job of sorting everybody and everything out at the end when they get muddled up.

At the end of one shot the extras and stars are briefed for the next—a big crowd mocked up by the front rank looking as though they are being jostled from behind. In the interval between shots the cameramen are wandering around peering through light meters and their assistants are flying into the middle of the set with tape measures to check distances between camera and action.

Lunch break approaches and the extras try to make a getaway but the assistant director is too quick for them and issues a full-throated blast from the loud hailer. Extras for this sort of film are difficult to get hold of, as the type who tends to go in for this sort of thing usually prides himself on his beautiful Italian coiffure, which would look strangely out of place in a Stalag Luft, even this Stalag Luft.

The company eventually breaks for lunch. The general idea is to feed about two hundred people on the reckoning that each man will take a quarter of an hour, and there is room in one of the old huts for about three-quarters of them. The hot three-course lunch appears as if by magic from one medium-sized caravan. In fact the whole manoeuvre is a miracle of organization.

While wandering behind the temporary huts we came upon hosts of carpenters building more mock façades. They had been let down by the difficulties in the filming of *Cleopatra* and were all cursing the leading lady's health vigorously.

The afternoon shot of a prison roll-call and parade had some dialogue in it. I was surprised by the shortness of each shot and was assured that the advantages of not having to learn so much as in live theatre were cancelled by the difficulty of reproducing continuity of emotion and reaction, in other words remembering from one day to the next how to react to a line or situation and, as it were, keeping one's emotional place. During this scene the Director spotted a mistake—the commanding officer had managed to dismiss the company without calling them to attention; earlier in the day someone had wisely pointed out that there was no referee in a hockey game, only an umpire. These slips can cost the Producer time and money in cutting and retakes, so anyone who can spot them at an early date is very much the hero of the hour.

While Sykes and Baxter had a publicity photo rigged up looking amazingly friendly, I was told of some of the tribulations of a publicity man. Horrors seem to range from the individual characters of the stars to irate animal-lovers and anti-war-film pacifists. All the stars look very much as the filmgoer imagines them; Eric Sykes is as gauche as one would expect and James Robertson Justice is quite as overpowering and misanthropic.

Towards three o'clock the weather started to deteriorate and filming drew to a close; the company repaired to their luxury coaches and fast cars while I put my trust in a slightly more vintage method of returning to reality.

B.L.I.

“THE STRONG ARE LONELY”

By FRITZ HOCHWAELDER

Presented by the Congreve Club on December 9th and 10th in the Roxburgh Hall.

The Strong are Lonely has obvious attractions as a school play, and it is not surprising that it has been presented recently by a number of schools: there is a large all-male cast with several good parts, an intense theme and a simple set. The joint producers, Mr. Bain and Mr. Dams, took their opportunity and put on the most polished Congreve Club production for some years; indeed, many of its features were so good that their excellence came to be taken for granted, and it seemed merely surprising when minor blemishes occurred. Costumes, wigs, make-up, lighting, the varied sound effects, the crowd scenes, the set itself—all these, on almost every occasion, were appropriate and unobtrusive, and this is evidence of the devoted work done by everybody concerned; though some were mentioned by name on the programme, inevitably many were not. For the general production nothing but praise is due.

But when the play itself is considered, I must confess to being much less happy. It was written in 1941 by Fritz Hochwaelder, an Austrian refugee who had fled from the Nazis to Switzerland. The English version was made for performance in America and taken from a French translation. The theme of the play is the perennial one of loyalty, of whether authority has the right to demand unquestioning obedience from its subjects, whatever the results of that obedience may be. In Protestant England most of us would agree that lawful authority should be obeyed so long as nothing positively wrong is commanded, that Caesar's law is paramount unless it conflicts with God's, but that, if it does conflict, a man must search his heart, follow God and reject Caesar; and we have made national heroes of those Englishmen who stood firm against authority “for conscience' sake”. In recent times we have gone even further, paying scant respect to the claims of authority and assuming that anyone who insists on the letter of the law is a bigot, so that in this play the peremptory commands of the King of Spain and the Father General of the Jesuits do not carry the overwhelming force that they should. A sixteenth-century Englishman, whose sovereign claimed to be the deputy of God, would have understood the dilemma more easily, as is evident from Shakespeare's history plays; and so too must Hochwaelder, who fled from the absolute tyranny of the Nazis. But to us it seems that the King's Deputy and the Father Provincial lack the initiative which common-sense and conscience demand. A great imaginative effort is needed to remain in sympathy with the two chief characters.

Of course, this is not a difficulty for which the author is responsible, but there are other difficulties which must be attributed to him (or his adapter). In the first place, the villains are too melodramatically villainous. The Bishop of Buenos Aires, played by C. D. Richardson (C), was a crafty hypocrite; W. P. Foss (C), A. W. V. Ireland (C) and A. S. J. M. Burton (S) made the Spanish colonials vicious and contemptible, without a shred of humanity between them. All were as the author intended them, and all would have been most effective in comedy or satire, but none was convincing as a real flesh-and-blood creature. Even the hero's character was close to melodrama; admittedly the Father Provincial wavered in a human way between two decisions, but both were morally right; saintliness and heroism are more credible when off-set by human weaknesses. The same kind of comment can be made of the other important



(Photographs by W. N. Hillier)

“THE STRONG ARE LONELY”

presented by the Congreve Club in the Roxburgh Hall on December 9th and 10th.



CHANTILLY



SCULPTURES FROM THE WEST FRONT, RHEIMS CATHEDRAL.
 (Photographs taken by J. A. Booth (G) and R. W. Alexander (G) during a bicycle tour
 of Northern France this summer.)

characters, Don Pedro and Querini, with the result that the problem ceases to be a real one about real people and becomes an intellectual debate.

Much more convincing were some of the characters outside the central clash. D. H. Penrose (C) gave a splendid portrayal of Cornelis, the bourgeois Dutchman, wearing his clothes with week-day familiarity, bluff, practical and exasperated by turns, always vital. W. R. B. Allan (T), as Lieberman, presented the elderly Father most skilfully, speaking very well and always acting in character, even among a crowd of bystanders. Also good, and in sharp contrast with Lieberman, was Father Oros (T. W. J. Waine (G), the commander of the Jesuit army, with pointed beard and angular habit, properly brusque in his manner. The two Spanish captains, Villano and Arago, were played by T. G. E. Kilpatrick (C) and D. B. T. Aikman (T): Kilpatrick was exactly right as the blunt, rough veteran, while Aikman, after a hesitant start, gave a competent portrait of the Deputy's aide.

The other defect of this play is that the plot is contrived. We could have been spared the last scene, which obscures the theme and has to be propped up by a series of stock, throat-catching devices: fading light, murmur of prayers, forgiveness of sinner by dying man, death-bed speech, candles, death-warrants, firing squad, quotation from the Bible, slow curtain. This scene was most carefully and effectively staged, and entirely faithful to the text of the adapted play, but it left me unmoved. More serious than this, however, is the unconvincing way in which the Father Provincial is isolated and presented with a series of dilemmas. Had Don Pedro not been a close friend, and had Querini not been a fellow Jesuit, their icy formality and lack of sympathy would have been more credible. But as it was, the timing of their interventions seemed to arise from the needs of the plot rather than from the situation or their characters.

Individually, their performances were pleasing. M. J. Dunlop (C) carried himself and wore his clothes with a stately air, holding the centre of the stage and giving an aristocratic detachment to Don Pedro, the King's Deputy; once or twice he shouted, but usually his voice was well controlled. J. A. Likierman (C) was perhaps a little too young and too sinister for Querini, the Jesuit Legate, but his too was a competent performance. On P. N. T. Phillips (T), the Father Provincial, fell the heaviest task of the evening and he tackled it most intelligently. He moved well and spoke with admirable clarity even under the strongest emotions, managing to convey an impression of burning sincerity. That he was never really convincing as a human being was not his fault; it was not in the part.

I feel that I may have concentrated on the play to the detriment of the production. There is no doubt that this was the finest performance we have yet seen in the Roxburgh Hall, and probably the best thing the Congreve Club has done since Pirandello's *Henry IV*.

G.B.C.

OBERAMMERGAU 1960

As a result of a cryptically worded advertisement in *The Times* which read "Two vacant places for Public School Oberammergau Expedition", I found myself one September day at the theatre of Oberammergau. As I arrived, I heard two great trumpet blasts shake the foggy air at 7.45 a.m. to tell us that we should be in our seats shortly. There was an atmosphere of tension as the huge auditorium filled with six

thousand scurrying humans. I was about to see one of the greatest spectacles in the world, the Passion Play of Oberammergau.

The Passion Play had its origins in 1633 when, with the hope of staying a plague then raging, the inhabitants made a vow to perform a play of Christ's Passion decennially. Seven hundred villagers take part from a population of about 2,300.

The play opens with the entrance of the choir, who stand in a line across the stage and sing a prelude, in the middle of which the line breaks and swings back to expose the stage, where a "tableau vivant" is presented. There are twenty tableaux presented in the course of the play and the first, the Expulsion from Paradise, is one of the most beautiful. The line then reforms and a prologue is spoken rather rhetorically and there is further singing, after which the choir leaves and the action itself starts.

The first scene shows the entry of Christ into Jerusalem, with the huge stage suddenly covered with shouting children. The driving out of the traders follows immediately and the great voice of Christ fills the theatre most dramatically. The story unfolds itself biblically, broken up into acts with sung preludes and spoken prologue. I shall mention the scenes which impressed me most.

The anointing by Mary Magdalene was followed by Christ's return to Jerusalem from Bethany, when Judas lags behind and reflects to himself:

"Shall I follow? His great deeds led us to hope he would re-establish the kingdom of Israel. And now he speaks continually of parting and of death. He comforts us with mysterious rantings of a future which is too distant and dark for me . . . His kingdom of glory I wish to share with him; but will it ever come? Who desires to share misery and poverty with him? Not I! Not I!"

Even in German this great rhetorical passage communicated itself to everyone. The subsequent corruption of Judas by the priests is also impressive.

The tableau "Manna in the Wilderness" is a beautiful prelude to the magnificent last supper, where Judas' exit is again the high point. The scene in the Garden of Gethsemane moved me very much, and the preceding tableau of Joseph sold by his brethren was an apt prelude. When Judas said "Whomsoever I shall kiss the same is he," the whole theatre was noiseless.

When Judas realised what he had done and went to the Sanhedrin and said "I demand the innocent man. My hand shall be clean of his blood", I saw the wonderful acting of the first pangs of his conscience, followed dramatically by the flinging down of the money and his disappearance.

Peter's third denial of Christ is followed by another speech that is almost as moving as Judas' tragic soliloquy. Between these scenes is the baiting of Jesus by the mob, which is played with full viciousness.

Judas' suicide, I felt, was beautifully acted and clearly spoken in resonant tones that again practically transcended the barrier of language:

"I cannot live, cannot live. My Master the best of men I have sold into the tortures of a martyr's death—Earth open and swallow me! . . . There is no help, no hope for me: my crime is too great. On this tree will I end my wretched life!"

His death was a most impressive climax.

Christ's trials before Pilate and Herod were well acted. The vast crowd in the front of the stage gave depth to the whole scene. Christ's statement

"My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world then would my servants fight that I should not be delivered into the hands of these Jews; so my kingdom is not on Earth"

and His whole argument with Pilate were excellently spoken over the murmur of the crowd. The Trial before Herod brings out Herod's cynical attitude. An agnostic Jew, he is concerned with watching miracles. If Christ will work a miracle for him,

he will free Him. Christ's unrepentant attitude is again magnificent. In the second trial before Pilate, the crowd plays a greater part and this speech of Pilate's shows his better feelings:

"Is your hate against this man so deep and bitter that you won't be satisfied by blood from his wounds . . . I will see if the people have the same sentiment of personal revenge as you; whether they choose Barabbas or Christ."

Christ carrying His cross to Calvary is another memorable scene and the stations of the cross are all depicted. When Simon takes over the cross and when Veronica wipes His face are most beautiful moments. The Crucifixion itself is beyond description. That is where I think the play should have ended. The Resurrection is almost an anticlimax, and the final tableau of the glorification of Christ is too symbolic.

