

THE STOIC



Number One Hundred and Sixteen

DECEMBER 1961



Photograph by L.C.J.W.

THE NORTH HALL CEILING, BY KENT

THE STOIC

VOL. XX

DECEMBER 1961

No. 1

STOICA

School Officials—Autumn Term, 1961.

Prefects :—T. W. J. Waine, Head of the School and Head of Grafton ; R. M. Campbell, Second Prefect and Head of Chatham ; G. F. Arbib (T), Prefect of Hall ; R. E. Dale (☉), Prefect of Library ; P. M. Henry, Head of Chandos ; C. M. St. J. Knight, Head of Grenville ; S. B. Murray, Head of Cobham ; M. V. Rymer (W), Prefect of Chapel ; D. R. Sabberton (T), Prefect of Gymnasium ; A. R. Shackleton, Head of Walpole ; I. A. H. Sitwell, Head of Bruce ; C. B. Tetlow, Head of Temple.

Rugby Football :—Captain, C. M. St. J. Knight (G) ; Secretary, D. R. Sabberton (T).

Squash Rackets :—Captain and Secretary, J. W. O. Allerton (G).

Fencing :—Captain and Secretary, R. S. Winton (☉).

Fives :—Captain, R. B. B. Ivory (C) ; Secretary, J. H. Grantham (T).

The following have preached in Chapel this term :—on September 24th, the Headmaster ; on October 1st, the Bishop of Maidstone ; on October 8th, the Chaplain ; on October 15th, the Ven. John Armstrong, Chaplain of the Fleet ; on October 22nd, the Rev. D. J. Challis ; on October 29th, the Rev. Canon Guy Pentreath ; on November 5th, the Rev. J. R. Bridger ; on November 12th, W. L. McElwee, Esq., M.C. ; on November 19th, M. Obumneme Ombamaegbu, Esq. ; on November 26th, the Rev. L. V. Wright ; on December 10th, the Ven. C. Witton-Davies, Archdeacon of Oxford.

The Collections in Chapel were :—on October 8th, for the Pineapple, £27 10s. 8d. ; on November 12th, for the Earl Haig Fund, £101 14s. 7d. ;

on December 3rd, for Dr. Barnardo's Homes, £36 13s. od. ; on December 17th, for the Great Ormond Street Hospital, £31 10s. 3d.

In addition the Chapel Fund has been able to make donations to :— the Pineapple, £50 ; the British Red Cross (earmarked for British Honduras), £15 ; the Ruanda Mission (for famine relief for refugees), £10 ; Kilpeck Church Repair Fund, £10 ; the Cheshire Homes, £10 ; the Church Missionary Society (for the Diocese of Nigeria), £10 ; the Buckingham Laity Challenge Fund, £5.

Confirmation was held on Advent Sunday, December 3rd, in the Chapel, when 94 candidates were confirmed by the Bishop of Oxford.

We record with regret the death on November 4th of the Rev. P. E. Warrington, who took a large part in the foundation of the School and was Secretary to the original Governing Body.

The following have joined the staff this term :—Mr. H. F. G. Carey, Mr. D. L. Farmer, Mr. J. J. F. Robinson, Mr. M. C. Penney, Mr. D. B. McMurray, Mr. D. J. Mordaunt, Mr. J. M. Leach.

We announce the birth of a daughter on December 5th to Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Clarke.

The Grafton Hunt met at Stowe on November 23rd ; there have also been meets of the Old Berkeley Beagles (November 1st), the Sandhurst Beagles (November 4th), and the Radley College Beagles (November 25th).

The Old Stoic Dinner was held on November 25th in the Members' Dining Room of the House of Commons ; 136 Old Stoics attended and speeches were made by the Rt. Hon. J. A. Boyd-Carpenter, M.P. (C 1927), the Headmaster, and the Marquis de Amodio (G 1926).

The Old Stoic Northern Dinner was held on October 21st at the Grand Hotel, Manchester ; there were fifty present and speeches were made by J. D. Irlam (W 1948) and Mr. A. Macdonald.

The Pineapple Ball will be held on Thursday, February 8th.

House dances have been held by Temple, Grafton and Walpole. Parties from Stowe attended dances at Hawnes Girls' School and at Overstone.

There are now 102 sons of Old Stoics in the School.

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

S. M. D. WILLIAMSON-NOBLE (T) has been awarded a Royal Air Force University Cadetship.

R. M. B. WILLIAMSON (C) has been awarded an Exhibition for Classics at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

P. N. T. PHILLIPS (T) has been awarded an Exhibition for History at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Mr. C. W. G. RATCLIFFE

Cecil Ratcliffe, who died on October 18th 1961, came to Stowe in its very early days in 1923, and retired in 1947. He was never one to parade his many qualities and not all, even within the circle of those whom he taught, easily penetrated the self-imposed veneer of a hard-bitten pedagogue to find beneath a warm character full of interest and sympathy, as ready to give praise as censure ; an appreciation of beauty, moreover, especially in music (he was a fine pianist), betrayed now and then by an unguarded exclamation.

His efficiency as a teacher of Mathematics to would-be holders of a School Certificate will be attested by many who owe their success to his efforts ; for, apart from all who were in his Sets, the number of those who, conscious of their inadequacy, would have their Extra Tuition from none but Ratters was indeed a large one. Perhaps not many knew the full tale of patient hours that he gave to helping the backward.

But if he trod the quieter and less public paths, his wit placed him among the best remembered of masters, and his essential kindness and generosity, however much he would seek to conceal them under a sometimes brusque exterior, made the remembrance always affectionate. For Ratters was a legend.

In his hey-day no Old Stoic Dinner ever seemed complete without the recounting of a new story about him. Most of these are too well-known for repetition. But perhaps not all who remember him know of the new boy, many years ago, who, anxiously looking for his Maths Set, put an enquiring head inside a classroom-door and asked "Please sir, is this 'L'?" to be met with the swift reply, "Some people think so." And perhaps not many Old Stoics yet know the tale (no less libellous than most of its kind) of how in his last term Ratters, returning from a Wedding Reception, was asked

how he had fared. "Had he been able properly to drink the usual toasts?" "Well, it was all right at the start; but I got drawn off into a long conversation with someone and couldn't get back. I found too late it was myself in a mirror."

Our own favourite Ratters story is one in which silence was more golden than speech. He was, it is said, walking along the Lower Passage, characteristically nursing the small of his back with one hand, when a daring spirit behind him dropped a penny into the open palm. The fingers fastened on the coin and without a word the inscrutable figure passed on, keeping his thoughts and the penny to himself.

Ratters was scholarly yet not pedantic, intolerant of sham yet not captious, and always able to see the human being beneath the abysmal ignorance. It is a tribute to his personality that few who were at Stowe in its first twenty-five years can remember the School without remembering him as part of it.

LANDMARKS

MR. A. E. WARDEN

Mr. A. E. Warden died on December 19th, the last day of term, after a long illness which he had borne, as was his nature, philosophically and cheerfully. After serving in the Royal Artillery he came to Stowe when the School opened in May 1923, and from that time until 1958, when ill-health forced him to give up his work, he filled the position of Head Houseman with indefatigable energy and resourcefulness. All but the younger generation of Stoics will remember his efficiency in handling trunks or chairs or pianos, and the dash with which he and his staff went into action with the Fire Engine. He was both loved and respected by his subordinates, and many a man in the locality will speak with pride of the days when he was "one of Bert Warden's boys". He lived successively in the Corinthian Arch, the Boycott Pavilion, and the Sanatorium Lodge, but most of us will associate him with his headquarters in the Trunk Room, where, bland and imperturbable, he would find what was wanted or suggest a way round a crisis. We are profoundly thankful that for its first thirty-five years the School was blessed with so good and faithful a servant.

RETIREMENT

This term has seen the retirement of Mr. H. A. Garrett, who joined the Bursar's Office in December 1923. Every term since then, with the exception of two when he was absent owing to major operations, he has been responsible for the end-of-term accounts, journey-sheets and pocket-money; for 30 years he has also been in charge of stationery.

In 1933 he took over the Treasurership of *The Stoic*, and it is largely due to him that the financial side of the magazine is so sound and businesslike. In addition he sends out about 400 copies per term to subscribers; in fact, it is almost an even chance that this copy came to you in an envelope addressed by him. We are all delighted, and no-one more so than the Editor, that he will still be able to continue his present association with *The Stoic*.

He is an expert bowls-player, and in July the Old Stoics presented him with a full set of woods, which he was thus able to use, with great success, during the past season.

Mr. Garrett has served under three Headmasters and seven Bursars, and has seen the School grow from the first 99 to its present size. We wish him a long and happy retirement, and hope that the staff of *The Stoic* will continue to enjoy his wise and genial co-operation for many a day to come.

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

An unusual number of Herons has been seen at Stowe this term, all near or on the Oxford Water; as many as four have been recorded there at one time. This is probably due to the fact that the Oxford Water has been restocked with fish.

The Great Crested Grebe nested on the Octagon for the first time in the School's history, and some of the brood were still there on October 18th, which is a late date for these birds.

To study aquatic birds more easily a visit to Foscoote Reservoir is well worth while; one Sunday afternoon in October the following more common species could be seen,— 22 Great Crested Grebes, 7 Shovellers, 30 Common Pochard, 50 Teal and 200 Mallard. These are only approximate counts. There was one uncommon bird on the water, a Black-Necked Grebe; as it was in winter plumage the only way of identifying it was its upturned bill, which at close range was very noticeable.

NOTES ON PHOTOGRAPHS

Our frontispiece is a photograph of the North Hall ceiling. To quote a description of the House and Gardens published in 1838, "the ceiling is painted by Kent, and represents the seven planets; the ruling one, that of Mars, being the likeness of William III, presents a sword to Field Marshal Viscount Cobham, in allusion to that Prince having given him the command of a regiment". The plate facing page 16 appeared in *The Stoic* of April 1934, by permission of *The Illustrated London News*.

The plates facing pages 32 and 33 are of interest in connection with the article "The Stowe Beeches"; the latter also in connection with the Rev. P. E. Warrington, whose death is reported in *Stoica*, and who appears on the left of the photograph. Behind him is Sir Charles King-Harman, a Governor: on his left are Mr. I. A. Clarke, first Housemaster of Grenville and of Walpole, and master in charge of forestry; Lord Gisborough, Chairman of the Governors; and the Headmaster, Mr. J. F. Roxburgh.

OLIM ALUMNI

Lt.-Col. H. C. I. ROME (C 1937) is Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Squadron Leader D. C. A. LLOYD, R.A.F. (C 1946) is Personal Air Secretary to the Secretary of State for Air.

P. G. H. GELL (T 1932) is Professor of Immunological Pathology in the University of Birmingham.

C. GRAHAM (-BONNALIE) (T 1950) once again produced the Hoffnung Music Festival, on November 28th 1961 in the Royal Festival Hall.

W. C. O. MUNKS (C 1947), as Captain of Richmond Football Club, played an important part in the celebrations of its Centenary Year, and spoke to very good effect at the Dinner, which was attended by the President of the Rugby Union and half the Judges of the High Court.

C. S. WATES (B 1958) gained a Blue for Rugby Football at Oxford University and played as hooker in the scrum in the 'Varsity Match.

T. E. B. SOPWITH (G 1950) on August 19th 1961 won the first Offshore Power Boats Race, on a course of 155 miles, in *Thunderbolt*.

BIRTHS

To the wife of :

K. ALLEN (C 1946) a son on August 12th 1961; M. V. BENTHALL (S 1949) a son on October 15th 1959; M. D. BERGER (S 1954) a son on September 18th 1961; H. D. BINYON (C 1938) a son on June 14th 1961; R. P. BOURDON SMITH (S 1943) a daughter on August 22nd 1961; P. R. BRIANT (B 1937) a son on December 3rd 1961; J. I. G. CAPADOSE (T 1943) a son on October 18th 1961; J. R. A. CHARD (C 1948) a son on June 24th 1961; C. A. COOPER (G 1945) a son on July 1st 1961; C. F. CULLIS (W 1941) a son on June 9th 1961; R. G. CUNNINGHAM (T 1950) a son on June 17th 1960; J. D. P. CURRIE (G 1949) a son on May 18th 1961; P. R. CUTFORTH (S 1952) a daughter on April 6th 1961; P. J. DIGGLE (C 1939) a son on September 6th 1961; THE LORD DUNALLEY (S 1931) a son on October 31st 1961 (in Dublin); C. P. EVE (G 1945) a son on January 25th 1961; K. L. FARRAR (S 1945) a son on July 16th 1961; M. A. FERGUSON-SMITH (G 1949) a daughter on July 23rd 1961; M. FRASER-ALLEN (C 1953) a son on May 16th 1961 (in Malaya); J. L. GALE (C 1953) a son on June 16th 1961; R. A. GUINNESS (C 1943) a son on August 11th 1961; R. E. HODGKIN (C 1942) a son on May 11th 1961; S. W. HOLLINGS (T 1941) a son on July 31st 1961; J. W. R. KEMPE (B 1936) a son on May 26th 1961; M. F. MELLOR (B 1949) a son on April 24th 1961; D. B. METCALFE (T 1937) a son on January 24th 1961; P. A. MULGAN (G 1945) a son on August 28th 1961; P. C. J. NICHOLL (B 1938) a son on June 21st 1960; G. C. O'FARRELL (C 1935) a daughter on May 30th 1960; B. R. B. PATERSON (W 1947) a son on August 19th 1961; F. A. RUHEMANN (C 1948) a daughter on May 3rd 1961; D. H. SANDERS (S 1948) a son on July 28th 1961; D. P. W. SCOTT (B 1946) a son on October 31st 1961; P. D. STERN (W 1950) a son on July 26th 1961; J. B. TEMPERLEY (T 1947) a son on June 28th 1961; C. B. WALKER (W 1943) a son on September 18th 1961.

MARRIAGES

J. F. CULLIS (W 1944) to Laura Frances Harriet Graham Bell on April 19th 1960.
 P. R. CUTFORTH (S 1952) to Sara Innes on August 15th 1959.
 N. A. EDDY (G 1958) to Constance Broadbent Craig on August 17th 1960.
 D. L. E. EVAN-HUGHES (C 1950) to Margaret Lloyd Jones on July 22nd 1961.
 M. A. FERGUSON-SMITH (G 1949) to Marie Eve Gzowska on July 11th 1960.
 P. B. E. GIBSON (B 1948) to Yvonne Mary Obbard on October 28th 1961.
 R. T. C. A. HALL (C 1955) to Susan Elizabeth Bewick on September 16th 1961.

J. S. B. HENDERSON (C 1954) to Janet Todd on August 12th 1961.
 J. P. JULIAN (W 1950) to Joyce Grace Richardson on May 27th 1961.
 B. W. MALLINSON (T 1955) to Charlotte Hilary Whittaker on October 22nd 1960.
 L. R. S. MARLER (S 1947) to Miss E. Browning on November 9th 1961.
 A. D. MILLER (G 1955) to Susan Rachel Cowen on October 31st 1961.
 M. MORLAND (B 1947) to Lillian Jensen on March 25th 1961.
 M. A. PERRING (G 1955) to Elizabeth Barnes on September 30th 1961.
 G. ROY THOMAS (B 1948) to Josephine Marascia on April 2nd 1960.
 D. R. STEVENS (W 1954) to Patricia Ann Rose on May 6th 1961.
 G. R. N. WETTON (B 1955) to Anne Thackeray on July 29th 1961.
 J. H. WOLSTENHOLME (G 1954) to Pamela Coops on June 3rd 1961.

DEATHS

J. M. BRAGG (W 1956) on August 25th 1961, after an operation.
 J. L. ELVY, M.C. (T 1934) in Rhodesia during October 1960.
 A. N. GRIFFITH, M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S., D.L.O. (B 1946) on October 29th 1961.
 J. J. HARTLAND-SWANN (B 1926) on November 2nd 1961, in Singapore.
 H. B. ROBERTSON (W 1955) on September 13th 1961, as the result of an accident.
 W. R. WHITEHEAD (G 1956) on August 29th 1961, as the result of an accident.

