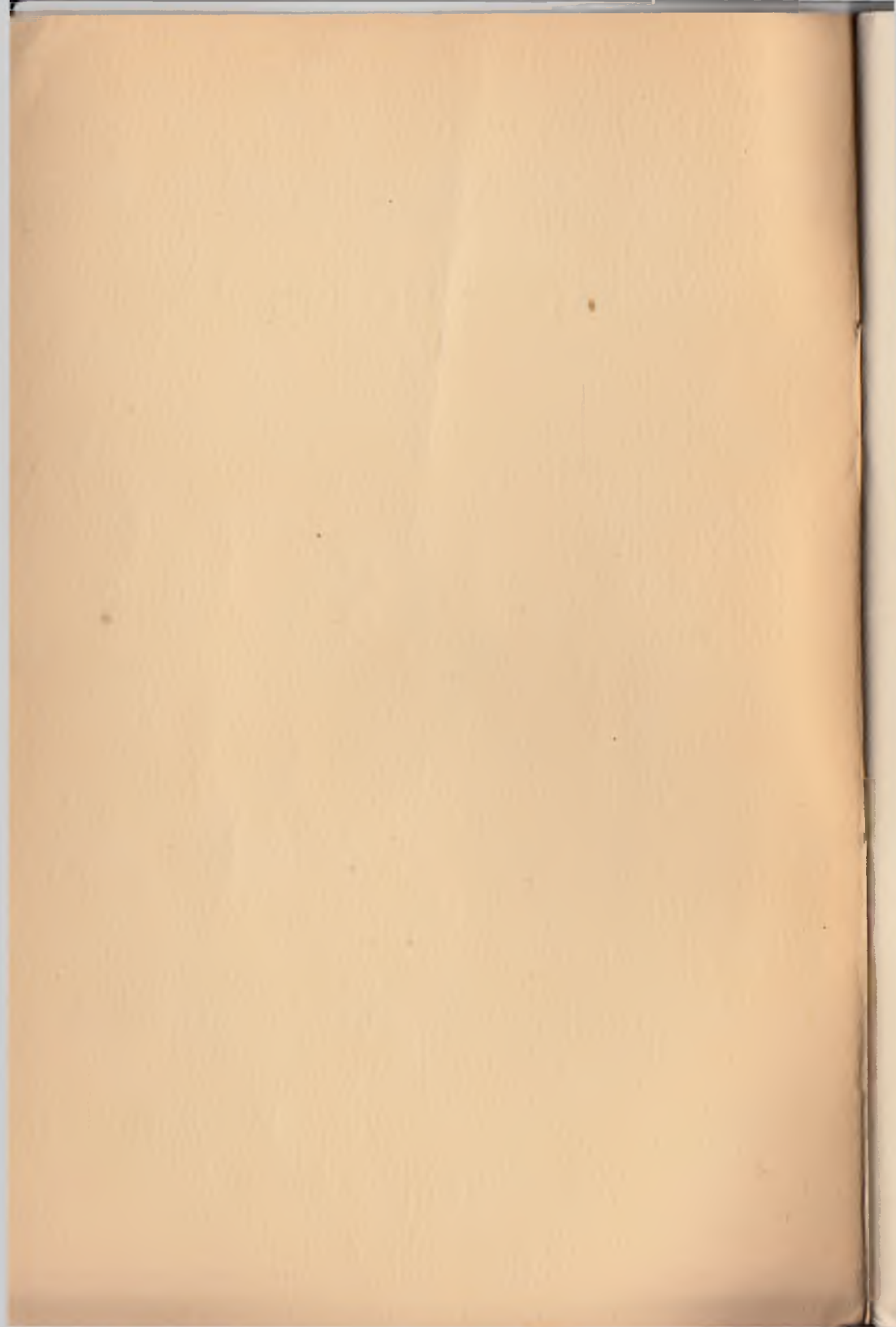


THE
WYCOMBIENSIAN



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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

14 & 15 HIGH STREET
HIGH WYCOMBE

Telephone 636



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L.R.A.M., M.R.S.T.



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FIRST XV

Standing (left to right) : J. D. DIXON, D. F. E. HILL, J. P. OSBORNE, R. C. FILE, C. M. HAWORTH, Esq.
G. J. BRISTOW, R. LUDLAM, B. C. STEVENS, B. K. JOHNSON.
Seated : T. W. ABDALLAH, R. G. CLAPTON, A. KENYON, P. C. S. HALL (Captain), E. HALL, D. J. THOMAS,
T. R. BULPETT (M. BRIDGES was absent).



THE FRIEND OF MAN, THE FRIEND OF TRUTH ;
THE FRIEND OF AGE, THE FRIEND OF YOUTH ;
FEW HEARTS LIKE HIS WITH VIRTUE WARM'D,
FEW HEADS WITH KNOWLEDGE SO INFORM'D.

R. Burns.

S. C. DELL, IIIa.

THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

(THE WYCOMBE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL MAGAZINE)

EDITOR : M. J. BANHAM

Assisted by K. J. P. WESTNEY

EDITORIAL

“The man that hath no music in himself,
Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treason, stratagems, and spoils ;
The motions of his spirit are dull as night,
And his affections dark as Erebus :
Let no such man be trusted.”

Thus did Shakespeare see the influence of Music upon man. And how right he was. Bovee, too, has a word to say about it.

“Music is the fourth great material want of our natures—first food, then raiment, then shelter, then music.”

These are bold claims to make, but one certain way of seeing just how much truth there is in either of them is to look at the present situation in our own school.

Music, as a subject on the ordinary curriculum, has been with us for some time, but it is only during the last five years or so that it has really achieved any great importance. In 1945 the music lesson meant one period a week spent singing either “The Trout,” “The Erl King” or “And the green grass grew all around, around, around!” Today every boy, from the longest pair of short trousers in the 2's, to the aged inhabitants of the 3rd and 4th year Sixth, has an intensive course of music. It is firmly established as a regular School Certificate—! Shame on us, G.C. of E., subject ; Sixth-formers have courses in “musical appreciation” ; there is a School Orchestra and a Recorder Club ; a dinner hour Music Society ; two large and enthusiastic choirs, and a Madrigal Club to deal with the excess of keenness! Dominating the school year is the annual Gilbert and Sullivan production, and an appetiser in the Spring Term is the School Concert. Such is the impact of Music on the School. No other subject can claim to have such an influence upon the life of every boy.

“Yes, yes, yes!” cries the irritated sceptic, “but if Music Lessons or Junior Choir weren't compulsory—what then?” What then indeed! The School would be a far poorer place. Once music has swept a boy up in its arms he will find it difficult, even

impossible, ever to tear himself away. It has brought into the lives of hundreds of boys a thrilling new experience. It has given them something which has had a profound effect upon them. The enthusiasm for everything musical is proof enough of this.

Take music away from the School, and there would be left a vacuum in the hearts and minds of all, which nothing else could fill. Something great and exciting would be missing. The new world that has opened out to so many of us since 1945 has been a sort of paradise we could never have dreamed of before, and stands out like an oasis in a desert, as something great amidst so much ordinariness.

Food, raiment and shelter enable us to live. Music enables us to live in peace.

HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI

The news of the sudden death of the King came as a great shock to the School, summoned into the Hall to hear the announcement. There was a perceptible hush everywhere as the boys returned to their lessons.

