



THE STOIC

December 1969
Number 140



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Stoica: T. B. R. Albery
N. P. Kaye
Society: P. A. Linsell
Music: O. W. Richards
Sport: R. G. G. Carr

EDITORIAL

What is a school magazine? Is it a record of events for the term? Is it a vehicle for original and creative work by members of the school? Is it a reflection of authority opinion—or should it pursue an independent line? Or should it stick to reporting, pure and simple?

A perusal of the wide range of other school magazines available in the School library reveals a spectrum of possibilities, from a four-page news-sheet published two or three times a term to a massive annual publication embracing all aspects of a school.

At present *The Stoic* is attempting to be an effective reporter of events, a platform for expressing individual opinion and literary efforts in a semi-detached *Germ*, and a page or two of Old Stoic news—not forgetting, of course, the odd feature article. Future plans include a re-adjustment of emphasis—to cut down somewhat on detailed reporting of already 'dead' happenings, to include more feature and opinion articles, and to expand as much as possible the Old Stoic section. Unfortunately future plans also have to include an overdue increase of price due to ever spiralling costs of production.

And then there is our new cover design. You may not like it—but you have to admit that it catches the eye. On the other hand you may welcome a change, but feel that we haven't struck the right note. Or you may think it's the best magazine cover you have ever seen. In any event the present cover (with variation in colour) will pertain for at least three numbers, and having lived with it for a year a further prize will be offered for a new design. The object of the exercise is to foster an interest in *The Stoic* amongst potential artists and designers in the School who would like to see their work published, and to give the magazine a visually more colourful and exciting exterior.

STOICA

School Officials—Autumn Term 1969

Prefects:	P. G. Arbuthnot	Head of the School
	R. E. T. Nicholl	Second Prefect
	T. B. R. Albery	Head of Lyttelton
	H. A. Blair-Imrie	Head of Cobham
	W. S. Croom-Johnson	Prefect of Mess
	N. Downing	Prefect of Chapel and Hall
	N. A. Geach	Head of Chandos
	M. P. Kayll	Head of Walpole
	C. J. Kingsland	Head of Bruce
	C. J. McCubbin	Head of Chatham
	M. J. D. Manley	Head of Temple
	D. E. Reid	Prefect of Library
	J. J. Taylor	Head of Grenville
	R. M. Withinshaw	Head of Grafton and Prefect of Gymnasium

Rugby Football:	Captain, R. E. T. Nicholl (L)	Secretary, D. A. G. Ireland (B)
Squash:	Captain and Secretary, H. J. A. Smith (T)	
Fives:	Captain and Secretary, M. E. Shirley-Beavan (G)	
Fencing:	Captain, E. M. Dweck (G)	Secretary, P. J. Lankester (C)
Sailing:	Commodore, N. J. Gilhead (G)	Secretary, D. B. Unerman (C)
Shooting:	Captain and Secretary, A. S. R. Groves (B)	
Beagles:	Master, J. Bell-Irving (C)	
Community Service:	Secretary, N. R. Spurrier (G)	

I start with an introductory sentence to allow our more conservative readers time to recover from the shock of seeing a new brash cover disturbing the usual calm, age-old, imper-turbable exterior of *The Stoic*.

There have been changes in the teaching staff this term.

Mr. Hunt was married in Edinburgh during the summer holidays and is leaving after 11 years at Stowe. His Geography men past and present always talk of him with great enthusiasm and gratitude; indeed under his guidance Geography has ceased to be regarded as something of a drop-out subject, and many boys have reached university who might well not have done so without his help. This latter fact is due mostly to Mr. Hunt's dynamic approach to his subject, but also partly, I am told, to his numerous 'contacts' within the universities. Apart from teaching, he also ran the sculling down on the lake, was under-housemaster of Grafton, organised dancing lessons and most of the dances at Stowe. He always had a hand in the running of anything

social; in fact he was most aptly described by a colleague of his who called him 'The Social King'. He has a number of ideas about jobs in the academic world; in the meantime he will be spending the next two years on research in historical geography. He and his wife will be based at Logie, Dunfermline, over the next six months or so, and they very much hope that any former Tutees and others who find themselves in Scotland will call on them.

Mr. Ridge is also leaving to join the staff of the school that gains the most university awards in the country, Manchester Grammar School. Besides his Physics teaching, Mr. Ridge is perhaps best known to present Stoics as a mechanical and electronics wizard to whom both masters and boys could take anything from broken-down radios to battered cars and expect to see them functioning again in no time. Mr. Ridge also took charge of the Photographic Society, the M.T. Section of the Corps and driving lessons.

Mr. Horne left at the end of last term; during

his time here he was under-housemaster of Cobham, and he helped run the '50', the Printing Press and the Sailing Club.

We wish all of them very good luck in the future.

Mr. Nicholl, the Cobham housemaster, is also leaving but only for a sabbatical term. We congratulate him on being awarded a Traveling Bursary for Schoolmasters by Goldsmith's Company; he will be in Italy doing research into the History of the Waldensian Church. Those who are unsure about the Waldensian Church might consult a well annotated edition of Milton's Sonnet XIX for a brief introduction.

At the start of this term we welcomed four new masters. Mr. Hudson, besides being an expert on electronics and teaching Physics and Maths., is already training up the swimming team for future victory, and taking the athletics activities of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. The other new member of the science department is Mr. Tibbs who teaches Biology and who is also the new Walpole under-housemaster. If the Oxbridge modern language candidates fail to get in, it will certainly be no fault of Mr. Kirkland or Mr. Mee. The latter has much impressed the lone Spanish candidate, who has had to learn the whole of Spanish literature from him in one term, and the former has set and gone through with the French candidates the hardest proses and unseens he could lay his hands on. Mr. Mee indulges in various activities such as Forestry, and the groans of the '100' under Mr. Kirkland's rigorous training are never-ending.

Mr. Mead and Mr. Rawcliffe seem to have taken over as housemasters of Bruce and Chatham without any problems. Mr. Lloyd promises in his report a certain modernisation of the C.C.F. under his new command, and Mr. Deacon has become President of Games. Another interesting title appeared in 'Albany at large', a section of the *Sunday Telegraph*; the Grenville housemaster, whose "interest extends as much to the replanting of trees as to the restoration of buildings", was referred to as 'Capability Clarke'.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Luft on the birth of a son on October 9th, 1969.

Finally on the subject of former masters at Stowe, we have two apologies to make.

Firstly to Mr. Burke, the former housemaster of Nugent, whose presentation of a collection of London theatre programmes to the School has not previously been acknowledged. We thank him very much for this kind gift.

At the end of last term we unfortunately announced the death of Mr. Fawcett, the History tutor at Stowe during the war; he died in fact on August 22nd of this year at Bruton. We apologise very sincerely for this mistake, and regret any distress that may have been caused. An obituary appears later in Stoica.

We welcome Mrs. Kerr the new librarian, who replaced Mrs. Hutchinson at the start of the term, and also Mr. Dellenty, who took over from Mr. Danbury in November.

From masters and staff, we move on to Stoics past and present. An Old Stoic, The Hon. C. R. S. Stuart (C 1951) has written a book entitled 'Say' about his experiences as a teacher of English (he taught at Stowe from 1959 to 1961), and a present Stoic, M. M. Wyllie, has also found literary success by winning the Southern Counties Poetry competition. Another individual triumph, this time in the field of sport, was scored by D. G. Lucas, who won the Norfolk Junior Golf Championship.

The usual variety of events has taken place this term. Rigger is perhaps not a subject one should dwell on as there seem to have been problems both from the playing and from the supporting point of view. But there was success—in what is now almost the most popular game in the School: the Squash team continued to win all its matches with no difficulty, of course, and is now reckoned to be the best Under 18 team in the country.

Activity in the world of conferences and lectures has been ceaseless throughout the term. There was a Careers Conference for the Lower Sixth in the first week, senior members of the school were Challenged by Industry a week or two later, most of the school attended a fine lecture by Mr. F. Spencer-Chapman on his experiences in South America, and there was a gory film on the life of Adolf Hitler later on.

Drama continues to flourish. Just before half term Lyttelton presented two short plays, some music and other odds and ends in the houseroom; I feel hardly in a position to

comment on the merits or defects of this entertainment but all I can say is that we really enjoyed doing it. Towards the end of term there was another polished Congreve Club production, this time of Max Frisch's "Andorra", the story of a contemporary Jew-hunt; on the frivolous level I will remember John Way's portrayal of the Idiot and Michael Chesshire's bottle-catching.

No-one seems to have been particularly vociferous about the advantages and disadvantages of the new nine-day Exeat. From the point of view of those taking Oxbridge entrance examinations it was a most welcome break, but it was felt that a four-day weekend

might be more practical, as this would not mean missing a whole week's work.

An interesting development in the running of the School is the advent of House Forums as an important force. They differ in shape, size and constitution from house to house, but now that every house has one of sorts, the next obvious step would seem to be the creation of a School Forum or Senate.

The new telephone in the Roxburgh Hall is now constantly in use and much appreciated, and the new chapel lighting along with the new microphones is a great improvement, as one can actually hear and see what is going on.

OBITUARY

Mr. B. E. N. Fawcett

Ben Fawcett came to Stowe from Wrekin College in May 1937, and in the two years before the War was one of five Old Tonbridgians on the Staff. He lived in the middle Field House, then used by bachelors, in the days when it was known as 'The Courting House' because four of the occupants courted in it and married from it. He himself married Miss Elizabeth Tibbits in 1939. He was under-housemaster to Major Howarth in Chandos, and in the first term of the war he filled a gap by looking after Walpole between the death of Ian Clarke and the appointment of Harold Kinvig. At first he coached the Junior Colts' Rugger and Cricket, then during the War he coached the Oligoi, turning out some good teams considering the early leaving age of the time, always good fielders and always enthusiastic, thanks to his own great and infectious love of the game. At the same time he was the History Tutor, and in his quiet and orthodox way was as effective as other more scholarly Historians. He commanded a village platoon of the Home Guard and thoroughly enjoyed himself when doing so.

In September 1947, he became Headmaster of Rishworth School, near Halifax, and after a few years there went on to The King's School, Ely. Both schools benefitted greatly from his Headmastership. Because of ill health he retired from the King's School in July, and on the 22nd of August he died whilst watching a Test Match on television; and he would have asked no better time to die. He leaves a widow, three sons and a daughter.

OLIM ALUMNI

A. P. Clark (G 1946) has gained a D.I.C. at Imperial College, London, and a Ph.D. in the Faculty of Engineering, University of London.

R. A. Durrant (W 1965) was Captain of the English International Youth Golf Team.

D. R. English (B 1930) has written an article on 'Mist Bands, an Interference Effect' for the Journal of the Mathematical Society.

J. M. Fimister (W 1944), as Managing Director of the Cunard Company's shipbroking subsidiary, was responsible for negotiating the sales of the *Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth* to American buyers.

B. N. L. Fletcher (C 1941) is now Colonel, General Staff, with Headquarters, Land Forces, in Hong Kong.

N. J. Forwood (G 1965) has been elected to a McMahon Studentship at St. John's College, Cambridge.

D. E. Frean (C 1932) is Cultural Attaché at the British Embassy, Pretoria.

The Rev. J. P. Grundy (C 1938) is Rector of Shere in the diocese of Guildford.

R. E. W. Harland (C 1938) has been promoted Air Vice-Marshal.

P. J. Holder (G 1964) was Captain of Squash at Trinity College, Dublin, for the 1968/69 season.

W. H. Jarvis (C 1957) has been appointed Head of Physics at Rannoch School, Perthshire.

B. A. Marshall-Andrew (B 1967), and his partner Peter Butler, were defeated by Colin Cowdrey and Brian Huggett in the final of the Turnberry amateur-professional golf tournament.

J. F. Nye (C 1941) has been appointed Professor of Physics at the University of Bristol.

R. C. Osner (C 1960) has been appointed an I.L.E.A. Research Fellow in the Department of Applied Biology and Food Science at the Polytechnic of the South Bank, London.

The Rev. A. A. H. Radice (T 1933) is the Rector of Hepworth.

T. G. Shearer (C 1956) is a Partner of Messrs. Buckell and Ballard, land and estate agents, of Oxford.

P. G. Shepherd (C 1945) has been elected to the West Sussex County Council.

A. H. Shrager (T 1962) has gained an M.Sc. in Administrative Studies at the City University, London.

B. A. Stewart (C 1938) has been appointed Colonel A.Q., Headquarters, Scotland (Army).

H. P. Taylor (C 1961) is the Editor of *Der Adler*, Kansas City, U.S.A. and Co-author of *Germanische-S.S.* and *Uniforms, Organisation and History of the Waffen S.S.*

Major General D. A. H. Toler (G 1939) has been appointed Deputy G.O.C., Northern Ireland.

A. F. Weaver (T 1933) has gained a D.Phil. at the University of Oxford for a thesis on the treatment of maladjusted children in the educational system in England.

BIRTHS

To the wife of:

R. E. Abbott (G 1945) a son on October 23rd 1969.

S. S. Barling (G 1959) a daughter on February 7th 1969.

D. J. P. Birt-Llewellyn (T 1956) a son on September 26th 1969.

A. J. P. Campbell (C 1952) a daughter on July 14th 1969.

A. G. V. Doubleday (C 1961) a son on July 15th 1969.

J. M. Fimister (W 1944) a daughter on October 20th 1967.

Y. Galitzine (C 1937) a son on December 30th 1968.

T. R. Finlow (B 1947) a daughter on September 17th 1969.

J. D. Granger (C 1944) a daughter on January 6th 1969.

P. J. S. Griggs (B 1957) a son on April 5th 1969.

R. S. V. de Horsey (G 1958) a daughter on November 6th 1968.

R. Q. H. Jaggard (G 1941) a son on November 24th 1968.

R. M. Nicholson (B 1951) a daughter on October 16th 1969.

J. E. G. Naylor (W 1958) a son on October 4th 1968.

J. M. Renshaw (G 1954) a daughter on June 30th 1969.

G. H. Rooke (C 1949) a son on October 17th 1969.

A. A. V. Rudolph (C 1955) a daughter on July 20th 1969.

C. J. Seddon (G 1959) a daughter on March 7th 1967.

R. D. Selby (C 1954) a son on May 6th 1969.
 S. P. W. J. Simpson (C 1959) sons on March 6th 1968 and September 17th 1969.
 N. B. Venning (C 1956) a son on June 18th 1969.
 P. J. Whittaker (C 1964) a son on August 28th 1969.

MARRIAGES

R. E. Abbott (G 1945) to Juliet Anna Powell on May 18th 1968.
 I. R. D. Andrews (C 1963) to Gillian Boreham on July 10th 1968.
 S. S. Barling (C 1959) to Rosalyn Gimmach on March 31st 1968.
 T. E. C. Bushell (C 1962) to Margaret Wakeham on July 5th 1969.
 R. J. P. Corry (C 1948) to Margit Spengler on November 11th 1969.
 A. J. Duncan (C 1955) to Elizabeth Jane Riesco on April 12th 1969.
 A. W. B. Duncan (C 1962) to Eileen Hope Johnstone on June 21st 1969.
 G. R. I. Feldman (C 1966) to Sarah Basset, daughter of R. T. Basset (G 1931), on October 3rd 1969.
 H. L. Fletcher (C 1945) to Mary Ruth Wickens on August 17th 1966.
 A. G. Fyffe (C 1964) to Elizabeth Eaton on August 23rd 1969.
 M. J. H. Hammond (C 1956) to Rozanna Mariette Cottreil on November 8th 1969.
 R. S. V. de Horsey (C 1958) to Sheila Joy Macdonald on November 6th 1968.
 J. O. T. Hughes (T 1949) to Elizabeth Marjorie Phillips on September 13th 1969.
 J. G. North (G 1929) to Corona Deane Lecky-Watson on October 15th 1966.
 R. C. Osner (C 1960) to Tina Nicklin on December 28th 1968.
 G. H. Rooke (C 1949) to Anne Bernadette Seymour Perrett on November 30th 1968.
 C. J. Seddon (C 1959) to Patricia Anne Lomax on November 27th 1965.
 A. H. Shrager (T 1962) to Susan Mary Hayes on August 26th 1968.
 H. P. Taylor (C 1960) to Jarmila Daewar Sarka Lloyd on June 20th 1969.
 P. J. Whittaker (C 1964) to Wendy Barry on December 9th 1967.

DEATHS

J. A. S. Borrett (G 1936) on July 27th 1969.
 E. R. Farnell-Watson (C 1932) on June 21st 1969.
 Lt.-Col. G. F. L. Gilbert, M.V.O. (T 1930) on October 2nd 1969.
 E. C. Wilkinson (G 1925) on June 1st 1969.
 P. G. Skinner (B 1950) on November 22nd 1964.
 G. Maxwell (C 1930) on September 7th 1969.

The following is reprinted from *The Times*, with permission:

Mr. Gavin Maxwell, the writer and portrait painter is perhaps best remembered for his best-seller *Ring of Bright Water* in which he told of his life with his two otters Mijbil and Edal in the lonely cottage Camusfearna in the West Highlands which for some years was his home. The book was recently made into a successful film.

Maxwell belonged to the school of naturalist authors in which an animal, however delinquent, is treated with tolerant affection. Even the ring-tailed lemur which tried to blind him and succeeded in cutting his tibial artery only provoked him to reflect on the "insuperable problems" of her "psychoanalysis". This year he published the last of the trilogy which started with *Ring of Bright Water*: the book *Raven seek Thy Brothers* followed *The Rock Remains* (1963).

He wrote of his boyhood—running wild on a Scottish estate—in *The House of Elrig* (1966). It told the story of sunshine and shadow in the childhood and adolescence of a gifted, sensitive writer whose parents were both scions of ancient, and sometimes eccentric, Scottish and English families, the Maxwells of Monreith and the ducal house of Northumberland.

" ANDORRA "

Principal members of the cast:

Andri	David Macdonald
Barblin	Claire Hilsdon
The Teacher	Peter Guest
The Mother	Rodney Cottier
The Senora	John Williamson-Noble
The Priest	Rupert Wood
The Soldier	Peter Linsell
The Innkeeper	Michael Chesshire
The Carpenter	David Reid
The Doctor	Richard Simons
The Journeyman	Anthony Shalson
The Somebody	Anthony Jenkinson
An Idiot	John Way
The Jew Detector	David McDonough

The latest in a long line of distinguished Congreve Club productions could not compare in lavishness with spectaculars on the scale of Shaw's 'Caesar and Cleopatra'. Nevertheless, 'Andorra' must represent one of the most difficult and controversial plays yet attempted, and all credit is due to the producers for a brave experiment.

Max Frisch shares certain theories of drama with Brecht and Durrnematt. He insists that "the spectator should be continuously reminded that a model is being shown, as in fact is always the case in the theatre". He also insisted that the 'Andorra' of his play "has nothing to do with the real small state of this name, nor does it stand for another real small state; Andorra is the name of a model". His theories are reinforced by 'alienating' lighting techniques and abrupt scene changes made without curtains, and by creating stage characters who are 'types' gradually revealing the truth about themselves, rather than individuals involved in a more conventional process of character development.

Such theories place heavy demands on producer and actors alike, for they imply a re-thinking of most traditional notions of drama. The audience, too, is apt to be puzzled by certain devices—the use of the witness-box, for instance, in which the Andorran citizens excuse themselves from blame for Andri's fate. Nevertheless, the Congreve Club met Frisch's demands admirably in most departments, and a profound, though varied impression was made on the audience. Many were depressed by the selfishness of the Andorrans, the 'black comedy' of the Jew Detector scene, and the subsequent fate of Andri and Barblin. This, however, was clearly Frisch's intention.

The audience's varying reactions to the play are summed up by an incident in the gallery on Friday night. The entry of the Jew Detector, played with sinister dignity by David McDonough, is albeit a serious moment in the play, but certain masters were understandably moved to laughter by the silk hat, striped trousers, and senile walk of this figure. For an already exasperated sixth-former, however, this was too much, and he left the gallery muttering "... these masters . . .". Suffice it to say that people are still talking and arguing about the play, and it has clearly served its purpose. Perhaps the most unfortunate conclusion made, however, was that this was a play specifically about the persecution of the Jews, or a single Jew in a small community. This was not exactly Frisch's intention, for although Andri was the victim of what psychologists term a 'self-fulfilling prophecy' by being labelled as a Jew (ironically he was not), Frisch insisted that Andri must be taken as representing any persecuted minority group or individual, and Andorra as any community in which selfishness and the instinct of self-protection prevail.

The parts were excellently cast, and sets and lighting well managed, apart from a non-authentic fade and re-lighting of the stage at two points. David Macdonald interpreted Andri's part with great sympathy, and his gradual acquisition of Jewish characteristics was effectively man-

aged. As 'types' I felt Rupert Wood as the Priest, and Anthony Shalson as the Journeyman (not to mention John Way's Idiot) were particularly convincing. Peter Guest, as the Teacher, and Peter Linsell as the Soldier did not react so convincingly to other characters on the stage, but their characters were strongly drawn. The most entertaining performances of the evening in one sense came from Richard Simons as the Doctor, and David Reid as the Carpenter, but neither avoided the pitfall of becoming caricatures rather than types, a point on which Frisch is adamant. Though Andorran-born, their accents varied from German-Welsh to broad Yorkshire, so confusing that at one point I was set wondering whether Andorra was threatened by the 'Blacks' or the Luddites. Michael Chesshire, as the Innkeeper, flitted about the stage with great panache; the purpose of Anthony Jenkinson's Somebody was made even more enigmatic by the inaudibility of certain of his lines. Rodney Cottier and John Williamson-Noble contrasted strikingly as the soberly clad Mother and elegant Senora. Claire Hilsdon's Barblin was fresh-voiced and attractive, and, though her opening scene with the Soldier lacked pace, she brought a touch of real pathos to her final scene of madness.

Whatever one's reaction to the play, it did create a strong impression, and few were indifferent to the issues suggested by Frisch. Moreover, as few would deny, a production of this kind can only be achieved through the combined effort and teamwork of a large body of individuals, and is educationally most valuable. Our thanks are thus due to Mr. Bain and the Congreve Club.

P. C. WEIGHT

NEWFOUNDLAND

Last summer I was selected for the British Schools Exploring Society Expedition to Newfoundland. Whether I was fortunate or unfortunate depends on the way you view living for six weeks on Army compo rations, getting up at 5.30 most mornings with only wet clothes to put on, having porridge either solid or burnt for breakfast and having to use a sleeping bag in a cramped and often leaking tent.

The expedition which consisted of 69 Public or Grammar school boys and 11 leaders arrived in Newfoundland after a relatively normal Atlantic crossing. However, for many it was their first flight and this was painfully obvious by the number of times the air hostesses were seen rushing up the gangway clutching grey paper bags. It was not until we arrived in Newfoundland and were able to scrutinize both the bleak countryside and one's aggressive looking companions that the gay airs assumed at the duty-free counter wore off and we realized the enormity of what we had undertaken. From that point onwards although the conditions were physically very tough, everything pivoted around one's psychological acceptance of one's fate. The fact that there were to be none of the petty luxuries that one grows to accept as a normal way of life, soon began to fray most people's nerves. It is perhaps worth mentioning that the best tempered by far were the cigarette smokers—these people were able to stand the drop in the volume of food more easily than most.