OLD STOIC RUGGER DAY—OCTOBER 14th, 1961

The Old Stoics were again able to put the best part of three XV's on to the field—and three very good games resulted. The nearest approach to a runaway defeat was in the 2nd, where the pack found the boys too fit and fast for some who had to play out of position.

The 1st XV beat the School for the third year running (but this didn't prevent the School from dealing with Rugby by 17—3 and Bedford by 13—6 in the following week). Geoffrey Duckworth showed the School and his fiancée that Staff College duties at Camberley have not reduced his speed (although he did leave 12 years ago), by scoring a fine try. Hamp-Ferguson scored one from the base of the scrum, and Boyd-Smith kicked a penalty. Knight, the Stowe Captain, replied with one for the School. It was encouraging to have the last three Captains of Rugger playing in the same side as Peter Shinner who captained way back in 1950.

Results.—Old Stoics 1st XV 9 Stowe 1st XV 3 Won.
 2nd XV 8 2nd XV 24 Lost.
 3rd XV 3 3rd XV 9 Lost.

The following represented the 1st XV :—J. A. Boyd-Smith (C 1956), A. J. Arnold (B 1956), P. G. Shinner (B 1950) (Capt.), P. J. Sefton (G 1955), G. L. D. Duckworth (C 1949), D. G. Parkinson (W 1960), A. J. Hamp-Ferguson (W 1961), M. Wightman (C 1961), D. J. Easton (W 1959), J. D. Powell-Rees (G 1955), D. R. Hayes (B 1957), R. M. Elliott (C 1956), C. H. Clucas (W 1961), J. E. G. Nayler (W 1958), A. D. Cooper (W 1961).

2nd XV :—H. R. Herrington (C 1950), M. K. Ridley (C 1956), R. Dacey (C 1956), I. H. Agnew (W 1959), P. Griggs (B 1957), J. A. Jefferson (B 1960), G. Roy Thomas

(B 1948), D. Moyle (W 1960), N. B. Venning (G 1956), W. R. C. Heap (W 1958), P. J. Blayney (C 1958), R. Hay (W 1960), J. H. Bryan (T 1957), J. W. Baker (G 1958).

3rd XV :—J. H. Arkell (G 1957), N. G. Clayton (G 1956), K. S. E. Carslaw (G 1958), A. W. V. Ireland (C 1961), J. R. Crosby (G 1957), J. R. Hunter-Coddington (C 1958), N. J. R. Kay (G 1957), P. M. Rossiter (C 1950) (Capt.), H. R. Kay (G 1960), C. P. D. Yarwood (G 1961), P. L. Duncan (B 1960), J. L. Hunter-Coddington (C 1959).

LECTURES

THE 1960 GREENLAND EXPEDITION

BY MR. A. BLACKSHAW ON OCTOBER 10th, IN THE ROXBURGH HALL

The area visited was the Staunings Alps in Scoresby Land on the North-East coast of Greenland. Mr. Blackshaw began his lecture by telling us the purpose and composition of the expedition. The party, which was led by Sir John Hunt, comprised 14 mountaineers and scientists, supported by a group of boys who had achieved Gold Award standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. An outstanding feature of the expedition was Youth Training, and close co-operation and friendship grew up between the Junior and Senior Members.

The object was to explore the region and to climb some of its mountains. Scientific work upon a glacier and the study of Arctic Terns were also carried out. We were shown some magnificent pictures of all sorts of scenery, flowers, and animals such as the Musk Ox and the Arctic Hare. The main party was split up into several exploring and mountaineering parties, which explored some hitherto unvisited regions. A journey of 200 miles was made to visit Syd Kap, the traditional summer colony of Eskimoes from Scoresby Sound; but unfortunately it was discovered on arrival that the Eskimoes were not using this hunting base then. We were shown pictures of an extremely hazardous voyage in a small boat which had to get past a glacier with icebergs continually dropping off it.

An interesting visit was paid to Mestersvig, where the Northern Mining Company of Copenhagen has a very important lead and zinc mine. Here work is carried out for 24 hours a day all the year round and it is strange to find a settlement so far north. The lecture and expedition ended on a happy note. The aeroplane carrying the members back to Iceland was able to report that it had sighted the boat carrying missing scientists from Mestersvig and they were subsequently rescued.

R.L.J.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND THE PRESS

BY MR. J. L. W. PRICE, ON NOVEMBER 7th, IN THE ROXBURGH HALL

That this lecture was an astounding success no-one can deny, and this must be attributed not only to the intrinsic interest of the subject but also to the style of the

lecturer. If a fault may be found it is that Mr. Price gave us too many examples rather than describing his job in general terms. Yet perhaps this was wise; for lectures in the Roxburgh Hall should be for entertainment as well as instruction and we were certainly entertained.

Mr. Price, who is a Foreign Office spokesman, gave us some idea of his job by saying that he was liable to be telephoned anywhere at any time, but that he thought the press would not have tracked him down to Stowe; indeed he hoped not, for what he had to say might be embarrassing for the government if it got into the wrong hands. *The Stoic*, however, had not been overlooked, and Mr. Price was then cynical about the type of report he was likely to receive from this august magazine. Continuing in more general terms he told us how newspapers obtained their news—through correspondents, agencies, special reporters and so forth. But it was the interpretation of the news that mainly concerned Mr. Price, and he told us how the Foreign Office encouraged the diplomatic correspondents to deal with their spokesmen before writing articles on British Foreign policy. It was, he added, one of the most exciting aspects of his job to persuade a journalist not to write the stinking leader he had planned and to convert him to agreeing that the government policy was not as mad as he had imagined, even at the expense of allowing him access to some confidential facts on the condition that they were not published. However, when agency reports of importance reach the editor's office just before going to press some newspapers publish without waiting for confirmation or consulting the Foreign Office. *The Daily Mirror*, which is suspect to many, does not sin in this way.

In the second half, Mr. Price told us about his day and the organization of his department. There are six Foreign Office spokesmen, who are generally chosen now from professional diplomats (although this was not always the case—Osbert Lancaster used to be one), of whom two are senior to the others and answer the more important questions; one of these spokesmen is always available. When Mr. Price arrives at his office, the day's papers have been dissected for foreign news, and after dealing with these he looks through the cables from British Embassies abroad. After a co-ordinating meeting the midday press-conference is held; to this all journalists bearing a card are admitted, although British journalists do not usually attend. Immediately this is over it is transmitted on the teleprinter network; so quickly indeed that by the time Mr. Price has walked across Horse Guards Parade to his club the ticker-tape already has his words on it. The rest of the day is devoted to individual conferences with groups of journalists who are sufficiently trustworthy to be told confidential facts.

One of Mr. Price's greatest responsibilities is having to comment authoritatively on British viewpoints in international affairs; this has frequently to be done on his own initiative alone. It is important also that his comments should be concise so that taking a piece out of context will not create a misleading impression; and that they should avoid ambiguity and should say something more than 'No comment', which editors always succeed in expanding. The lecture was well interspersed with humorous but, alas, unquotable comments, and gave an excellent idea of the difficulties facing a press correspondent.

N.O.G.M.

THE POLICE

BY MR. R. B. MATTHEWS (B 1934), CHIEF CONSTABLE OF CORNWALL,
ON NOVEMBER 14th, IN THE ROXBURGH HALL

Before beginning the lecture, Mr. Matthews informed the school that he was not the only Old Stoic policeman, as had been stated, as the Commissioner of Uganda was also an O.S. Mr. Matthews then described the origins of the Force, and how it has not always been as popular as it is now. He explained how the police were paid and then described the various departments that make up a local station.

There followed the section of the lecture which must have appealed most to the audience—the section in which photographs were shown. The lecturer gave some friendly advice to any who might be inclined to blow a safe, and then described a case where the police had unfortunately not succeeded. After he had expressed the wish that he hoped crime would continue to supply his salary, he laid himself open to questions.

Although perhaps one was not inspired to join the Police, Mr. Matthews certainly made the workings of the Force very clear. It was altogether a most worthwhile lecture.

E.G.M.R.-S.

MODERN INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

BY SIR GORDON RUSSELL, C.B.E., M.C., F.S.I.A., ON NOVEMBER 23rd,
IN THE ROXBURGH HALL

As an introduction to his lecture Sir Gordon Russell said a few words about design. The nineteenth-century artist, he said, had been concerned almost exclusively with façade; the modern manufacturer considers an article well-designed if it sells well; but first, and most important, said Sir Gordon, an article must function properly and be made of the right material. Above all, it must give pleasure to those who use it. He appealed to Stoics as potential patrons to be critical and design-conscious; for, he said, the future of our country depends on the quality of the products we can export and it is the patrons who have most influence on design.

While showing us his remarkably good collection of slides illustrating the difference between excellent design and its opposite, Sir Gordon commented on the main points of each, emphasizing the contrasts. Starting with lettering for signs and sign-posts, he worked his way through to Italian flower pots via gas-stoves, clocks, telephone-boxes, petrol-stations, tea-pots and a host of other things.

One essential of good design, he stressed, is simplification, both on account of the aesthetic satisfaction it gives and, hardly less important nowadays, because it facilitates cleaning. He showed us an excellent example of a small part of a street frontage in an old town before and after alteration, which amply demonstrated how much can be achieved by cutting out unnecessary signs, simplifying existing ones, and making intelligent use of decoration to improve the appearance of the buildings themselves.

Never, he said finally, has there been an age when designers have been so ashamed of current design. He deplored the tendency to reproduce sham design of previous periods. "The best way," he said, "to show respect for the best of old design is to build, side by side with it, something of equal calibre in a modern style." We were assured that the best of each period could blend perfectly side by side in the same room or street.

T.E.C.B.

MUSIC

On October 8th Campoli gave a recital in the Roxburgh Hall. There is always something exciting about a Celebrity Concert, and certainly on this occasion we were not disappointed. Campoli warmed up on a *Ciaccona* by Vitali—would that be the Italian for a Chaconne?—and then plunged into the Beethoven *Kreutzer Sonata*. This he played with consummate ease and with a beauty of tone which was always endearing and at times convincing. After the interval he tickled the ears of the groundlings with some truly luscious playing of pieces by Suk and Wieniawski. This was a very good concert. The classical first half was matched by a second half which not only appealed to all save the tone deaf, but also showed off every virtuoso trick in the bag. There was, in fact, something for everyone, and a good time was had by all.

The Military Band held its concert on November 5th, and they indubitably produced the appropriate fireworks. This type of music with its strong melodic attraction has an almost universal appeal, and Stoics are fortunate in having a Band of such high quality. The first two items in this concert, a *Fantasia* by Bouillon and a *Valse Hongroise* by Ivanovici, were well-played enough, but things really got going with *The Lisbon Story* and *Pedro the Fisherman* by the harbour-wall. Our more limited supply substituted well for Meredith Willson's *Seventy-six Trombones* from *The Music Man*, and then came much the best part of the evening with a long selection from the operettas of Lehar. The band steadily improved as one gorgeous melody followed another, and were in excellent form for the next item, Offenbach's *Galop* from *Orpheus in the Underworld*, alias the Can-Can. A most enjoyable concert ended with an *Alford March*, and, as a surprise addition, the *Rodgers March* from *The Valiant Years*.

How Mr. Webb performs his termly miracle of producing such distinguished playing on the comparatively small amount of time available for rehearsal is one of those pleasant things one is content not to understand but merely to accept with gratitude.

The next Concert, the first of the two 'Music in the Library' recitals, was on November 12th. The present writer was unfortunately unable to attend it, but consulted a learned colleague and gleaned the following facts. This was apparently about the most distinguished group of musicians who have ever appeared together at Stowe. A *Concerto Grosso* by Vivaldi was a most pleasing opener and led the way to a *Bach Suite* which was played with more abandon and real enjoyment than is

usually found in the average musician's approach to this monumental composer. A juvenile work by Rossini closed the first half of the concert. The second half consisted of two heavily contrasting works—Bach's *6th Brandenburg Concerto* and Elgar's *Serenade in E Minor*. My colleague felt that the magnificence of the Bach made things rather hard for Elgar, but that he provided a finale of great charm with a central Larghetto which was most beautifully played.

The second 'Music in the Library' Concert took place on November 26th, and consisted of two string quartets by Mozart and Dvorak respectively, and groups of songs by Purcell and Schubert. The Mozart quartet was delightfully played and showed off all the composer's habitual blend of technical mastery and sheer natural charm. In the songs Anne Keynes used a light and expressive soprano voice most attractively, and was accompanied with unusual taste, discretion and skill by Mr. Leach. The Purcell group was interesting and entertaining, but the Schubert selection was really most memorable—particularly *Im Frühling* with its haunting accompaniment, and *The Shepherd on the Rock* where John Melvin contributed a most accomplished obbligato on the clarinet. The concert ended with the *Quartet in E Flat* by Dvorak. This work opened with a melody so rich that one felt that the composer was lucky to have avoided the fate of Schubert, Grieg and Borodin with their *Lilac Times*, *Songs of Norway* and *Kismets*. The four movements were all similarly attractive and typical, and well up to the standard set by the more famous *American née 'Nigger' Quartet in F Major*.

The School Concert was held on the last Saturday of the term, December 16th. It began with Vaughan Williams' Overture *The Wasps*, last heard in the Roxburgh Hall when it was played by the Birmingham City Orchestra under Sir Adrian Boult. The Stowe Orchestra gave a splendid performance of this work—intended to represent the litigious activity of the ancient Athenians, and succeeding in being as English as the Malvern Hills. It must be great fun to play, and it is certainly very thrilling on the ear. Bach's *Suite No. 3* followed, best known as the possessor of the Air on the G String, and here too the playing was excellent in the various dance rhythms of the movements. After the interval the Christmas music from Handel's *Messiah* was played and sung by the orchestra, an imported Contralto and Tenor, the Choral Society, and twelve young ladies from Tile House who greatly strengthened our trebles and altos. Gordon Pullin, the tenor, had a most pleasing light voice—he would have made a fine Narrator in either of the two great Bach 'Passions'—and Janet Edmunds sang richly and with great warmth and understanding. It was a pity that the Bob Wallis Jazz Concert was

inadvertently arranged for the previous night, and that so many Stoics appeared unable to raise their musical sights sufficiently to attend both concerts. Those who stayed away missed a splendid musical evening.

It only remains to thank Mr. Watson and his so talented team of helpers, the orchestra and the band for all the hours of hard work they have put in to give us so much pure and undiluted pleasure from such a pleasing and varied programme.

A.M.