The production and continuity impressed me very much. The acting was not, by professional standards, high, but some parts were outstanding; amongst these were Peter and Caiaphas, but the best of all was Judas, who acted wonderfully; however, he had had professional training. A certain amount of dramatic licence was taken over situations such as the Garden of Gethsemane, which I visited when I was in Jerusalem, but the Via Dolorosa seemed very real on the stage.

When I left the theatre I felt I had had a profound spiritual experience with the great scenes burnt permanently into my memory.

N.O.G.M.

THE HOUSE ART COMPETITION

The critic and adjudicator this year was Mr. David Lindley, of Wellington College. He began by saying that it was a very good show, which indeed it was. He explained that the size of the exhibition (over 300 paintings and drawings) and its excellence made his job extremely difficult. He then criticised each House's pictures in turn, picking out several which interested him or showed especial merit.

He began with Grafton and praised J. A. Booth's architectural drawings but thought that his painting of Rheims Cathedral had hardly come off as an oil-painting, for it was a little too much like a drawing. He particularly liked several of S. H. Sladen's paintings of Switzerland and thought they showed an awareness of the subject, which was due either to painting on the spot or to a very good visual memory. He seemed on the whole to prefer H. L. Cowdy's drawings to his paintings, though there was one painting of trees which he thought one of the best in the exhibition. It was the turn of Cobham next and Mr. Lindley went straight to the watercolours of P. D. Campkin to show us how attractive they were and how well the artist had used his medium. He thought that the drawings by D. J. L. Howard were exciting and decorative but he obviously really preferred work done from nature. N. O. Faure's work he admired a great deal and suggested that it might be more effective if it contained rather less detail. He liked M. Ramsden's painting of the bridge the best of his work. In Temple he chose the work of D. A. Phillips, because two at least of his showed how much better it was to paint subjects actually seen than subjects imagined. He did not care for his "olde worlde" scenes. The battle scenes of W. R. B. Allan interested him a great deal, but he felt that, though there was a great deal of action and carnage, the drawing did not bear close inspection and more care was needed. His chief delight amongst the pictures from Bruce was a watercolour of a colliery by S. H. Arnold, which showed how interesting an apparently dull subject could be made.

He felt, too, that there was vigour and excitement in P. J. August's oils and appreciated his fearlessness of attack. He saved up a very special commendation for the drawings of C. T. Preston, whose work did not stand out as much as the others, but was every bit as good. The paintings of F. P. G. Aldrich-Blake, of Chatham, were singled out as being examples of work well thought out and carefully executed and to be admired for the freshness of approach to the subject. Mr. Lindley also liked the boldness of the viaduct by S. Buckingham and his happy disregard for conventional colour. There were some attractive paintings, he thought, in Walpole; some of C. H. Clucas' work was a very good attempt but somehow marred by the use of very thin paint, and might have been more exciting in water-colour; the vigour and colour of J. A. Maxwell's pictures were very refreshing, even though the drawing left something to be desired. He thought that it was a good idea for R. J. Hay to have copied the Dali "Crucifixion" and was delighted by the amusing cars of C. J. Grattan-Cooper. In Grenville, R. W. Alexander was clearly outstanding and he showed considerable command of colour and paint, particularly in his picture of the Japanese Garden. R. E. N. Sorrell's painting of apples was a great success because he had achieved such solidity and reality. The mountain scenes by R. F. G. Wrottesley were a grand attempt to give the scale of the subject. In Chandos, he was most impressed by the extraordinary variety in the work of J. J. W. Hamilton, who showed he was able to be either decorative or realistic. A street scene by T. D. A. Cecil pleased him, and the view of London Bridge by J. P. H. Cecil. J. H. Frazer's paintings were often well conceived but perhaps lacked a certain excitement, which was to be seen quite clearly in the work of T. S. Taylor, who had several successful achievements on view.

Mr. Lindley then said that he considered that Grafton had produced the best work, with Grenville and Chandos a close second.

BOOK REVIEW

"RING OF BRIGHT WATER"

By GAVIN MAXWELL (C 1930) (Longmans 25/-)

(Book Society Non-Fiction Choice)

Gavin Maxwell, as the dust-jacket potted biography tells, is an Old Stoic son of the Scottish aristocracy. Steeped in the Highland traditions, and riding on the crest of a prodigious literary output, (*A Reed Shaken by the Wind*, *The Ten Pains of Death* and *God Protect me from my Friends*), he is probably better qualified than most to paint a vivid verbal picture of life on an isolated part of the Invernesshire coast. "Camusfeàrna", the Bay of the Alders, is the pseudonym that he uses to describe this naturalist's retreat from London. His reasons for the use of this pseudonym are motivated 'from no desire to create mystery . . . but because identification in print would seem in some sense a sacrifice, a betrayal of its remoteness and isolation', as if by using the real name he would 'bring nearer its enemies of industry and urban life'. Into this haven of rest from 'over-dense communities and the close confines of human relationship', Maxwell is seen co-existing with a bizarre succession of wild animals. The death of his dog is the cause behind his search for companionship in this weird animal inventory; a Lemur, a Bush Baby, a Monkey, Geese and Otters, particularly the otters, find themselves being carried backwards and forwards with bewildering regularity between London and Camusfeàrna over a period of some ten years.

The environs of Camusfeàrna are better suited to the otters than to the others, and it is they that emerge as the true heroes of the book. Apart from Chahala, who died in infancy, the first and by far the most interesting of these was Mijbil (*Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli*) who was brought back from the Tigris marshes by Maxwell. On return to England 'Mij' was found to be a species of otter new to science. The account of the air passage back with Mij is perhaps the most amusing writing and certainly the most imaginative contained in the whole of the 211 pages.

Maxwell finds otters sympathetic and affectionate pets, and even goes so far as to say that in them he finds a relationship more satisfying than he finds with most humans. 'Mij' dies as the result of a savage and unprovoked attack by a mainland road-mender. Maxwell is not happy until Camusfeàrna is again made an otter home by a fortuitous coincidence; 'Edal', a Nigerian otter who had become a burden to the owners, was left with Maxwell when they returned to Africa.

There are fascinating accounts of the indigenous wild life of Camusfeàrna; wild cats, deer, birds, geese and elvers. It is these wild animals in their natural habitat that he describes so vividly. It is seldom that such a talented writer and naturalist has had an opportunity to write about Highland wild life, and one cannot help regretting that he has not always made better use of this chance; at times the book loses its urgency. 'It is difficult to find new words in which to tell of happenings that one had already described; if one has done one's best the first time one can only do worse on the second attempt, when the freshness of the image has faded; and that must be my excuse and apology for quoting here part of what I wrote of that other otter cub, Chahala, soon afterwards; that and the fact that she is an integral and indispensable part of my narrative', may be quoted as an example. Maxwell's writing is sufficiently vivid and fluid to require no such tortuous apologies; it is perhaps fortunate that for another 175 pages he continues to find new words which do not seem to deteriorate.

Excellent line drawings, particularly those by Robin McEwen and Peter Scott, together with some, but by no means all, good photographs, compensate in some measure for these lapses.

The book could appeal to many Stoics, will probably be of interest to those who appreciate the Highlands, and will be a 'must' for all otter enthusiasts.

K.I.M.

LECTURES

STOWE 50 YEARS AGO

By MR. M. J. MOUNSEY, ON NOVEMBER 1ST, IN THE ROXBURGH HALL

The changed and unchanged faces of Stowe were revealed by Mr. Mounsey in an extremely interesting lecture. He used as illustrations a selection of photographs taken between 1910 and 1912 by the late Mr. Gough, a citizen of Buckingham. The slides came into the School's possession shortly before he died recently, aged 83, in Winslow Hospital.

The reasons behind such drastic present-day changes in the grounds as the dwindling of Stowe Avenue and the disappearance of the gate-posts at the Water Stratford Lodge were all explained, often wittily, by Mr. Mounsey. He also pointed out that there

had been a path up the Grecian Valley for at least fifty years. The interior of the house has naturally undergone a few alterations in its appearance since 1910, but, although the decorations of rooms like the State Room have now mostly been diminished, we can see that in some cases they were to its advantage. Amusing comments on the dress and uniform of the period were delivered by Mr. Mounsey when showing photographs of Yeomanry camps in the grounds. He also revealed one building that no longer exists, the temple of Bacchus, and commented on the school-planning which had led to its demolition. The lecture ended with the showing of some modern colour-slides, including an unusual angle of Stowe from the air.

Now that a glimpse has been had of "the good old days", it appears that Stowe has changed, on the whole, for the better in many places, and yet has remained remarkably unchanged in others. We must thank Mr. Mounsey for acting as such a good reconstructor of the past.

J.J.W.H.

PERU

BY LADY FORBES, ON NOVEMBER 8th, IN THE ROXBURGH HALL

A silver image of the sun, hung for centuries in some Peruvian temple, glitters for a moment in the electric light of the Roxburgh Hall. Here is the symbol of the Inca, and his civilization,—'The Empire of the Sun'.

How can I convey something of the atmosphere which Lady Forbes so successfully evoked; of the mystery and romance which even the name of Peru conjures up? Here are some of the images from her lecture which I remember vividly: the black line of the Guano birds over the islands and before the high range of the Andes which goes straight up from the coastal plains without the aid of foothills; Yma Sumac, the present-day successor of the Inca masters of sound, singing on the steps of the Embassy in Lima; Lady Forbes standing in the deserted cities, listening to the strange music of their ancient inhabitants which welled up from the past; again connected with vibration, Cuzco, capital city of the benevolent Inca, the centre of his Empire—connected by roads to the sea; and the roads were only used by the messengers who brought news, and—fish, fresh from the sea.

Whence had it come, this almost perfect civilization? And how did they build their cities, where every stone fits exactly into its neighbour? Lady Forbes raised these problems which puzzle archaeologists, and, although some of her audience may have disagreed with the theory that the Peruvians derived their knowledge of sound from Atlantis, they must have been stirred to interest in the possibility by her great enthusiasm. She enthused us, she held us spellbound with her stories,—she was a true messenger from 'The Empire of the Sun'.

M.W.W.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY ANDEAN EXPEDITION

BY MR. J. COLE, ON NOVEMBER 29th, IN THE ROXBURGH HALL

On November 29th Mr. J. Cole gave a lecture on the Oxford University Expedition to the Andes of which Mr. Meldrum was leader. He began by describing the background of the expedition. So as to be eligible for a grant from the Mount Everest Foundation, the expedition had to have an unclimbed peak as one of its objectives. The mountains originally decided on were being climbed by a Swiss expedition when

preparations were already under way, so the objective had to be changed at the last moment to an unclimbed range of which Allinccapac, 19,000 ft., is the highest point, 100 miles north of Lake Titicaca.

Mr. Cole then showed some slides of the natives and the conditions under which they live, and of some Inca remains, before describing the actual expedition.

A base camp was established in the valley below Allinccapac, from which the two higher camps were set up. The mountain appeared impregnable from most angles, and it was not until they had worked their way round three-quarters of the main massif that they found a way onto the summit ridge. The summit itself was rather an anticlimax, being a broad flat snowfield.

Having climbed Allinccapac, the expedition conquered a series of lower but far more intriguing peaks to the north, and before returning to England also completed a geological survey of the area, which had been left unfinished by a previous expedition.

F.P.G.A-B.

"THE RED BALLOON"

DECEMBER 13TH.

"The Red Balloon" is one of those rare films that does not, in dealing with children, become excessively naive. In presenting an episode in a young boy's life it retains a genuine feeling of credulity and atmosphere, assisted by some first-rate photography and a satisfying performance from the central character.

The direction is remarkably intimate, conveying the feeling of a young boy's world better than any film from Hollywood could ever do. Children, grown-ups, streets, houses, balloons—all are conceived as actors in the drama. One of the supreme moments in cinematic artistry comes with the balloon's destruction,—its attack by the terrifying rabble of urchins, its slow deflation, and the brutal anonymous boot which gives it the *coup de grace*. The climax, with all the balloons of Paris gathering to convey the boy away into the sky, could hardly have been more moving.

It is hoped that the showing of such excellent short films as this will be a regular occurrence.

C.S.W.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

THE XII CLUB

The Club has met twice this term. For the first meeting we gathered to hear T. A. S. Dufty (B) read his paper on "The Police". The paper was divided into two parts, dealing first with the history of the police in this country, and then with the present-day organization of it. It was a factual paper, but one can hardly fail to be interested in facts which have so much bearing on our very existence, not to mention our security.