The expedition was planned by Major Dean, the leader, to be more scientific than normal. However, this did not prove to be true, at least for the "geological section", of which I was a member. The reason for this was that the geology of the area was far too complicated for the amateurs that made up the section. But, the energetic Cambridge don who was in charge of the section did collect some useful rocks for radioactive dating. After three days at Base Camp, we had our first taste of camelling food, in order to form a dump even further away from civilization. To my horror I could hardly lift my haversack up to the scales to have it weighed (it was 58 lbs.) and the mere thought of having to carry it for eight miles over countryside varying from open bogland to Malayan-like jungle, as well as including a rise of 1,500 feet, made me wonder why the hell I was alive. I eventually overcame both the heat and the thousands of insects and after seven and a half hours of solid swearing, sweating and suffering, I arrived at the camp site in the rain. I awoke at 4.30 next morning to find that it was still raining and that I was lying in a leaking tent. What had woken me was the fact that I was lying in a soaking wet sleeping-bag in a large puddle of freezing cold water. My first reaction to this was that I might manage to catch pneumonia and have to be taken to hospital. However, as the early

morning dragged on and I couldn't go back to sleep I got colder and colder and at last the noise of my chattering teeth woke the person I was sharing a tent with. Typically he was relatively dry compared to me. One consolation I was able to draw from this experience was that the rest of the expedition couldn't get any worse; although it nearly did at times particularly when we were carrying nearly 75 lbs. for about four days and also when we had to go without any hot food for about three days because it rained virtually continually and soaked both the wood and our matches.

"What has it done for you?" has been a consistent refrain since I arrived back in England. The pure fact that one has been on a relatively high-powered expedition means that one knows a great deal about exploring and its difficulties. I quite honestly could not have believed I was capable of doing some of the things we had to do and consequently in that respect it increases one's self confidence. The fact that one has had to go without such things as bread, eggs, jam, a proper lavatory, baths and newspapers makes one appreciate these things. This in itself is a tremendous asset because life seems so much more enjoyable—even Stowe seems luxurious when looking back on the expedition.

ARTHUR GOODHART

LYTTELTON HOUSE 'AT HOME'

Part 1

The writer of this report admits to being slightly biased against plays of any sort, and to House plays in particular. The reason for this is that they always seem to bring out the worst in the people who take part in them, or perhaps it is that the people who tend to take part are often the ones who are apt to become too pleased with themselves. With this in mind I went to see the Lyttelton House play expecting to have my ideas proved correct. However, whilst being reluctant to admit it is possible to be wrong, I have to do so, and to do so publicly is doubly galling! Tom Stoppard's 'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead', is a difficult play for the average person to follow, and whilst I myself found no difficulty in this respect of course, nevertheless, there were some passages that I felt could have been expressed with greater clarity. The two main parts who figure in the title of the play were very well portrayed by P. H. Morris and N. J. A. Davies. These actors were on the stage (or just off it—by the audience) for almost the entire time, and one has to admire their ability to learn their lines so well, and also to deliver them with such clarity and conviction. The fact that there was an age gap between them of some years seemed to enhance the effect of the words they spoke, and their general deportment was admirable for a House production—even though one of them spent a fair bit of the time lying down presumably from exhaustion! The way they covered up for a slight forgetfulness of the lines on one occasion, I thought was particularly clever, and most people were probably unaware that anything untoward had happened at all. Not being a professional 'drama man' I naturally hate to criticise the efforts of others, but there is one thing that simply cannot be let go without mention, and that is the thoroughly disgraceful manner in which Morris, the Junior Squash Captain appeared on the stage in incorrect kit—not only was he not wearing white shoes, but he was not wearing shoes of any sort! And also, didn't the jacket worn by Davies contravene the rule about 'not drawing attention to the wearer'? One feels that Stoppard should have thought about these 'important' matters when he wrote his play. However, if one accepts the fact that actors always seem to wear unusual clothes on the stage, I myself have nothing but profound admiration and astonishment at the high quality of the performance of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern (or was it Guildenstern and Rosencrantz?)

C. J. Manton as the Player was admirably cast; he seemed to relish his lines like a professional 'player' and his performance was a gem and added great lustre to the evening. Unlike the others his 'kit' was perfect and somehow it seemed to fit him almost as well as it had done his Housemaster in the past. He disciplined his troupe wonderfully, and one began to wonder whether he was really Manton or Mantovani conducting his orchestra of instruments in a 'performance' for Hamlet. G. Ghani, when in tennis clothes, almost looked as though he could play the game (even though he would probably find his skirt a little restricting when trying to

serve). He did not have many lines to say, but those he did (and those he forgot) he said extremely well and is to be congratulated on a very good performance. M. E. Harrison as Queen Gertrude managed to fill Mrs. Donaldson's clothes very well (considering all things) and played a difficult part extremely well. His intonation was excellent, and although he could not really help walking like Harrison, some people were fooled into thinking that a girl had been imported from the Royal Latin School to do the part—and they thought that for at least half a minute! Other notable performances were given by R. H. Mitchell as Polonius (who was made up magnificently as an old man), and J. N. S. Bagshawe, who someone mistakenly thought might have been Christine Keeler's long haired brother, but in fact was Ophelia! Smaller parts were taken by S. N. Phillips (the only Side IX man in the cast), N. J. Rice, N. A. Seymour, S. A. Kingwell and E. A. Verdon-Roe, and they all did extremely well.

All in all this was an excellent production, and Mr. Dennien, with the assistance of P. S. H. Frazer, must be congratulated on the high standard achieved by the play. Mr. Dennien said that he would not spend excess time on the preparation of the play, and I bet him 'tails' that he would do so—but like Guildenstern I was wrong and he won 'all heads up'. All in all the play must have been enjoyed by everyone—even the most hardened critic of House plays! Certainly everybody your dramatic critic consulted gave it a five star rating, and as far as he knows this is the best you can get! There are three things however I am still trying to understand. Firstly what are the rules and the correct kit for the word game played by Rosencrantz and Guildenstern; secondly what is the answer to the question posed by Morris 'where is eternity going to end?'; and thirdly, can anyone tell me what it all meant?

Interlude—The Music

In this twenty minute period between the two plays there was more than an 'interlude' of music—there was something for all tastes. There was the sonata for violin and piano by Schubert, well performed by O. W. Richards and J. P. Guilford. Next we had some fine folk music sung and played by B. Helweg-Larsen and N. Downing. Nina and Frederik could not have done better than these two did, especially as Nina always finds it very difficult to sing in the low key of a male voice. The audience showed their appreciation of this few minutes by prolonged applause. Lastly we were treated to some Bach, something most people find particularly palatable. Here we had D. N. Weston on the flute, Frazer on the 'cello, Guilford playing the piano and Richards once again on the violin. They gave a fine performance of music making, and the audience showed that they were glad that they had come to Lyttelton instead of being 'at home'.

Part 2

The evening's entertainment was concluded by a performance of 'The Diplomats' by Campton. There were only two people in this play, T. B. R. Albery and B. Helweg-Larsen, who not surprisingly stole all the lines worth saying in the play, and some of them certainly gave wood! Their quick repartee was most professionally done, and their characterisation of the parts seemed wonderful in the extremes to which they went. Albery, looking every yard a city gent, and Helweg-Larsen, who at a slightly lower level made short work of his diplomatic phrases, made the audience feel that they were really witnessing a battle of words in which both the contestants would come away as winners! Albery, believing in audience participation, repeatedly stormed off the stage, but always returned to do battle with his counterpart appropriately called 'Diplomat B'. Some of the verbal warfare was too fast for me (almost) but the message went home, as did everyone else after this fine production. The two actors also acted as co-producers of the play, and in view of the fact that they were both concurrently preparing for Oxford Entrance Examinations their play was even more surprisingly good.

Although only the dramatic critic, I must mention the other fare offered by Lyttelton. There were exhibitions of all sorts downstairs, from motor racing to golf. There was fine poetry, and odd poetry, and there were all the other myriad of things that went to make up this 'at home'. I calculated that only about eight Lyttelton boys made no contribution to the evening's activities (and this may well be an exaggeration). Is it any wonder therefore that I conclude by saying 'well done Lyttelton'—may others try to emulate you but they will have to be very good to equal Mr. Donaldson's boys' efforts.

S.D.C.

THE HISTORY OF STOWE—VIII

MILITARY GARDENING: BRIDGEMAN AND THE HA-HA

It is scarcely necessary at Stowe to explain the nature and purpose of a ha-ha, for we all realise, without thinking, what it is and why it is there. Every day, as we pause at the top of the South Front steps and glance along the vista, our eye travels freely over lawn and Octagon and park, past lake pavilions and trees, to the belt of woodland on the horizon that leads to the Corinthian Arch, and we catch sight of horses and cattle grazing in the distant fields. It is so picturesque that a clause should perhaps be written into the tenancy agreement obliging the farmer to keep at least one white horse pastured in the fields by the Arch. Our enjoyment of the view is not spoiled, as otherwise it might be, by wondering whether the farm animals are free to stray over the lawn and clamber up the steps at our feet, for at the same time we know that the sunk wall of the ha-ha ensures that they remain safely where they belong in the middle distance of the picture. Without the device of the ha-ha this kind of landscape-gardening would be impossible, for the garden and the countryside would remain separate entities and could not be harmonized into a single landscape composition. But the very simplicity and success of the device may make us forget that it must at some point have had an inventor and a place of origin. Neither of these is known for certain, though the inventor is generally believed to have been Charles Bridgeman, and, if this is so, the place of origin may very well have been Stowe—not in the ha-ha as we know it, faced with stone and running for the better part of three miles round the circuit of the gardens, but in an earlier version, long since vanished, which formed the boundary of a previous lay-out.

In the writings of Bridgeman's contemporaries and in the engravings of his day there is ample evidence that he made extensive use of the ha-ha in the lay-outs he designed, but the claim that he was its inventor was first advanced by Horace Walpole in 1771, in his *History of Modern Gardening*, a pioneer attempt to trace the evolution of landscape-gardening in England. "The capital stroke," he wrote, "the leading step to all that has followed, was [I believe the first thought was Bridgeman's] the destruction of walls for boundaries, and the invention of fossés—an attempt then deemed so astonishing, that the common people called them Ha! Ha's! to express their surprize at finding a sudden and unperceived check to their walk." Walpole may have been right in saying that Bridgeman was the inventor, but it should be remembered that his statement was made diffidently in a parenthesis thirty years after Bridgeman's death. On two other points Walpole was certainly wrong: the "first thought" was not Bridgeman's but came from France, and so did the odd name.

The French version was employed to prevent the boundary wall of a garden blocking the vista down a straight narrow walk. Normally, in the seventeenth century, such a wall was pierced, and a wrought-iron grill, a *clairvoie*, was inserted in the gap. But in a book published in 1709 Alexandre Le Blond mentioned another method, which was to leave the gap in the wall open right down to the level of the walk and to dig a ditch immediately beyond; both sides of the ditch were vertical, so that they had to be lined to prevent the earth falling in, and it extended no farther than was necessary to cover the gap in the wall. The effect was so surprising that it made people "crier *ah ah*, dont ils ont pris le nom". Though the French version was merely a solution to a limited problem and cannot be called a true ha-ha, theirs was the first thought and the origin of the name.

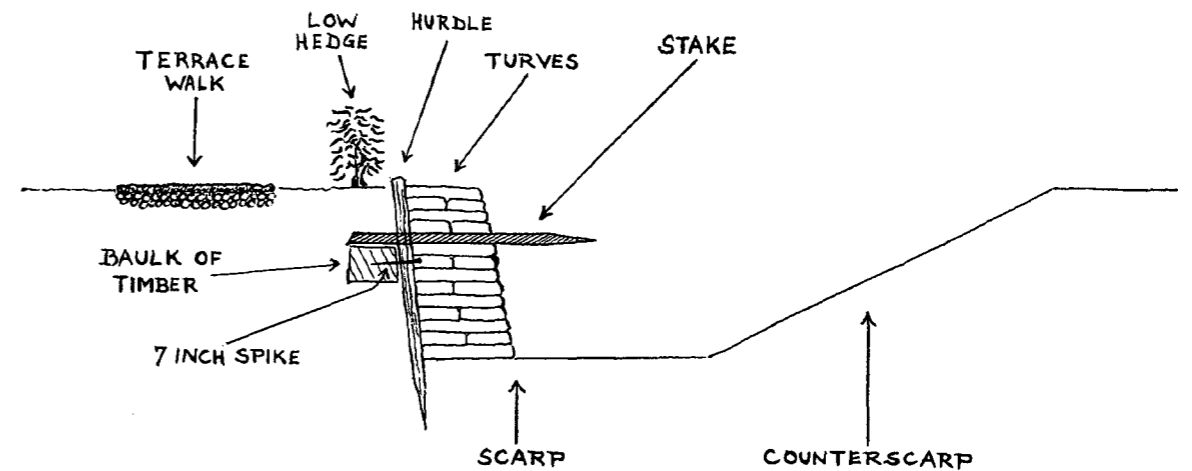
Three years later the idea reached England, when a translation of Le Blond's book was published by John James in 1712, the same year that Addison asked in *The Spectator*: "Why may not a whole estate be thrown into a kind of garden? . . . Fields of corn make a pleasant prospect . . . and if the natural embroidery of the meadows were helped and improved by some small additions of art, . . . a man might make a pretty landskip of his own possessions." Addison's revolutionary suggestions were developed by Switzer in his *Ichnographia Rustica* (Vol. I, 1715; reissued with Vols. II and III, 1718), where he advocated a "kind of extensive Gardening", laid out in such a way that "all the neighbouring Fields, Paddocks etc. shall make an additional

Beauty . . . and by an easy, unaffected manner of Fencing, shall appear to be a part of it, and look as if the adjacent Country were all a garden.” It seems inevitable, at this point in his argument, that he must go on to advocate the use of a ha-ha, developing the limited French device for the new ideas. But in fact he does not mention it, though he had certainly read John James’ book; and it is clear from other passages that Switzer did not grasp the exact significance of the ha-ha. In this, as in other ways, the practice of these gardening revolutionaries lagged behind their theory. It was not until about 1725 that the ha-ha was perfected in its final form, as a dry trench with a slope on the outer side and a vertical stone wall built up to ground level on the inner side; then it appeared in several places at almost the same moment—at Blenheim, Houghton, Kensington, Eastbury and Stowe, all gardens with which Bridgeman had some connection.

Two inferences can be drawn from this: that almost without doubt it was Bridgeman who perfected the device of the ha-ha, and that in the years just preceding 1725 he was very probably experimenting with various forms of it in the gardens he was then laying out. One of these was Stowe, where some kind of ha-ha was in existence a year or two earlier. But there remains a gap of nearly ten years between about 1715, when the new gardening ideas seem to have demanded a ha-ha, and the time when it actually appeared. In Mr. Whistler’s words, “the device does not seem to have caught on very quickly”; in Mr. Hussey’s, “its evolution . . . was evidently gradual”; and until new evidence comes to light, that is as far as the purely gardening line of the argument can be taken.¹

Along another line, however, it is possible to pursue the argument further. In the passage already quoted from Horace Walpole the ha-ha ditch is described as a *fossé*, a French word drawn from the vocabulary of military engineers, and the relation of the ha-ha to fortification is worth closer study, for it is very relevant to Stowe. In the first tourist guide to the gardens Home Park is described as “the Field, which is inclosed in a military Way, with a staked Fence”.² What was meant by this is made clear in several of the Bridgeman engravings, where a row of stakes can be seen projecting from a bank over a dry ditch towards its sloping outer face; and these stakes correspond to the storm-poles or *fraises*—to use the eighteenth century word—which projected from the scarp of a military fossé towards the counterscarp. According to a contemporary treatise on fortification, the ramparts of small fieldworks “are commonly made of turf, and the outside of the parapet fraised; that is, a row of palissades are placed in about the middle of the slope, in a horizontal manner . . . to prevent the work being taken by surprise.”³ So it seems that this technique of fortification was adapted at Stowe to prevent the cattle breaking out of Home Park and sallying forth into the central area of the garden. The use of *fraises* presumably implies too that the inner wall of the ditch was faced with turf, a normal form of revetment before the introduction of sandbags. But as turf had to be carefully cut and laid, and as it often needed repair, revetment which was intended to last for more than a few months would require further strengthening if it were to contain the earth effectively. “The revetment of the interior slope,” says another authority, “requires greater precautions than that of the exterior one; as, on account of its steepness, it is more likely to crumble; turf, fascines, saucissons and hurdles are generally used for its construction.”⁴ *Fascines* and *saucissons*, which were bundles of brushwood, would have been too clumsy and unsightly for garden use, but hurdles of brushwood or wattle would have adequately answered the need. These are the details of construction that we should expect to find in the ha-ha round Home Park; and these are just the things that the evidence of the accounts reveals.

For the western and southern sides of Home Park, enclosed in about 1725 (Plate 4), no records are yet available, but for the eastern side there is evidence from two sources. One is the Bridge-



A conjectural cross-section of the early ha-ha at Stowe, showing how it was constructed by the methods of military fortification. The diagram is not to scale.

man perspective drawing of 1719/20, which shows in a general way the projected ditch and embankment (Plate 1); the other is the mass of detailed garden accounts which cover the period of its construction. The stretch from the Rotondo to the Octagon was made by a gang under the leadership of John Gurnit, after whom this terrace walk was named (Plate 2). From September 1720 to the following March he and his men were “Leveling Gurnits walk and the stokade ditch against it”; digging, wheeling and spreading gravel for the walk; levelling the verges at the upper end; and digging out two drainage trenches at the lower end—work for which they were paid in all £42 8s. 5d. (about £800 nowadays). There is no specific mention of hurdles being made, but this may have been done by the carpenters, whose accounts for this year have not yet been found; and the constant reference to the ditch as a *stockade* ditch makes their use all but certain. Elsewhere in the accounts a blacksmith’s bill “for 30 spickes (spikes) for ye stockades in ye new dich 7 inches long” suggests that the hurdles were nailed to baulks of timber let into the bank to secure revetment. After three months of work the stockade ditch was ready for the turf, and the cutting of at least 24,000 turves is recorded between December and February 1720/21. Though many of these were for the verges of the terrace walks, the number is so huge that some must have been used in the revetment of the ha-ha, in addition to the turf cut and laid aside during the excavation of the ditch. At least one batch of turf, and probably all of it, was taken from Home Park, and those who have dug ditches there this autumn will agree that it fully meets the requirements laid down in the military manual: “The turf or sod-work is cut from good clayey meadow land.”⁵ The turves were then built up like brick-work as headers and stretchers, a process known as “sodding up”, which sounds faintly reprehensible but was common parlance among the men of Marlborough’s army. What is probably the only direct reference to building the turf revetment is a tip of 3/- which Mr. Bissell, the head gardener, “Gave the men to drink for Laying the turfe in ye Wett ditch under ye stockads”, perhaps in the waterlogged ground where the poplar plantation now stands. Though there is no mention of setting the horizontal stakes in place, their existence is proved by the engravings; and the sloping outward face of the ditch must have been completed at the same time, since the grass on “ye slops Round ye stockeade ditch” was being mowed during the following September.

This evidence is sufficient to establish the method of constructing the main stretches of the 1720 ha-ha at Stowe. Whether the three bastions which can be seen on the perspective view (at the

5. Hector Straith, *Treatise on Fortification*, 1833, p. 49.

1. In this and the preceding paragraphs I have drawn heavily on Laurence Whistler’s *The Imagination of Vanbrugh and his Fellow Artists*, pp. 166 ff., and on Christopher Hussey’s *English Gardens and Landscapes*, pp. 35 ff., to which the reader is referred for fuller discussion of these points.

2. Anon., *A Tour through Britain, by a Gentleman*, Appendix to Vol. III, 1742.

3. John Muller, *Treatise containing the elementary part of Fortification Regular and Irregular*, 1746, pp. 197 and 221.

4. E. Malorti de Martemont, *The Theory of Field Fortification*, 1810.

Rotondo, Nelson's Seat and the western apex of the lay-out) were built in the same way is a question which can only be answered when the builders' and carters' accounts are found. But there are hints that they may have been revetted with stone even at this early date. Low hedges were planted between the terrace walks and the ha-ha, but not round the bastions, according to the Bridgeman engravings, though it must be said that Rigaud's original sketches for these were not made until 1734 and may illustrate later modifications. All the same, the engraved view from Nelson's Seat does show a "parapet wall", exactly the phrase in one early bill, raised about a foot above the platform (Plate 3); another bill mentions "Raming in Lees baston"; and a surprising amount of brick and stone rubble was wheeled into the area round the Rotondo at the end of 1721, possibly for in-filling, after the building had already reached roof level. However, the evidence for stone revetment is inconclusive, so that the question must remain open for the time being; and, indeed, the use of words like "bastions", "parapet walls" and "stockades" may indicate no more than the fact that the gang foremen and gardeners had picked up their military vocabulary from the designers.

At this stage, therefore, we may conclude that Bridgeman was considering fortification methods for gardening as early as the winter of 1719/20, when he presented his Great Design to Cobham. But this was not the earliest use of a ha-ha at Stowe. Almost a year before, in February 1718/19, John Lee was paid for "work down att ye stockeades", and his receipt for this, dated February 14th, specifies it as "woork down at ye dich". Fortunately William Jacob, the steward, was a methodical man, who noted down the cost of whole sequences of construction work, and an entry in one such memorandum records that in October 1719 John Lee was paid £36 18s 3d. "for ye first stockeade ditch by ye Lime Walk", which must have been on the completion of the work started eight months before. That stockade ditch, if we can trust Mr. Jacob, was the first ha-ha constructed at Stowe.

Soon afterwards John Lee and his men dug another ditch, and in the same memorandum Mr. Jacob noted that in December 1720 (a few weeks after Gurnit started to level his walk) Lee was paid £52 12s. 3d. "for ye stockeade ditch as was fild up". £52 (about £1,000 now) was a great deal of money to write off without good reason, and there is only one satisfactory explanation. It will be remembered that in the autumn of 1719 Cobham commanded the expedition against Vigo, and that his success there encouraged him to increase the scale of his gardening plans; so Vanbrugh and Bridgeman were commissioned to draw up a grander scheme than had hitherto been contemplated. A chief feature of this scheme, as illustrated in Bridgeman's perspective, was to extend the gardens by pushing a salient out into Home Park with the Rotondo at its tip, the salient being bounded by a stockade ditch of the same sort as John Lee and his men had been constructing during the previous year. The first stretch already built along the Lime Walk could be incorporated in the new lay-out, forming the northern boundary of Home Park, but the change of plan necessitated the destruction of the second section, so that Lee had to be told to fill this ditch in again. It can't have been the happiest moment of Lee's life, and Cobham may have realised it. For in July 1720, the month when Bridgeman was at Stowe marking out the ground for the work about to be started, Mr. Jacob noted that "by my Lord's order" he gave John Lee five shillings, the largest tip that has yet appeared in the garden accounts.

* * * * *

Who then, we may ask in conclusion, was the actual inventor of the ha-ha? If the stockade ditch of February 1718/19 at Stowe really was the first in any garden—and this whole argument establishes no more than its reasonable possibility—to whom should the credit be given? A few months before John Lee started digging, some prophetic remarks were published by Switzer: "I need say little as to the reducing Fortification into Gardening; 'tis what will I believe be very pleasing to all the martial Genius's of our Country; and it seems somewhat of Wonder that it has not been made use of before now."⁶ We know that the inventor was not Switzer himself, but it might well have been Bridgeman who followed up his suggestion, for he knew

6. *Ichnographia Rustica*, Vol. II, 1718, p.174.