PROGRAMMES OF CONCERTS

CAMPOLI (*Violin*)

Accompanied by DAPHNE IBBOTT (*Piano*)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8th IN THE ROXBURGH HALL

Ciaccona	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Vitali
Sonata in A major, Op. 47 (The Kreutzer)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Beethoven
Adagio sostenuto—Presto; Andante con variazioni; Finale, Presto								
Four Pieces, Op. 17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	J. Suk
Quasi ballata								
Appassionato								
Un poco triste								
Burleska								
Legende	}	...	...	...	...	...	...	Wieniawski
Caprice in E flat								
Caprice in A minor								
Polonaise No. 1 in D								

CONCERTS BY THE SCHOOL MILITARY BAND

Conductor—MR. E. J. WEBB

AT ST. HELEN'S SCHOOL, NORTHWOOD, ON OCTOBER 22nd

IN THE ROXBURGH HALL ON NOVEMBER 5th

Fantasia for Military Band	...	...	...	...	...	Bouillon
Valse Hongroise: "Le Sang Roumain"	...	...	...	...	...	Ivanovici
Selection from "The Lisbon Story"	...	...	...	...	...	Harry Parr Davies
Excerpts from "The Music Man"—"Seventy Six Trombones"						
Meredith Willson						
Viennese Memories of Lehar	...	...	...	...	...	arr. Godfrey
Galop from "Orpheus in the Underworld"	...	...	...	...	...	Offenbach
March: "The Cavalry of the Clouds"	...	...	...	...	...	Alford

THE STOIC

MUSIC IN THE LIBRARY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12th

CHAMBER ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

WILLIAM BENNETT (<i>Flute</i>)	MARGARET MAJOR (<i>Viola</i>)
PERRY HART (<i>Violin</i>)	JOHN UNDERWOOD (<i>Viola</i>)
JURGEN HESS (<i>Violin</i>)	BRUNO SCHRECKER (<i>Cello</i>)
NÍGEL FINZI (<i>Violin</i>)	RHUNA MARTIN (<i>Cello</i>)
LESLEY MELVIN (<i>Violin</i>)	T. E. C. BUSHELL (C) (<i>Cello</i>)
IAIN SUTHERLAND (<i>Violin</i>)	MR. R. J. F. PROCTOR (<i>Harpsichord</i>)
JOHN GRAY (<i>Bass</i>)	
Conductor—MR. A. J. WATSON	

Concerto Grosso in D ma F. XI No. 16 *Vivaldi*
Allegro; Adagio; Allegro
Suite No. 2 in B minor for Flute and Strings *J. S. Bach*
Overture; Rondeau; Sarabande; Bourrée I; Bourrée II; Polonaise &
Double; Menuet; Badinerie
Sonata in C for Violins, 'Cellos and Bass *Rossini*
Allegro; Andante; Moderato
Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 for Violas, 'Cellos and Bass *J. S. Bach*
Allegro moderato; Adagio ma non tanto; Allegro
Serenade in E minor *Elgar*
Allegro piacevole; Larghetto; Allegretto

MUSIC IN THE LIBRARY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26th

ANNE KEYNES (<i>Soprano</i>)	JOHN MELVIN (C 1951) (<i>Clarinet</i>)
MR. A. J. WATSON (<i>Violin</i>).	ELIZABETH WATSON (<i>Viola</i>)
LESLEY MELVIN (<i>Violin</i>)	RHUNA MARTIN (<i>Cello</i>)
MR. J. M. LEACH (<i>Piano</i>)	

String Quartet in D minor, K.421 *Mozart*
Allegro; Andante; Menuetto & Trio; Allegretto ma non troppo
"Mad Bess" }
"If Music be the food of love" }
"On the brow of Richmond Hill" } *Purcell*
"I'll sail upon the Dog-star" }
"Im Frühling" }
"Der Schiffer" }
"Der Musensohn" } *Schubert*
"The Shepherd on the Rock" }
(with *Clarinet obbligato*) }
String Quartet in E flat, Op. 51 *Dvorak*
Allegro ma non troppo; Dumka; Romanze; Finale.

THE STOIC

SCHOOL CONCERT

ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th, IN THE ROXBURGH HALL

JANET EDMUNDS (*Contralto*)
GORDON PULLIN (*Tenor*)
THE CHORAL SOCIETY
THE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA
(Leader—M. SPIRA (C))
Conductor—MR. A. J. WATSON

Overture: "The Wasps" *Vaughan Williams*
Suite No. 3 in D major *J. S. Bach*
Overture; Air; Gavotte; Bourrée; Gigue
The Christmas Music from *Messiah* *Handel*
Overture
Recit.: 'Comfort ye, my people'
Air: 'Ev'ry valley shall be exalted'
Chorus: 'And the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed'
Recit.: 'Behold a Virgin shall conceive'
Air and Chorus: 'O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion'
Chorus: 'For unto us a Child is born'
Pastoral Symphony
Recit.: 'There were shepherds abiding in the field'
Chorus: 'Glory to God'
Air: 'Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion'
Recit.: 'Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened'
Air: 'He shall feed His flock'
Chorus: 'Hallelujah'

Concerts were also given in the Roxburgh Hall by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals and by Bob Wallis and his Storyville Jazzmen.

THE HOUSE ART COMPETITION

This year Mr. Robin Treffgarne from Harrow was kind enough to come to judge and criticise the work produced by the Houses. He began by saying what a good thing it was to have such an exhibition, because it gave the opportunity to others in the school to come and see the work and to assess it. It was important for people to form their own opinions about pictures; but they must remember that pictures were an expression of a point of view and it was up to them to find out what that point of view was. He went on to say that every part of a picture was important. In a landscape the sky was definitely part of the picture and must be considered with the landscape in front

of it; in a figure subject the background must be related somehow to the figures and not be merely a plain piece of colour behind them.

Mr. Treffgarne then took the Houses in turn, beginning with Temple. D. A. Phillips was a very promising young painter. Some of his landscapes suffered because the object of interest in them was too insignificant for it to be possible to build the painting round it. His painting of trees was a good example of his work; the trees themselves were well drawn and painted and well arranged on the canvas. The drawings of C. J. Buchanan-Jardine were good and should be tried out also as paintings.

In Bruce there was a good painting of a canal by P. W. Hinwood in which the water was sympathetically done but the trees were perhaps rather heavy. P. J. August's drawings showed good observation and were well executed in pencil.

In Grafton, H. L. Cowdy's work was outstanding. He managed the clouds in his landscapes very well; but probably his best work was his water-colour drawings, which had a vigorous lighting and movement and excellent colour, which he had not been able to attain in his oils. Especially interesting were his paintings of subjects which were not in themselves particularly picturesque. This applied to the work of D. G. Sutcliffe, who also had a painting of the Acropolis which showed that he could handle the medium well.

In Chandos, J. H. Frazer's courageous use of colour and paint was to be encouraged; but probably his best painting was of a group of boats seen through a hole in the hull of another, a particularly difficult subject to tackle. T. S. Taylor had an individual way of handling paint, which gave a liveliness and movement to his work. G. R. P. Gibberd had done some competent painting; his picture of the church contained some very well controlled bold shapes and a rich and luminous sense of colour.

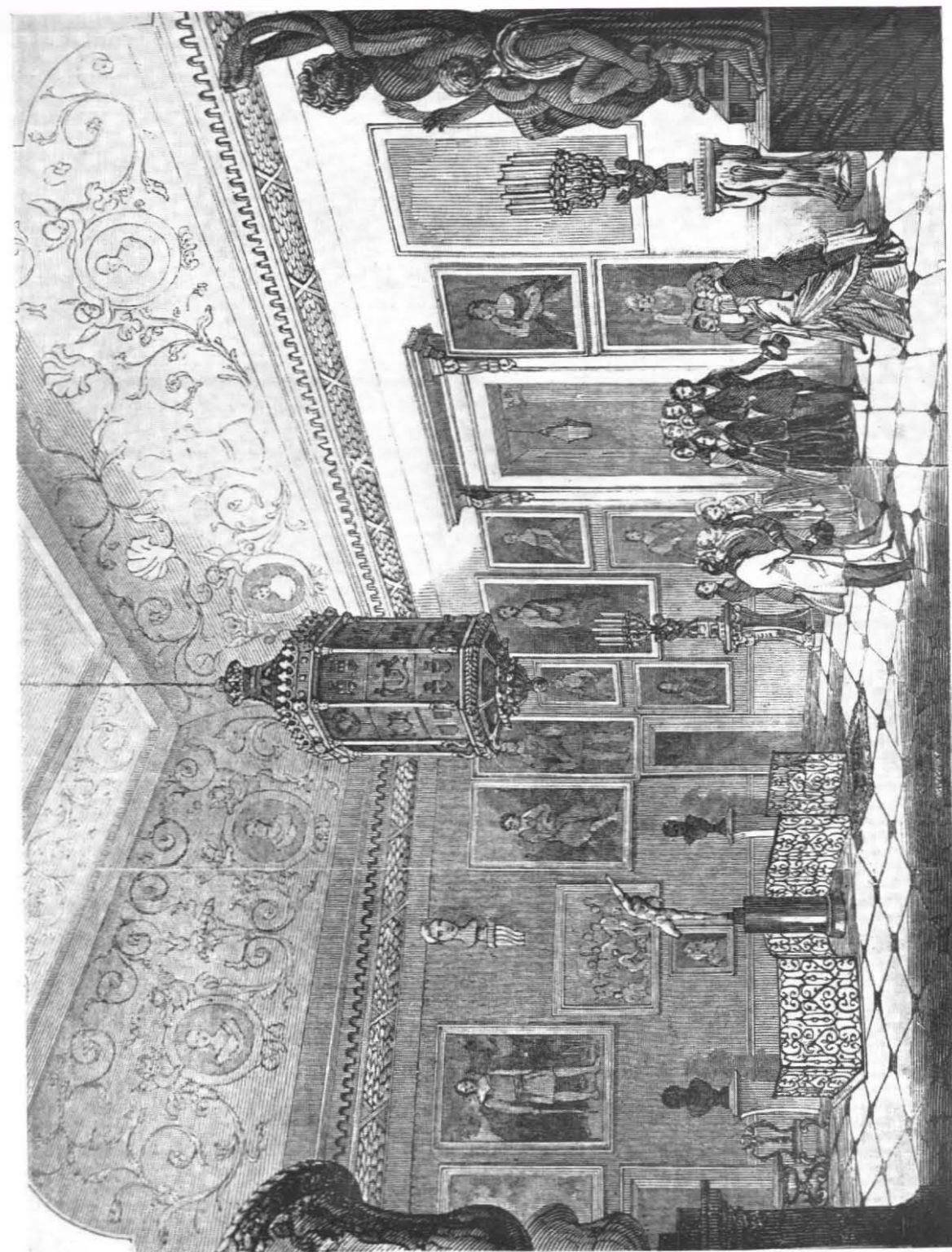
In Grenville and Chatham, who combined to make a show, P. M. Gallegos had done a good still life, but it was an example of a background having little connection with the subject. S. Buckingham had done several paintings of some personal charm, but they tended to lack light, particularly on the horizontal surfaces.

In Walpole, J. A. Maxwell had some lively work; his copy of Van Gogh was a good shot, but it was an almost impossible thing to do—probably well worth trying. C. J. Grattan-Cooper drew cars very well, but did not always succeed in relating them to the background. The setting of such things was vital from a pictorial point of view.

In Cobham, N. O. Faure's cars were drawn with notable expertness; the danger lay in that he should do so many small drawings, which after a time, became merely an exhibition of technical skill. He should draw and paint a car five feet long as an exciting exercise. J. Doubleday was a young painter of great promise; it was such a relief to find someone so interested in people. He did not always relate his figures to his background successfully, but he had succeeded in this in his painting of the roadmenders. P. D. Campkin had some excellent work but should endeavour to be more adventurous in colour; his drawing was good. E. H. Blagg's paintings of boats showed sensitive feeling towards his subjects.

Mr. Treffgarne awarded first place to Chandos and bracketed Cobham and Grafton second. He then said that he wished to congratulate everyone for so excellent an exhibition and said that he was sure that it was well worth all the hard work they had put into it.

M. J. M.



THE NORTH HALL, 1845
Queen Victoria leaving the House



FROM THE CEDAR—1.

Photograph by J.P.H.C.



FROM THE CEDAR—2.

Photograph by J.P.H.C.

RING ROUND THE MOON

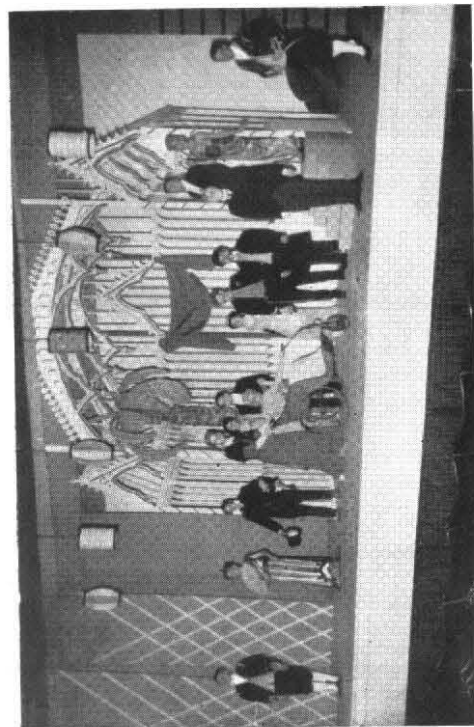
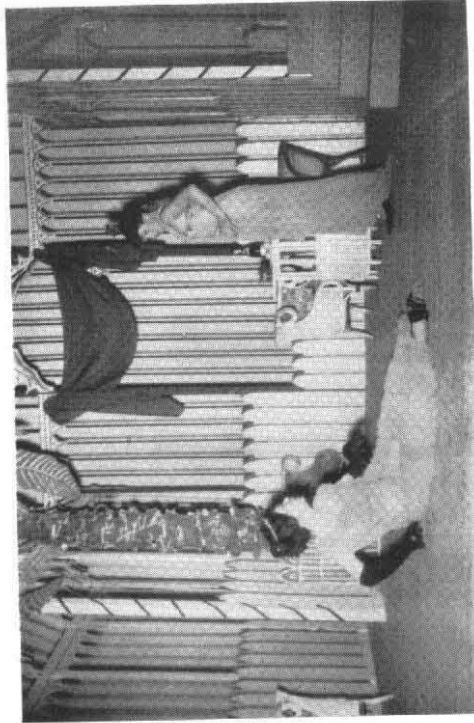
By JEAN ANOUILH

Translated by CHRISTOPHER FRY

Presented by the Congreve Club on December 1st and 2nd in the Roxburgh Hall.

The editor of the Penguin edition of this play speaks of a steel structure beneath the gossamer; the *Times* critic, writing of the London production, spoke of a fairy-tale of Musset-like grace, its sentiment masked by cool, brittle, elegant mockery. Whether one sees more of the steel or the fairy-tale must be a matter of taste and temperament, but there are certainly here familiar elements of the Anouilh pattern. If it is not straining symbolism to see significance in a winter-garden setting, the characters are almost without exception hot-house creatures of the age of Saki, bored with their own hedonism but incapable of anything better, devoid of serious emotion; they live in a web of artificiality ("I fall in love as a matter of routine," says one of them), of deception of self and others. Into this decadent world wanders the Cinderella-like figure of a young ballet-dancer; the theme of youthful innocence beset by cynicism and sophistication is not uncommon in Anouilh. But this is not a *pièce noire*, and after some anguish Cinderella gets not only her fairy prince but also the opportunity of saving, temporarily, a millionaire's soul; lest however we should fall into sentimentality, a telegram shatters this bogus Arcadianism so beloved of American film-producers before the war, and the millionaire is left enjoying his redoubled millions and a firework display, and along with everyone else, is presumed to live happily ever after. So perhaps it was a charade after all, or, like Prufrock, merely an 'observation'.

To bring to life an insubstantial pageant of this nature for two and a half hours with a cast of whom only two or three could claim comparative adulthood was one of Mr. Bain's more striking achievements. Short as it is on development and dramatic incident its success must depend on the pace of the production and the quality of the acting. Such productions as *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Imaginary Invalid* have familiarised us with Mr. Bain's talent for creating the atmosphere of more urbane and wittier times than ours, and he was lucky to have on this occasion two established members of the Club who clearly relish this mannered mockery and have the gift of mimicry and feeling for language to carry it off; P. N. T. Phillips (T), on whom the main burden fell, took the rapidly alternating metamorphosis in his stride, though he seemed happier as the heartless Hugo (a more rewarding part anyway) than as the gentler Frederic; W. R. B. Allan (T) made a splendid foil with an adroit mixture of vanity, timidity, pomposity, and fatuity, and it was a nice touch to give him a stammer. In a way more remarkable than these, however, were the women, more remarkable in that they were younger and (I suspect) new to the stage, and yet almost without exception extremely good. D. H. Reid (G), as the young ballet-dancer Isabelle, though overawed by the grandeur of her surroundings, was beautifully composed as a dancer should be, and moved and spoke with a very touching dignity and pathos; only in the two scenes where the comedy took on a farcical quality did the immaturity show. N. S. Lewin (C) as her mother gave an equally impressive performance as a vulgar, soulless woman, wildly excited by her daughter's apparent chances of fortune and brashly aspiring to gentility. D. R. Howard's (C) Lady India, magnificently gowned



Photographs by M. J. M.