On the afternoon of the King's funeral, the two minutes' silence was embodied in a simple and most impressive service in the School Hall. The solemnity of the occasion was clearly felt by the whole School. The choir sang with feeling and competence the anthem by Goss, "I heard a voice," and we went away with the sense of having participated in a memorable scene.

On the occasion of the Proclamation of the Queen, the following telegram was sent to Her Majesty :

"To :
HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

CLARENCE HOUSE, LONDON

To our most gracious Queen Elizabeth II. We the Headmaster, Staff and Boys of the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, founded in 1562 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth I, beg leave to tender our most devoted, loyal, and respectful love and duty on this the occasion of her proclamation.

E. R. TUCKER,
Headmaster."

This reply was received from Her Majesty's Private Secretary :

"To :
THE HEADMASTER, ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HIGH WYCOMBE.

The Queen desires me to send her sincere thanks for your kind message."

SCHOOL NOTES

Staff.

In September, 1951, we welcomed two new Masters to our staff. They were Mr. J. B. Benson, B.A. (Cantab.), who joins the Classics staff, and Mr. J. G. Lloyd, B.A. (Oxon.), who replaces Mr. Thomas in History and Economics.

General.

On 26th September, 1951, the Science Society visited the Science Museum at South Kensington.

Mr. Howard organised a trip to the "Old Vic" on Friday, 12th October, to see "Tamburlaine." This was much enjoyed by a large party.

On Tuesday, 16th October, Mr. D. C. Robyns gave a lecture on the British Empire to boys in the V Uppers, which he illustrated with film slides.

The 24th October was polling day in the Election sponsored by the T.C.O.S. The Conservative candidate was elected. A full report will be found elsewhere in this issue.

The Science Society visited the Pollards Wood Cancer Research Station on the 20th November.

On Thursday, 29th, and Friday, 30th of November, large numbers of C.C.F. Army Section cadets took their Certificate "A," Parts I and II. An encouraging number was successful.

The Dramatic Society visited Wyndham's Theatre on 29th November to see Peter Ustinov in "Love of Four Colonels." Mr. Male accompanied the Society.

"H.M.S. Pinafore" was performed in the School Hall from Monday, 10th December, to Saturday, 15th.

A party from the History Society visited the London Museum on 17th December.

The Carol Service was held in the School Hall on the afternoon of Wednesday, 19th December. The same night the Boarders held their Christmas Party.

On Monday, 4th February, we welcomed three Reading University students, who are doing their teaching practice at the School, in Music and History.

Congratulations to :

M. G. Walker on his Open Scholarship in Modern Languages at Jesus College, Cambridge.

C. J. Goodchild on his Open Scholarship in Mathematics at St. John's, Cambridge.

K. J. P. Westney on his Open Scholarship in Classics at Jesus College, Cambridge.

And also to C. L. Hortin on his being chosen to play for the National Youth Orchestra.

SCHOOL HOUSE 1951-2

Senior Prefect : M. A. CROWTHER.

Prefects : P. VARLEY, R. CLAPTON, P. CROWTHER, B. LEWIS.

Since the last magazine went to the press, we have lost a large number of our prefects and seniors, notably J. Birch, H. S. Platt and our French visitor J. Fournout.

In September we enjoyed a short spell with M. S. Matthews as our Head Prefect, but are now back under "Home Rule" again, and indulging in our usual spate of activities. So far we have been unable to entice any day boys to join our ranks this term, though—one might almost say "of course"—we added Justus Diller to a rapidly increasing list of foreigners who have made short stays in the House. Unfortunately, inter-House games have lapsed recently, and apart from our victories at table-tennis and indoor cricket against Tylers Wood, we have none of our usual brilliant successes. However, the following have played in the various School fifteens : R. G. Clapton, 1st XV ; P. H. Burt and J. C. Colver, 2nd XV ; P. P. Crowther, J. Diller and T. Diller, 3rd XV ; and for the Colts or Junior Colts, R. A. Mann, A. J. C. Wright, J. Smithers and K. Faulkner ; Watson, Clark, Ketch, Lawson and Falkner have run for junior Cross-country teams, and Wright and Inglis were picked to take part in the County Boxing Championships. A very large number of people from the House have entered for the School Boxing Championships, and we confidently await a magnificent list of successes.

At the end of the Christmas Term, the boarders held the usual Christmas party. After an excellent Christmas dinner, which we all enjoyed, we all went into the evening's entertainment. Uplyme first delighted us with their lively and original sketch, "The Russians Come to Uplyme," in which McCreery made an excellent Commissar. The main event of our evening, however, was our second pantomime, "Cinderella," written by M. J. Banham. Mr. Howard had gone to great lengths to ensure our well-deserved success. The outstanding members of the cast were M. Knight and P. Burt, as the Ugly Sisters, and Miss Judy Shand, who, besides giving much valuable assistance with the costumes, played her part as Prince Charming magnificently.

At present, the Army Section is not very popular with the Seniors in the House. Most of these seem to prefer the R.A.F. Section, of which many are very keen members. The keenest, perhaps, is B. Lewis, who has just been promoted to Sergeant.

Last summer, Birch, Matthews, Platt and Crowther, M., took the G.C.E. (Advanced), and all passed with creditable results, continuing the new House ideal of doing well scholastically as well as at games. Platt is now at London University, studying medicine ; Birch and Matthews are both in the Army.

The House, however, continues on its way unperturbed. Although some of our friends leave us at the end of each year, and although new juniors arrive annually to be educated in the art of living together, little has really changed from year to year. New faces come, well-known ones go, but the House carries on its old traditions, constantly sending out a stream of good citizens properly educated.

M. A. CROWTHER.

TYLERS WOOD HOUSE

For the past two terms we have striven to fulfil the motto which was suggested in the last report, namely to "work hard and play hard."

The work, on the whole, has not quite reached the expected standard, too many boys seem to contend for bottom place in their form, whereas the reverse should be the case. The second part of the motto is preponderant : rugby has flourished to a great extent. No less than ten members of the House have played regularly for one or other of the School teams. This number includes the captains of the Second and Third XV's. A. Gordon played so well for Berkshire Colts that he was selected to play for a South-Eastern representative team, but unfortunately the match was cancelled.

Last Term, as usual, we celebrated Guy Fawkes' night, and although, as on the previous occasion, it rained, we were not prevented from enjoying ourselves. At the moment we are recovering from a minor epidemic of mumps, which started with the Senior Prefect, and is gradually working downwards.

Last Term saw the departure of R. James, who is now engaged with Cable and Wireless. Of other Old Boys, N. Pulley is hoping, in six weeks' time, for a commission in the Air Force. We also have frequent visits from P. Groom, B. Edwards and P. King. We wish them and all other Old Boys of Tylers Wood the very best of luck, and hope that they will return and visit us often.

T. W. ABDALLAH.

UPLYME HOUSE

This year sees us having lost most of last year's rather lusty and energetic Seniors to the various calls of the wide world. To "Froggy" Waters, who is teaching in Germany, Tony Harcourt, who is at Acton Polytechnic, Reg Robey, who is about to embark

for Tripoli as an efficient member of Her Majesty's illustrious Army, and to R. H. Jones, who is passing away his time studying to be a wireless operator, we extend our most hearty and sincere wishes.

With the absence of these and other stalwarts there are a few changes in the House. I. J. McCreery and P. S. Reader are now prefects and join "Nobby" Hall, who takes over from "Froggy" as head boy in our rather scruffy but nevertheless quite homely prefects' study. We welcome into the civilised ranks of Uplyme three juniors from School House and two new boys, Tagg and Braybrooke. We hope they will be very happy while they are with us.