B. L. Irving (C) was the reader of the second paper of the term; his subject was "Renoir". It was a pity that the attendance was spoiled by the coincidence of other engagements, but those who were present found Irving's paper both erudite and in

structive, especially when he managed, with great skill, to dovetail the end of the paper into the ensuing conversation.

M. A. Harris (G) and F. P. G. Aldrich-Blake (C) have been elected to the Club. A. C. Geddes (T) has been a permanent guest.

T.J.L.G.

THE SYMPOSIUM

The Society has met twice so far this term and another meeting is planned for the last week of term.

The first paper was given by J. D. Goodwin (C) on "The Climax of Fundamentalism in the U.S.A.; the Scopes Trial, 1925", which was inspired by the recent film "Inherit the Wind". W. R. B. Allan (T) gave the second paper—"The Philosophy of the French Revolution". Both papers were highly documented and much enjoyed by the Society. Goodwin got many interesting facts and contemporary comments on the trial from the Newspaper Library. Allan knew his subject so well that he tended to assume that the Society knew the background as well as he did. Nevertheless, he put his meaning across admirably. C. P. R. Dubois (C) has also read a most interesting paper on "Celtic Literature".

The Society has shown a welcome inclination to combine as a homogeneous body this year, and there is every chance that future meetings will be both interesting and constructive.

J.A.L.

THE VITRUVIAN SOCIETY

The Society has had a fairly active term and we have had two papers and an expedition.

After a preliminary business meeting at which A. W. V. Ireland (C) was elected Secretary and several new members joined the Society, J. J. W. Hamilton (C) read a paper on "Lincoln Cathedral". In his lengthy and informative paper, which was excellently illustrated with numerous slides and pictures, Hamilton first traced the history of the cathedral and then went on to talk about the interior.

On Expedition Day a rather depleted party went to Peterborough Cathedral, which fully justified our expectations. We stopped on the way at Delapré Abbey, which proved rather a disappointment, and at Oundle School Chapel, the stained glass windows of which are of outstanding beauty.

At the last meeting of the term, Mr. Stuart, our President, read a fascinating and very well illustrated paper on "Nicholas Hawksmoor". After telling us something of Hawksmoor's life, Mr. Stuart talked about various of his works, including Easton Neston, and describing five London churches all of which, though comparatively unknown, are of outstanding architectural merit.

The Society is grateful to both Mr. Stuart and Hamilton for two papers of such interest.

A.W.V.I.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The programme for this term consisted of two lectures and an expedition. The first lecture was delivered by S. Robertson (B) on the ancient cities of Athens, Ephesus and Troy. The speaker, using his own slides and with the advantage of having just visited these three cities, gave an informative and interesting lecture and made the meeting successful.

The expedition this term was to the Roman town of Verulamium, transport being kindly provided by Dr. David and Mr. Temple. Despite the early dusk and rain, the party of seven was able to see the excavated theatre and a section of the Roman town wall as well as the museum.

The second lecture this term was delivered by Mr. Clarke. His subject was the old Basilica of St. Peter's, Rome, with St. Peter's Tomb, and the Roman mausolea under the floor of the old Basilica. The lecturer, using a series of good colour pictures and plans, took his audience down below the floor levels of the two Basilicas and described the recently excavated street of mausolea and also the position of St. Peter's Tomb. The evening proved very interesting and rounded off a successful term.

J.M.J.

THE MUSIC CLUB

The 95th meeting of the Club was more the inauguration of a new club, as only one of the secretaries formed a link, in this case particularly tenuous, with the older body. The constitution had been revised and the new spirit found expression in a Victorian Evening. The moral shown was that what may be the sauce for the goose does not necessarily go so well with the egg.

The success of the evening was due in large measure to Mr. Watson, who provided not only the driving force but music as well. Of the members of the staff who were present, Mr. Watson, Mr. Saunders and Mr. Burke made musical contributions; the brunt of the thankless task of accompanying fell on Mr. Proctor, who had a few moments of glory with two organ pieces of the inimitable Caleb Simper, who, apart from such compositions, has come down to us as the organist of St. Mary's Parish Church, Barnstaple.

However, the larger contribution came from members of the School. P. M. Whitfield (T), in Victorian frock-coat, set the spirit of the evening by rendering "On Wings of Song" on the cornet; carefully rehearsed spontaneity, a characteristic of the meeting, was exemplified in a highly polished performance of Weber's Clarinet Concerto by A. R. Negus (B) and L. J. D. McIntyre (G).

C.B.T. & J.N.W.

THE GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

This term the Society has started again with a new system by which only members are allowed into the Gramophone Room. A second class of membership has been formed which enables study-holders who have their own gramophones to borrow records for a fortnight at a time with increased subscription. This has been extremely popular and successful in its first term, and we hope that in future there will be no necessity for further changes in the system. A new gramophone has also been bought which has proved itself to be of a much higher quality than the last.

J.F.R.S.

THE LATRUNCULARIANS

We have been very lucky this term in persuading Mr. Rawcliffe to fill the position vacated by Mr. Totton at the end of last term. A big effort has been made to encourage chess in the Middle and Lower School, and this has met with considerable success. Unfortunately, however, enthusiasm amongst the Seniors has waned somewhat, and consequently none of our usual matches has been arranged. It is hoped that this deplorable state of affairs will improve.

N.R.A.

THE BRIDGE CLUB

The Club has been restarted this term by Mr. Bulford with considerable success. Activities have increased from two meetings a week with two tables at each, to three meetings with three or even four tables.

A bridge pairs competition has been started and fair progress has been made with the large number of rubbers necessary for its completion.

N.R.A.

THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

The Society has been very active this term, and has been making very good use of Reading Prep. At almost every meeting there has been a film show or lecture. The films have covered a wide variety of subjects, including tropical diseases, car tyres, the manufacture of margarine, the care of the skin, the rearing of game birds, and ultrasonics. The two lectures were by Mr. H. W. Lascelles on "I.C.I.", illustrated with a film, and by H. H. Marshall (T) and S. M. D. Williamson-Noble (T) on "The Cathode Ray Tube". On Expedition Day, October 20th, there was a most enjoyable expedition to the I.C.I. Paints Division at Slough.

At the beginning of term there was a business meeting at which most of the discussion revolved around the question of limiting membership. Vast hordes had applied to join the Society and it was decided that, if they were all allowed to do so, the Society would become unmanageable. In consequence it was decided to limit the total number of members to 120.

S.M.D.W.-N.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

The 283rd meeting, the first and worst this term, was held in the Library on Sunday, October 9th, the motion being "This House thinks it could do better itself". THE CO-OPTED MEMBER proposed the motion adequately. MR. BURTON (S), that smooth-tongued salesman, defended when he was not gazing silently about him. That stalwart MR. N. O. G. MURRAY (C) spoke third, making an impassioned plea for the revival of the Stowe Vandals. THE SECRETARY, who spoke fourth, said that he thought he had some ideas; he never told us what they were. The debate, on being thrown open to the House, deteriorated. Two unfortunate errors of taste forced the President, gavel in hand, to adjourn the meeting without a vote being taken.

The situation of the Society necessitated the conversion of the second debate of the term, on November 6th, to a conclave of the Upper House. A free dialectical method was employed to decide what constitutional measures should be taken to improve attendance and speaking. Briefly, it was decided to have House representatives, to change the almost redundant Co-opted Member into the Chief Whip to goad on these representatives, and that Prefects and Sixth-formers not already members should *ex officio* be entitled to sit and vote with the Upper House.

The 285th meeting of the Society was held on November 27th, the motion being "This House deprecates snobbery". Attendance was once again full and lively. The speakers benefited from this and the evening was most successful. THE TREASURER, who proposed, was metamorphosed into a gay, sparkling wit and he made us all laugh. THE CHIEF WHIP, opposing, charmed us with his self-assurance but said little. THE VICE-PRESIDENT arose to second the motion; he moreover rose to the occasion and once again made us all laugh. THE LIBRARIAN, speaking fourth, reminded us unnecessarily that we all needed new houses.

The standard so far set communicated itself to the Lower House and on a division being taken the motion was lost in the Upper House by 2 votes, and in the Lower House by 47 votes.

The Officers of the Society this term were:—President, Mr. W. L. McElwee; Vice-President, Mr. M. J. Fox; Secretary, B. L. Irving (C); Treasurer, M. A. Harris (G); Librarian, J. N. Wates (B); Chief Whip, P. M. Whitfield (T).

P.M.W.

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

On Friday, December 2nd, the Classical Society met for the first time for several terms. Mr. Hunter, Mr. Rawcliffe, and quite a large proportion of the total membership were present, as well as several Archaeologists and Vitruvians. After coffee a show of slides with accompanying lecture on the subject of "Ancient Greek Pottery" was given by J. F. R. Saunders (C). This was followed by a general discussion of the subject. The Society also heard a lecture by Mr. Clarke on December 16th on "Roman Interior Decoration".

R.M.B.W.

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society has met once this term, but unfortunately the attendance was rather disappointing; this may have been due to the fact that many of the older members tend to grow somewhat forgetful in later years; at any rate the younger generation seemed to be more in evidence.

A lecture with colour slides on the Wild-fowl Trust establishment at Slimbridge was given by F. P. G. Aldrich-Blake (C) on December 15th.

R.M.B.W.

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

Few observations appear to have been made, perhaps owing to the inclement climatic conditions which have prevailed for much of the term. However, these may have been a blessing in disguise in that they were presumably responsible for what must be the latest record for House Martins at Stowe. A small group appeared on the South Front on November 2nd, long after the main body had departed. Two were still present on the 3rd, but they had disappeared by the next day. There was a southerly gale just before they arrived, which probably explains everything.

Tufted Duck are again frequent, and the usual large flocks of Mallard alight regularly after dark. It would be interesting to know where they spend the day. Foscoote and Thornton reservoirs would appear to be the most likely places, but then a flock of 40 has been put up from the Paper Mill Mere in daytime and the unwillingness that these showed in getting up suggests that this very reedy lake may harbour much more than we suspect. It would be worth while making further investigations. A Pochard drake, a species which does not normally visit us until next term, was seen off Chatham Reed Bed on November 27th. It was fairly tame and may have just escaped from a collection.

On November 3rd a perch of 2 lb. 10 ozs. was caught by R. J. R. Elias (C) in the Eleven Acre, possibly a record for Stowe. It was returned to the water. The excessive numbers of small fish and the numerous pike make the captures of perch over half-a-pound few and far between.

On September 30th a Red Squirrel was seen in the Grecian Valley. This may be received sceptically by some, but it is interesting to note that one was seen in much the same place three years ago. Admittedly such sporadic occurrences are hard to explain, but it is scarcely possible to confuse even the more extreme varieties of the grey squirrel with the red.

F.P.G.A.-B.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

At the first meeting of the Society on November 22nd a Kodak film-strip on "Indoor Portraiture" was shown. Those who turned up were suitably impressed by the model—enough to produce some individual attempts at portraiture next term, we hope.

Another of these lectures, "Composition", was shown on December 13th, when M. H. Waring (C) was elected Secretary.

M. W. W.

THE REEL CLUB

This organisation seems to have become a part of Stowe's social life and meets fairly often on Sunday evenings with good support. It is noticeable that attendance increases in the weeks leading up to a 'match'. A very successful reel party was held with Tudor Hall, and it is hoped that this event will become a regular feature. Nevertheless there is a solid core of members who turn up for ordinary meetings and the Club is most certainly not in existence purely for the benefit of ladies' academies.

J.M.H.

THE "CULTURE" CLUB

The reborn Society of Geographers is still running more or less officially under this rather unlikely title while thinking of a suitable name for itself. The Committee gave a combined paper on "Amsterdam" which in the event was longer than intended and included one or two doubtful remarks, notably that the sum total of Dutch economy per annum amounted to 1s. 10d.

A second paper was given by R. J. Hay (W) on "Flying Saucers", which turned into a ribald discussion about flying to Venus.

Possibly the Committee enjoyed these meetings most in retrospect when playing back all-too-revealing tape-recordings.

J.M.H.