"RING ROUND THE MOON"
presented by the Congreve Club in the Roxburgh Hall on December 1st and 2nd

and bedizened, all teeth and smiles, a scarlet woman whom no-one could take seriously, least of all herself, loped across the stage with lithe abandon, contrary and inconsequential, a dumb blonde if ever there was one. R. D. Rayman (G) had not quite the presence or manner for Madame Desmermortes (what a name to live up to, anyway), but the old lady's kindly tyranny was well bolstered by a breathless, teetering performance by M. H. Shearing (B) as her faded companion Capulat. R. B. Swanston (B), a little Junoesque in a sleeveless gown, had the most colourless of the female roles, and so may be forgiven for being somewhat wooden. As for the other male characters, T. G. E. Kilpatrick (C), the melancholy Messerschmann, was to begin with a slightly sinister figure reminiscent of Groucho Marx, but one warmed to him in his troubles as time went by, especially when the addition of a bowler gave him a touch of Chaplin. D. H. Temple (S) was very competent as the spineless Patrice, and there was an amusing character-study from C.D. Richardson (C) as the butler, though he was a little inaudible at times.

I did not personally care for the scene in which Isabelle and Diana lose their tempers, nor for that in which Isabelle and Messerschmann throw away the latter's money, but that may be the play's fault, or mine, and in any case my embarrassment was not shared by those about me, to judge by their loud acclaims; it can hardly be blamed on the production, which was at all points superb. An airy, glassy set, hinting at rather than portraying luxury, made for speed of entry and exit and for an eerie preview of the characters before they actually appeared, and here, round the central, forlorn figure of Isabelle, seldom off the stage for any length of time, the little groups of intrigue formed and melted and re-formed gracefully and with apparently effortless ease. The services of a choreographer are, I imagine, seldom sought in a school play, but Mr. Hunt had coaxed his performers into some masterly foot-work, executed, by Lady India in particular, with great zest. With Addinsell's music floating in the background, and a certain amount of traffic through the double doors, the illusion of gaiety beyond the immediate scene was well maintained.

The costumes, make-up, and lighting were as usual excellent.

B.S.S.

BOOK REVIEW

"TACKLE SKI-ING THIS WAY"

By ROBERT SKEPPER (T 1956) (*Stanley Paul* 12/6)

Mr. Robert Skepper, a member of the British Olympics Team, and one of the leading exponents of the revolutionary 'counter-rotation' techniques of ski-ing, is well qualified to write on this subject. He leads up to the refinements of High-Speed Ski-ing and Ski-Racing in a mere 65 pages. These first pages illustrate in a particularly lucid way the various stages that must be mastered to become a really competent skier. Not only is each stage logically presented but it is accompanied by detailed explanations of the most common faults, their causes and their remedies. These explanations, based as they are on the dynamics of posture, are easy to understand and seem even easier to put into practice.

The chapters dealing with equipment and the choice of ski-ing resorts will be particularly appreciated by the complete novice and even the experienced skier will find

reliable comments on the most advanced developments. The resorts, although rather parochial, are certainly among the best known of the down-hill ski-ing centres. It is perhaps to be regretted that the author confines himself to the Alpine centres and neglects those of Norway and the even more modest slopes of the Cairngorms, but this is because the book is restricted to down-hill ski-ing. Comments on the most natural forms of ski-ing, ski mountaineering and ski touring, would have presented a more balanced picture of the subject as a whole.

As the author himself admits, no amount of reading can give the feel of ski-ing nor the confidence so essential to safe, successful and stylish performance. This small book, more than any other, gives the incentive to try these new techniques.

K.I.M.

THE HOUR-GLASS

(Awarded a 'Stoic' prize of One Guinea)

Thick, black smoke exudes from the central mass of irregular form, while all around tiny pricks of light flash as if aware of the unavoidable disaster. A gust of wind inflames the already crackling timber, and long yellow claws caress, clutch at, and cling to the charred bricks. The flames spread, clawing at the beckoning branches. Nearby, the pricks of light are swelling. The branches dissolve in fire and the spindly twigs writhe, and stiffen into charcoal. The red globules quiver and burst into flames, spattering the central mass with splashes of amber. Above, a smouldering branch snaps, crashes onto the smoke-stained tiles, and rolls on down onto

the carpet.

It lies there glowing.

Soon a brown ring spreads out

from it on the carpet; the edge of the

growing hole turns red, then yellow, and flames dance, free now, waltzing over the expanse of matted, dying cloth. Heavy grey smoke pours from the windows and flames rise majestically from the whole structure. Around, the electric lights of the neighbouring houses are like fairy lights compared with the inferno. The fire spreads, engulfs trees, devours all in its path, and threatens to uproot an electric cable pylon. From the town a siren wails, barely audible above the raging torrent of fire. The fairy lights seem to have a stronger glow and a house explodes in an eruption of flame. The siren draws nearer, and the street is full of people, flowing like a river towards the open. The street lights falter, surge, and then cut out altogether. The massive pylon, trailing cables like threads, slides to the ground vertically, then stops, then crashes down on the roof-tops.

The twisted

cross-cross

framework

lies charred

on its side—

like a fire guard.

P.R.J.E.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

THE XII CLUB

The XII Club has met twice this term. In both meetings Vancouver Lodge became the scene of the revival of a trial in which the principle involved was of more importance than the individual offence. That Stoic Napoleon, W. R. B. Allan (T), surprised no one with the Bonapartist influence of his paper: "The Trial and Execution of Marshal Ney". His account was both admirably lucid and obviously the product of considerable research. The second paper, "The Scopes Trial, 1925", was given by J. D. Goodwin (C) and was concerned with the famous Tennessee 'monkey-trial' in which the battle between Darwinism and fundamentalism came before the eye of the world; Goodwin enlivened the evening with his account of the circus aspects of the trial and even provoked some of the Club's more intellectually aloof members to laughter.

C.B.T.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

The 292nd meeting of the Society was held in the Library on Sunday, October 15th. The motion "This House desires Unilateral Nuclear Disarmament" was proposed by Mr. ALKMAN, who demanded that thought should take preference over prejudice and baffled us with an astounding amount of figures. Opposing, the CHIEF WHIP, armed with a hand-grenade, indicted Russia and the 'Better Red than Dead' weirdies. The Seconder, Mr. FENSTON, deputising at short notice for Mr. Maxwell, seemed to resemble closely one of the Opposer's weirdies as he mumbled about Russian Housing Conditions. Mr. TEMPLE, speaking fourth, was mildly cynical about it all. Among speeches from the floor were those of Mr. Duncan (B 1960), who was superfluent, and Mr. Levy, who reflected that if Birmingham was destroyed it would not really matter as he hoped it did not represent the best in the British way of life. The motion was lost in the Upper House by the President's casting vote and in the Lower House was won by two votes. Fifty attended the debate.

The 293rd meeting of the Society was held in the Library on Sunday, November 19th. The TREASURER proposed the motion "This House takes a Narrow View of Abroad" in his usual humorous vein, which was well received. Mr. JUSTESEN, who opposed, was serious but was just as funny, and Mr. RAPPOLT, the Seconder, after diluted Sellers and Waugh treated us to a ripe example of his humour. The Fourth Speaker, Mr. COWDY, broke all records by speaking for only four minutes, an eighth of his best time. Of the floor speakers, Mr. Wintle was the best with his vision of Stowe on a day-tour of Bangkok. Others worthy of mention were Mr. Maxwell with his account of a peaceful demonstration for Nuclear Disarmament in an Italian railway station that ended in a fracas with a policeman, and Mr. Williamson who defined U.N.O. as too many foreigners. The motion was won in the Upper House by three votes and lost in the Lower House by eight votes. Forty-five attended the debate.

The 294th meeting of the Society was held in the Library on Sunday, December 17th.

Mr. WAINE proposed the motion "Stowe Stands for a Good Deal" in a serious oration. The Opposer, THE LIBRARIAN, the arch-cynic, quipped about the dough-Stowe-nut and enquired into the purpose of such institutions as Speech Day and the Prefects' Mess. The Seconder, Mr. R. W. BAILEY-KING, showed how good Stowe was at putting up with problem people. The Fourth Speaker, Mr. WINTLE, summed up Stowe as a bundle of activity logs and assorted chits. Among speeches from the floor the most notable were from the President, who pointed out what a liberal institution Stowe was—for where else would the Treasurer be treated so leniently?—and Mr. Likierman, who left his monitor's tie on the proposition box and spoke against the motion. This was won in the Upper House by five votes and in the Lower House by twenty-two votes. Sixty-five attended the debate.

The following have been elected to the Society this term:—A. W. B. Duncan (C), J. A. Likierman (C), D. J. Levy (T), R. W. Bailey-King (C), W. L. Smith (C), P. M. Henry (C), A. B. Shellim (C).

The Officers of the Society were:—President, Mr. W. L. McElwee; Vice-President, Mr. M. J. Fox; Secretary, N. O. G. Murray (C); Treasurer, P. N. T. Phillips (T); Librarian, S. P. B. Magee (C); Chief Whip, J. F. Burns (S).

N.O.G.M.

THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

The term has been by no means uneventful. On October 24th, N. O. G. Murray (C), Secretary for a month, announced his resignation to the Senior Members and T.E.C. Bushell (C) was elected to take his place. Later, a series of discussions among the President and the Officers of the Society resulted in the refounding of the Nucleus—a senior paper-reading and discussion group—and changes to the constitution of the rest of the Society which will take effect from the beginning of next term. Anyone taking a Science A-level will become a Senior Member on application and there will be no limit to the number of ordinary members.

The Nucleus has met twice this term. On the first occasion the President read a paper on "Papers" and details of the group's constitution were discussed; on the second, the Secretary read a paper on "Soap Bubbles". The Senior Members have met three times—twice to be enlightened by outside lecturers and on the other occasion to hear the President's paper on "The Definition of Science". There have also been the usual weekly films, which have generally been well-attended.

At the last meeting of the Senior Members, M. Spira (C) was elected Film Secretary in succession to P. M. Henry (C), who has been very successful as the first holder of this new office.

T.E.C.B.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The main event this term was a meeting held on November 7th in the Aurelian Room. During this meeting, Mr. E. W. Green, a well-known local authority on Roman Britain, gave a talk on the Roman remains in the Ouse Valley. His talk covered both the subjects of villas and Roman roads, the latter being appropriate as it appears that Stowe is situated on or near a fairly important junction. Having taken part in numerous excavations, Mr. Green was able to impart first-hand knowledge on the subject of villas and other buildings.

J.M.J.

THE GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

The Society has been particularly successful over the last two terms, partly owing to a revision of policy, and partly owing to a considerable extension of the record library. The main change, that of allowing members to take records back to their studies, has had both advantages and disadvantages, most of which were not entirely unforeseen. The records have been subjected to harder wear than in previous years, particularly as study-holders have not always limited their use to the gramophone. However, the musical knowledge derived from them is of undisputable value.

The Society membership increased very considerably at the beginning of this term to over 120, whilst the number of long-playing records was increased to 210. Further recordings have been ordered, and whilst the Society would very much like to introduce a few more *recherché* works into its collection, it is still having to make up the skeleton of popular works essential to a successful library of this kind.

C.S.W.

THE JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

This term the House has expressed faith in various English Institutions, but not Trade Unions, which it would abolish in spite of the intelligent defence by maiden speakers R. A. K. Kreitman (N) and R. I. B. Price (B).

The Society has been amused by orations of great feeling (and length) from I. F. MacMaster (T), who has championed Typical Englishmen and Ultra-Royalism. Similar views have been expressed by D. A. Jennings (C), a little less violently and a little more briefly.

The standard of speaking has improved generally during the term, after a poor start, and at least one member has had the honour to be elected to the Senior Society.

The Society is grateful to Chandos members of the Fifths who have spoken at debates, and to J. V. Doubleday (C) for continuing to paint excellent posters.

D.J.L.

THE BRIDGE CLUB

The number of people playing bridge has remained unchanged since last term, although the standard of play may be said to have improved. No matches were played this term.

A class of about 20 beginners was started in the last half of the term and, as all these are capable of playing whist, the Secretary has been able to make some headway in teaching them the rudiments of bridge. A further class of about the same number, starting completely from scratch, is being taught by Mr. Bulford.

As the present Secretary is leaving at the end of term, D. Hadfield (W) has been appointed in his place.

N.R.A.

THE MUSIC CLUB

The Club has met twice this term. On November 16th we met in the President's room, where we heard a paper by N. O. G. Murray (C) on Russian Music. He also played us some gramophone records, which amply illustrated his very informative talk; we only regret that he had not the time for more about Tchaikovsky.

The music at the next meeting, on December 14th, was performed considerably less competently than that on Murray's records; this was an informal concert given by members of the Club to each other, with the Glee Club as guests. There were very few present who did not perform something, and we all enjoyed ourselves.

New members were elected on November 16th, and have been invited to join. We say a sad farewell to our Secretary, C. B. Tetlow.

J.F.R.S.

THE SEDIMENTARIANS

To those who do not know the nature of the club this new name may seem out of place. However, a great deal of thought and foresight has been called upon to change the club's name from the rather unambitious and misleading "Culture Club" to its present name. It is thereby hoped to encourage a broader cross-section.

The first meeting was well attended and was thought to be of unusual interest; its subject was "Regional Music and Dancing". E. S. Dawes (B) gave a paper on the Flamenco and other Spanish dances, while A. J. Murdoch (T), aided by his disc jockey J. G. Prunty (T), gave his interpretation of Calypso. D. H. Temple (C) roused the Club with his unvarnished misinterpretation of the Waltz as originally danced. However, the President, Mr. J. M. Hunt, managed to bring the three papers into relation with the title, so concluding the meeting.

D.H.T.

THE VITRUVIANS

We were very glad to welcome Mr. Stokoe as President. Under his able and stimulating direction the Society has enjoyed a most successful term. Mr. J. M. Hunt opened the term with a lively and informative talk on the country house in Scotland, well

illustrated and well presented. J. H. Frazer (C) and Sir Robert folkes Bart. (B) provided two admirably condensed talks on the work of Robert Adam and Sir John Soane, intended to provide a background to the expedition to London which unfortunately never materialised

A. N. Ventris (T) showed us his fine collection of slides illustrating the architecture of ancient Greece, accompanied by an illuminating and spirited commentary. Finally, the Hon. J. M. Jocelyn (B) provided an admirable and exhaustive lecture on "Early Christian Architecture in Ireland"; his documentation was thorough and his illustrations well selected and copious.

W.R.B.A.

THE LATRUNCULARIANS

A chess ladder has produced a welcome number of players each week, but only by constant practice will the society improve its standard. A match against the Masters was played near the end of term which Stowe narrowly won by three games to two; J. H. B. Sargeant (C) lost to Mr. Robinson, B. E. Lewis (C) lost to Mr. Rawcliffe, C. Vandervell (B) beat Mr. Vinen, R. A. Brown (C) beat Mr. Millward, and R. M. E. West (W) beat Mr. Wright.

J.H.B.S.

THE GUN CLUB

Membership for the term stands at 29 and the club has continued to meet most Sundays and Mondays, though at times it has been hampered by poor weather. The Down-the-Line traphouse has been reconstructed and is now suitable for use in all weathers.

On November 29th a select expedition saw the première of the new I.C.I. film "It's your Pigeon."

On November 12th the Inter-House Shoot for the Galitzine Cup was held, and was won by Cobham, with Walpole a very close second.

Mr. Peacock made his termly appearance on December 10th and his visit was as usual greatly appreciated, particularly as there is now the prospect of matches with other local clubs.

R.A.B.

THE YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB

The business of the Club has proceeded satisfactorily this term. On November 2nd there was a film show of the Electrical Development Association's films, which was very successful. On December 7th there was another film show featuring films by Shell.

D.H.E.

THE RADIO SOCIETY

The Radio Society has this term spent twelve most profitable weeks. Firstly, it was splendidly reinforced with a very large donation of electronic parts by a parent, to whom the most sincere thanks are due. These parts have happily not been squandered but are being used intelligently with the notably keen help of R. R. F. G. H. Goodhart (B) and A. M. Stephenson (C). A course for beginners is being run again this winter under the direction of Mr. Gibbs, and the sets are now at an advanced stage. It can confidently be stated at last that the Society is prospering in both equipment and members.

G.F.A.