Owing to the fact that we are almost deficient in geniuses and sportsmen we have not been able to gain much distinction in the academic and playing fields. We must congratulate P. S. Reader on obtaining his 2nd XV colours, and Sallows on having been chosen to run and play rugger for the School junior teams.

Finally, next Term means that some of our members will be playing hard and others studying for their examinations. We look to them to keep the good name of Uplyme to the front.

E. HALL.

C.C.F. ARMY SECTION

We resumed training at the beginning of last term with high hopes after what was generally agreed had been a very good Camp indeed. Our guard had done very well in mounting only two hours after arriving in camp. There had been an excellent spirit throughout and we were rewarded with the commendation of the G.O.C. Aldershot District on the state of our lines at his inspection.

The Christmas and Easter terms are always too short for the work of training our candidates for the Certificate "A" Examination. However, our N.C.O.'s have been generous with their spare time in making up this deficiency and must have all thought it worth while when the results were announced :—

Part I	100% PASS
Part II	62% PASS

We continue to hear of the successes of past members of the Corps who are now in the services. J. C. Carrick is now at Cambridge studying Russian under a new scheme introduced by the Army; C. R. Engeham and M. Zander, who were mentioned in the last issue, have both been commissioned since, so also have I. James and M. M. Jones, who is doing so well as to contemplate making the Royal Signals his career. The last word in the way of successes is that B. Simpson is now a Sergeant in the Military Police!

The miniature range is now in full swing. As we use the range more and more, scores become better and better. House competitions will be organised in the near future and the School Shooting Eight reinstated for inter-school events.

A. J. ELBURN, Vlth.

R.A.F. SECTION

The R.A.F. Section, after its usual reduction in numbers at the end of last session, is again about 100 strong through the addition of new cadets at the beginning of this term. Senior N.C.O.'s are now making an excellent contribution to the training of cadets and it is hoped soon to extend this scheme, which is of great assistance in organising the work of the unit. At long last our primary glider, has arrived. It is certain that cadets will find that the glider will initiate an interesting, exciting and strenuous extension to corps activities.

M. E. Rankin, our first Flying Scholarship holder, entered the R.A.F. College at Cranwell in January of this year. Sgt. D. Bates left us just before the end of 1951 to take up a short-service commission as a Pilot in the R.A.F. Sgt. D. S. Blackshaw has been carrying out his Flying Scholarship training at White Waltham and has already flown about 7 hours solo. Sgt. Blackshaw has also been selected for a flying visit to 2nd T.A.F. Headquarters in Germany from 10th to 17th April. Sgt. R. Chambers is now also being trained to fly in connection with his scholarship at White Waltham. Cdt. J. D. Kape has already been successful at his interview at Group H.Q. and the best wishes of the unit will be with him when he takes his further flying aptitude tests for the award of a Scholarship. It is hoped that success in the Proficiency Examination on the 17th March will be a first step towards the award of further Flying Scholarships to cadets of this unit.

We express sincere thanks to Mr. A. D. Leggett for his invaluable services so generously given to the unit. We are also greatly indebted to Mr. J. C. Butterfield, who has instructed in Morse. We had hoped to welcome Mr. M. J. Hayes to the unit as a commissioned officer and very much regret that he is soon to leave us. In the near future Mr. Hayes will be carrying out research work in Chemistry. We appreciate the assistance he has already given to the unit and express our gratitude to him.

It is a matter of considerable satisfaction to be able to report that flying for cadets is to be arranged to take place at R.A.F., Booker. Final details are not fixed, but it is hoped that this can take the form of a one-day visit to Booker, with flying provided by Ansons of 62 Group H.Q.

E.M.

NAVAL SECTION

Our strength is now up to twenty-seven. There are three training groups in two divisions. Cadet M. F. Booth has proved a very useful and adequate Petty Officer, and under his keen eye Acting Leading Seamen Edwards, C. M., and Elliott, P. W. have developed into good leaders of fore-castle and quarter-deck divisions.

One cadet has entered for the Petty Officer's Examination, five for Leading Seaman and nine for the A.B. examinations.

We look forward to a large proportion of our number going to summer camp this year.

T.E.H.

HOUSE REPORTS :

ARNISON HOUSE

Rugby has been the only House activity which we have played this term, and in this Arnison's record, though not outstanding, is nothing to be ashamed of. The Senior team, despite sterling work by P. C. S. Hall and G. J. Bristow, failed to win a match, but this casts no slur on the spirit of the team, all of whom tried hard and honestly. The Colts made us very proud by winning their competition, and especially against Youens showed they had spirit enough to fight back after being behind. Snapes and Hawkins led a most promising team with confidence and intelligence, and we need have no fear of the House's record in the next few years when these boys will form our Senior team. The Junior Colts, though not very successful, did their best, and that is what really counts.

Now we look forward to three or four months of frantic House competition. The Boxing competition, which we won last year and will make every effort to retain, is nearly on us, and hard practice is being put into the Music competition. Cricket, Tennis and Athletics come in the Summer term, and we look forward to them with confidence. Nearer to us are the Cross-country Championships, for which we have reasonable hope for the Seniors and absolute confidence for the Juniors and Colts.

One thing we can be very proud of is that, whatever our chances or previous results, everyone in the House can be relied upon to pull their weight. With this spirit behind us we can look happily to the future.

M. J. BANHAM.

DISRAELI HOUSE

The coming of the new year always heralds a busy time for the House. In quick succession are the rugby, boxing, music and cross-country championships.

The House rugby competition has gone off with Disraeli still not at the top, but quitting itself adequately. The Senior team played with good spirit and, without having any "stars," combined together very well. Owing to a series of hard frosts, the Colts and Juniors played a knock-out competition instead of the league, as originally proposed. Both teams reached the final, the Colts beat Fraser but lost to Arnison in the final. The Juniors also beat Fraser, but lost to Youens in the final.

It is gratifying to note how well the younger members of the House are doing, which promises good things in a few years' time.

The rest of the term holds promise: the boxing had a good entry, and the rehearsals for the music competition are well under way. So Disraeli can look forward to the future with every hope and confidence.

D. J. THOMAS.

FRASER HOUSE

The only inter-House competition to have been decided so far is the rugby championship. For the third year in succession we won the Senior event. The deciding match against Youens was a very fast and vigorous game. Many tactics were seen which certainly did not originate in the text-book and, it must be supposed, not in the "before-the-match pep talk." The result of these tactics was that there was one man missing at the end of the match. It is pleasing to note that the days when one House was shingly superior are past. All the matches were very strongly contested and the scores were not always representative of the difference in standard of play. In order to make a solid backbone to our team we were forced to bring up to Colts, J. S. Dunningham and A. F. Abercrombie. Their play was very pleasing and is very promising with regard to future teams.

The Colts team, however, felt their absence. This and last-minute illness of other members caused our Colts team to come last. The Junior calls played some good rugby and were unlucky to come only third.

Looking forward to coming events, we will, this term, attempt to resist the efforts of other Houses at removing the music shield from its newly-found position above our board. We are rather

optimistic about our chances, as the choir has already started rehearsing under the directorship of P. B. Gillard. The boxing also takes place this term and in this we hope to do better than in the previous two seasons.

In the summer we will defend our athletics title and try to wrest the tennis championship from the grip of Arnison.