Switzer and would certainly have read his book; but there remains a suspicion that he was not sufficiently expert in matters of fortification to have taken the first step. Vanbrugh had some military expertise, but it seems out of character for the man who raised the massive stonework in the gardens of Blenheim and Claremont to have recommended a turf and wattle embankment at Stowe. Perhaps it was Cobham himself who produced the idea; after ten years of campaigning in Flanders he would have known as much as anyone about methods of fortification in the field. Or is it conceivable that John Lee was a demobilized soldier, an engineer who produced the practical answer which had not occurred to his betters, and that he was given an extra week's pay not to compensate him for his wasted work but as a bounty for his invention? The idea is an attractive one but perhaps too romantic. All we can say for certain is that, whoever had the original idea, Bridgeman quickly saw its possibilities and exploited them, a fact which Lord Perceval singled out for praise when he visited Stowe in 1724: "Bridgeman laid out the ground and plann'd the whole, which cannot fail of recommending him to business. What adds to the bewty of this garden is, that it is not bounded by walls, but by a Ha-Hah, which leaves you the sight of a bewtiful woody country, and makes you ignorant how far the high planted walks extend."

Note

In July's article on the history of Stowe (VII—"The Vanbrugh-Bridgeman Gardens") it was stated that the position of the south mount was north of the stream. Re-examination of the evidence and further discussion have convinced me that this was wrong, and that the mount was placed on the far (i.e. the south) side of the stream, at the top of the slope beyond the present ha-ha. The vista southwards was thus very similar to Bridgeman's contemporary lay-out at Eastbury, and it seems almost certain that he also designed this phase of the gardens at Stowe. It follows that the date of Bridgeman's probable arrival on the scene at Stowe should be put back to the winter of 1715/16.

Acknowledgments

I am indebted to Mr. Andrew Saunders, F.S.A., who showed me where to find information about eighteenth century fortification; also to the librarians of the Huntington Library, California, for permission to use material from the Stowe Papers; to Bodley's Librarian for leave to reproduce Bridgeman's perspective drawing of Stowe (MS Gough Drawings, a. 4. Fol. 46); and to the Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, for leave to reproduce the original drawing by Rigaud (Harris Brisbane Dick Fund, Accession No. 42. 79).

G. B. CLARKE

'MOON ORBIT'

In the Queen's Temple, Sunday, June 29th

Presented by: Oriel Arnold	S. A. L. H. Alsen	A. M. Sladen
Marian Donaldson	A. F. M. Chance	N. B. S. Stewart
Mary Edmonds	N. J. A. Davies	C. J. Tate
Ingrid Manley	C. J. McCubbin	N. H. Thomlinson
Malcolm Scott-Wilson	S. T. B. Pike	M. J. Wolfe
Mr. Donaldson	J. G. Rowe	R. J. M. Wood
Mr. Kirk	H. S. Sidhu	

Produced by: Mr. Edmonds Mr. Watson L. J. Way

Now in the depths of winter with Christmas so near it is difficult to remember that then it was summer. The heat wave that was to carry us well into the holidays had just begun; the trees were green, flowers in abundance and there was a full moon!

We have come to expect a high standard of Mr. Edmonds' presentations and in June, at the Queen's Temple, we were not disappointed. He gave us a sentimentalist's paradise, perhaps for the last time in this context, for the Lady Diana seems less chaste since her face was shown to us stamped with American service boots!

Shostakovich carried us into the programme and must have further dispelled the misconception that he is an incomprehensible modern. With material for all tastes any one person's point of view is bound to fail to do justice to the variety. N. J. A. Davies' reading of Best's sonnet set a high standard of recital, maintained by S. T. B. Pike and H. S. Sidhu. A. M. Sladen's caricature from the 1880's was superb type casting and R. J. M. Wood maintained his familiar histrionic level. For me a highlight was the reading from T. H. White's *Mistress Masham's Repose*. This delightful fantasy of Stowe should, surely, be a part of our education here. Musically we were stirred by Wagner, lulled by Monteverdi and roused again by Bartok. Sorry though I was that Britten's setting of Johnson's hymn was omitted we were well compensated by the dramatic exit recital by the ladies after a superb piece of Shakespearean buffoonery by members of Walpole. At last, as though not to be outdone, the moon put in a rather grudging appearance over Hawkwell field, a splendid finale.

The success of the evening was due to a large extent to John Way's excellent electronics. Seldom have I heard so much recorded material with so little 'amplifier's indigestion'! This was a magnificent entertainment, conjured up by Mr. M. P. M. Watson and John Way as co-producers but above all by Mr. and Mrs. Edmonds' genius. Our thanks to all of them.

A. J. E. LLOYD

THE SWIFTS' GOLF TOUR OF AMERICA

After a few false starts at London Airport, we eventually arrived in New York in the early hours of Monday morning, without having much of a chance to appreciate our whereabouts. The next day we were shown all the eye-stunning places, like the Empire State Building, Rockefeller Centre, Statue of Liberty, the Yankee Stadium and a round trip of the city by boat. We stayed in this amazing city for two days and then made our way to Blairstown where we played our first two matches against Blair Academy, winning both of them. We were now getting used to the luxurious way of living, bestowed upon us from all quarters.

In no time at all it was Saturday and we headed up north, destination Heckimer where we had our first and only defeat against a particularly strong side. This was at the home of our sponsor who in fact owns the golf course. I think it was appropriate that if we were going to be beaten at all, we should be beaten there, anyway it made him very happy! Our next match at St. Andrews Golf Course brought the rain with it. It was a beautiful course but unfortunately due to the weather we did not really appreciate our surroundings.

At Stanwich G.C. and Round Hill G.C. the heavens again opened, soaking us to the skin, but spirits were high and nobody thought much of it. But the next match against Hopkins Grammar had to be called off after a few holes as conditions were too bad. There were now two matches left, one at Hotchkiss and the other against Mount Herman School, and at last the weather returned to its former state, and we found ourselves playing in very humid conditions.

By the end our overall result was seven in our favour, one against and one rained off. However not all of the time was devoted to golf—we played nine matches in nineteen days. We were shown over Bethlehem Steel Corporation and Yale and Harvard Universities as well as all of the schools we stayed at. We went to numerous parties ranging from "pool" parties to a D.J. and 21st party, and at the end we had two days to amuse ourselves in Boston.

Credit must be given to both Mr. Morris and Mr. Churchill who between them drove us about 1,000 miles and who stayed very cool in many difficult and threatening situations.

The team was: J. Choyce (Stowe) (Capt.), S. A. McNair (Stowe), J. M. Swanston (Rugby), N. Trollope (Bradfield), D. Ritchie (Radley), R. Lowatt (Uppingham), P. Wtaker (Rossall),

S. A. MCNAIR

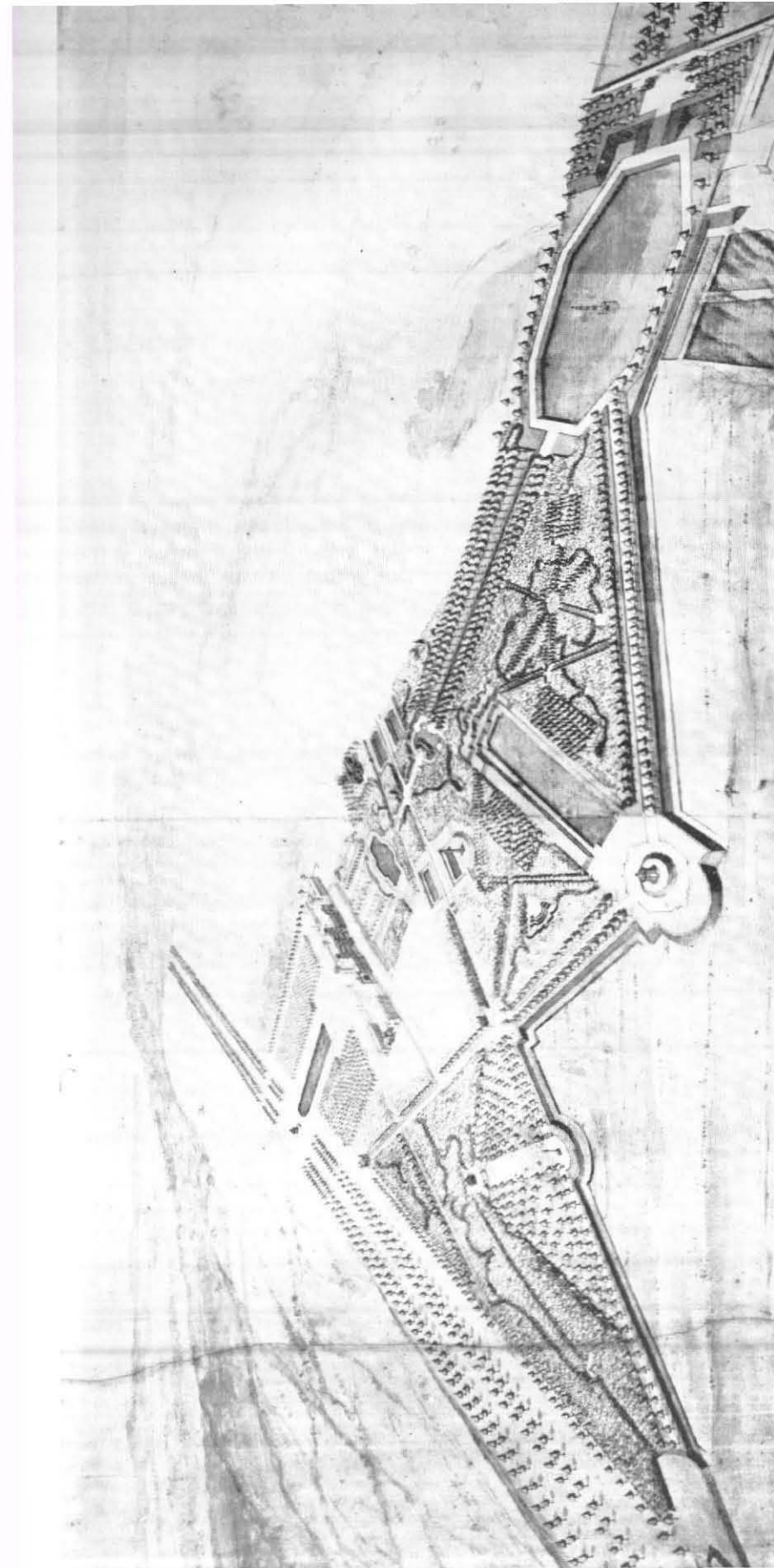


Plate 1—Bridgeman's perspective view of Stowe, illustrating the Great Design he submitted to Cobham in the winter of 1719/20. From a point above Home Park the viewer looks north-east towards the Rotondo, which stands on its bastion at the tip of the projecting salient. The proposed ha-ha is clearly visible, though in no great detail, running from the Octagon to the Rotondo, from there to the Great Cross Lime Walk, along the Lime Walk, round the bastion at the western apex, and from there (presumably) along Nelson's Walk to Nelson's Seat. The stretch along the Lime Walk begun by John Lee in February 1719 is in the left foreground. "Ye stockade ditch as was fld up", which Lee started late in 1719, was perhaps an extension east or south-east of the earlier stretch. Plate 4, part of the plan (1739) which accompanied the Bridgeman engravings, shows the later lay-out, when the south and west sides of Home Park had been enclosed.

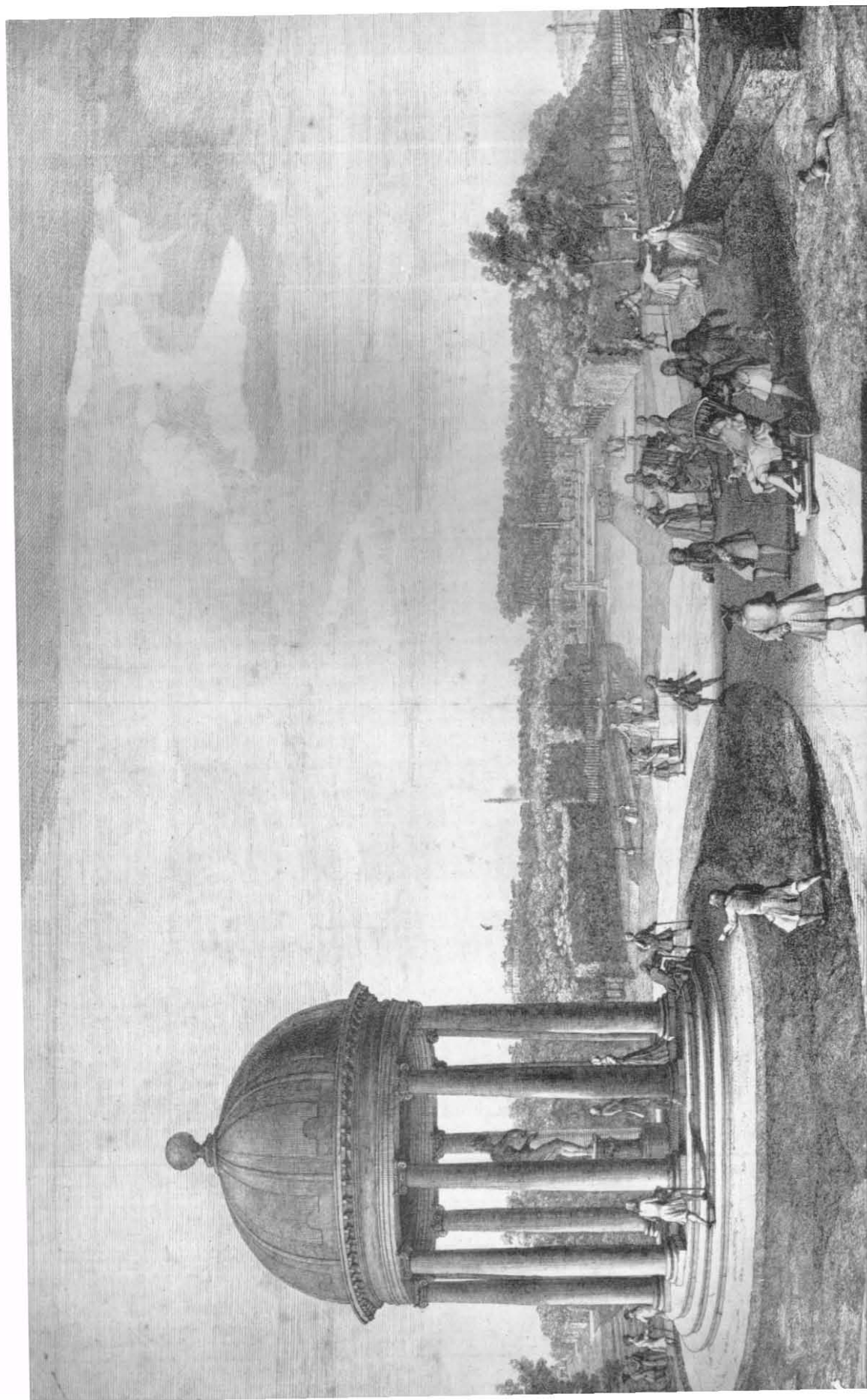


Plate 2—Engraving after Rigaud's view of the Rotondo. Gurnit's Walk runs from the Rotondo to the Octagon at the right-hand edge of the picture. The sloping outer face of the ha-ha can be seen and so can the bank with its horizontal stakes, which are also visible along the ha-ha on the left of the picture. The low hedge between the terrace walk and the ha-ha appears to stop short at the bastion, round the platform of which there may have been a low parapet wall instead, as in Plate 3, Rigaud's view from Nelson's Seat (1734).

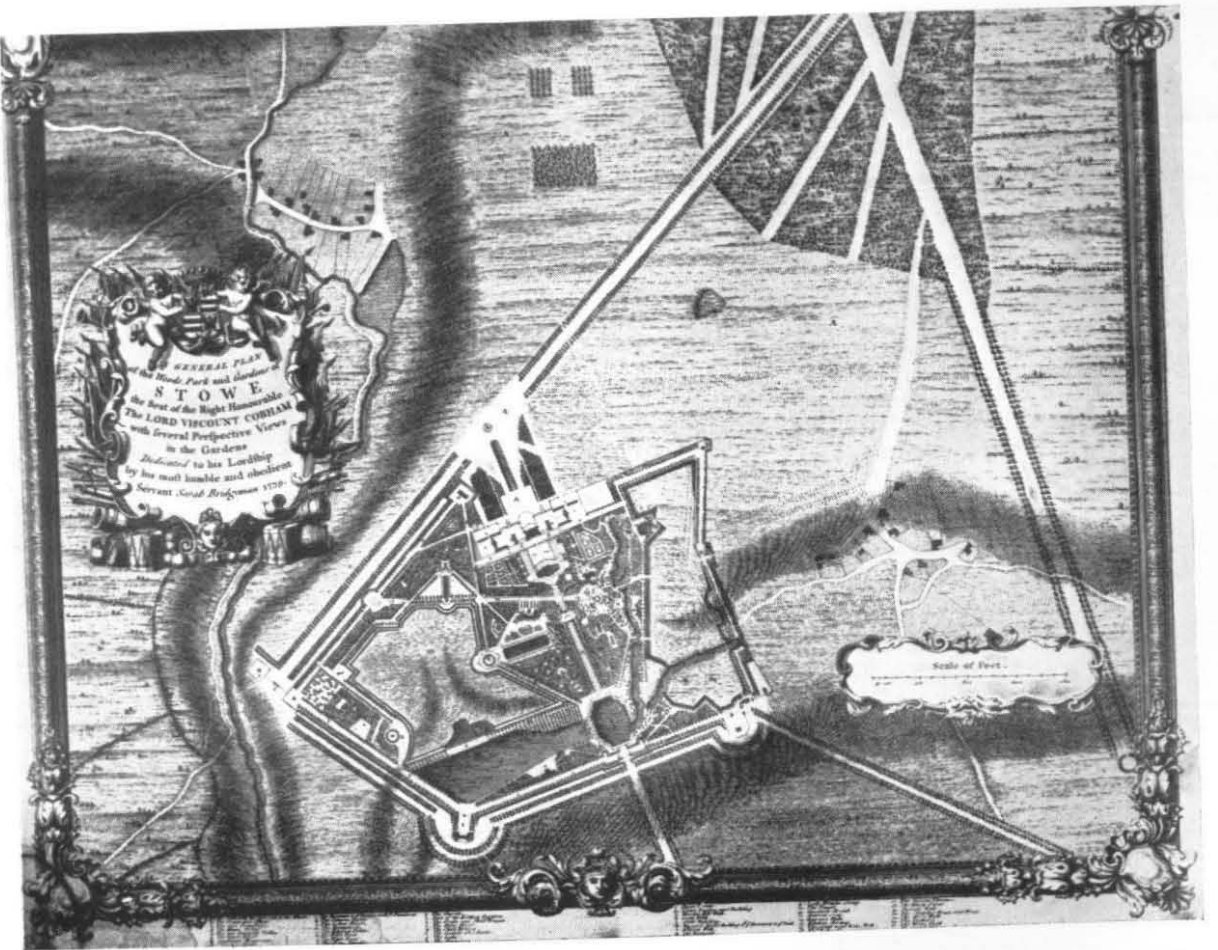
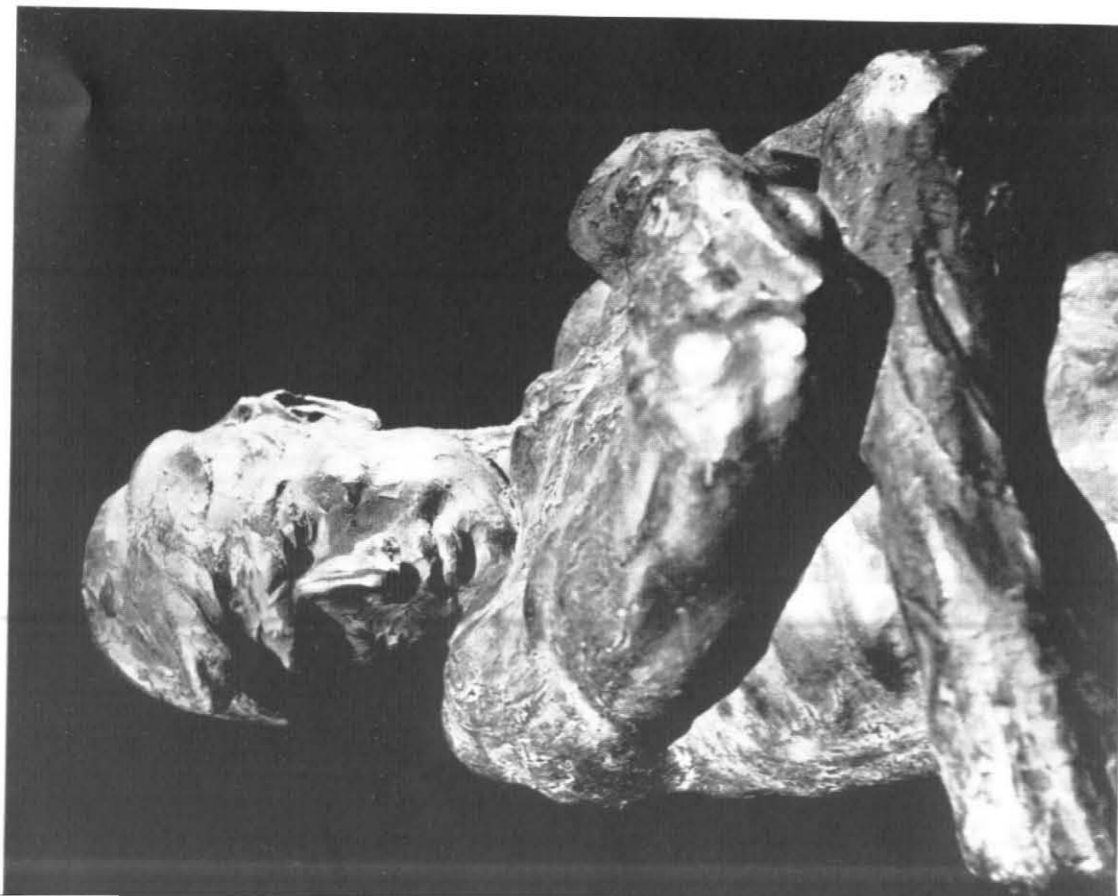


Plate 3—View from Nelson's Seat (1734).

Plate 4—Plan of Stowe (1739).



C. G. N. Barclay



CORRESPONDENCE

TEMPLE HOUSE,
STOWE.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*

Dear Sir,

Although the Pineapple Club in London is undoubtedly serving a very useful purpose, I do not think this is true of the weekly visits paid by Stoics, who look round the Club and make use of its facilities but do not often achieve the main object of their visit—to meet Club members. The reason for this lies, I think, in the fact that visitors from Stowe can meet members for three and a quarter hours at the most. Within this limit of time it is hard to strike up a relationship with a person of a totally different social background, and even more so when one knows that neither Stoic nor Club member will meet again, unless by a stroke of chance.

If, however, a visit to the Club was followed by return visits to Stowe by the members with whom relationships had been started and the Stoics concerned made more than one visit to the Club, the benefits to both Stoics and Club members would be greater.

Yours faithfully,

SIMON SHNEERSON

LYTTLETON HOUSE,
STOWE.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*

Sir,

As I leave Stowe, I think that a few comments regarding the future of the Music Club, which has undergone considerable change during my four and a half years here, might not be out of place.

The new-style House Music competition, in which Houses gain a point for each performance by any of their members, has had its effect on the Club. We are no longer a Club in the true sense of the word; the selection of the programme is less than ever in the hands of the Secretary, and the running of the Club is done increasingly by the music staff.