THE FILM SOCIETY

We have had two films this term, the first, *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp*, on Sunday October 29th, and the second, *No Highway*, on Tuesday December 5th. Our membership has remained the same as last term, around the 500 mark, and we hope to keep it at this level in the future.

M.J.F.C.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

At the first meeting of the term on Monday, October 9th, the Hon. J. D. G. Parker (G) was elected Secretary and Treasurer, L. C. J. Wilcox (B) curator of the darkroom, and R. E. P. Spencer (G) a committee member.

On October 25th a very successful meeting to show and criticise colour slides was held in the Art School. Because some members had not been able to obtain their slides in time, another equally successful meeting was held on November 9th for the same purpose. The shelves in the darkroom have been covered with washable material; the darkroom also has a new clock.

J.D.G.P.

THE CLIMBING CLUB

At the beginning of September a party of six led by Mr. Meldrum camped near Ardgor in Argyll for a week's very successful climbing. The party then moved to Glencoe for two days' climbing there.

This term we have had two meetings. The first was held on October 3rd, when we entertained the four French Chasseurs Alpains who were visiting the school at the time. Mr. Meldrum gave a well illustrated talk on the Lake District and the Alps. The second was held on November 1st. A party of eight climbers accompanied by Messrs. Meldrum and Farmer went to Stanage Edge in Derbyshire for a day's most rewarding climbing.

R.L.J.

THE ARCHERY CLUB

The activities of the Club have been considerably restricted this term by bad weather. When the club has been able to operate, Mr. C. B. Dicks and D. G. Godfrey (G) have devoted their afternoons to the coaching of beginners, and our thanks go to them. The standard of shooting this term has not been as good as usual, owing to the large number of novices.

Next term, D. G. Godfrey will take over the running of the club from S. B. Murray (C), who is leaving.

S.B.M.

THE I.C.E. CLUB

Although the Christmas term is never a very active one for the Club on account of the weather, a great deal of work was done, chiefly on the pre-war Hillman. A single-seater body made of a wooden frame covered with hardboard was constructed. She ran very well until a steering-box fracture with subsequent breakage made cornering tricky. The Club's Francis-Barnett 197 c.c. motor-bike also ran well in the earlier part of the term.

On the Whole Holiday the Club made an expedition to Beaulieu to see Lord Montagu's Motor Museum.

A.C.K.G.

PERUGIA

(The writer, M. P. Woosnam-Mills (C 1960), spent 3 months at Perugia University before going up to Cambridge.)

The little four-language travel pamphlets issued by Agip petrol company claim rather a lot for Perugia, as they do for everywhere, but of the places I saw and visited for any length of time this year Perugia had the most to offer. And I think this is not altogether because I spent much longer there than anywhere else and had time to make friends among the inhabitants and take the sights for granted.

Perugia is the Perusia in which Lucius Antony was besieged by Octavian in (I think) 40 B.C. As the town fell an unspecified Antonine nobleman set fire to the city rather than let Octavian have it. All that survived was the ancient and colossal Etruscan wall and the temple of Vulcan (ironically), which was outside the wall anyway. (It still stands, and is used as a church—the round church of San Angelo; naturally many alterations have been made, but the pillars and general plan are still pre-Christian). The Etruscan Perusia had been well-nigh invincible, and Octavian saw to it that the name 'Augusta Perusia' was inscribed over the magnificent gateway in the Etruscan wall and that the city was used as a garrison town. (Perugia is not in fact in Etruria: it is part of Umbria; but there are various Etruscan tombs around the neighbouring country and the city is certainly Etruscan in origin). But Perugia's greatest period

seems to have been during the later Middle Ages. Braccio Fortebraccio, the man who nearly unified Italy four hundred years too early, made Perugia his capital for a time. His name appears everywhere now, and in his time another wall was constructed, enclosing a much greater area than the Etruscan, so that there were virtually two cities—an inner and an outer. Perugia became the extra-Roman headquarters of the Popes soon afterwards: three Popes died here and Paul III built what was known as the 'Rocca Paulina', a massive construction let into the side of the hill (the south side), with dwelling-quarters, streets and drainage—all underground, for the unpopular Pope and his autocracy to shelter in. Over fifty houses had to be removed to make way for it: the Perugians never forgot this, and in 1840 (so recently!) they stormed it, the entire population, with pitchforks and sticks, and literally took it apart, brick by brick. There now remains a small corner with an old, old man to take you round.

It was to such a city that I went. Speaking no Italian at all, I was a little disturbed to find that the railway station was about three miles away from the city, which perches on top of a high hill—hence its invincibility. However, there was a bus with 'Centro' written on it and I clambered on. Italian buses are most exciting and very hot. It was so crowded that when, fifteen minutes and several hundred feet above sea-level later, the doors were opened, we all sort of fell out onto the square, exactly like champagne. After much labour I eventually found my digs and fell asleep.

My first useful experience of Perugia was next day, which was the first day of the three-month Italian course. The University (entirely for foreigners: the University of Perugia proper is quite separate) runs three courses simultaneously for nine months of the year; each course lasts three months. Thus if you attend from April 1st until December 23rd, you can complete all three, the Corso Preparatorio, Medio and Superiore. Each one starts afresh every three months. The tuition fee is 6,000 lire a month, which comes to just over ten pounds for three months. This is not excessive, but then the teaching is nothing to marvel at. Nevertheless the size of the classes does give you friends quickly, and it is pleasant for once to find no shyness on either side when you try to talk Italian. In fact the whole city gives this feeling. There is none of the sympathy and pity poured out by the French—and this is splendid because that is just what you do not want: sympathy at once makes you feel inferior; in Perugia you are on equal terms.

It is well-known that the Italians are mercenary. But in Perugia they realise that they are dealing with students, and the knowledge makes them helpful and usually generous. (There are, for instance, extremely good places to eat that charge not more than 400 lire for a splendid meal if you produce your University card; and in shops, where prices are hardly ever fixed, they will give you a better bargain: there are, after all, enough tourists in Perugia as well for them to squeeze dry.)

The University itself is an eighteenth-century palace called the Palazzo Gallenga, in the Piazza Fortebraccio, just outside the Etruscan wall, by the great gate. Lectures begin at 8 in the morning and are over by 11. There is no compulsion to attend, although for the first days it is wise as you may miss something vital. But very soon you can get around in Italian, and can even attend some of the *alta cultura* lectures in the Medio course. (The Preparatorio consists of fifteen hours of classes a week, with a fair amount of homework—but not too much.) It is a mistake to attempt too much. It is extremely hot, and you get tired very quickly. Perugia is a magnificent place, but there is a long time ahead to see it all.

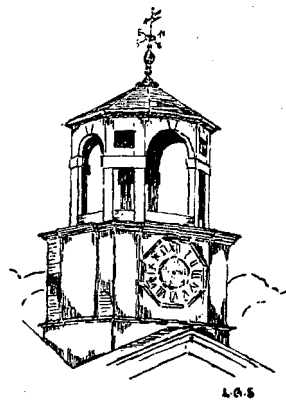
I was living in digs in a very old street close to the University, and close also to the Porta San Angelo of the outer wall—right by the round church. My favourite pastime

while I was there was to walk out of the gate with a book and find a tree under which to sit. The town ceases here with the wall, and although the ground is a little hard and covered by Daliesque ants, it is wonderfully pleasant to sit and read or think. Perhaps I find it so because I like to be alone. There is a wonderful view of Assisi on the side of its steep, steep hill about ten miles away.

There is naturally an abundance of people in Perugia—or rather an abundant assortment of people. People from all over the world with the usual differences quoted endlessly in sermons: creed, colour and so on. And you are all students and all want to know each other and consequently all *get* to know each other. There is here an atmosphere of fellowship—one of equality and respect combined, such as can never exist in England. (Because that is not the British way of doing things.) This year there were a large number of Germans (as is presumably normal), and consequently there tended to be rather too much of the hearty beer-swilling type party which I detest. But doubtless this is an inadequacy on my part. (The Germans are much disliked in Italy. I apparently have the Teutonic look, and thereby came into some unpleasantness.)

This cannot hope to be an adequate description of Perugia. There were moments of bitterness and violent homesickness, but I have found that these are inevitable when I go abroad. Out of my three months in Italy I have gained much: I have learned how to live for three days on nothing but lemon ice-cream and white wine; I have slept on the stations of Rome (Stazione Termini—most impressive), Florence, Milan, Venice, Mantua and Verona; I have ridden from Perugia to Rome on a stolen motor-scooter; I have smeared blood on the spotless white uniform of an Italian policeman (in Arezzo) and been threatened with jail by the Chief of Police (in French; I spoke no Italian that day); I have hitch-hiked from Perugia to Venice in a day with two suitcases and entered Venice, exhausted, in the bows of a public gondola at night down the Grand Canal. I could recite for pages the things that have happened to me in Italy this year—and how much I have learned about myself simultaneously. From what I know of Italy as a result, I can say that Perugia, being in the middle of the peninsula, and within as easy reach of the rest of the country as anywhere, is surely the best place for anybody to go.

M.P.W.-M.



THE STOWE BEECHES

(Extracts from the winning entry for the Friends of Stowe Prize for Natural History.)

Since Stowe lies in a county whose very name means "home of the beech", it is natural that there should be numbers of well-grown specimens in the surrounding grounds. The stately, massive trunk, branching out into a dense crown of innumerable twigs, makes a beech a graceful and impressive object at every season. It is beautiful in spring when the brown leaf scales fall away to reveal, every April, the light green leaves covered with the most delicate mantle of silver down, best admired when the sun is shining on the tender growth and there is a wind to stir the intricate tracery of the smaller branches; and, from a few weeks later, when the leaves have assumed the darker green of the common beech, until well into October, the shade of the beech is as intense as that of any common British tree of its size. It favours Autumn with rich brown and russet tints which remain on some lower branches, on young trees and hedges throughout the Winter, until the rising of the sap in a million tender buds casts aside all that is old in the rejuvenation of Spring. An especially good example of the dense screen afforded by a well-shaped beech hedge may be seen in the windbreak hedges which divide the tennis-courts. In Winter, when all the beeches of any size are denuded of any sort of covering, the elaborate and interwoven mass of limbs, branchlets and twigs, besides being in themselves beautiful, often provide some curious effects of fusion of one branch with another, brought about by the wind and the vigour of the tree in putting forth such an abundance of ascending or horizontal branches, often terminating in fine, pendulous smaller branches and twigs.

There are frequent fellings of beeches at Stowe, of specimens which have attained maturity or have decayed after living to a ripe age. Stowe's first great designer and gardener, Charles Bridgeman, planted many beeches, but nothing of his handiwork survives today. His successor, Kent, endeavoured not merely to eradicate formality, but even to waive all distinction between garden and countryside—although the garden was skilfully curbed from exhibiting any aspects of nature which might offend the eye, and the vague outlines of the vistas he conceived remain today. Thus no examples of planting in straight lines can be attributed to him. The venerable beeches on the North Front, which once fringed a lake there, are of a good age. Possibly the work of Capability Brown, who remained at Stowe for only two years after the death of Lord Cobham in 1749, they are more likely to be later still, although one which came down in 1947 was found to have 190 rings¹. 250 years is the limit of the life of the beech, but those felled recently on the Grand Avenue, although well past their prime, were nowhere near this age. Even if it is not exactly an accurate method, made difficult by trees not being felled cleanly, the counting of the rings of some giants felled around the main building may quite easily yield a score of 150—200 years, thus obtaining an indication of how the architectural development of House and grounds progressed concurrently. The large beeches taken down last month near the Doric Arch were not above 150—180 years old, and thus not quite contemporary with the Arch itself.

1. Mr. N. Aldrich-Blake, writing in *The Natural History of Stowe*, 1947, suggested that these trees were planted to celebrate the accession of George III. The Year of Victories, 1759, would have provided an equally suitable occasion.—ED.

Many of the signs of extreme age are present on the beeches at Stowe. Apart from such natural growths as large boles and roots above the ground, there are signs of deep clefts of rotten wood and the scars where huge boughs have been torn off by strong winds. There is evidence, too, of the labours of the gall insect, although neither the resulting, unsightly, woody lumps, nor the white, powdery deposit left by the scale insect is really dangerous. There are no striking examples of the rare occurrence of beeches shooting again after felling, or of pollarded specimens, which would have been out of place in a landscaped garden. It is fortunate that the grounds of Stowe were well tended at a time when many of its beeches were attaining their true adult shape, for it is not uncommon for the beech to grow a foot a year for the first 100 years of its life, given space, light and care; after this its upward growth is slight, whilst its girth increases even to over twenty feet, although there are no such giants at Stowe . . .

Except when the long, narrow, chestnut brown buds first break, the individual oval leaves are not in themselves exceptionally beautiful if they are true to the normal colouration of the "Common" beech, and, on the whole, *Fagus sylvatica* L. runs true to type. Yet an individual twig of these leaves may be an object of beauty if it is taken from one of the varieties of the normal tree. The commonest are those in which the foliage contains pigmentation, which may vary from coppery red to a purple-black. An exceptionally fine copper beech grows at Stowe next to the track between the Armoury and the Palladian Bridge, although there are several more in various stages of growth all around the grounds²; the lone specimen close to Queen Caroline's Monument might possibly be classed as *purpurea*. In the Japanese Gardens, growing close to the path, there stands a weeping beech (*pendula*) of a height of possibly 50 feet, probably planted when this strain came to light at the beginning of the last century. Specimens above 90 feet are virtually unknown. Another exceptional variety growing at Stowe is the fern-leaved type (*var. laciniata*) of which there is a specimen in the Japanese Gardens (part of the present Assault Course) and another overshadowing the Grenville Monument. The latter tree is especially strange because there is one branch which produces normal leaves amidst the neighbouring boughs, which sweep to the ground and are as irregular and "cut" as any on the tree. Both these trees are apparently suffering from stimulated growths which may well be caused by insects similar to those provoking witches' broom. The Purple Beech, from which the Copper and other shades are no doubt descended, produces beautiful red leaves in early Spring, which only gradually deepen. Mr. Capel Cure once planted two *var. purpureo-pendula* in Chatham Fields, but these appear to be no longer there. There is, however, a specimen of the Southern Beech *Notofagus obliqua*, not an evergreen variety, growing there, and another between Walpole and Stowe Church. *F.s. var fastigiata*, shaped very much like a Lombardy Poplar, arose by chance at Dawyck, Peeblesshire, and was first brought to notice by a Mr. F. R. S. Balfour. The School is fortunate to have secured a number of plants of this variety early on through a connection with Mr. Balfour, and there has been planted what will one day be a fine avenue of Dawyck beeches between the Armoury and Lamport. At present 59 survive from the original planting, augmented by 10 replacements, but marred by five dead trees which include among the casualties two replacements . . .

2. One of these, a ten-year-old tree, was planted between the House and the Church by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales on the School's 10th Birthday in 1933 (see illustration facing page 33).—ED.

When felled, the timber is at first of a uniform dirty white colour, but the heartwood later turns light brown. Its commercial uses are limited, but wherever rigidity and even grain are essential, it serves the purpose well. Thus furniture and block floors made from beech are very dependable, and the wood is much used for smaller articles in everyday use, especially tools. The most important industry directly associated with the beech is the manufacture of furniture at High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire. Mature wood burns very well and bends without cracking when subjected to steam. It will take creosote well, but unless it is treated it does not last in the ground, or anywhere else where exposed, being liable to split.

Not only is the beech a tree of some commercial importance, but it is one of particular grace and elegance. At every stage of growth it is a beautiful tree and it would be small wonder if this rather than the oak should have been regarded as a symbol of English might. Its age alone tells against it, but anyone who has been in a wood of full-grown beeches and looked upon the massive grey-green columns might well echo the words of Thomas Campbell, who lived during the hey-day of the planting of most of England's present beech-woods :

O, leave this barren spot to me!
Spare, woodman, spare the beechen tree.

N.J.C.D.



