

THE STOIC

December 1968

Number one hundred and thirty seven





Vol XXIII
Number 4
December 1968

THE STOIC

Stoica: T. B. R. Albery
Society: P. I. Bellew
Music: G. L. Harvey
Sport: C. S. Edwards

EDITORIAL

This term has seen the handing over of more responsibility for editing *The Stoic* to members of the School—a policy that has been an objective for some time—and when further experience has been gained this will be further extended. If *The Stoic* is to be more than a record of events (as it certainly should) then it is important that as many shades of opinion as possible should be represented and that any person who has a connection with the School, be he Governor, Master, Stoic or Old Stoic, should be encouraged to submit articles, correspondence, photographs, or anything else that is relevant to Stowe. Now this is not supposed to be yet another desperate editorial appeal for “more contributions please!” (which is the wont of all school magazine editors) since there has recently been a very encouraging response (especially for inclusion in *Germ*). But you, the reader, does need frequently to be reminded that without a constant flow of relevant material *The Stoic* would dry up altogether, and that perhaps instead of just reading the parts that interest you, you might think of putting pen to paper yourself. Criticism of the magazine or suggestions for improvements are always welcome—and of course the editorial posts, at present filled by the gentlemen whose names appear on the left of this page, will fall vacant in time, and potential editors and journalists ought to start showing an interest now. A further word, directed at all contributors, but particularly at society secretaries—please do try to write legibly and in English. If the magazine is dull (as, you may think, is this editorial) then it is the fault of its contributors and simply reflects the talent, or lack of it, in the School; but there can surely be no necessity for scruffy and illegible reports enough has been said, once again the Editor has fallen into the trap of pompous lecturing (which nobody will read anyway) and of talking exclusively about *The Stoic* (for which he hopes to be forgiven). Come to think of it, if this editorial had been submitted as a contribution, it probably wouldn't have been accepted

STOICA

School Officials—Autumn Term 1968

Prefects: J. R. Priestley	Head of the School
W. G. Cheyne	Second Prefect and Head of Chandos
R. C. B. Anderson	Head of Temple
P. G. Arbuthnot	Prefect of Gymnasium
P. C. Bullock	Prefect of Games
T. R. Harris	Prefect of Mess
J. A. C. Heaslop	Head of Walpole
N. D. Jamieson	Head of Grenville
N. P. Mawer	Head of Lyttelton
R. E. T. Nicholl	Prefect of Chapel
J. F. Rothwell	Prefect of Hall
T. N. A. Telford	Head of Cobham
A. H. Thomlinson	Prefect of Library
M. T. von Bergen	Head of Chatham
J. F. Wardley	Head of Bruce
J. P. Withinshaw	Head of Grafton

Rugby Football: Captain,	P. C. Bullock (B)	Secretary,	R. E. T. Nicholl (L)
Squash: Captain,	H. A. Smith (T)	Secretary,	J. Choyce (C)
Fives: Captain,	M. W. Whitton (B)	Secretary,	M. W. Whitton (B)
Fencing: Captain,	P. E. Smith (S)	Secretary,	A. D. J. Farniloe (L)
Sailing: Commodore,	M. A. K. Parkes (W)	Secretary,	J. T. W. Smyth (C)
Shooting: Captain,	T. R. Harris (B)	Secretary,	G. A. Shenkman (S)
Beagles: Master,	C. J. E. Bartholomew (W)		
Community Service Representative:	N. R. Spurrier (S)		

The School is at present pursuing a slow-moving but steady liberal policy, and this winter term a spate of cord jackets has made its appearance to brighten up our lives; we welcome this and only wonder what will be the next arrival: Kaftans, perhaps? We also welcome five new members to the staff; Mr. Burley has taken over from Mr. Seymour as Geology master, Mr. Luft is teaching Physics, and Mr. Marcuse, Mr. Temple and Mr. Weight are much-needed additions to the English and the Classics sides after the retirement of Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Macdonald. We thank them all for bringing new vigour to the community; in particular we must point out Mr. Weight's magnificent anthem in Chapel, and advertise the Madrigal Society and the Muse, two new societies founded by Mr. Temple. Rumour has it that the Muse is receiving severe competition from the Pseudo-Muse, but this may well be unfounded. Mr. Morris arrived back from playing for the British Olympic hockey team in Mexico sadly without a medal but at least with a dark suntan. In his absence Mr. Addison substituted successfully, and his set

now know all there is to know about glaciation in Snowdonia. Unknown to most, control of the murky depths of the Power House Yard has now passed to Mr. Brian Martin, who took over this term from Mr. Oliver as Chief Engineer. One final note of interest is that the rate of birth amongst the masters' families is steadily increasing; from one birth last term it has risen to four this term. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Morris on the birth of a son on September 18th, to Mr. and Mrs. Horne on the birth of a son on October 8th, to Mr. and Mrs. Dobinson on the birth of a son on October 18th, and to Mr. and Mrs. James on the birth of a son on July 24th.

From masters we move on to boys. R. K. Hay, the winner of last year's Myles Henry Prize, and C. J. English returned from their trip down the Danube after experiencing a sunken canoe, the beginnings of revolution in Czechoslovakia and an arrest in Roumania; they seem to have had an eventful holiday, and an account appears later. Congratulations to C. G. N. Barclay on being awarded this year's Myles Henry Prize; he is going to

discover the ins and outs of Spanish bull-fighting. Unlucky runners-up were R. D. G. Carter and M. J. Wolfe, who plan to visit the home of the Wright brothers in America and find out more about their flight, and A. W. Goodhart, who still hopes to visit Israel and join their C.C.F. Off to climb the rigging and scrub the decks of the *Sir Winston Churchill* and the *Malcolm Miller* next holidays are R. M. Withinshaw and J. W. Goodwin; we congratulate them as well.

Throughout the term the usual activities have been progressing. There have been no notable sporting occurrences, although we must mention the Squash team which has been unexpectedly successful. Though sports results may have been mediocre, intellectual activity continues to flourish. The new members of the Upper School received the low-down on such diverse careers as Mining and Medicine during the Lower Sixth Conference at the beginning of term. The whole of the Upper School has been more than usually entertained by the three Sixth Form Lectures this term, particularly by Mr. Hargreaves' talk on 'Computing in this modern age', although at present there do not seem to be many worried-looking, narrow-minded scientists or artists in the school seeking to undergo intensive re-training. In the musical sphere we have been treated to everything from an auspicious first Beethoven Sonatas Recital to the full orchestra and choral society in the successful 'Concert of English Music for St. Cecilia's Day'. Unfortunately we go to press before the performances of the Congreve Club play, Shaw's 'Caesar and Cleopatra', but this promises to be a

spectacular production both in its stage set and in its costumes; it will be reviewed in next term's edition.

For those who are beginning to despair of ever seeing a swimming pool at Stowe, there is hope yet. Sir Charles Colston, whose son Michael was in Grenville, has very kindly given the School a cheque for £10,000; we are very grateful to him.

And finally the following letter has been received:

Dear Sir,

Recently, various Companies and Stately Homes, Zoo's, etc., such as yourselves, have been engaged in large promotional activities. We as spinners, weavers, and finishers have been consulted and, as a result of our competitive quotations and standard of merchandise, we have produced Linen Tea Cloths for Companies and Organisations (i.e., Guide Dogs for the Blind, Top Rank Motor Ports, Save the Children Fund, Holker Hall, Clark in Cartmel) which have enabled them to raise very useful funds.

If you feel that a Tea Cloth depicting a design of your own would be useful for sales promotional activities, or special offers, please write to us "for the attention of the undersigned", when we should be pleased to quote you our special prices and let you have samples of our linen. Any other help we can give you would be quickly forthcoming.

Yours faithfully,
Dunmoy Household Textiles.

For all those longing to have their very own 'Persto et Praesto' tea-cloth, the address may be obtained from the Editor of *The Stoic*.

OBITUARY

The Reverend E. F. Habershon

Edward Habershon, chaplain at Stowe from September 1923 to December 1931, died on October 19th at the age of 82. In the notice of his death, mourners were invited to send, in lieu of flowers, donations to the Stowe Boys' Club in London, The Pineapple, which was opened during Habershon's chaplaincy and he was the first vice-chairman of its administrative committee. Such an invitation, thirty-seven years after he had moved on, is eloquent of what Stowe had meant to him and of what he had given Stowe.

The circumstances of Stowe's foundation did not promise him an altogether easy task as chaplain. He was himself typically diffident of his capacity for it and would express his debt to the encouragement of Bishop Burroughs and the moral strength of Roxburgh's generous example. But others knew that he was well suited to the needs of a new school, a man of

sincerity, earnest conscientiousness and unfailing industry, essentially humble, sympathetic, effective through constant participation. His eight-year term of service had its own positive and particular value, which may be symbolised by that still surviving monument of solid workmanship, the scorer's box on the North Front known as the Habernacle. This box Habby (as all called him) built with members of the school, as he also built the Habitation, a hut near Cobham's pillar designed for the use of Pineapple boys during their summer camps at Stowe. But by 1931, marriage (towards which at that time the school made scant provision for its staff) and his own personal convictions led to his leaving Stowe, regretful and widely regretted—maintaining regular contacts thereafter both with Roxburgh and with others. (To the Masters' Mess, incidentally, he gave as leaving present a silver 'haberdasher' for the dispensing of sugar).

He moved on to the chaplaincy of Gresham's School, Holt, where his three children were born and where he stayed until he became 60 in 1946. For the next ten years he held the living of Coombe Bissett, in the diocese of Salisbury; and then, in nominal retirement, he settled at Milford-on-Sea, not far from another former Stowe master, Robert Hole, who had also played a part in establishing the Stowe Boys' Club, who later founded and was mainspring of the Lymington Community Centre, and who died in 1964.

But throughout his seventies Habershon remained scarcely less active than before in religious and social service. When the end came, it came with mercifully little impairment of his faculties either physical or mental.

OLIM ALUMNI

R. L. Addleman (♁ 1965) has been awarded a Scholarship in Engineering at Imperial College, London.

J. W. O. Allerton (G 1962) has captained the Oxford squash team against Cambridge.

Col. J. I. G. Capadose (T 1943) has been appointed Defence Attaché, British Embassy in Berne.

Professor O. A. W. Dilke (B 1933) has been appointed visiting Professor of Classics to the State University of Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.

R. A. Durrant (W 1965) played for the England Youth team in the home golf internationals at Gullane in September.

N. J. Forwood (G 1965) gained First Class Honours in the Mechanical Sciences Tripos at Cambridge.

Major General D. G. Levis (T 1930) has been appointed Director of Army Health, Ministry of Defence (Army).

C. S. McCallin (C 1930) is appearing in the lead role in the comedy "Bishop's Move" at the Westminster Theatre, London.

A. J. Murdoch (T 1962) is the Editor of *World Scouting*, the magazine of the Boy Scouts World Bureau, in Geneva, Switzerland.

R. C. Peatfield (T 1966) gained First Class Honours in the Medical Tripos at Cambridge.

Lt.-Col. C. E. Taylor (B 1946) has been appointed G.S.O.I. (D.S.) at the Staff College, Camberley.

BIRTHS

To the wife of:

M. A. Benkert (♁ 1958) a daughter on July 23rd 1968.

R. A. Bolton (♁ 1950) sons on October 2nd 1961 and November 21st 1963.

P. S. Bramley (W 1958) a son on June 16th 1968.

A. G. Clark (G 1954) a daughter on February 12th 1968.

D. C. Cooper (W 1957) a daughter on July 23rd 1966.

N. J. Ferrier (C 1955) a son on March 4th 1968.

J. H. Goodhart (W 1954) a daughter on February 11th 1968.

A. D. J. Grenfell (W 1956) a daughter on September 14th 1968.

R. J. Hay (W 1960) a daughter on June 2nd 1968.

W. A. Jenkyn-Jones (C 1954) a son on October 15th 1968.

R. P. L. Kaye (♁ 1951) daughters on August 15th 1959, May 7th 1962 and September 24th 1964.

A. A. Mercer (♁ 1956) a daughter on January 14th 1968.

D. M. H. Reece (W 1955) a son on October 4th 1968.

J. A. Thomson (W 1951) sons on May 9th 1966 and October 16th 1967.

S. M. D. Williamson-Noble (T 1961) a daughter on January 1st 1968.

MARRIAGES

S. P. H. Barker-Benfield (T 1962) to Susan Shannon McMahon on May 13th 1968.

D. H. Bate (G 1960) to Diane White on June 24th 1967.

R. A. Bolton (♁ 1950) to Barbara Gwenyth Burston on March 30th 1959.

P. S. Bramley (W 1958) to Fiona Caroline Townley on April 20th 1967.

P. E. B. de Buriatte (B 1953) to Valerie Anne Smith on November 2nd 1968.

A. G. Clark (G 1954) to Sally Burton-Jones on March 24th 1961.

D. C. Cooper (W 1958) to Susanna Higgins on April 20th 1963.

C. P. Foord-Kelcey (W 1963) to Diane Elizabeth Warnock on September 28th 1968.

J. H. Frazer (C 1963) to Jane Carlotta Phipps on May 4th 1968.

C. J. W. Gauvain (T 1959) to Elizabeth Boddington on October 14th 1968.

R. C. A. Hammond (C 1954) to Barbara Ann Pearson on November 11th 1967.

R. J. Hay (W 1960) to Rachel Stoddart on October 8th, 1966.

P. T. Hirst (♁ 1963) to Susan Mary Waterhouse on June 22nd 1968.

A. P. Hope (G 1965) to Diana Carter on November 30th 1968.

S. P. H. Howarth (C 1958) to Angela Furlong on July 13th 1965.

J. H. Hughes (B 1951) to Dorothy Winifred Griffin on September 14th 1968.

J. A. Jefferson (C 1960) to Gwendoline May Powell on May 11th 1968.

R. P. L. Kaye (♁ 1951) to Elizabeth Lancaster on November 30th 1957.

C. R. Kenyon (W 1958) to Jennifer Elizabeth Way on April 19th 1968.

P. C. Lord (♁ 1960) to Sarah Short on April 17th 1968.

D. R. Loxton (♁ 1960) to Pamela Ann Morse on May 11th 1968, in New Jersey, U.S.A.

R. A. C. Meredith (G 1953) to Hazel Parry on July 30th 1968.

W. J. N. Moore (C 1962) to Davina Chetwode on June 22nd 1968.

D. H. Penrose (♁ 1961) to Yvonne Marie Cazaly on April 1st 1967.

K. F. Robson (T 1956) to Susan Wendy Mary Boyer on July 6th 1967.

C. R. Selby (♁ 1954) to Darlene Dowd on December 1st 1967.

J. A. Thomson (W 1951) to Angela Margaret Franklin on May 1st 1965.

S. M. D. Williamson-Noble (T 1961) to Sandy Davidson on March 18th 1967.

DEATHS

P. D. Bally (C 1940) on August 19th 1968.

P. B. Bishop (B 1931) on November 5th 1968.

R. E. Blandford (C 1930) on September 30th 1968.

A. G. L. Wingfield (B 1965) on August 9th 1968, in a motor-car accident.

THE HISTORY OF STOWE—VI

LORD COBHAM'S HOUSE

We left Lord Cobham in 1718, on the pinnacle of success and a very rich man. He was soon to become even richer. Since 1714 the King of Spain had remained dissatisfied with the Utrecht settlement, which had deprived him of Naples and Sicily. These he considered to be his by right, and in 1719 felt strong enough to retake them by force, in defiance alike of his recent friends and enemies. Great Britain and France, now in alliance, had foreseen this trouble and were ready to teach Spain a lesson. Admiral Byng met and destroyed the Spanish fleet in the Mediterranean. At the same time a British military expedition set out to attack the west coast of Spain. Of this force Lord Cobham was given command. Spain expected an attack on Corunna, but in fact it was made on Vigo. After a short siege the citadel capitulated, the defences were destroyed and a large booty was carried home to London. The total value is said to have been £87,000. The Treasury of course took the greater part, but the share of the commander-in-chief must have been substantial. So now, if indeed there had been any doubt about it before, Lord and Lady Cobham could afford to do just what they liked at Stowe. What they liked was what all others of their class and wealth liked at that time: to build a fine new house and lay out a large and splendid garden for the entertainment of wits, poets and beautiful ladies. The garden, in which on the whole they seem to have been more interested, will be described in later chapters. We are here concerned with the house.

Stowe House as it stood was less than forty years old and a very fine thing of its kind. Many such houses stand in England to this day. Many a landowner would have been quite satisfied with it, but not so the ambitious Cobham. In fact he did not destroy his father's house, but covered the brick, north and south, with modern façades of stucco and stone. The outlying service buildings were replaced by pavilions connected to the house by galleries of one storey. The architect commissioned was Vanbrugh. There is indeed no comprehensive body of self-demonstrating evidence—letters, drawings, estimates—such as there is for Castle Howard and Blenheim, to prove that Vanbrugh rebuilt, or was to have rebuilt, Stowe House. Evidence has to be collected here and there in small quantities. There is, however, enough. In the first place Cobham and Vanbrugh had been fellow-members of the Kit-Cat Club in Queen Anne's time and were personal friends. Both were pronounced Whigs. Vanbrugh by his remarkable talents and personality had made himself Whig architect-in-chief. It was only to be expected, quite apart from private friendship, that Cobham would employ him. Secondly, Vanbrugh designed all the original ornaments for the garden. It would have been very extraordinary for Cobham to employ his distinguished friend on this minor task and not give him the main commission for the house. Thirdly, there is in possession of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society a "Tour of Seats" in manuscript, apparently written in 1724. The tourist says that he went to "Ld Cobham's at Stowe, where he has an house of 13 windows in front, with offices at both ends designed by Sir John Vanbrugh". Thirteen windows is right. So is "offices at both ends". It is true that by the omission of a comma in his narrative the tourist suggests that only the offices were designed by Vanbrugh, but this can hardly be what he means. If Vanbrugh designed the offices, he must surely have designed everything. Finally, there is among the Gough Collection in the Bodleian Library a large drawing of the early 18th century, unfortunately not dated, a low-oblique aerial view of Stowe by Charles Bridgeman, who designed the new gardens (Plate 1). In this is seen the south side of the house looking very like Vanbrugh's work. It is the offices which specially suggest Vanbrugh. The massive end-gateways are, on a smaller scale, remarkably like the Pyramid Gate at Castle Howard. The position of the offices, continuing in line with the house and not flanking a forecourt, is not characteristic of Vanbrugh and unusual altogether. But there is some reason to think that this was Lord Cobham's idea.¹ As to the house itself, the tall slender portico and the tall pedimented towers have the Vanbrugh touch.

¹ See Laurence Whistler, *The Imagination of Vanbrugh*, pp 188-9, and *Vanbrugh's Work at Stowe House in Country Life*, Feb. 1959.

Vanbrugh's first recorded visit to Stowe was in June 1719. In July he wrote to his friend Jacob Tonson that Lord Cobham was already spending "all he has to spare" on the house and gardens, though this may merely mean that the interior of the old house was being refurbished. But Vanbrugh was surely at Stowe earlier than this. A likely date for a first visit is 1716, in which year the Duke of Marlborough had a stroke and the Duchess, who hated Vanbrugh, took the opportunity to banish him forever from Blenheim. Lord Cobham, never one to let grass grow under his feet, may have taken the same opportunity to bring Vanbrugh down to Stowe. In the following year, 1717, the entail was broken and in the autumn Cobham began to build an inn at the gates of his park. The New Inn was probably intended in the first place for the accommodation of artists and works foremen who were engaged on the house and gardens. Later it became a final halt for the refreshment of tourists who came to view the place. The decision to build it for either or both of these reasons clearly indicates an intention towards something spectacular in the way of building and gardening. In fact, elements of the new garden begin to be mentioned in the accounts as early as January 1716. But the accounts also suggest that the full plan was not developed until 1719 or 1720. The Vigo bonus came into Cobham's hands at the end of 1719. Much must have been discussed already between Cobham, Vanbrugh and Bridgeman. Much was intended and some things had been done. Now everything became possible. So, as we may suppose during the winter 1719/20, Bridgeman made his aerial view to show Lord Cobham what the garden would look like when it was completed, and work went on apace from that time forward. Many of the garden ornaments must already have been designed by Vanbrugh, as they appear in the view. So must the house have been designed, perhaps even some years earlier. But, sad to say, it never came into being. A house went up indeed, but so little like Vanbrugh's as to be almost unrecognizable. The garden went forward but the house hung fire. It was the normal practice of the time to develop a garden at least to keep pace with a house, and it is evident that Lord Cobham was more interested in his garden. There was after all a comfortable house already in existence.

Building accounts for Stowe that have so far been discovered are regrettably few. Such as they are, however, they show activity between 1718 and 1722, but almost wholly indoors. There are then almost no accounts until 1728, but things had gone far enough by 1724 for the Yorkshire tourist to be able to count the south-front windows. It must be remembered, however, that the old house was merely refaced and the fenestration not materially altered. But whatever the tourist saw he supposed to be Vanbrugh's work, and no doubt in part it was. Accounts are somewhat fuller for 1729 and show that during the summer lead was laid on the corner towers and at the same time a large number of windows were glazed, having been changed from casement to sash. So we may conclude that at least the centre block was complete by 1730. What this and the new wings looked like can be seen from a view (Plate 2) taken about 1733 by the French topographical draughtsman Jacques Rigaud, who came over to England, and to Stowe in particular, at Bridgeman's invitation.² Nobody would suppose that this was a Vanbrugh façade. The old house has been cased in but not carried up an extra storey as intended. The roof with dormers remains and has not been transformed into an attic, and the towers are one storey lower than they would have been. The three-bay centrepiece has become an engaged portico, but not Vanbrugh's portico. As to the wings, allowing for difference of angle and difference between Bridgeman's and Rigaud's draughtmanship, the connecting galleries appear to be what Vanbrugh intended. Certainly they are the same length, but set back, not forward, from the line of the main façade. The end pavilions, however, have been completely redesigned and owe nothing whatever to Vanbrugh. How did all these changes come to happen?

The fact is that Lord Cobham left things too late to achieve a Vanbrugh transformation; which is a matter for some regret. Stowe might have been another Kimbolton, another Grimsthorpe. Vanbrugh died untimely in March 1726, leaving the house half finished, or less than half, and a new architect was required without delay. Within a few months James Gibbs had been called in. In September he and Bridgeman travelled down together and were met at Towcester by the Stowe carriage. Thereafter Gibbs worked at Stowe, on and off, for a number of years.

² Rigaud made 15 views of Bridgeman's Stowe garden. These were later engraved by himself and Bernard Baron and published by Sarah Bridgeman in 1739, the year after her husband's death.

Towards the end of his life he compiled a list, with useful comments, of all his buildings. Of Stowe he wrote—"He (Gibbs) designed and erected many Ornamental Buildings and Temples in Stow Gardens for the Rt. Honble Lord Cobham as likewise additions to his Country house ther, wher ther are two noble Appartments finely furnished besides others for strangers." So evidently Gibbs did something to the house, though it is hard to make out what. The centre block, as Rigaud shows it, is clearly Vanbrugh gone wrong: the result, possibly, of a not too skilful collaboration between Cobham and his builders during the gap between Vanbrugh and Gibbs. And it may be that Lady Cobham had something to say about a best-bedroom balcony, which led to a two-tier portico. Gibbs may of course have had a hand in this, though one would like to absolve him from the centre block. But the end pavilions are wholly professional and may well be his work. However, the mere word "additions" proves nothing in particular and there is another candidate for the pavilions, the Italian architect Giacomo Leoni, who came to England about 1715 and worked at Stowe, at all events on the north front, during the seventeen-twenties. Gibbs is more likely for the pavilions, but the question remains unresolved.

Thus the south front remained for ten years or more: This period was the heyday of Lord and Lady Cobham as host and hostess to distinguished persons. Now came the wits, the poets and the beautiful ladies to fall into ecstasies over the beauty of the garden. Now came likewise those who were wont to foregather about Frederick, Prince of Wales, and hatch wicked schemes against the King and Queen and Walpole. Pope and Martha Blount, Lady Suffolk, Lord Chesterfield, Lord Westmoreland, William Pulteney who became Lord Bath and whose conversation was so brilliant as scarcely to be comprehensible, all were at Stowe one time or another. And in 1737 the Prince and Princess of Wales themselves came to stay. As a result of all this Lord Cobham may have felt he was cramped in his quarters. At all events he enlarged. The earliest known guide-book to Stowe, printed in 1744, says that "the additions now building make a grand appearance". In fact they made a wretched appearance and ruined the hitherto quite tolerable frontage (Plate 3). Huge superstructures were perched on top of the lateral galleries, quite dwarfing the pavilions. The pavilions also were altered and not at all improved. The result, indoors, may have been all that was desired, but out of doors Stowe came to look, in Mr. Whistler's phrase, more like a row of street-fronts than a single house. In the west wing the whole new interior on the *piano nobile* became a "state apartment"; bedroom, dressing room and gallery of parade. Lord Cobham may have looked forward thereafter to entertaining King Frederick the First. But History did not turn out that way.

So much for the south front. To move round now to the north, the entrance front (Plate 4). Here the same general procedure was followed. The old brick façade was stuccoed over and the corners built up to form towers, and a large Ionic portico was set in the middle. By Stowe tradition the portico was assigned to William Kent, for no better reason than that Kent designed many things at Stowe. But it is almost certainly too early for him and not at all in his manner. Recently, and with far better reason, it has been assigned to Vanbrugh. The distinguishing feature of this portico is the use of doubled end-columns, and this is a motif which Vanbrugh was the first to use in English architecture. Notwithstanding, there is another candidate with perhaps a better claim. This is Leoni. Leoni's recorded works at Stowe are the two great arches which face each other from the outer extremities of the north lay-out (Plate 5). The east arch was originally the approach gate to the forecourt, leading from the old road to Buckingham which ran through what remained of Stowe village. The west arch led into the garden. Leoni was a Venetian and his arches, with their rich ornament, suggest the Venetian Baroque. But Leoni's *raison d'être* in England, so to speak, was Palladio. Here he had come by 1715 expressly to publish an English version of the *Quattro Libri*, with engravings after drawings made by himself of Palladio's buildings. Besides the doubled end-columns, square-section against round, the Stowe portico has another particular feature, the return-walls pierced by arched openings. Both these motifs appear in Palladio's works: pierced return-walls in the four porticoes of the famous Villa Rotonda near Vicenza; doubled end-columns in the central portico of the equally famous, though never completed, Villa Trissino at Meledo. And there is another piece of evidence for Leoni. During the 1720s and about the same time that he was designing for Stowe he refaced Lyme Hall in Cheshire. Here on the garden side he built an Ionic portico strongly reminiscent of Stowe. It is a coarser performance than Stowe's north portico, but the resemblance

is unmistakable. Vanbrugh, certainly, cannot be ruled out. The massive grandeur of the Stowe portico is quite in accord with his genius; and Vanbrugh himself was well aware of Palladio. But on the whole Leoni seems more likely.