Whether this is a good thing or not is a question that must be faced. Certainly the standard of the concerts has risen, but equally certainly this has been at the expense of the social atmosphere.

There is no doubt at all that many of the School's senior musicians are unhappy about the Music Club. This can be seen most clearly in the fact that few of the older members make a point of attending as many concerts as they can. One feels that if only a Music Club concert was more of a social gathering of the senior musicians and music scholars, then more senior members would like to come. It has been suggested recently that this might be effected by a coffee party after the concert; clearly the practical difficulties of such a plan are considerable, but it represents a new line of thought which the Club might well be advised to follow up.

I have assumed so far that the Club puts on "concerts": this seems indicative of something. For although we are a Club existing for music, our meetings should be meetings rather than just concerts. If we offer our audience no more than a mediocre play-off of all our current pieces, which is really the best we can hope to achieve normally, then we cannot expect members to come dutifully when there is something undeniably better for them to be doing—prep.

In conclusion, may I suggest that if all else fails to resurrect the spirit of the Club, then there is one solution that, to my knowledge, has not seen the light of day, let alone the pages of *The Stoic*. It is simply this: that the Club be dissolved as it must be no longer wanted by the senior musicians of the School. As work, and especially A-level work, demands gradually

more and more of Stoics' time, it is understandable that a Club meeting during prep, in the far from intimate and far from anywhere, though beautiful, Queen's Temple should become unpopular and neglected to the point of obsolescence. While there is an obvious need for a platform for senior musicians to play the pieces they have been working up during their music lessons, the Music Club must aim at something more than this if it wishes to remain a Club. There are Junior Informal Concerts every so often in Mr. Watson's room. These are run without the paraphernalia of a Club: if such concerts are all the senior musicians want, then why bother with all this senseless camouflage?

Yours faithfully,

NEIL WESTON

THE BUSINESS GAME

It seemed to us that business was easy. There seemed to be no reason why we should not quickly make a great deal of money: but then we met Reality.

The Business Game is an inter-school competition designed to introduce young business tycoons to the practical problems of industry today. And so it was that in an atmosphere heavy with Gauloise smoke, the Stowe Board of Directors set about winning the game: they lost. This does not mean that they did not gain anything from the exercise; on the contrary, the recurrent harrowing situations of conflicting brainwaves occasionally descending to verbal insults demonstrated very real difficulties. It is hoped that next year's board will profit from the tragic mistakes of these reckless beginners.

Members of the Board were: N. J. A. Davies (Chairman), J. J. Taylor and N. H. Harvey (Marketing), W. S. Croom-Johnson (Production), J. A. Clarfelt and A. W. Goodhart (Finance), S. D. Moss and G. Klonarides (Records), S. N. Phillips (Transport), M. J. Sherwood (Secretary).

NICK DAVIES

THE CHALLENGE OF INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

The Challenge of Industry Conference was held at the beginning of the first week of term. Organised by the Industrial Society, the conference consisted of ten discussion groups, three lectures and two films. The programme began with a film describing the problems that might well be encountered in business today. The groups then went off to decide what they would do, if faced by these problems.

A speaker for the management side of industry told his own tale of woolly vests in the West Indies and illustrated various aspects of his subject with his own experiences. A film entitled 'What about the Workers' and the second speaker, Mr. Ken Meate of the Trade Unions, excited a great deal of response. And in the free-for-all question time on the second day, the latter managed to evade a large number of exceedingly direct questions.

To be able to see the way in which the basics of industry function and to indulge in practical discussions was a valuable experience and typical of Mr. Kirk's increasingly ambitious approach to careers in general.

NICK DAVIES

MUSIC

The English dictionary defines music as the art of combining sounds with a view to beauty of form and expression. The ultimate is never achieved, not even by the world's greatest musicians, but if perfection could be attained solely by effort, Stowe, and the two hundred Stoics who have music lessons, would certainly end up near this goal line. Classical music in its entirety has been flourishing for terms, but it is only just recently that the other fields of music have come into the lime-light of performance. The majority of Stoics are beginning to realise that the enjoyment of a form of art is short-lived if it only consists of sitting down, relaxing and absorbing, rather than active participation. The keen edge is blurred and it soon becomes habitual to turn on the record player full blast, put on a record that used to have so much appeal and let one's attention wander into that contempt which familiarity breeds.

The Folk Song Society has met twice this term, and guitars have infiltrated into the enemy stronghold—the Music Club. The 'disease' is multiplying and now that the average Stoic realises that the Music Society is not just for a clique of harmless outdated eccentrics but also for himself, he wants more of these 'popular appeal' concerts. But then the minority should have its own entertainment. Films entertain the majority on Saturday evenings and if Stowe is going to maintain that it caters for the individual as well as for the masses, the Music Society should develop a balance between these two forms of concert. In this realm of music, here at Stowe we have something about which we can confidently be proud, even if we do occasionally lose on the rugger pitches.

OLIVER RICHARDS

THE MUSIC SOCIETY

In the Roxburgh Hall on Sunday, July 6th at 8 p.m.

THE STOWE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE JOSEPH BAIN, Narrator

Toy Instruments: Michael Fox (*quail*), Andrew Vinen (*cuckoo*), Michael Kirk (*whistle*), Bram Wiggins, David Arnold, Anthony Lloyd (*trumpets*), David Lennard (*triangle*), Christopher Mullineux (*cymbals*), Robert Bottone (*drum*), Christopher Deacon, John Dobinson, Charles Macdonald (*dulcimers*)

Sebastian Bell (<i>flute</i>)	Bram Wiggins (<i>trumpet</i>)	Peter Weight (<i>violin</i>)
Lionel Clarke (<i>oboe</i>)	Charles Macdonald (<i>trumpet</i>)	Elizabeth Watson (<i>viola</i>)
Geoffrey Emmott (<i>clarinet</i>)	Robert Bottone (<i>percussion</i>)	Simon Whistler (<i>viola</i>)
Kerry Camden (<i>bassoon</i>)	Terence James (<i>percussion & piano</i>)	Michael Edmonds (<i>cello</i>)
James Diack (<i>horn</i>)	Angus Watson (<i>violin</i>)	Gillian Steel (<i>cello</i>)
Ben Emrys-Roberts (<i>horn</i>)	Lesley White (<i>violin</i>)	Alison Watson (<i>double bass</i>)
Guy Harvey (<i>horn</i>)	Miranda Wilson (<i>violin</i>)	

Artistic Adviser Penny Dady

Conducted by Angus Watson.

Octet op.20 for 4 violins, 2 violas, 2 cellos

Toy Symphony

Peter and the Wolf

Mendelssohn

Arnold

Prokofiev

The final concert of the season showed the Music Society at its most entertaining. Not only was the standard of performance very high but it was also the only time in the year when non-music masters could display their talent as ensemble players! The evening's entertainment started off with Mendelssohn's Octet which at times sounded much more like a tuned down violin concerto with rather a monotonous string accompaniment than an octet. But to think that these delicious harmonies and splendid themes emerged from a sixteen year old mind is quite unbelievable. The performance kept the light air of the piece and apart from the violin, which seemed to dominate rather too much in the first movement, the balance was good. The Toy Symphony created a completely different atmosphere. Some of the kit which appeared on the stage was completely in keeping with the theme of the symphony. To see the smallest of dulcimers being brought out of a tuba case is amusing but I think all Stoics quite naturally enjoy having a joke at masters' expense, even if they did not see the subtlety of an imitation symphony coming from the midst of this century. With such a lively theme in the Vivace, mathematicians were obligatory from the point of view of tempo, even if their method of playing was somewhat unorthodox.

Peter and the Wolf was also written with childhood in mind but its appeal certainly goes far beyond this stage and the combination of narrative, which suited Mr. Bain's temperament ideally, and the onomatopoeic woodwind parts certainly built up tension. The emphasis in each of the solos was fabulous and the whole piece really came to life. This was definitely a suitable finale to a most enjoyable season.

In the Roxburgh Hall on Sunday, September 28th

OPENING CONCERT OF THE SEASON

Sebastian Bell (<i>flute</i>)	Keith Puddy (<i>clarinet</i>)
James Diack (<i>horn</i>)	Dennis Scard (<i>horn</i>)
Robert Bottone (<i>piano</i>)	Terence James (<i>piano and organ</i>)
Bram Wiggins (<i>percussion</i>)	
Angus Watson and Peter Weight (<i>violins</i>)	Simon Whistler and Elizabeth Watson (<i>violins</i>)
Michael Edmonds (<i>cello</i>)	Simon Carrington (<i>double bass</i>)
Violin Concerto in F ma, "L'Autunno"	Vivaldi
Octet op. 32	Spohr
Quintet for horn and strings, K.407	Mozart
Le Carnaval des Animeaux	Saint-Saens

Vivaldi's Autumn violin concerto very appropriately started off the 1969-70 season with a flourish. The tone throughout had brilliance, though at the expense of intonation, especially in the double-stopping passages; the solo violin, imitating the drunks showing off, was superbly played by Mr. Watson. After a soothing second movement, the ensemble lacked the vitality needed to display the necessary contrast for the Allegro, perhaps because of too slow a tempo.

After this piece of dramatic writing Spohr's little-known Octet was quite a surprise and a mere drawing-room piece which needed all the expertise and well-rehearsed ensemble playing given it to make it alive. The variations on Handel's "Harmonious Blacksmith" were definitely the piece's gem, and the light-hearted abandon given to such a serious theme in the variations made it deliciously ridiculous. The programme was continued with Mozart's Horn Quintet, which, after rather a shaky start, took on quite a different appearance with the silky tone of the horn, played by James Diack. Unfortunately the ensemble fell slightly apart in the last movement and lost what could, and should have been, a remarkable performance.

Last and by no means least came the Saint-Saens. It is surprising how onomatopoeic he has managed to be; wild asses screech, cuckoos make "coocucks" from the balcony and the elephant dances on stage, imitated delightfully by the double-bass. But in my mind the highlight of both this menagerie and the evening as a whole, was Mr. Edmonds' cello solo, the Swan. Nothing could be more graceful or majestic than a swan and this was displayed most admirably with a luscious tone.

In the Roxburgh Hall on Sunday, October 19th

THE SETTLERS

To most Stoics the Stowe Music Society has been in the past something completely to reject on the grounds that it always performs classical music. Nowadays that is no longer the case, and on this particular evening the Roxburgh Hall was overcrowded. The Settlers are something to be experienced to understand exactly what kind of a group they are. It is impossible to label them, and with the contrast between seriousness and exuberance they provided food for every mind present; I do not think that even the most ardent of "squares" could say that this was an unwelcome intrusion into his own Society, if he actually bothered to listen to them. They had that well-polished style which makes the vital difference between a rather amateurish performance and top-class professionalism, but the thing that really made the evening was the atmosphere, which they very commendably managed to attain. The jokes which punctuated the songs went down extremely well and throughout the whole of the second half the audience participation was tremendous. Judging by the number of encores demanded at the end, this form of concert should certainly be promoted here.

In the Roxburgh Hall on Sunday, November 9th.

THE KINGS SINGERS

Nigel Perrin, Alastair Hume, Alastair Thompson, Nigel Beavan
Simon Carrington, Brian Kay with John Pound (*double-bass*)

The Chapel Choir and Choral Society should certainly take a leaf out of the Kings Singers' book. They had a sense of unity which can only be the result of great practice. Unlike precise rhythm and good intonation, expression, general musicianship and tone are gifts that one either has or does not have. The words, which were at times delightful, came over very clearly, as in 'I gave my love a cherry'. Fast passages presented no obstacle, and were sung with as much precision as the slow 16th century motets and madrigals; the bugle calls in the 'Foresters Sound' were masterpieces of accuracy.

A refreshing feature of the concert was the variety of style, and as the programme progressed the music approached the present day, with tongue-twisting Negro Spirituals and the close harmony and amusing words of the Cambridge Footlights revue songs.

Singing of this quality is seldom heard at Stowe and it was a pity that the audience, which seemed to have enjoyed the concert enormously, was not larger.

OLIVER RICHARDS
NEIL WESTON

In the Roxburgh Hall on Sunday, November 16th.

STOWE CONCERT BAND

Conducted by Mr. Wiggins

Homage March from 'Sigurd Jorsalfar'

Overture 'Berkshire Hills'

'Clair de Lune'

'The Great Gate of Kiev' from 'Pictures at an Exhibition'

Slow movement from the Flute Sonata

(D. N. Weston)

Andante Grazioso and Allegro

(D. N. Weston, J. C. B. Lucas, M. B. Creighton, D. H. Longman)

Barcarolle for Woodwinds

(D. N. Weston, J. C. B. Lucas, M. J. Chesshire, D. A. Harper,

M. B. Creighton, D. H. Longman)

'Romanze' from Horn Concerto No. 3

(B. J. Emrys-Roberts)

Trio Sonata in A Minor

(J. C. B. Lucas, M. B. Creighton, Mr. Bottone)

Military Symphony in F

Edward Grieg
Howard Akers
Debussy
Moussorgsky
Francis Poulenc

Joseph Haydn

Virgil Thomson

Mozart

Boismortier

Gossec

School Bands usually have to scrape the barrel to collect enough numbers and so gain quantity of sound rather than quality, but this year the concert started off surprisingly well. The Band was in tune and Mr. Wiggins managed to hold the sections together well. As the different instruments warmed up at different rates, intonation began to falter slightly but nevertheless 'The Great Gate of Kiev' (which is in fact a heap of rubble), sounded very grandiose and stately.

Because the concert had to be moved forward several weeks, the Band had not had time to prepare a full programme, so the next five items were solo and chamber works. D. N. Weston played a movement from the Poulenc Flute Sonata which sounded somewhat analogous to a gently running stream, with good tone, but the Haydn Quartet suffered from the oboe being flat, though the phrasing was imaginative and the bass accompaniment pleasantly light. After the rather odd harmonies of Virgil Thomson, B. J. Emrys-Roberts played the slow movement from Mozart's Third Horn Concerto and although he had trouble with hitting certain notes, the general effect was still there. The last of the solos was Boismortier's Trio Sonata which, though faultless in technique, sounded a trifle uninteresting. All these solos were definitely affected by the cramped conditions at the edge of the stage. The Band itself should have left the stage, as the whole atmosphere was destroyed.

The Military Symphony by Gossec acted as a suitable finale and apart from the general blur of sound coming from the clarinets, Mr. Wiggins brought off a good performance.

QUEEN'S TEMPLE CONCERTS

In the Queen's Temple, Sunday, October 12th

Angus Watson (*violin*)
Robert Bottone (*piano*)

Simon Whistler (*viola*)

Gillian Steel (*cello*)

Piano Quartet in G minor (K478)
Violin Sonata in A major op. 100
Piano Trio in B Flat op. 99

Mozart
Brahms
Schubert

The Queen's Temple concerts have taken on a completely different character for the 1969-70 season, turning from the serenity of Beethoven to Brahms' romanticism. Again the concerts start at 5 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon, when few people are completely awake after their siesta, and perhaps it was rather inopportune that the recital should start with such a somnolent composition as Mozart's Piano Quartet. As always in the Queen's Temple the tone was rich and mellow; the quartet were well together and the intonation was accurate, but until the last movement, when the Quartet took on a more brilliant turn, it was perhaps too weighty a medium in which to convey ideas.

However, the Brahms Violin Sonata came over far better and must have had an effect somewhat analagous to Haydn's surprise in the Surprise Symphony. This was ideally suited to Mr. Watson's technique and the contrast between Brahms' luscious tunes and the viscious strain was most moving. Mr. Bottone played, as always, with much feeling, and the two captured the lyrical quality and Brahms' quick-changing moodiness and despair with the best of their musicianship.

To round off the afternoon's entertainment came Schubert's Piano Trio. The recurring melodies in this work are typical of Schubert's lyrical style and are treated in a wonderful, spontaneous manner that defies analysis. Somewhat like the Trout in its 'feminine' appearance, it came over as a delightfully light-hearted piece of music, but like the music, the performance itself remains better when not scrutinized too carefully and the introduction at times certainly suffered from Mr. Edmonds' unexpected recent illness, especially in the octave passages. With such quality and a varied programme, it is difficult not to look forward to the next concert in the series.

THE GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

We are pleased to report another major advancement in the Gramophone Society—a change over to stereo. This is not yet absolutely complete since most of our present library is only mono. However the Society is at least taking a lead in the School and we hope to influence study-holder members who have mono equipment to change over to stereo soon. Such a move, we think, will not only give greater satisfaction to listeners but will enable us to buy more selectively from a wider range of recordings. The new equipment is very fine and connoisseurs will, we believe, have difficulty in faulting it. We are grateful to Mr. Ridge for all his advice and help on the technical side, and to A. J. Breakspear (C) for designing and building the plinth in which the turntable and amplifier have been housed. Despite this great expense (covered by members' subscriptions) we have also bought 28 new records (mostly stereo) ranging from "Belshazzar's Feast" to "Bird and Diz". Our only plea now is for greater respect from all members in their treatment of the new equipment and records. No record library can hope to maintain high standards and expand more and more comprehensively if records are stolen and damaged in the high proportions they are at present.

D. H. LONGMAN

THE MUSIC CLUB

The Music Club has had a successful term. We have had two good concerts in the Queen's Temple, from which a varied programme was chosen for our return visit to Borehamwood Grammar School, which was a success, and a talk by J. P. A. Methuen-Campbell (T) on Vivaldi, which was interesting, if not always accurate, and showed healthy enthusiasm. An important feature of our second concert was the inclusion of some folk songs played on the guitar and sung by S. D. Moss (B) and A. A. Rich (G). They were much appreciated by most of the

audience, though a few of the habitual reactionaries were heard murmuring about the "principle of the thing"!

The relationship between the average age of the audience at our concerts and the standard of playing is strange. One would think that as the concerts became technically better and of more musical interest, the Upper School members would make more effort to attend. Over the last few years, however, the audience has changed from a senior to a predominantly Lower School one, while the performers have prepared their pieces better and better. It is high time that the senior members became less casual about attending meetings of their own club when they are not performing.

We all regret that Mr. Edmonds, our Vice-President, has been unable to come to any of our concerts this term, as he had an operation early in the term. We all wish him a successful recovery and hope to see him fit and well soon.

IAN RITCHIE

SOCIETY CHAPEL

The most noticeable change in the Chapel this term has been the installation of a new lighting system and we hope that everyone has been outwardly, if not inwardly, illuminated. It was realised for a long time that the old system was inadequate. The new system not only provides generous light but also affords an infinite number of combinations of 'dramatic' effects, including spot-lights for the choir and chancel-steps. The lighting has created a warmer feeling throughout the whole Chapel, especially at evening services, and also shows at its best the beautiful roof, through the use of up-lights. The School greatly appreciates the new lighting.

This term has seen the abolition of Chapel on Monday, enabling the Headmaster to call a School assembly when necessary, without interrupting the daily routine. Lay Chapel has been transferred from Wednesday to Friday, thus giving continuity to the normal weekday readings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Readings this term have included an interesting series on the life of John Newton, the hymn-writer.

Wednesday Chapel, which has for an experimental period been held in the evening during the winter terms, has now returned to its old time of 8.45 a.m., it being generally felt that an evening service was inconvenient.

Remembrance Sunday passed quietly. The service started ten minutes early so as to enable the School to observe the two minutes silence at 11 o'clock. The service included poems by Dylan Thomas and Peter Porter on death and war. One cannot help but wonder how many members of the School really find this service relevant.

The Bishop of Buckingham Confirmed 20 boys on Sunday, 7th December.

Preachers this term have included: Andrew Cruickshank, Esq., The Chaplain of Uppingham School, The Rev. B. D. Reed, M.A., The Rev. D. Fletcher, M.A., G. S. Humphreys, Esq., M.A., and the Rector of Passenham and Deanshanger.

Collections have been taken for: Shelter, Feed the Minds, Stowe Community Service, The Simon Community, The Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, The Carter Foundation, The Earl Haig Fund, Christian Aid, The Richmond Fellowship, an Ambulance Launch in Southern Chile, and the Shaftesbury Society.

Confirmation Retreat

After just over an hour's coach journey we arrived at Felden Lodge and were greeted by Mr. Keable, the Warden, and Roger Crosthwaite, the Retreat leader, whom we were all meeting for the first time. After supper, and for the whole of the next day, Roger gave us a series of talks which were supplemented by records, assorted literature and film strips. We would like to thank him for also spending his time discussing points with us individually, while not forgetting Mr. Keable's great efforts to make our stay as comfortable as possible.

On the whole we thought it was time very well spent, although there was too much to get through in such a short time.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Those who have sat on committees know the sinking feeling when an agenda comes round with more than a few items on it. So much has been happening this term that a glance down the agenda of our last monthly meeting will give as good an impression as any.

1. Minutes of the last meeting.
2. Current and Deposit accounts. Green Shield Stamps.
3. Workshop/Greenhouse/Heater progress report.
4. Transport progress report.
5. Mains water progress report.
6. Almshouses progress report.
7. Christmas Hamper progress report.
8. Old People's party.
9. Redfield—Bring and Buy for Mentally Handicapped.
10. Helping Winslow Mentally Handicapped.
11. Christmas cards.
12. Teaching aids for Mentally Handicapped.
13. Woodcutting/field organisation/notice board publicity.
14. Wardrobe.
15. Any Other Business.

All something of a mouthful, but a number of important aspects of this term's development emerge. The £1,600 or so raised by the Sponsored Walk has been earning more money in the bank while it was decided which projects had priority. A proportion of that has now been spent, and a full pamphlet 'Your Money at Work', will appear soon giving a detailed account of the use it has been put to. In addition to that, Green Shield stamps have enabled us to purchase £170 of tools for our cultivating and gardening jobs. The very generous gift of a cultivator from one parent has been invaluable. The group, again under the ever-willing guidance of Mr. Head, have been preparing for their new greenhouse and potting shed, with concrete foundations laid. Log collecting has been helped considerably since we bought an old Morris van for a few pounds to get right to the sawing area and carry back loads easily to the sacking group.

It has been very gratifying to be able to put mains water into two homes, and water heaters into four homes of old people who have had to stagger to an outside tap in all conditions. We have been employing, too, a retired decorator to help and train three four-man teams, and quite a number of pensioners have had their rooms transformed. Two Monitors have designed and fitted a new roof on a thatchless cottage for an old couple. One boy has been instrumental in stirring the local Council, local builders, and local opinion into long overdue repairs on the Buckingham Almshouses.

Our contacts with work among mentally handicapped have continued after the summer visits to Stowe, and a moped has been bought to enable one or two senior boys to maintain regularly and easily these friendships in the area.

At the moment details for our second Christmas Hamper scheme are being worked out, for distribution among the 80 Old Age Pensioners we now serve. Very sincere thanks to all those who have given for this; and special thanks to the mother who so regularly baked a cake throughout the last year. They have been very much appreciated.

So the term will finish with a Christmas concert for those pensioners well enough to travel out. Thirty-three boys have helped regularly three days a week and a few others from time to time. We now have area managers responsible for co-ordinating work in their district of Buckingham. We hope we have become more efficient; we were certainly encouraged to get a mention in a speech to the Headmasters' Conference from the Director of Community Service Volunteers. He described Community Service here as a 'lay Lourdes'. We certainly do not claim to perform miracles, but have been very conscious of the new scope allowed to us by the financial support of so many. We hope pressing needs can go on being met.

M. P. M. WATSON

C.C.F.

The Navy and Army Sections joined forces for summer camp this year at Renney Lentney, near Plymouth.