Queen Victoria planting an Oak Tree near the Temple of Concord, 1845

THE STOIC

RAIN

Rain ;
 On pavements
 Like slippers beating
 Behind muffled doors ;
 On windows
 Like boisterous moths
 Attacking lampshades ;
 On tin roofs
 Like myriad spoons
 In baked bean tins ;
 Down gutters
 Like enthusiastic bathwater
 Washing plugholes ;
 Dribbles and giggles,
 Gurgles and trickles,
 Constructing puddles
 With elaborate skill ;
 It gathers its strength
 From an inner desire,
 A passionate need
 To fulfil its ambition,
 A raging torrent
 To the nearest drain.

D.B.T.A.

SUNDAY APATHY

It is not new to feel
 Boredom vacating one's mind ;
 For weighing time will steal
 All away, leaving a kind
 Of futile fear on a Sunday—
 Fear of a futile Monday.

To jump up and run seems
 Excessive. But the waste,
 The waste brings ugly dreams
 Where time drains in streams.
 Everything adds to the taste
 Of futile fear on a Sunday—
 Fear of a futile Monday.

T.D.B.L.



THE GRENVILLE COLUMN
 (from 'The Stoic' of December 1948)
 The tree on the right is a Fern-Leaved Beech.

Photograph by J.F.R.

C.C.F.

The Annual Camp was held at Haltern in Germany, from July 31st to August 11th, where we were the guests of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards. Our thanks are due to Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Heward, M.V.O., M.C., his Officers and N.C.O.'s for a most enjoyable and constructive week's training. 105 cadets, 2 S.S.Is. and 5 officers attended.

Six R.N. Cadets went to *Britannia*, R.N.C. Dartmouth, and six went to sea in H.M.S. *Sheraton*. The sea-going cadets met a force 9 gale in the English Channel and were reported by the Captain to have displayed true seaman qualities. Cadet Petty Officer M. A. S. G. Stewart (C) received a special mention for the responsibilities that he shouldered during the voyage and in particular for his bearing during the gale.

A small party of Chasseurs from the Centre d'Instruction du 15me Battalion des Chasseurs Alpins visited Stowe during the first week of October. During their visit they were given a variety of insights into life at an English boarding school and also into British service conditions.

The visitors were led by Lieutenant F. Korbendau, a Regular French officer, who before joining the Chasseurs served with the Parachute Regiment of the Foreign Legion. The other Regular in the party was Sergeant-Major G. Dutto, the chief clerk of the Depot.

The remaining Chasseurs were National Service N.C.O.'s,—Sergeant G. Clarey, the chief mountain and ski guide of the Depot, with the resounding title of Chef du Groupe d'Eclaireur de Montagne et d' Eclaireur Skieur, and Caporal Y. Champroux, a bearded ski-instructor and mountain guide.

Field Day was held on Wednesday, November 15th. The R.N. Section visited T.S. *Neptune* where they did a considerable amount of boat work and the R.A.F. Section flew at Abingdon. The N.C.O., Cadre and Demonstration Platoon combined with the Signals Section for an escape and evasion exercise culminating in a 'lake crossing' in assault boats and a night attack on the Temple of Venus. The infanters covered a vast area of Northamptonshire and North Buckinghamshire on their feet while the signallers attempted interception in wireless trucks, kindly supplied by our affiliated unit.

The Basic and Proficiency Platoons attacked each other in the Whittlebury area and the Royal Engineers paddled assault boats up the River Ouse and the Grand Union canal making a survey. The Pre-Corps and Recruits trained in the Stowe Park.

Examination results :—(R.N. Section) Proficiency : 7 passed, 2 failed ; (Army Section) Basic Test : 48 passed (1 with credit), 11 failed ; Proficiency : 14 passed (2 with credit), nil failed ; Signals Classification : 11 passed, 6 failed ; (R.A.F. Section) Proficiency : 10 passed, nil failed ; (Civil Defence) Classification : 9 passed (1 with credit), 3 failed.

One officer attended the R.A.F. Administration Course and one an Advanced Navigation Course. 5 cadets attended Gliding Courses and were successful. One officer and 4 cadets visited the R.M.A., Sandhurst.

The following have visited Stowe this term : Major-General W. R. Cox, C.B., D.S.O. (Retired) ; Air Commodore F.O.S. Dobell, C.B.E. (© 1931) ; Commander R. Mason, R.N. ; Squadron Leader B. L. K. Blucke, R.A.F. ; Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. C. Reynolds, O.B.E. ; Flight-Lieutenant W. A. Gayer ; Major K. Hall ; and Captain D. Duckworth.



H.R.H. THE DUKE OF WINDSOR, WHEN PRINCE OF WALES, PLANTING A COPPER BEECH
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SCHOOL'S TENTH BIRTHDAY
(from 'The Stoic' of July 1933)

This term we have welcomed two new officers: Sub-Lieutenant M. F. Acton, who is assisting the R.N. Section, and Flying Officer A. B. Stokoe, who directs the training of the Royal Signals Section. Both these officers have helped with training as civilian instructors for a number of years.

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

Appointed *Under-Officer*: C.S.M. S. B. Murray (C), Sgt. R. M. Jefferson (C).

Promoted to *Sergeant*: Cpls. J. D'A. C. Cartwright (C), R. J. M. Clarke (T), M. L. Corcoran (B), M. M. Orr (T), R. P. Pearce (G), S. Robertson (B), R. S. Winton (G).

Promoted to *Corporal*: L/Cpls. N. R. Arden (C), R. J. Box (C), G. R. Duncanson (W), C. R. Dixey (C), H. K. Felce (G), D. R. Sabberton (T), I. A. H. Sitwell (B), M. J. Summerlin (C), N. O. G. Murray (C).

The following specialist promotions were made:—

R.N. SECTION.

Rated *Petty Officer*: Leading Seaman R. E. Dale (G).

Rated *Acting Leading Seaman*: Able Seaman D. M. Balfour (G), S. P. Barker-Benfield (T), A. Horrocks (C), C. A. McIntyre (G), J. D. Martin (G).

R.E. SECTION.

Promoted to *Lance-Corporal*: Cadets K. Dabbagh (B), R. F. A. folkes (B), J. H. Grantham (T), N. A. S. Hughes (B), R. L. Jenkins (G), E. J. Sherrard (C).

R. SIGNALS.

Promoted to *Sergeant*: Cpls. J. A. Likierman (C), R. E. P. Spencer (G).

C.C.F. CAMP

(August 1961)

The Stowe C.C.F.'s expedition to Germany this year was riddled with surprises. Rumour had it (and rumours are always taken as gospel truth at Stowe) that we were to be stationed in barracks the whole time. "Ah!" we thought: "all mod. cons. and hot baths!" and some of us were even credulous enough to bring electric razors. When we arrived at a group of tents under some trees we received the shock that we deserved—no-one but the C.O. was to sleep in barracks; but the C.S.M. met us and soon had us scurrying around, although we had been travelling for over 24 hours.

We were the guests of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, whose base was near Düsseldorf, although we were actually about 50 miles from there. Including travelling, our camp was to last from Tuesday August 1st, when term ended, until Friday 11th. From the Wednesday we arrived until Tuesday of the next week we were under canvas near Haltern-am-See, in a completely self-contained camp run by Major A. G. B. Ellerington and his Company of Grenadiers, who saw to the cooking and administration and also fixed our strenuous training programme.

The whole camp cheered up to an almost alarming extent an hour after we arrived when we all fired Energa grenades (practice shot, of course) on the nearest part of the range. This was the first real thrill in a camp full of thrills.

While we were at Haltern we did a good deal of weapon-training, and the second big surprise was the size of the ranges. Great tracts of countryside have been given

up to rifle and artillery ranges; and while we were there we fired a full course on the 7.6 mm. S.L. Rifle, and practised with the Stirling and the Bren and even threw grenades at a post in the ground, which obstinately refused to be destroyed. We found the grenades slightly alarming at first, but the instructors soon gave us confidence—it was just like throwing cricket balls.

One day the Grenadiers organised for our benefit a complete "live" demonstration of Platoon in Attack, after showing us some of the equipment that would be used, including the Mobat anti-tank gun. This demonstrated to us, in a way nothing else could, exactly what happens in a real attack; all our previous attempts at this sort of thing had been restricted by our ignorance of smoke screens, mortar fire and the firepower of the Mobat; but now, while bullets whined in the valley below us (we were perched on the top of a hill, for safety and good visibility and to keep us out of the way) we saw the whole thing fall into perspective.

At the other extreme we had a 24-hour Initiative Test on another day, when we were turned loose into the countryside to try to earn some Marks, with the help of a piece of paper that explained the situation in German. It was Sunday, and a German holiday, and so it was difficult for us to find any orthodox work at all; some of us had a dog set on them, another party was paid to go away, two of us were hired to take part in a carnival procession, and one to escort a farmer's niece home. The one who earned most money and was awarded the Grenadiers' prize worked in denims as a bartender and washer-up in a hotel. He was fed and given the best bedroom, and collected 19 Marks in tips. The whole exercise was cryptically called Operation Tabbycat. On the same day about fifty of us went to see the German Grand Prix at the Nürburgring. Stirling Moss won, and British prestige was high; it was well worth getting up at 0400 hrs. to go to it.

The 24-hour exercise was very varied, and a masterpiece of organisation. The afternoon's programme consisted of escape and evasion; after this we had supper at a farm and slept in a barn. In the small hours we were woken up to cross a river in canvas boats, find our way over about two miles of countryside, and meet our 3-tonners at a point on a map; after which we had wireless that worked and trucks for a final attack, with two platoons attacking the camp and two trying to stop them getting in. The final result was undecided, in definite favour of the side that captured Mr. Blackmore.

Towards the end of our stay at Haltern we were entertained by the Queen's Own Hussars in their establishment at Münster. We were shown Centurion and Conqueror tanks and instructed in all their internal workings. We were also all given rides on a tank, and were shown over the palatial Officers' Mess.

We also saw a secret guided-missile station, with Corporal missiles being assembled and mounted, and were shown the control unit and launching pad, with its inviting variety of push-buttons.

For the last two days we moved to the barracks of the 2nd Battalion at Hübbelrath, near Düsseldorf. There our drill was improved a hundred per cent by the R.S.M. and his drill-sergeants, and we were coached for a church parade and march past, which took place on Thursday morning. On Wednesday we were given an outing which showed us a great deal of Germany; we were taken in coaches to Cologne and had some time for shopping before going on to Koblenz; here we boarded a river steamer and cruised down the Rhine. The journey was magnificent, and the scenery was not spoilt by industrial buildings nearly as much as we expected. The outing lasted from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and we enjoyed it so much that even the most forgetful of us will always remember it.

Our Church Parade was good, by C.C.F. standards at any rate; for this we must thank the R.S.M. and his instructors. After the service in the Garrison Church we collected our belongings and set off to England once more, by the way we came: in fast German buses to the Hook of Holland; in the troopship *Empire Parkeston* to Harwich, where we arrived at 6 a.m. on Friday morning; then by train to our destinations.

This was a camp outside the usual run of C.C.F. camps; we were treated with great indulgence and understanding by our hosts the Grenadier Guards, and should like to thank especially Lt.-Col. R. G. Heywood, M.V.O., M.C., Major M. S. Bayley, M.B.E., and Major A. G. R. Ellerington for a happy, successful and above all instructive week in Germany; we should also like to thank our own C.O. for his considerable part in arranging the camp.

J.F.R.S.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

There can have been few seasons of Stowe rucker when the prospects appeared so rosy at the outset, and few also when injuries have set in so early and continued so persistently. Out of ten old colours two, Sabberton and Hobson, were out of action before the first match and never played. Of the remainder, only Charnock and Orr played through-out every match, Knight missing the last twenty minutes of a club game. Thus a heavy burden fell on those who were called in, often at short notice, to fill vacancies, and the success of the team in school matches owes much to them, and to the fact that morale remained high in spite of casualties.

Individually Knight was outstanding throughout the season; on occasions he tended to rely too much on the sidestep and too little on straight running, and wings playing outside him were sometimes unnecessarily starved, but he was tireless in attack, much improved in defence, and however heavily marked always likely to prove a match-winner. His place-kicking—safer from a wide angle than in front of the posts—was invaluable.

Early in the season it seemed that the pack would be our greatest asset, and their displays against Bedford and St. Edward's, and notably—at their most depleted—against Radley, were outstanding. At Oundle, without Box, they were outplayed for much of the game, though they came back very strongly in the end. Charnock went through a phase of ineffectiveness, but finished very well, and Walker improved throughout and played a great match against Cheltenham. Vapenik's work in the

line-out often gave us possession when indifferent tight scrummaging denied it elsewhere, and the steady improvement in the tight as the season progressed owed much to Orr and a very hard-working front rank. Box led well and in his absence Cowdy, unlucky to miss his colours this year, deputised very adequately.

The outsides only occasionally managed to combine attractively, too many passes being delayed until too late, and then thrown rather than passed, but they ran hard and adapted their game intelligently to the varying conditions of weather and tactics. We rarely dominated the game outside, unless the ball was in Knight's hands, but each player had his moments in attack and defence. Allen at scrum-half could be brilliant, but success tended to make him try to monopolise the game; Allerton by hard work improved his kicking and defence, and became a useful pivot in attack. At full-back Murray often deputised so well that one forgot that he was by training a forward, though his anticipation was a little slow.

With five wins in school matches and only one defeat, and only four tries scored against us, Stowe may remember the season with pardonable satisfaction. Perhaps we never achieved the final polish that makes a great side, where the ball seems to go to hand by some uncanny guidance, but, if we lacked the finest skills, for determination and hard clean football this was a team worth watching.

SCHOOL COLOURS

1st XV:—Re-awarded to: R. F. Charnock (G), B. M. Allen (W), R. J. Box (C), S. B. Murray (C), M. M. Orr (T), M. J. Summerlin (C), G. J. Vapenik (B). Awarded to: J. W. O. Allerton (G), J. G. Green (W), T. D. B. Lee (G), A. R. Shackleton (W), I. A. H. Sitwell (B), C. B. Tetlow (T), D. E. B. Walker (C).

2nd XV:—Awarded to: P. J. August (B), G. H. Burrows (C), R. W. Bailey-King (C), J. D. Carslaw (G), P. R. Corbett (T), H. L. Cowdy (G), N. G. F. Hesketh (C), R. P. Pearce (G), M. A. Williamson-Noble (T).

3rd XV:—Awarded to: D. B. T. Aikman (T), E. B. Bridgland (B), J. R. Bullick (G), J. F. Burns (G), R. M. Campbell (C), J. D'A. C. Cartwright (C), E. S. Dawes (B), R. G. Edwards (W), H. K. Felce (G), N. Honeyman Brown (G), A. Horrocks (C), R. M. Jefferson (C), A. M. Macoun (G), R. Pasley-Tyler (G), A. N. Ventris (T), P. T. P. Warrick (W), R. M. E. West (W).

Colts' Stockings:—Awarded to: R. U. Dawson (C), A. R. Dukes (W), A. A. B. Duncan (C), J. V. M. Froggatt (G), R. N. Gamble (W), D. W. J. Garrett (G), M. P. Llewellyn (B), B. A. Marcel (C), C. C. Parker (W), R. D. Post (W), N. D. Raw (G), A. R. G. Scott-Gall (T), D. A. Sharp (W), A. P. B. Sutton (T).

THE SCHOOL *v.* RUGBY

Played at Stowe on Tuesday, October 17th. Won 17—3.

The first School match is always an ordeal for those new to it. It was doubly so this year because the disgrace of last year's defeat, by 40 points to nil, hung heavily over everything. Fortunately there were not so many who were new to 1st XV football. The fact that Rugby had lost their three earlier matches helped to make the task less formidable, but it didn't take away the anxiety.

Rugby kicked off with the slope and what little wind there was, and the game moved all too rapidly into the Stowe half, without any real appearance of a thrust back, and a reasonably easy penalty put Rugby three points up. It was almost from the kick-off that the whole Stowe side came back into the fight. Knight found an opening in the centre and gave Poole the chance to score the first try of the season, near the corner flag. The kick failed, but Knight was able to find another gap shortly afterwards to score a good try himself. He followed this up with a penalty.