By the end of the century the north front had its colonnades and its tall screen walls, but in these early days, before 1730, Leoni's arches stood isolated on the outer flanks. Between the house and the arches the service courts had been laid out where the Bridgeman view shows them, where in fact they remain today as Cobham Court, which was the stable yard, and the Powerhouse Yard, which was the kitchen yard. The view shows the yards bounded towards the north merely by iron railings, but these would have been very inadequate screens against horses being rubbed down on one side and housemaids emptying slops on the other. So in due course walls were built about ten feet high along the lines of the railings, running out from the corners of the house to form a forecourt and then turning at right angles to run off towards Leoni's arches. The view also shows secondary gates into the yards, through the railings facing north. The idea of massive portals as Vanbrugh had intended them, east and west at the outer ends, was abandoned, and the north gates became the only access for wheeled traffic to the yards. At these entries were built tall pedimented arches, rising well above the screen-walls. All this treatment is elaborate. The walls have niches and ball-crests and small corner pavilions. The arches also have ball ornaments and small flanking obelisks. The guide-books ascribe the arches to Kent and there is little reason to doubt this. The whole treatment is very suggestive of Kent. If this is the right attribution, then the walls and arches must have been built after 1730, by which time Lord Burlington had realised Kent was not so good a painter as he had supposed and had encouraged him towards architecture; and before 1733, when Rigaud drew the forecourt as seen from the north front steps. In fact, this forecourt treatment must be a very early work of Kent as an architect. Which only goes to show what an eager, and discerning, patron of artists Lord Cobham was. No sooner was Vanbrugh gone than he called in Gibbs and Leoni, both at once. By employing Leoni, and very soon afterwards Kent, he showed himself well abreast of the fashion, one of the first patrons of the "Palladian" architecture which was to carry all before it until the advent of Robert Adam.

The Interior of the House

Notwithstanding the many alterations of later times, some parts of the interior survive from Lord Cobham's period. The North Hall is still essentially the entrance hall of the old house, though re-styled by Lord Cobham. The first guide-book to describe the house (1762) gives the decoration to Kent and this is probably right. The walls had "Ornaments of Festoons, etc.", but these have gone. So has Kent's double-tier chimney-piece, which was illustrated in Isaac Ware's *Designs of Inigo Jones and Others* (1743). It incorporated in its upper half the marble relief of "The Family of Darius before Alexander", the same that is now housed into the east wall of the hall (Plate 7). The inscription on the frieze behind the figures, CHRISTOPHORUS VEIRERIUS TRITENSIS FECIT AQUIS, shows the sculptor to have been Christophe Veyrier, who was working at Aix-en-Provence (Aqua) in 1680/2. How Lord Cobham came by this piece of sculpture is not known, but evidently he prized it highly. Kent also painted the still-extant ceiling of the hall, a typical work (Plate 6). The subject is the astrological heavens; the Planets and the Zodiac. Mars, the god of war, has pride of place in the middle, where he appears handing a sword to a young soldier. This scene records in allegory the auspicious day in 1702 when young Sir Richard Temple, aged 26, received his first command of a regiment from King William. Having craned his neck at Kent's ceiling the visitor might then walk through into the "Great Parlour" and there gain a general impression of Lord Cobham's military career depicted in pieces of Brussels tapestry. The Duke of Marlborough and several of his generals, one of whom was Cobham, each ordered a set of tapestry from a series known as the "Art of War" and woven between 1706 and 1712 after designs by Lambert de Hondt. A tradition grew up at Stowe that Lord Cobham's set showed incidents at the siege of Lille, where he had played an important part. But in fact de Hondt's scenes were not particularised. The subjects of Cobham's four pieces were merely *Campement*, *Embuscade*, *Fouragement* and *Attacque*. The great parlour has long since disappeared, swallowed by the present oval saloon. Virtually nothing now remains from Lord Cobham's time in the east part of the house, but there

is still a fair amount in the west part. The two staircases, east and west, are a great disappointment for a house like Stowe. They would fit well enough into a modern office-block on the outskirts of London. They appear to belong to the late 18th, or even early 19th century, and must surely replace much finer stairs from Lord Cobham's, or even his father's time. Above the staircases were ceilings painted by the Venetian Francesco Sleter, whose best patron Lord Cobham undoubtedly was. By 1749, when Lord Cobham died, a surprisingly large area of wall-space in the house and garden buildings had been covered with paint applied by Sleter. None of this now survives with the possible exception of the ceiling above the east (Grenville) staircase, now too much decayed for identification. This is unfortunate, for Sleter was an able performer in the colourful Venetian manner of his period. The west (Temple) staircase-hall, upstairs and down, still has its wall-decoration from the Cobham period and may well be Kent's work.

Moving on westward we come to the "State Apartment". The inmost room, the bedroom, was totally altered by Earl Temple, Cobham's nephew and successor, and no record remains of its former appearance. The dressing-room (Plate 8), with its elaborate chimneypiece incorporating a portrait of Lord Cobham in youth, by Kneller, remained until the final Stowe sale of 1921/2, when it was stripped of its fittings. But the state gallery (Plate 9), later the state dining room, still survives, though shorn of its great allegorical tapestries and bereft of its magnificent chimneypieces.³ Apart from these serious losses it is as Lord Cobham left it, and the question arises—who designed it? Remembering the "two noble Apartments" listed by Gibbs in his memoir, it might be supposed that he had done it, but the decoration is so utterly unlike his usual interior style with its Venetian plasterwork, that his name may be crossed off. If he designed any apartments—and he does not say those he mentions were his—then they must have been elsewhere and since destroyed. Is the gallery then by Kent? Possibly. It is quite in the Burlington manner. Nevertheless there is something subtly un-Kentish about it. Who then can the designer have been? We have seen that Lord Cobham employed three architects—Gibbs, Leoni and Kent—almost simultaneously. It is not impossible that he may have employed a fourth. The present writer takes leave to introduce yet another name not hitherto connected with Stowe: Henry Flitcroft, known as "Burlington Harry".

In one of Lord Cobham's account books appears the following entry—"May 17 1737. To Mr Flintcroft, a present—six guineas". In the usual course of 18th century misspelling, Flintcroft may be Flitcroft. And it so happens that during 1737 Flitcroft was at work on the interior of Ditchley Park in Oxfordshire, whence he could have paid a first visit to Stowe. A comparison of the state gallery at Stowe with Flitcroft's work in the white drawingroom at Ditchley and in the state rooms he designed at Wentworth Woodhouse in Yorkshire, reveals more than a mere "period" resemblance. Flitcroft, who was a faithful disciple of Lord Burlington, used the same interior style as Kent, but had a lighter and more imaginative touch in decoration. It was the Stowe chimneypieces, now removed, which were specially characteristic. But the friezes in the dressing room and gallery, both still extant, are also suggestive. If Flitcroft designed any of this, presumably he designed the whole of the state apartment. It is pertinent therefore to enquire, if he designed the interior of the apartment, whether he also designed the exterior, and the corresponding work at the other end of the house. Whether, in short, he was responsible for the "street-front" appearance of the south front of the 1740s. This again is possible. The street-front at Stowe resembled, in a very general way, the straggling wings Flitcroft attached to the Stowe-sized palace, Wentworth Woodhouse, which he designed for the Marquis of Rockingham during the 1730s. But all this, it must be stressed, apart from stylistic resemblance, hangs on the single entry in the account book of the present to "Mr. Flitcroft". A "present" at this time was a professional fee to a person somewhat too august to receive payment from the hands of the steward. Gibbs was given a present of twenty guineas in May 1727, following his first visit to Stowe the previous autumn.

The state gallery had ceiling-pieces by Sleter. These were removed towards the end of the century and replaced by the dismal grisailles now to be seen there. It seems incredible that any-

³ The present chimneypieces, skilfully imitating early Georgian work, were made in the nineteen-twenties in the school workshops by the same craftsmen who fitted up the interior of the school chapel.

one, at any time, should have done such a thing. We can but conclude that the rain, not for the last time, came through the roof and ruined the bright Venetian colours of Sleter's work. Joiners and plasterers were in the gallery in 1746, and in March 1747 Sleter was paid six guineas, probably for the four paintings in the cove of the ceiling, those in the flat being on canvas and paid for separately. James Lovell the sculptor was also at work, perhaps on the chimneypieces. In the cove of the ceiling, hidden by the cornice, is the signature "Josh: Harris", presumably Sleter's assistant and the date 1750. So evidently the gallery was not quite finished when Lord Cobham died.

Finally, something must be said of the domestic chapel Lord Cobham built out into the stable yard, behind the east wing of the house (Plate 10). It was fitted up with the splendid carved and gilt cedar wainscot he bought from a house in Cornwall, pulled down in 1739 and by coincidence also called Stowe. The carving is by Michael Chuke, a Cornishman who had been a pupil of Grinling Gibbon. When the school chapel was designed, the cedar chapel, as it was called, was dismantled and the wainscot used to adorn Sir Robert Lorimer's interior. None can deny it looks very well there. But the cedar chapel was perfect of its kind. It is very much to be regretted that it no longer exists. It was fitted up in 1746/7 and had at one time an altarpiece by Tintoretto. Its ceiling, very likely by Kent, survives as the ceiling of the Aurelian Room. The chapel was probably Lord Cobham's last addition to the house. Kent, who did so much at Stowe, died in 1748 and Cobham himself in 1749. But this was not the end of the story. Cobham had no children and his heir was his nephew Richard Grenville, who became Earl Temple. A later chapter will describe the spectacular transformation Lord Temple made of his uncle's house.

Postscript

We have seen that Lord Cobham had a great deal of money. He was not reckless with it and kept a sharp eye on the books. For example, in 1730 he wrote to his steward William Jacob that he must not pay above 6d. a yard for the painting of wainscot, or 4d. for repainting old work. Nevertheless, money was freely spent. Amongst the accounts two memoranda of full-years' building expenses have survived. They include garden buildings as well as house. They are: 1728/29—£1127-7-11½d; and 1729/30—£1714-17-3½d.

All this on building alone, quite apart from horticulture, sport and entertaining; not to mention politics. Multiply by at least 10 to bring to modern values. Money back if not astonished.

Acknowledgments

I am greatly indebted, as all must be who try to write about Vanbrugh, to Mr. Laurence Whistler; not only to his published works, *The Imagination of Vanbrugh and his Fellow Artists* (Batsford, 1954) and his article "Vanbrugh's work at Stowe House" in *Country Life*, February 1959; but also to himself, for verbal information and perennial good will. I am also much obliged to Dr. Peter Willis and Mr. Geoffrey Beard for allowing me to use their notes on the Stowe Papers in America. I have also to thank the librarians of the Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California, for prompt assistance whenever asked for; the Trustees of the Soane Museum for allowing me to quote from James Gibbs' memoir of his own buildings; the President and Council of the R.I.B.A. for leave to reproduce the plate of Kent's chimneypiece from Isaac Ware's *Designs of Inigo Jones and others* (2nd edn. 1742); Bodley's Librarian for leave to reproduce in part Bridgeman's aerial view of Stowe (MS Gough Drawings, a. 4. Fol. 46); the Corporation of Stockport for leave to reproduce the photograph of Leoni's portico at Lyme Hall; and Messrs R. and H. Chapman for leave to reproduce Plates 8 and 9.

References in addition to those given above:

The Stowe Papers. Building and garden accounts 1711-1747, and Lord Cobham's personal account book. In the Huntington Library.

15 *Views of Stowe* by Jacques Rigaud, c. 1733, engraved by himself and Bernard Baron, published by Sarah Bridgeman 1739 with plan, republished by Thomas Bowles 1746, with title-page.

Seeley's Guides to Stowe, from 1744 onwards.

I Quattro Libri dell' Architettura by Andrea Palladio. First published in Venice 1570. Various editions, in particular Leoni's of 1715.

George I's Army. Charles Dalton. Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1912.

Stowe sale catalogue, illustrated, 1921. Jackson Stops, auctioneers.

Vanbrugh's Works, Vol. IV (letters). Nonesuch Press, 1928.

Notebooks of George Vertue. Walpole Society, 1930/55.

The Whig Supremacy. Basil Williams. Oxford, 1939.

"A Relief by Veyrier at Stowe". John Pope-Hennessy. *Burlington Magazine*, May 1947.

Biographical Dictionary of English Architects, 1660-1840. H. M. Colvin. John Murray, 1954.
English Country Houses, early Georgian. Christopher Hussey. *Country Life*, 1955.
Palladio. James Ackerman. Penguin, 1966.
Lyme Park. James Lees-Milne. National Trust, 1966.
English Gardens and Landscapes, 1700-1750. Christopher Hussey. *Country Life*, 1967.
The Marlborough Tapestries at Blenheim Palace. Alan Wace. Phaidon, 1968.
Dictionary of British Sculptors, 1660-1851. Rupert Gunnis. Odhams, N.D.

M. J. GIBBON

MYLES HENRY PRIZE 1968 BY CANOE DOWN THE DANUBE

(R. K. Hay (C) was the 1968 prizewinner)

During this last summer Christopher English and myself attempted to canoe down the Danube, Europe's second longest river with a total length of 1725 miles. For this trip we used a second-hand 'Hammer' two seater folding canoe which proved large enough and stable enough for two novice canoeists and their surprisingly large quantity of luggage. We canoed from Ulm in Germany to Calafat in Roumania, a distance of about 1200 miles, although a short part of this was done by train in Hungary so as to get out of the country before our visas expired. This trip took us through six countries, four of which were behind the Iron Curtain.

The trip started, as already mentioned, at Ulm, a town in Southern Germany, where the Danube first becomes navigable for river craft. To begin with the river was narrow and fast flowing, but it was often slowed down by "Kraftwerke", dams used for the production of electricity, most of them being located upstream of Regensburg. Very often we had to carry our luggage and the canoe round these dams.

Germany was by no means the best part of the trip. For one thing it rained at least once every day and secondly the countryside tended to be flat, the river banks being lined with regimented rows of poplars. There were interesting stretches, however, especially at Kloster Weltenburg, a short distance above Regensburg, where the Danube runs through a series of small gorges. Austria, on the other hand, was far more interesting. Here the Danube flowed through high mountains which came steeply down to the water's edge, their slopes being covered with fir trees, the sun shone and the current was fast, ideal conditions in fact since we could just drift lazily along. There was also one of the most beautiful cities that we came to on the trip—Vienna, and here we also saw for the last time for some weeks streets full of cars. We also had one disaster when early on in Austria, whilst transporting the canoe round a large dam at a place called Aschach, we left our tent behind causing us many an uncomfortable night.

From Vienna it was only a short distance to the Czechoslovakian border where we saw our first watch-towers. We entered the country at Bratislava on the day after the conference and on every lamp-post there were Czechoslovakian as well as Russian flags; in every window there were pictures of Dubcek and Svoboda. Our impressions of our brief visit were not particularly favourable, most probably caused by the political situation at the time. The rate of exchange made everything extremely expensive, food costing us about 30% more than in Austria. The apparent unfriendliness of the people was undoubtedly due to the general tension that existed. Along both banks of the river it was very flat and densely wooded, and between Bratislava and Komano, where we entered Hungary, a distance of some 80 miles, we passed only two villages. We also suffered our first real disaster in Czechoslovakia, when in a quiet backwater on returning to the canoe from a trip inland to buy some food, we stirred up such clouds of mosquitos that we threw everything into the canoe and then jumped in and in so doing we capsized. As a result we lost one cine camera and one 35 mm. camera and a lot of other items of lesser importance. Mosquitoes, in this stretch especially, bothered us greatly, they invariably woke us up at dawn with their melodious buzzing and any part of one's body that one left exposed would soon be covered in bites.

We were quite glad to get into Hungary, perhaps the country which we liked most out of the whole trip. Everybody was much more friendly, the shops were without queues and their contents were cheap and even the border guards were friendly and helpful. The river forms the border between Czechoslovakia and Hungary for about 120 miles, and after we had entered Hungary at Komano we had to keep to the Hungarian side of the river and often we were hailed by border guards who called us in to inspect our papers and then let us carry on. Because we had to buy a certain amount of money for every day that we spent in Hungary, an amount which was far in excess of what we normally spent, and since everything was so cheap, in Budapest we dined in the best restaurant and slept in a hotel. We had another accident here, because although we had moored the canoe up, the mooring rope had frayed on a stone and when we returned to the canoe all we found was a length of rope with a frayed end. Luckily the river police had seen the canoe and had picked it up and taken it on to their pontoon. At first they were not very friendly when we went to claim it, but when we gave the senior officer a packet of English cigarettes, they completely changed and couldn't have been more helpful.

From Budapest, because our visas were running out and we couldn't afford to stay in the country any longer, we took a train to Mohacs, scene of a famous battle in 1523 when the Turkish army slaughtered the Hungarian army. Here, whilst sitting on a bench, a car drew up with two men inside who motioned us to get in, examined our papers, and since they only spoke Hungarian and Esperanto we didn't understand much, but they seemed to be telling us that we were wearing filthy capitalist clothes which were obviously too gaudy for them. They then pushed us out and drove off.

From Mohacs to the Yugoslavian border was scarcely any distance but we never found out when we did actually cross it. We went through no passport control which caused some difficulties later on. We disliked Yugoslavia intensely, at least until we got below Belgrade where the Serbs were concentrated. Before that the people were Slavs and they all thought that we were Germans since we had lost our Union Jack in Germany, and this false belief was made harder to dispel since the only foreign language they spoke besides their own dialect was German. There was also a complete lack of towns with banks where we could change our travellers cheques, and since we only had a small amount of foreign currency which they would change, we went very hungry for several days until we reached Novi Sad. It was in a village below Novi Sad that I lost my camera with a practically completed film. We had drawn the canoe up on the bank whilst we went into the village to buy food and I had left my camera hidden under some clothing, but some crafty villager had obviously noticed me putting it away and when we had gone had quietly lifted it.

We did not notice the loss until next morning just before we arrived in Belgrade after an all night drift during which we were almost sunk by a tug with a string of barges which we hadn't seen since we were both fast asleep. Belgrade was also the worst city we came across. It was ugly, it was hot, and it only had one police station which was on the outskirts and which took us about four hours to find. It also rained very heavily that evening and night and so without a tent we spent a very sleepless night. The next night was also wet and cold and we had only managed to canoe a few kilometres down river that day because we were so tired and cold, in fact at that time we thoroughly detested Yugoslavia. However, after this, matters improved. The people, who were Serbs, were far more friendly and also the scenery improved considerably as did the weather. Also about 100 kilometres below Belgrade we entered the Cazan Gorges. These are a stretch of Gorges which for 120 kilometres cut through the Carpathian mountains. At the bottom end are the Iron Gates of ill-repute, just below which a dam is being built which will be completed by next year and which will turn the Gorges into a long, thin lake. In some places the river is compressed into a narrow channel 120 ft. wide and 240 ft. deep with sheer cliffs rising on either side. Along the Yugoslavian side runs Trojan's road, in places cut into the cliff, and the plaque erected by him commemorating the building of this road is being raised from its present site to a position where it will be above the new water level. Whilst going through these gorges we suffered yet another major disaster when we went over a man-made waterfall by design rather than by accident, because it looked a lot less than it turned out to be, and as a result of this two holes, one of them very large, were made and several struts were broken.

Luckily there was an island only about fifty yards away to which we managed to paddle and here we repaired the damage, but, as it turned out, not very successfully.

After the Iron Gates and the dam the river becomes very wide and sluggish. We entered Roumania, our sixth country, at Turnu Severin, a town just below the Iron Gates. In Roumania the people were very friendly but the police and border guards, of which there were a great number, left a lot to be desired.

In Turnu Severin I had my hair cut, since we had both been closely stared at by every person whom we passed in the street which was rather embarrassing. Getting my hair cut was quite a business, no one in the barber's shop spoke any language which I could understand and communications had to be carried on in sign language with the result that I emerged from the shop looking like a shorn sheep, a state of affairs of which I did not approve.

As the Danube forms the border between first of all Roumania and Yugoslavia and then Roumania and Bulgaria, there were watch-towers on the Roumanian bank about every half mile and the bank was continually patrolled by border guards, who every time, bar one, that we stopped would detain us until their commanding officer came and inspected our passports which was quite annoying since the officer might take up to an hour to arrive. On our first night out of Turnu Severin we stopped to camp next to a collective farm and were invited to stay the night with a family who lived on the farm. However, whilst we were having supper a border guard found our canoe on the beach, fired a flare and ran to alert everyone including the civilian militia on the collective farm, thinking that some people had landed illegally. As a result the militia came and took us off to the "Palat de Cultura" where first of all a squad of soldiers turned up and then finally, about midnight, the Colonel and various police officers turned up to inspect our papers. Once they found out that we were not illegal immigrants they were most friendly and found somewhere for us to spend the night.

The trip ended rather abruptly outside a town called Calafat, where the river was about three-quarters of a mile wide. We were canoeing about fifty yards from the Bulgarian bank when we noticed that the canoe had a lot more water in it than it normally had and it was also filling up rather rapidly. We paddled furiously for the Roumanian bank but the canoe sank before we got there. Obviously the patch which we had put over the large hole had not stuck and had come off with disastrous results. Luckily we lost nothing of value except the canoe, we kept our clothes and valuables in waterproof buoyant bags which we pushed swimming to the shore. When we got there we had border guards running all over the place and we also attracted a large crowd of tourists. Luckily one of them could speak English and acted as our translator whilst we were interrogated by the police. Eventually because we only had travellers cheques left and no Roumanian currency and since we couldn't change our cheques in Calafat either on that day or on the next, which was a Sunday, the police took us to the station, where they procured us an empty compartment on the next train to Craioun, a big inland railway centre, forcing people to stand in the corridor. They then took us to the head of the queue in the station where they bought for us the food which we wanted, since we hadn't eaten that day, and then saw us off, a situation which could never have occurred anywhere in the Western World.

From Calafat we took trains as far as Zagreb back in Yugoslavia and from there we hitch-hiked back, arriving in England exactly seven weeks after the trip had begun.

R. K. HAY

CANAL HOLIDAY

A bright sunny morning heralded what we hoped would be a fine sunny holiday, but no such luck. The weather on one day was positively ghastly, and on others was changeable, usually for the worst. But this made the trip none the less enjoyable. Mr. Ridge very kindly drove us to Leighton Buzzard where we boarded our boat, a 40 foot narrow-boat especially built for cruising. Having stocked up the fridge and cupboards with the food with which the caterer had provided us, and having paid the deposit (some of which we were never to see again), we got under way.

We were accompanied for the first mile by one of the boatyard's employees who showed us how to service the engine, pump out the toilet (which later proved to be a little awkward), and work the gas appliances.

We went up the Grand Union to Norton Junction, where we turned onto the Leicester section of the Grand Union. This canal was completely unspoilt. We went for 20 miles without seeing anybody, other than passing the odd boat. At Foxton, where there is a flight of 10 locks (2 sets of five-risers to be precise) it was pouring with rain, and those who were working the locks got absolutely soaked; that was our worst day. We then travelled down to Leicester and eventually reached the river Trent. We turned west at Trent Junction, and went up the Trent and onto the Trent and Mersey canal. Here we dropped Mr. Lennard and his wife, and welcomed Mr. Lloyd. We continued up the Trent and Mersey canal to Fradley Junction where we turned south onto the Coventry canal and thence onto the Oxford canal which brought us back to the Grand Union where we rejoined our old route.

Towards the end of the trip our numbers thinned out a bit, but there were still enough of us left to clean the boat up and return it 'in the condition we received it'.

C. C. DAVIS

MUSIC

While it is pleasing to note the growth of interest in music at Stowe—a fact borne out by the increased audiences at concerts, the new Conducting Society, the Madrigal Society, a streamlined choir, and a large membership of the Gramophone Society—it is still with a hint of sadness that one must write a general editorial such as this. Certainly Stowe is alive and active in the field of serious music but it is deplorably short of any constructive interest in folk, jazz and pop. Many people listen to records of these genres but there has been no meeting of the Folk Song Society for some time and we have heard precious little of the pop groups since the days of 'The Mongrels' and 'Musbak'. This fact is certainly very disturbing, for a school must not rely solely on classical music for its cultural education. Pop, jazz and folk play an important part, not only in the school's entertainment, but also in its serious musical instruction. It can only be hoped that the ample opportunities offered by staff and boys, as well as the example of the Spinners' folk concert, will be grasped wholeheartedly in the near future. Nevertheless it is pleasing to report that there have been many outstanding musical events this term. Many of these have been listed below. Also to be mentioned are the complete Beethoven violin sonatas performed by Mr. Watson and Mr. Bottone; two recitals have already been given and further programmes are promised on February 16th, May 3rd, and June 21st. Greater attention will be paid to these in the next issue. On the whole, however, one may remark gladly that music at Stowe still seems to be flourishing and one can only hope that this trend, broadened by diversification, will continue for some terms to come.

THE MUSIC SOCIETY

In the Roxburgh Hall, Sunday, July 7th

The Soldier's Tale
Mr. Kirk (*Narrator*)

Facade

Mr. Bain and Mrs. Donaldson (*reciters*)

Christopher Hyde-Smith (*flute*)
Mr. Wiggins (*cornet*)
Mr. Bottone (*percussion*)
John Gray (*double bass*)

Stravinsky
Mr. Dobinson (*the Devil*)

words by *Edith Sitwell*
music by *William Walton*

Antony Negus (*clarinet*)
Alfred Wallbank (*saxophone*)
Kerry Camden (*bassoon*)

Mr. Lloyd (*the Soldier*)

Gerald Macelhone (*trombone*)
Mr. Edmonds (*cello*)
Mr. Watson (*violin*)

The Stravinsky/Walton concert at the end of last term was an outstanding recital in every way. In the 'Soldier's Tale' the chamber ensemble and three speakers blended to make a particularly moving rendering of this too little-known work. Mr. Kirk was a splendid Narrator, Mr. Lloyd's Soldier was a suitably simple soul, and Mr. Dobinson's Devil was endowed with a really malicious zest which thoroughly complemented Mr. Watson's ethereal violin playing. Seldom have we heard such tone at Stowe and the rest of the group provided excellent support. (Indeed this performance seemed to me, at any rate, more commendable than the Bath Festival production by Menuhin, televised the following week). After the interval we heard 'Façade' in a rendering which gave full scope to the comic effects of the work. The instrumentalists were again rousing and the quieter passages were played with great feeling, allowing a proper contrast with the boisterous sections to follow. Mrs. Donaldson and Mr. Bain were on excellent form and the clarity of both gave much to the evening—the former shining in the meditative movements, the latter in the rough, heavier passages. All in all this was a highly successful and stimulating evening and a worthy finale for the School's musical year.