A. KENYON.

YOUENS HOUSE

This year we welcome to the House Mr. Lloyd, who is to help Mr. G. M. Jones as Housemaster. We hope his stay with us will be a happy one.

So far this year only the House rugby competitions have been held. Unfortunately, after beating Arnison and Disraeli, we were narrowly beaten by Fraser. Nevertheless, the team, captained by Clapton, played hard and well, and although beaten by Fraser there was little to choose between the two teams.

The Junior Colts and Colts rugby matches were held on a knock-out basis. Our Junior team won both their matches by a large margin of points. Their success was due largely to Richardson, their captain, a strong centre-threequarter who ran hard for the line.

The Colts in the first round lost to Arnison by one point, but in their match against Fraser, for the wooden spoon, they avenged the Seniors' defeat and beat them 24—6.

Choir practices are already being held on Mondays in readiness for the music competition next term. Last year we were just beaten by Fraser owing to the poor support given by the Senior members of the House. However, this year, under Crump's guidance and with better support from the Seniors, we hope to win.

The cross-country race is being held this term and we are expected to win again. Remember that the success of the House depends upon your support, so make a worthy effort and do your best for it.

R. LUDLAM.

SCHOOL SOCIETIES :

MUSIC SOCIETY

For many years the Music Society has continued its calm and dignified course amidst the varying fortunes of its fellow societies, giving weekly half-hour record recitals to audiences varying from five to fifty in number, and rarely indulging in any other activity. We have of late encouraged members to take an active part in these programmes, and since September the majority of our recitals have been requested or presented by members.

Our modest funds have recently enabled us to buy two works which have been played during the last few months, Rachmaninov's "Paganini Variations" and Sibelius' First Symphony.

The best attended meeting (it was free, I may add) was that at which we heard part of a recording of "H.M.S. Pinafore," which the School produced in December. Apart from these we claim to cater for varying tastes, so that a programme of "Symphonic Jazz," arranged by C. J. Goodchild and K. J. P. Westney, consisting of music by Walton and Milhaud, was followed the next week by organ works of Bach and Handel.

The first series of joint meetings with the Historical Society was held shortly before going to print, entitled "Early Eighteenth-Century Germany—Bach," with Mr. L. J. Ashford as speaker and Mr. Rainbow providing the musical illustrations. This project promises well and is admirably supported. However, we find that such works as Mozart's "Great G Minor" Symphony and Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto remain the favourites. The support of a small number of regular members who keenly sit through Stravinsky, Prokofiev, and such rarities as Rossini's "Siege of Corinth," keep this time-honoured institution on the map and encourage us to continue it along its present lines.

K. J. P. WESTNEY.

THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

On November 9th, 1951, a large audience of embryo and budding biologists heard an illustrated talk on "Insects and Disease," by Professor P. A. Buxton, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Other activities in the Autumn term followed the usual routine. Coachloads of members were disappointed with the Festival Exhibition of Science at Kensington and edified at the National Physical Laboratory, while a small and elect party investigated Cancer at Chalfont St. Giles. To round off the programme, films explained the marvels of the construction of tennis balls and rackets, the "progress" of the motor-car industry, and the work of the Sulphur Division of I.C.I. In this first half of the Spring term, the Natural History Section has come out of hibernation, with a little support, to take its place on the board with notices of films on Polarised Light and Plastics, and visits to Glory Mill Paper Works and Chiltern Mineral Waters Ltd. Both firms generously supplied samples of their products, the latter "*ad lib.*" Our cup is full.

A. REYNOLDS.

THE TWENTIETH-CENTURY OPINION SOCIETY

The Society has this year been extremely vigorous both in continuing the debating tradition in the School and in opening the new activities. We have a thriving and constantly increasing membership, a keen Committee, and a vigorous and able Chairman. Last term we organised an excellent mock-election within the School, into which all the participants entered with great zest and enthusiasm. Later in the term we initiated a very promising series of meetings based on the B.B.C. programme "Any Questions." These meetings were extremely popular, and we held one large one at which the speakers were the Headmaster, Mrs. Davies, the Rev. J. Warne-Rees, and A. Kenyon. The Society is now a prominent member of the South Bucks Inter-Schools Debating Society, of which M. J. Banham was recently elected Chairman. We held a very large debate, attended by about eighty people, in conjunction with this Society, and the motion was that "This House considers that the previous Government was an organised hypocrisy." It was defeated by a small margin, after some very heated argument.

This term we are enthusiastically continuing our activities, and have already held several very successful meetings. The highlight of our achievement during the first part of the term, however, was a joint debate with the High School, on the motion that "This House favours Co-education." This meeting was attended by almost one hundred people, and was notable for some spirited speaking. The House voted overwhelmingly against the motion, and perhaps the very success of the meeting showed that Co-education is not necessary when two schools are on such good terms as are the High School and the Royal Grammar School.

Our Society, however, is by no means intending to rest on its laurels, and we are looking forward eagerly to many excellent meetings in the future. We hope that even more of the Seniors will come to swell our ranks.

M. A. CROWTHER.

The School Election (October 24th, 1951)

It was only a matter of days after Mr. Attlee announced the date of the General Election that the Twentieth-Century Opinion Society had made arrangements for a School Election. The committee of the Society soon proved itself to be a reforming one; the franchise, which in the last School Election had been restricted to the Sixth form, was extended to the Upper Fifth forms. This reform was a significant one, as the Sixth has always been reputed for its inherent reactionary complex. Perhaps, it was thought, a Labour candidate would have chance of success under the new electoral law, instead of being fortunate to gain eleven votes out of nearly a hundred cast,

which was the case in the less democratic days in 1950. The Conservatives, however, remained strong, and certainly the most organised party in the School.

P. B. Gillard and J. R. Webster were soon nominated as the Conservative and Liberal candidates respectively. But the absence of a Labour candidate continued for days afterwards, and the unfortunate fact is that one could not be found. Then a day or two later a gentleman of independent views, C. J. Goodchild, was nominated—as if to emphasise the Labour abstention. The conclusions, however, which the Conservatives drew from this abstention, plus the constant implorings from the T.C.O.S. officials, were quite intolerable to the Left-wing element of the School. Some sort of a candidate had to be found, and eventually a very indolent gentleman emerged, styling himself as an “Independent Socialist.”

With four candidates nominated, the campaign opened with a speech by Webster in VUA form room. From this meeting it was seen that changes had to be made in School electioneering. Firstly it revealed that form-rooms had not the atmosphere of the old Library, the old Sixth form “haunt” which had seen so many battles, political and otherwise (mostly otherwise), and secondly it revealed that no more meetings could take place in form-rooms, for the state of the room after the Liberal meeting was somewhat symbolic of the political dissensions in the School. Consequently the campaign during the dinner-hours had to be carried on outside the School buildings. Inasmuch as the lower School was brought into focus with upper School politics, this move was probably a democratic one, but unfortunately they were not only brought into focus, but also into range.

The first orator to brave an open-air meeting was, appropriately enough, Gillard. As the School's foremost demagogue he faced the crowd admirably, and the force of his voice compared favourably with the force of the missiles aimed by the lower sections of the crowd who showed their antipathetic views in the customary fashion (which is probably what the T.C.O.S. meant by that strange phrase “un-American activities”). One or two further meetings were held in the vicinity of the air-raid shelter—in which one speaker at least was tempted to take refuge—but they were not a success, Gillard being the only candidate equal to them.