THE YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB

Under the leadership of Mr. Bulford this Club has been reconstituted and it is hoped that it will operate in future with less emphasis on outings than in the past. A good start has been made this term, with R. F. G. Wrottesley (G) as Chairman and D. M. Mash (B) as Secretary. Meetings have been held almost every Thursday and three of these have been addressed by outside speakers, including D. J. Corbett (G 1948), who showed some excellent slides of his visit to the U.S.A. In spite of incessant rain 25 members spent the afternoon of the Expedition Day in seeing over the Brackley Broiler Factory and Mr. Owen's grass dryer at Westbury. Last, but not least, the Stowe team returned victorious from the Junior County Quiz Competition.

D.M.M.

THE ARCHERY CLUB

The Club has met on Monday afternoons throughout the term, and the accuracy of all the members is steadily improving. During next Summer term it is hoped that we will be able to hold House matches on individual lines.

Owing to the large number of arrows being broken, it may be necessary to raise the subscription for next term.

S.B.M.

THE I.C.E. CLUB

We have had an active term, the main item of which was an expedition to the Motor Show, which was much enjoyed by all concerned. Two films on Grand Prix racing were shown in the Roxburgh Hall to a large audience, and it is hoped that we will be able to show more films of this type next term.

We purchased a vast 1937 Railton to replace the Austin which had to be scrapped, but unfortunately owing to its fuel consumption of 3 m.p.g. the Railton also has had to be scrapped. After a vast amount of work "Baby Doll" was started for the first time at the beginning of term by F. W. D. Whitelaw (W). The loss of P. G. Farquhar (W) will be considerable for he has proved an active and useful member of the Club.

M.J.F.C.

THE '59' CLUB

Unfortunately some misunderstanding over the composition of the Club resulted in only one meeting having been called up to the present. The Club heard an interesting paper on "Population" in its wider sense by A. C. Geddes (T), which posed but did not solve the problem of an overcrowded world. The evening was nevertheless a success. Our thanks are due to Mr. Stuart for becoming President of the Club.

A.R.W.

THE GUN CLUB

The Club has consolidated the start made last term, despite the handicaps of bad weather and a flooded traphouse which had to be pumped out every week. Down-the-Line shooting was continued until just before half-term when we changed to Skeet with the arrival of the two portable traphouses generously sent to us by I.C.I. on permanent loan.

Mr. Peacock came down one Sunday in November at rather short notice, and gave instruction on how to shoot Skeet to those members of the Club who were available.

Finally, Housemasters have been relieved of the piles of gun-cases which up to now have had to reside in their studies, a proper Gun Room having been found and furnished.

Next term it is hoped that the weather will permit more shooting to take place, and it may be possible for the Club to take part in the County Pigeon Shoots.

G.M.Y.

THE STOWE CLIMBING CLUB

At the beginning of this term, the Stowe Climbing club was formed. This menace has not yet shown its face in public, but its first strike is expected to take place during the first week of January, the target—Langdale Valley. In other words, the Stowe Climbing Club intends to hold its first meet from January 2nd to 6th in the Lake District. The object is to initiate three or four non-climbing members who, it is

hoped, will eventually form a nucleus of reliable climbers capable of teaching up to Easy Severe standard.

Returning from the future, however, I must give a brief account of our activities so far. The first meeting was held in November during which the officers were elected and the date of our next meeting decided. Our second meeting this term was much more businesslike—in fact, the proposal and voting on the newly-formed constitution actually possessed an air of formality. The spell was broken, and not too soon, by Mr. Challis, who began to show us his collection of slides, interpolated by a series of equally well-chosen remarks.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Cole for coming down to Stowe and lecturing on "The Oxford Andean Expedition, 1960". A report of this appears elsewhere in this number.

P.M.B.

THE STOWE DIXIELAND JAZZ BAND

At the end of last term we lost our bass and guitar players and the group went through a few small changes in order to keep alive for, possibly, its last term. On guitar we now have Dave Penrose (C) who in very little time has shown himself to be an invaluable member of the rhythm section. The same applies to Brent Galyean (B), our transatlantic friend, who plays bass for us. On piano there is Tim Cecil (C), whose 'cool' chords are essential to our rhythm section, and his brother John is the drummer. The front line is Mike Wightman (C) (trumpet), Tony Murdoch (T) (clarinet), and Johnny Curwin (G) (trombone).

On November 5th we had a session for about three-quarters of an hour during the Chandos Dance. Tim's partner proved to have a beautiful voice and ended up as vocalist for the evening, and the highlight was her charming version of Gershwin's "Summertime". We later learned that she had sung with Benny Goodman's present orchestra.

The style of the group veers more and more toward the modern or 'cool' idiom of jazz, but at the moment has found a compromise between the two extremes. A concert for the end of term is being planned and in it we hope to play some numbers from previous concerts, as well as some modern numbers, to commemorate the break-up of the present group.

J.C.

On December 4th Bob Wallis and his Storyville Jazzmen gave a concert in the Roxburgh Hall.

C.C.F.

The Annual Camp was held at the R.M.A., Sandhurst, from July 26th to August 5th. Stowe was one of nine schools able to enjoy this experience, where thanks to the excellent permanent staff a most enjoyable and constructive week's training was carried out. Because of mumps only 60 cadets and 5 officers were able to attend. 6 cadets and 1 officer of the R.N. Section went to Britannia R.N.C., Dartmouth.

The Field Day on November 16th consisted of afternoon exercises and a night scheme.

A new sailing dinghy has been purchased for the Naval Section and put to good use in spite of the weather. The Air Section has repaired its glider and the R.E. Section has worked in the mud of the Japanese Garden constructing a permanent assault course.

Examination results:—(R. N. Section) Proficiency: 7 passed (1 with credit), 3 failed; (Army Section) Basic Test: 39 passed (11 with credit), 3 failed; Signals Assistant Instructor's Examination: 2 passed, 0 failed; Signals Classification: 9 passed, 7 failed; (R.A.F. Section) Proficiency: 1 passed, 0 failed; (Civil Defence) Classification: 11 passed (4 with credit), 9 failed.

Two officers attended a Course at the R.A.F. College, Cranwell, and one officer and three cadets visited the R.M.A., Sandhurst, on October 21st, their visit coinciding with that of the King of Nepal. The Commanding Officer attended a three-day conference at Britannia R.N.C. in November and was pleased to find M. D. Goodwin (C 1958) the Senior Midshipman of his Division.

The following have visited Stowe this term: Major-General W. R. Cox, C.B., D.S.O., Brigadier P. S. Leeper, C.B.E., Major S. C. Arnold, R.A., Air Commodore F. O. S. Dobell, C.B.E. (C 1931), Captain P. Langly-Smith, R.N., Flight-Lieut. W. A. Gayer, Lieut.-Colonel D. L. C. Reynolds, O.B.E., Lieut.-Commander J. R. Larkins, R.N., and Squadron-Leader B. L. K. Blucke.

There will be two Arduous Training Parties this year. One will be held in the French Alps during the period April 5th to 12th and once again the 15th Battalion des Chasseurs Alpins will be our hosts. At the same time a second party will be initiated into the art of rock-climbing in the Lake District.

The following officers have joined the Corps this term:—Sub-Lieut. C. B. Dicks, and Lts. K. I. Meldrum and R. C. Rawcliffe. Mr. Stokoe has taken over the Signals Section to allow Flt.-Lt. J. A. Gibbs to assist with the Air Section.

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

Promoted to *Under-Officer*: Sgt. C. H. Clucas (W).

Promoted to *Sergeant*: Cpls. H. P. Taylor (C), T. W. J. Waine (C), F. W. D. White-law (W).

Promoted to *Corporal*: L/Cpls. F. P. G. Aldrich-Blake (C), R. B. B. Ivory (T), C. S. Barton (C), J. A. Campkin (C), R. J. R. Elias (C), M. J. S. Freeland (C), N. S. Freeland (C), A. C. Geddes (T), A. J. C. Hamp-Ferguson (W), D. J. L. Howard (C), J. C. V. Hunt (W), J. S. Jackson (C), A. W. Moxham (B), S. B. Murray (C), T. D. Mustard (B), A. J. W. Price (W), M. Ramsden (C), C. P. Robinson (T), J. N. Wates (B), E. J. Werner (W), M. P. Woosnam-Mills (C), C. P. D. Yarwood (C).

Appointed *Lance-Corporal*: Cdts. P. D. Abrahams (G), R. J. Box (C), I. F. Bracey (C), E. B. Bridgland (B), D. S. Cairns (C), R. M. Campbell (C), N. A. Carrington Smith (T), J. D'A. C. Cartwright (C), P. R. Corbett (T), J. Curwin (G), M. W. Devitt (C), C. R. Dixey (C), G. R. Duncanson (W), H. K. Felce (C), C. J. N. Felton (B), B. C. L. Graham (B), A. R. F. Hobson (C), R. M. Jefferson (C), C. M. St. J. Knight (G), A. M. Macoun (C), P. M. Mahon (B), S. Robertson (B), M. V. Rymer (W), D. R. Sabberton (T), J. F. R. Saunders (C), A. B. Shellim (C), I. A. H. Sitwell (B), M. J. Summerlin (C), M. A. Warman (C), C. P. Warner (W).

The following specialist promotions and appointments were made this term:—

R. SIGNALS.

Promoted to *Sergeant*: Cpl. P. M. Henry (C).

Promoted to *Corporal*: L/Cpl. T. A. Hankey (C).

Appointed *Lance-Corporal*: Cdt. R. E. P. Spencer (C).

R.E.

Promoted to *Sergeant*: Cpl. G. J. Vapenik (B).

Promoted to *Corporal*: L/Cpls. H. H. Marshall (T), G. J. Vapenik (B), A. N. Ventris (T).

R.A.F.

Promoted to *Sergeant*: Cpls. P. M. Bell (C), S. M. D. Williamson-Noble (T).

LAWN TENNIS

WIMBLEDON WEEK—JULY 25th until JULY 29th, 1960.

THE CAST—D. R. Sabberton and R. B. B. Avory.
D. K. Huffman and A. R. F. Hobson.

The forecast: St. Paul's to win the Youll Cup.

The following account of the Final is reprinted from *The Times* of July 30th, by kind permission:

STOWE RETAIN YOULL CUP
LAST TIE DECISIVE AT WIMBLEDON

Stowe, the holders, defeated St. Paul's by three rubbers to two at Wimbledon yesterday in one of the Youll Cup's closest and most interesting finals for years. This was an unexpected result to the public schools lawn tennis competition and it was not until near the end of the deciding singles—in which D. R. Sabberton defeated D. K. Martin by 8—6, 6—3—that the many Stowe supporters present really felt confident of victory.