In the Roxburgh Hall, Sunday, September 15th

Geoffrey Emmott (*clarinet*) Kerry Camden (*bassoon*) Colin Horton (*horn*)

THE STOWE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Piano Trio No. 3 in C *Haydn*
 La Revue de Cuisine (1930) *Martini*
 Septet Op. 20 *Beethoven*

In the Roxburgh Hall, Sunday, October 6th

David Mason (*trumpet*) Richard Morgan (*oboe*) Lesley White (*violin*)
 Mr. Wiggins (*trumpet*) Peter Smith (*continuo*) Mr. Edmonds (*cello*)
 Victor Robinson (*oboe*) Jurgen Hess (*violin*) Pat Benham (*cello*)

MUSIC IN CONCORD CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Conducted by Mr. Watson

Concerto in D major	<i>Vivaldi</i>	Concerto in D major	<i>Corelli</i>
Concerto Grosso in B flat major	<i>Handel</i>	Suite No. 3 in D major	<i>Bach</i>
Serenade for Strings op. 11	<i>Wren</i>		

In the Roxburgh Hall, Sunday, November 10th

THE SPINNERS

The new season began with a chamber recital which brought together the Stowe Chamber Ensemble and the Camden Wind Quintet in a programme which was most pleasing in its variety. Beethoven and Haydn were not compatible as pupil and master, but it was through the former's earlier works, such as the Septet, that he won Haydn's admiration. Of the two pieces the former seemed more convincing. This old favourite is a charming work with definite Mozartean influences in its inspired beauty and poise. There was a great contrast of melody and the many flowing lyrical passages were played to the fullest effect. The Haydn was less easily approachable and (like the coffee in the interval) produced an immediate effect which seemed to diminish as the piece progressed, through no fault of the performers who played with great skill—perhaps the more complicated chamber impact missed the writer on this occasion. Martinu's splendid pastiche is an extremely vivacious piece and was performed as such with each instrument taking its chance to display unusual and often humorous facets. The skill of the performers and especially the wind players was greatly appreciated. An encore was enthusiastically called for and promptly given. Mr. Watson and Mr. Edmonds performed a stunning Charleston (on their strings) and Mr. Bottone's surprise encounter with the flowers as he left the stage ended the concert with many in paroxysms of laughter—an unusual phenomenon even in a highly successful chamber recital.

The concert given by the Music in Concord Orchestra under Mr. Watson reflected the skill of the musicians involved. Tone was the outstanding quality; quite sublime and always perfectly fitted to the mood; technique, notably in the passage work by upper strings, was always rock sure; the unity of the orchestra, after a shaky start, was reasonably precise; and intonation, apart from some fractionally flat trumpet-playing, was for the most part accurate. But the

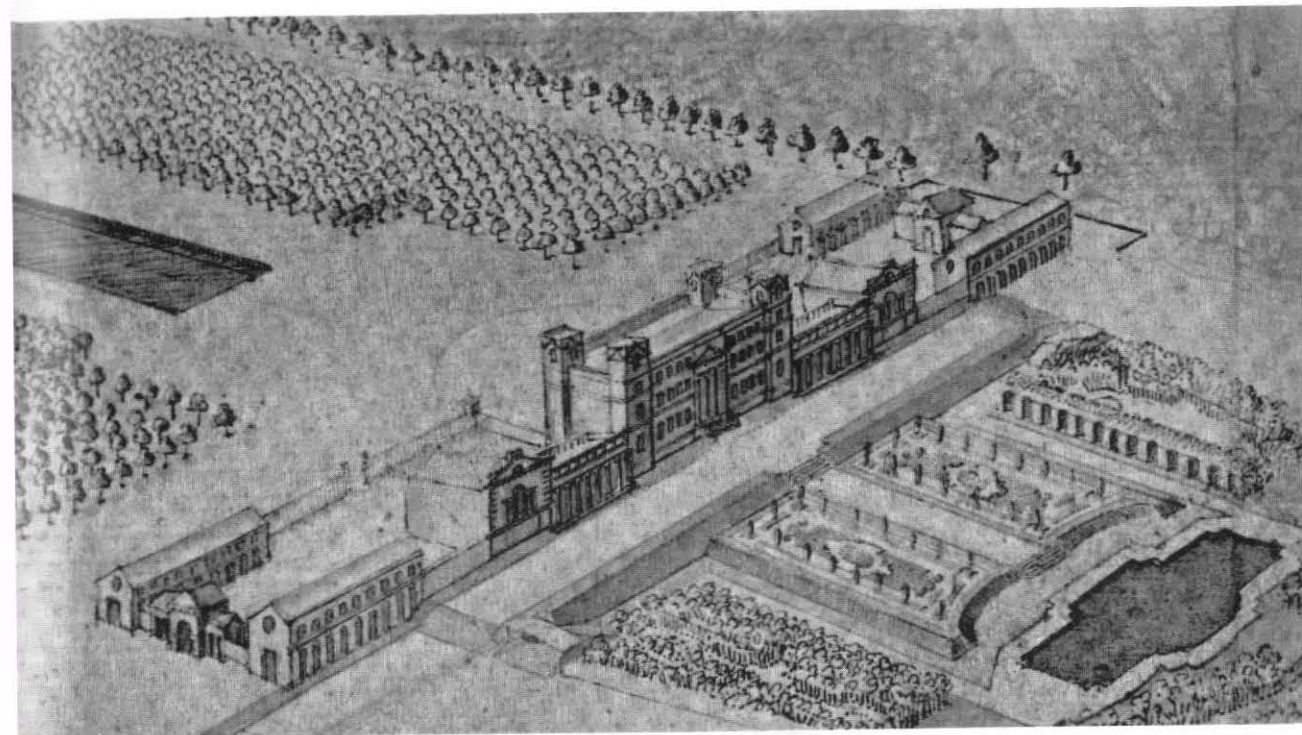


Plate 1—Detail of Bridgeman's aerial view of Stowe, c. 1720, showing Vanbrugh's house *Bodleian Library*

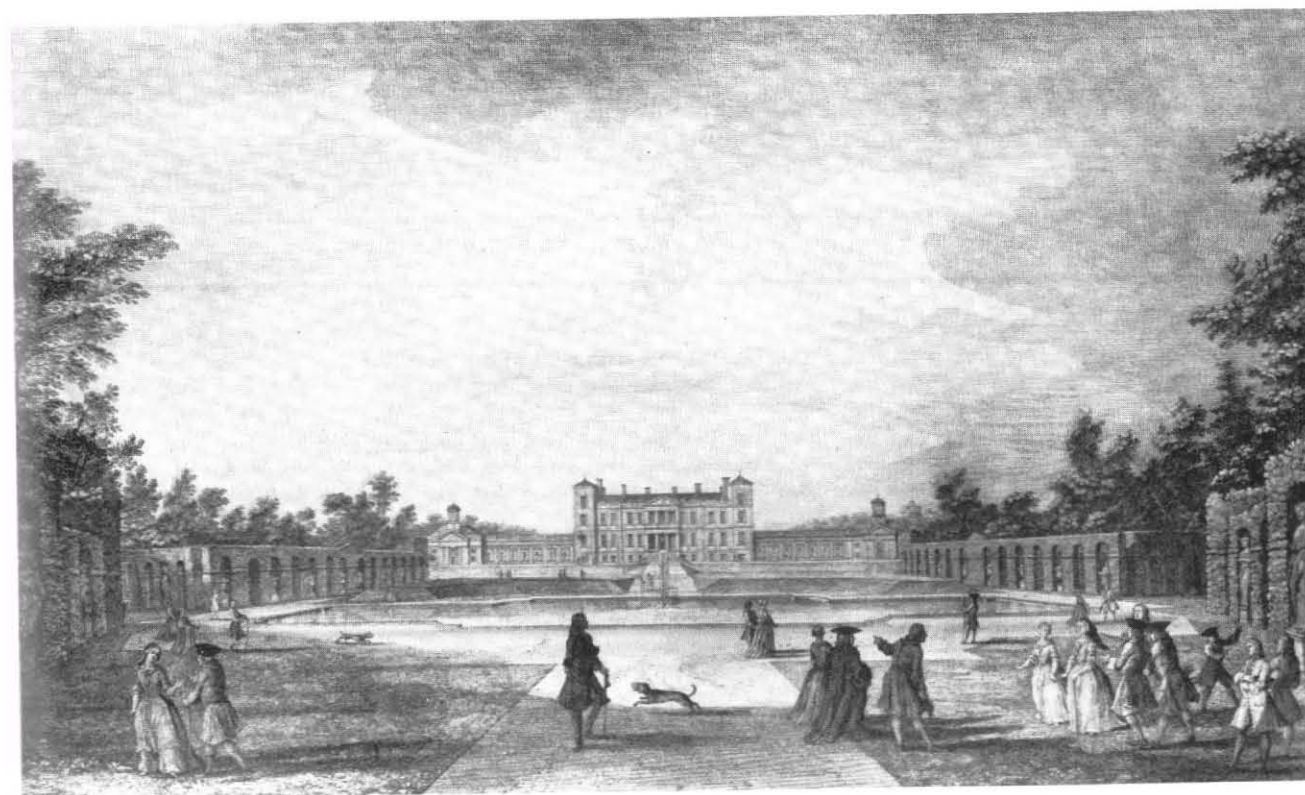


Plate 2—Engraving after Rigaud's view of the South Front, c. 1733

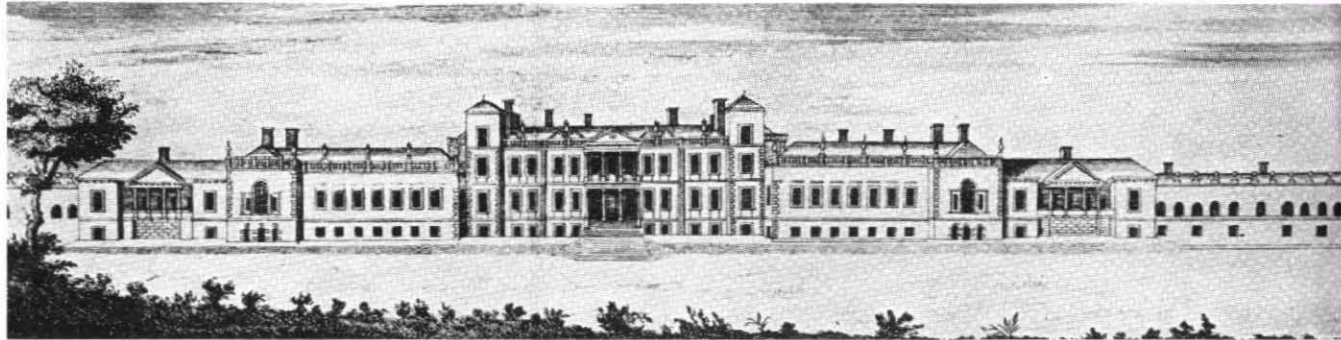
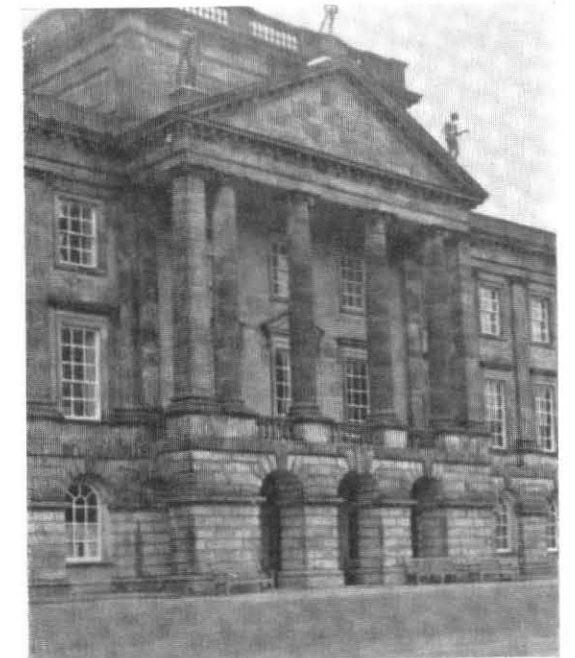


Plate 3—The South Front as altered during the seventeen-forties



Stowe, north portico



Lyme Hall, Leoni's portico

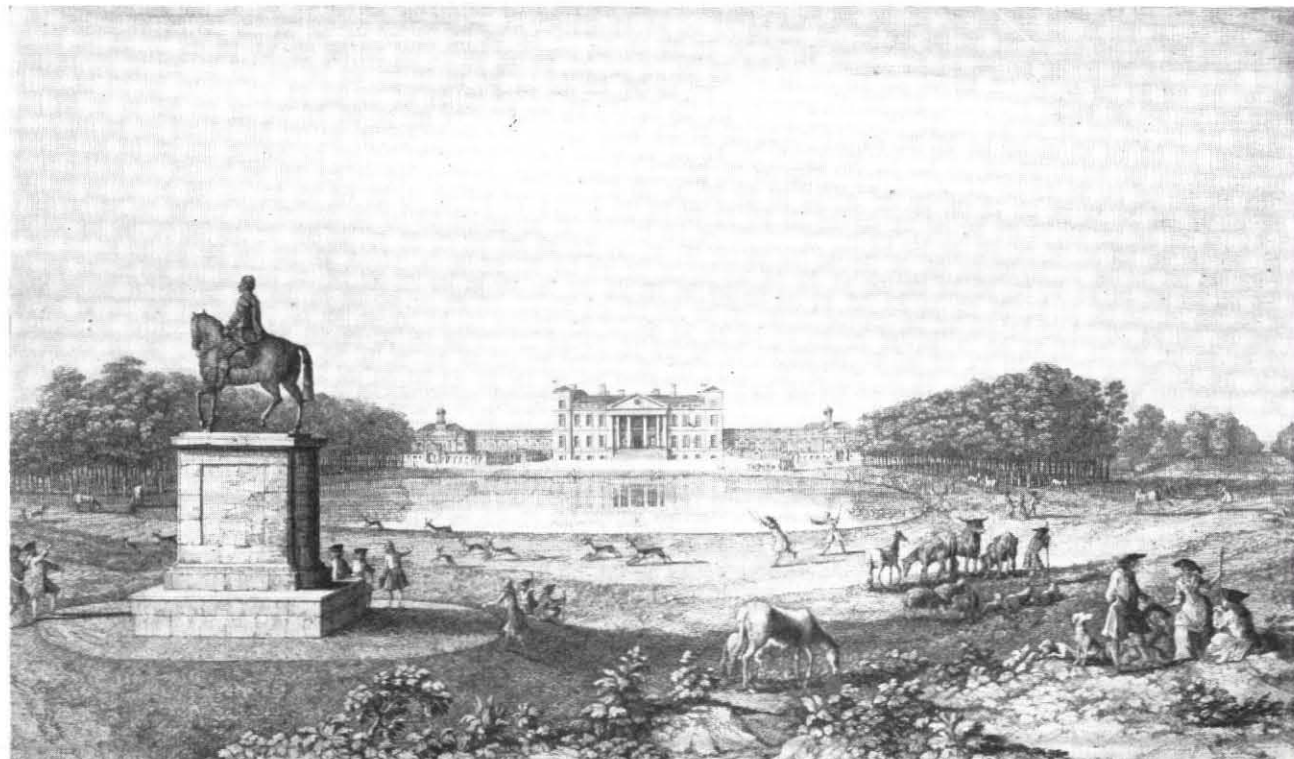
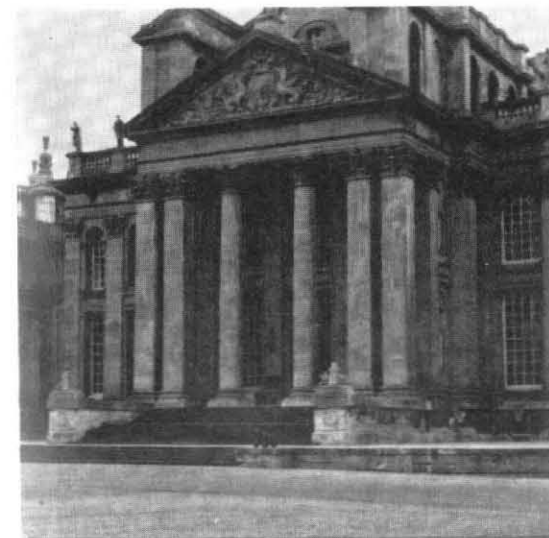


Plate 4—Engraving after Rigaud's view of the North Front, c. 1733, showing the portico (by Leoni?) and the arches and screen-walls (by Kent?). In the foreground is van Nost's equestrian statue of George I, now standing much nearer the house.



Blenheim, Vanbrugh's entrance portico



Stowe, east Leoni arch



Plate 6—Detail of William Kent's painted ceiling in the North Hall

inconspicuous oboes, for example, the often too heavy bass (because of the tympani) and conspicuous trumpets in the Bach as well as indiscreet upper strings in the second movement of the Handel caused a lack of balance in many places. The Wiren was a pleasant change from the Baroque but in spite of the considerable panache given it by the orchestra it was perhaps too repetitive wholly to succeed. As for the Baroque music, it fell very short of the exhilarating rhythmic drive needed which meant that the slow movements requiring tone came off better than the fast ones requiring vivacity. It was not so much that the speeds were dull but that an ad hoc orchestra such as this which unavoidably has its first meeting on the day of the performance is perforce somewhat ragged, and without precision it is practically impossible to achieve the sparkle demanded by this musical genre. From this point of view, only the Bach, the programme's best item, and the last movement of the Torelli had all the qualities required.

The Spinners' folk concert was certainly something unusual and was a clear winner from the start. From their very first entry we knew that they were professionals and very successful ones at that. The penny-whistle player was a virtuoso on several instruments (including in one of the more humorous songs an improvised ocarina made from a plunger) and all four had voices of unusual clarity and depth of feeling. Throughout the recital we were dazzled by their versatility and wit, which set an excellent balance between the comic and serious songs. It is rare indeed for a Stoic to say that he has been present during a performance of a Zulu initiation song by the masters' common room! Of the solo items we heard an outstandingly beautiful Scottish ballad, "The Fall of the House of Airlie" and there were also several moving group-songs, especially among the sea-shanties. It would be invidious to choose highlights as each person will remember different songs, but perhaps it will be their performances of "Turpin Hero" and "The Shoals of Herring" which will stay with me. It was only a pity that the audience never really got in the right mood to join in until the encores. Above all the wit, scholarship, professionalism and sheer personality of these four young singers made this an evening of total entertainment rarely equalled at Stowe.

In the Roxburgh Hall, Friday, November 22nd

'A Concert for St. Cecilia's Day'

THE STOWE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

THE CHORAL SOCIETY AND ORCHESTRA

THE QUEEN'S TEMPLE SINGERS

Paddy Guilford (*soprano*)

Michael Tansley (*bass*)

N. A. Bass (*violin*)

Mr. Edmonds (*cello*)

D. A. Longman (*cello*)

G. L. Macleod-Smith (*flute*)

M. B. Crieghton (*bassoon*)

P. J. Lankester (*trumpet*)

Mr. Weight (*bass and violin*)

S. A. F. Gethin (*violin*)

O. W. Richards (*violin*)

N. G. F. Gethin (*cello*)

D. N. Weston (*flute*)

J. C. B. Lucas (*oboe*)

Mr. Wiggins (*trumpet*)

Concerto Grosso Op. 6 No. 3

Hymn to St. Cecilia

Rule Britannia

Ode on St. Cecilia's Day (1692)

Blest Pair of Sirens

God Save the Queen

Handel

Arden/Britten

Congreve/Arne

Brady/Purcell

Milton/Parry

arr. Elgar

The idea for a concert on St. Cecilia's Day was a happy one and it was perhaps no coincidence that the programme was similar to that at the opening of the Royal Festival Hall in 1951. To take the massed works first, the choral items were full of their usual zest and the chorus covered many technical pitfalls by their sheer enthusiasm, the orchestra too strove nobly and even if intonation in some passages seemed strained the overall effect was most convincing and patriotic. Even if the National Anthem did not mount up to the climatic effect called for, it was perhaps the fault of the music as much as of the performers, who certainly approached the task with enthusiasm. The Parry was heartily sung and zealously played, building up the required crescendo towards the end. The Arne was thoroughly the least successful piece of the evening as the chorus sounded weak and the orchestra's intonation was highly suspect. The Purcell on the other hand was mainly good with some fine singing and sound playing, especially in the opening which had a suitable Purcellian solemnity. The vocal and instrumental solos were competent, but it was unfortunate that neither Mr. Weight nor Mr. Tansley seemed entirely suited to the low bass tessitura demanded of them. Nevertheless both sung well and Paddy Guildford showed her

usual command of her solos. One of the main problems was that the continuo was a piano rather than a harpsichord, and this at times became unduly obtrusive. The chorus seemed weak at times but on the whole came over clearly. The Britten was sung with great feeling and no inconsiderable skill by the Queen's Temple Singers. It is a beautiful work and the moving Auden words were well brought out, even if a deal of balance fell to the sopranos for the sake of clarity. This was certainly a fine performance and the intonation, although shaky at times, was, with the use of dynamics, good throughout. The Handel Concerto Grosso was, however, undoubtedly the highlight of the evening. There can be but few schools which can produce a string section to match the performers here and one can hardly wait until they can play something with more meat in it for each of them. Even though the Second Violins were at times slightly ragged, the overall standard was high. The melting slow movements lead to a spirited Allegro and then to a superbly rustic Polonaise, which was given all the sparkle and aplomb this glorious music needs so much—and so rarely gets. Here the lack of a harpsichord was tragic. When one has such a body of performers it is ridiculous not to have the proper continuo for the piece. Nevertheless the merits of this rendering far outweighed any theoretical complaints and made the whole evening a crowning success to a term's endeavour. This was obviously an occasion when a performance caught fire and it is hard to imagine anyone not being greatly impressed by the whole work. It would have been worthy of professionals—of amateurs it was laudable in the extreme (certainly far more so than the laconic reference to the soloists by surnames only on the programme), and I for one was deeply moved.

G. L. HARVEY

CHAPEL MUSIC

The repertoire of the Chapel Choir has not been very extensive this term. This is not by any means due to inactivity but to the essential and early start of rehearsals in preparation for the Carol Service, the choir's major function of the term.

The first anthem of the term was an English version of Haydn's "Schon eilet froh der Ackermann" from "The Seasons," sung extremely well by Mr. Weight, who sounded magisterial from the organ loft. After a somewhat mediocre performance of Bach's "Jesu, joy of man's desiring", the choir was cut down to the rather more balanced proportions of twelve trebles, eight altos, eight tenors and eight basses. The necessity for this reduction in numbers was all the more evident after the new choir's performance of Stanford's B flat Magnificat, which was quite promising for the future.

We also had a visit from the famous treble choir of Beechwood Park School, who sang us a very pleasant unaccompanied anthem by Imogen Holst, with words by Donne. The Remembrance Day service also included a bevy of trumpet descants and a stirring voluntary from Mr. Wiggins.

The Choir

Trebles: G. J. Aiken (C), T. V. Lloyd (T), J. N. S. Bagshawe (L), T. M. Bendix (G), S. R. Chilton (L), R. J. Cottier (G), J. M. A. de Borman (C), J. K. R. Falconer (W), A. W. Lancaster (C), H. N. A. Lendrum (T), M. J. Peploe (C), R. T. Richards (C).

Altos: D. Portnoy (C), D. G. Lucas (G), S. R. Ayre (G), S. J. Martin (C), R. M. Barker (G), C. B. Scott (T), R. A. Brydon (B), M. H. St. M. Mills (B).

Tenors: D. H. Longman (C), D. F. McDonough (C), O. W. Richards (L), H. J. A. Joslin (C), O. C. P. Hoskyns (C), J. C. Hershman (B), R. F. Argles (C), A. H. Spencer-Thomas (W).

Basses: N. G. F. Gethin (C), S. A. F. Gethin (G), G. L. Harvey (G), I. C. S. Ritchie (T), N. B. S. Stewart (W), J. C. B. Lucas (G), C. J. E. Bartholomew (W), D. N. Weston (L).

I. C. S. RITCHIE

THE MUSIC CLUB

The Music Club has had a much more promising term. Its first meeting (27th September) was a noble effort by the masters, represented by Messrs. Bottone, Edmonds, James, Tansley, Temple and Weight, who impressed themselves upon a large audience with enthusiasm and no little skill. It was the club's turn for the second meeting (16th October) and the few members who

agreed to perform played well, but to an audience distressingly small. The third meeting (8th November) stayed closed for a paper on Stravinsky by J. Moreton (G); this managed to shake off the conventional life-story and the treatment was probing and informative, if somewhat lengthy. Three solo items were also performed by members.

The Club this term has been very much more enthusiastic compared to last term's rather complacent attitudes. The present secretary is leaving this term to be succeeded by C. S. Edwards (W) and it is hoped that the Club will continue to enjoy support not only from its members but also from the school and staff.

N. G. F. GETHIN

THE BAND

Members of the Band will no doubt have read with some satisfaction in last term's *Stoic* that a considerable improvement in the playing was noted by the military on General Inspection day, but this does not mean that there is not great room for improvement; at present we are rehearsing for a concert next term, with a recently reduced band, but a more difficult standard of music cannot be attempted until technique, intonation and general musical sensitivity are all substantially advanced, both individually and throughout the various sections. Perhaps some members are not as yet as dedicated as they might be, bearing in mind the progress which they have still to make before any sort of perfection is revealed.

J. C. B. LUCAS

THE GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

With an encouraging increase in membership this year the Society is becoming more capable of catering for a wider variety of tastes. A record number of members (187) has brought in a subscription totalling almost £60, which has been divided equally in buying new classical and jazz records. In the classical section several important gaps, such as the absence of the Beethoven Piano Concerti, have been filled, and the collection now ranges from Medieval and Renaissance music through the 'classical' works to music for the sitar. In expanding the new jazz section the emphasis has been on modern artists to add to our foundation of older recordings, and this section should soon contain enough records not only to meet the enormous demand in the school, but also to satisfy every individual taste.

Despite the encouraging increase in membership it should be pointed out that too few members are taking enough care of records. The Society can only survive if its members realise that maltreatment of records and failure to observe borrowing periods is merely thoughtless and selfish, and an abuse of a privilege bought by very reasonable subscription rates.

It is very much hoped that the Society will continue to expand at its present encouraging rate, and that its members will in future be able to listen to records which are free from the extensive scratches and liberal spreadings of food, dust, and grime which destroy all listening pleasure.

S. A. F. GETHIN

THE MADRIGAL SOCIETY

This Society was re-founded this term under the aegis of Mr. D. Temple and consists of a small body of singers. Unfortunately other commitments have prevented serious study this term but it is hoped to start the new year with zest in the field of 'ancient' and pre-classical music. Works so far attempted include a plainsong Compline and the Byrd Three-part Mass.

G. L. HARVEY

THE CONDUCTING SOCIETY

This society, now two terms old, was formed as a further aspect of musical entertainment. Despite the fact that there is only a small circle of supporters who indulge in this amusement, a conducting manual as well as batons and scores have been acquired. New members are very welcome. We thank S. A. L. H. Alsen for designing our crest.