More successful were the meetings after School in the Art room. It was there that the real debating took place, and there the electorate discovered that Gillard was all for more meat, houses and oil, that Webster wanted everybody to emigrate, that Goodchild was all for more sweets and less pensioners, and that File was all against everyone else.

Then came the Election day itself. Only a few of the enfranchised refrained from voting, and at the end of the day, after the counting of the votes, Gillard was declared elected. Presumably the School wanted more meat—a fact previously known to all dinner-table prefects. Webster and Goodchild both paid the price of unorthodoxy (one shilling)—unless, of course, Goodchild, who is known to be on the best of terms with the T.C.O.S. Treasurer, managed to avoid actual pecuniary loss.

The figures were :—

P. B. Gillard (Conservative)	117	votes
R. C. File (Independent Socialist)	69	„
J. R. Webster (Liberal)	15	„
C. J. Goodchild (Independent)	14	„

“ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST.”

DRAMATIC SOCIETY

This Society, after its now customary Annual Summer Production, has been rather inactive during the last term, mainly because of events beyond our control.

In November, however, some twenty-six members, under the supervision of Mr. Male, went to see “ The Love of Four Colonels,” by Peter Ustinov. Everyone enjoyed this visit, albeit for differing reasons.

This term, the main problem has been the selection of a play for production in July. Among the plays suggested was “Androcles and the Lion,” which was duly read by the play-reading circle. The final choice will have been made by the time this magazine is published.

We intend to continue play-readings throughout next term in addition to the production. There are also projected visits to High Wycombe Repertory Theatre for the benefit of would-be actors.

I must end with a complaint that few members of the Society co-operate with the committee. I am aware that this complaint has been raised before ; but members should realise that they cannot expect very much from nothing, even in these times.

C. J. GOODCHILD.

EDITOR'S NOTE : “ Androcles and the Lion ” has been chosen for the Dramatic Society's summer production. The provisional dates are July 15th and 16th.

THE CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club continued in its quiet, unruffled way to give enjoyment to many people. The competition was carried on throughout the term and several matches were played against outside schools with creditable results.

HISTORY SOCIETY

The new School year saw the customary initial activities of the History Society—the Annual General Meeting and the election of a new committee. Amidst the bustle of the School opera which took up so much of the available time, the committee were faced with the problem of finding a suitable opportunity for their meetings. Time was found somehow amidst the host of out-of-school activities which were flourishing, and the first meeting was held on October 3rd, when Mr. Perfect gave a talk on the problems of gaining an unbiassed view of recent Russian history.

Later in the term an "Historical Guess My Line" was staged, and a team of self-termed experts defeated a team of historical characters ranging from Casanova to Florence Nightingale—C. J. Goodchild as the redoubtable Christopher Columbus providing the only victory for the past. At the end of the term a most interesting and profitable excursion was made to the London Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

During the Spring term we propose to hold a series of joint meetings with the Music Society, which should kill any criticism of the narrow-minded historian.

B. SINNATT.

H.M.S. PINAFORE

As Gilbert and Sullivan became more and more popular, so it became the "done thing" to frown on these frivolities. But all that is gone and even the intellectuals now can sit back and enjoy themselves. Some of the operas, of course, are still more popular than others, and it is a pity that *Pinafore* is not better known and liked. Perhaps the trouble is that we expect something we are not given (particularly well-known melodies), and so we miss what we are given—plenty of good, though unfamiliar, tunes and subtlety. Subtlety is very important in *Pinafore*; some of the smaller touches are so splendid that they almost outshine what were intended as the big treats. A little touch like that when the (momentarily) valetudinarian Captain replies to his crew, highly solicitous about his condition:

"I am in reasonable health . . ."

and Sullivan in this formal recitative has given that phrase its true interpretation, with the emphasis on "reasonable." Or again, Josephine's delightful confidences to the audience, while Ralph is passionately and formally declaring his love:

"Oh, my heart, my beating heart . . ."

Common! Oh, the irony of the word!"

We must begin with this emphasis on subtlety to appreciate the opera; and to produce it, therefore.

The Christmas production by the Operatic Society did not fail us. It could scarcely have been more enjoyable. The memories of previous operas filled the audience with expectancy from the moment the overture began, an expectancy which had become confidence by the time the curtains opened to reveal Mr. Grant's impressive set. There before us was H.M.S. Pinafore itself, with rigging, bridge, cannons, a white ensign floating in the blue-grey haze, and even a wheel, which much to our delight and obviously that of the Midshipmite actually worked. As a study in naturalism it was superb. It even made us believe the Captain knew what he was singing about :

“ Though related to a peer,
I can hand, reef, and steer,
Or ship a selvagee. . . . ”

And there too was Portsmouth in the distance.

But we had to put off deciding whether that was the Cathedral : the male chorus had already assumed control of the stage. It seems impossible to recover from the shock of finding such good chorus work, solid yet sensitive, primarily there for the music but always seizing the opportunity to show that each one could be a Roscius or even an Aesopus, if only the producer had allowed them. The female chorus were equally successful. Although we knew from the programme that there were hundreds of sisters, cousins and aunts, it took us quite by surprise when the First Lord's family did arrive, about half-way through Act I. But with some “ gaily tripping ” and others fairly bouncing, they took the stage solidly and did their best to stop us admiring the resplendent white uniforms of the sailors.

The chorus demonstrated the advantages of an operatic tradition, but this was still more obvious in the soloists, some of whom have graduated from the female chorus. Such is the case with Ralph (B. C. Stevens), whose performance showed the art which comes from a gifted and experienced voice. Fortunately for this romantic hero Sullivan has written moving, passionate music that never degenerates into sentimentality. And so “ The Nightingale ” became one of the memorable things of the evening. As Ralph so shyly left the chorus to sing this first solo, our sympathies went out to him ; but they were unnecessary : his voice combined clarity, power, and restraint (beautifully shown in the head-voice passage), with surety of interpretation. Even his shyness was histrionic and not actual, so much has he gained in stage presence since last year. His opposite, Josephine (W. B. Foxhall) was a new lead ; she tried to overthrow the thesis that experience tells, by the charm not only of her appearance (and all the girls looked very presentable) but of her voice. It is a thankless part in that much of it is in trio and quartet and one of her two arias is fantastically difficult ; yet we remember her performance with a great deal of pleasure.

With the romantic roles so more than adequately performed, it was obvious that the comic parts would be sung and played excellently. Here we had the fruits of experience in four characters. First, that never-to-be-endured blasphemer, Captain Corcoran (E. Hall), with a very pleasant voice and a cantabile quality that puts many highly-rated singers to shame. Second, that never-to-be-forgiven misanthropist, Dick Deadeye (D. J. Crump), a gift of a part for anyone who can bark and growl musically as he can. Third, that never-to-be-forgotten back-slapper, the Boatswain (P. B. Gillard), whose fruity Devonshire accent and rich bass voice made us proud to share in Ralph's Englishness. And fourth, that never-to-be-consolated brother, cousin, and nephew, Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B. (M. J. Banham). After the aria in which he kindly explains to the crew (and the audience) that he is the monarch of the seas, it was a delight to know that he was to follow it up with another, explaining just how he had reached that very exalted position. But a living tradition, operatic or sporting, needs new blood, and there was plenty of it. Hebe (P. Read) ought to have found her never-changing post-scripts infinitely monotonous, but the audience laughed the more, the more they expected their appearance. Buttercup (D. J. Slade) was indeed a plump and pleasing person, if a little unsure, and the completely emotionless face and voice of the Carpenter's Mate (C. G. Emmins) were a real achievement.