The Navy's programme consisted mainly of whaler sailing in Plymouth Sound but with a day on the range and several visits to Naval installations as well. The most popular occupation was the 48 hours each boy spent sailing on a yacht with Mr. Rainer. The help of senior ratings such as U/O. Edwards and P.O. Smyth together with the fine weather contributed greatly to the success of this first venture in running a camp independent of a Naval unit.

The Army Section combined shooting and some military training with more arduous activities. These culminated in a two day exercise on Dartmoor. The first of these was exhaustingly hot, the second in thick fog, bewildering and confusing. Combined they provided a good test for both individual and team.

The Monday Field Day this term again allowed a number of groups to go away on Sunday. A record number including the R.A.F. and most of the recruits camped out. It is planned to continue this trend.

The adventure training camp in March 1970 will be held in Scotland near Loch Lomond. It is hoped that more experienced boys will take advantage of this opportunity of an expedition to an exciting and lovely part of the country.

Various changes are in the wind as always when the broom is new. A new Adventure Wing will be created next term for post-proficiency boys in the Army Section. This is designed to teach a variety of useful, if more civilian, pursuits. A long and largely disapproving eye is being cast on our outdated and outmoded uniform and the programme for boys in their first year at Stowe is under review.

It is my intention to modernise and to some extent demilitarize the Corps. I shall welcome practical and constructive suggestions.

A. J. E. LLOYD

Appointments

R.N. Section: *Coxswain:* R. M. Withinshaw (Ⓔ)
Petty Officer: C. J. Melly (Ⓒ)
J. B. Rainer (Ⓒ)

Army Section: *Under Officer:* M. P. Kayll (W)
C.S.M.: P. J. Lankester (Ⓒ)

R.A.F. Section: *Under Officer:* R. G. A. Westlake (B)

"RISE AND SHINE!"

Nearing the end of our seven and a half hour coach ride I heard one observant Stoic, pointing to a group of about ten Nissen Huts and with a large grin across his face, say to his neighbour; "that's it there!". The coach drew up. His face fell. It was; it was Renney Lentney, the site of this year's Corps Camp and it commanded a fine view over Plymouth Sound.

On Sunday morning we attended a Chapel service at a nearby Naval Base and a revision programme was run in the afternoon. By the end of Monday and Tuesday most people had practised section attacks and patrols and had fired a .303 rifle and Bren Gun on a range at the coast.

On Wednesday morning the R.S.M. boomed out in a large voice, "the General's arrived". The 'General' (short for General Chaos) is a famous McKeownism. In this case it turned out to be prophetic as one of the Corps trucks refused to start!

The Wednesday exercise, for which the importance of a well-organized reconnaissance in the afternoon could not be over emphasised, involved map reading, camping and a night operation. Some intelligence and leadership was necessary to enable it to work properly.

As a contrast, on Thursday afternoon we were given an interesting guided tour of the Plymouth dockyard where we saw the immense *Ark Royal*, amongst other ships of all kinds, some of which were undergoing repair work in the dry docks. The majority of people then took the opportunity of spending the evening in Plymouth.

I think that the Friday/Saturday exercise was the most interesting. Sections were briefed about "an escapee from Dartmoor Prison whose name begins with 'M' and sounds vaguely French" and although they did not really succeed in helping the local constabulary in their search, the practice of walking on a bearing because there is no option proved an effective exercise. On Saturday mist fell like a curtain around each section and faith in the compass became imperative. With the mist came the 'General'. The fact that one section got utterly lost shows that these exercises do provide a challenge.

The Army Section, tired and slightly footsore, returned to meet the Navy, back from their sailing, either in Whalers or watching crimson sunsets from Commander Rainer's 32 ft. yacht, *The Golden Hind*. I am sure that the Navy Section would like to thank him for his hospitality.

Although mist on the Sunday stopped the whalers from being sailed round the R.A.F. rescue moorings, the weather on the whole was good and the wind reached force 3 or 4 in the afternoons.

Despite each section's duty day which was mainly spent in helping the two hard-working cooks, if one realises that Corps Camp is not just intended as a holiday and that some co-operation is required from everybody, it is a worthwhile experience.

NICHOLAS KAYE

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

The training this term has concentrated on the "Physical Fitness" Section of the Award Scheme. Nearly all of the 56 candidates passed at their respective levels and this was the result of hard work on the part of Mr. Hudson who is now responsible for this training.

During Field Day we were on exercise in the Brecon Beacons and apart from a disappointing performance of some Silver Groups the arduous training was most successful.

We are very fortunate in having Mr. Alfred Blake, the Director of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, to address the Upper School on Saturday, 13th December.

R. C. THEOBALD

THE FORESTERS

The term has been marked particularly as the driest October since meteorological records were started in the late 18th century. This has allowed us to be more active than usual.

Our first task was to clear the dense growth of weeds in the new part of the nursery by the Cobham Pillar. The fine summer weather had produced a smothering growth round the young cedars in particular.

At last progress has been made on clearing the view from the Rotundo to the Temple of Venus. Much of the overgrowth on the North side of the lake has been cleared and, most important, the tree roots removed. The small island just offshore can be seen again and a metal enclosure presumably once holding some specimen bush or tree has been uncovered. Final cleaning operations await decisions by the experts on just how the sight lines should run. Land drains have been laid in a wet patch of ground in the centre of the vista and it is hoped this may permit the entire frontage to be mown. When this job is complete and some of the sedge has been removed from the margins of the lake the original view will be restored.

Land drains have also been laid in Home Park, to improve the golf course, and in the entrance to the park from the greenhouse area. The ditching equipment was provided by Messrs. Pollards engaged in building a new masters' house between the Field Houses and that of the Lyttelton housemaster. From the site of this house we have helped to clear some of the young Spruce that had to be sacrificed; many of these have been appropriated as Christmas trees.

A plantation is to be created in part of the large gardens of Vancouver Lodge, in Dadford and we have been digging out a number of old apple trees in preparation for this. The onset of the rain soon made this area so boggy as to be unworkable.

Additional clearance has been carried out on the dense natural regeneration between the Fane of Pastoral Poetry and the head of the Grecian Valley.

Next term should see us back in the Elysian Fields.

A. J. E. LLOYD

THE LIBRARY

This term we welcomed our new Librarian, Mrs. Kerr, as the able successor of Mrs. Hutchinson. Having just taken over as Master in Charge of the Library, I have been very grateful for all that she has accomplished this first term. Tribute must also be paid to my predecessor, Mr. Brian Mead, for his diligent supervision of the Library during the past two years. His deep interest and concern for the Library prompted him, amongst other services, to conduct a comprehensive survey of the School's use of the Library, and also to seek out numerous new titles for the enlightenment of Stoics, present and future.

Nearly thirty books have been added so far this term, covering a wide range of subjects from Dinghy Building to The Dance Language of Bees. It is regrettable, however, that the steeply rising cost of new books has not been alleviated by any reduction in the alarming number of books still missing from the Library.

Gifts to the Library include: 'A Victorian M.P. and his Constituents: the Correspondence of H. W. Tancred' edited by B. S. Trinder, presented by J. S. W. Gibson (W 1952); 'Poems as of Now' by H. V. Kemp (C 1931), presented by the author; 'Selected Poems' by James Reeves (G 1926), presented by H. V. Kemp; and 'The Blanket Makers' by Alfred Plummer and Richard Early, presented by J. J. Riddick (C 1937). Messrs. C. P. Fleming and G. W. Burton and Mesdames H. E. Mueller and M. C. Ferring made the following presentations: 'Illinois Architecture' by Frederick Koeper, 'Chicago's Famous Buildings' edited by Arthur Sieger and 'City in a Garden: Homes in the Lincoln Park Avenue'.

Special mention should be made of the generous gift of Mr. Martin Burke, who has presented to the Library a unique collection of London Theatre programmes covering the years 1868-1911.

Finally a word of sincere thanks to our very efficient and conscientious Prefect of Library, D. E. Reid, and to all the Monitors who have ably assisted him.

H. D. MARCUSE

Prefect of Library: D. E. Reid (G).

Monitors: S. D. Moss (B), N. D. G. Beaman (T), J. Moreton (G), D. J. Walton (C), C. J. Melly (C), A. W. Goodhart (C), N. R. Spurrier (G), A. J. M. Carmichael (W), A. J. Kinahan (L), J. A. J. Roderick (N).

THE XII CLUB

Mr. Edmonds, the President, has unfortunately been ill for the majority of this term. Nonetheless, we have held both meetings as planned, though the second took place in Mr. Bain's room, rather than in the Edmonds's house.

At the first meeting Jan Karpinski (G) expounded on Neo-Nihilistic Apatheticism, his amorality, while at the second David Reid (G) gave us a necessarily truncated History of Anti-Semitism. The third paper is to be delivered by a member, or members, as yet undecided on a subject perforce undisclosed. It is hoped that Mr. Edmonds may be well enough to attend.

The Secretary is leaving. The regrettable result of this fact is that he must relinquish his office. At the time of going to press his successor has not been elected.

RICHARD JEAVONS

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

'This House supports the forces of law and order in Ulster' was the motion of the one and only debate that has taken place since the last edition of *The Stoic*. It was proposed by P. S. H. Frazer (L) and N. J. A. Davies (L) who only just defeated the opposition under J. N. R. Welch (G) and S. R. F. de Burgh (G). On that occasion the floor speeches contributed to a lively and often violent discussion between the members of the House.

The Society looks forward to the forthcoming debate when S. D. Moss (B) and M. M. Wyllie (C) will oppose Mr. M. P. M. Watson and Mr. R. J. Dennien on the question of whether 'this House would rather be suffocated or sterilised'.

The Debating Society, like many voluntary societies, seems to alternate between periods of activity and indolence. Unfortunately, at the moment, for no clear reason, it appears as if it is at a rather low ebb. However there is always hope for a revival in the near future. Once again, many thanks to everyone involved in the Debating Society, not least our President and Chairman, Mr. Arnold.

S. D. MOSS

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

Two papers have been given this term. Mr. Rawcliffe read the first, a study of the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations, illustrated with slides. R. G. G. Carr gave the second paper, which dealt with Greek drama, covering mainly the three great tragedians and Aristophanes. There is a possibility of a paper from the four retiring Classicists, but this is somewhat uncertain as yet, due to post-examination fatigue. Here it might be added that the Society will be somewhat depleted next term, for there will only be one full-time Classicist left in the school. We can only hope for a revival in the future.

S. R. BARSTOW

THE NUCLEUS

The beginning of the term saw the Nucleus with four new members and a new President. Mr. J. R. J. Burley officially accepted his new appointment from Mr. R. J. Dennien, at the first gathering.

Meetings were very scarce in the Summer term because of examination pressures, and unfortunately the same situation arose this term. However the members were enlightened by a talk on China given by R. R. Menzies (G) and also by a well illustrated lecture given by O. Villalobos (C) and M. Boyadjiew (C) in the Lower School on their project, rocketry. We look forward to a talk on printing by H. D. Gibbins (L) towards the end of term.

Here I would like to thank Mr. R. J. Dennien for the work he has done for the club as President, and for his remarkable feats of organisation and perseverance.

N. DOWNING

THE MODERN LANGUAGE SOCIETY

This term has been a very busy one for the Society, with three meetings having already been held and two more to come.

The first paper, given by Chris Kingsland on German Naturalism with special reference to Hauptmann, was promised in an issue of *The Stoic* many moons ago. When at last it did materialise it proved to be an event not to be missed—but which is just what one of our senior members did!

This was followed by Tim Albery's paper on French Naturalism with special reference to Zola. The paper, which had a full audience, was extremely interesting, spoilt only by our eminent President doing his best to refute all the points before they had been made. He later redeemed himself by describing some of Zola's more lurid passages to us.

At the third meeting, attended by all the Upper School linguists, Dr. Merlyn Thomas, an Oxford don, gave us a most interesting talk on the problems he encountered producing Molière's "Le Misanthrope" which some of us saw in Oxford last term. He went on to compare these difficulties with those of putting on "Andromaque", which we hope to see next term, and finished off by answering a host of questions.

We now have two more papers to come. The first by Peter Comber on the Spanish Picaresque, and the last by the secretary on Bertolt Brecht.

JOHN CLARFELT

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Since *The Stoic* last went to press the Society has met three times.

Dr. Henry Meyer-Harting, Fellow of St. Peter's College, Oxford, played us a number of tape recordings from 'The Marriage of Figaro'. He pointed out that the libretto was essentially anti-aristocratic in tone. But Mozart's own sympathies were more with the aristocracy than with the working classes. So Dr. Meyer-Harting showed us how Mozart used the music to make the Count a far more sympathetic and even impressive figure than he would appear to be from the libretto alone.

Mr. Piers Mackesy, Fellow and Senior Tutor of Pembroke College, Oxford, spoke on 'Hawks, Doves, and American Independence'. He suggested that there was a parallel to be drawn between the American War of Independence and the present war in Vietnam. Issues of global strategy were involved at the outset and made it impossible for Great Britain to abandon America without a struggle. The hawks and the doves at Westminster argued over how far the war should be escalated. And, after seven years of heavy taxation, war-weariness resulted in withdrawal. The hawks still wanted to go on. In terms of the strategic situation then developing, said Mr. Mackesy, they may well have been right. Some members of the Society were left with the feeling that we should never have let America go.

Mr. Andrew Rudolph (C 1955), Chief History Master at Repton School, talked to us about 'Lady Nugent's Journal'. He described Lady Nugent's life as a Governor's lady in Jamaica in the early nineteenth century, eating and dancing her way round the island, and, in her own words, 'toadying and being toadied to'. He illustrated his talk with colourful extracts from 'Lady Nugent's Journal', and ended up by showing us some equally colourful slides.

D. J. ARNOLD

THE FOLK SONG SOCIETY

The long overdue revival of the Society took the form of an Open Meeting in the Queen's Temple. The programme, though very loosely strung together, as befits an informal gathering, proved to be a delightful mixture of everything from full-blooded sea-shanties to the quietest of thoughtful laments.

The Pilgrims (Mr. Dobinson and the brothers Donovan) set off with a bang and soon had everyone joining in, as did Mr. Kirk with his 'calypsos'. Kay and Alan Glasby blended their voices superbly to prove once again that theirs is a very musical marriage.

These were the "guest" singers and they did us proud. But just as exciting was the wealth of talent from the school. Andy Rich quickly established a rapport with his audience and he and Stuart McNair proved to be a first class team. Steve Moss' beautiful poetry and singing, Colin McCubbin's dynamic guitar and harmonica 'duet' and John Thorogood's talking blues emphasised the full range of what constitutes good 'folk'.

All in all it was a most successful evening, promising great things for the future. There seems to be no lack of ability in the School and here is an opportunity for anyone who wishes to play, sing or merely listen to relax and enjoy themselves.

R. J. DENNIEN

DANCING

The Upper School dancing class which began on Tuesday evenings last winter under the expert guidance of Mrs. Foley has been started again this term. Every week this glamorous person bravely steers the nimble footed 1st XV through quicksteps, waltzes and other tortuous exercises, and occasionally rewards us with a demonstration of her masterly skill of the Limbo Rock. Once again the cheerful company of the girls from Thornton has inspired our efforts towards better dancing. We would like to thank Mrs. Foley for her valiant efforts, and Mr. Hunt for arranging things in the background.

MICHAEL WYLLIE

THE FILM SOCIETY

The Society met four times this term to enjoy a varied programme of films: "Un homme et une femme", the famous French film with Anouk Aimée; "Never on Sunday"; the Agatha Christie thriller "Witness for the Prosecution"; and finally a double bill of "Mr. Hulot's Holiday" and the short but excellent "Incident at Owl Creek".

TIM ALBERY

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The term has seen the Society again hard at work, both in the now rapidly developing Nature Reserve, and in the lectures and film shows which have been given.

Four films have been shown this term. The first, the extremely competent "Wildlife in Danger", produced for the World Wildlife Fund, was shown after the Society's general meeting in September. On 11th November the Stowe Group of the Young Ornithologist's Club which several members of the Society formed a year ago, showed two R.S.P.B. films of birds in Broadland and Hampshire, both of which were much enjoyed; at the same time members saw a most interesting biography of Peter Scott. A small party went to an open film meeting held by the County's Naturalists Trust, B.B.O.N.T., in Buckingham.

So far one lecturer has visited the Society. Mr. Gordon Osborne from Olney, in North Bucks, who had to postpone his visit from last spring, gave a talk and illustrated it with a very varied and lovely collection of slides. A second lecture is to be given towards the end of the term by Dr. G. J. Mayhead, the Assistant District Officer of the Forestry Commission, who will talk on the work of his organisation.

Small groups of wildfowl enthusiasts have visited Foscoate and five members are shortly visiting Horsey Island, Essex, the home of J. L. Backhouse (T 1969), to see what birds the East Coast has to offer, and to sample the excellent and much appreciated hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Backhouse.

Five members spent a most enjoyable few days of exeat with Mr. Lloyd at the observatory at Portland Bill. Plenty of different species were seen although Merlin proved too elusive despite every effort to find it.

The term has been most successful despite the regrettable demise of one of the Society's greatest former assets, Thursday Societies. A feeling has existed in the past that a Natural History Society must be so narrow in its interests that only the ardent 'bug-hunter' can really enjoy membership. This, perhaps, explains the sometimes rather thin support that the Society sustains at its lectures and films. It does not exist as a 'club for the keen biologists', as one member of the school recently described it, but rather as an institution which, it is hoped, can further interest in a part of our lives which it can be only too easy to take for granted or forget.

The Nature Reserve

Work on the Nature Reserve has been almost entirely restricted to the repair and restoration of the Paper Mill Lake. It was discovered last term that the water was seeping under the con-

crete of the dam and despite some emergency work in July the lake was empty by September. An area of the lake bed immediately in front of this dam was dredged of twelve years' silt and two lorry loads of clay were puddled into the floor. A diversion stream had to be built in order that the area should be 'dry' and this has now been incorporated in the other main development. The overflow which was begun last year has been extensively redesigned and is now to be concreted to form a continuous overflow and to carry the sudden flash floods to which the lake is so prone. This, we hope, will put an end to what has been a long, hard job that has taken the best part of a year. Our next main task is to improve the fencing along a further stretch of the boundary road. Stuart Kingwell has been digging an artificial badger sett in the area and it is hoped this exciting project will be completed during the winter.

M. J. D. MANLEY

J. P. H. SPENCER-COOPER

THE UPPER STYX PROJECT

At the beginning of the term it was agreed that eight trees had to be removed from the Upper Styx area. Certain portions of wire had to be removed in order for this to take place, with the result that the scheduled work for the term could not be started until Exeat. After renewing this wire, the dam at Cook's Monument had to be dug out and relined with clay because the level of the lake had dropped nine inches during the summer. The area around the Grotto was cleared giving a very pleasant view from Season's Fountain of the whole of the upper part of the project.

After finalising the position of the large compound, work began on digging the trenches to accommodate the wire. This compound will stretch across the lake, incorporating a large amount of reeds to provide shelter and protection during the winter holidays. This being nearly finished, it is hoped by the end of term all the ducks and geese will be accommodated in it and with some parts covered in, it should provide warmth, and encourage breeding during the early part of next year.

With the promise of different species of duck and geese next term, a large colony of birds should have been established by the end of the summer.

NIGEL GEACH

THE TROUT HATCHERY

During the year we successfully reared some 500 Brown Trout from eyed ova. There were no losses from disease. Although these Brown Trout developed more slowly than previous batches of Rainbows, they are clearly more suited to our hatchery conditions than Rainbow Trout.

We plan to operate the hatchery on similar lines next year. We are also hoping to obtain some Salmon ova; these will be reared alongside the Brown Trout for purposes of comparison, but the present state of the U.D.N. Salmon disease has complicated our efforts to get them.

David Reid, co-founder of the Hatchery, leaves us this term. We wish him well in the future at Cambridge.

R. W. CASTLE

J. K. R. FALCONER

THE STOWE PRESS

It was hard for us to realise until the beginning of this term how really indebted we had become to Mr. Horne, whose patience and help we had begun to take for granted. After the initial anxiety of trying to find a new master-in-charge for the Press, Mr. Luft bravely accepted the post. He is fast gaining experience and has already discovered some of the difficulties which we come up against.

That the first order of the term was slightly beyond our capabilities was unfortunate, as it caused some worry and delay. However, this did not seem to discourage our new members, especially R. M. T. Gibson (T) who has shown some skill as a compositor.

The work of the older members is still invaluable, especially that of M. G. Dickson (W), to whom operating the machine has become second nature over the years and S. L. Shneerson (T) whose enthusiasm knows no bounds. With their help we ought to be able to face the Puppy Show Programme for the Stowe Beagles, which at the time of writing stands ominously between us and the end of term.

NICHOLAS KAYE

STOWE SOCIETY OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

This term Stowe is losing its first two active bellringers for some time; the present band started a few years ago as a junior society and only now are its senior members beginning to leave. We have trained a number of younger boys to handle a bell, but only one has so far kept up his ringing into the Upper School. The eagerness of two of our learners this term, however, is more promising, and it is to be hoped that they persevere enough to surmount the initial difficulties and contribute actively to the Sunday Service change-ringing.

We have received invaluable help from a Stony Stratford ringer, Barry Eglesfield, who has always been eager to take us out to ring elsewhere and mix with other bellringers from all walks of life.

JOHN THOROGOOD
NEIL WESTON

THE BRIDGE CLUB

The results so far this term have been very encouraging; the Wright brothers in particular have produced some superb bridge.

A pairs competition has been organized this term and it is hoped that some more talent from the junior part of the School will be discovered. Thanks to Mr. Dennien for his continued support of the Club.

Team: W. S. Croom Johnson (T) (Captain), A. D. Shackleton (♣), W. C. Wright (♣), D. R. Wright (C), M. Boyadjiew (C).

Results: v. St. Edward's Won by 28 Imps.
v. Radley Won by 35 Imps.

To be played: v. M.C.S.
v. Ladies of Buckingham
v. Masters

THE LATRUNCULARIANS

Having only played three matches this term, we have not had very much practice, but considerable promise has been shown.

In the first match, we convincingly beat Radley 3-1, with Boyadjiew and Morgan winning quickly. This set us on the right trail, and we then proceeded to beat St. Edward's 3½-1½, even though two of our regulars were missing. We then had a long lapse, until we played Rugby; however they had a very strong team, and we lost 1-3 with only Miller winning his match. Considering the fact that the average age of five members of the team is 15½, we did much better than expected, and if we make an effort to play more often, I am sure it will result in a greater improvement, leading to a very strong team.

The following have represented the School this term:—H. S. Sidhu (G), G. M. I. Miller (C), M. Boyadjiew (C), D. B. G. Oliveira (C), N. J. C. Morgan (C), R. S. Sandu (T), A. C. Peatfield (T).