J. B. JOHNSON

N. P. KAYE

CORRESPONDENCE

LYTTELTON,
STOWE.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*
Sir,

I have been experiencing what I consider to be the iniquities of a repressive totalitarian system over a period of nearly three years, and I have now reached the stage where I can no longer stand aside and watch the proceedings of the Combined Cadet Force without making some form of comment.

Soon after arriving at this school one is given an option of entering the Combined Cadet Force, or nowadays I believe, the Duke of Edinburgh Award; somehow the majority seem to drift unwittingly into the former. It is not until after the first few terms that for many the khaki attire begins to lose any attraction that it may have held for them. It is now that they realise that they are contracted into a weekly period of subservience and frustration, and that whether they happen to find this an appealing thought or not, they may not resign from it until they have attended a Combined Cadet Corps camp. There is of course a very direct parallel in the Army today; a boy signs away eight years of his life at the age of 15, on reaching 21 he realises that the Army life is odious to him, he deserts and at this moment he faces the possibility of a two year prison sentence.

I am not advocating the total abolition of the Combined Cadet Force, although I would in no way be sorry to witness this, but what I do firmly believe is that the rights of the individual should be respected, and that no-one should be forced to become or to remain a member of the Combined Cadet Force. Let those who enjoy living under an institution, which is fundamentally based on the arbitrary superiority of one individual over another and thus on fear, by all means continue to do so; in losing those of us who do not, they would no doubt achieve a more efficient and more satisfying unit.

This is not merely one solitary voice, it is an opinion which is backed by countless others. Surely in a school which professes itself to be liberal and forward-looking we should follow the example of similar establishments and make the Combined Cadet Force, a remnant of Victorian imperialism, into a totally voluntary organisation.

Yours very sincerely,

T. B. R. ALBERY

SOCIETY

To assess the importance of the Society in a school community is to appreciate the part it plays in the formation of society as a whole. The Society offers an opportunity to its members to pursue their particular interests and broaden their education; but this function can very easily be compromised. For it is a pity that in some quarters the major school societies and clubs are too restrictive and selective. The fact that only classicists may pursue their interests in the Classics or that only historians may be encouraged in an intimate knowledge of history, only reflects the disadvantageous restrictiveness of English secondary education. For the Society should counteract the inevitable narrowness of our education and provide a broadening margin to the main stream of our curriculum. In a similar vein it seems a pity that when our art school is flourishing, art is sadly neglected; for far from their being any art society there are all too few clubs or societies with wide enough interests even to include the wider frontiers of culture—from, let us say, ballet to revues.

With this in mind, the purpose of the changes that have been made in this section of *The Stoic*, becomes clear. At first the inclusion of the Chapel and C.C.F. reports, and VIth Form lectures, not to mention the Community Service, may appear absurd. But all these form as integral a part of our school community as the Society—in fact to all intents and purposes they are more important. Thus in calling this section Society we intend to emphasise the importance of the above functions as forming the basis of Stowe life.

P. I. BELLEW

CHAPEL

While it is perhaps fitting that a report on Chapel, which must be concerned with the actions of the society it sets out to serve, should be in the society section of this magazine, the heading also serves to remind one of what Chapel must surely never become, in fact or reputation—a society function. It is all too easy in a school for Chapel to degenerate into a totally inoffensive but meaningless ritual. This is not happening at Stowe. This term the Chaplain has continued to try to make Christianity seem relevant to the Stoic, and, though while so doing he has not always pleased all parties, any positive approach or change is likely to offend some people.

The experimentation with the new Series II Communion has continued, but it seems too early to pass any judgement on it. Also, an evening Communion service for the whole school has again been tried. Along with the rest of the country Stowe used a different form of Remembrance Day service this year; in our case, the silence followed immediately after an opening section of three war poems, and after it the service was similar to Matins.

A new speaker system was installed in Chapel over the holidays, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Ridge and Mr. Selby, and in spite of some teething troubles it is generally agreed to be a distinct improvement on the old one.

One is particularly glad to be able to report, in a time of ecumenical effort, that the preachers this term have included, for the first time, a Roman Catholic, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, V.C., D.S.O., D.F.C. (C 1935), who gave an excellent sermon. Other visiting preachers were the Precentor of Birmingham Cathedral and the Provost of Coventry Cathedral, the Headmasters of Oakham and Bradfield, and the Bishops of Norwich and of Buckingham, of whom the latter confirmed this year's candidates. Collections were given to the Persian Earthquake Appeal, Langley House, the Sir Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, the Cheshire Homes, Stowe Community Service, The Valley Trust, the Earl Haig Fund, the Shaftesbury Society, Help the Aged, the Hyelm Movement and the Great Ormond Street Hospital.

R. A. JEAVONS

Confirmation

This year a new confirmation preparation course was introduced. It was lengthened to three terms with meetings every Monday evening. Towards the end of the course an increasing number of meetings were held in discussion groups of about ten boys, as opposed to the whole course in one body, enabling freer conversation. Generally, these were preferred by the boys who were able to voice their own opinions in a less restricted atmosphere. During the course, one or two film strips on Christian topics were shown, which were received with mixed feelings. Some simply enjoyed the artistic invention of these film-strips, and considered them to be too simple and of too little depth to be of much help towards further understanding, yet others thought that they drove home some basic yet very important points.

The problem of forgetting what was learnt in the initial stages of the course was overcome by the introduction of a 'spring-back' folder. This consisted of a sheet for each week, on which the theme for each session was typed, leaving gaps for notes to be made. A little homework was needed to answer a few questions which served as an introduction to the next week's topic. On the 21st November the candidates went to Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead, on the retreat. The object of this was to give the candidates an opportunity to have time to reflect and make the final decision about confirmation.

Mr. Pierssené, the future Chaplain of Rugby School, kindly accepted the invitation to lead the retreat and compiled an ambitious programme which proved to be a great success. The boys found him very helpful and very easy to talk to. The atmosphere in the comfortable country house was very refreshing, the whole operation was taken seriously and most benefitted from it.

N. H. HARVEY

M. J. CHESHIRE

COMMUNITY SERVICE

It is difficult to convey to the casual reader or indeed to the schoolboy the real role of Community Service. Statistics can be produced to show that "X" number of persons were served by "Y" number of people but this does not really inform or interest you. We could of course tell you that our vegetable scheme wasn't a mad success because the wire worm beat us to it and that half a ton of potatoes was lost; or we could give you the success story about Mrs. A's house which is enjoying its first interior face-lift for thirty years. There was of course the pathetic moment when an old lady cried and cried and cried in front of an embarrassed 16-year-old because her children didn't come to see her any more. He learnt something from that. Or we could present to your polite interest a not-too-nice picture of extreme squalor and stench of that middle-aged lady who had lost some of her reason and all of her responsibility. The house hadn't been touched for eight years (that's when her husband died) and to be really honest we didn't very much enjoy unblocking those drains, but we did re-plumb the whole outfit and it made a nice change from drinking out of the rain butt. Then there was that old lady just opposite—she was stone deaf and lived alone—for a fortnight she had had this dreadful pain in the leg, "It's arthritis you see" but she had never had it before and those real tears of hers made us suspicious. When the doctor came he diagnosed a broken thigh—and she's still in hospital. But these are only a few statistics and they can only scrape the surface of a genuine understanding of what Community Service is all about. Tons of logs were delivered and so were 56 Christmas hampers.

What we really want to convey to you, sitting there in comfort flicking through this magazine, is that you can help us with only a modicum of effort. If it's money you don't like giving and most of us don't find much to spare, then there are Green Shield Stamps—you don't have to collect books or save thousands—we're interested in every single stamp. Just stick a few which you get from shopping or the garage in the next letter to your son and he will pass them on to us, and also interest a friend or relation in our campaign. And when you're baking next for the tuck box, produce an extra cake and we guarantee that within 48 hours of receiving it, it will have been subdivided and delivered to several o.a.p.'s—and it will give more enjoyment than you can possibly imagine. And when you are clearing out the garage next, check all that gardening equipment; there could well be something you no longer require.

Finally, may I thank the generous minority who have given us books and books of Green Shield Stamps (now totalling 73) and presents of food for our Christmas Hamper Campaign; without these we could not have coped. A parent kindly thought up the following advertising slogan for us and it makes a fitting conclusion:

"A LITTLE HELPS A LOT".

THE STUDY GROUP

This term the topics studied by the group have been under the title 'The Christian Life in the Psalms', and members have been able to draw out much helpful advice for their lives. We have welcomed six visiting speakers during the term, one of whom is an Old Stoic, Mr. A. A. V. Rudolf (© 1955), and he chose Psalm 1 as a basis for his talk. In another study, based on Psalm 37, we were shown that a Christian has no need for worry; with Christ as Friend and Saviour he can depend entirely on God's help. In early October, the group listened to a tape-recording of a talk by Will Barker on his experiences when visiting Approved Schools, and on another occasion four members spoke briefly about verses from the Psalms which they liked. We look forward at the end of term to another 'Brains Trust', when Mr. J. J. Smyth will be bringing down a team from London to answer questions from members. The Study Group meets once a week, usually after Chapel on Sundays, and new members from the School are always welcome.

R. E. T. NICHOLL

SIXTH FORM LECTURES

On September 23rd, the members of the Sixth Forms gathered in the Roxburgh Hall for the first of three lectures to be given during the Winter term. Mr. Stuart Keen presented two films concerning war-time Britain. The first was entitled *Listen to Britain* and set the mood of England tuned to the defence of her own shores as well as those of continental Europe. Its objective was to use familiar sounds and sights of Britain during World War II to recall the disaster and hardship which the island felt. The second film was a detailed study of the fighting which opposed Rommel in Northern Africa. It was entitled *Desert Victory*. This film was particularly valuable because all the footage shown (other than a few maps) was actually taken in the desert at the time of the fighting. The film successfully showed the over-whelming feeling in favour of the Germans. It was this factor which reflected the courage and stalwartness of the Allied forces in obtaining their desert victory.

The second lecture, on October 30th, was entitled, "Father in Heaven and Pop on Earth". It was delivered by Dr. A. E. Bashford, M.D., B.S., D.P.M., who immediately assured us that there was no pun intended but that he was going to talk about pop music and religion. Dr. Bashford was a psychiatrist who warned off those wary of his title by saying he really could not read minds. In fact, he offered his own definition of his profession in saying this: ". . . . a paranoid is a person who builds castles in the sky; a schizoid is a person who lives in them; and a psychiatrist is a person who collects rent on them". In this style of talking, Dr. Bashford showed the connection between the fundamentals of religion and the words in several pop songs of the present day. He stated more strongly the sort of escapism involved in many: the idea that everything really is going to be alright when ". . . . Quinn the Eskimo gets here"; that society today really does include a Nowhere Man, "does not have a point of view" and "knows not where he is going to". Dr. Bashford suggested the idea that religion

might have something in it for people of this state of mind. In no way did he try to force this thought upon us, but rather made clear that these feelings were his own and were only meant for suggestion.

The third and generally most interesting of the three lectures was held on November 15th. Mr. B. J. A. Hargreaves spoke on "Computing in this Modern Age". An I.B.M. representative whose job it was to determine the effect of computers on society in the future, Mr. Hargreaves attempted to explain what computers are doing and what they will be doing in the future. He stated that the Automatic revolution was inseparable from the Thought revolution which is going on now. In showing the ability of computers, he said that some machines could read the whole of *War and Peace* (and digest it) in thirty seconds. This offended some Sixth Formers when he followed by saying this would then leave us free to do better things! The usefulness of the computer was shown by the fact that the three largest libraries in the world (composed of 24 million volumes) could be stored, in all languages, in a cube 1/200" a side. A translation device is also being created to go between the sender-receiver and the computer so that the machine will understand any language. After these impressive details Mr. Hargreaves said, "the computer is a moron". In stating the problems created by these "morons" the principal one seems to be the making of a "single world". The idea of man living with his fellow was now becoming a necessity rather than a nice thing that might happen. After answering questions concerned almost entirely with whether or not computers might take over the world, Mr. Hargreaves finished by stating that the machine was not on trial but rather Man was on trial to see if he could match it.

The wide range of topics has presented the Sixth Form with a more comprehensive programme of information. The three lectures have offered something of interest to the Arts as well as the Sciences.

G. A. GALYEAN

C.C.F.

Some seventy boys attended a variety of camps in the summer term; the R.N. section at Rosyth and H.M.S. *Raleigh*; and the Army section with the 16th/5th the Queen's Royal Lancers at Fallingbostel, near Hanover, and at Penhale in Cornwall. Three R.A.F. Cadets gained gliding certificates.

At the end of the summer term we were given a superb display of marching and music on a glorious evening on the South Front lawns by the band of the 1st Battalion, the Royal Green Jackets. Their precision and pace were excellent, and it was amazing to see how they managed to keep so well together. This battalion is commanded by an Old Stoic, Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. Kitson, O.B.E., M.C. (C 1944).

The term has been relatively uneventful, working towards various exams. to be held at the end of term. Field Day was again held on a Monday, enabling parties to take advantage of an early departure on Sunday. The R.N. section went to Portsmouth, where some went to sea on H.M.S. *Whitby* and others sailed in Fareham Creek. The Advanced Infantry Platoon of the Army section went to the 1st Battalion, the Royal Green Jackets at Tidworth. The Royal Signals section provided its services on Sunday for the Mixbury Show, at which Princess Anne was a competitor, followed by a night exercise. A hundred boys went to the range at Otmoor to classify. The R.A.F. section visited R.A.F. Abingdon and R.A.F. Brize Norton.

The old armoury hut was moved from its site adjoining the Gothic Temple to a new site behind the workshops. The R.N. section and R.E.M.E. section share the hut and it is hoped to equip them properly with workshops and for instruction. It is also hoped to have a miniature range alongside.

A feature of recent years has been the increasing number of Stoics contemplating a short service commission. The Army jointly with the Confederation of British Industries has now introduced a scheme linking a short service commission with a subsequent job in industry or commerce. This scheme formally sets out what has been apparent for some time, that for those not going to university a short-service commission makes a sensible substitute which is highly acceptable to future employers. About ten of those who went to camp in Germany are now proposing to do just this, several with our hosts, the 16th/5th Lancers. In addition we were visited for this purpose by the Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the Coldstream Guards, Colonel Sir Ian Jardine, Bart.

The camping season will be coming round again soon. I hope that more boys will take the opportunity of some very good camps arranged for this year; after all one cannot really say that one does not like them until one has been.

The following appointments and promotions were made this term:

R.N. Section

Appointed *Under Officer*:

J. G. Cahill (⊕)

Appointed *Petty Officer*:

O. P. Croom-Johnson (T)

C. S. Edwards (W)

N. Downing (L)

C. N. Rainer (L)

Army Section

Appointed *Under Officer*:

T. R. Harris (B)

Promoted *Colour Sergeant*:

T. M. Patrick (⊕)

J. J. Taylor (G)

M. P. Kayll (W)

G. A. Shenkman (⊕)

Promoted *Sergeant*:

E. H. Bainbridge (W)

V. J. M. Hill (G)

D. F. M. Stileman (⊕)

R. V. Craik-White (W)

C. R. M. Longstaff (W)

H. A. A. Williamson-Noble (T)

R.A.F. Section

Promoted *Sergeant*:

S. W. Balmer (C)

H. D. Gibbins (L)

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

As the scheme approaches its first anniversary it is perhaps permissible to reflect upon the value of the Award training. Our main emphasis has been placed upon outdoor pursuits and with the help of the Army Youth Team a high standard has been achieved. During the year we have

held expeditions in the Pennines, Snowdonia and the Brecon Beacons and it is hoped to hold the Gold Award test in the Lake District this coming summer.

The most gruelling expedition was the Silver Award test held in Snowdonia under appalling weather conditions at the end of the summer term. Fourteen boys took part in this four day exercise and all but two succeeded. Moel Siabod, Glyderfach and Snowdon provided the training area.

Apart from outdoor pursuits, Judo classes took place on Sunday evenings beginning with only three previously graded members out of the fifteen who joined. M. J. D. Manley (T), 4th Mon., was appointed Captain and Secretary. This activity was one of many performed under the Projects Section of the Scheme.

The Public Service Examinations with the Police and Fire Brigade were almost completely successful and it was only the Athletics Section which presented the final hurdle. In all about two thirds of the entrants were successful in this our first year and there are plans for a larger organisation in the future.

GERMAN CAMPS

A party of about 21 cadets under Major Rawcliffe and Captain Kirk of the Stowe C.C.F. set out for one week's training with the 16th/5th the Queen's Royal Lancers in Germany. After an uneventful but fatiguing journey overnight the contingent arrived in Hannover at 3.30 in the afternoon of Saturday, July 13th.

After being met by Captain Smyly, we were driven about 40 miles to Fallingbostel where the regiment is stationed. We were installed in comfortable quarters and proceeded that evening to recover from the journey by revelry at the local shooting fête.

On Sunday following we attended chapel in the morning and in the afternoon visited the international monument of Belsen. Need any more be said of the awe which we all felt in wandering around this former Nazi concentration camp? On the return journey we stopped for a refreshing bathe in the local army swimming pool.

Monday was the first day of the week's training and throughout the day we looked over regimental vehicles and had lectures on gunnery and helicopters. Also of note was a rather strenuous session with the regimental P.T. instructor.

In the evening we were entertained in the officers mess to a fine dinner and excellent topical conversation. The following day dawned with the contingent parading in battledress for the purpose of marching to

the regimental band. The chaos that ensued created a rather low standard of parade, to say the least. This was perhaps due to misinterpretation of marching orders given by the R.S.M.

Wednesday was eventful. Much of the regiment was on the move. Tanks and armoured vehicles had left by rail the day before, their destination being Vogelsang, some 250 miles to the South East. We were awoken at the unearthly hour of 4.45 and bleary-eyed, packed, breakfasted and loaded ourselves into three-tonners to leave Fallingbostel. By six o'clock the convoy of Bedford's was trundling along German autobahns. After various stops we at last reached our destination at 4.15 in the afternoon.

Vogelsang was a grim camp, formerly for Hitler youth, today a Belgian N.A.T.O. base. Situated on a slope, below it on a vast terrace is a derelict running track now a worn football pitch which was much used by Stoics. Set in underneath the track was a large heated indoor swimming pool with changing rooms and showers. This formed one of the few amenities in the camp, which was in rather a bleak position. We made ourselves as comfortable as possible in our new barracks, this time utilising sleeping bags.

All Thursday was spent participating in tank manoeuvres, one Stoic detailed to each tank. Some, if not all of us, even had the opportunity to drive these monstrous machines,

and perhaps as a result, several broke down. The next day, too, was designated for tank exercises. However, a few of us did not go out as our tanks were unserviceable. These mechanical failures can partly be attributed to the age of some of the tanks and the long period they had not been in use. At any rate the regiment was due to receive Chieftains in the near future.

After lunch that day everyone had returned from the field, some having been firing Brownings on a range all the morning. We trooped down to the swimming pool where crews from the tanks were already enjoying a swim after their morning's work. Our training finally ended by attending a lecture given for infantry really. It was given in the field and was aimed at showing clearly the use of mines and how minefields were cleared. A demonstration of the sort of explosion to be expected was given by the detonation of numbers of personnel and anti-tank mines. The force of the latter was agreed by all to be considerable, to say the least.

We had now ended actual training and the following day, Saturday, an expedition down the Rhine was organised, with the help of Captain Smyly. After a long truck journey

R.A.F. CAMPS, EASTER 1968

R.A.F. Binbrook

Fifty-four boys including nine Stoics attended this camp which started on March 27th. Thursday morning started with a briefing by the Station Commander and the remainder of the day was spent in visiting the various sections to obtain some idea of how a fighter station is run. Binbrook has one Lightning Squadron, and one with a combination of Meteors and Canberras. On Friday we went over an obstacle course, and passed the afternoon on a rifle range. The following day we were sent on a twenty-mile cross-country walk, from which we took most of Sunday morning recovering. On Monday, the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the R.A.F., we passed our R.A.F. swimming tests and visited those units that we had missed before. Our last day on camp, when the weather turned foul, was spent by most on an outing but some of us stayed to have a second trip in the Chipmunk, for an enjoyable end of the week.

R.A.F. Gutersloh

This Camp in Germany started on April 10th for six Stoics and about forty other boys. As at Binbrook we began the next day with a briefing and visiting the sections which support the two Lightning and two Hunter Squadrons. Easter weekend curtailed our activities on the camp, so we spent Friday on a field exercise. Saturday was a free day to go out and see Germany, and on Easter Sunday we were taken to see the Mohne Dam. On Monday we had a ten-mile walk and on Tuesday we visited the remaining sections, leaving on Wednesday with the maximum in duty-free whisky and cigarettes.

to Koblenz we boarded a pleasure cruiser which took us to Bonn. It was a pity that the bitter wind and poor visibility spoiled the fine journey slightly but the trip was enjoyed by all. We had a little time to wander round the capital which was surprisingly small and then returned to camp for a final night.

Apart from handing in the kit we had borrowed (sleeping bags and tank suits), the interesting highlight of the day was a football match against 'B' Squadron. The result was slightly vague but it was thought that victory went to 'B' Squadron by one goal to nil.

The return journey was infinitely more comfortable than the outward, and by just before 7.00 on Monday morning all except those taking further continental tours were on Victoria platform.

Our thanks go out to the 16th/5th the Queen's Royal Lancers for receiving us and incorporating us in a training programme which all were interested in and enjoyed. We especially thank Captain Smyly and Sergeant Gold who arranged our training and showed us regimental life in many forms.

A. M. SLADEN

R. V. CRAIK-WHITE

R. G. A. WESTLAKE

THE XII CLUB

The XII Club has held two meetings this term, and at both has concerned itself with evolution. The first paper, by J. F. Rothwell, was literary, and the second, by J. Choyce, biological.

Mr. Rothwell entitled his paper "Tragedy and the Theatre," and in it he traced the development, or evolution, of the theatre from Roman times to the present day. He concluded with a discussion of the nature of tragedy, provoking some lively discussion amongst the members, who debated whether a totally tragic outlook is comparable with Christian beliefs.

J. Choyce, in his paper on 'The Naked Ape', the first non-literary paper for some time, as he proudly pointed out, outlined the evolution of man from the handsome amoeba at the dawn of time to the ugly uncoordinated ape he is now.

The Club is awaiting a third meeting on November 29th when T. N. A. Telford will, it is hoped, honour us with a paper.

C. J. ENGLISH

THE MUSE

At the inaugural meeting Clio was inspired to illuminate the assembled symposium on the topic of the Westernisation of South-East Asia. It was agreed over a plastic beaker of nectar that, on the whole, Rama IV, noted for his billets-doux to Queen Victoria, was a rather nicer chap than Ang Duong, who actually encouraged the French in rather vulgarly exploiting his rubber plantations.

We look forward in anticipation to a chamber concert in which Calliope, Euterpe, and the ambivalent Polyhymnia will perform a Brahms quartet.

CLIO

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

This term the Society has had three meetings on wildly divergent subjects. On September 25th the Secretary delivered a paper on 'Marble and Bronze,' an attempted study of the theory as well as artistry behind Greek Sculpture, and on November 13th Mr. D. Temple gave us an interesting and entertaining talk on Greek Lyric Poetry, which included readings of poems by Tyrtaeus, Terpandes, Theoguis, Aleman, Solon, Alcaeus and Sappho; the basic modus vivendi of the various artists was discussed at length and the meeting ended with a modern Greek folk lyric, written originally, in slightly different form, nearly two thousand seven hundred years ago. Plus ça change, plus c'est toujours la même chose! Dr. Plommer, the Reader in Classical Archaeology at the university of Cambridge, spoke after tea to the Society and the Archaeologists at a joint meeting on October 27th. He showed us several slides on and spoke of Irish art, both in the dark ages and the eighteenth century, convincingly on both, but perhaps with greater authority on the former. We are all very grateful to him for sparing us of his valuable time.

Before the end of term it is hoped for the Society to go to Verulamium to view the Roman remains and for J. P. Withinshaw to give a farewell paper to the Society before he leaves in December. On November 13th S. R. Barstow was elected the new secretary.

G. L. HARVEY

THE NUCLEUS

The Nucleus was active again this term with three new members, after a lapse in the summer. In October J. Choyce (©) read a paper on "Man's changes to his Natural Environment" in which he outlined how Man is wrecking his environment by irresponsible building, hunting, use of chemicals, etc. The paper was followed by a lively discussion on the subject. For the next meeting it was intended that members would prepare various scientific demonstrations; it was not a success however, as there was only one demonstration, which only managed to produce a vivid purple glow. The outgoing secretary N.C. Woodbridge (©) is due to give a paper on "Jung" later in the term.

N. C. WOODBRIDGE

THE SEDIMENTARIANS

After ten months of oblivion the unearthing of that notable and august body, the Sedimentarian Society, was received by Geographers as a worthy addition to the Societies of Stowe. Yet still under the presidency of Mr. J. M. Hunt, Geography Tutor, the Society was refounded by A. M. Sladen and D. F. M. Stileman.

In order to get it on its feet the first paper was presented by A. M. Sladen on the Moray Firth development area, with special reference to the Invergordon Aluminium Smelter project. This paper was delivered on October 7th and was followed on October 30th by one on the Geographical Magazine's Hovercraft expedition in Amazona. It was presented by Messrs. D. F. M. Stileman and R. K. Hay.

Both these papers were received with considerable interest by members and visitors. A further paper to end the term is to be given by J. H. Robinson on Apartheid in South Africa.

The secretary understands that the second Old Sedimentarian dinner, held in London on November 12th was a suitably convivial occasion.

A. M. SLADEN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society has met three times this term. At the first meeting the chairman, A. H. Thomlinson (W), read a paper in which he argued that the Civil War of 1642-46 was caused not so much by the decline of the gentry, a notion put about by Professor Trevor-Roper, as by the decline of the aristocracy.

Our next speaker was L. C. B. Seaman, Senior History Master at Woking Grammar School. He spoke on the subject 'History—why bother?' and provided first a series of entertaining reasons why one shouldn't, and then a series of equally entertaining reasons why one should. Finally we were addressed by the Reverend T. M. Parker, Fellow of University College, Oxford, on state control of the Church in Catholic and Protestant Europe at the time of the Reformation. A Catholic King like Philip II, he explained, dictated to the Spanish Church just as much as Henry VIII dictated to the English Church, and there were secret rejoicings in Rome at the news of the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

D. J. ARNOLD

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

Since the publication of the last *Stoic* an average of precisely 83.125 persons have, on five occasions, amused themselves by jeering, laughing, shouting, and otherwise expressing themselves, to the accompaniment of the speeches of the twenty of their number who have had the temerity to communicate their opinions verbally. This is an age when one's future is often decided by the impression one can make in an interview of perhaps 15 minutes duration. Bearing in mind that Stowe has a sixth form of 248, a staff of 57 masters with degrees, and a grand total of 577 boys, it might well be expected that a society formed for the purpose of encouraging "the development of perceptive listening, logical thinking and clear speaking," should attract more than 20 boys and one master on any one occasion to participate actively. Nobody would dare advocate that the society should rival the Saturday film as a form of popular entertainment, or Sunday chapel as a source of moral edification, yet it is the fond hope of the secretary that one day it will.