With so many talented soloists spotlighted one by one, it is a great tribute to the production that, when we look back on the opera, it is not merely of arias that we think but of the trios, quartets and choruses : of the "British Tar" ; of the entire cast in the Finale, with its "Selections from *H.M.S. Pinafore*" ; and above all of the triumph of the evening—"Never mind the why and wherefore." Here was the epitome of the opera : perfection of singing, orchestral playing, acting, dancing and clowning. If there had been a hundred encores our hands would have ached, but we should still have applauded — and the clowns would have had yet another trick up their sleeves for the hundred-and-first.

So let's join with the Captain and his crew in giving three cheers for all those responsible for such an exciting and entertaining evening, and particularly to Mr. Hills for the production and to Mr. Rainbow for the musical direction. It is no flattery when we say that we have never enjoyed ourselves more . . . well, hardly ever.

A.L.R.

GENIUS

It has become apparent during the last year that there have been many discoveries of great moment and importance in many branches of the School's activities, which in the interests of the progress of the human race should be divulged to the eagerly listening outside world. Consequently your scribe has gathered together the most epoch-making of them and recorded them here.

Geography. The School's two leading geographers have discovered without doubt that the world is flat. Their proof is sure and conclusive. If, they argue, one were to burrow into the earth head-first one would go in a downward direction. Consequently, on emerging head-first in Australia, after going in a downward direction, one would be hanging upside down. This they reckon is unanswerable, and proves that Australia must be the same way up as we are or else everybody would fall off. Thus, the world is flat.

English. The "Who Was Shakespeare?" controversy has not gone unheeded by our literary gentlemen. As one of them remarked as he sat in his shirt-sleeves in his own—without any argument his own—seat in the Library: "I feel that it is only fair that the outside world should know the truth in this matter that I have discovered. Bacon was not Shakespeare, nor was Keats. It was actually Anne Hathaway, who, as we all know, came not from Stratford, but Cadmore End."

History. Great excitement was caused among the School's historians by the discovery of a broken piece of a hammer-head in a field at Bradenham. Suggestions as to its date and origin were rife. A large school of thought said it was obviously Cromwell's as it had a round head. Others thought it was used by Charles II before the Battle of Bosworth to drive home some point. When it was pointed out that it was Nelson and not Charles II who won the Battle of Bosworth, the subject was dropped. Unfortunately it was dropped on the toe of a passing geographer who, howling with wrath, picked it up. His anger soon changed to joy, however, when he discovered, to the historians' consternation, that it was the part of his hammer (or to be more exact, his father's hammer) that he had broken off when chipping away at some Denner 'Ill rock.

Mathematics. In this sphere an age-old fallacy has been unmasked. For many years we have all thought that

$$\pi 2 \sqrt[9]{10} x + 17y^2 (3z + b^3)^{0^0} \times 49 + {}^3\sqrt[9]{13^7} (21) = 17.$$

But how wrong we are. The proper equation should read

$$\pi 2 \sqrt[9]{10} x + 17y^2 (3z + b^3)^{0^0} \times 49 + {}^3\sqrt[9]{13^7} (21) = 16.$$

The cause of this error, I am informed, is deep rooted, but is fundamentally a result of some mathematicians having a finger in too many pies.

Biology. A distant rumble from the sacred caverns of the Biology laboratory heralded the completion of the investigation into the Denner Hill Man. The bones of this weird creature had been unearthed by an eminent biologist who spent much of his life in that area looking for a manure farm. The story of this man is summed up (as might be expected, seeing who discovered him) as tall. He has 8 fingers on the right hand and 12 on the other, and thus is the only man who can ever have been capable of playing a flute obligato and accompanying himself on the piano at the same time. His legs are each 6 feet long, which indicates either that, like the giraffe, he fed from the leaves at the top of a tree, or, like the ostrich, he fed from the grass at the bottom.

Physics. A valuable addition to the stock of laws is provided by the recently evolved "Don's Law." This states :—

The application of excessive numbers of objects of extreme and over-necessary weight to the free end or section of a length of string which is attached securely at one end or section to an immovable and stationary object of undefined volume or capacity, will lead to a tendency in that string to part, which will in turn result in the conglomeration of apparatus being disposed in an unorderly fashion over a wide an previously undetermined area.

This may be boiled down thus : string breaks.

M. J. BANHAM (VIth).

The tree outside my window small
Bears no leaves or bloom this spring,
The rigid cross-branch does not swing
In the wind, nor moves at all.

Half my pain can no one know,
At my sorrow merely guess.
What's my crime? She'd not say yes.
The bell strikes eight and I must go.

P. KIRWAN (VIth).

THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE SCHOOL LIBRARY (from Old Wez's Entertainments Guide)

Dear children—since the right and proper use of the Library is the supreme object of your education, let me, as one who has seen the Library spring into being out of thin air and knows all its ways and habits, show you how you may learn to approach, tackle, and master this formidable place.

As you enter—and wipe your feet—don't be put off by the extraordinary colour scheme, which so far from being off-putting is actually on-putting, for the pastel shades are so strange to contemplate that you are encouraged to work, in order to keep your mind off them. Take even less notice of what your elders do. There is a fixed hierarchy within these sacred walls. Below the Senior Librarian with his train of Ordinary Librarians, come the fourth-year Sixth-formers with their peculiar privileges. They alone can talk when they choose ; and their two chief topics are the right to talk in the Library and whether the world is round or flat. They alone can sit at the end table under the clock, they alone can borrow the awe-inspiring “starred” books without permission. Let me add here that it is (alas) no longer true that their regular method of entry and exit is *via* a window (that has been stopped). Next, don't disturb the Classics bay : the grave old gentleman there is either doing a crossword or his pools. Don't close the windows if you find it cold. Your elders know what's best for you, always, even if there is snow blowing in through the windows at the east end.

I hope you are not discouraged by these prohibitions. When you have learnt your place you will see there is plenty of fun to be had. For example, if you have a grudge against another boy, take out books in his name and date-stamp the cards at least a fortnight back, so that he will have to pay the fine. When you are older, try (if you are willing to forego your dinner) to remain in the Library all dinner-hour, by hiding under the middle table, if you cannot get into the cupboard. This is the test of your cunning : smuggle out the *Times World Atlas* and the Greek Lexicon under your jacket.

Perhaps one of you could explain to me how it is that there is an odd halfpenny in the Treasury (where your fines are kept) when only pennies are paid in ? Perhaps it is some form of compound interest (I can't understand that nowadays), or is it conscience money from some boy who kept out two fiction books at once (horror of horrors) ?

If you really like causing a stir put three chairs round a bay table without its being apparent where the third one came from. But this is treading on dangerous ground and only advised as a parting gesture.

Now that you know how to use and abuse the Library, may I wish you many peaceful hours within the security of this remarkable institution.

P.S. The latest news : I can explain the mysteries surrounding the calendar which has suddenly appeared. The black-letter days are those on which fines are payable, the red ones those on which you can take out “starred” books.

K. J. P. WESTNEY (Vlth).

THE PREFECTS' ROOM

A year has passed since that respected band of scholars known, among other things, as the prefects, was at last granted the privilege of possessing a reasonably private Common Room. It is noticeable that this latter is situated in that part of the School which is farthest from the Staff Room and Library, but no one has ventured to question whether this was by accident or design. However, we were grateful for and proud of the privilege, so we set about converting the disused kitchen into a respectable and comfortable lodging place.