G. M. I. MILLER



An inlaid miniature cabinet (about 1 foot wide) made in the Workshop by Z. D. Berry



An incident in the Oundle match

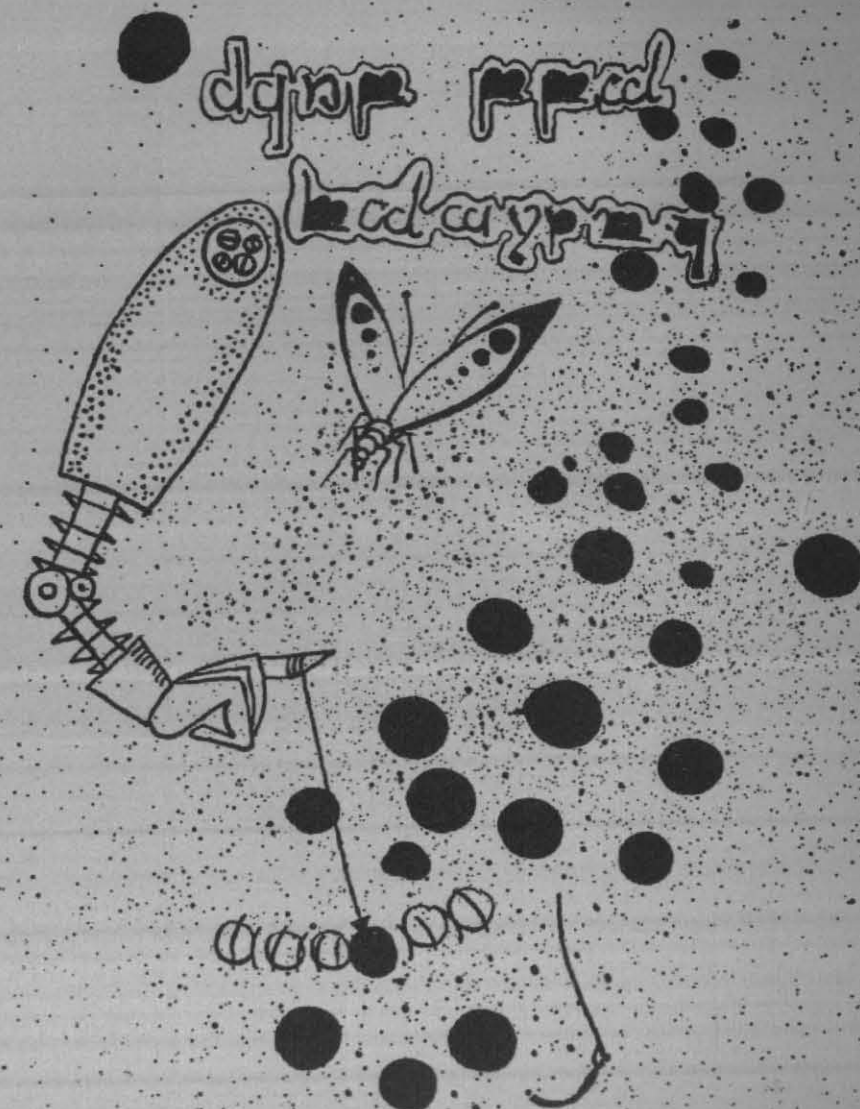
GERM

10



'Andorra' in rehearsal

J. C. Wright



Poetry . Art . Opinion

Talent is that which is in a man's power: genius is that in whose power a man is.

Lowell

POETRY:

MICHAEL WYLLIE

RICHARD CARR

ANTHONY KINAHAN

RICHARD JEAVONS

ADRIAN SELBY

RICHARD SIMONS

TIM HORNER

PETER LINSELL

BOBBY BLAIR

DAVID MACNAGHTEN

MICHAEL MANN

I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree.
Perhaps unless the billboards fall,
I'll never see a tree at all.

Nash

It is true that liberty is
precious — so precious that
it must be rationed.

Lenin

Le sort fait les parents, la choix
fait les amis.
Fate chooses your relations, you
choose your friends.

Delille

The only infallible
criterion of wisdom
to vulgar minds—
success.

Burke

ART:

STEFAN ALSEN

When one finds a natural style,
one is amazed and delighted, for
where one expected to see an
author, one discovers a man.

Pascal

EDITORS:

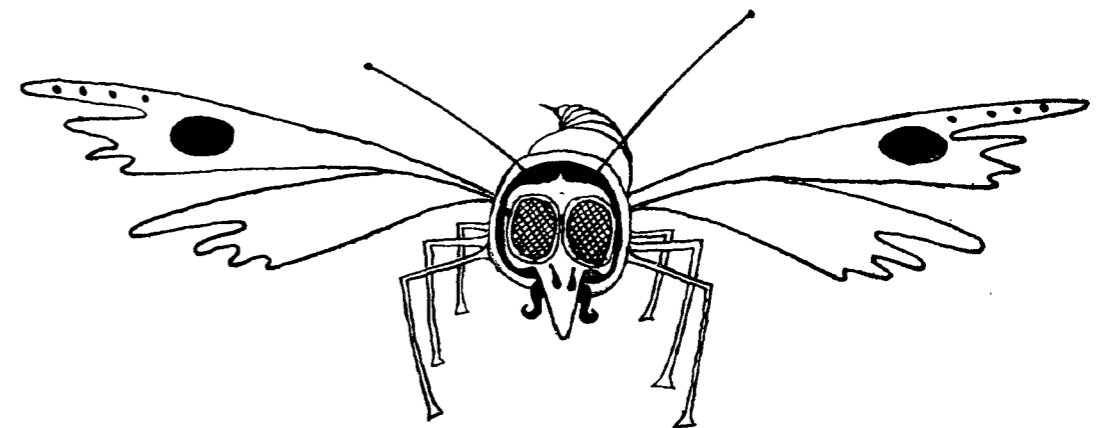
RICHARD CARR

PETER LINSELL

EDITORIAL

Germ exists, not purely as a literary magazine, one hopes, but also as a rostrum from which novel ideas and opinions may be aired. Yet even though one can hear plans for improving the system from many quarters that are sometimes little short of brilliant, articles of constructive opinion are rarely, if ever, entered for *Germ*. As editors the question must soon arise in our minds as to why this is. The obvious cause, and one which is almost undoubtedly genuine, is—apathy; but on whose part? That of the critics? Surely not, or they would never have bothered to criticise in the first place; so now the administration is left under a clinging, but very solid, sheet of apathy. This, to a large extent has come to be accepted and is passed off under the euphemistic (but still derogatory) label of being reactionary. However, this state of mind in itself must have a cause, since surely nobody in any position of authority can be so unimaginative as to have been born with a naturally reactionary disposition. This cause could well have been the storm of destructive and irrational criticism that has raged at times, and which, by its very force, can tend to rob people of their sense of discrimination so that even well-directed and constructive criticism is considered either an hysterical outburst or a deliberate destructive attempt. Both these blocking views, however, are considerably worsted by the slick 'We'll-see-what-we-can-do', followed by a rapid ushering to the door and an admonition to get one's hair cut. That any of these forms of opposition are likely to be met with is a terrible thing and a great loss of freedom but this sad state of affairs can only be remedied by mutual agreement. The people who must make the first move to break this impasse are the innovators, so we urge you to commit your opinions to paper and to *Germ*.

PETER LINSELL
RICHARD CARR



ON WRITING A BOOK

—The agony of loss of subject,
eternal discussion of social impossibility,
high fixes on murdering marijuana,
rejection by houses of publishing.—
All these I have faced writing a book
of my conscience.
Early morning bath, undrugged by
Benzedrine,
breakfast among yesterday's dishes and
images.
Visions of stimulating women flouting
their undesires.
Agony of birth, no magic psalm or
satrap to command my provinces.
Book unfolds before my eyes among
news-flashes and cold lunches.
By supper agony too much, pen dropped
in favour of food.
Meal hurried, chicken and salads
folded down to unhappy digestion.
Change from filthy to clean suit,
spit on shoes, brush hair over balding patch.
Night air drags sense back, sobering
impotent mind.
Searching bars for woman to allow
presence of person, eat her as a main
dish discarding the dessert.
Mad souls rubbing hard against each
other, drawing and ejaculating back
reason and life.
Mad gleam in eye dulled on conception
of child of grief.

Return to flat, muttering, "I've had enough,
the agony is too long, enough, enough."
Psalm of the soul dredging upwards
demands my attention in the closet.
Clear away writing things, fix drink
to revive sweet drug I haven't taken.
Lights seem too strong, everything glowing
around me, driving me to corners of room
like Paul and his road to Damascus.
Landlady screams up that she'll have no further
trouble.
Head slipping and splitting
as coffee dulls the senses.
Bed—thankful return to sanity.

Dawn steals in and draws away bed-covers
last pages of book to rewrite
but I can't.
I scream insults
Goddamning the book
Taking it to hell and back again.
Fix up coffee, drinking it down 'tho
it burns holes in stomach.
—last pages unfold to me, unconceivable syntax,
magic psalms drawing me upwards
praising God and Plato.
Pages disappear
like time on an angry mountain.

MICHAEL WYLLIE

It was I who first held your mother's hand.
Picture both of us wending our way through
creeping undergrowth to plains of our
delight. I understood her ways and came
to love her whims.
One day she left me,
making her way towards the
boughs of wisdom. I watched, sadly
unaware of our approaching doom.
Later she returned, her golden hair
hanging loosely to her breast,
a mad gleam in her eye, how
could I refuse her?
With the apple in one hand,
her body in the other,
we understood
sorrow.

MICHAEL WYLLIE

DISSON

back, When Charon thrusts you
obol-less and phantasmagorical.
A return to the sensual being of
my unwanted, disillusioned, chameleon,
antique existence.
Brashness of fire and
the need of evocation,
continual ual evocation,
but
now
frigid labial induction,
thankful renewal of hope, release from torment,
concentration of expectation.
Past Cerberus, fantastic I immaterialise,
into Charon's steamy punt.
Caesar-like, I cross my
Rubicon, to the Lethean shores.
To my ignorant Sirens,
a Frey to my Gerda,
to my El Dorado,
in ecstasy I attain.
oblivion

I shall never be wrong again.

RICHARD CARR

FOR FUN?

An English cornflake
Singing,
In L.A. (Where the flowers grow?)
near the dead car sea.
Plastic
bodies of auto-mated guerrilla fighters
who died to produce
A Revolution,
which is not a re-bilious needle, death-puce,
or a swing on the wheel
of fortune,
but a change of liberties,
like cards shuffled by the Gods.

ANTHONY KINAHAN

GOSSAMER

Leaves flutter as I go, a twig creaks,
Nonentity passes, shadowless, imageless,
Bypasses the tree, though he
might have flowed thru it,
Through a crackling crowd, no other
"Cogito ergo sum" entity sees him.
Looks down on masses of invisible shadows,
Thinks of Punch's faces, no connexion,
'We are the Hollow men',

Our entity is formed by the age of three,
No singularity from entity-less womb,
We are all responsible thinking machines,
All those around you know they Are, care
for nothing else,
All is egoism. Friendship is inconceivable.
They are the hollow men,
I rule the world, my world,
I am the lizard king.

RICHARD CARR

Jerusalem
A man burnt a mosque.
In Golders Green—
His enemies shrieked curses
(and burnt their toast).
So the bakers sold more bread
And the arabs built a better mosque
Which proves ideas are as inflammable
As toast?

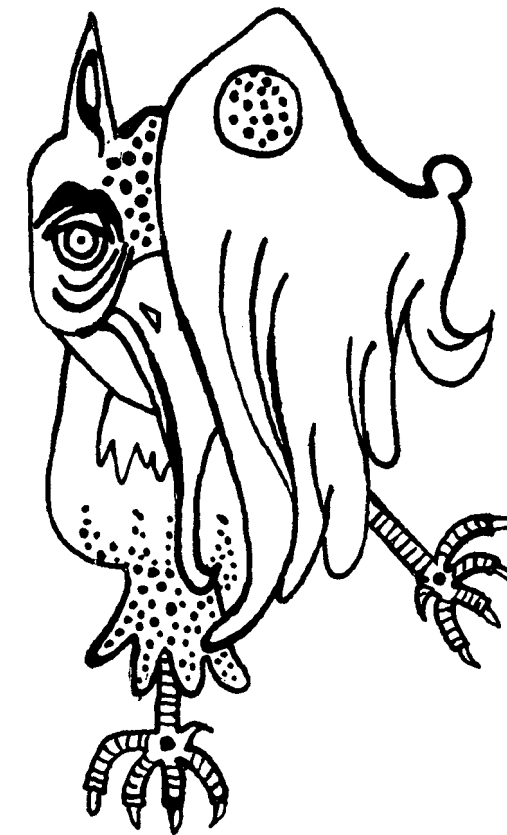
ANTHONY KINAHAN

Paignton beach, 3 a.m. July 30th.

Walking, down the street of the nameless people, and the smell of liquor and sound of honk pianos and the screaming women. The next bar is open and you walk slowly in, practising that gunslinger roll you coveted all these years, maybe you do look hard after all. And suddenly it's midnight and the orange smell of air-conditioning. A tall girl deglues from the bar, and wanders in the direction of the door marked "Pussycats". The barman and his magnificent sweat-iridescent brow shake and seem to melt in the shimmering smoke. The darker corners smell the sweetness of scores and the indefinable stickiness of the happy. The tall girl comes back and props again on the same stool, watching the same empty square of floor. The lenses of the empty glasses concentrate on the drunk blonde and her gin-and-pink lips. The fan whirrs ineffectually on: a new arrival and the unreaction. The spilt beer trickles off the edge of the formica table like the waters of time, and you know, this is the end. The sweat drips off the barman's upper lip into the glass of the too-lined girl in front of him, on the other side of the bar, a thousand lonely miles away.

A sidle beside you, and you turn, and you are looking at the future longing to be past. A nylon-clad and laddered leg reaches out and a voice grips you—you turn to find solace in the pallid ovals that should have been different but never were, the black thrusting tips rock in your hands, and the eternal gift of woman to man hot and sweat to touch. Through salt-blinded eyes your knowledge reaches out to touch infinity and your body explodes, betrays you. Unreaction.

MORGAN MANLEY



PLAINSONG

For the benefit of my future biographers I will here state that what follows is more of a linguistic exercise than a heartfelt plea. It is more of a linguistic exercise. As a matter of fact, you can say what you like about Stowe, but the tantamount fact remains, you can say what you like about Stowe.

Here is a song of public school
Just the right place for me and you;
Only observe this simple rule
Do as the others do.

When on view do as you ought;
Break the rules but don't be caught.
None the less, remorse is fleeting;
Who needs ethics, we've got beating.
Punishment destroys the crime;
We'll absolve you, anytime.

A genius once invented corps
But then forgot to say what for.

Graceless duchy, strewn with temples,
Folly mortalised in stone,
Stocked with tradesman's sons and pinups
Where the priceless pictures hung.
Artificial views surrounding
Artificial aims within.

Chitter-chatter, snigger at her,
Stowe, Stowe, Stowe

I am leaving thee now, I am going,
For the world lays its wealth at my feet,
And I set out on life full well knowing
Thou hast steeled me against all defeat.
Wilt thou change in my absence, my sweetheart,
Shall I know thee no more on return?
Or mayhap thou'lt preserve with discreet art
All those traits that the ignorant spurn.
Probably.

RICHARD JEAVONS

Hating we parted,
and the night was cold.
You left me and wandered
down the street
in your old brown overcoat.

The pain flooded and
I was filled
and I cracked.
Slowly as the tears welled
I bent my back to the wall,
and knelt, my hands in my groin
worshipping an action past.

And shambling towards the crossroads
was my godhead,
fur wrapped, and happy.
And I in the gutter
alone.

Tomorrow again
I will begin, again I will try.
Love is lost, I cannot find.
Everyday I search.
The grave calls a forgotten son.

ADRIAN SELBY

"I really liked that,
you know you gave me something.
And that climbing into bed bit
it was really good,"

And afterwards you said
"Man you were good, where d'you
learn that?"

And I the man
shrugged my shoulders and said,
"oh I've been around,
they come two a penny."

Then you cried and
well I just don't know why.
"Why did you cry?"

"They all say that," said she,
sobbing.

"Oh" said I, "I'm sorry."

"You don't know" said she,
"and you aren't sorry.
I thought and hoped you weren't
another but you're all the same,
all the sixteen year old men
big and strong and bewildered.
Sometimes they cry and I think
that I've found one but
then they remember that they
are men,
and leave."

ADRIAN SELBY

The moon drags on
boring out its orbit and somehow
spinning and turning the tower
grinds the night
the sun went in the rain of the night
as stars fall to a nerve shattering super-x
on the street and the tower laughs
and the gasoline smell drifts from early morning car death
and slowly sinks past the subway
walls and the whore has got an all-nighter

Some of the people are hurrying past the tower
and the bum sleeping with
the fleas in his beard and two
cats drift down acid burbling to stream
pebble floating and people move in restricted expression form
and the sidewalk heat cools
and melting stars do burn
and fleas
and the night is stinking in the city.

Cars come by and smog
burning men throw stones through
cathouse windows
to drown in solid shattered liquid
negro soul brother wanders
and spirits poetry at moon
and queen is knifed in
back alley and somewhere tears run
down to sea love is
gone where men lived wild and
the dog urinates
onto my foot.

The city goes on living and
pulse beats out on brain of
dying man and arm going cold on the
corner the sun is up and
red green blue buses exhale
fumes of gasoline
drift under
the tower arches and the day is going on
to the night the city moves to the beat of my footsteps
stamping the pavement
they cry to the sun to burn them
and the clouds are immature and they play
like sheep
in the dream-blue sky
and coke burbling heads
drift to moon which is boring
out its orbit

ADRIAN SELBY

LOST LOVE

In the abstract, an amusing quality
which old gout-ridden men ridicule
Because they loathe the selves they
were
Green and seventeen.
The grey hair cannot hide from its
young provoker
Stained by a mental blot that spurns
forgetfulness
And comes to taunt the running-down
machine.
In the concrete, my heart makes
romance of its pain
Grimly seeing twenty years ahead
But my soul refuses to acknowledge
this fallacy
The weeping brain shuns relief.
Laughs a little, saying with
diminished foresight:
You took it all much too seriously
Cries a little, sighing:
She was not the one for me.
Under my stillborn flesh, fierce
pride
Urges a distrust in everyone.
Never, never again shall the ego
be confounded
Or tricked with a friendly smile.
In an instant, I lick my wounds
(If they ever did exist)
And betray the whole principle
Through which Saint, Christ, ape,
Have offered love: Pardoning
the one who hurts you most.
On what, what is the subtle
drama based
A schoolgirl, a games afternoon
My God !

RICHARD SIMONS

CLOUDBURST

It was summer in the States
and the signs were out:

PEPSI-COLA
like a great neon primrose,

watered by:

SALEM's
neon cascade.

It was a truly memorable sight.

But then, from the east,
a storm blew up,
and people scurried for cover
as the first drops spattered,

light
on the dark road

turning it grey.

And soon,

with the main rush,

a
stream
was
running

in
the
gutter,

RED , BLUE , and GREEN .

And soon the neon primrose t

u
r
n
e
d to the colour

of a t
le
id blue hydrangea,
w

and
the once GREEN waterfall

looked like the o t S a
N h

in winter.

!!!!!!!!!!!! **AMERICA WAS GREY** !!!!!!!!!!!!!

But the w i n d

chanGED

and Asia got a dose.

Soon the gutters of Moscow were r u n n i n g
as if with BL

O
O
D

And when the rain had stopped everybody discovered
that they were no longer red or white,
just GREY

and there was Peace (whassat???)
in the wOrld.

PETER LINSELL

Isolation, no-man walking.
Late night nigger in the park
Boy no-girl school, waiting.
Time, ever unspinning,
Fading, drifting, always waiting.
Snow, crunching underfoot, keeps
up the beat of your thoughts,
slowly up the hill, look down.
No-people, No-from, No-distinction,
could be anywhere, everywhere.
The wind carrying reality, cold.
Snow flakes, white, innocent.
Downhill run, chase after freedom,
slip, fall, tumble, cold, ice sharp.
Girl walking through trees,
white coat, innocent, deceptive,
Man going to meet her, snow,
wind, reality, town-park, 12 o'clock.

TIM HORNER

No. 25

With the record eternally
spinning
being played with a flint styles
and a man eating nine by eight
biscuits dipped in a lake of tea,
and God lying in a cave
and maggots
eating his flesh and turning into
glow worms, on a never ending trip
through eternity.
And a girl, naked, sitting in
a shop window as blind
men tap their white sticks down
ever open man-holes,
and there is a man in my head
who has a file and he
is trying to file through the bars
which are imprisoning me—
one day he will use
a razor blade.

TIM HORNER

A WALK

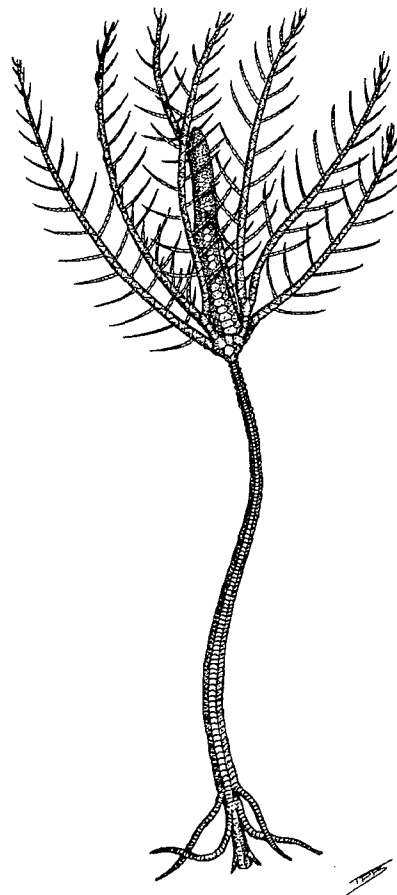
The blackbird lies there
With it's brains beaten out,
A swarm of flies, feasting,
The blood, congealed, stinking.
The young child, screams
From behind a tree;
The mad killer, treads quietly
Over invisible sticks and
Seeing the bird he laughs.
The child screams again,
I wait,
The child tired of screaming
Slots the needle into her arm;
The mad killer runs off
Looking for another victim,
The child, floating now,
Comes across to me, and
Starts to explain, why . . .
The story is long, and old,
And as I grow tired,
Of waiting,
I run off after the bird,
Wielding my stick in the air.

TIM HORNER

An eternity, a second,
Through time, a passing glimpse
Of a truth, too large to comprehend,
An inner certainty, an impression.

The shadows brush your naked face,
Your eyes downcast, though the night
Is dark even in our minds. Your body
Here, time forsaken, young yet boldly old.
Our minds follow our bodies, in a fusion
Of a world, in this moment we know,
What and why, but we can't remember.

TIM HORNER



UNIVERSAL NOSTALGIA

Forget yourself,
Sit there,
Let the world pass you by.

Remember those days you want to remember . . .

. . . those days in the long grass,
those fading afternoons long gone by . . .

Drift away . . .

you're young again
you think you can fly,
but a mirror betrays
heaving bags
under those
once-blue eyes.

CHRISTOPHER DAVIS

SWITCHBACK

I was wrong,
he died
at 6d. a word
and 4/6 a line.

Mathematician—
find your own
way of loving things, but leave this one
as a statistic.

The Star
shines on him,
a translation of him—
and the translation
of the wind's tide
stealthily
creeps across his flaming page
in a murmur
shimmering
over the epitaph.

CHRISTOPHER DAVIS

WHEN I WAS FOUR

When I was four
I thought I was a great guy,
I drove my toy lorry
Into a wall,
Shot the nextdoor neighbour
With a rubber arrow,
Killed all my toy soldiers,
Then my mother would
Always come and tell me
It's time to go to bed.

BOBBY BLAIR

If I stopped writing
to think a little now,
Maybe someday
I'd be a better guy,
Lose my rashness,
Gain a little confidence,
Keep thinking till I die.
When that comes
I'll stop thinking,
Wish I'd started writing,
Too late now,
I'll be writing with a chisel
On my grave stone,
Angels looking down from heaven
Coming down to fetch me
In a day or two,
That's what I'm thinking
And writing about.
Too late now.