In the years before this happy aim can be realized the society must be kept progressively flourishing. It is the secretary's considered opinion that over the past few months everything possible has been done by those responsible to ensure this. Particularly involved in the conduct of the Society's affairs have been Mr. D. J. Arnold as President, Richard Jeavons as Chairman, and Ib Bellew as general factotum without portfolio. Members of the committee have greatly enjoyed the political manoeuvres which have been carried out behind the scenes throughout

the term, and the secretary confidently predicts an interesting conclusion of these in the near future. An account of the constitution should, perhaps, also be included in any comprehensive report for a new constitution has been necessitated by the excessive amendment of the old one. But since the new constitution has not been drawn up, it is impossible to include an account of it.

Four debates have been held so far this term, the house deciding that it preferred Marks and Spencer to Marx and Lenin, that it did not despise liberty, that it did not consider Americans overpaid, oversexed, or, overmore, over here, and that it was pleased to see that students were revolting. The last debate is particularly worthy of mention in that it was held in conjunction with Brackley Sixth Form Society and was, by all accounts, quite a success. Incidentally, much to the evident delight of many members, student revolt raised its head within the society during the earlier part of the term. However, offended by its somewhat oppressive treatment, it has taken umbrage and could not be persuaded to attend the last meeting, though it did, so it tells me, yell abuse through its study window. However it will get another chance to display its political inclinations at the debate arranged for the 1st of December concerning fig leaves and religion. The Secretary feels grateful to all those who came forward and offered to propose or oppose motions, especially those who have previously only spoken from the floor, namely, Messrs. Shirley-Beavan, Reid, Wright, Sidhu, Kinahan, Farmiloe, Welch, and Moss. He also hopes that such veterans as Messrs McMichen and Saper will continue to give their support in the future, which the Secretary can faithfully say he regards with a fair degree of optimism, mingled with a feeling of pleasant anticipation.

C. J. KARPINSKI

THE FILM SOCIETY

This term we have shown French, Japanese and Polish films, with the latter two being seen by most of the audience for the first time. The term opened with "The Burmese Harp," the poignant story of a Japanese soldier, turned Buddhist priest, roaming Burma at the end of the Second World War.

The second film shown was one of the Polish director Wajda's trilogy about wartime and post-war Poland. In "Ashes and Diamonds" one is confronted with the tremendous problems of political transition, skilfully portrayed in the hero by Zbigniew Cybulsky.

The last two films of the term were both French. The first presented Gerard Philipe and Gina Lollobrigida in the amusing "Fanfan la Tulipe," a satire about the exploits of a legendary historical figure under the reign of Louis XV. In the second French film, "Gervaise," one sees the adaptation of Zola's novel "L'Assommoir". This drama of Paris in the 19th century tells the powerful story of the tragic effects of heredity and milieu on the heroine, played by Maria Schell.

D. W. MANLY

THE LIBRARY

The rate of borrowing books has certainly declined in recent terms although the Library Register is not a complete record of reading habits; the separate subject libraries provide alternative facilities to a greater degree than before, as does the bookshop as well. The Librarian's perennial problem is how to encourage more borrowing and more reading without the loss of books becoming unacceptable, and it must here be said that too many books are removed without a signature—some never to be returned at all.

Plans are now afoot to place in the library a magazine rack, something which has been lacking for some time. Although primarily designed to appeal to the more serious-minded and to encourage an intelligent interest in the current world scene, the range of periodicals supplied should be an attraction for those who wish to browse. It is hoped that reasonable responsibility will be shown in the care of these, to justify the financial outlay.

Forty-two books have been added to the Library during the term. These include a number of gifts from three Old Stoics:—A. D. Mayfield (G 1968), a Connoisseur Period Guide: the Stuart Period 1603-1714, edited by Ralph Edwards and L. G. G. Ramsey; David Wynne (G 1943), The Sculpture of David Wynne 1949-1967; G. G. Riddick (C 1938), The House that Thomas Built: the Story of De La Rue, by Lorna Houseman.

We have also received from Miss Stuckfield three volumes of the Works of the Right Reverend Thomas Newton, D.D. dated 1787 and three volumes of a Biographical History of England from the Revolution to the end of George I's Reign, being a continuation of the Reverend J. Granger's Works dated 1806. For all these contributions we are indeed grateful.

The Headmaster has kindly given three bound volumes of *The Stoic* covering the period from 1923 to 1929 which will replace Library copies now suffering from much hard wear.

The industrious Prefect of Library this term has been A. H. Thomlinson (W) and he has had the help of the following as Library monitors:—G. A. Galyean (B), H. A. A. Williamson-Noble (T), M. A. D. Rosner (G), N. G. F. Gethin (C), I. P. Haussauer (C), C. J. English (C), N. C. Woodbridge (G), A. M. Sladen (W), R. H. B. Stephens (L).

THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

A two kilogram cylinder of steel and copper burying itself deep into a solid wooden block was perhaps the highlight of the term. The cylinder was fired from a 'Linear-Induction Cannon' by Hugh Bolton of Imperial College and was part of a superb series of demonstrations centred on the linear induction motor. Magnetic attraction of non-ferrous metals and the levitation of aluminium discs were also among the fascinating and well executed demonstrations. Mr. Bolton may have imposed a severe strain on the School's electricity supply (his cannon took 35 amps.), but he provided a stimulating evening for the large audience. Another stimulating talk, although in a different sense, was given by Dr. P. Gray, Senior Tutor at Downing College, Cambridge, when he 'flew a few kites' on the serious subject of "The Education of a Scientist". Arguing for more 'applied scientists' and less 'scholastic scientists' he proposed a new system of scientific education at the universities to be reflected at school level that would enable brilliant students to have a greater opportunity to follow technologies, in contrast to the present system which is geared to the production of scholastic scientists. At the time of writing we await a lecture by Dr. John Garratt (C 1953) of the University of York, concerning his researches into 'Insulin and Diabetes'.

It has now become traditional to have one expedition per term. Late last term we spent an absorbing afternoon looking over 'Aston Martin, Lagonda' at Newport Pagnell. It was an experience to see a hand-made car grow from a few rough metal castings and sheets of aluminium. We were most impressed by the meticulous care taken at every stage: the drilling and boring of the engine, the selection of leather, the hand fitting of bonnet and boot lids and the application of 21 coats of paint. This term we go to the Hydraulics Research Establishment, Wallingford, and look forward to seeing their work with large scale models of harbours, dams, flood palins etc. The regular film shows have been continued throughout the term as usual.

The more constructive (i.e. project) side of the Society is now progressing quite well—but I hope readers will take the opportunity of seeing what is being done in the Summer term, when we hope to organize a small exhibition on Speech Day.

A. R. SELBY

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Christmas term is never as productive as the Summer in stimulating individual field studies and this term has been no exception. With fewer people occupied on private projects, the Society has been able to concentrate on the newly established 15 acre nature reserve below the Oxford Water.

Working parties on Sunday afternoons and during Monday Extras have made a great many improvements in the area over the past three months. Owing to a serious storm at the beginning of the term repairs were necessary on the Paper Mill Dam. In addition, a large beech tree was blown down, tearing a hole in the side of the dam. The tree was soon disposed of by means of chain saw and fire, whilst the holes in the dam were repaired by means of corrugated iron and clay infill.

Recently, the Woodland Management Association has thinned the thick conifer plantation and the Society is looking forward to next spring to observe the effect of the clearing on the ground flora and animal population. A fence is being constructed along the more open parts of the road boundary, using the stakes from the conifer thinnings.

A screen made from reeds has been constructed on the west side of the lake in order to watch wildfowl: plans are in preparation for the construction of an island in the middle of the lake. In addition, paths have been cut through the undergrowth and an overflow channel is being made in the dam to avoid the dangers of flash flooding.

There have been three general meetings of the Society during the term. At the initial meeting in September, prospects for the term were discussed; J. L. Backhouse (T), was elected Honorary Warden of the Reserve and a film on African Wildlife was shown. At the second meeting in October, two films were screened—"Wild Highlands," about the Ardnamurchan peninsula, and "Journey into Spring," a film about the Natural History of Selborne. The final meeting of the term was a fascinating talk by Dr. O. Dansie (C 1946), on the Muntjac Deer. The lecture was illustrated with superb photographs of this interesting and little known animal. The talk has stimulated a lot of interest and plans are in hand for building high seats in the Reserve for observing these animals. Throughout the term D. H. P. Luddington (C) has been keeping Muntjac records and he is beginning to build up a picture of their status in Stowe. If any member of the School sees any of these animals or finds their tracks, we should be most grateful for their records. (Sheets for recording these are available in the Biology Labs.)

The Thursday Society has become very much part of the N.H.S., with a large attendance each week to listen to lectures given by older members on specialist topics. These talks have included one on badgers by S. A. Kingwell (L), and another on the recent Biology Field Course to Bardsey Island in North Wales, by H. D. Gibbins (L) and R. D. Everett (G). A number of excellent films have also been shown.

The different sections have been relatively quiet this term, although R. M. Barker (G) and R. A. Jeavons (G), made a large collection of fungi during the early part of the term and a group of bird watchers have formed a section of the Young Ornithologists' Club as a junior part of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Outside the school, members of the Society have twice visited Foxcote Reservoir and a B.B.O.N.T. meeting was also attended in Newport Pagnell.

D. F. M. STILEMAN

THE STOWE PRESS

At the beginning of this term we found that for the first time we had no work of immediate importance to be done. This gave us an opportunity of returning a lot of loose type to the cases and generally reorganizing ourselves. We have not had a great deal of variety of orders this term, but our compositors have seized the chance of improving their skill at setting up tickets and letterheads. The only task of a slightly more ambitious nature which we have tackled was the programme for the "Concert in Advent". Slightly more complicated orders are not beyond our capabilities and are definitely more interesting.

N. P. KAYE

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

On Sunday, October 27th, the Society met to hear an illuminating lecture by Dr. Plommer, Reader in Classical Archaeology at the University of Cambridge. He began by showing some slides of Irish scenery, and then proceeded to show some enlightening examples of Irish archi-

ecture in the Dark Ages. The scene then moved on to another period approximately 1,000 years later, in which the grandeur of the buildings of the eighteenth century provided an excellent comparison to Stowe. Dr. Plommer's wit kept the meeting alive and made it enjoyable to each and everyone present.

The appeal which P. I. Bellew made in last term's *Stoic* for the Editorship of the *Stowe Journal* has been answered. R. M. Seccombe and D. G. Lucas have agreed to take on the editorship, and they stress that the senior members of the Society will be helping them and showing them all the tricks of the trade which they have gained through their experience.

R. M. SECCOMBE
D. G. LUCAS

THE UPPER STYX PROJECT

The term's programme got off to a good start with the arrival of three young Greylag geese, a further gift from Mr. Chance; and this renewed our enthusiasm after the untimely loss of one Mallard. Later on in the term a young female Muscovy was given by S. Picton-Turberville, and this accordingly enriched the life of the lone male, who took to the water for the first time in four months! Recently a female Mallard was found in the Sandpit, suffering from a broken leg and wing, the result of gunshot wounds. It is too early to say whether she will fully recover but it is hoped that she will replace the Mallard lost earlier.

An enthusiastic team of helpers has cleared new ground and maintained the land within the enclosure. Some dangerous trees and much scrub have been cleared, and grass has established itself on the West bank as well as in front of the Seasons' Fountain.

The construction of a five foot high compound on "Fire" Island has been accomplished with the help of the Natural History Society. This covers an area of 60 square feet and will provide protection from predatory animals during times of frost. A new drawbridge has also been built joining the island to the bank.

It is hoped that breeding of the ducks will occur next spring and that this will encourage the nesting of others.

N. A. GEACH
A. B. JOYCE

THE FORESTERS

This term forestry got off to a fresh start, most people being occupied with some small jobs of clearing up, and one small party going off to paint fungicide on the stumps of sawn off branches of some trees along the drive from the Bell Gate Lodge to the Corinthian Arch. Later, another crew, by dint of some considerable hard work, demolished an air-raid shelter which the Woodland Management then went on to fill in—before we had finished—so some of it had to be uncovered again.

After this, all these workers, except the first party, went up to the Cobham Pillar where Mr. Lloyd christened our new 'toy', the chain saw, thanks to which we very quickly felled the sycamore trees on the left hand side of the Pillar. After this the slower process of winching out the roots commenced; with the help of the Woodland Management we have uprooted the majority, and by the end of the term we hope to have them all out, so that in the summer the nursery can be extended down to a line with the Cobham Pillar without being overshadowed by the original sycamores.

While all this had been happening the first party had completed their job. As of late the party has been split up again and some have gone down to the Oxford Water (to the plantation backing onto the Nature Reserve) where they are following the Woodland Management, who are thinning it out, and clearing up the mess with a discriminating eye for any worthwhile stakes. Next term it is hoped to improve the Elysian Fields.

W. G. C. MAXWELL

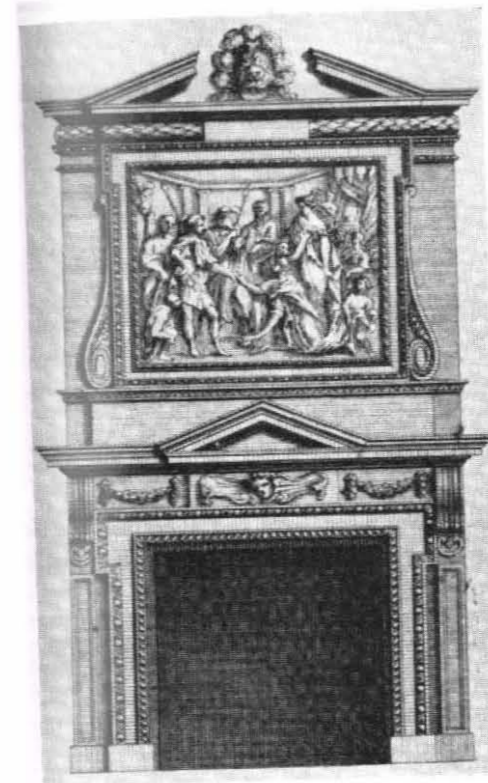


Plate 7—Kent's chimneypiece for the North Hall

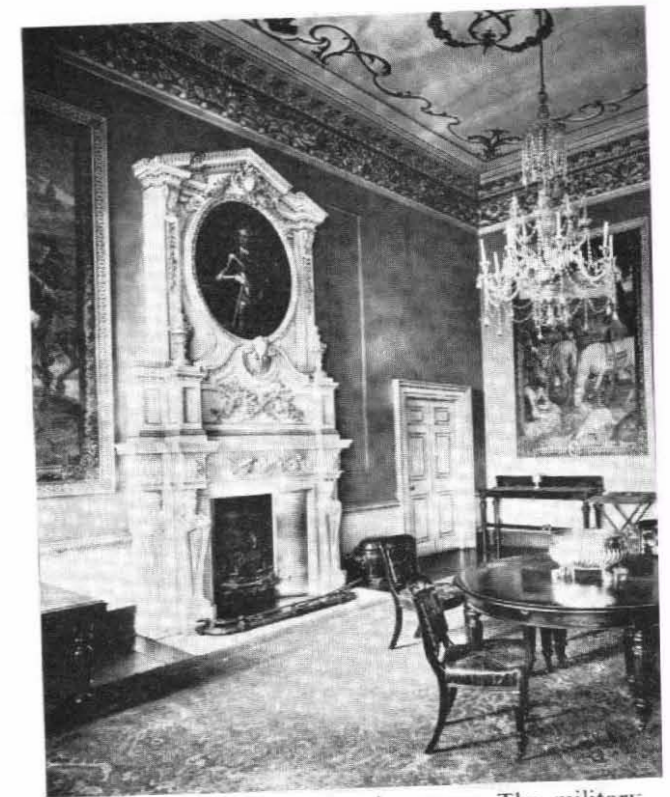


Plate 8—The state dressing-room. The military tapestries were moved here after Cobham's death.

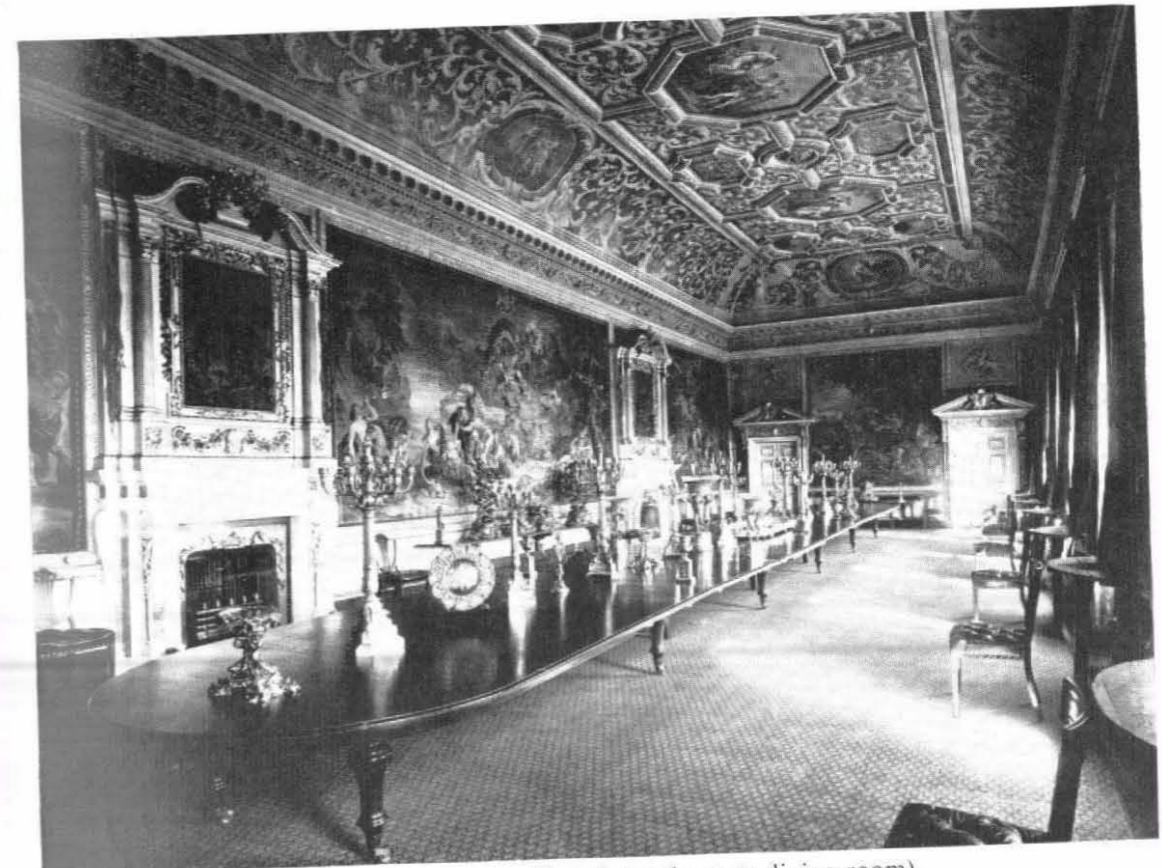


Plate 9—The state gallery (later the state dining room). Here attributed to Henry Flitcroft

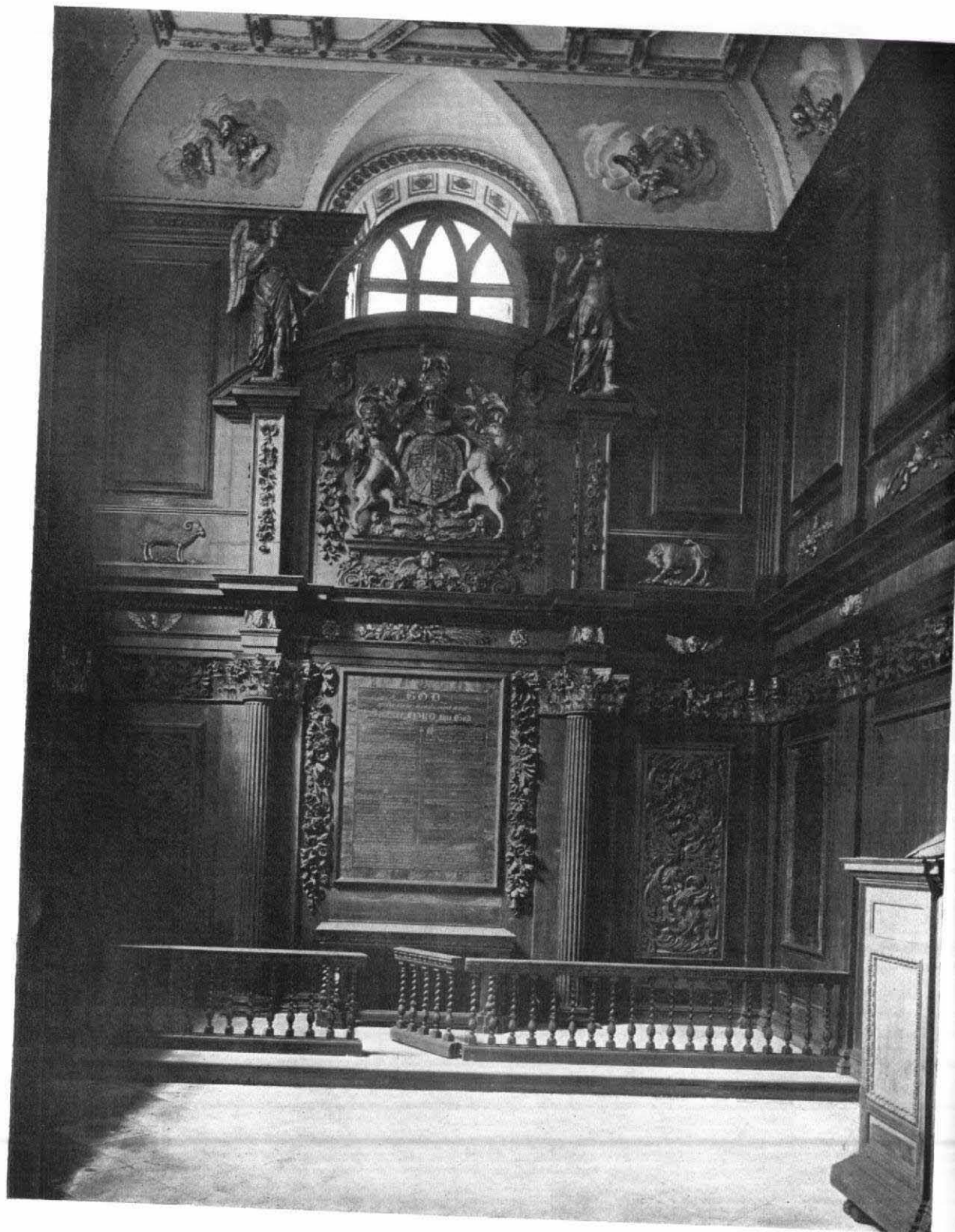


Plate 10—The Cedar Chapel

R. & H. Chapman

GERM

7



Poetry · Art · Opinion

"We must not pretend to study philosophy, but study it in reality: for it is not the appearance of health that we need, but real health."

Epicurus

"So long as we exist, death is not with us, but when death comes, then we do not exist."

Epicurus

"I don't remember ever having had the itch, and yet scratching is one of nature's sweet pleasures, and so handy."

Michel Eyquem de Montaigne

POETRY:

GUY HARVEY

MICHAEL WYLLIE

IB BELLEW

TIM HORNER

PETE LINSELL

ADRIAN SELBY

FRED ROTHWELL

NICHOLAS KAYE

RICHARD JEAVONS

"Il vient toujours une heure dans l'histoire où celui qui ose dire que deux et deux font quatre est puni de mort."

Albert Camus

"Ce qui vient au monde pour ne rien troubler ne mérite ni égards ni patience."

Rene Char

"Dans l'action ils ont montré la source de leur beauté"

Karel Appel
(on the May Revolution)

"Art, like morality, consists in drawing the line somewhere."

Chesterton

"All fashionable vices pass as virtues."

Moliere

ART:

STEPHEN ALSEN

STAMOS FAFALLIOS

NEIL HARVEY

"The living are the dead on holiday."

Maurice Maeterlinck

EDITORS:

IB BELLEW

TIM ALBERY

GUY HARVEY

OPINION:

TIM ALBERY

RICHARD JEAVONS

GUY HARVEY

DAVID SHIRLEY-BEAVAN

EDITORIAL

When we talk of revolution or of rejection of experience we become so open to misinterpretation as to confuse our whole intention. Revolution, despite what some would have us believe, is a phenomenon that has always arisen from clashes between each generation. Thus our predicament is no novelty though of course there are revolutions and revolutions

There is something about this last revolution that could imply that an old age is on the decline and a new era is springing out of the ashes The generation that has produced Lawrence, Hemingway, Eliot, Camus, Beckett, Virginia Woolf and others, arose out of the end of the Victorian era, struggled through two world wars and is passing, having worked itself out and answered its dilemmas. Like an old man who has lived and fulfilled his life, that generation, having answered its particular questions and formed its own criteria, is having to yield in the face of stronger doubt. It is not that their experience is invalid or erroneous so much as final and conclusive; it is the fact that there is no issue or purpose any more in their answers, that has turned the winds of favour. To call a generation "decadent" is a dangerous thing to do but nevertheless it should stand in its non-pejorative and fundamental meaning.

The influence Lawrence carried over on to his generation has now turned crabbed and stunted. When Cohn Bendit said: "The young make love, the old obscene gestures," he was not simply hurling an insult by way of *L'Enrage*, a student magazine, he was referring directly to the almost automatic tendency of the older generation to assume sex to be synonymous with sin or obscenity. Love and sex in our generation are gradually being lifted away from the mire in which Lawrence put them—contraceptives and the rejection of religious fatalism are helping to remove the dead weight, and generally the atmosphere is clearing. One need only glance at the songs of Françoise Hardy or of the Beatles to see what is already becoming increasingly obvious. Our generation is still for the most part young and its emotions are consequently young. And so they should remain.

For fundamentally our revolt is an emotional upheaval. Apart from university quarrels we have no fixed object in our revolt except for one very simple and fundamental precept: that we should not be judged by principles applied from outside. We reject experience because that experience has drawn conclusions incompatible with our present situation. We reject experience because it has become crabbed and barren—all we want is the certainty of a free and undetermined future. To have to know from an early age that our lives will depend totally on a social code of criteria established by others with whom we shall have little or no contact is one of the most intolerable weights we are attempting to reject.