With the score 9—3 in Stowe's favour and the slope with us in the second half, there was an audible sigh of relief. For a second time Knight sent Poole away and was up to receive the return pass. From the ensuing scrum, Allen threw a good pass to Allerton who saw the gap and went straight through to score a try which Knight converted. Stowe pressure was still maintained and faulty handling alone prevented more scoring until a kick by Allerton found the full back caught in possession near his own line. From the loose scrum that followed Charnock was able to pick up and drop over the line for a try.

The whole team had rallied superbly and had given a really heartening display. Box and Tetlow in the tight scrums and Vapenik in the line-out had worked really hard, and Knight had used his chances admirably.

Team :—S. B. Murray (C); J. E. Poole (C), C. M. St. J. Knight (G), T. D. B. Lee (G), I. A. H. Sitwell (B); J. W. O. Allerton (G), B. M. Allen (W); R. J. Box (C), J. G. Green (W), C. B. Tetlow (T), M. M. Orr (T), G. J. Vapenik (B), D. E. B. Walker (C), H. L. Cowdy (G), R. F. Charnock (G).

THE SCHOOL *v.* BEDFORD

Played at Stowe on Saturday, October 21st. Won 13—6.

We started against Bedford as indifferently as we had done against Rugby earlier in the week, and were lucky to be no more than six points down at the end of the first twenty minutes. The Bedford pack played as a cohesive unit in the tight and in the loose, and our advantage in the line-out was nullified by the speed with which they harried our backs. We emerged only rarely from our half, and had Bedford not missed an easy penalty and failed to convert a try under the posts which was the inevitable result of indecisive handling, we should have been further behind. Their other points came from a well-taken drop-goal, and our only score at half-time came from a long penalty by Knight. Even when we obtained the ball the outsiders seemed unable to penetrate a line which paid us the compliment of lying up in all circumstances, and the spoiling of the Bedford forwards made our slow heels more dangerous than their orthodox attacks.

At the end of the first half there were some better things—a long dribble by Allerton, and a fine heel against the loose head just in front of our posts. These proved to be omens of some significance, for in the second half the scrum played really well together, and the three-quarters, with a plentiful supply of the ball, forsook their fruitless attempts

to penetrate a sound defence by half-pace running and relied instead on attacking kicks and fast following-up, with Allerton switching the direction shrewdly. The fiery Bedford pack was tamed and it was not against the run of play when Orr went over from a line-out, far out. Knight converted with a beautiful kick to put us ahead. In spite of a counter-attack we were soon down in the Bedford twenty-five again, and from a rare Bedford heel Allen picked up, and well-timed passes from him to Charnock and thence to Allerton and on to Knight put us over with two unmarked men outside. Another fine conversion put us out of danger, and it was refreshing to see us using the ball rather than playing safe in the last few minutes.

We had made a remarkable recovery from a bad start, but had been lucky to be let off the consequences of casual and disorganised defence. Much was owed to a very sound display by Murray at full-back, and the improving technique of Vapenik and Orr in the line-out. Box led the forwards well, and Jefferson and Burrows made a promising first appearance.

Team :—Murray; G. H. Burrows (C), Knight, R. M. Jefferson (C), Sitwell; Allerton, Allen; Box, Green, Tetlow, Orr, Vapenik, Walker, A. R. Shackleton (W), Charnock.

THE SCHOOL *v.* ST. EDWARD'S

Played at Stowe on Saturday, October 28th. Won 14—0.

Right from the beginning the team looked more purposeful than it had done before, but it was clear that we were up against a pack that was outstandingly well-drilled in the tight and quick on the ball in the loose, while the St. Edward's outsiders, if not individually dangerous, made some progress with short kicks. The early play was even; we missed a comparatively easy penalty and once knocked on with the line at our mercy, and though the outsiders tended to run across, the running and passing were crisp and confident. Knight opened the scoring with a characteristic individual effort, which started with some unpromising lateral movements but ended under the posts, and converted his try. A few minutes later we scored again, after Allerton had made a good break and Summerlin had run in strongly; but before half-time St. Edward's counter-attacked, and only a determined rush by the forwards cleared our lines after some unconvincing defensive kicking and passing.

In the second half St. Edward's were often near our goal-line but rarely looked like scoring against sound covering; our forwards used their weight well, and often made ground in fierce rushes. It was against the run of play when Knight scored again, but when Summerlin shook off three opponents to add a fourth try the issue was beyond doubt. Sitwell played his best game on the wing, Walker showed improved form round the scrum, and Allen, well protected by his forwards, gave an excellent service. Weaknesses were evident in the tight, and in our inability to switch the direction of the attack, but the forwards, well led by Box, were very hard to check when they had the ball at their feet.

Team :—Murray; M. J. Summerlin (C), Knight, P. J. August (B), Sitwell; Allerton, Allen; Box, Green, Tetlow, Orr, Vapenik, Walker, Cowdy, Charnock.

THE SCHOOL *v.* OUNDLE

Played at Oundle on Tuesday, October 31st. Lost 6—11.

After so promising a start to the season it was most disappointing to lose to Oundle when the prospect of a win seemed better than usual. We were perhaps a little unlucky, for Box had been injured the previous Saturday and there had been little time

to make adjustments at forward, and it is discouraging to play into a strong wind on an unfamiliar ground, but the fact is that the forwards appeared jaded after three school matches in the previous fortnight, the outsiders took time to settle down against quick loose forwards, and we made our effort too late. On the day and in the circumstances the better side won.

The first few minutes saw Oundle off to a good start, which we improved by giving away two unfortunate penalties. The Oundle forwards were breaking through the line-out, and flurrying our three-quarters, and the most encouraging signs in the early part of the game were a fine break in mid-field by August and a characteristic relieving dribble by Allerton. It was from one of our rare ventures into the Oundle half that Knight opened the scoring with a penalty, but our opponents exploited the wind intelligently, giving Murray an anxious time at full-back, and after a period of pressure scored when their scrum-half broke and brought about a try under the posts, which was easily converted. A few minutes later Oundle added a penalty, but we crossed over only five points down and a good break by Knight just before half-time revived our spirits. With a deficit of only five points and the advantage of a strong wind in the second half we were still very much in the game.

Oundle realised this, and wisely put in their most determined effort during the next twenty minutes. Their sole reward was a finely taken drop-goal after a very long loose maul, but our forwards seemed to have been played out of the game; on the rare occasions when we obtained the ball it came so slowly that Knight was boxed in. However, first Sitwell started a fine run and then suddenly the forwards returned to their full stature and we threw everything into a series of attacks that kept us hammering at the Oundle line. Knight hit the cross-bar with a penalty, but only one forward was up and the advantage was lost. Then Cowdy dribbled the ball away from a loose scrum, the seemingly impeccable Oundle full-back fumbled, and Walker was over for a try. Knight's kick hit the goal post, and a sound Oundle defence repelled our last thrusts; we threw everything into attack and once Sitwell was brought down only two yards short of the line. The game was lost by the forwards in the first twenty minutes of the second half, and if we left the field with the feeling that we might have won, we had ourselves rather than the goal-posts to blame. Against a determined side who are obtaining more than their share of the ball more positive tackling is needed, too, and we lacked the assurance that not only thwarts attacks but starts counter-thrusts against confused opposition.

Team :—Murray; Summerlin, Knight, August, Sitwell; Allerton, Allen; N. G. F. Hesketh (C), Green, Tetlow, Orr, Vapenik, Walker, Cowdy, Charnock.

THE SCHOOL *v.* RADLEY

Played at Radley on Saturday, November 11th. Won 14—0.

The ten days which elapsed between our defeat at Oundle and the Radley match saw our casualty list increase still further, with Vapenik and Murray to add to the three colours already absent, but at least it had given respite in which to regroup our forces and to analyse our shortcomings. The resulting performance, on a wet and windy day, reflected much credit on the Stowe team.

Having won the toss we chose to play with the wind and slope, and almost from the start showed improved form in the tight and dash in the loose; Lee made a good break, but we failed to press home our advantage, missing attempts at a penalty and a drop-goal. When the ball travelled to the Radley wings they showed themselves more dangerous than any we had previously encountered, and only good covering extricated

us from some awkward predicaments. The Stowe handling also was much more confident. We scored first from a penalty by Knight, but a shrewd kick-off by Radley brought them near the Stowe line. However, by intelligent use of the wind, we were soon back in the Radley half, and a break by Allen and a change of direction by Knight brought us a try far out. Our lead of six points seemed hardly enough, and Radley were perhaps unlucky not to score in a period of pressure shortly before half-time; but it was Stowe who scored next, when Allerton went over for a copy-book try near the posts, which Knight converted.

With the wind against us and a lead that might have made us over-confident we faced a testing second half, but it very soon became apparent that the forwards were determined to deny Radley the use of the ball. Sound work in the tight, good loose heeling, and determined tackling by the loose forwards kept us in the Radley half for much of the time and, though we missed an easy penalty, Allen scored soon after from a well-controlled set scrum. Some of the later play was scrappy; Allen made some good breaks but mistimed his passes; outsiders wasted opportunities by casual passing, and Knight unusually missed a try by not running in strongly or passing when we had a man over. Occasional Radley forays showed up tentative Stowe tackling, and Orr was twice well back in defence. Carslaw played a bold if unorthodox game at full-back, but it was the forwards' day, and under Cowdy's leadership they showed a sustained vigour and cohesion that gained them mastery in a hard, clean struggle.

Team :—J. D. Carslaw (G); Summerlin, Knight, Lee, Sitwell; Allerton, Allen; Green, R. P. Pearce (G), Tetlow, Orr, Cowdy, Walker, Shackleton, Charnock.

THE SCHOOL *v.* CHELTENHAM

Played at Cheltenham on Saturday, November 25th. Won 11—8.

With Box and Vapenik back after long absence, the Stowe team was at what we have learnt to regard as full strength, against another school side with the enviable record of only one defeat. For Stowe supporters the opening minutes were highly disconcerting—a long kick-off, rapid possession in the tight and line-out, and a darting run from the Cheltenham fly-half showed us to be up against a lively side—yet after four minutes we were the first to score. An untidy pass gave Sitwell a chance to pick up near the Stowe twenty-five, and, eluding the Cheltenham full-back and shaking off pursuers, he ran finely to score under the posts. Knight kicked the easy goal, and we had acquired a much-needed advantage and encouragement.

The next ten minutes were to show how valuable that goal was, for Cheltenham played very well, and, making a man over, scored a try far out; and shortly afterwards two bad mistakes by Murray—almost his only ones in the match—gave them a penalty try, which was converted. At this stage it was a game of rapid cut and thrust, with the Cheltenham fly-half shepherded across the field by our loose forwards, and Knight's potential largely nullified by close marking, while in the line-out Stowe were gradually mastering the "wall" formed by Cheltenham, and the set scrums went mostly with the loose head. But an excellent penalty by Knight not only put us on equal terms but ushered in some really good all-round play; Lee found openings in the centre, Knight made a characteristic run, the forwards dominated the loose, and Green surprised himself by hooking against the loose head twice in succession. Another fine kick by Knight put us ahead, and afterwards for some minutes we were within feet of the Cheltenham line, but their defence held and at last they relieved pressure with a touch-down and a drop-out, and at half-time we led 11—8—anybody's game.

During the next twenty minutes we should have made sure of victory, but Allen, who did many brilliant things in support of the pack, was too reluctant to let the ball out, and Allerton, who had an unhappy day, once passed when the line was at his mercy, and the initiative gradually passed to Cheltenham. They should once have scored when their wing knocked on close to our line, and once a magnificent covering tackle by Knight brought down their fly-half when he appeared to be clear of the defence. In the last five minutes, with some of the pack tiring and Allen exhausted, we were hard put to it, and all but threw the game away. Three experienced players, best covered by a cloak of anonymity, gave away penalties within our twenty-five, and our opponents, in mounting tension, obligingly missed them all; an attempted drop-goal was smothered by Walker, who played a great game throughout, and Allerton twice relieved pressure with intelligent kicks. The last kick of the game was a Cheltenham attempt at a penalty; their magnificent recovery in the last ten minutes perhaps entitled them to a draw, but for much of the game we had looked the better side.

Team :—Murray; Summerlin, Knight, Lee, Sitwell; Allerton, Allen; Box, Green, Tetlow, Orr, Vapenik, Walker, Shackleton, Charnock.

OTHER MATCHES:

Sat., Oct. 7th.	v. LONDON SCOTTISH (Home).	Drawn	6—6
Sat., Oct. 14th.	v. OLD STOICS (Home).	Lost	3—9
Sat., Nov. 4th.	v. ROSSLYN PARK (Home).	Lost	14—17
Sat., Nov. 18th.	v. BLACKHEATH (Home).	Lost	13—41
Sat., Dec. 2nd.	v. RICHMOND (Home).	Lost	3—6
Sat., Dec. 9th.	v. HARLEQUINS (Home).	Lost	3—23

THE SECOND FIFTEEN

The interchange of players between the 1st and 2nd XV's has been more frequent than usual owing to the number of injuries, and this has made it a difficult season for the team; although latterly the pack became a fairly steady combination, the backs suffered from considerable changes throughout. The record is a black one, but hard-won victories were achieved over St. Edward's and Cheltenham, which gave some reward to a pack which usually held its own in tight and loose, and sometimes played with an encouraging zest and determination. However, the back row were too often made to look slow by their opponents. In attack the outsiders rarely looked dangerous because they were not served quickly enough by their half-backs, which was a pity as there was considerable potential ability among them.

Results :—

Sat., Oct. 14th.	v. OLD STOICS (Home).	Won	24—8
Sat., Oct. 21st.	v. BEDFORD (Away).	Lost	9—27
Sat., Oct. 28th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S (Home).	Won	5—3
Tues., Oct. 31st.	v. OUNDLE (Away).	Lost	0—11
Sat., Nov. 4th.	v. KETTERING GRAMMAR SCHOOL (Home).	Lost	3—12
Sat., Nov. 11th.	v. WELLINGBOROUGH GRAMMAR SCHOOL (Home).	Lost	3—10
Sat., Nov. 18th.	v. OXFORD COLTS (Home).	Lost	0—8
Sat., Nov. 25th.	v. CHELTENHAM (Home).	Won	13—8
Sat., Dec. 2nd.	v. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, OXFORD (Home).	Lost	3—8

Team :—J. D. Carslaw (G); J. E. Poole (C), P. J. August (B), G. H. Burrows (C), C. A. McIntyre (G); N. W. Hartley (C), N. J. Grace (C); N. G. F. Hesketh (C), R. F. Pearce (G), P. R. Corbett (T), R. W. Bailey-King (C), G. F. Arbib (Capt.) (T), J. H. Grantham (T), H. L. Cowdy (C), M. A. Williamson-Noble (T).

Also played : G. R. Duncanson (W), R. M. Jefferson (C).

THE HUNDRED

Members of the Third and Fourth Fifteens have enjoyed a term of rugger played for the most part on dry pitches. Team selection, always difficult in this club, was made no easier by the absence of outstanding individuals and of genuine all-rounders. The senior fifteen contained the more orthodox players, but these never achieved the fire and determination which characterised the Fourth Fifteen.

For the Third Fifteen, Cartwright was a safe full-back when available, although his kicking is one-footed. Mustard and Aikman ran hard on the wing. A number of combinations was tried in the centre. The most successful of these was Jefferson, who passed and tackled well, and Burns, who kicked intelligently. Edwards, who received a long service from Bridgland, made some useful breaks, but sometimes failed to time his passes. Campbell, the captain, partnered Ventriss in the second row, and they enabled a solid front row of Warrick, Honeyman Brown and West to obtain a good deal of the ball from set scrummages. The back row of Dawes, Felce, and Pasley-Tyler covered a lot of ground in attack, but only Felce did much solid work.

Horrocks led the Fourth Fifteen with vigour and intelligence, and contributed much to the team's success. Bullick, an elusive scrum-half, gave a good through pass to a determined but unskilled set of backs. Dabbagh and Martin initiated most of the attacks and all defended solidly. Macoun hooked well, and was energetically assisted in the loose by Dunlop and Hayes.

3RD XV.