BOBBY BLAIR

OPINION

Seeing the turmoil and uncertainty that plagues the State Education System one might suppose that any independent alternative would have an open market. The fact that this is not so cannot be attributed to a lack of sufficient money in the hands of sufficient people; the money is there if people can be persuaded that it is worth paying. Why is it, then, that the Public Schools are not attracting more clients? I would suggest the reason is that they are not setting out to provide either what modern society needs or wants. It is the central aim of Public Schools to produce 'decent' 'straight-up-and-down' 'chaps' with 'acceptable' opinions. The reason why they do not in general achieve this end can readily be seen in the system of discipline. School rules are straightforward things; if you do X and are found out, someone will punish you. No mention is made of the possibility that X is inherently wrong. Hence, if one does not walk across the grass, one refrains for fear of being punished rather than for fear of damaging the grass. Not surprisingly, the general attitude is that the only reason why one should not do X is that someone will punish you. This principle is commonly applied in all seriousness to any and all actions. I would question a theory of 'decency' which advocates doing whatever one can get away with. This attitude might, doubtfully, be acceptable in a school if the policing system were efficient. In the wide, wide world, however, one no longer lives so immediately in the shadow of a flexed cane, and ethics of some sort become more than an optional extra. The Public School system owes much to the assumption of Plato that in a just and hence good society the common man "should get up, or move, or wash, or take his meals . . . only if he has been told to do so." Society has changed its principles, and, if education is to be a preparation for life, then the Public School system must change correspondingly. Furthermore, it is far from clear that a school which sets out to produce the architects and executors of society should aim to mould its inmates' thoughts to any fixed pattern at all. It is surprising in a school which so prides itself on being enlightened as Stowe that this fact has not been acknowledged. The dinosaurs died out because they were unable to adapt to a changing environment. Our environment is changing extremely rapidly, and, if we are to adapt successfully, we need Socratic gadflies to stimulate us. The Public School system, in its role as educator of the few, should aim at encouraging these functionaries. At present it merely ineffectually attempts to suppress them.

The other main demerit I see in the Public School system is one that will attain its chief importance in the future, albeit the foreseeable future. Examination results are going to become steadily more important in society, and a school must do its utmost to ensure that its pupils pass the necessary examinations. Nonetheless, the Public School system must offer something over and above this specialist education in order to justify its expense. What is wanted, and what it must offer, to an even greater extent than at present, is a general education. An understanding of the principles of politics and economics, as well as those behind logic and the persuasive use of emotive language, is a highly valuable asset, and decreases substantially the ease with which one's future leaders are duped. As time is so limited, the achievement of these aims is liable to clash with certain of the more traditional Public School activities. It would be encouraging to be able to note that educational concerns were able to take precedence over games and corps as a matter of course, rather than as a grudgingly granted privilege.

There are clearly objections to certain other aspects of Public School education. Compulsory chapel distorts and discourages religious belief; personal fagging is degrading to one party and degenerative to the other. These are, however, only aspects of the wider problem of the acceptability of the Public School ethos. The question before those who consider sending their sons to Public School is simply this: "Are the attitudes of Plato, on which the Public School is so largely based, still applicable in a world which has developed a character entirely inconceivable and alien to Plato's thought?"

RICHARD JEAVONS

Cold steel to take a man's life
Well, maybe the bullet's hot
But it was cold,
And the twelve cold holes
That are to kill a man,
Just remove his life
And hopes to wipe
The slate clean.
The officer gives the order
But does he care
He's acting cool and efficient
But he's not the one
being shot.
The soldiers are sweating
Not from duty
But from the sun.
 So this is how
A man's life was disentangled
Just thirteen cool persons
And him
 No kiss goodbye
 No farewell

DAVID MACNAGHTEN

It was warm down there on the sand,
on the open sand by the few blue boats
and the tall wispy grass.
She lay beside me and her legs were
mellow like a lick of honey.

It was warm down there on the sand,
and she slept, her eyelids shut
and her mind elsewhere.
For there we lay with the grass rustling by
and no one but ourselves to see us die.

It was warm down there on the sand,
hands warm, skin alive to the
slow moving grass as it brushed us by.
Legs kissed among the grass
as we wandered down to the waves and the slow moving sky.
For here was the sea and here we must die.

MICHAEL MANN

DEATH ON THE ROADS

Death grinned
And showed her
Scaly face
To the window
And then stood
Admiring the living
Who will die
On the roads.
Death smiled
At her own handiwork
Strutted round the crash
And remembered how
They lived
 And thought
How nice they looked
In death.

DAVID MACNAGHTEN

SING . . .

Sing softly to my soul,
The wind sings.
Sing that it may hear.
The air softens with rain.
Sing softly to my soul,
I sit and watch.
 Make all my sorrows disappear.

The first drops conjure themselves onto the glass.
Sing . . .
They multiply and run pathways down the pane.
Sing softly . . .
Fluid joins. Smoothly, cleanly down it washes . . .
 . . . my soul.

There is dust in the stream, grey dust.
It makes a silver path.
No, not dust, ash.
The stream is ash, black ash.
What was light, is dark.

The pane dissolves into ash, black ash . . .
 . . . my soul.

The singing wind moved the small pile of ash,
Which when dry, was silver.
Soon it had blown away—and the wind sang on.

Sing softly to my soul,
Sing that it may hear.
Sing softly to my soul,
Make all my sorrows disappear.
 —and the wind sang on . . .

PETER LINSELL



SPORT

This has proved to be a term of mixed fortunes in the world of sport. The rugger team has failed to win a school match, but the squash team has extended its unbeaten run to a total of 26 school matches. Though the rugger team was not in the end successful, yet in almost every match it was leading at least until half-time, if not longer, and then proceeded to collapse. It was as if they could not believe that they might actually win a match. Somehow Stowe did not, or so it seemed from the touchline, appear to be comfortable when they were in the lead. Unfortunately this attitude has tended to extend throughout the rest of the School, and it has been something of a red letter day when either the Junior Colts or the 4th XV's managed to win a match. Though we are obviously going through a bad patch in rugger at the moment, as happens at one time or another to any school, yet the fact that every team has been unsuccessful points to something more than a lack of talent. It has many times been said of Stowe that its attitude tends towards the lethargic. Is it because of some underlying taint of this that the 1st XV, although it has done its apparent best, has not achieved success?

Next term is the hockey term (or supposed to be though the weather man may not agree). We have five players left from last year's 1st XI, and it is the turn of Mr. Longhurst's unbeaten Junior Colts to try for the side. Thus there is no lack of talent. It is within the natural capacity of this team to be unbeaten next term. But if the same disease as seems to have hit the rugger continues its work, it will be a mediocre side at most. Here is the opportunity to show that Stoics do not lack determination, stamina and, most important, the will to win. It is up to the hockey team to prove that success can crown a team, as well as the more individualistic players of the squash side, though their strength lies in their unity, and so to infuse the other teams with their confidence.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

THE FIRST XV

It would be wrong to write off completely a season with such poor results, although it has been a major disappointment. It is true that the side has included seven members of an age-group which at junior levels in the School achieved considerable success, but success at the senior level requires more than just one such talented group to give the necessary depth and experience, while with them there has always been one crucial lack—that of a natural fly-half. The XV was not a bad one, but at times it has played badly; it was capable of moments of skilled and constructive rugby, but it was also liable to the most elementary lapses, especially in defence. It has consisted of players each of whom one would expect to win a 1st XV place in a normal year, but there has been no one member capable by his own qualities of raising the whole team's performance.

Playing in a circuit which allows no breathing-space whatsoever (and in which, for instance, Oakham have now achieved complete par), fulfilling an inter-school fixture list which is longer and therefore more arduous than in Stowe's experience, we have encountered an unprecedentedly long dry autumn which has been to the disadvantage of a struggling team and which has seen our vulnerable defence exploited cruelly: the weather and recent law changes go a long way to explain the margin of our defeats. At the time of writing we have experienced a wet ball only once and that was in a club match.

Within ten days of the beginning of term we faced an experienced Radley, whose greater weight and physical strength won them superiority up front; we might well have been on terms at half time but had conceded three penalty goals and as the game wore on, our cover defence wilted, only sterling tackling by Nicholl at full-back keeping the score within bounds. With Oakham we had a scrappy game which ended in an unbelievably unrepresentative score: blunders outside allowed our opponents to race away from their own '25' three times in the last quarter-

hour to register three goals. Haileybury, whom we played for the first time, proved an expectedly hard nut; we took the lead but could not hold it against fierce loose rucking and hard running. The Old Stoic match then intervened and did something to restore sadly needed confidence, but meeting the harder steel of school opposition in Bedford and St. Edward's we once again showed that for most of a game we were their equal, only to relax our efforts fatally for short periods; both of these schools gave us lessons in the determination of their rucking, but Blair Imrie showed us what he was capable of when given room to run. Exeat gave us a breather before we took on Rugby whose powerful threequarter line had just scored 40 points against Cheltenham; they won enough ball in the first half to bewilder our defence—partly by sheer speed—but in the second half we found new life and launched a storming rally which ought to have brought more than one score. So we visited Oundle with no success behind us, but for half the game proceeded to outplay the home side, winning plenty of loose ball from a highly reputed pack and securing a six-point lead in the second half; once again defensive lapses followed, conceding eight points in three minutes, and the final score just did not reflect the pattern of the game nor the excellent work of our forwards. The final bitter twist to the season was the fact that our last two matches—against opponents with very unimpressive records—were cancelled through frost, thus depriving us of possible wins so long awaited.

Throughout a term of tribulation and downright disappointment Nicholl has proved a steadfast captain; a talented full-back, he unselfishly moved to fill the fly-half position for want of any other acceptable candidate (itself an indictment of the School's resources) and despite his comparative slowness off the mark became a competent link and tactical kicker—he certainly added stability to a brittle side. Into his place stepped Withinshaw, a courageous tackler and a sound fielder of the ball but too easily caught in possession when pressure built up. The mid-field players—Comber, Cobb and Wright—all ran well at times but rarely developed any real rhythm or cohesion, partly because they lacked technique and partly because there was no truly creative player anywhere outside the scrum; too often they ran diffidently and the unreliability of their tackling allowed critical scores against us. Blair Imrie seized his few opportunities in attack and scored as good tries against school opposition as any recent Stowe wing; with an elusive outward swerve and genuine speed he was able to beat any cover. His talents helped to underline the lack of constructive play in midfield. At scrum-half Parkinson inevitably suffered from following in more illustrious footsteps, but he made a sturdy and workmanlike contribution and though lacking speed he made a number of scoring breaks; his limitation has been that he has been unable to create openings when the pressure was on, though to be fair he rarely enjoyed good possession. As an instep kicker he has contributed some useful points with a welcome consistency.

The pack has lacked any real weight or height but for all that has never compensated either with fire or with technique. One contributory factor has been the proneness to injury of Ireland, a strong prop with above average technique, but the fact remains that the lack of relish for physical contact has been as noticeable in the rucking as in the tackling. Only a few of this pack were ready to commit themselves to a game with the wholeheartedness essential to successful rugby. That having been said, Diesbach and McCubbin have always tried hard, Croom-Johnson has proved himself as good a hooker as any this season despite having little effective shove to help him, and Crabbe has on occasion shown the fieriness of which he is capable. Behind them the back row comprised much talent but until recently not the concerted ruthlessness required: Keal was one of the few uninhibited tacklers and foragers in the side; Shirley-Beavan took to his new position enthusiastically and showed great potential there; Thomson started diffidently and remained eccentric in his positioning but nevertheless has recently made increasing contributions, both in attack and defence, as a player with his gifts certainly should. In conclusion, one would like to reiterate many points made in last year's report: to live in the face of present-day school competition thorough and effective practice, often of apparently elementary and repetitive aspects, is a pre-requisite. This cannot always be interesting nor even to pretend to be and any player must be prepared to accept this; the greatest enjoyment to be gained must be well-earned success. As a school we have for some years now been bedevilled by the frequency of injury to members of the XV, a frequency well out of proportion to normal experience; whether this is the simple bad luck it appears to be at first sight is question-

able—certainly, recovery from injury is something which can be accelerated by the individual's approach, mental and physical. The contribution of rugby to character-building is largely a fallacy, but school rugby is an interesting illustration of the school's composite 'character'.

Team: R. M. Withinshaw† (G), D. A. H. Wright* (T), A. W. P. Comber* (G), M. H. R. Cobb† (W), H. A. Blair Imrie* (C), R. E. T. Nicholl* (L) (Capt.), J. E. S. Parkinson* (W), J. N. R. Diesbach* (B), W. S. Croom-Johnson† (T), D. A. G. Ireland* (B), C. J. McCubbin* (C), A. S. Crabbe† (C), I. A. Thomson† (C), M. E. Shirley-Beavan† (G), A. C. Keal* (B).

Also played: P. S. H. Frazer† (L), P. M. Guest† (B), V. G. Jenkins† (B), S. A. McNair† (G), S. M. B. Dixey† (G), A. G. Henry† (C), M. J. D. Manley† (T), D. E. Richards† (W).

*** 1st XV Colours † 2nd XV Colours ‡ 3rd XV Colours**

Results:	v. London Scottish	(Home)	Won	23—11
	v. Radley	(Away)	Lost	11—32
	v. Oakham	(Home)	Lost	9—24
	v. Haileybury	(Away)	Lost	5—21
	v. Old Stoics	(Home)	Won	17—0
	v. Bedford	(Home)	Lost	8—14
	v. St. Edward's	(Home)	Lost	8—16
	v. Rugby	(Home)	Lost	5—27
	v. Richmond	(Home)	Lost	13—15
	v. Oundle	(Away)	Lost	6—14
	v. Cheltenham	(Home)	Cancelled	
	v. The Leys	(Away)	Cancelled	

Inter-School Matches: Played 7; Won 0; Lost 7; Drawn 0.

THE SECOND XV

The list of results makes sad reading. If scores have any significance, 214 points were gained by opponents, and 27 (six tries, three penalties) by Stowe. Sad also is the reflection that the majority of the points scored against the team were gained in the second half of the match. The familiar pattern in matches was a spirited and encouraging start by Stowe, but then after half-time the opponents would soon establish themselves as the winning side.

Something, however, should be said in mitigation. Injuries resulted in an ever-changing side, especially in the threequarters. Often the team was confronted with a far superior side, as was the case at Oundle, and their readiness to tackle under such adverse circumstances deserves much praise.

This has been a team that has learnt to defend courageously, but seldom to attack convincingly. The three-quarters have lacked penetration, whilst the forwards have failed to gain possession, apart from in the line-out play. Amongst the backs, special mention must be made of the tackling determination of Burdon, Brough and Groves, whilst Brain at scrum-half never failed to worry the opposition. In the forwards, it was the back row men, Dixey and the burrowing Moyle, that looked consistently menacing, whilst Frazer as captain both by voice and example spurred on the side right up to the final whistle.

Perhaps it is fitting to end on an encouraging note, the draw against Wellingborough's first team. This was a match played under the most appalling conditions of wind and rain. But from start to finish Stowe displayed an admirable zest and will to win, and the potentially superior opponents were never permitted to appear at all comfortable. It was a glowing illustration of the fact that spirit and determination can amply compensate for lack of ability in a rugged match, whilst support on the touch-line also makes an appreciable difference.

Team from: S. J. Brough* (L), O. P. Croom-Johnson (T), A. E. How* (C), A. J. M. Carmichael (W), A. S. R. Groves (B), R. G. G. Burdon* (C), J. G. Rowe (C), H. C. A. Robinson (C), A. G. Henry (C), S. A. McNair* (G), M. J. Brain* (T), J. P. W. Yerburgh* (B), P. S. H. Frazer* (L) (Capt.), D. J. Wiley (C), C. J. Kingsland (B), S. D. Moss (B), P. H. Guest* (B), I. N. Macmillan (C), R. D. G. Carter (L), R. W. Moyle* (B), D. E. Richards (W), S. C. Broad (T), M. J. D. Manley (T), S. M. B. Dixey* (G).

* Awarded 2nd XV Colours.

Results:	v. Radley	Lost	0—17
	v. Kettering G.S.	Lost	0—38
	v. Old Stoics	Won	15—13
	v. Bedford	Lost	3—19
	v. St. Edward's	Lost	3—23
	v. Rugby	Lost	0—35
	v. Wellingborough G.S.	Drawn	3—3
	v. Royal Latin School	Lost	0—28
	v. Oundle	Lost	3—39

THE HUNDRED

Towards the end of the season it became a matter of raiding the Leagues to make up the two teams. A word of thanks should be said to the League gentlemen who performed most splendidly. Unfortunately, the need to make up the injured from the Fifty and the effect of a semi-liberal regime never allowed the same fifteen players to practise together twice. No one combination of players was ever repeated. Many individuals played well, but as a team neither XV ever really worked properly.

A special word is required for Shackleton whose play was always a fine blend of aggression and intelligence. He would often appear, like a bog-wraith from amidst the muddy chaos ready to start a good movement. He set a fine example, as Captain, of how to play this game well.

Teams from: S. C. Broad (T), A. J. M. Carmichael† (W), R. G. G. Carr (C), R. D. G. Carter† (L), M. J. Cheshire (C), M. B. Creighton (G), O. P. Croom-Johnson (T), L. P. Dalton (C), N. J. A. Davies (L), J. O. Deutsch (C), E. M. Dweck (C), R. L. Edwards (B), D. D. Gamborini (C), A. W. Goodhart (C), A. S. R. Groves† (B), J. A. Henniker (C), A. G. Henry† (C), P. M. G. Hudson (T), J. A. Jewell (C), D. W. Jones (C), G. D. Jones (C), G. H. Josselyn (T), J. W. Kennon (G), G. Klonarides (T), P. J. Lankester (C), A. J. McGregor (C), C. J. Melly (C), S. D. Moss† (B), J. K. Nelson-Smith (C), C. J. Pearson (G), H. C. A. Robinson (C), J. G. Rowe† (C), W. N. Russell (B), B. B. Scholfield (G), A. D. Shackleton† (C), J. M. Spanton† (T), J. R. Trelawney (C), C. J. Walton (W), P. W. Warburg (C), C. J. Wiley (C), D. R. Wright (C), W. C. Wright (C), M. M. Wyllie (C).

† Awarded 3rd XV Colours

Results:	v. Kettering Grammar School 2nd XV	Won
Third	v. Old Stoics	Lost
	v. St. Edward's	Lost
	v. Wellingborough G.S. 2nd XV	Lost
	v. Towcester G.S. 1st XV	Lost
	v. Oundle	Lost
Fourth	v. Bedford	Lost
	v. St. Edward's	Lost
	v. Towcester G.S. 2nd XV	Won
	v. Oundle	Lost
	v. Cheltenham	Won

THE COLTS

For the side that had lost every match except one at Under 14 and Under 15 level, there seemed little hope, and, except on the rarest occasions, none was given. Disaster was caused more often than not by poor scrummaging followed by pathetically weak tackling. No amount of inter-change of position did anything but bring temporary relief. The last ten minutes against both Oundle and Cheltenham showed what might have been if there had been even the slightest determination or guts shown before.

M. J. Guest (B) was at his best as an attacking full-back. M. H. C. Anderson (C) was rarely given a chance to show his speed, but, forced almost continuously on to the defensive, his tackling did show some improvement. C. C. R. Hawes (G) and B. B. Smart (C) eventually proved the least ineffective combination in the centre and M. W. Sherwood (L) when given enough room and not too vast an opponent, did run hard. Yet never once would a defeat have been so heavy, or even have occurred at all if the backs had shown a willingness to tackle hard.

M. A. Watson (C) and D. A. Harper (C) shared the Captancy, but neither was able to drive the forwards or to hold the side together when things were going badly. N. Daniels (C) made valuable breaks in the loose, but almost invariably failed to finish it off, normally through lack of support. S. R. A. Watts (C) and D. E. Sharafanowich (C) occasionally showed strained but sluggish sparks of fire.

Teams: M. J. Guest (B), M. H. C. Anderson (C), C. C. R. Hawes (G), B. B. Smart (C), M. W. Sherwood (L), W. S. Brann (T), C. E. Sidi (C), S. R. A. Watts (C), R. J. McDonald (C), R. T. N. Ferguson (W), M. A. Watson (C), D. E. Sharafanowich (C), D. A. Harper (C), N. Daniels (C), A. W. G. Reed (B).

Second P. R. Granger (C), J. C. Staib (T), M. G. Flawn-Thomas (G), M. C. Bailey (C), J. D. Boles (C), S. N. Phillips (L), M. H. Prescott (C), J. C. Hershman (B), D. H. P. Luddington (C), M. F. W. Platt (C), C. J. Leyland (B), R. G. Melly (C), R. H. Steavenson (C), O. C. Hoskyns (C), J. D. A. Nicholl (L).

Also played: S. M. Raw (C), S. J. Kennedy (C), M. D. Kneeshaw (B), C. J. Witts (C), N. G. E. Hawkings-Byass (C), S. J. H. Taylor (C), G. R. Ratcliff (L), S. P. J. Potter (C), D. A. Snelling (C), J. F. C. Scuse (C), R. S. Greenwell (C), O. W. Richards (L).

Results:	v. Oakham	Home	Lost	13—25
First	v. Radley	Away	Lost	3—20
	v. Haileybury	Away	Lost	3—41
	v. Bedford	Home	Lost	8—17
	v. St. Edward's	Home	Lost	0—35
	v. Rugby	Away	Lost	0—41
	v. Oundle	Away	Lost	0—31
	v. Cheltenham	Away	Lost	9—40
	v. The Leys	Home	Lost	3—15
Second	v. Radley	Away	Won	17—5
	v. St. Edward's	Home	Won	13—9
	v. Cheltenham	Away	Lost	0—27

THE JUNIOR COLTS

J. J. G. Dawes was the first person chosen as Captain, but he went ill before the first match, and his place was taken by fellow Lytteltonian Tucker, and he held it for the remainder of the season. He drove his men hard both by example and command and they responded well to him—and he cannot be blamed in any way for the defeats which came our way. The forwards were a physically larger pack than is usual at this level, and for this reason it was not surprising that they were relied on to a great extent to win the games. The front row of Davidson, Guilford and Ashcroft was good, and Guilford proved a fine hooker in addition to popping up all over the place in support. The remainder of the pack was Dawes, Fatharly, Laird Craig, who was particularly effective, Spencer-Thomas and Tucker. They mostly worked well together and the close passing was good. The main criticism of their play as a whole was that it tended to be rather unimaginative. Paltenghi at scrum half showed great courage and determination, and was always to be relied upon to give a good service from the base of the scrum. D. G. Lucas eventually established himself as stand-off, and improved greatly as the term went on. His tactical kicking needs greater thought, but time is on his side if he wants to get on in the game. Ireland was undoubtedly the most dangerous player we had as far as the opposition is concerned. He scored most of the tries through his speed and general ability. If he really wishes to become the star player in a future 1st XV, he certainly has the ability to do so. Jackson did not want to play as a wing threequarter at first, but towards the end of the season he realised that he was quite good in this position and began to play some good games. Davis and Elliott in the remaining threequarter positions played some quite good games and improved their tackling. They always tried their best and should improve further as they

progress in the School. Lynch at full back was always fearless and he kicked well. His main fault was that he was a little too adventurous on occasions and tended to get caught with the ball when trying to initiate an attack from an unwise position. Nevertheless he was most reliable. All in all it can be said that this team tried hard and should in time become a good basis from which senior teams can be selected, especially if they think more about the game in the meantime.

The 2nd XV contained some able players—not always the case at this level—and they tried their hardest to win their matches.