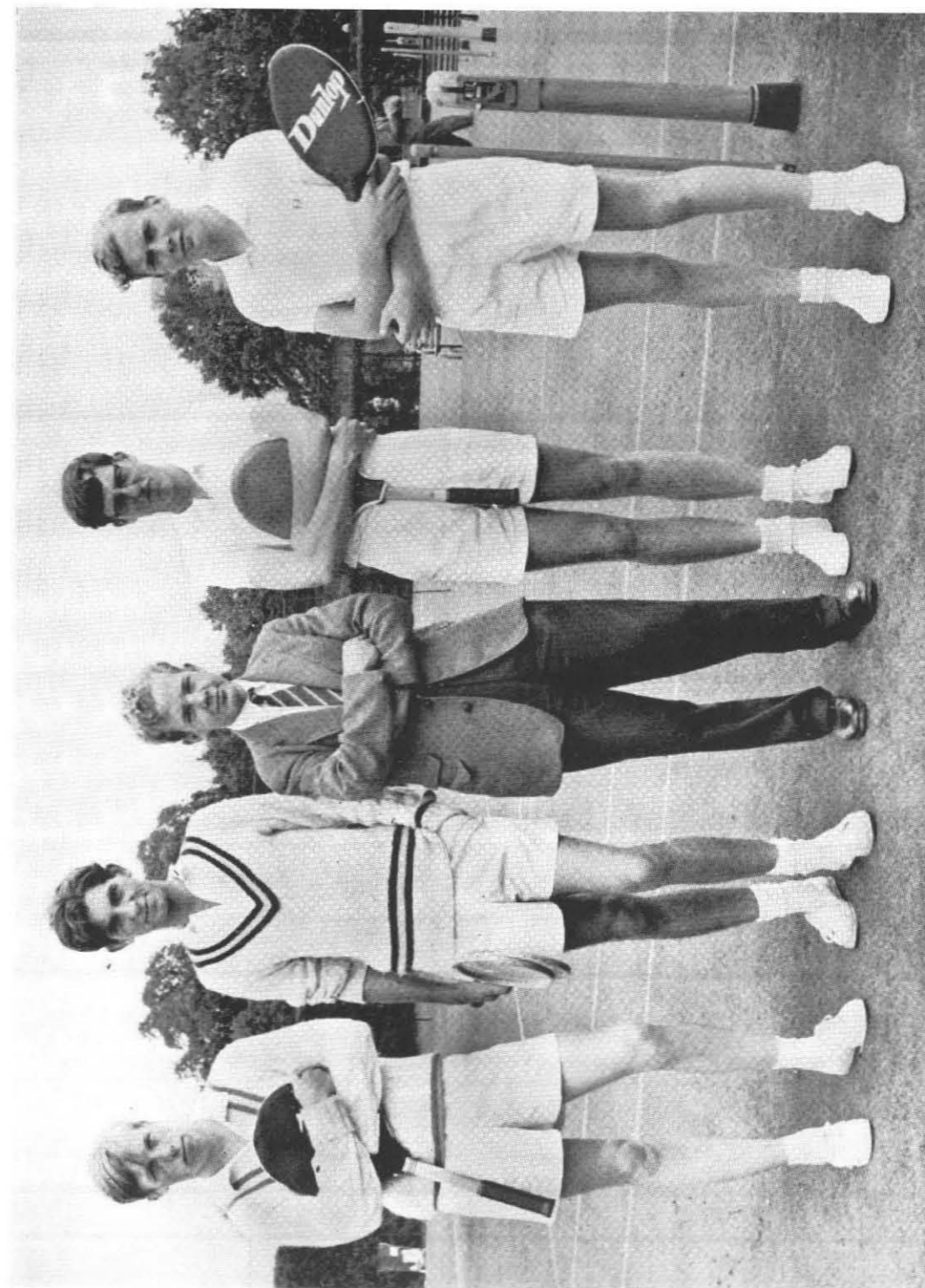
Sabberton rose to the occasion. While his opponent, an experienced Surrey county junior, looked tense, Sabberton seemed relaxed, stuck to his sound backhand attack, and served consistently well. He broke through to lead at 2—0 in both sets. In the first he was caught at 2—all, where Martin did some fine smashing, and the set developed into a hard struggle, first one securing a narrow lead then the other, before Sabberton broke decisively for 7—6 and served out for the set.

Although he missed two chances of a 4—1 lead in the second set, Sabberton held his own service easily and Martin, now struggling desperately, could not gain the initiative. At 3—5 he double-faulted and netted to give Sabberton a match point which was immediately seized.

Because of intermittent rain the first two matches, between the first and second pairs respectively, were played in the covered hard courts, where the echo caused by the thunderous applause drowned the umpires' voices. Later, play was transferred to outdoors.

Stowe drew first blood when their top pair Sabberton and R. B. B. Avory beat Martin and T. L. Sandor by 6—4, 6—3. This was a good win against a pair who had not been extended all week. Stowe owed their success to their ability to come in and attack bravely just when things seemed to be going against them. In the second set, after being 1—3 down, they both volleyed so well that they ran straight out for the match.

St. Paul's then levelled when their second pair, D. Sung and H. A. Jacobs, defeated D. K. Huffman and A. R. F. Hobson by 10—8, 8—6. In both sets Stowe had a set point at 5—4. In the first Sung produced a service ace and then won the game and at the same point in the second set the Stowe pair hit out wildly. Although Huffman, who has a severe service, was the most enterprising of the four, he and Hobson left a lot of gaps in their defence and the St. Paul's pair, of whom Jacobs was the steadier, were quick to find them.



WINNERS OF THE YOULL CUP, 1960
Left to right: D. R. SABBERTON, R. B. B. AVORY, A. H. G. ATKINSON, B. K. HUFFMAN, A. R. F. HOBSON
(This photograph is reproduced by kind permission of "Lawn Tennis and Badminton" and "British Lawn Tennis")



B. M. Allen gets the ball away



An Oundle forward loses his shirt

STOWE v. OUNDLE, NOVEMBER 1ST

Reproduced by kind permission of "The Sphere"

When the reverse matches were played both the first pairs defeated the opposing second pairs to make the score two rubbers all. Martin and Sandor had no trouble in defeating Huffman and Hobson by 6-1, 6-4, but Sabberton and Avory dropped a set surprisingly against Sung and Jacobs before winning comfortably by 6-1, 3-6, 6-0.

COMMENTS AND FURTHER DETAILS :

No fewer than 68 Public Schools entered the competition, which necessitated playing "best of three" in the earlier rounds. To reach the Final, Stowe defeated Dulwich 2-0, Dover 2-0, Felsted 2-0, Repton 3-0 and Mill Hill 3-1. All five matches were won on Doubles, and it was not until we reached the semi-final against Mill Hill that either Pair was unduly stretched. Against Mill Hill, who still had T. D. Phillips in their team, almost everything depended upon how Huffman and Hobson fared against Mill Hill II. In this critical match, Mill Hill eventually reached 5-2 up in the final set, but Stowe fought back so well that at 7-6 and 40-love in our favour we appeared to be home and dry. Then Mill Hill won two points, and then Huffman played a fine smash and was awarded the match. But no,—not yet. Huffman said his smash was out, and rather than have it on his conscience (as he put it) for the rest of his life, asked for the point to be replayed. This time the smash was in, and metaphorically we took off our shirts to wring them out.

Sabberton and Avory were not really worried by Phillips and partner in the semi-final, and pundits presumably based their forecast of a win for St. Paul's on what they already knew of Martin and Sandor. London schools are more in the limelight than are their country cousins.

Be that as it may, the Stowe team refused to be overawed by the fame which St. Paul's had acquired, and probably went on the courts for the final in the best possible frame of mind, determined to win (i.e. with quiet confidence, etc., etc.) but apparently not expected to do so.

Nor was their victory a fluke, as the reports amply confirm; and to emphasize the fact Sabberton and Avory, playing First Pair for the Public Schools against The All England Club on Saturday, July 30th, not only won their three matches, but were the only Pair which did not concede a set.

We offer our congratulations to all four members of the Stowe team. The First Pair did exactly what was expected of them. The Second Pair conformed themselves with glory too, Huffman fighting with tremendous determination in support of his slightly less-practised partner Hobson, who nevertheless pulled out astonishing winners just when things looked blackest.

So for the second successive year, a Stowe non-playing Captain (on this occasion A. H. G. Atkinson) went on the courts to receive the Youll Cup, thus relieving us of the slight embarrassment of asking another school to engrave "Stowe, 1959" on the Cup, the work having previously been overlooked. And once again we enjoyed royal hospitality on the balcony of the All England Club, thanks to the kindness of Mr. E. R. Avory (T 1927) and Mrs. Avory.

Although the Youll Cup overshadowed everything else, it must be recorded that H. G. Wallace (G) and I. R. D. Andrews (G) reached the semi-final of the Thomas Bowl competition, no mean feat, as 67 pairs entered. R. J. McDonagh (G) and N. J. Durlacher (W) also played, to give them experience for next year.

Colours for Lawn Tennis are awarded to A. R. F. Hobson (C).

RUGBY FOOTBALL

The 1960 season has been one of strange fluctuations. After a victory over Bedford, which should have been very much more decisive, we collapsed before Rugby. This defeat was made to look all the stranger by the subsequent victory over Cheltenham, who had, in their turn, quite clearly beaten Rugby. Its explanation seems to lie in the fact that experience got the whip-hand over inexperience. The failures in lack of covering were later made good, not merely by positional changes, but by the fact that the pack improved with each match and was willing to learn from its mistakes.

Clucas is to be congratulated on bringing about this remarkable change of heart and spirit. He deserves every credit for the transformation. Despite the inconvenience, in the latter stages, of a very painful 'cauliflower ear', he led the forwards enthusiastically, and found to his satisfaction that his own game improved with it. The Chatham front row provided an admirable service, with Wightman on occasions hooking really well. Vapenik was a tower of strength in the line-out, and from the Oundle game onwards was rarely beaten for the ball. Charnock suffered from his usual injuries, but Murray (the full back transformed) on the blind side of the scrum, and Cooper, did all that was required of them.

Allen had one or two first-rate games, and usually gave out a very long pass, but he was inclined to be too slow and cumbersome, especially against quick wing forwards. Bentall came in to provide a very useful link, but the three-quarter line was not really fast enough, and too often tried to make up for its deficiency by a repetition of the scissors movement. Hamp-Ferguson could look dangerous but too rarely linked up with the wings, who were initially starved. His place-kicking tended to be more erratic than last year, but it proved to be effective enough in the emergency. Knight and Summerlin were superb in defence, and Knight's speed might have proved to be the answer, if he had learnt to master his inclination to cut in instead of going round his opposite number. At full-back, Sabberton fitted in admirably, kicked really well, and, if he was given time, covered and tackled fiercely.

SCHOOL COLOURS

1st XV:—Re-awarded to: C. M. St. J. Knight (G), R. F. Charnock (G). Awarded to: D. R. Sabberton (T), G. J. Vapenik (B), M. J. R. Wightman (C), A. R. F. Hobson (C), M. J. Summerlin (C), R. J. Box (C), S. B. Murray (C), D. P. Bentall (C), A. D. Cooper (W), B. M. Allen (W), M. M. Orr (T).

2nd XV:—Awarded to: L. M. Thomas (B), J. W. O. Allerton (G), G. F. Arbib (T), B. L. Irving (C), R. J. Hay (W), J. G. Green (W), J. H. Grantham (T), I. A. H. Sitwell (B), C. A. McIntyre (G).

3rd XV:—Awarded to: D. Moyle (W), A. R. Shackleton (W), A. R. Rowse (T), N. A. Carrington Smith (T), H. H. Marshall (T), P. R. Corbett (T), P. G. de Havilland (C), N. W. Hartley (C), R. P. Pearce (G), T. D. B. Lee (G), M. A. S. G. Stewart (C), P. M. Henry (C), C. J. N. Felton (B).

Colts' Stockings:—Awarded to: H. L. Cowdy (G), I. D. Drysdale (G), J. F. Burns (G), D. H. Temple (G), C. C. F. Bouchier (C), N. J. Grace (C), T. Passmore (C), N. Honeyman Brown (G), J. R. Bullick (G), C. P. Murphy (G), R. W. Bailey-King (C), N. G. F. Hesketh (C), M. J. Dunlop (C), T. G. E. Kilpatrick (C), M. A. Williamson-Noble (T).

THE SCHOOL v. BEDFORD

Played at Bedford on Saturday, October 15th. Won 3—0.

A heavy shower shortly before the kick-off made conditions difficult, especially for handling by the outsides. However, the pack early established their superiority in the tight, heeling quickly and cleanly to keep their half-backs out of trouble. After Stowe's opening attacks had failed to make any real penetration, Bedford with the wind behind them began to press, though by now Hamp-Ferguson and Sabberton were kicking more surely. Bedford's backs never showed any great threat, but it was the Stowe forwards' consistent heeling in loose and tight which often saved the situation.

The pattern of play in the second half was very similar, for Stowe, still well supplied with the ball and aided by some excellent tactical kicking by Hamp-Ferguson, settled in the Bedford half, while Sabberton fielded the ball flawlessly and kicked consistently long touches. Stowe's only score came halfway through the second half when Knight, given the ball with room to move in, ran strongly for the outside break and crossed in the corner. Stowe continued to press to the end despite the loss of Allen with concussion, and might well have scored on several occasions.

Team:—D. R. Sabberton (T); I. A. H. Sitwell (T), J. W. O. Allerton (G), C. M. St. J. Knight (G), M. J. Summerlin (C); A. J. C. Hamp-Ferguson (W), B. M. Allen (W); A. R. F. Hobson (C), M. J. R. Wightman (C), R. J. Box (C), C. H. Clucas (W), G. J. Vapenik (B), A. D. Cooper (W), G. F. Arbib (T), S. B. Murray (C).