Sat., Oct. 7th.	v. M.C.S., BRACKLEY (Home).	Lost	3—18
Sat., Oct. 14th.	v. OLD STOICS (Home).	Won	9—3
Sat., Oct. 21st.	v. BEDFORD (Away).	Lost	3—20
Thur., Oct. 26th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S (Away).	Lost	8—18
Sat., Oct. 28th.	v. OXFORD MARATHON R.F.C. (Home).	Lost	3—15
Sat., Nov. 4th.	v. BANBURY R.F.C. (Home).	Lost	3—17
Tues., Nov. 14th.	v. BERKHAMSTED (Away).	Lost	0—14
Sat., Nov. 18th.	v. KINGHAM HILL (Away).	Won	9—0
Sat., Nov. 25th.	v. OUNDLE (Away).	Lost	3—27
Tues., Nov. 28th.	v. M.C.S., BRACKLEY (Away).	Lost	3—50
Sat., Dec. 2nd.	v. TOWCESTER G.S. (Home).	Drawn	0—0

4TH XV.

Sat., Oct. 21st.	v. BEDFORD (Home).	Lost	3—18
Thur., Oct. 26th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S (Away).	Lost	0—3
Sat., Oct. 28th.	v. ABINGDON SCHOOL (Away).	Won	11—8
Sat., Nov. 4th.	v. BANBURY R.F.C. (Home).	Won	11—3
Sat., Nov. 11th.	v. ROYAL LATIN SCHOOL (Home).	Won	9—3
Tues., Nov. 14th.	v. BERKHAMSTED (Away).	Won	14—8
Sat., Nov. 25th.	v. OUNDLE (Away).	Lost	6—18
Tues., Nov. 28th.	v. M.C.S., BRACKLEY (Away).	Won	9—0

5TH XV.

Sat., Nov. 25th.	v. CHELTENHAM (Home).	Lost	0—10
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In addition to those awarded 3rd XV Colours (see page 37) the following also played for the Club :—P. M. Henry (C), J. L. Hardy (W), C. P. Murphy (G), D. H. Temple (C), C. R. Dixey (C), S. G. Jones (C), T. G. E. Kilpatrick (C), T. Passmore (C), J. D. Martin (G), K. Dabbagh (B), R. L. H. Denempont (G), E. H. Bacon (W), G. T. M. Hayes (C), M. J. Dunlop (C), M. J. L. Chapman (C), N. O. G. Murray (C), C. J. de Mowbray (C), J. W. A. S. Law (B), P. E. A. Hope (T).

THE COLTS

This season's play and performances can only be regarded as disappointing. The club had a number of players who have some football sense, but it seemed to desert them when they were in difficulties. Against Rugby the team as a whole played well, but in most of the other matches their performance was uninspired and lethargic and in some matches enthusiasm was non-existent and their performance depressing.

J. V. M. Froggatt, the Captain, never failed to exhort the team vociferously but found it hard to combine leadership with his rôle as open-side wing-forward. R. U. Dawson, A. A. B. Duncan and A. R. G. Scott-Gall all promised well in the early matches but have yet to realise their potential. A. P. B. Sutton started shakily and though his reactions are still slow he has become quite a competent full-back.

Of the forwards, D. W. J. Garrett and R. D. Post have always given of their best and the former, a good hooker, has become a very capable forward leader. The rest of the pack have all played well on their day but the pity has been that this has made their effort far too individualistic. Of the remainder B. A. Marcel and M. P. Llewellyn are the two most improved players; the former has been safety itself in defence and the latter is at last beginning to use his natural ability to good effect.

The record of the team this term has not been a true reflection of their ability and it is to be hoped that before next season most of them will have acquired the stature and confidence to give of their best much more consistently, for most of the team have it in them to make a good contribution to the game.

Results :—

Sat., Oct. 21st.	v. BEDFORD.	Lost	3—11
Sat., Oct. 28th.	v. ABINGDON.	Lost	3—14
Tues., Oct. 31st.	v. OUNDLE.	Won	14—0
Sat., Nov. 4th.	v. RUGBY.	Won	20—0
Sat., Nov. 11th.	v. RADLEY.	Lost	3—8
Sat., Nov. 18th.	v. DOUAI.	Lost	10—15
Sat., Nov. 25th.	v. CHELTENHAM.	Won	17—8
Sat., Dec. 2nd.	v. ST. EDWARD'S.	Lost	0—15

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

The following also played :—C. Day (W), H. D. G. Roberts (W), M. I. Baker (G), C. N. Hershman (B).

THE JUNIOR COLTS

After an unconvincing win at Brackley and a deserved but salutary defeat by Bedford, it was encouraging to watch the growth of determination, spirit and confidence which has marked this season. Apart from the drab performance by both sides at Rugby (a match lost by the odd penalty in three) every game has been played with immense zest and fire.

Since the initial raggedness the forwards have settled into a well-drilled and adventurous pack. Each one is dangerous in the loose, Taylor and Langford especially. Davis has hooked consistently well, Remington and Laird Craig have been outstanding in the line-out, and Seal, Burton-Carter and Pringle are not merely formidable loose forwards but also a powerful back row in the tight. This pack, like the rest of the team, promises well, for its members are not only strong and eager, but also willing to learn and to follow the modest and authoritative leadership of Pringle.

Kicking to excess was the early weakness of the backs, but once they discovered their ability to move the ball, they produced much fine play, notably in the Oundle match. We have been lucky to have a choice of scrum-halves in Cowdy, small but immensely plucky, and Gronow, who has also played well in the centre. Goodchild, sometimes exasperatingly deliberate, has often been shrewd and elusive and his defensive kicking is excellent. Gardiner is a penetrating centre and Parkinson and Thomson are developing into dangerous wings. Evans, whilst no great kicker, has been steady and courageous at full-back.

Credit should also be given to the 2nd XV, which played three matches (drawing one and losing one against St. Edward's, and winning against Radley). It also provided five of the 'A' side which beat Bloxham, J. M. Short (C) being outstanding. It has been good to see the whole club enjoying its rigger with such enthusiasm.

Results :—

Sat., Oct. 7th.	v. M.C.S., BRACKLEY (Away).	Won	9—3
Sat., Oct. 21st.	v. BEDFORD (Away).	Lost	3—18
Thur., Oct. 26th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S (Away).	Won	14—8
Sat., Oct. 28th.	v. BLOXHAM (Away).	Won	19—0
Tues., Oct. 31st.	v. OUNDLE (Home).	Won	18—3
Sat., Nov. 4th.	v. RUGBY (Away).	Lost	3—6
Sat., Nov. 11th.	v. RADLEY (Home).	Won	9—6
Tues., Nov. 14th.	v. BERKHAMSTED (Home).	Won	14—11
Sat., Nov. 18th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S (Home).	Won	12—3
Thur., Dec. 7th.	v. OAKHAM (Home).	Won	13—3

Team :—T. W. Evans (C); A. S. Thomson (T), S. G. Gardiner (G), J. P. Gronow (G), R. G. Parkinson (W); R. N. Goodchild (C), A. N. Cowdy (C); T. Taylor (W), M. K. Davis (C), D. G. Remington (G), P. E. Langford (B), G. E. Laird Craig (B), G. D. Seal (C), N. H. Burton-Carter (C), J. R. S. Pringle (B) (Capt.).

A. W. Kennedy (C) also played frequently.

THE UNDER 14's.

The team this year has not been quite as powerful as of late; however, they have given a very good account of themselves on most occasions.

M.C.S. Brackley was beaten comfortably on both occasions: on the second Stowe played very well as a team and there was good backing up. Bedford had a very strong, big fast side and Stowe lost by 42 points: however the team never packed in. The matches (1st and 2nd XVs) against St. Edward's were draws at Stowe, but losses away; on a larger pitch than usual Stowe was off form. Radley were just beaten in a close game. The final game was against Bilton Grange and we were too strong.

The mainstays have been Dixey (when fit), Burdon, Parsons, Stock, Edwards, Avory, Maynard-Taylor, and Durlacher, but the team played well and did their best.

The following have played for the team :—P. L. Mackintosh (C), N. J. Parsons (W), R. A. Syms (B), A. R. M. Baker (G), J. N. Dixey (B), G. J. B. Burdon (C), J. P. Agnew (W), S. A. Stock (W), S. R. Edwards (W), N. J. Forwood (G), P. N. J. Durey (C), C. Honeyman Brown (G), M. J. Avory (C), T. Bassett (G), R. A. Durrant (W), A. E. Maynard Taylor (C), W. P. Durlacher (W), G. Black (C).

HOUSE MATCHES

The Final was played on the North Front on Saturday December 16th, between Grenville and Temple; last year's finalists, Chatham and Walpole, had been eliminated in the first round. As last year, fog threatened, but fortunately it did not materialise sufficiently to spoil the play.

The opening series of kicks showed that Temple had little faith in their backs and were depending on the kicking of Scott-Gall; and, for a time, this was sufficient, with

the weight of the forwards, to keep play in the Grenville 25. But after Arbib had failed with a kick at goal from just outside the 25-yard line, Grenville swung the play back, and, after failing with a kick from the halfway line, Knight got one over from the 10 yard line, five minutes later. From this moment Temple started slipping. Allerton made half an opening and Knight was away to score behind the posts and converted it himself. Then, from a loose scrum on the halfway line, Allerton again got away for Knight to score his second try, but to fail with the conversion. After half-time, when Grenville were 11 points up, but playing against the slope, they kept play in the Temple half. Knight brought off his dummy and again scored, but without managing to convert. Grantham was injured and had to leave the field but it was not long before an excellent passing movement down the line gave McIntyre the chance to score the only points which Knight had not collected himself. This had been a fine open game, in which the younger and lighter Grenville forwards lasted better than the heavier and more experienced Temple pack; but the less-renowned Temple three-quarters had never attempted orthodox movements and had sealed their own fate.

Cobham	}	Cobham, 11—10	}	Temple, 5—0	} Grenville, 17—0.
Grafton	}		}		
Temple	}	Temple, 12—0	}		
Chatham	}		}		
Bruce	}	Bruce, 14—3	}	Grenville, 15—0	
Walpole	}		}		
Grenville	}	Grenville, 24—3	}		
Chandos	}		}		

OTHER SPORTS

SAILING

PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION FIREFLY CHAMPIONSHIP, 1961.

This year's races were held from August 30th to September 1st and were again sailed under the Itchenor Sailing Club burgee.

The team was unchanged from last year, being P. E. Martino (C) and J. G. Prunty (T), both of whom sail at Itchenor regularly. This year each school had to sail its own boat, which was supplied for Stowe by Prunty.

On the first day Prunty helmed the morning race and after a poor start moved up to finish third out of eighteen starters. In the afternoon Martino helmed and having judged a wind shift correctly moved from fifteenth to fifth when nearing the finish. For the third race helmsmen were changed again and Stowe went from the back to the front of the fleet twice to finish seventh. In the next race, having worked hard to reach third, and challenging for second place, Stowe retired owing to a foul at the last mark.

After these preliminary races Stowe were seventh equal on points and the first thirteen schools went into the two finals. In the first final Stowe retired just after the start when lying fourth and in the second race were second near the finish when again they were put out. These two unlucky retirements meant that Stowe finished thirteenth after having been at one time in a strong position. Pangbourne won the championship with Sevenoaks runners-up.

FIVES

This term, Mr. Penney, a Cambridge University Fives Blue, has taken over the control of Stowe Fives from Mr. Bain, to whom we owe a great deal for all the help he has given over the years.

There has been a new interest in Fives throughout the School this term. Mr. Penney has played regularly with the School team and has greatly improved the standard of play. However, the record was disappointing. Of the six matches played one was won, one drawn and the remainder lost. We beat Old Chigwellians and drew with Old Berkhamstedians, but lost to Old Edwardians, Jesters, Old Cholmeleians and King Edward's, Birmingham.

The first pair, R. B. B. Avory (C) and M. M. Orr (T), has played with great determination, but has usually found its opponents more experienced. Avory, the captain, is leaving this term, but Orr, whose right hand has improved considerably since last year, may again prove the team's strength next term. The second pair, J. H. Grantham (T) and A. M. Macoun (C), played consistently, and either should make a useful partner for Orr. The third pair, P. E. A. Hope (T) and M. R. Leon (T), has played enthusiastically and combined well together. A. B. Shellim (C), P. M. Henry (C), N. G. F. Hesketh (C) and R. W. Bailey-King (C) have also played in the team. A. R. G. Scott-Gall and R. N. Goodchild (C) make a promising Colts pair. It is hoped that D. R. Sabberton (T) may be fit enough to play next term.

The introduction of a Junior Fives League has spread the interest in Fives to every house. It has given the opportunity to those who are under fifteen years old to play regularly in the evenings and has greatly improved the standard amongst the juniors. Grenville won the Junior Fives League. Temple again won the Junior House Matches, beating Chandos in the final.

School colours were awarded to A. M. Macoun (C).

SQUASH RACKETS

The only two old colours remaining from last year were J. W. O. Allerton (G) and D. R. Sabberton (T). The latter was unfortunately injured in the first rugger practice of term and was unable to play in any subsequent rugger or squash matches. The four new strings were N. O. Faure (C), C. A. McIntyre (G), P. F. Brown (C) and T. D. B. Lee (C).

The match against Tring emphasised the lack of practice, and both Tring and Western Escorts won because of their steadiness. The two school matches resulted in a defeat at Harrow and a victory at Eton. In the Harrow match we won at numbers 1 and 5; but the middle three lost—partly owing, they claimed, to a fast ball and dark court. In the new Eton courts we were more at home and won easily.

All the team are capable of playing good squash, but there is still too much inconsistent play, and everyone is at the mercy of the steady player.

It is hoped that the experience this term will help in the eight matches next term.

Results :—

Oct. 10th.	v. THE MASTERS.	Home.	Won	3—2.
Oct. 15th.	v. TRING S.R.C.	Home.	Lost	1—4.
Nov. 14th.	v. HARROW.	Away.	Lost	2—3.
Nov. 19th.	v. WESTERN ESCORTS.	Home.	Lost	1—4.
Nov. 23rd.	v. ETON.	Away.	Won	4—1.

FENCING

A successful and pleasing term in which a high standard of fencing was maintained. The matches against Rugby and Denstone were well fought, for we have not fenced against either before and they were of unknown strength. Rappolt, Magee and ffolkes were awarded their colours. Trainin and Vacy-Ash also fenced well and Besterman is a very promising junior.

The following fenced for the First Team :—R. S. Winton (G), M. S. Rappolt (B), S. B. Magee (C), Sir Robert ffolkes, Bart. (B), P. A. Trainin (C) and C. G. Vacy-Ash (W).

First team results :—

v. Northampton F.C., lost (12—15); v. Rugby, won (15—3); v. M.C.S. Oxford, lost (13—14); v. Bradfield, won (15—12); v. Harrow, lost (6—12); v. Denstone, won (17—10).

2nd Foil team results :—

v. Bradfield, won (8—1); v. Harrow, won (5—4).

Junior Foil team results :—

v. Bradfield, won (6—3); v. M.C.S. Oxford, lost (4—5).

SCULLING

At the end of last term a salver for the fastest individual sculling time of the year was most generously presented by C. P. D. Yarwood, the club's first secretary. The first competition will be held in the Summer term, and it will be a valuable complement to the House cup.

Sculling activities this term have been of consolidation and further practice by those not primarily involved with rugger. A number of juniors, particularly from Cobham, have taken to the water for the first time.

CROSS-COUNTRY

For the first time the Inter-House Junior Cross-Country race was run before Christmas. The course had been revised, the conditions were good, and 96 runners took the field on December 14th. Walpole was the winning House, but there was a great tussle between R. U. Dawson (C) and I. J. Macdonald (G) to provide the individual winner.

Result :—1, Walpole, 208 pts.; 2, Grenville, 224 pts.; 3, Chatham, 231 pts.; 4, Grafton, 260 pts.; 5, Cobham, 272 pts.; 6, Chandos, 274 pts.; 7, Temple, 313 pts.; 8, Bruce, 364 pts.

Individual winner : R. U. Dawson (C). Time, 16 mins. 49 secs.