Our first task was to sweep the cobwebs from the cupboards and make the shelves fit to hold our School Library books; from time to time we brush away the new cobwebs which appear on these books. Certain boarders kindly provided a stack of magazines—*Picture Post*, *Illustrated*, and certain others which boarders delight to read—but these have mysteriously vanished one by one, until a mere half-dozen remain. A notice-board appeared on the wall, and a radio set was rigged up, its yards of wire festooning the room like Christmas decorations. Of late, several ornaments have appeared: two of our eminent geographers suddenly decided to do some work, and returned from an archaeological expedition with several chunks of "Denner 'ill Rock," relics of the antediluvian age.

As a result of these additions, the ex-kitchen soon took on the appearance of an inhabited dwelling, with plenty of floor-space for wrestling, boxing and indoor baseball. But our sporting plans were spoiled by a scholastically-minded prefect who suggested that, as we were at school for the purpose of education, we should have a table and some chairs in the room, so that if one of our number miraculously felt the urge to work, he would not be hampered by lack of furniture. To satisfy this whim, we commandeered the old library chairs and a table. A large, hideously illustrated calendar was affixed in an appropriate place so that we should be spared the mental effort of working out the date.

So it was that the Prefects' Room came into being. It is a sanctuary which not even the boldest dares to enter without timidly knocking. Even Six Remove next door converse in whispers lest they disturb the slumbers of some work-weary prefect. On one occasion that form did forget its respect for the hallowed room, and strains of "Nellie Dean" floated through the doorway, mingled with the smell of coffee, and rudely awakened a certain prefect, who effectively quelled the source of the disturbance. Actually there is little chance to sleep, for a sleeping prefect is not on his guard, and none can tell what danger lurks for the unsuspecting.

The Prefects' Room might be compared with a hive, for while certain of us are always prepared to work hard (in case a master should come in), it is inevitable that a large number of drones—

mostly Scientists—should live with us. Court of Justice is held at 1.20 p.m. every Friday, when all the drones except two are cleared from the courtroom. These two can hardly be ejected, for they never fail to bring along some young delinquent who “merits a Prefects’ Meeting.” Naturally, we always “let the punishment fit the crime,” though the court does show leniency if a young offender fetches a dozen packets of biscuits from the tuck-shop within two minutes. Whatever our decision, however, certain members of the middle-school unjustly condemn us as sadists.

Actually, the lot of a prefect is far from being a happy one, for the non-prefect will always regard his actions with suspicion. His juniors despise him for carrying out his task too conscientiously, and his seniors look down on him because he fails in the impossible task of maintaining law and order in the School. One thing we can be thankful for—in the Prefects’ Common Room, where Scientist meets Modernist on almost friendly terms, and where even a Classicist is sometimes grudgingly allowed to enter a philosophical discussion between Modernists, we have a refuge from the most rebellious junior or the worst slave-driving master. We can, with thankful hearts, regard it as

“Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.”

K. JAMES (Vith).

THE GLORY THAT WAS . . .

I well remember my introduction to that most hallowed of the School’s many links with our glorious pre-1944-Butler-Act-past, the Library. I had as a Fifth-former passed by that majestic portal as quickly and as quietly as I could, fearful lest the Mammon-worshipping inhabitants should seize me for a sacrifice. Then I myself became a member of the Sixth Form. I entered with the rest of 6M¹ and stood, slightly quailing, before the august and impassive gaze of the Upper Sixth. We were given useless advice on all sides, and it was only then, hearing the members of the Sixth Form speaking that I was disillusioned, for I had always thought the Sixth Form to be sensible folk before then.

We soon learnt the main points of life in the Library ; to despise the lower school, to revere the Upper Sixth, never to work during free periods, and never to enter the third year corner. The prefects were, of course, immensely popular with the Lower Sixth, and sometimes a small knot of admirers would gather opposite the third year corner to watch the high life of society. We would often see a case of shelves precipitated on to the floor with a certain prefect on top of it, or occasionally watch a prefect in the 1st XV who specialised in Modern Languages and in suspending other third-yearers by their

ankles above a radiator. All was not peace for us lowly-stationed first-yearers, for hordes of creatures whom we took to be troglodytes would occasionally come in to wreak wholesale destruction on our shelves, dashing our books to the floor, then rushing back to their primitive abodes, which we learnt were not vast subterranean caverns but the laboratories in the top corridor. This golden age was one which can be ranked alongside the happy days of blackout curtains, lady teachers and the war in general, when we only came to school in the mornings.

We were not destined to continue this Elysian existence. Ominous rumours of impending disaster reached our ears. It was said that our home was to be used for a Library, and we scoffed at this notion. Some even suggested that we would no longer be allowed to use the Library as we pleased, as form-room, cloak-room and changing-room. We merely pointed to the flag (a 1st XV jersey hanging from a pipe in the third year corner) and affirmed our intention to keep it flying. Then in the spring of 1950 came official confirmation of the terrible news. Even then we turned to the youngest members of the Sixth Form and prophesied that they would have left long before this came to pass. We expected that Whitehall, the hive of what one political party has long abused as "Ministerial incompetence," would delay the evil work till about 1954. In Autumn, 1950, came the first rude shock. A corner of the Library, inhabited by 6M¹, was ordered to be cleared, new bookcases appeared and the Library was suddenly faced with a vast refugee problem. This happened again and part of 6M² were made homeless, and so great became the pressure from outside that we were forced to take 6M² into our corner as permanent residents. Then the third year corner itself was requisitioned. What could we do? We discussed assassinating the staff, blowing up the Library, and all leaving the School, but, alas, we failed to find any effective way of stopping the dreadful work, and we had to admit defeat.

Now, after a year in which efficiency has asserted itself everywhere except in the third year Sixth, we see, and cannot deny the truth of the adage "The old order changeth, and giveth place to new." What would we not give to regain the old library tables inscribed by countless Old Boys, what would we not give to regain the old ceiling marked by countless muddy footballs. With the days of the Kerry Dancing, they are gone beyond recall. As we work in the inhuman silence which has overtaken our ancestral home, we who have lost a battle against progress reflect sadly on the folly of that which has defeated us.

C. L. HORTIN (Vith).

Editor's Note.

Fear not, C.L.H., all is not yet lost. Perhaps the rumours that the old flag still flies bravely in the attic of the Prefects' Room have some foundation, and the systematic snaffling of C.C.F. rifles to arm us have not yet been discovered. We must be brave and go forward to remedy the injustice.

Vive la revolution!

M.J.B.

HOCKEY

A limited number of boys not involved in cross-country running, seven-a-sides or boxing is now able to play hockey. It is hoped that it will be possible to organise the game rather earlier in the Spring term next year so that a few inter-School fixtures may be arranged.

The Wycombe Cricket and Hockey clubs have kindly lent us their changing accommodation and arrangements have been made to play on the Rye on Wednesday afternoons. Our first full match will be against a scratch Wycombe side on a date to be fixed later in the term.

T.E.H.

CRICKET CLUB—Season 1952

Captain : M. BRIDGES

Vice-Captain : R. C. WING

Old Colours : M. G. WALKER, M. BRIDGES, R. C. WING

1952 should provide the School with an interesting season's cricket. Only three old colours are returning and there are many hopeful claimants for the other eight positions. Competition will be keen for these remaining places and the nets in the Easter Holidays should be more than overworked. The first round of the House Cricket Cup competition will be played off on the last Wednesday in April and will give the selection committee a chance to see even more of the Seniors in match play before the first School match on Saturday, May 3rd *v.* Borlase School.