IB BELLEW
GUY HARVEY
TIM ALBERY



A MURDER IN HEAVEN

I fly high in the inimical
Clear blue sky of a May Day with four
Plastic angels, wings flapping
Energetically at my side,
Sailing, soaring, dipping and diving.
I still fly but higher with the drug
Drawing more pictures flashing in
My head, I see my much spoken of god
With his beard flowing many miles
Behind, and his hair longer than mine.
I see a dragon attacking me,
I strike out to see a dragon dead
On the floor, later when I have left.
The sky and my wings far behind,
I sit with a headache,
Staring uncomprehending at my
Dead girl-friend, lying, with open head,
On the floor, blood and brains all around.
I scream, I rant, I rave. They pick
Me up, I die and I am again in
The sky with real wings . . . of feathers.
ADRIAN SELBY

THE COLOURS AT HIROSHIMA

Glossy black, it glitters
As it cleaves a path,
Through the still warm air,
On a calculated course.

Matt black are the ashes
Of the mother and her child,
As the jealous wind
Blows them to the heavens.

Bright red, is the blood
As it streams out of that,
which was once a man,
Or woman, black or white.

The bomb doesn't understand
The difference between the colours.
Limbleless is the baby
Born in the next long years.

This bomb hurts nature.
This bomb hurts everman.
Yet we forget all this,
And say Hiroshima was right.

TIM HORNER

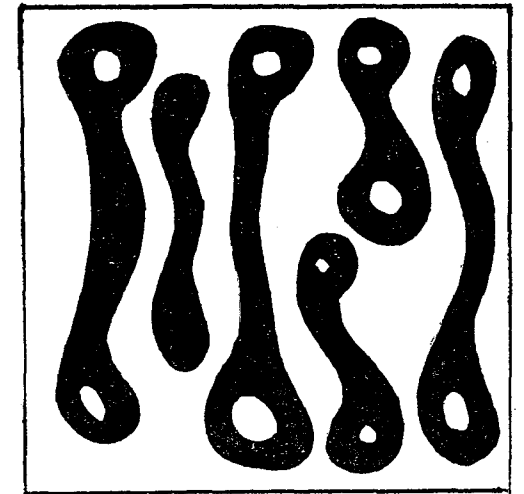
THE FORBIDDEN GARDEN

WHO ARE YOU?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
Questions are sprung at me,
by the green flowers.
The soft tapping of the rain,
'Go away! Go away!'
It seems to say to me,
But onward I still go.
Into the forbidden territory
Through the dark black shadows.
Looking always for the hidden meaning.
Life, laughter, love, all are
Needed, so onward I press.
The creaking of the trees,
The snapping of the twigs,
All give an urgent warning.
'Take no notice' I say,
And then I see the light,
The licking tongues of flame.
Hypnotised now, unable to stop.
On, on, onward I go.

TIM HORNER

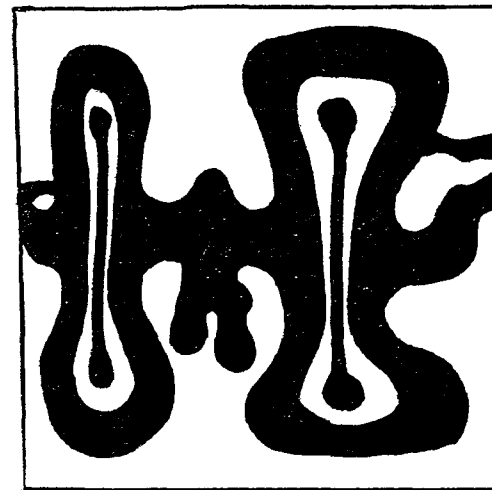
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SCIENCE?

Twentieth century man is on the crest of a wave of scientific discovery. But it has borne us onto the shoals of the two most devastating and inhuman wars in human history. We can now destroy the whole of the human race in a few hours with germs, viruses or bombs, and the sound of the surf is in our ears. How can man combine science and survival? There are two ways in which science is killing society. The able scientists fills the hands of Cain with yet another instrument of massive death and destruction, but just as lethally the advance of automation and the spectre of worldwide starvation, one of science's unfortunate side effects, force men towards ever larger, more organised, and hence less free, societies. It also provides the stays, brain-washing and mass indoctrination to keep these monopolies over man in full control of their property. In both *Brave New World* and '1984' the authors are concerned with the abuse of scientific 'advancement' to reduce men to apes. As we steadily understand more and more about genetics, as we begin to understand the chemical processes of memory, are we to avoid the realisation of these fantasies? Stability and efficiency preclude all but the world block totalitarian states of Orwell. If men are only stomachs to fill and slaves to drive them this advance is progress. But they are not. Perhaps it is better that most of mankind should starve rather than all should atrophy to mindless automata unquestioningly believing whatever they are ordained to believe. If I seem to decry all change and demand the cessation of all thought then I must clarify



my position. Some advance is progress, but not all. When man invented the bow he knew too much for his own safety, but he also aided his survival. When he studies germ warfare he prejudices his chances of a future but in no way improves his present. It is a totally futile self deception to say that knowledge is only good or bad when it is applied, just as it was futile of the Inquisition to force Galileo to recant a verifiable truth. They are both the actions of men with no eye to the human character. Man will always apply the knowledge he has whenever the occasion arises, just as he will test the theories of which he has heard, and act on his results. Thus although present knowledge is not suppressable, even if denied, some types of knowledge are evil. The question is, which? This is a question we must ask, but I cannot answer. Indeed, there can be no neat answer, for who can tell whether, in the end, more good than evil will come of a discovery? Einstein once said, "I cannot conceive of anything I have ever done ever having the slightest practical application". Then came the atomic bomb. Anyway, can good and evil, however one defines them, be balanced against each other? Still, it might be as well, before going back to work at Porton, eulogising on the intrinsic merits of scientific research, to wonder what its purpose is, whether it is achieving it, and whether, in several cases, the immediate effects are likely to be such that there will be no future in which they can be redressed.

RICHARD JEAVONS



REVOLUTION TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE

This past year there has been an increasing tide of unrest and revolution. This is of course not at all unusual or startling, as revolution has been a powerful force throughout history, but what makes it different today is its conspicuous lack of success.

An obvious example of this is to be found in Czechoslovakia; for once it seemed that the will of a people had managed to stand against the might of a dictatorship, in this case of the Kremlin. But it was clear all along that their victory was retained at the whim of the superior power, and that it could be dissolved at any moment; and it was. What can the Czechs do against this kind of tyrannical rule? At the most they can carry on passive resistance, and even that has probably been crushed by the secret police. Their present state seems to be for the time being insoluble unless some dramatic change occurs in the policy of the Russian Communist Party. In America there is an enormous negro population which has, under the leadership of such men as Martin Luther King, been protesting for many years against its lack of civil rights and its treatment as inferior by white Americans. Its battle has progressed slowly over the years with a certain degree of success, but for some this progress has come too slowly. Negro protest is now taking on a more aggressive aspect in the form of the Black Power movement, which is rapidly gaining popularity. In a way this movement is reminiscent of the Nazi Party in that it stresses the physical superiority of a particular race and that it is more than willing to resort to violence. For the Negroes their superiority is indicated by their monopoly of the Olympic medals—thence the demonstrations of support on the rostrum; in the same manner Hitler hoped to prove the superiority of the Aryan stock in the 1938 Olympic Games only to be confounded by the incredible negro athlete, Jesse Owen. But it is unlikely that the negroes could succeed to the same degree as the Nazis, because they will never be able to gain full political control, and without that military achievement cannot begin. Their best course would seem to be the slowest, that of passive protest, because any signs of aggression will result in the flourishing of the fortunes of such as Mr. Wallace, but violence will no doubt prevail.

It is probably fair to say that in fully developed countries at the present time one can do no more than start a revolution, but never complete it. There are signs that this is not to be a permanent feature, for the young of this decade are beginning to consider their ideological standpoint and to express their views more and more ferociously. Their grievances, usually expressed by the student body, tend to stem from one practical complaint and flower quickly into a general ideological dispute. This was clearly the case in France earlier this year, when for the first time the workers became involved in the student revolution, though the aims of the two bodies were understandably confused. Yet again 'dictatorship' conquered by means of ruthless suppression and political cunning. Next time it may not, for the unrest and the aspiration towards reform of the younger generation grows daily stronger and more widespread; and it must not be forgotten that the younger generation of today is the older generation of tomorrow.

It is possible that within the next ten years the Czechs and the negroes may win back their identity and freedom, but it will undoubtedly be a bloody struggle. The discouraging thought is that they in turn will be faced with the challenge and the revolution of the following generation. For, to quote the editorial of *Student*: 'the apathy and detachment . . . among the young in the 'Fifties is gone, perhaps for ever'.

TIM ALBERY

To the Editors of *Germ*.

Sirs,

The noble English language is threatened by the insidious encroachments of fonetic spelling. This must be stopt. We must pnot only preserve, butt awlsough cultivaight, the echseanthry-sitieghs of hour prescious ptongue.

Forps ygh hower rwyeting whirr psoughishientleigh assonknaegn, phorygnurze world glolmondely gough olf holme (whair thaye bhaelong) anned aughll oughur drubullze whuld beigh oaffurh.

Yaughse

Aargghh! Eh! Djeighvaunze.

(R. A. JEVONS)

THE DEVIL'S OWN SONG—QUINTIN HOGG—Hodder & Stoughton 18/-

We have obviously come a long way from the days of Giles' "'Ailsham 'Ogg'" now that Quintin Hogg, lawyer, politician and savant has added the title of poet to his already large list of attributes. However this is no ordinary selection of verse and their creator is no ordinary poet. Instead we have a fascinating insight into a true classicist of—I say it with admiration—the old school. We read in the introduction how Hogg was made to write forty compositions in Greek and Latin verse every year while he was at school. The effect of this strict upbringing is obvious in his poetry. Indeed many of his verses are polished translations of Latin and Greek authors, especially his Catullus.

It is difficult to shed new light in translations of such stock poems as 'Odi Et Amo', 'Miser Catulle' and 'Lugete, o Veneres Cupidinesque' and yet here we see this very thing done with not inconsiderable success:

"I love and hate. But do not ask me how.
I know no more than thou,
But this I know.
My tortured heart assures me it is so."

Such translations show the rich fruit of many years of classical upbringing.

Nevertheless this training is also applied to the other lyrics in this book. The verse form is usually strict and the rhythm, although naive when compared with that of other poets, usually effective. Apart from classical translations we have a versatile collection of poems ranging over the whole gamut of emotion. Some are studiously humorous and there is even a questionable limerick:

"In rehearsing her part, playing Puck,
A Shakesperian actress got stuck,
But, as she'd never heard
Of that four-lettered word
She merely remarked, 'What bad luck'."

On the whole though these poems are about emotional reminiscence of a more serious sort. There is a selection of war poems which illustrate a truly varied, if not overtly original style. He may be no Wilfred Owen but the events of his active service are self-portrayed and the verse-form, if simple, is at least suited to his theme. There is a deeply moving, quasi-religious sonnet on Remembrance Day which demonstrates ably his technical skill:

"And these were his beloved; have no fear
For them, as, if in hardened hearts like ours
Love sprang unbidden for them, like the flowers
In those their English meadows, yet more dear
Must they remain to him whose gentle tear
Fell for this friend beneath proud Herod's Towers"

In the same religious vein there is a rousing translation of the 'Dies Irae' which brings out all the banality of the Latin without losing an inkling of its dignity.

And so the book goes on—a pleasing blend of classicism, war, religion, wit and personal emotion. One's main criticism would be that the verse is too stylised and that it lacks the final ounce of originality to make it great, but to object thus is pointless. Clearly Quintin Hogg is no great poet, and he does not claim to be.

And yet this book is important, if not for its verse, for its introduction. In it we read a message which is eternally relevant: "It has become my sincere belief that you cannot write, or speak, in prose, until you have made the attempt, however feebly, to compose in verse. It is not that, when you do so, you have the aspiration to become, still less to equal, the professional poet. Of course, the professionals will beat you every time. That is part of the fun of the thing." Here he has made the attempt in the name of ordinary men and the result, if not a work of consummate genius, is by no means feeble.

"The thing I would most like people to feel about this book is that things like writing verse are as natural to man as singing in his bath. You might not do it like a Caruso. But to sing at all is to praise God and love your neighbour". He may not write like Catullus but the honesty of his work and the simple faith of his opinion, held in maturity after an active life, can speak to us today and instil a ray of hope into the horrors of modern artistic pessimism. Above all this is poetry for the common man and as such marks an important step in the mass propagation of the written art.

GUY HARVEY

FAILURE I

Rest my green grinning moon
And let the long knives of life
Pull past as angel wings.
Pull up the bridge and let;
Let waters flow past flowing hours.
Allow the shield of anthracite
To hold an anaemic world
Gone further than consideration
Would have moved, around
Our fallibility.

IB BELLEW

FAILURE II

The Myth has failed.
The moon, shifting round
The corners of the Trianon,
Hails the sliding sun
Across a polished floor.
The stars creep down
The walls, awash
With depth and darkness;
And God slips through
The cracks between the boards.

IB BELLEW

INSPIRATION

A vision faltering on the wings of mind,
A half-heard call to unimagined thought,
A key I want but I shall never find—
I grope for words but time is yet too short.
The mood has gone, my mind imprisons me,
The will has failed to cast my thoughts in speech.
A misty glimpse of what I never see
Is all that time has left within my reach.
Could I but say to passing time, "Stand still,
Remain unfading as I savour you".
For then I might observe the hidden will
Which faintly drives me on to pastures new,
And seeing it at last might know its name
That goads men forth to madness or to fame.

RICHARD JEAVONS

A REFLECTION OF REALITY

The sun, the plover, the trees and I,
Stood silent beneath the midday sky,
There wasn't a sound, not even a stir,
In the placid elm and the stately fir,
But the music of the reeds beneath my eyes
And the new-born flower that gently sighs,
The quiet and timeless natural ways,
That form a perfect endless phase
Showed me, with one glance at our hideous race,
How we should be nothing before His face.

NICHOLAS KAYE

FELO? PER SE

Suicide is Man's only available material protest against the obvious limitations of his existence. He sees that he is imprisoned in every respect by comparison with the chthonic powers which he can observe all around him. These powers were personified as gods by the ancients—for example, the terrestrial forces of the earth they represented in the person of the great Earth Mother goddess. By killing himself Man hopes to relieve his depression at the inadequacies he feels and to gain at least the semblance of immortality. Such a hope implies a belief that the body is merely the casing for a more far-reaching and important being, commonly known as the soul. Thus the prospective suicide wishes to become a god and to have the great capabilities of the elements and their fellows, and this causes him to release his soul in the hope of assimilating divinity.

It is in this respect that the need for religion arises in the soul, for by judicious application religion can grant a feeling of divinity without the metempsychosis caused by actually killing the body. Suicide therefore takes the place of a religion, and this is especially so in the case of those who call themselves agnostics or atheists, for otherwise they have no way to broaden the incarcerating horizons of life. Even drugs are unsatisfactory, providing purely temporary freedom and relief from depression; more often than not the heightened sense of reality leaves its subject more miserable than he was before. There are of course the vast mass who refuse ever to consider their existence or position on earth, either through inability or total indifference. To this category belong the drifters of this life, agnostics who have not bothered with religion, and 'devout' people who have never really considered their true religious motives. The few who do think are divided into two main classes—those who embrace a creed, and those who apply themselves to the religion of agnosticism. It is not these people who are likely to commit suicide. Instead it is the small fringe of men and women who cannot find themselves either in religion or in agnosticism. They are too big for this world in their opinion and spend a great deal of their lives looking for the key to life—a key which no one has ever found, except, pious folk believe, their own peculiar god. This minority cannot accept the restrictions of this world as religious folk, who wait patiently in the knowledge that there are better things to come, or as agnostics who believe that they are mere materials in space and time with no particular destiny or purpose. Instead during their search for the loose bar in the grille of their existence they at some stage become exasperated and attempt the only way out which they know. To them life is pointless because they believe that there is something better here around them, for the living, if only they can find the door; the Christian's redemption awaits him after a life on earth.

The judge at the inquest on Tony Hancock said: "Suicide . . . is a symptom of many different problems ranging from chronic mental illness to an impulsive solution, or occasionally a more planned solution to a crisis in an individual's life". It is this crisis which more often than not arrives from having no god or other moral support to turn to in a time of need and many chronic mental sicknesses have arisen from psychoses caused by feelings of personal inadequacy (as have many motives for murder) and from the insecurity impossible to anyone with a philosophy. The Romans considered suicide a noble way to solve problems and indeed a more liberal view to that taken since then is held by many today. The same judge went on to say that "Looking at the background to the worries that concerned him, one can only admire his fortitude in carrying out his work and giving pleasure and enjoyment to people when he himself was beset with problems in his private life".

If only we would use our care for others to prevent suicides, instead of moralising over the corpse as yet another finds his own solution to imprisonment, how much better would mankind make his captivity. After all suicide is not a disease, a crime, or a sin—except perhaps of surrounding society. It is as well to remember the importance of personality in the computer age. As regards suicide, we are indeed our brothers' keepers.

GUY HARVEY



THEMES OF WORSHIP

Loving is to melt into you
Like the snowflakes on the moonlit lake.
Will you ever come?

FRED ROTHWELL

THE DUMB SHOW OF YESTERDAY

At eve, when a raging sun
Splashes the west in hopeless red confusion,
Wings a dove, sole mummer
Nightrunner.

FRED ROTHWELL



SEASONS OF MISTS AND MELLOW FRUITFULNESS

It was Autumn that we were married,
setting ourselves high ideals of
moral indecency;
and it seemed that together
we would always be happy,
oblivious of the world
around us.

We being conformity itself
copying nature to its fullest peak
found ourselves with a little more
than the birds and
the bees.

It is happiness which leads to
passion which turns to grief.
It was late Spring that she,
heavy with child,
deciding that I wasn't, as the Summer
months are,
always shining,
and nimbly in her angry pursuits,
fell headlong and delivered me
a seemingly stillborn of our intentions.
It seemed I had lost a child and a Spring.
It was in Summer, that she
weary with life
and me,
sought her way elsewhere
to meet some Ginsberg-covered lover
with strange intentions.
Once more Autumn found me,
catching her delicate tears,
unable to understand
life.

MICHAEL WYLLIE

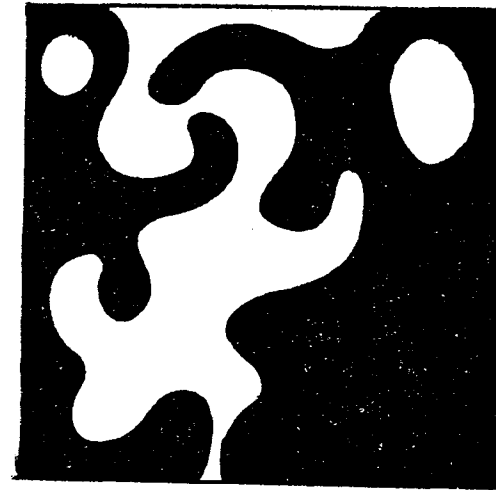
TO VARIOUS WIVES

Always with fleeting smiles
we see you.
Making your way past us
with upturned intentions.
Through fat and thin we
bear with your troubles,
grow up with your children,
remark on your faces.
Why can't you bear the children
of our words?

MICHAEL WYLLIE

I casted my mind further than
I thought the primrose way would
permit me to, dare I say,
I ran defeating my morals, des-
troying as I could the absolute
pettiness of this life and dec-
iding perhaps it could be and
also thinking that perhaps my
wife would not as I hoped, un-
derstand and see;
I didn't invite her home.

MICHAEL WYLLIE



CAROLINE II

*(This poem has no ending, because there cannot
be any ending)*

The more I know you
the more difficult it becomes to
love you
And as each day passes
I weep the sadness of the
stillborn child of our
imagination, knowing that really
these two paths can never meet
Yet I resent the beauty which you have
and smile inwardly wondering
why love

falls

into

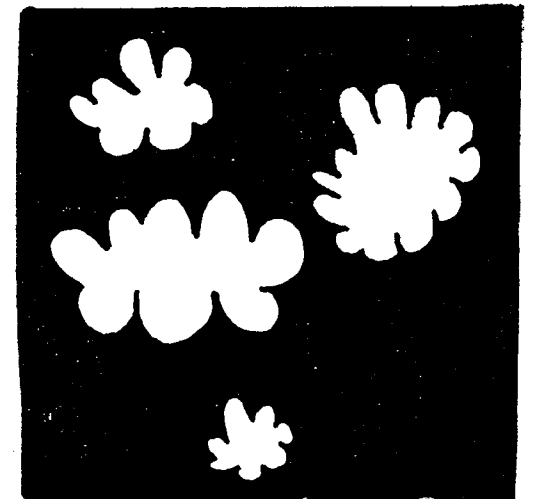
so many categories and that the more
sacred it becomes
the more difficult it is to
fulfil.

MICHAEL WYLLIE

CAROLINE I

Girl,
Yesterday I decided I didn't like
boots.
Strange isn't it, me the dedicated
jack-boot of this world
equally strange perhaps, my relationship
with you has changed.
No longer do I feel the
comfort of your strength round my
ankles
creeping up my shins, engulfing
my thighs, encasing my mind,
No longer do I feel the innocence
As I unzip the leather
laying bare the flesh, the bulge
of the calf.
No longer can I feel nothing if perchance
I touch the naked flesh
I feel both my relationship with you
and my boots has changed
radically.

MICHAEL WYLLIE



FINITE THOUGHTS ON INFINITY

My eyes rose above this materialistic complex, whose grim greyness glows more gruesome with every lethargic chime of the time-worn clock.

They saw the stars twinkling in amused observation! Are the senses of a star products of mere material—of the same substance as our earthly platform for the farce of our divine immaturity? Astrology is an aged idea, more so than Christianity (which assigns a substantial part of its proof to its age). If astrology is true, the stars are not merely material objects, but origins of divine influence. If we believe in a God, then they are instruments of his work.

If astrology is not true, it seems that they must be our disappointing uncles. But they are the borders of infinity, if not part of it. Fittingly, infinity is a power of infinite greatness—in division, it reduces anything to nought; in multiplication, it raises to infinite greatness. Unhindered progress will lead to a direct confrontation between this power and mankind. This divine power will overcome mankind's materialistic powers, and reduce him to nought or raise him to infinite greatness, as is his desert.

DAVID SHIRLEY-BEAVAN



RIMBAUDERIE

There She stands—a Being of beauty and a tall figure
of snowflake grace.
The wild horse's mane is as soft as grass, when She breathes
in the moonlight still.
The sky velvets back from Her silhouette when the stars
burst in Her sight.
Winter whispers in the murmuring trees, tells the leaves
of Her love.
The paradise grove fills with melting air as Her syllables
freeze in the cold.
J'ai seul la clef de cette parade, de cette parade sauvage—
but I will not speak.
She walks on the sea-spray—a white mist sheens on
the watered ocean.
Shadow beyond shadow stand the numbered causes
of Her significance.
I alone have the key to this parade, this cruel parade—
mais je ne dirai rien.
There She stands—a Being of beauty and a tall figure
of snowflake grace.
In aeternum.

GUY HARVEY

INTIMATE PAGES*

Soaring skywards with sweetness
I chatter in singing ripples;
my stroking tones smile dulcet
in the blue.

I feel sad sometimes as the lark
climbs slowly to free the heavens,
to sound the joys of music
to the world.

My broad neck curls up to you
as my sinews vibrate, taut
in the hands of soft seduction
as I sigh.

Rough and swelling is my fruit
which wisps from muscles, bow-struck
by loving hands. I play with these—
friends always.

**Leos Janacek's 2nd String Quartet is
subtitled 'Intimate Pages'.*

GUY HARVEY

TREBUCHET

The castle walls are crumbling
slowly, I know, but soon a breach,
spider-cracked at first, will hole
the limboed bulwarks of defence.

The gap is narrowing, quiet,
unobtrusively crushing the air
and soon the moats will hiss
as sunlight stirs the watered weeds.

Your castle falls to me:
wider my kingdom grows
as sceptred I rule my prize
in battle-hallowed harmony.

My walls are cracking too,
sheered by the weight of joy
as our strongholds merge at last
in war-scarred love's sacred fusion.

GUY HARVEY

BALLET

Where are you dancing, dancing,
as the night-woman creeps her broom
over the sun and draws her blinds
on the world?

Are you out alone in the cold
where the trees seize travellers
and haunt the forest spirits
in the dark?

Have you run away to hide, far
in the depths of a mossy cave,
where the bat drips water, spinning
its low course?

Are you watching the circling stars
as the earth turns, groaning with age,
and the luminous ring of the moon
shines placid?

Is the salt-sea sour on your legs
as you paddle the waves, soft
lapping your silent walk, where
the crabs lie?

Are the orchids dead in the garden
where you finger the bud-rose
and look for the sleeping dog
to pat him?

Where are you dancing, dancing,
now that lights are dim, the sky
is dark and the night moon smiles
on your path?

GUY HARVEY

EUPHRONE

Silver starlight falls with a white radiance
and the moon walks, stalking silence in the dark
as the night cries for day.

The dog sleeps slowly beneath the empty sky
and dreams sad dreams with tearful wandering thoughts
as the wind howls for life.

The gods sit silent dining in their solemn halls
as mortality groans in servitude
to a tyrant godhead.

They cry out loud for freedom, life and love
but the laughing immortals are deaf to all
the pleas of dying men.

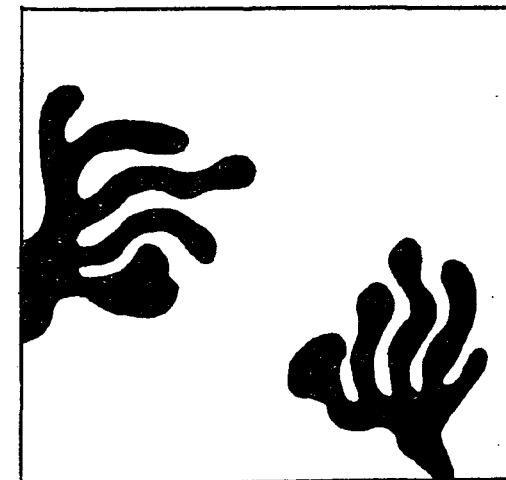
We lie in supplication, Zeus, hear us
and give us liberty to make ourselves
mortals, kings of liberty.

GUY HARVEY

THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE

Time, like a tortoise lyre as yet unstrung
by man, lies sea-like in the valley, calm
as the village mill-pond where broods no harm
for the years in their conscious changes rung.
There breathes the churchyard where the idiot hung
old blooms (as if they could restore the psalm-
toll'd dead from graves which give no lasting balm)
and cried stupid as doleful mourners sung.
There too the robins' nests, softly sleeping,
lie in the sempiternal, shining sun
and long for death when dying day is done,
when the dew-clouds gather, silent, weeping.
Still for the air in the labouring spring
but all it needs is youth to pluck one string.