THE SCHOOL v. RUGBY

Played in the Close, Rugby, on Tuesday, October 18th. Lost 0—40.

Nothing in the first 29 minutes of this match gave any warning of the debacle that was to follow. It was at that moment that Hobson was injured. In his absence a Rugby attack succeeded when Avory bought a 'dummy' and a try was scored near the posts and converted. Almost immediately some fine passing by the Rugby forwards led to another try. Even with Hobson back, the mistakes were being repeated and two more tries followed, scored by the Rugby three-quarters. With the score at 0—18 at half-time, the spectators from Stowe began to feel that worse lay ahead—and it did.

Yet the opening of the second half gave a different impression, and the Stowe forwards struggled hard and almost successfully. But against the run of the play the next try came when Rugby had a man over in the line. Thereafter weak tackling and

poor covering let Rugby in time and again. The Stowe forwards refused to give up against a more experienced pack. In fact this lack of experience can now be seen as the ultimate reason for the catastrophe. No less than nine of the XV had been eligible for the Colts last year, and the process of bleeding proved to be extremely painful.

Sabberton's kicking at full back was admirable, but neither he nor the other backs had the ability to cover the disastrous mistakes in defence.

Team:—Sabberton; Sitwell, Knight, R. B. B. Ivory (T), Summerlin; Hamp-Ferguson, Allen; Hobson, Wightman, Box, Clucas, Vapenik, Cooper, Arbib, Murray.

THE SCHOOL v. ST. EDWARD'S

Played at St. Edward's on Saturday, October 29th. Lost 0—6.

The St. Edward's School record at this stage was that no school team of theirs had lost a match this season. The 1st XV were not to lower this record (though another team was to do so).

As usual any chance of an open game was spoilt by the heavy ground and the rain. The St. Edward's backs looked dangerous but missed their chances by dropping their passes. The real threat was expected to come from the fly-half, but he was well held. On the other hand the Stowe attacks were too often spoilt by over-elaboration. The continual switching of direction gained no ground and left the forwards undecided as to where they should move next. By being repeated *ad nauseam* it lost any point it might originally have had.

The Stowe forwards played sturdily but were largely outshoved in the tight. It was a pity that the two scores had to be penalties, given away by a different wing forward being offside in each half.

Team:—Sabberton; Knight, Allerton, Hamp-Ferguson, Summerlin; D. P. Bentall (C), Allen; Hobson, Wightman, Box, Clucas, Vapenik, R. F. Charnock (G), Arbib, Murray.

THE SCHOOL v. OUNDLE

Played at Stowe on Tuesday, November 1st. Lost 0—8.

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For 65 minutes Oundle, in their match at Stowe, put everything into attack and for most of the time were inside Stowe's 25. Then in the last five minutes, Oundle's efforts were rewarded and they scored twice.

Oundle's relentless attack was one face of the coin, but on the other was magnificent defence and superb tackling by Stowe. Oundle in attack, and determined attack at that, are a tough nut for any opposition and it says much for Stowe that they held out for so long.

As usual this season mud was the common enemy and it was praiseworthy, if a little unwise, that both sides tried to beat the atrocious conditions and keep the game open. To go in with the boot was the right game, but it was far more entertaining to see the outsiders at work even if their endeavours were often thwarted by the wet ball.

The two packs more or less cancelled each other out though Oundle were rather better in the line-outs. Outside, Stowe had no one to equal Lewin, the Oundle captain, who played a fine game at scrum half. His passes were good and he always had the

measure of his opposite number, though in fairness to Allen it must be said that he was hurt midway through the first half and never really recovered.

It was the method of the Oundle side which was so good to see. At any given moment every player seemed to know where he ought to be and never was a movement halted because no one was there to take a pass. However, if the centres had always given the passes to the man in close attendance Oundle's score would have been far bigger. As it was, delay in passing only played into the hands of Stowe. When Stowe had their moments of attack the three-quarters were often too close to their forwards, which meant that Oundle's wing forwards were able to break the attacks before they really developed.

From the start Oundle were always attacking but not with much hope of success. On the slippery ground swerving was out of the question and while Stowe crash-tackled with such fury, Oundle could not go far. Kicking ahead did not help much either because Sabberton, at full back for Stowe, was as safe as a rock and throughout the game did not make a single mistake in fielding or kicking.

When 65 minutes had gone and there was still no score, it seemed as if Stowe had the measure of anything that Oundle could do. Time after time Oundle's three-quarters had attacked only to be stopped by the relentless tackling. At last, however, Oundle, by clever manoeuvring, had a man over, and when the ball reached Hammon on the left wing there was no one to stop him from scoring by the corner flag. With a great kick from the touchline Peck converted. Again Oundle attacked and for the first time in the match a Stowe tackle went wrong. Peck was the man to be let off and he passed out to Hammon who scored again in the same place.

Teams:—*Stowe*—D. R. Sabberton; C. M. St. J. Knight, J. W. O. Allerton, A. J. C. Hamp-Ferguson, M. J. Summerlin; D. P. Bentall, B. M. Allen; A. R. F. Hobson, M. J. R. Wightman, R. J. Box, M. M. Orr (T), G. J. Vapenik, S. B. Murray, C. H. Clucas, R. F. Charnock.

Oundle—J. D. S. Wilson; R. L. Cowman, M. S. M. Bell, P. G. le M. Peck, J. S. Hammon; P. H. Mair, A. J. A. Lewin; A. H. C. Shaw, J. Bangay, G. M. K. Evans, S. G. Baker, R. B. Haynes, J. F. Macfarlane, P. W. D. Reynolds, G. Carr.

Referee—D. Thatcher (London Society).

THE SCHOOL v. RADLEY

Played at Stowe on Saturday, November 12th. Won 6—3.

Radley came with the unenviable record of no victory in a School match this year, but they had come very close to a victory against St. Edward's; in fact, rather nearer than we had. But at the start of the game the remarkably dry ground and the lack of rain promised plenty of open play, and this was certainly provided. There were a number of penalties given, and Stowe, playing with the wind, was unable to profit by them. In fact, although three penalty kicks at goal were missed, on three occasions Radley were forced to touch down rather hurriedly. There was some fierce attacking, but little success except territorially. It was obvious that there simply was not sufficient speed in the Stowe three-quarter line.

In the second half the same pressure was kept up, but the Radley fly-half was able to break through in the Stowe 25, for his centre to score. An audible sigh of relief was emitted when the kick hit the post and failed to go over. Yet it looked frighteningly as though even this would prove too much for Stowe, but it was greatly to their

credit that one and all now threw everything they knew into the struggle. With a penalty given against Radley in front of the posts, Sabberton calmly dropped a goal. A further penalty was missed, but yet another chance was given. Radley knocked on in-goal, and from the ensuing scrum were off-side. This time Hamp-Ferguson made no mistake with the kick.

Team :—Sabberton; Knight, Allerton, Hamp-Ferguson, Summerlin; Bentall, Allen; Hobson, Wightman, Box, Orr, Vapenik, Cooper, Clucas, Murray.

THE SCHOOL v. CHELTENHAM

Played at Stowe on Saturday, November 26th. Won 5—0.

The Cheltenham grounds were reported to be under water but fortunately ours were not. So they kindly agreed to play the match at Stowe and, as Cheltenham had just beaten Rugby, there was much to play for on both sides. An injury to Allen meant the re-arrangement of the side. Hamp-Ferguson went to scrum half, with instructions to dictate the course of the game. This he did admirably. Sabberton was brought up to fly-half, with the purpose of using his very accurate kicking.

The match began with a comparatively clear sky, but the grass was deceptively soggy. Except for a single foray near the beginning, Cheltenham never entered the Stowe 25. The pressure being applied was practically continuous. The forwards got the ball consistently from line-out and scrum, and we hammered away. Sabberton broke through once, but was clearly not fast enough. Knight had a glorious chance on the wing, but the ball never reached him. Eventually, after an attempted push-over try had failed, and Hamp-Ferguson had been held up inches short of the line on the left, he managed to get in on the right with a well-deserved try. He made sure of 5 points with a good kick.

The second half was largely a repetition of the first, with some very fine kicking by Sabberton, and remarkably good handling by both sides. There was a certain amount of pressure by Cheltenham towards the end, but the efforts of their fly-half and centres were spoilt by running across the field, and the danger was never really serious.

Team :—S. H. Sladen (G); Knight, Bentall, Allerton, Summerlin; Sabberton, Hamp-Ferguson; Hobson, Wightman, Box, Orr, Vapenik, Charnock, Clucas, Murray.

OTHER MATCHES :

Sat., Oct. 1st.	v. LONDON SCOTTISH (Home).	Lost	0—8
Sat., Oct. 22nd.	v. ROSSLYN PARK (Home).	Won	10—5
Sat., Nov. 5th.	v. WASPS (Home).	Lost	5—10
Sat., Nov. 19th.	v. BLACKHEATH (Home).	Won	5—0
Sat., Dec. 3rd.	v. RICHMOND (Home).	Won	3—0
Sat., Dec. 10th.	v. HARLEQUINS (Home).	Lost	0—3

THE SECOND FIFTEEN

The 2nd XV programme is, at the moment, an unsatisfactory one. Shorter than those of either the 1st or 3rd, it becomes disjointedly a matter of fixing in a match in the moments when the team is not required to act as cannon-fodder for the 1st. So, of the School matches, four were lost, one drawn, and one solitary victory recorded.

Despite this, the team played well together, and often gave as much as it took. The forwards, under Dufty, who played with great enthusiasm and increased skill, were

seldom overrun. Green proved a perfectly adequate hooker, and Tetlow and Thomas admirable props. Arbib and Felton were solid and worthy, and Morison had some of the failings but most of the attributes of the good Club player.

Behind the scrum, McIntyre was useful if somewhat limited. Jackson had an effective attacking kick and cut-through, but his defence and passing were suspect. Irving generally ran hard, but Loxton and Geddes had little idea of avoiding the opposition, and Sitwell was fast without being elusive. Sladen had only a moderate kick, but he was always game for an emergency, and tackled surely.

Results :—

Sat., Oct. 1st.	v. BEDFORD MODERN (Away).	Lost	3—9
Sat., Oct. 8th.	v. OLD STOICS (Home).	Won	21—0
Sat., Oct. 15th.	v. BEDFORD (Home).	Drawn	5—5
Sat., Oct. 29th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD (Away).	Lost	3—11
Tues., Nov. 1st.	v. OUNDLE (Away).	Lost	5—11
Sat., Nov. 5th.	v. KETTERING G.S. (Away).	Won	6—3
Sat., Nov. 12th.	v. WELLINGBOROUGH G.S. (Away).	Lost	0—17
Tues., Nov. 29th.	'A' XV. v. OAKHAM (Away).	Lost	9—14

Team :—S. H. Sladen (G); D. R. Loxton (G), B. L. Irving (C), A. C. Geddes (T), I. A. H. Sitwell (B); J. S. Jackson (C), C. A. McIntyre (G); C. B. Tetlow (T), J. G. Green (W), L. M. Thomas (B), T. A. S. Dufty (B), G. F. Arbib (T), A. J. Morison (G), R. J. Hay (W), J. H. Grantham (T).

THE THIRD FIFTEEN

The Third suffered its usual losses through injuries early in the season, but there is really no excuse for some of its defeats. The tackling was not always what it should have been and there was a foolish and improvident tendency to sit on a three-point lead. But we can be too self-critical; it was a very enjoyable season and the team played with spirit and occasional flashes of inspiration.

It is always invidious to mention individuals, but Moyle made a very good captain, and Henry a tower of strength. Stewart always shone in the line-out and Pearce in the tight. Behind the scrum, Rowse was a clever scrum half, and Hartley the gamest fighter in the side. The pack as a whole was good and the backs had their moments of glory.