Teams: S. A. Y. Lynch (T), M. J. H. Jackson (C), H. C. Davis (L), N. R. T. Ireland (B), I. D. Elliott (C), D. G. Lucas (G), J. C. Paltenghi (C), N. M. Davidson (C), J. P. Guilford (L), M. C. Ashcroft (C), J. J. G. Dawes (L), S. P. Fatharly (T), A. H. Spencer-Thomas (W), A. J. Tucker (L), C. N. Barbour (C), J. N. S. Bagshawe (L).

Second from M. G. P. Rossdale (L), J. C. N. Beaumont (C), R. A. Pilcher (B), L. A. Olver (C), M. D. Linnell (L) (Capt.), J. N. Harrisson (C), R. M. Seccombe (B), A. J. C. Ritchings (W), G. E. G. Riddick (W), D. M. E. Heathcote (C), R. J. Blair (W), R. M. Donner (C), D. J. L. Robinson (C), S. J. Martin (C), S. I. Allen (C), M. E. Harrison (L), S. S. Grant (C), T. Boutros-Ghali (C), A. Shand Kydd (C), R. S. Danzig (C).

Results:	v. Oakham	Away	Lost	0—12
First	v. Radley	Home	Won	17—3
	v. Bedford	Away	Lost	9—16
	v. St. Edward's	Away	Lost	3—21
	v. Rugby	Home	Won	3—0
	v. Oundle	Away	Won	11—9
	v. The Leys	Home	Won	16—3
Second	v. Radley	Home	Won	23—6
	v. St. Edward's	Away	Lost	6—18
	v. Oundle	Home	Lost	6—21

THE UNDER-FOURTEEN XV

After initial practices this term it became obvious that the strength of the side was to be in the back division. Harper, Reid and Graves constituted a formidable mid-field triangle. Their size alone would have carried them through all but the most determined tackling but they proved to be competent footballers as well. However, the best laid schemes After the first two games which were won comfortably and well, injuries prevented a full strength side again taking the field. As a result the forwards who this year have been consistently outweighed by their opponents had to get down to some hard work and think out ways and means of providing good ball for a less penetrative back division than had been originally expected.

They came to realise in the course of the season that forwards are not big and dim but (preferably) big and most certainly need to be intelligent. At one stage in the term the forwards' reactions to given situations was so slow as to be almost painful for those on the touch-line but as the term went on it seems that they came to realise that what they lacked in size had to be made up for by tenacity and speed to the point of break-down. Matches nowadays at whatever level cannot be won without possession of the vital loose ball and gradually the forwards came to understand that this was to be their primary task. R. J. D. Metcalfe must be mentioned among the forwards as the best exponent of fastening on to the loose ball but by the end of the term he was getting very much better support from his colleagues.

After the first two games we went through a bad patch losing heavily to Bedford (0—23) and St. Edward's (14—30) who denied us the ball completely. The defence in these matches was poor and there was no excuse for such high scores against us. But after half term the lessons of these two defeats were learned and we defeated Bedford (16—11) in the return match and a weak R.L.S. side (42—3).

Praise must be given to the second team this year who were undefeated and who provided several players for the first team at short notice.

The Club has been a happy one and some of the basic lessons have been learned. Perhaps the most important is that to enjoy playing rugby or any game you must play to win and that to

win you have got to work hard at it. The prospects for next year are encouraging. Size will become less important and skill, training and fitness more so. If the Club wants to go on its winning way then it will have to work hard, but if the will remains there is no reason why those two defeats should not be avenged.

Teams from: N. A. Seymour (L), G. Fairfax-Ross (C), A. D. Sidi (C), N. R. T. Graves (C), D. P. Scowsill (T), M. J. Harper (L), G. P. Saward (C), J. A. M. B. Campbell (W), W. P. L. Barclay (C), A. B. Dawton (T), R. J. D. Metcalfe (T), S. C. P. Ireland (B), M. G. Lockhart-Smith (C), D. B. G. Oliveira (C), M. P. Selby (C), R. H. Mitchell (L), P. W. Burke (G), J. Evans (W), J. C. Ritchie (L), M. J. A. Ritchie (T), J. E. Hawthorne (G), P. S. Rolland (C), C. A. I. Bruce (C), N. M. Metcalfe (W), H. J. Shephard (T), D. E. Tobin (G), A. L. Gossage (B), M. D. Langdon (L), G. E. Anthony (T), D. M. W. Reid (C).

Results:	v. Oakham	Won	18—14
First	v. Radley	Won	22—13
	v. Bedford	Lost	0—23
	v. St. Edward's	Lost	14—30
	v. Bedford	Won	16—11
	v. R.L.S.	Won	42—3
	v. Abingdon		
Second	v. Radley	Drawn	6—6
	v. St. Edward's	Won	11—8
	v. Bedford	Drawn	3—3

SQUASH RACKETS

Stowe started the season hoping to maintain its unbeaten record of last season, and so far this has been achieved without much difficulty. No school team has matched the Stowe boys either for skill or stamina, but while it will take a very good team to beat us, we must not get over-confident because some new fixtures will be played next term and these may well prove extremely difficult and interesting affairs. At the half way stage of the season four of the 1st Team are individually unbeaten, and two of the Colts have been similarly successful. This success is rather surprising in view of the rather poor facilities for Squash Rackets at Stowe, and it is to be hoped that in the near future some new courts will be built. At least we can hope that the three covered courts will be made better courts to play in, and we also hope that enough money can be found to cover the backs of the other two.

H. J. A. Smith has continued to be an excellent Captain, and his play has tightened up considerably—he is now killing his opponents' loose shots exceedingly well and punishing any errors that come along. His best match so far has been the Bradfield one where he beat their top string Webb very easily whereas last season he had lost to him at Stowe. R. G. G. Carr (the holder of the National Under 16 title) has been playing extremely well, and this is particularly pleasing in view of the fact that he also plays rugby football and so has less time than he would like for practice. So far he has not really been extended by anyone. I. A. Thomson, another rugby player, at third string has continued to thrash all his opponents, while R. G. L. Cheatle, the Secretary, has improved his performances at number four by careful and conscientious daily practice with Smith, and is also unbeaten. A. W. P. Comber has proved a competent number five, and has found the change from being top Colt last season a fairly difficult hurdle, but nevertheless has won all but one of his matches. N. Downing and M. M. Wyllie have also played when needed and in any other year would probably have found regular places in the 1st Team.

The Colts Captain, P. H. Morris, has improved his play out of all recognition during the term through assiduous training and practice and is an excellent example to anyone who wants to get on in the sport. He is so far unbeaten at number two, and he has also done much to encourage both his team, and all the junior squash players in the School. M. J. Guest has played top colt and so far has proved too strong for his opponents. He has tried hard to improve his play and has shown himself ready to learn, and there is little doubt that he also will have a good future in the game. G. M. I. Miller, at third string has worked strenuously to improve his physical strength and has supported his team very well, and has lost only one of his matches. All in all this Colts team has been an extremely keen one, and has helped collectively to rouse

tremendous enthusiasm among the Lower School for Squash Rackets. D. G. Choyce and A. L. Pyfrom have also played for the Colts and shown that they will be able to take the places of the others when required to do so.

If all the individual matches played this term are added together Stowe teams have played 58 matches and won 53, and only two of these losses were by regular players of the teams.

1st Team: H. J. A. Smith (T), R. G. G. Carr (C), I. A. Thomson (C), R. G. L. Cheatle (W), A. W. P. Comber (G)
Also played: M. M. Wyllie (C), N. Downing (L), M. J. Guest (B).

Colts: M. J. Guest (B), P. H. Morris (L), G. M. I. Miller (C).
Also played: D. G. Choyce (C), A. L. Pyfrom (C), R. H. Steavenson (C), N. J. Rice (L)

Results:	v. Eton	(Away)	Won 4—1
1st Team:	v. Harrow	(Away)	Won 5—0
	v. Haileybury	(Away)	Won 4—1
	v. The Leys	(Away)	Won 5—0
	v. Bradfield	(Home)	Won 5—0
	v. St. Edward's, Oxford	(Away)	Won 4—1
	v. Merchant Taylors	(Away)	Won 5—0
Colts:	v. Eton	(Away)	Won 2—1
	v. Harrow	(Away)	Won 2—1
	v. Haileybury	(Away)	Won 3—0
	v. The Leys	(Away)	Won 3—0
	v. Bradfield	(Home)	Won 5—0
	v. St. Edward's, Oxford	(Away)	Won 3—0
	v. Merchant Taylors	(Away)	Won 3—0

FIVES

Fives has always suffered as a minor game at Stowe. And it seems such a pity that over the years the team is made up solely of rugby players; as is the case this term with the first two pairs in the First XV.

There is little scope for improvement in the play of the Senior members of the team as there is time for only one practice a week, and a lack of anybody better to play and learn from. We are glad that the latter problem will be remedied when a fives-playing master joins the staff next term.

Another fact that will benefit fives in future years is the coaching of fives in Junior clubs. However it is noticeable that Stoics are always unwilling to start to learn, but once they have learned how to play they really enjoy it.

We have had most of our season's stronger matches this term, against top clubs and Harrow. Only once were we able to field a full team, and that was against the Jesters, who brought a very strong team, including a Kinniard Cup winner.

M. E. Shirley-Beavan (G) and D. A. H. Wright (T) played always with great spirit and had a habit of being the last pair to finish their match. D. A. G. Ireland (B) and A. W. P. Comber (G) were the second pair and had some very close games. The Colts pair promises well for the future.

Results:

v. Jesters	Lost 3—6
v. Old Edwardians	Lost 0—3
v. Old Cholmeleians	Lost 0—2
v. Harrow	Lost 1—4
v. Old Stoics	Lost 0—3

Team: 1st pair M. E. Shirley-Beavan (G), D. A. H. Wright (T)
 2nd pair D. A. G. Ireland (B), A. W. P. Comber (G)

Also played I. A. Thomson (C), S. A. McNair (G), M. J. D. Manley (T), S. M. B. Dixey (G) and R. E. T. Nicholl (L)

Colts W. S. Brann (T), R. J. McDonald (C)

Fives Colours were awarded to D. A. G. Ireland (B)

LAWN TENNIS

The Clark Cup

There were 100 schools in this Competition. It is played with two in each team, and both players have a single against their opposite numbers, and if the score is one match each, they combine and play a doubles so that there must be a result. The Stowe team was I. A. Thomson and A. J. Macpherson; they played extremely well all the week, and their results were as follows:

v. Forest School, Wokingham	Won 2—0
v. Kent College	Won 2—0
v. Mountgrace School	Won 2—0
v. Eltham College	Won 2—0
v. Uppingham	Won 2—1
v. St. George's, Weybridge	Won 2—0

Final: v. Seaford Lost 1—2

As can be seen from the scores both Thomson and Macpherson proved too strong for their opponents in nearly every round, and their play was very impressive. In the final Thomson began well and beat the Seaford number one A. Miha convincingly, whilst at the same time Macpherson was coming off second best against Seaford's P. Siviter (a former National Under 14 Champion). A doubles was therefore necessary to decide the destination of the Trophy. Stowe began well, but the Seaford combination, who have played very well together in various tournaments eventually got the upper hand. Perhaps the Stowe players should have tried a greater variety of tactics to try to break down the rhythm of their opponents play, but it is doubtful whether in the circumstances they could have done anything to prevent a well deserved Seaford win. Nevertheless, Thomson and Macpherson took Stowe further in this competition than ever before, and are to be congratulated on their week's work.

The Youll Cup

In this competition two pairs play their opposite numbers, and if the match is standing equal at this stage a single is played. At the start of the week it soon became clear that there were several schools capable of winning the trophy, including Stowe, and supporters became optimistic. The Stowe team was composed of: 1st Pair—I. A. Thomson and A. J. Macpherson, 2nd Pair—C. J. Bartholomew and H. J. A. Smith, with N. H. Thomlinson as the very keen reserve player. The results were:

v. King's Bruton	Won 2—0
v. Woodhouse Grove	Won 2—0
v. Eton	Won 2—1

Quarter final: v. Rugby Lost 0—2

The early opposition was soon brushed aside, but Eton proved a very interesting match, and the Headmaster was able to see all the Stowe boys playing their best tennis of the week. We felt after this round that we must stand an excellent chance of winning the Cup again, and went on to play Rugby with reasonable confidence. Even when the 1st Pair lost their match (which was always a possibility on account of the strength of both the Rugby pair) we still felt quietly confident that the 2nd Pair would win and then we would hope that Thomson would have seen the talented Leslie off as he had done on most of the previous occasions they had met. When the Stowe 2nd Pair reached 5—0 in the final set of their match, all seemed set for the deciding singles to be played. But alas, everything seemed to go wrong for the Stowe players and all went right for Rugby. Up they crept, until it soon became five games all, and then the match became electric with excitement. Stowe did all they could to get out of the deep rut they had dug for themselves, but the Rugby boys (and all credit to them) were not to be denied their unexpected victory, and so Stowe's chances vanished for another year.

The Milbourn Cup

This is the Junior counterpart to the Clark Cup, and the two Stowe players were G. M. I. Miller (the Colts Captain) and D. G. Lucas. They won one round and then went out to a very useful pair of singles players. The experience they gained will prove most useful to them in the future, and Lucas will be eligible again next year.

SAILING

During last summer holidays we took delivery of our new super-grad. (number 2129), and she was launched on the second Saturday of term. We now have seven boats, excluding the new Graduate which we are making, nearing completion due to M. A. K. Parkes' (W) efforts at the end of last term. We hope to have her and the other Ken II which we are refitting ready for the beginning of next summer term. After the repairing of our operational boats during next term's intensive refitting, all our boats should be in working order for next summer.

There has been no news on our proposed move to Foscote Reservoir, except for a letter from the Water Board in the *Buckingham Advertiser* asking for suggestions on what to do with the reservoir.

The sailing was very much better than last term's with fresh winds practically every time. The Helmsman's Tankard has been postponed this year to the summer because of rugger. There have been three new members of the Club bringing the total membership to forty-three.

We have had one match this term which was against the Masters. The wind was force three to four and we had a very enjoyable afternoon's sailing with the Club winning by 39½ points to 43½.

The following sailed for the Masters: Mr. Rainer, A. R. Kennon (G), Mr. Dennien, Mrs. Mead, Mr. Tanburn and Mrs. Tanburn

The following sailed for the Club: N. J. Gilhead (G), D. B. Unerman (C), R. H. Steavenson (G), A. R. Pears (G), H. C. Davis (L), P. Mackay (L)

SHOOTING

Bisley Meeting 1969

As usual we entered for the Public Schools Meeting at Bisley, which this year took place in school term time, and fortunately Mr. Kirk was able to accompany us. Some people were unable to come due to exams, including the Captain, R. K. Hay. Owing to the fact that the H.A.C. hut was already occupied we were accommodated in a smaller hut nearby, but still obtained our meals from the H.A.C.

On the two days before the Ashburton, we shot in the minor competitions of the Wellington and Iveagh, which gave us invaluable match practice. Even so, no prizes were won.

The weather for the Ashburton was dull and cloudy with a breeze blowing across the range. As a whole the VIII shot reasonably well at 200 yds., but at 500 yds. the wind became remarkably tricky, and on account of this, as is normally the case, scores dropped, but we finished with a creditable 484 and were placed 50th out of 85 schools. The Cadets also shot well, and came 34th out of 75 with an encouraging 118.

VIII: A. S. R. Groves (B), J. W. Kennon (G), J. R. Davis (G), J. L. Thorogood (L), R. M. Long (T), D. W. Muschett (C), J. P. W. Yerburgh (B), M. G. Dickson (W)

IX Man: B. J. Emrys-Roberts (C)

Cadet Pair: A. D. Capron (G), M. R. Hardman (W)

Small bore — Autumn Term

This term, the first three weeks were again taken up by trials for prospective shots, of which there were a large number.

We have had three postal matches, against St. Edward's, Dunrobin, and Framlingham College, all of them losses. Mention must be made of J. W. Kennon and J. R. Davis who have consistently produced good scores. There are also a few promising young shots.

VIII from: A. S. R. Groves (B), J. W. Kennon (G), J. R. Davis (G), J. L. Thorogood (L), D. W. Muschett (C), A. C. G. Walker (W), A. M. Morgan (W), A. F. Beazley (G), R. G. Griggs (B), D. Portnoy (C)

FENCING

The Club has fought only two matches this term, and lost both of them. The first was on 8th November against Northampton Grammar School. We were completely outfenced in the Foil and Epeeé, but lost the Sabre narrowly. The following week we fenced St. Edward's. Here the foil was more even, but we lost the sabre more decisively than we had hoped. There have been few experienced members of the Club left, and trying to raise the standard is slow. There are several matches planned for next term, when we hope that the team will find more time to practise. We expect to see an improvement in results since match play is the best way of gaining experience and skill.

The Club has many juniors of promise, but is somewhat thin at the level just below the team. We are trying to prise some back again from the lures of other sports.

There are a number of competitions due this term. In the Senior Foil Housematches, there were four entries, the most for some time, and the Final is to be fought off between Grafton and Grenville, who beat Bruce and Chandos respectively. There are also due the individual competitions in Foil and Sabre.

The following fenced for the School: E. M. Dweck (G), P. J. Lankester (C), N. J. Gilhead (G), M. P. L. Burgin (G), J. R. P. Drower (G), A. W. G. Reed (B), J. B. Farrer (C), B. J. Emrys-Roberts (C).

Results: v. Northampton G.S. Lost 4—23 (foil 0—9, epeeé 0—9, sabre 4—5)
v. St. Edward's Lost 6—12 (foil 4—5, sabre 2—7)

SWIMMING

The season ended fittingly with the Juniors, first win of the year, against Rugby at home. They had little success in their other matches, but the Seniors won against Uppingham, and against Oundle and Repton at Oundle; were second in a triangular match against Malvern and Cheltenham, and came close to victory against strong teams from St. Edward's and Rugby. The result at Oundle emphasised the need for strength in depth, for although we won the Senior division, and Repton won the Junior, Oundle won the match overall. Thus all the results were close, no match was won outright, and it is hoped that added strength in the Juniors may help to bring the victorious next season which the keenness of our teams merited this year.

Two swimmers from Stowe were again selected to represent Buckinghamshire in the trials for the National Championships, J. M. Spanton (T) for Senior Freestyle and J. B. Farrer (C) for Senior Backstroke. J. S. S. Syrett (W) was Captain of Swimming and inspired continual enthusiasm in both teams, despite disappointments and adverse swimming conditions in the earlier part of the term.

Housematches

The Senior Cup went to Temple, who narrowly beat Chatham by two points, and Chatham took the Junior Cup with a clear lead of eleven points over Chandos. The overall winner was Chatham. The House Relays were won by Chandos. Water-polo housematches were also run against almost insuperable odds, and victory went to Chandos in the Seniors and Grafton in the Juniors.

Inter-House Results:

Seniors:	Juniors:	Overall:
1. Temple 34 pts.	1. Chatham 56 pts.	1. Chatham 88 pts.
2. Chatham 32 pts.	2. Chandos 45 pts.	2. Chandos 67 pts.
3. Lyttelton 30 pts.	3. Grafton 41 pts.	3. Grafton 61 pts.
4. Chandos 22 pts.	4. Bruce 32 pts.	4. Temple 51 pts.

SCULLING

This may be an appropriate moment to look back on the development of Sculling as a sport at Stowe. Early in 1959 it was realised that the Eleven Acre Lake could provide enough straight water to make the idea worthwhile, and the first boat, *Venus*, was ordered and launched in time for the summer term. Some disused accommodation at the back of the Temple of Venus was converted into a rudimentary boathouse. A second boat, *Diana*, was given through the generosity of a parent and brought into use the following season, as a result of which it was possible to expand the number of scullers. Two years ago, when it was realised that *Venus* and *Diana* were not getting any younger, a fibreglass boat was added to the fleet and its use by the abler scullers was an added incentive to prowess.

Always at its most popular in the summer term, sculling has attracted as many boys as it could conveniently manage; besides providing an interest and outlet for the individual, it has been the basis of rowing for many who have gone to university. A number of Old Stoic scullers have rowed for their colleges at Oxford and Cambridge, three have rowed at Henley and one in European championships.

Some years ago it looked as if there might be the chance to develop rowing on gravel pits near Buckingham, but unfortunately the idea was turned down by the Water Board. Without a longer stretch of water it is not possible to do more than scull, but it is difficult to train for racing on the lake. One year Stowe won the Schoolboy Sculls at Wallingford Regatta, and on several occasions has put up a good performance in heats at other regattas. In a small sport like this, much depends on the Captain of Sculling's enthusiasm, and the club was fortunate in having C. R. M. Longstaff (W) last season, and G. H. Josselyn (T) this one.

THE STOWE BEAGLES

At the beginning of September the hounds were taken up to Dumfriesshire where they had seven good days hunting both in the lowlands and on the hills, which were very steep. Our thanks go to Capt. and Mrs. Bell-Irving and others who made this visit possible; the Beagles will be returning to Dumfriesshire for the last nine days of the Christmas holidays.

Despite the dry weather from the beginning of the season until recently we have had a lot of good hunting and houndwork. At the time of writing we have caught twelve brace of hare, many of them after very long hunts. Particularly noteworthy was a two and a half hour hunt from Weston ending with a kill in the open, and other hunts almost as good were from Mantles Heath, Stockings Farm, Helmdon, and other places. We are most grateful to all those who entertained us before or after a day's hunting.

Since our last report we have had considerable success in Hound Shows, the culmination being the winning of the Champion Bitch award by 'Rapid' at Honiton.

We were sorry to say goodbye in July to Mrs. Margaret Hutchinson who has been a tower of strength on the secretarial side of the Hunt for a number of years, and we wish her well in her retirement in Burford.

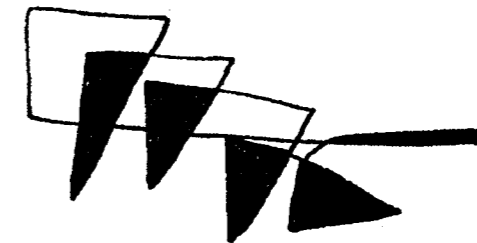
Whippers-in this term are J. Moreton (G), J. B. Johnson (W), R. C. Willcock (B), and N. C. M. Renny (C), we are most grateful to those who regularly help in the kennels including A. O. Bell-Irving (C), D. M. E. Heathcote (C), A. D. McGee (L), R. R. L. Munro-Ferguson (C) and R. G. Pooler (T).

1ST XI HOCKEY FIXTURES 1970

Thurs.	Jan. 15th	v. Oxford Bulls	Home
Sat.	Jan. 31st	v. Aldenham	Home
Thurs.	Feb. 5th	v. C.U. Wanderers	Home
Sat.	Feb. 7th	v. The Leys	Home
Sat.	Feb. 14th	v. O.U. Occasionals	Home
Sat.	Feb. 21st	v. Bradfield	Away
Thurs.	Feb. 26th	v. Radley	Home
Sat.	Feb. 28th	v. M.C.S. Oxford	Home
Sun.	Mar. 1st	v. Old Stoics	Home
Sat.	Mar. 7th	v. Pangbourne	Away
Tues.	Mar. 10th	v. St. Edward's	Home
Sat.	Mar. 14th	v. Mill Hill	Away

'THE STOIC' PRIZES

The interesting departure in our cover design was submitted by C. J. Manton (L), and was selected only after great deliberation among the editors, concerning its merits over an interesting new angle on 'George' from S. A. Alsen (C). The poetry prize was awarded to M. M. Wyllie (C) and the prize for the best photograph or illustration was awarded to C. G. N. Barclay (C).



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