GUY HARVEY



DEATH OF A LEADER

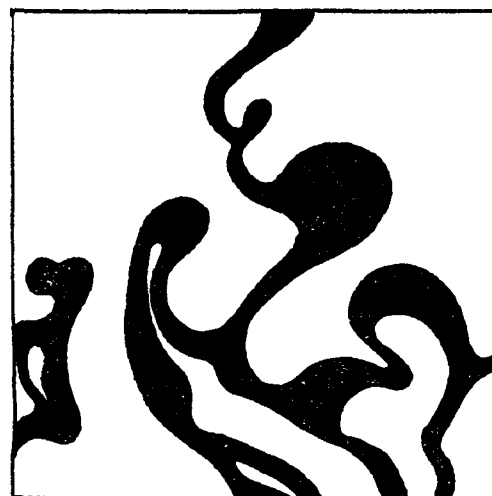
(For Robert Kennedy)

He groped blind-fingered for the gift of time
but his hands would not encompass it;
the sheets were white and vestal, his thumbs
slipped ashamed off their decent hems
and he crept away with dignity,
while the whole world watched.

The pillow dimpled gently where his head had lain
and thousands came, and saw, and wept
for their leader's death, accomplished by
fate in her eternal wisdom,
as his life was blooming and cut down
with sudden quickness.

The widow died that night and the wind wept
in silent sympathy, wisping
cold and cheerless through the cheerless sky.
The children went without a word,
the nurses slept and never saw
their little lives blow out.

GUY HARVEY



WINTER DAYDREAMS

While winter rustles its mantle over the moors,
the horses stand, silhouetted still, and speak
in whispers, veiled in a cloud of snow,
and their breath steams out in the silver sun.

The lichen creeps greenlit to its frozen death, below
the white-robed walls of broken stone
where the horses neighed in playful spring,
where now alone a plaintive sheep lies dead.

The snow stretches far, far into the ice-grey sky
where the eye is struck by the cowed sun's rays,
enfeebled, dead, on the glistening snow,
where footsteps blend to blank eternity.

The silence stings the ear and deafened sounds are dumb
as I scan the waste for a sign of life,
but see a desert, swept with snow,
where no-one lives and no-one ever goes.

The moors are free in the air and long to run with me
away from glassy Nidd, the frozen Wharfe,
to where the sheep sleep on the snow
in peace and solitude, where no pipes blow.

GUY HARVEY

AUTUMN

I

Autumn is the time to think
Of love that is past, of loves to come,
And comparing them, I look for the link.
And yet for us there is no love in Autumn.

II

Like bats the leaves
Float down through the mist.
The squirrels play at thieves
Up the bare branches of the trees.
The only sound
Is the squelch of my boots
On the soggy ground,
And the soft lapping of the water
Coming from the grey tree-hidden lake.

TIM HORNER

AMONG THE RUINS OF THE TEMPLE OF FRIENDSHIP

(The temple is soon to be repaired)

Nature is the flatterer of Fate,
Forever showering beauty onto man;
But man himself cannot alone create
The beauty man allied with Nature can.
Time has but taken what must surely go,
And topp'd the rest with Wisdom's cosmic crown;
Emotion strikes down Knowledge with a blow,
And Romance razes Reason from renown.
But arm, O man, against this subtle foe!
This Nature is an enemy of Law;
Besiege her Temple! Kill all things that grow!
And shame her in the raiment of a whore;
O mighty man march onward with repairs!
. . . . and leave the weeping ash to dry her tears.

PAUL HALL

SELFISHNESS

Blue breaks pink,
Frees red,
He's dead,
With the stink
Of rotting flesh
And retch
The passers-by
In 'holy' Golgotha.

Still-dead thieves
Carrion-eaten,
No redemption
For thieves;
He has a tomb
But there's no room
For sinners
Where prophets fear to tread.

PETE LINSELL

HYPOCRISY

Some poetry
is nonsense,
it has no mental form
or meaning;
and no-one really understands it;
they just think they do.

Or sometimes,
they know
they don't
and just pretend to.
Hypocrisy
others call it
and explain
the poem,
(Or what they think).

So it really doesn't matter
if it is all nonsense
so long as people
THINK !

PETE LINSELL

MEMORIALS

Where Sparta's fine and mighty city once did glow,
Now rows of placid olive trees do grow,
Where vain, and mighty men once made their fame,
A place that was a power is now a name.

Where once a growth of wealth and civilising pride
Did span its mighty buildings far and wide,
Where once there lived a people, a great and lively power,
Now there stand just olive groves where only olives flower.

Dear England, see I in that fine place,
Where our great men did show their face,
Beside lofty Nelson of London's pride,
A row of daisies side by side?

Or as a memorial by Piccadilly,
One gay bluebell beside a lily?
And perhaps dandelions as remaining gems,
Shall stand at ease beside the Thames.

NICHOLAS KAYE

SHOT AT DAWN

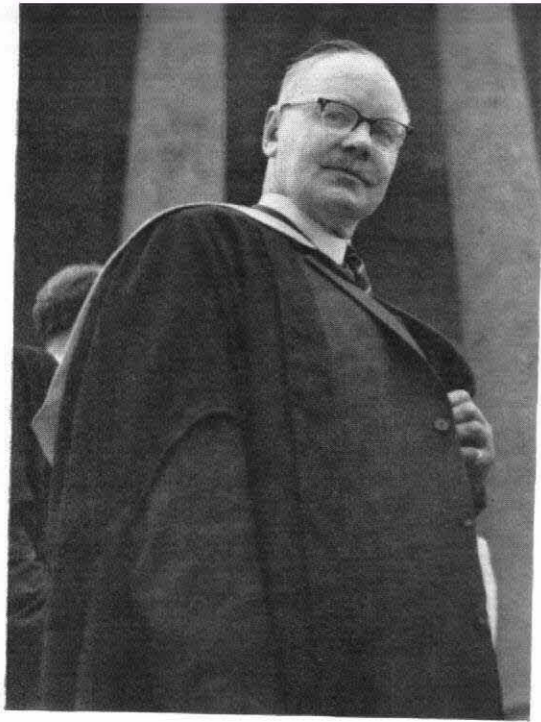
Now there is no future,
Only the dead past
And fast-fading present,
Disappearing with the darkness.

So life is identified with dark
And death with light—
It proves he's going to Heaven,
So they shoot athelsts at dusk.

PETE LINSELL



J.B. and rehearsals for *Caesar and Cleopatra*



A.M.



Sailing at Banbury

THE TROUT HATCHERY

To sum up the 1968 season: we reared both Brown and Rainbow Trout, selling them to the River Authority in early July.

Four major setbacks were encountered all of which should be avoidable next season. Firstly, the Alevins were attacked by Blue Sac Disease while in water at a very low temperature (about 34°F). To avoid this we are planning to hatch our trout at the Biology Labs. in 1969, where our water supply will be constantly at 50°F. The trout will remain at the laboratories for approximately four weeks, until they are feeding, they will then be transferred to the Trout Hatchery. Secondly the Brown Trout fry failed to feed on the pellet food which they were given. This resulted in many starving to death before we learned to feed them on finely ground liver on which they thrived. Later the fry were fed on roach and perch fry from the Oxford Water Lake. Thirdly, losses were encountered during very hot weather due to lack of oxygen. Losses were greatest among the Rainbow Trout. By increasing the water flow and fitting sprinklers to the inflow supply we managed to maintain the oxygen at a satisfactory level. Finally, some of the Rainbow Trout were affected by a tape-worm in their stomach. In the 1969 season we shall be rearing Brown Trout only, since these remained free from such parasites.

Our aim, this season, was primarily to compare the merits of Brown and Rainbow Trout. Our conclusion is that Brown Trout, despite their slower growth, are considerably more suited to our rearing system (and probably more suited to the Oxford Water as a whole).

D. E. REID
R. W. CASTLE

STOWE SOCIETY OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

This term the Society has been practising regularly on Tuesday evenings, although attendance on some occasions has been alarmingly poor. As the more senior ringers move further up the School, it becomes increasingly difficult to encourage the newer members of the School to take up ringing. It is essential to maintain a steady flow of members into the society, if Sunday service ringing is to be continued when members of the present band leave the school. A few of the less experienced members have, however, shown immense interest this term and their progress is extremely encouraging. The school band has also progressed well this term. The striking has improved since the beginning of term but it is still nowhere near perfection.

The list of methods tackled this term is extensive, ranging from Plain Bob and Grandsire to St. Remigius and St. Osmund. Besides Doubles methods, members of the Society have also rung, at other towers, Minor, Triples and Major methods including Surprise. The School can now produce a band capable of ringing Steadman Doubles.

This term, members have, as usual, rung at Maids Moreton and Buckingham, and several other towers. The Society was represented at the Autumn General Meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, which was held this year at Bletchley. It is hoped to attend other meetings or branch practices before the end of term.

Members of the Society have so far only time to ring in three quarter-peals this term (all of them at Stowe). There have so far been no peal attempts but it is hoped to rectify this next term.

P. J. LANKESTER
J. L. THOROGOOD

THE BRIDGE CLUB

The Stoic was already in print last term, before the Bridge House Matches were completed. In an entertaining final, Chandos defeated Grafton by 46 l.m.p.'s.

This term, the outlook seemed very pessimistic. We approached our first match with great caution. We were forced to field four pairs against the Buckingham Ladies. Our brilliant team



The beagles at Tiffield

of last year had been thrashed in the corresponding fixture. In the first half W. S. Croom-Johnson and M. Boyadjiew, and A. D. Shackleton and A. W. P. Comber gained a slight advantage on the top tables, and P. A. Saper and R. W. Cressman, and the Wright brothers finished level with their opposition. It now seemed that we would not suffer too heavy a defeat. But to our surprise, everyone raised their game at the crisis and we finished with a convincing 53 I.M.P. win. It was the first time in twenty years, so I am informed, that we have won this fixture.

We next played in an inter-school duplicate tournament. W. C. Wright and D. R. Wright were to excel and finished second among the North—South pairs. P. A. Saper and R. W. Cressman, after showing prominently among East—West pairs, were to fall off badly near the end. The Wright brothers played a prominent part in their fall from grace, unfortunately. The other two pairs also performed quite soundly, though failed to challenge the leading pairs.

The last match that I am able to report to you was against St. Edward's. Both pairs performed soundly, and there was never more than a couple of I.M.P.'s in it, until the last three hands when through eccentric bidding, St. Edward's forged ahead and won by 26 I.M.P.'s.

The following have represented the School at Bridge this term:—W. S. Croom-Johnson (T), and M. Boyadjiew (C); P. A. Saper (C) and R. W. Cressman (C); A. D. Shackleton (♠) and A. W. P. Comber (♠); W. C. Wright (♠) and D. R. Wright (C); and R. A. St. M. Mills (T) and M. J. Brain (T).

P. A. SAPER

THE LATRUNCULARIANS

Great potential was shown in winning our first match against Bedford, 3½—2½. This was followed by the *Sunday Times* Chess Competition, First Round, in which to our delight, we were drawn against Bedford Preparatory School. However, through the indisposition of the more senior members, our team was rendered inexperienced. Thus, even though we managed to scrape to a 3½—2½ win, we lost on handicap through age.

Disappointed by the latter result, we next faced St. Edward's, and defeated them 4½—1½. At this point, we had an unbeaten run of fifteen matches. The last time that we had suffered defeat was at the hands of Rugby, way back in September 1967. We were to return there, just after half-term, and in the same room suffered ignominious defeat. We lost the match 3½—2½.

The last match that we are able to report was against Kettering Grammar School. Again, we were forced to field a weakened team, of four seniors and four juniors. Only G. M. I. Miller among the former managed to win. The Juniors were to save the day, and gave us a 4—4 draw. G. M. I. Miller is as yet unbeaten. M. Boyadjiew and N. J. C. Morgan show great promise, and H. S. Sidhu, when he has adapted himself to the English form of the game, should prove a valuable asset to the team. R. C. Unwin, our captain, leaves us this term with the impressive individual record of sixteen wins, eight draws, and only three defeats. To say that whenever he has been absent from the team, the latter has struggled to avoid defeat, should demonstrate of what value he has been to the Society.

In the individual knock-out tournament this term, R. C. Unwin naturally has reached the final, and will play either P. A. Saper or H. S. Sidhu. In the Junior tournament, D. B. G. Oliveira surprised all by winning the final two games to love against N. J. C. Morgan. The favourites, G. M. I. Miller and M. Boyadjiew were the losing semi-finalists.

The following have represented the School at chess this term:—R. C. Unwin (Capt.) (C), P. A. Saper (Secretary) (C), H. S. Sidhu (G), G. M. I. Miller (C), M. Boyadjiew (C), N. J. C. Morgan (C), G. E. S. Morgan (C), D. B. G. Oliveira (C), and R. S. Sandu (T).

P. A. SAPER

RUGBY FOOTBALL

At the threequarters stage of our inter-school fixtures we face a discouraging list of results to date. There are comparatively few natural footballers in the side who would hold their own in any Stowe 1st XV; of these Bullock stands out, certainly one of the best two scrum-halves we have had in the last ten years; with apparently inexhaustible energy, in Jeeps style he covers tirelessly and tackles decisively; very quick to slip away with the ball in attack, he still does not however finish his breaks well. Even so, at times he alone has held the side together, and one should add that rarely having the advantage of good possession, his potential is still incompletely revealed. Arbuthnot, until he was injured, showed how fine an attacking wing he is; in full stride, swaying effortlessly outside his man, he is a ready scorer, and his great try against Oakham from his own '25' will remain a memory. At full-back, Nicholl has matured into a very reliable and effective performer; no side has gained from kicking on him and his natural flair has saved him from any embarrassment by the new limit on kicking into touch; to this he adds a very straight place kick. For the rest, Ormrod by sheer courage and determination (unfashionable though this may be) has made himself into a forceful wing in attack and defence. Dunipace, well-equipped physically for the role, ranges widely as a flank forward, his versatility completed by his catching at the end of the line out and by a useful place-kick.

Overall, our results can be explained by two particular deficiencies: we lack players, especially outside the scrum, who can either by the timing and delivery of a pass or by their own running positively create an opening, indeed who can ever exploit a temporary breakdown in an opposing defence—speed of thought, speed off the mark, speed of handling all being absent. Secondly, we are particularly short of forwards for the front five positions in the pack: those who have the physical stature lack the fire and ruthlessness which could make them effective scrummagers and foragers; those who are mobile and spirited lack size. No doubt the experience of another on the injured list, Von Bergen, would make a distinct difference, and indeed did against Radley; unusually for Stowe there has been a dearth of prop-forwards with the requisite hardness. This may all sound like disillusioned comment, but honest journeymen like Withinshaw and Atkin-Berry, Heaslop and Cheyne, cannot provide the verve and the strength to build a winning side. Younger players like Wright and Comber who have played some matches must realise what application is necessary to produce quality performances at 1st XV level.

To be fair, in an always difficult circuit, Stowe have faced some vintage sides this year: St. Edward's, Radley, Rugby, Cheltenham are all teams well above average standard; we were well beaten by St. Edward's, despite a late rally, were genuinely unlucky not to draw with an all-conquering Radley, and effectively contained a lively Rugby. On the other hand we failed to beat a mediocre Oakham after taking a 6-0 lead, and despite losing Wright at half time, should early on have run up 20 points against an uncharacteristically weak Bedford; we also came within two points of holding Oundle. Equally it would be reasonable to point out that at least this unpromising side dealt successfully with the clubs, including an experienced Richmond XV. Nor has their morale really collapsed despite discouraging results: it is perhaps the hardest task of all to maintain performances when every week one fails to win, often by the narrowest of margins.

But one cannot help feeling that a school gets the XV it deserves: apathy on the touchline does not inspire a struggling team and individuality does not take a rigger side far. What is particularly lacking at all levels in the school is the willingness to practise, the will to perfect what may seem repetitive drills, but in fact constitute the essential fundamentals of the game. Above all, civility may be an admirable quality, but it does not have much place in the context of winning rugby; it may even become a hypocritical cover for a refusal to admit weakness.

Team: R. E. T. Nicholl* (L); P. G. Arbuthnot* (C) or H. A. Blair Imrie† (♠), D. A. K. Wright† (T) or A. W. P. Comber† (G), J. P. Withinshaw* (♠), H. B. J. Ormrod* (♠); D. M. Atkin-Berry* (♠), P. C. Bullock* (B) (Capt.); forwards from J. N. R. Diesbach† (B), J. D. Storey† (W), C. J. McCubbin† (C), D. A. G. Ireland† (B), J. A. C. Heaslop* (W), M. T. Von Bergen* (C), P. M. C. Dunipace* (L), A. M. A. Simpson† (W), W. G. Cheyne* (C).

* 1st XV Colours. † 2nd XV Colours.

Also played: S. W. Balmer (C), S. J. Fafalios (C), G. A. Shenkman (G), J. P. W. Yerburgh (B).

Results:	v. London Scottish (Home)	Won 23-5
	v. Oakham (Away)	Drawn 9-9
	v. Richmond (Home)	Won 19-11
	v. Old Stoics (Home)	Won 13-8
	v. Bedford (Away)	Drawn 3-3
	v. St. Edward's (Away)	Lost 5-16
	v. Radley (Home)	Lost 0-10
	v. Rugby (Away)	Lost 0-15
	v. Oundle (Home)	Lost 6-8
	v. Cheltenham (Away)	Lost 3-8
	v. The Leys (Home)	to be played.

Inter-School Matches: Played 7; Won 0; Drawn 2; Lost 5; Points for 26; Points against 69.

THE SECOND XV

Although no one could possibly pretend that this has been a successful season for the Second, there have been some good points which should be noted. The most important of these is that in spite of many heavy defeats most of the team have maintained a high morale and have looked forward to each match with the feeling that they must do better. It would have been very easy to feel, particularly after the disastrous day at Rugby, that continued striving was pointless and that they would never play well.

During the course of the term the pack have become more rugged and purposeful. Although short in actual skills and speed they have rarely been beaten in loose play. S. W. Balmer, the hooker, has done well in providing a fair share of the ball for the backs, and the back row of R. H. B. Stephens, A. C. Keal and P. S. H. Frazer, although lacking the speed to cover the three-quarters, have kept things well buttoned up near the scrum.

The general weakness of the side appeared in the backs. A complete lack of any naturally penetrating runners has made the whole team look impotent and the passing has always had a frightened air about it. With the noteworthy exception of J. R. C. Arkwright, who has been an example to the whole team, the tackling has often faltered and this has led directly to the high scores. J. E. S. Parkinson, at scrum half, should be mentioned as another exception. Although rather slow into his pass he has appeared as the one person outside the scrum with a sense of what to do and when to do it and his ability actually to do it has improved with each game.

Of course the team has inevitably suffered from injuries in the First which have made it almost impossible to field the same side for consecutive matches but this has not been the real cause of the poor results. The final mention should go to the captain, R. H. B. Stephens. He has had an extremely difficult and, at times, depressing task but he has continually encouraged the whole team so that they have given the best of their limited ability.

Team from: O. P. Croom-Johnson (T), R. M. Withinshaw (G), G. A. Shenkman* (G), J. R. C. Arkwright* (C), R. C. B. Anderson (T), A. E. How (C), C. N. Rainer (L), H. C. A. Robinson (C), M. W. Whitton (B), J. E. S. Parkinson* (W), J. P. W. Yerburgh* (B), S. W. Balmer* (C), J. N. R. Diesbach* (B), A. A. McPherson* (G), I. P. Haussauer* (C), N. P. Mawer (L), D. L. Chilver (G), P. S. H. Frazer* (L), A. C. Keal* (B), R. W. Moyle (B), D. E. Richards (W), R. H. B. Stephens* (L) (Capt.)
* Awarded 2nd XV Colours.

Results:	v. Kettering	Lost 0-34
	v. Old Stoics	Won 15-8
	v. Bedford	Lost 6-9
	v. St. Edward's	Lost 11-24
	v. Rugby	Lost 0-44
	v. Wellingborough	Lost 0-21
	v. Oundle	Lost 0-15
	v. Cheltenham	Won 9-3

THE HUNDRED

As usual the Hundred has occupied much of its time in supplying the Fifty with replacements for the injured; at one time we passed on three full-backs, who seemed to be gobbled up as if by some ravenous monster.

The Third started quite well, holding a strong Towcester team to a small difference and then beating good sides from the Old Stoics and then Bedford. This was mainly because of good forward play in the loose and some good kicking and running. However, our tackling in the three-quarters was sometimes suspect, and the key passes were too often going astray. This was shown up by St. Edward's who, without actually ever showing any greater drive than ourselves, still managed to take the initiative when the advantage offered. Against Oundle we had the misfortune to meet simultaneously a mudbath and a team for whom the ball came easily to hand. All the points were scored in the first half and we were unlucky not to make up some of the leeway in the second; again the drive coming from some excellent loose forward play.

Overall, this was a successful term in the sense that an ever changing assembly of players managed to come together to play rugby with spirit and enjoyment . . . we just didn't win very often!

The Fourth suffer even more than the Third from predatory raids. But even when depleted and faced by stronger sides the team must be given due credit for its spirited and enthusiastic approach under the able captaincy of Simmons. If this desire to play had been matched by an equal desire to tackle, team morale would have increased yet more, whilst the opponents' morale might have decreased a little.

Teams from R. M. Withinshaw† (G), C. N. Rainer† (L), R. G. Sessler† (C), N. J. W. Spurrier† (C), B. B. Scholfield† (G), H. C. A. Robinson† (C), T. R. Harris† (Capt. 3rd XV) (B), N. W. H. Taylor† (C), R. K. Hay† (C), N. J. Walker† (T), J. F. Wardley† (B), J. F. A. Dawton† (T), C. J. Kingsland† (B), R. W. Moyle† (B), M. A. M. Davies† (T), R. B. Bishop† (C), P. S. H. Frazer† (L), O. P. Croom-Johnson† (T), P. J. G. Simmons† (Capt. 4th XV) (C), R. C. B. Anderson† (T), R. T. Richards† (W), N. J. Randall (G), C. J. Melly (C), D. L. Chilver (G), N. S. McGuigan (T), A. W. Goodhart (C), D. J. Conran (G), D. A. Shepherd (L), J. S. Kilpatrick (C), A. C. McCarthy (G), D. J. Nelson-Smith (C), V. J. M. Hill (G), A. J. V. Doherty (B), T. M. Patrick (C), D. J. Walton (W), R. C. Unwin (C), A. J. Kinahan (L), J. G. Cahill (G), D. F. M. Stileman (C), N. D. Jamieson (G).

† awarded 3rd XV Colours.

Results:	v. Towcester Grammar School	Lost 3-12
	v. Old Stoics	Won 11-5
Third	v. Royal Latin School	Abandoned after 40 mins.
	v. Bedford	Won 16-11
	v. St. Edward's	Lost 0-8
	v. Oundle	Lost 0-15
	v. Bloxham 'A' XV	Won 11-0
Results:	v. Bedford	Lost 13-22
Fourth	v. St. Edward's	Lost 0-28
	v. Oundle	Lost 0-38
	v. M.C.S. Brackley	Lost 3-22

THE COLTS

Starting the season with a resounding victory in the first match, followed by a very creditable performance against the Masters' XV led everyone, players and public alike, to imagine that great achievements lay ahead. These have not materialised, but there are underlying reasons rather than excuses for the subsequent average results. Initially the promotion of Wright and Comber to the 1st XV, the former at the start of the season, the latter half-way through, deprived the threequarters of much of the thrust and incision that had been looked for: subsequently the apparently never-ending list of injuries meant that at no stage has the team taken the field at full strength. The promotions and injuries to Cobb, Backhouse, Dixey and Carmichael which have caused them to miss more than half the matches have meant that the confident approach and purposefulness shown against Oakham, when only one team member was missing, were never subsequently recaptured, and the team and its followers underwent the galling

experience of establishing territorial advantage and gaining more ball, both good and bad, against every other team without ever—Radley apart—managing to show their superiority in the final points tally. The bitter pill which everyone has had to swallow is that, whereas the Colts have created appreciably more clear-cut opportunities than their opponents, the latter have been allowed to take full advantage of the very few occasions when they were in a threatening position. It is small consolation to think that this team at full strength would have dealt summarily with any opposition but, this year, there is little reason to suppose that this judgement is either fanciful or exaggerated.

Of the changes in the team which, in contrast with previous seasons, were not dictated by force of circumstances, the most successful was to make Cobb into an attacking full back, in which position he was showing considerable flair until his injury. The other move which held much promise was to convert Thomson into a fly-half. A player of great natural ability, he has got through an enormous amount of work this season, being at the hub of virtually every attacking move and, at the same time, being able to stifle many of the opposition's threatening attacks. However, although he emerges at the end of the season with great credit as the Captain of the side, much of his potential in his new position has yet to be realised, for he, above all others, has been conscious of the limitations imposed upon the pattern of team play by the constant changes and replacements.

The remaining threequarters have all had their moments, with Brain and Jenkins dependable in attack and defence, and McNair's place kicking has been remarkably consistent. The forwards took some time to settle into a coherent unit and they relied initially too much on the zest and brio of a few but, latterly, they have welded well and have performed with increasing success the more routine of their functions—nevertheless they still lack urgency at the vital moment both in attack and defence. Shirley-Beavan has led the pack quietly and has set a fine example and, of the others, Crabbe, Croom-Johnson and Manley have played consistently on top of their form and are clearly players of promise.

The reserves, some of whom have done all that could have been expected of them when called upon to represent the first team, have played with unflagging enthusiasm in the practices throughout the term, and have had some reward for their efforts in recording wins in their own right against both Radley and St. Edward's.

Team: M. H. R. Cobb (W), V. G. Jenkins (B), S. A. McNair (G), S. J. Brough (L), J. O. Deutsch (C), I. A. Thomson (C), M. J. Brain (T), M. E. Shirley-Beavan (G), W. S. Croom-Johnson (T), P. H. Guest (B), A. S. Crabbe (C), J. L. Backhouse (T), I. N. Macmillan (C), J. G. Rowe (C), M. J. D. Manley (T), S. M. B. Dixey (G).

Also played: R. G. G. Carr (C), A. W. P. Comber (G), A. I. J. McGregor (C), J. K. Nelson-Simth (C), J. R. Trelawny (C).