Results :—

Tues., Oct. 4th.	v. M.C.S. BRACKLEY 1ST XV. (Home).	Drawn	11—11
Sat., Oct. 8th.	v. OLD STOICS (Home).	Won	11—5
Sat., Oct. 15th.	v. BEDFORD (Home).	Lost	6—8
Sat., Oct. 22nd.	v. BANBURY COLTS (Away).	Lost	3—10
Tues., Oct. 25th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S (Home).	Lost	0—11
Sat., Oct. 29th.	v. NORTHAMPTON G.S. 2ND XV (Away).	Lost	5—25
Sat., Nov. 5th.	v. OXFORD MARATHONS (Home).	Won	18—5
Tues., Nov. 8th.	v. BERKHAMSTED 2ND XV (Home).	Won	19—5
Sat., Nov. 19th.	v. KINGHAM HILL SCHOOL 1ST XV (Home).	Won	3—0
Tues., Nov. 22nd.	v. M.C.S., BRACKLEY 1ST XV. (Away).	Lost	9—10
Sat., Nov. 26th.	v. OUNDLE (Home).	Lost	0—22
Sat., Dec. 3rd.	v. TOWCESTER G.S. 1ST XV (Away).	Drawn	6—6

Team :—P. G. de Havilland (C); N. A. Carrington Smith (T), T. D. B. Lee (G), R. G. Edwards (W), D. E. B. Walker (C); N. W. Hartley (C), A. R. Rowse (T); P. R. Corbett (T), R. P. Pearce (G), M. A. S. G. Stewart (C), D. Moyle (W), A. R. Shackleton (W), H. H. Marshall (T), P. M. Henry (C), S. M. D. Williamson-Noble (T).

THE FOURTH FIFTEEN

The season has been one of ups and downs; the ups have never been very high and the downs have been abysmal. This was due mainly to the number of injuries sustained in the senior clubs, who drew on the Hundred for replacements. With a full side at the start of the season convincing wins against Bedford Modern and Bedford School augured well. The loss of Hartley to replace Jackson in the 3rd XV was felt when they drew with the Royal Latin School and then lost to St. Edward's. The appalling weather has contributed to the side's two failures. Faced with ankle-deep slough and standing water it has been a forwards' season. Fortunately they were large and reasonably fit; Bell, Campbell and Murray were perhaps the most consistent, and Cartwright was frequently able to hook the ball for Duncanson. The backs were not given much of the ball but when they did get going Edwards always looked dangerous. Capel, at full-back, although rather slow was fairly sure.

It was strange that all the away matches have been won and all the home games lost; this can only be attributed to coincidence. It is certain that the team would have lost to Oundle wherever they had played; it was perhaps unfortunate that the match was played at home with the score 0-38.

Results :—

Sat., Oct. 1st.	v. BEDFORD MODERN (Away).	Won	13-3
Sat., Oct. 15th.	v. BEDFORD SCHOOL (Away).	Won	9-5
Sat., Oct. 22nd.	v. ROYAL LATIN SCHOOL (Home).	Drawn	0-0
Tues., Oct. 25th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S SCHOOL (Home).	Lost	0-14
Sat., Nov. 5th.	v. BANBURY R.F.C. (Away).	Won	11-3
Tues., Nov. 8th.	v. BERKHAMSTED (Home).	Lost	6-8
Sat., Nov. 26th.	v. OUNDLE (Home).	Lost	0-38

Team :—S. P. B. Capel (B); D. B. T. Aikman (T), A. M. Brown (T), C. T. Preston (B), J. A. Booth (G); E. B. Bridgland (B), G. R. Duncanson (W); J. F. R. Saunders (C), J. D'A. C. Cartwright (C), R. M. Campbell (C), N. O. G. Murray (C), T. M. Storey (C), A. Horrocks (C), P. M. Bell (G), R. W. Rhode (G).

THE COLTS

Although the record of the Club appears to indicate a below-average season—9 games played, 3 won, 1 drawn, and 5 lost; 32 points for and 59 against—the results can be considered more than partially successful. The team started this term with a miserable season of defeats behind them in 1959 and the response to the challenge of the 1960 matches was most encouraging.

The fact that there is no natural footballer in the club has been a great disadvantage but the forwards soon settled into a most workmanlike unit and, with our game designed to play to them, they responded very well indeed. The props of the scrum, Bailey-King and Hesketh, have played admirably, with the former shining also in the loose. Honeyman Brown has hooked exceptionally well. Cowdy, the captain, and Dunlop have pushed hard, and jumped well in the line-outs as well as covering very effectively in defence, and the back row have been lively both in attack and defence.

Of the outsiders Bullick, scrum half, and Bouchier, full back, deserve special mention; they have had much to do and have done it courageously and reliably. The remainder of the three-quarters played quite well in the later matches but all too often exhibited a disturbing inability to communicate with one another, but their shortcomings cannot be attributed to lack of effort and unwillingness, for they have always tried hard.

However, quite apart from the results themselves when compared with previous seasons, the most encouraging feature of this term has been the welcome renaissance of the will to win and the great efforts made by the whole team to achieve this aim.

Results :—

Sat., Oct. 1st.	v. BEDFORD MODERN (Away).	Lost	3-10
Sat., Oct. 15th.	v. BEDFORD (Away).	Lost	0-9
Sat., Oct. 22nd.	v. ABINGDON (Home).	Won	14-0
Tues., Nov. 1st.	v. OUNDLE (Home).	Lost	0-14
Thur., Nov. 3rd.	v. RUGBY (Away).	Lost	0-6
Sat., Nov. 12th.	v. DOUAI (Away).	Won	3-0
Sat., Nov. 19th.	v. RADLEY (Home).	Lost	6-17
Thur., Nov. 24th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S (Away).	Drawn	0-0
Sat., Nov. 26th.	v. CHELTENHAM (Home).	Won	6-3

The following have played :—H. L. Cowdy (G), C. C. F. Bouchier (C), T. G. E. Kilpatrick (C), J. F. Burns (G), D. H. Temple (G), I. D. Drysdale (G), T. Passmore (C), C. P. Murphy (G), J. R. Bullick (G), R. W. Bailey-King (C), N. Honeyman Brown (G), N. G. F. Hesketh (C), M. J. Dunlop (C), N. J. Grace (C), P. T. P. Warrick (W), M. A. Williamson-Noble (T), P. J. August (B).

THE JUNIOR COLTS

A bald list of results gives an unflattering account of this season's achievement. Five matches have been won, two drawn and four lost, but 105 points were scored with 47 against, and it is fair to say that, with a little more luck and with a lighter mid-term programme, things might well have looked more cheering.

The first matches were played before the side had settled down, and scrappy play in the loose and defensive weakness in the centre let us down. A second-half rally against Bedford ending in a fine run by Dukes showed what could be done, however, and the Bloxham match provided just the tonic needed for the trials ahead. The M.C.S. Oxford match was rather a heavy slog, but the games with St. Edward's, Oundle and Rugby gave us excellent entertainment and showed the team at its best. It was cruel that the first two should have been drawn despite constant Stowe pressure, and that Rugby should have won in a match which was desperately even. The break-through just would not come, though Sharp's splendid burst against Rugby brought the best try of the term.

It was unfortunate that these great and unrewarded efforts should have been followed so closely by the Berkhamsted and Radley matches that practice and recuperation were impossible. In both games the team looked thoroughly jaded and the result was never in doubt. The return match with M.C.S. Brackley brought a return to form, with the whole side once more enjoying the game and playing lively football. The season ended with a gratifying away win against Oakham.

Froggatt captained the team with energy and enthusiasm, though he is too much of an individualist to be a first-rate leader. To pick out others is, perhaps, invidious, but mention must be made of Post's splendid covering, of Garrett's hooking, of Duncan, a most promising and courageous scrum half, and of Scott-Gall, though he is as yet not an attacking fly-half. The season ended with the whole team showing the form we expect of it, and it deserves every success next year.

Results :—

Tues., Oct. 4th.	v. M.C.S., BRACKLEY (Away).	Won	9—6
Sat., Oct. 15th.	v. BEDFORD (Home).	Lost	5—17
Sat., Oct. 22nd.	v. BLOXHAM (Home).	Won	28—0
Tues., Oct. 25th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S (Home).	Drawn	0—0
Sat., Oct. 29th.	v. M.C.S., OXFORD (Home).	Won	11—0
Tues., Nov. 1st.	v. OUNDLE (Away).	Drawn	3—3
Thur., Nov. 3rd.	v. RUGBY (Away).	Lost	3—6
Tues., Nov. 8th.	v. BERKHAMSTED (Away).	Lost	3—9
Sat., Nov. 12th.	v. RADLEY (Away).	Lost	0—9
Tues., Nov. 22nd.	v. M.C.S., BRACKLEY (Home).	Won	23—3
Tues., Nov. 29th.	v. OAKHAM (Away).	Won	8—6

Team :—J. C. Bemrose (W); A. P. Dukes (W), D. A. Sharp (W), A. P. B. Sutton (T), S. H. Arnold (B); A. R. G. Scott-Gall (T), A. A. B. Duncan (C); R. C. N. Gamble (W), D. W. J. Garrett (G), M. J. Baker (G), C. C. Parker (W), N. D. Raw (G), J. V. M. Froggatt (G), R. D. Post (W), R. U. Dawson (C).

The following also played :—W. R. O. McEwen (C), B. E. West (C), C. Day (W), H. G. B. Roberts (W), I. B. Whitecourt (W), B. A. Marcel (C), A. G. Foord (G), C. N. Hershman (B).

UNDER FOURTEEN XV.

The Under Fourteens have had a successful season. They lost the first two matches but won both the return games. They drew with a strong Radley side after a shaky start and won their other games convincingly.

The forwards, once they were organized, played well individually and as a unit. Davis hooked well and was useful in the loose. Remington, Taylor and Langford all showed up well and got through a lot of hard work. Parkinson was fast for a front-row forward and could be very good if he worked at least twice as hard. The back row of Seal, Burton-Carter and Pringle was a particularly large one. Pringle set an untiring example as Captain. Seal improved his tackling considerably, while Burton-Carter's long-range place-kicking was a constant menace to any erring opponents.

If the backs had had a little more speed, particularly on the wings, they would have scored many more tries, as their passing and positioning was generally well above average. Gronow at scrum half sent out long and accurate passes. Goodchild and Vane made most of the openings and the former cover-tackled splendidly in defence. Gardiner was the most powerful runner and the wings, Jackson and Salamon, although slow, ran with determination and some skill. Campbell played pluckily at full-back and when he was injured, T. W. Evans (G) showed promising form. I. T. Todd (C), a wing forward, deputised at scrum half in the last two matches, and looked a useful footballer.

The Club as a whole was most pleasant to coach and learnt an encouraging amount in their short season.

Results :—

Tues., Oct. 4th.	v. M.C.S., BRACKLEY (Away).	Lost	3—13
Sat., Oct. 15th.	v. BEDFORD (Away).	Lost	9—12
Sat., Oct. 29th.	v. M.C.S., OXFORD (Home).	Won	43—0
Thur., Nov. 3rd.	v. ST. EDWARD'S (Home).	Won	20—5
Sat., Nov. 12th.	v. RADLEY (Away).	Drawn	3—3
Sat., Nov. 19th.	v. BEDFORD (Home).	Won	12—8
Tues., Nov. 22nd.	v. M.C.S., BRACKLEY (Home).	Won	11—0
Sat., Nov. 26th.	v. TOWCESTER G.S. (Home).	Won	9—0

Team :—R. A. Campbell (C); R. H. Salamon (G), S. C. Gardiner (G), C. J. Vane (C), T. St. F. Jackson (T); R. N. Goodchild (C), J. P. Gronow (G); D. G. Remington (G), M. K. Davis (G), R. G. Parkinson (W), T. Taylor (W), P. E. Langford (B), G. D. Seal (G), N. H. Burton-Carter (C), J. R. S. Pringle (B).

The results of Leagues were as follows :—

Seniors :—1st, Cobham (56 points); 2nd Grenville (44 points); 3rd, Grafton (40 points); 4th equal, Bruce and Temple (24 points); 6th, Walpole (20 points); 7th, Chatham (16 points); 8th, Chandos (0 points).

Juniors :—1st Cobham (28 points); 2nd Chandos (24 points); 3rd, Chatham (20 points); 4th, Grenville (16 points); 5th, Grafton (10 points); 6th, Temple (8 points); 7th, Walpole (4 points); 8th, Bruce (2 points).

HOUSE MATCH RESULTS

Seniors :

Chatham	}	Chatham, 11—0	}	Chatham, 60—6	}	Walpole, 8—3.
Bruce		Chandos, 12—6				
Chandos	}	Walpole, 17—0	}	Walpole, 3—0 (in replay)		
Grafton		Temple, 24—0				
Walpole	}					
Cobham						
Temple	}					
Grenville						

Colts :

Chandos	}	Chandos, 9—0	}	Grenville, 6—3 (after extra time)	}	Bruce, 14—0
Cobham		Grenville, 13—5				
Grenville	}	Chatham, 37—0	}	Bruce, 31—0.		
Grafton		Bruce, 40—0				
Chatham	}					
Walpole						
Bruce	}					
Temple						

Juniors :

Cobham	}	Cobham, 3—0.	}	Walpole, 16—3	}	Walpole, 6—0
Grenville		Walpole, 64—0				
Walpole	}	Chatham, 11—0	}	Temple, 9—6		
Bruce		Temple, 10—0.				
Chatham	}					
Grafton						
Temple	}					
Chandos						

OTHER SPORTS

FENCING

After a somewhat belated start, the Fencing Club had a fairly successful season. For some time it has been the policy to give more people match practice, especially the juniors; these intentions never materialised until this term. Throughout the term there has been a considerable display of keenness from all quarters and certain juniors appear to be showing promising talent. This is fully justified by two successful junior matches. There has also been considerable effort in the senior team and a very marked improvement from G. M. Yannaghas (W). B. L. Irving (C) fenced for the Senior team when he was not claimed by Rugger.

The teams were as follows:—

Foil:—M. H. Waring (C), G. M. Yannaghas (W), S. P. B. Magee (C).

Sabre:—A. S. M. Batten (C), M. H. Waring (C), G. M. Yannaghas (W).

Epee:—A. S. M. Batten (C), M. H. Waring (C), R. S. Winton (G).

The following fought junior foil:—M. S. J. Rappolt (B), Sir Robert folkes Bart. (B), P. A. Trainin (C), C. G. Vacy-Ash (W), C. Broom-Smith (C).

School colours were awarded to M. H. Waring (C).

M.H.W.

SQUASH

Four of last year's team remain, the addition being Shillington, a very useful third string who has well earned his colours.

The standard of play benefited greatly from the previous year's experience. Allerton and Sabberton have noticeably improved throughout the term, and MacGregor came on very well after half-term. Jackson, who is captain, had the misfortune to be handicapped by a rugger injury, but played some good matches. Besides these five, G. P. Courtenay-Evans (B), N. O. Faure (C) and T. D. B. Lee (G) represented the school from time to time.

As to results, four matches were won and six lost out of a total of ten. This score was not as good as had been hoped for, and probably worse than it need have been, since the matches against Old Paulines and Vagabonds were thrown away by careless play. However, Eton's visiting team were roundly beaten, 5—0.

Four out of the seven matches next term will be against schools. If this term's mistakes have been instructive, it should be a particularly successful series.

Team:—J. W. O. Allerton (G); D. R. Sabberton (T); A. D. G. Shillington (C); J. S. Jackson (C), (Captain); G. A. MacGregor (C).

Results:—

Oct. 9th.	v. OLD PAULINES.	Lost	2—3.
Oct. 16th.	v. VAGABONDS.	Lost	2—3.
Oct. 23.	v. WORCESTER COLLEGE, OXFORD.	Lost	2—3.
Oct. 30th.	v. TRING.	Lost	1—4.
Nov. 10th.	v. ETON.	Won	5—0.
Nov. 13th.	v. ESCORTS.	Lost	0—5.
Nov. 20th.	v. KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.	Won	4—1.
Nov. 24th.	v. LINCOLN COLLEGE, OXFORD.	Won	4—1.
Nov. 27th.	v. OLD STOICS.	Won	4—3.
Dec. 3rd.	v. TRING.	Lost	0—5.

SWIMMING

The result of the Half-mile swum at Northampton on Monday, December 12th was as follows:—

Senior—1st, J. N. Sadler (G); 2nd, A. D. Cooper (W); 3rd, B. M. Allen (W).

Junior:—1st, J. V. M. Froggatt (G); 2nd, C. L. Barnard (B); 3rd equal, D. J. Lamping (C) and D. G. Remington (G).

FIVES

The approach of a match was greeted with a heavy thunderstorm, the balls and courts inevitably caught this spirit of sombre depression and, to add to these discomforts, never could our strongest team be put on the court. Yet, the happiness and keenness of the teams prevailed above all and, unbelievable as it is, even imparted into the souls of the onlookers a feelings of comradeship, of cosy winter evenings and flickering log fires. It was the spirit of our opponents which was mostly responsible for this warmth: they seemed to draw from the Stoics an enthusiasm that we had previously doubted to be there. Where can one meet more pleasant, warm-hearted fives-players than from amongst the members of the Old Citizens, Eton Fives Club and those of the Old Olavians, the Jesters, the Old Edwardians and the Old Cholmondleyans? Indeed it has been a happy though damp season. We have played six matches, won one, lost three and drawn two.

The Captain, R. B. B. Avory (T), owing to a pulled hamstring, has only been able to play in one match and that the first one of the term. For the remaining matches he has been reduced to the rôle of frustrated spectator. Of necessity this has weakened the team. By the beginning of December, though, this loss had been forgotten in the face of the immense advance made by M. M. Orr (T). Left-handed, with powerful spat, terrifying reach and useful volleys, he has gained from the experience acquired, last year and during the forthcoming seasons should be a veritable bastion on which the other members of the team might lean with confidence. A. J. C. Hamp-Ferguson (W) played in the first pair with either Avory, C. P. Robinson (T) or D. R. Sabberton (T). Considering their commitments elsewhere Hamp-Ferguson and Sabberton have played well together (the former notable for his strength, the latter for his dexterity). Robinson having played more has given solidarity to his more brilliant, yet erratic partners and thereby held the side together. As Secretary he has done invaluable work in the junior

reaches of the school, introducing many to the game, coaching them and then cementing their enthusiasm by playing regularly with them. In the past only a small proportion of the school has played fives but now more and more boys have taken up the game. This is all to Robinson's credit.

A. C. Geddes (T), J. H. Grantham (T), P. E. A. Hope (T) and A. M. Macoun (♣) have been especially prominent this term.

Next year School and House fives matches and the usual competitions for pairs are being moved from the Christmas to the Lent term. Free from rigger injuries and commitments the game can thus continue to advance.

R.B.B.A.

SAILING

Most of the activity of the term has been directed towards repair work on the Cadets, which had been badly neglected while the two Kenn Elevens were being built. Reading preps have been found most useful for this purpose, and one or two members have done some very valuable work. There has been little actual sailing, as the weather has been most unhelpful. The only times there has been any wind, there has also been pouring rain. In consequence there has been no racing, and on only a few occasions has it been possible to take a boat out. There was to have been a match against the International Cadet Squadron at Bedford, but when the team finally got there, they found the Ouse in full flood, and not a breath of wind. The match was therefore cancelled.

S.M.D.W.-N.

SHOOTING

Shooting this term has unfortunately not been so successful as in former years. This is because we are in the process of forming a new 1st VIII after the many leavers last term. There is talk of adapting the range for .303 shooting but as yet nothing has materialized.

The following have shot for the 1st VIII this term:—J. J. Earle (T), G. M. Yannaghas (W), P. M. Bell (♣), F. W. D. Whitelaw (W), M. J. Krohn (W), A. C. Grattan-Cooper (W), P. R. J. Elliott (T), G. E. Rawlings (♣) G. J. Vapenik (B), H. Northey (C).

SCULLING

This term has been one of consolidation and improvement in style among such members of the Venus Club as could fit in sculling with their rigger commitments. On paper membership is encouragingly high although a number have been non-performers this term. The weather has not helped even an aquatic sport since a high water level and consequent mud has made the landing stage unusable since October. For a time the bathing-pool staging was also under water and operations had to cease altogether. In spite of hazards sculling has made itself felt although there have been fewer capsizes and no damaging collisions this term.

A cup for House sculling was very generously presented by Mr. A. W. Fletcher, and this magnificent trophy was appropriately won by W. G. Fletcher for Cobham at the end of the Summer Term.

“THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO”

‘OPERA FOR ALL’ GROUP, ROXBURGH HALL, DECEMBER 17th.

(The writer, K. A. Henderson (C. 1953), sang the part of Susanna in the Stowe production of ‘Figaro’ in the Gymnasium in 1949).

Opera came to the Roxburgh Hall for the first time on December 17th when six young singers and a pianist, members of the Arts Council's ‘Opera for All’ Touring Company, performed a severely abridged version of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*. By all the rules, perhaps, it should not have been a very satisfying performance. All but one of the minor characters were cut, so that Count Almaviva's attempts to stop the wedding of Figaro and Susanna virtually disappeared, and with them much of the opera's most wonderful music—notably the delicious sextet and the great part of the superb Second Act finale. The Count's suspicion of his wife and jealousy of the page Cherubino were more or less fully treated, but Figaro's marriage itself was omitted and the last Act with its series of mistaken identities became even more bewildering than usual. In addition, so much of the beauty and wit of *Figaro* is in its orchestration that a piano accompaniment, however eloquent, cannot be expected to satisfy. Yet, diminished as it was, *Figaro* remained *Figaro* and a delightful experience in a performance as accomplished as this.

Wendy Baldwin (the Countess) has a glorious voice and sang most beautifully throughout. Her confidence and richness of tone in the aria ‘I remember’ were highly impressive, and the Letter Duet was exquisite; it was no surprise to learn that she is to sing Pamina at Sadler's Wells next year. Susanna (Morag Noble), who was suffering from the effects of an accident, rather lacked sparkle, but her singing was charming, particularly in the Second Act aria. Dorothy Wilson could not manage Cherubino's high notes, but she looked the part and acted with infectious relish. The men were less good. Figaro needs to establish a very close relationship with the audience and Delme Jones, well though he sang, somehow lacked the sheer bounce which the part requires. David Bowman (the Count) had not the Count's authority and his singing was not outstanding enough to let us forget it. On the other hand Brian Casey made Don Basilio a splendidly slimy and disreputable figure, but did not let this characterisation detract in any way from the very high quality of his singing.

The pianist, Alma Myatt, performed her formidable task heroically. At first she was inclined to hurry things along too much, but she relaxed later and coloured the accompaniment to the Count's aria so finely that for the moment one forgot that there was no orchestra.

Add to these things attractive costumes and simple but effective settings and you have all the ingredients for a highly enjoyable performance, not least remarkable for the teamwork of the artists. This teamwork naturally showed itself most strongly in the ensemble singing (what remained of the Second Act finale was so beautifully done that one regretted the omission of the rest of it all the more) and there were moments when the magic of Mozart came across with a clarity which can only be secured by a company rehearsing and performing together all the time; the concerted *soffo voce* exclamation “Oh heaven! the Countess!”, for instance, succeeded perfectly because it was sung with absolute precision by all concerned. The ovation at the end of the performance was a clear indication that ‘Opera for All’ will always be welcome at Stowe.

K.A.H.

VERSE

“*Toi qui sur le néant en sait plus que les Morts*” (Mallarmé)

The strong earth tears the flesh-life
With no hands.
Judas ! Caesar ! Cassius ! be thankful
When you cringe from that gory
Giver of life.
When filaments screech apart, see
In the elastic of the breaking
Mercy from evil pain.

The army of the dead in their stone ranks
Are safe from death and captivity.
But what gothic and seraphic eulogies
Can mask the surge of
“ Rest comes at length Tho' life be long and dreary
The Day must dawn And darksome night be past ”
To the agony of the hush below
Surging up to answer the sky ?

On days when fleshless fingers of trees
Are leprous with jealousy at their punishment,
The cutting of their tongues by the Slav Generals.

P.M.W.

Exasperation

The bearded old man
Points with scythe
To the nursery
Where children play their
Blind-man's buff. Others
Grasping, groping, vainly
Searching, tear at their masks,
Frantic, frustrated, screaming
For sight. Spes mortua,
Mortua fides.
The dazzling darkness
Loads the scales with blank oppression.

Crows watch : they fear :
They fear the slow ascending
Crawl, the endless road,
The dark before the dawn.
Is there no day ? Featureless,
Destructive, the gloom creeps down.

D.B.T.A.