Results:

v. Oakham	Won 40—3
v. Bedford	Drawn 5—5
v. St. Edward's	Won 10—6
v. Radley	Won 19—8
v. Rugby	Lost 3—6
v. Oundle	Lost 5—6
v. Cheltenham	Drawn 0—0

THE JUNIOR COLTS

Although the results for this team have been a succession of defeats, the manner of the losses has been far from discouraging. They have cut down the scores by less than half in most cases from those of the year before, and could quite well have won two matches but for unfortunate lapses at the last moment in movements. Several changes, some of them positional, were made early in the season and the inclusion of Guest in particular gave additional stability to the team. Guest is a tireless and courageous tackler, who, when he understands the game more, will be a real force in senior rugby. Harper at fly-half proved himself a very good Captain of the team with a good positional sense. He and Bailey (who unfortunately broke his collar bone) and later Prescott, showed themselves to be as good a pair of halves as any they met—although

tactical kicking is not yet fully understood. Granger was always fearless in defence but was too often caught in possession. Hawes ran strongly with the ball and was also good in defence—his main weakness is in timing his passes, when he can do this well he will be a very good player indeed. Brann is a good defensive player who improved a lot as the season progressed. Anderson was too tentative in the tackle but when he gains the confidence in his own ability he could yet prove himself a useful winger—but he must be determined to do so.

The forwards were a match for all but one of the teams they played in the tight, but found themselves outplayed both in the loose and in line outs on many occasions. This seemed to be caused by slow thinking, but they learned from experience and never gave an inch of ground unnecessarily. The front row of Watts, Luddington and Ferguson was quite effective, and backed up by Watson, Sharafanowich, and Daniels they showed touches of brilliance which if it could be maintained in the future would definitely result in some wins. Watson and Daniels in particular were always outstanding. Linsell and Macdonald played very hard as wing forwards and tackled back to help the defence on as many occasions as they could.

All in all not a successful season if judged solely by wins; but if judged in terms of effort and determination then it was all worth while—they never gave up and frequently through superior stamina they would find the second halves of their matches very even affairs. Harper is to be congratulated on keeping the spirits of the team in good shape and getting the best out of his players. The future is not really black—they are bound to improve further next season.

Special thanks should be given to the group of over-age boys who volunteered to stay down a year to help toughen the team—they were: the following:—Tubbs, Tate, Thomlinson, Eve, Cheate, Kennon, Simpson, Spanton, Hudson, Holman, Rooke, Bevan, McKay Forbes and MacLeod Smith, they all did their work admirably and helped the team a lot, but ironically only four of them survived the term without injury to themselves!

Team from: D. A. Harper (C) (Captain), M. J. Guest (B), M. H. C. Anderson (C), C. C. R. Hawes (G), W. S. Brann (T), P. R. Granger (C), M. C. Bailey (C), M. H. Prescott (C), G. R. Ratcliff (L), S. R. A. Watts (C), D. H. P. Luddington (C), R. T. N. Ferguson (W), M. A. Watson (C), D. E. Sharafanowich (C), P. A. Linsell (C), N. Daniels (C), R. J. McDonald (C), A. W. G. Reed (B), S. N. Phillips (L), J. D. A. Nicholl (L), R. H. Steavenson (C), B. B. Smart (C).

Results:

v. Oakham	Lost 10—19
v. Bedford	Lost 0—23
v. Radley	Lost 3—9
v. Rugby	Lost 0—22
v. Oundle	Lost 0—28
v. Bloxham	Won 17—3

THE UNDER FOURTEEN XV

Our early practices this term suggested a very wide range of talent and of size in the Club this year and subsequent matches have confirmed this.

The team began with two rather gentle matches against Oakham and Royal Latin School, both won. In these games our size proved all important and without playing good football individual performances by heavier players were enough to shatter the confidence of smaller opponents. Bedford again proved our downfall and while allowing for the advantage they have of a ready made team we played very badly in the first half. The forwards seemed to think that a minute's hard work could mean two minutes rest and the backs failed completely to align themselves properly in defence. However after the shock of finding themselves 16—0 down at half time, the team showed character to lose eventually by only 21—5. St. Edward's were our next opponents and some of the lessons of the Bedford game had been learned. Again we were rocked back on our heels as a result of a sluggish start and conceded an early penalty but gradually fought our way back into the match. The backs harried the opposition ferociously and the forwards, though inexplicably pushed in the tight, were very quick to follow up the mistakes created by the backs' tackling. A fine individual try by Ireland converted by Smart, was enough to leave us winners by 5 points to 3. This had been a very hard game and had contained much good football. Against Radley we were better in all departments and ran out winners 23—0.

The Second XV will admit to being a good bit weaker than their seniors this year but now that the team has settled down they are playing better rugby. They were rather disorganised against St. Edward's and lost 15—3 but reversed this result to beat Radley 17—5.

While first team results may appear to be of paramount importance it must be remembered that the second team have a vital part to play in the general standard of school rugby. and it is only strength in depth that can produce good results further up the School.

1st team from: D. G. Lucas (G), N. R. T. Ireland (B), H. C. Davis (L), I. D. Elliot (C), C. N. Barbour (C), B. B. Smart (C), R. M. Seccombe (B), A. H. Spencer-Thomas (W), R. S. Wheatland (C), S. P. Fatharly (T), A. J. Laird Craig (B), R. J. Blair (W), M. J. H. Jackson (C) (Capt.), N. M. Davidson (C), A. J. F. Tucker (L), J. J. G. Dawes (L), M. C. Ashcroft (C).

2nd team from: M. J. Peplow (C), R. S. Danzig (C), F. Graham-Dixon (T), M. A. Robinson (W), D. J. L. Robinson (C), M. F. Barron-Sullivan (T), R. A. Pilcher (B), M. D. Linnell (L), S. T. R. Picton-Turberville (C), O. Villalobos (C), J. F. C. Mezulanik (C), R. M. Donner (C), M. R. Hardman (W), J. N. S. Bagshawe (L), A. J. C. Richings (W), J. M. A. de Borman (C).

Results:	v. Bedford	(Away)	Lost	5—21
First	v. St. Edward's		Won	5—3
	v. Oakham		Won	11—6
	v. Royal Latin School		Won	38—0
	v. Radley		Won	23—0
	v. Bedford	(Home)	Won	13—3
	v. M.C.S. Brackley		Won	19—0
Results:	v. St. Edward's		Lost	3—15
Second	v. Radley		Won	17—5
	v. Bedford		Lost	3—15



D.A.K.W., P.G.A., M.T.V-B., S.J.F., D.A.G.I., R.I.P.

SQUASH RACKETS

This year's team is a very young one—in fact three of them are still Colts. However, it is also the most successful of recent teams; at the moment it has not yet been beaten, and of 35 individual matches played only three times has the Stowe player come out second best. All the team have been playing very hard and most of them play whenever they can either with one another or helping others to improve their games. On account of this there are five others who would probably have made the first team in many previous seasons. H. A. Smith has proved himself to be a very efficient Captain and also a most understanding one in that he has been prepared to coax and encourage his players at all times and a large degree of the success of the team is due to his example. He has been playing at 1st string, and although he is not unbeaten at this position he makes good use of the experience he gains from every match.

J. Choyce, the Secretary, playing at fourth string, has maintained his unbeaten run in the team, although at times he has needed to call on his reserves to win in the final game of a match. He is a very good match player and several times better in matches than in practice games, and can always be relied upon to play his heart out for his team. R. G. G. Carr, now playing at second string is playing with more maturity this season, and has won all but one of his matches, and is obviously capable of getting better and better and will do so. I. A. Thomson, at third string, is also unbeaten. He is an excellent match player, and although by no means a purist in squash terms, he makes up for this by his ability to run quickly round the court and to anticipate his opponents' intentions. R. G. L. Cheatle at fifth string is the youngest member of the side, and by being unbeaten has proved himself worthy of his place. He hits the ball well and executes his strokes in good style, and is also an excellent match player.

The Colts team has not been so successful, although in A. W. P. Comber we have a player much better than anyone else he has so far encountered and who would be quite capable of coming into the first team when required to do so. The others who have played met with varying success but have all lacked consistency—they need to practice with more purpose and determination. The Under 14 team contains some useful players and it is hoped to arrange some more matches for them—but this is not easy to do.

First team: H. A. Smith (T) (Captain), R. G. G. Carr (C), I. A. Thomson (C), J. Choyce (C), R. G. L. Cheatle (W).

Colts team from: A. W. P. Comber (G), S. M. B. Dixey (G), C. C. K. Rooke (C), P. M. G. Hudson (T), M. J. Guest (B), P. H. Morris (L), M. E. Shirley-Beavan (G).

First team results:	v. Berkhamsted	(Home)	Won	5—0
	v. St. Edward's	(Away)	Won	4—1
	v. Bradfield	(Home)	Won	4—1
	v. Mill Hill	(Home)	Won	5—0
	v. Gresham's	(Home)	Won	5—0
	v. The Leys	(Away)	Won	5—0
	v. Harrow	(Home)	Won	4—1

FIVES

The Fives team has won all three of its school matches this term; if these successes appear few in number it should be remembered that the three schools in question were Marlborough, Mill Hill and Harrow; at all of them Fives is a major sport whereas the Stowe team consists mainly of Club rugby players.

Bullock and Whitton remain the most experienced players; but Shirley-Beavan and Wright, the Junior members, should prove hard to beat once they combine intelligence with their natural feeling for the game. Thomson has improved enormously, and should with time turn into a most useful player.

At present the Club lacks a coach to give the guidance it certainly needs. Bullock and Whitton, the Captain, have done all in their power. But thanks are due to Mr. Sparshott, who is always keen to have a game, and Mr. D. Temple, who has shouldered the administrative burdens.

Teams: 1st pair M. W. Whitton (B), P. C. Bullock (B).
 2nd pair M. E. Shirley-Beavan (G), I. A. Thomson (C); Also played: D. A. H. Wright (T).
 Colts A. W. P. Comber (G), S. A. McNair (G), S. M. B. Dixey (G), M. J. D. Manley (T).
 Results: v. Marlborough Won 3-0
 v. Old Edwardian's Lost 0-2
 v. Mill Hill Won 1-1 (on points)
 v. Old Cholmeleians Lost 0-3
 v. Harrow Won 2-1
 v. Jesters Lost 0-2

LAWN TENNIS THE CLARK CUP

The Summer term has been ending earlier and earlier, with the result that this year we were able to enter for the Clark Cup for boys' schools at Wimbledon. This competition is rather like the Youll Cup in reverse; each tie decided by two singles, with a deciding doubles if necessary.

As always, with a large entry and a number of schools whose tennis was of an unknown quantity, each match had to be played with caution. However, City of Bath School, Lewes G.S. and Wrekin were beaten, before Kent College was met in the fourth round.

Our contestants were I. A. Thomson and S. R. Barnes. Both began with 6-0, 6-0 wins against City of Bath, but while Thomson continued in the same vein, Barnes had patches of nerve-racking uncertainty, winning eventually his next two ties 7-5 in the final set.

Against Kent College, we were harder pressed. Both opponents were Kent County Juniors. Thomson did well to beat his 6-4, 6-4, being four years his junior. Rather similarly Barnes was at least three years senior to his opponent, but while he played much better than in his previous matches, he was not quite consistent enough to beat his promising opponent.

The deciding doubles was a fine match by any standards, and drew quite a crowd of tennis connoisseurs, clicking their teeth and making appreciative comments. Kent began as if they had aeroplanes to catch; Barnes could not hit the ball over the net and Thomson tried to cover all the court, without actually covering any of it. The result of the first set, 0-6. The second set was a reverse. Barnes found his confidence and Thomson his shots. Both were devastating. Result 6-2. The third was slightly more nerve-ridden, and the match went to the more courageous pair. Stowe failed to put away their half chances. Kent did and won, 10-8. A fine match.

Team: S. R. Barnes (G), I. A. Thompson (C)

Results: v. City of Bath School Won 2-0
 v. Lewes G.S. Won 2-0
 v. Wrekin Won 2-0
 v. Kent College Lost 1-2

THE YOULL CUP

Unlike the Clark Cup, the Youll Cup is a competition for two pairs, each of which plays one doubles. If the result should turn out all square, one deciding singles is played.

We had great difficulty in picking our Second pair. In the end C. A. McDonald played twice, A. H. Thomlinson three times, and P. C. Bullock five times. The problem was really to spend the early rounds in trying to find the best partner for Bullock. Eventually Thomlinson was chosen and he acquitted himself manfully.

An easy draw can carry an average side a long way and I believe it is true to say that we had an easy draw and that we were only an average side. It is true that we had Thomson, and equally true that one good player can be a matchwinner, but I never thought we were really good enough to deserve getting much further. It could be said that the other quarter-finalists were also of

mediocre calibre, but even so we would not have been good enough to match Seaford, who by the afternoon must surely have won the tournament.

Stowe began with two easy wins against City of London School and Wellington. Against Bradfield Thomson and Barnes played badly and only just pulled themselves together in time to prevent a deciding singles. Berkhamsted were beaten with some of our less good tennis, and this last result put us into the quarter-finals to play Kent College, who had defeated us the week before.

The two Fuggle brothers who had dealt with us so well in the Clark Cup had split up to produce two better balanced pairs. Thomson and Barnes played well to beat the first one, and Bullock and Thomlinson had their chance at one set all to seal the issue. But it was not to be, and Thomson had to play the elder Fuggle once again in a singles.

Thomson had played well last week to beat him. This time he was a little off colour, with many of his ground shots slipping outside the lines. He did, however, win the first set, after being 5-2 down, but, with the tension mounting, both around the court, and also demonstrably within Thomson himself, he succumbed to Fuggle, not without a fight, but relatively early, 6-3 in the final set.

So, again we were beaten in the last eight, and again we were beaten by Kent College. Perhaps it was disappointing, but to reach the final eight out of ninety schools was by no means a bad feat.

Team: S. R. Barnes (G), I. A. Thompson (C), P. C. Bullock (B), A. H. Thomlinson (W), C. A. McDonald (C).

Results: v. City of London School Won 2-0
 v. Wellington Won 2-0
 v. Bradfield Won 2-0
 v. Berkhamsted Won 2-0
 v. Kent College Lost 1-2

ATHLETICS SCHOOL SPORTS

Torrential rain in the last week of term led to the Inter-House Sports programme being truncated into two hours in the very last afternoon of the Summer term. This alteration led generally to rather poorer performances, and meant that some finalists were unable to compete while others faced a very energetic afternoon. Although M. H. C. Anderson (G) was the only competitor to win all four of his events, there were some good double and triple wins, notably P. G. Arbuthnot (C) in the Open events, and H. A. Blair-Imrie (C) in the Under 17 events but pride of place amongst the individual performances must go to H. G. J. Brooking (C) who triumphed in the three most gruelling races of the afternoon in the Open Distance events.

Second Colours were awarded to S. P. Hanley (C) and R. G. Sessler (C).

The Inter-House competition was again never in the balance. Cobham established an early lead and finally emerged clear winners for the third year in succession.

Inter-House Cup:

1. Cobham	271½ pts.	6. Chandos	90½ pts.
2. Bruce	168 pts.	7. Temple	51 pts.
3. Walpole	118½ pts.	8. Grafton	45 pts.
4. Lyttelton	104 pts.	9. Grenville	44½ pts.
5. Chatham	94 pts.		

Individual Results—Open

100 Yards. Time: 10.1 secs.

1. P. G. Arbuthnot (C)
2. D. A. Shepherd (L)
3. N. J. Spurrier (C)

220 Yards. Time: 23. 7 secs.

1. P. G. Arbuthnot (C)
2. D. A. Shepherd (L)
3. S. S. How (C)

440 Yards. Time: 52.7 secs.

1. P. G. Arbuthnot (C)
2. C. J. Thwaites (B)
3. A. M. Simpson (W)

before the Ashburton—and R. R. Tomlinson and A. S. R. Groves both shot well enough to earn themselves individual prizes in the Wellington and Iveagh. In the team events the VIII came 23rd in the Rutland and 47th in the Lucas competitions.

On the day of the Ashburton itself the VIII overcame the tricky wind remarkably well at 200 yards and although the scores were not so good at the 500 yards shoot the performances as a whole would have been very creditable had not one bad score kept the total down. The team was placed 65th out of 85 and the Cadets shot well to score 120 and be placed 30th out of 80. T. R. Harris who scored 66 in the Ashburton was placed 34th in the Schools Hundred and R. N. Preston who shot very well in the “Spencer-Mellish” Individual Competition, scoring 47 out of 50, was unlucky to be counted out from the final placings.

VIII: T. R. Harris (B), G. A. Shenkman (⊗), R. R. Tomlinson (C), R. N. Preston (C), M. B. Kostoris (C), R. K. Hay (C), J. L. Thorogood (L), C. J. Follett (C).

IXth Man: M. M. Carter (C).

Cadets: A. S. R. Groves (B), J. R. Davis. (G).

Small Bore—Autumn Term

.22 Shooting did not get properly under way for about three weeks at the beginning of the term because of the large number of prospective shots who wished to join the Monday Extra activity. As a result, however, the general standard has been very much higher and competition for the VIII is now much greater.

Our annual visiting match against Oundle was unfortunately cancelled because of bad weather but several postal matches have again been shot. Despite losing more matches than we have won the results continue to improve and with several matches still to be shot, including the *Country Life* Competition, we are confident of a satisfactory record by the end of term.

T. R. Harris, G. A. Shenkman and R. C. Unwin have consistently produced good scores and mention must be made of A. S. R. Groves who has shown excellent improvement this term and produced some very high scores.

We are pleased to announce that official authorisation for a new semi-indoor range has at last been received.

School Colours were awarded to A. S. R. Groves and R. K. Hay.

VIII: T. R. Harris (B), G. A. Shenkman (⊗), R. C. Unwin (C), N. D. Jamieson (G), A. S. R. Groves (B), J. W. Kennon (G), J. L. Thorogood (L), R. K. Hay (C).

FENCING

A disappointing season in that Rugby cancelled a long-awaited match but we held Uppingham to a draw, losing the foil and winning the sabre, and put up a creditable fight against Northampton Fencing Club.

The team has great promise for the future with E. M. Dweck and N. J. Gilhead rapidly gaining experience and the Club has had plenty of practice with the House Foil, the Individual Sabre, the Individual Epée and the Individual Foil being closely fought. The Club also received a boost from the large numbers of keen novices that entered this term.

We have been able to provide teams in all three weapons from among:—P. E. Smith (⊗), A. J. Farmiloe (L), E. M. Dweck (⊗), N. J. Gilhead (G) and S. P. M. Wright (C).

Results: v. Uppingham: Foil, Lost 12—4; Sabre, Won 5—4.

Individual Foil Competition: P. E. Smith. (⊗).

Runner-up: E. M. Dweck. (⊗).

SWIMMING

The Seniors finished off the season quite well winning two out of their last three matches, and the Juniors gained their first and only victory of the season. Both the Seniors and the Juniors beat Wellingborough by more than twenty points, and the Seniors beat Uppingham by about the same margin. Both teams, though, lost to a strong Oundle team. The final record was: Swum 7, Won 3, Lost 4; not too bad a record considering the shortage of really dedicated swimmers.

Both J. F. Rothwell (L), senior freestyle, and J. A. C. Heaslop (W), senior backstroke, were chosen to represent Buckinghamshire in the trials for the National Championships and J. A. C. Heaslop was awarded Representative Colours—only the second person to receive this honour for swimming during the last five years. He has been an excellent Captain of Swimming and has inspired his team through his personal dedication to the sport under difficult conditions and got the best out of everyone—even those who did not realise they had the requisite talent—always a very difficult thing to do.

Housematches

Walpole won the Senior Cup outright this year, beating Chandos by 4 points, after sharing it with them last year. The Junior Cup was won by Temple beating Walpole by 4 points, last year's winners Chandos slipped down to fourth. The Overall Cup went to Walpole, who beat Chandos by 15 points. Both Freestyle Cups, the 100 and 200 yards, were won by B. W. Nicholson (T).

Two School records were broken. J. M. Spanton (T) broke the Under 16 4 × 25 yds. Individual Medley by 0.5 of a second in a new time of 72.0 seconds. A. M. Pirnia (T) broke the Under 15 25 yards Freestyle by 0.2 of a second in a new time of 12.8 secs.

Due to very bad weather at the end of term, the House Relays could not be held.

Seniors

200 Yards Freestyle

1. B. W. Nicholson (T) 2 mins. 25.0 secs.
2. S. W. Balmer (C)
3. N. Downing (L)

50 Yards Freestyle

1. J. F. Rothwell (L) 27.0 secs.
2. P. G. Arbuthnot (C)
3. P. C. Sessler (W)

100 Yards Backstroke

1. J. A. C. Heaslop (W)
2. P. G. Arbuthnot (C)
3. R. E. Gamble (C)

Under 16

100 Yards Freestyle

1. J. M. Spanton (T) 64 secs.
2. D. A. G. Ireland (B)
3. R. G. Sessler (C)

50 Yards Butterfly

1. J. M. Spanton (T) 34.1 secs.
2. J. B. Farrer (C)
3. T. J. R. Horner (C)

100 Yards Breaststroke

1. S. D. Moss (B) 88.0 secs.
2. S. B. Bedford (⊗)
3. N. A. Tubbs (W)

Under 15

50 Yards Freestyle

1. A. M. Pirnia (T) 30.0 secs.
2. M. F. W. Platt (C)
3. A. H. Spencer-Thomas (W)

200 Yards Breaststroke

1. S. W. Balmer (C)
2. D. W. R. Harland (W)
3. J. S. S. Syrett (W)

Individual Medley

1. J. F. Rothwell (L) 77.5 secs.
2. J. A. C. Heaslop (W)
3. I. A. R. Jenkins (B)

100 Yards Freestyle

1. B. W. Nicholson (T) 63.1 secs.
2. J. F. Rothwell (L)
3. I. A. R. Jenkins (B)

Individual Medley

1. J. M. Spanton (T) 72.0 secs. (New Record)
2. J. B. Farrer (C)
3. S. D. Moss (B)

50 Yards Freestyle

1. D. A. G. Ireland (B) 29.4 secs.
2. M. W. H. Hamilton-Deane (C)
3. A. N. B. Garvan (L)

50 Yards Breaststroke

1. D. E. Mcnaghten (W) 42.0 secs.
2. J. J. McKelvie (W)
3. Z. D. Berry (C)

50 Yards Butterfly

1. B. W. Nicholson (T) 30.6 secs.
2. J. S. S. Syrett (W)
3. G. P. H. Horner (C)

50 Yards Backstroke

1. J. A. C. Heaslop (W) 34.3 secs.
2. P. G. Arbuthnot (C)
3. R. G. A. Westlake (B)

100 Yards Breaststroke

1. S. W. Balmer (C) 85.1 secs.
2. D. W. R. Harland (W)
3. J. S. S. Syrett (W)

50 Yards Backstroke

1. A. N. B. Garvan (L) 35.0 secs.
2. J. B. Farrer (C)
3. C. J. McCubbin (C)

50 Yards Breaststroke

1. J. O. Deutsch 39.0 secs.
2. S. D. Moss (B)
3. R. K. Hay (C)

50 Yards Backstroke

1. A. H. Spencer-Thomas (W) 36.0 secs.
2. P. A. Linsell (C)
3. R. H. S. Mulholland (T)

25 Yards Butterfly

1. M. F. W. Platt (C) 17.4 secs.
2. T. C. Kinahan (T)
3. M. Boyadjiew (C)

Inter-House Results:

Seniors:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| 1. Walpole | 62 pts. |
| 2. Chandos | 58 pts. |
| 3. Lyttelton }
Temple } | 23 pts. |

25 Yards Freestyle

1. A. M. Pirnia (T) 12.8 secs.
(New Record)
2. N. J. Staib (W)
3. R. H. S. Mulholland (T)

Juniors:

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| 1. Temple | 62 pts. |
| 2. Walpole | 58 pts. |
| 3. Chatham | 54 pts. |
| 4. Chandos | 47 pts. |

Individual Medley (3 × 25 yds.)

1. A. M. Pirnia (T) 66.0 secs.
2. M. J. W. Platt (C)
3. D. E. McNaghten

Overall:

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| 1. Walpole | 120 pts. |
| 2. Chandos | 105 pts. |
| 3. Temple | 85 pts. |
| 4. Chatham | 57 pts. |

THE STOWE BEAGLES

The summer was enlivened when one of our unentered hounds, Razor, took first prize at Peterborough and First Prize and Reserve Championship at Harrogate. Raffle, Rapid and Tariff also took prizes.

The annual Hunt Ball was held at Stowe on July 13th and was, as usual, a success, producing a small addition to the Hunt funds.

For the last ten days of the summer holiday Captain and Mrs. J. Bell-Irving invited us to stay in Dumfriesshire where we had five good days hunting in some marvellous country. Our thanks go to our host and hostess for giving us such a splendid time.

After a late start to the season we have had some good days, hunting, notably at Weston (opening meet), Tiffield and North Farm, Little Preston.

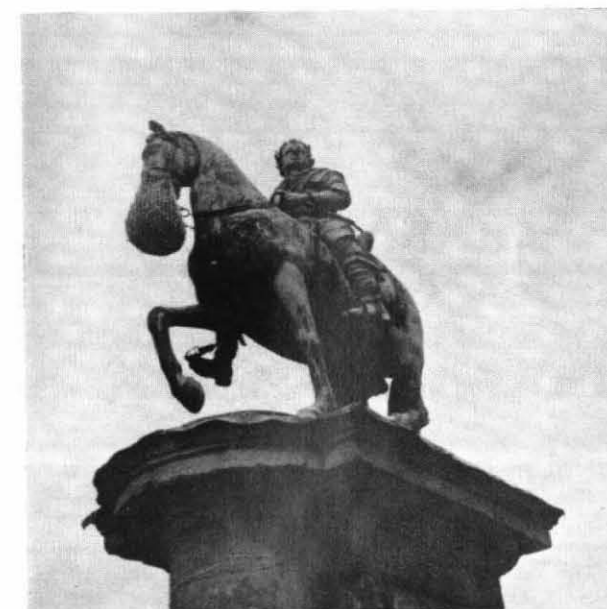
The whippers-in this season are D. Shirley-Beavan (G), J. Bell-Irving (C) and J. Moreton (G). We are most grateful to the following who have helped greatly in the kennels and hunted regularly: J. B. Johnson (W), A. D. McGee (L), A. J. E. Preston (W), N. C. M. Renny (C), and R. C. Wilcock (B).

1ST XI HOCKEY FIXTURES 1969

Thurs.	Jan.	16th	v.	Oxford Bulls	Home
Sat.	Jan.	18th	v.	M.C.S. Oxford	Away
Sat.	Feb.	1st	v.	Aldenham	Away
Thurs.	Feb.	6th	v.	C.U. Wanderers	Home
Sat.	Feb.	8th	v.	The Leys	Away
Tue.	Feb.	18th	v.	H.A. XI	Home
Sat.	Feb.	22nd	v.	Bradfield	Home
Tues.	Feb.	25th	v.	Radley	Away
Sat.	Mar.	1st	v.	O.U. Occasionals	Home
Sat.	Mar.	8th	v.	Pangbourne	Home
Tues.	Mar.	11th	v.	St. Edward's	Away
Sat.	Mar.	15th	v.	Mill Hill	Away

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The frontispiece photograph is by Rollie McKenna.



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