The fixture lists are full, the 1st XI having 21 games, the 2nd XI 17, the Under-15 XI 10, and the Under-14 XI 10 games. New fixtures have been arranged with Bishopsholt School, Royal Masonic School and Saint Benedict's. The qualification for the Under-15 XI has been arranged slightly to enable the very young members of the XI to have two years in the team instead of being lost in the wilds of the 2nd XI. In future a Colt must be under 15 on the 1st September of the School year—in this case under 15 on 1st September, 1951. The Junior Colts' age qualification remains the same—under 14 on 1st May, 1952.

Already before the season has started a new sight-screen is standing at the Green Road end of the ground and should foil, successfully it is hoped, the wiles of any left-hand leg-break bowler who has in previous seasons used the trees on the boundary to improve his flight! The mechanism of the score-board has been modified in the light of experience and should enable spectators and players alike to see the score more easily than last season.

Finally, the club wishes to offer its congratulations to Mr. Beeson on being elected Captain of the High Wycombe Cricket Club for 1952. The High Wycombe Club, which is well over one hundred years old, is the foremost club in Bucks and plays regularly, and with success, against all the big London clubs, and its 1st XI, when at full strength, fields no less than five full county caps and five who have played for the County. Thus the position of Captain of the club is an important post. The club is once more running its Colts' Section, with increased facilities and fixtures. It is hoped that members of the School who were boy members last year will once more take full advantage of the facilities offered by the club. Anyone who is not a member and would like to become one must get a form from the club and obtain the signatures of two full members—the subscription is 5/- per year.

Dates to remember :—

Tuesday, April 8th—1st holiday net, 2 p.m.

Monday, April 28th—Film, "Elusive Victory," 4.10 p.m. (film of M.C.C. Tour in Australia).

H.W.J.

BASKETBALL

The two league competitions went quickly into operation in October, and at the conclusion VUS were winners in League A with VIs2 beaten only on goal average. Both teams had lost only one match. Competing teams were VIs2, VIM2, VIM1, VIR, VUA, VUS, VuShell. In League B Vx won all matches played, although one match was outstanding, whilst VUS 2nd team lost only one match. This League comprised VUS 2nd, VUA 2nd, Vx, VA, Vs, V Shell, VA 2nd and Vs 2nd.

Early in the Easter term the Cup competition started and VUS and VIs2 emerged as finalists.

The School team has played four games. At Southfield School, Oxford, we were able to find a second team, which won by 25 points to 15 points.

Team : E. Hall (captain), T. R. Bulpett (vice-captain), D. Burrows, P. S. Reader, B. C. Stevens, J. P. Osborne, B. K. Johnson, J. Weaver, R. Clapton, R. A. Kipping.

The team is looking forward to its forthcoming participation in the Junior National Championships.

RUGBY RETROSPECT 1951-1952

A season interrupted by bad weather has been marked by the remarkable success of the younger teams and by the grand efforts of a young and inexperienced School fifteen. We have all been immensely heartened by John Woodward's fine play in the England side, the first caps ever gained by a boy from the School but not, we hope, the last ; and we are glad to see so many members of recent teams doing very well in club and university rugby. E. Hall again played for Oxfordshire schoolboys, and five of our "under 15" team for the Berkshire junior side. A. J. Gordon was invited to play for the South-Eastern region.

1st XV

School Matches : Played 13, Won 5, Drawn 2, Lost 6.

Other Matches : Played 4, Won 2, Lost 2.

P. C. S. Hall began the season with only three old colours in the pack and one behind ; and the difficulty of finding an effective three-quarter line, either in attack or defence, was never fully solved. R. Clapton, the only colour among the backs, was frequently on the sick or injured list and did not find his old form at centre three-quarter. After many unsuccessful experiments, we ended up with the two wings, M. Bridges and R. Ludlam, moving into the centre, and P. S. Reader, M. F. Booth, B. K. Johnson and occasionally Clapton himself playing at different times on the wing. Bridges and Ludlam worked well together : they both ran hard, passed wildly and defended with courage. Ludlam especially improved steadily. T. R. Bulpett was imperturbable, sometimes too much so, at full-back. D. Thomas at stand-off fulfilled our best hopes of him and played very well in an orthodox style. His partner, P. J. Osborne, was most promising, but in some games slow over his main job of getting the ball out. He was perhaps the best of some very erratic place-kickers ; and we have very high hopes of him.

Of the forwards, all three old colours, Peter and Eric Hall in the front row and A. Kenyon, open side loose forward, were outstandingly good, and match after match held the side together by their hard and intelligent play. T. Abdallah, rather out of place in the second row, and G. J. Bristow, a greatly improved front-row forward, were grand and efficient workers, and B. C. Stevens a great trier if rather wild. R. File and D. F. E. Hill also earned their colours, and C. M. Edwards played well in one or two matches. As a pack the forwards were well up to standard, except sometimes in the tight scrummage.

Of the thirteen School matches played, we began by losing at Windsor, owing to poor covering against fast following up of kicks ahead and to even poorer place-kicking. Both sides scored four tries, and Windsor converted two of them with fine kicks from far

out. After beating Marylebone away, and escaping with a draw against Henley, who had a very good side, we lost disappointingly at Watford, where our forwards gave an experimental three-quarter line endless chances to do something with the ball, but, alas, they could make no progress at all. Nor was the defence satisfactory without Bulpett at full-back. Marlow we beat comfortably and in quite good style ; and then lost a good, close game against Stowe 2nd XV, place-kicking again contributing to our defeat. After half term we gave a very poor account of ourselves in a new fixture against the City of Oxford School, who fielded a fine side. We were all the more delighted and surprised by some greatly improved play against Tiffin School, whom we beat by 13 points to 11, at home. A rather scrappy drawn game with Reading followed, in which both sides suffered from the absence of their regular stand-off half. St. Edward's 2nd XV we beat in a hard-fought game. Abingdon were all over us for the first quarter of an hour, and but for missed kicks would have had a bigger lead than six points ; from then on the game was fought with desperate equality and no further score. A good game. The move of Bridges and Ludlam into the centre produced improved three-quarter play against Southfield at Oxford, and although the forwards were for once rather sluggish, the game was won comfortably enough. Leighton Park, in what turned out to be the last School match of the season, threw the ball about with great skill and ran really hard to build up a winning lead in the first twenty minutes of the game. The School's defence gradually recovered from the shock, and by scoring ten points in the closing stages of the game, we made the score seem rather more respectable.

Of the club matches we began the season by beating Saracens' Gipsy XV so soundly that we felt we should at least have a strong and efficient team to see us through what we expected to be rather a lean year. The last match of the Winter Term was against the Old Boys, and this was another grand and hard-earned victory. The ground was heavy and persistent rain was blown across the field by a strong cold wind. The Old Boys tried hard to play open rugger in spite of the conditions, but it was almost hopeless. Ten minutes or so from the end of the game, the Old Boys led by two penalty goals to nil. Then the School forwards scored a try after a scrum near the line and Osborne converted. A minute from time the Old Boys were penalised near the touch-line for foot-up, and from the middle of a large mud patch Osborne kicked a splendid goal. Most Spring Term fixtures were cancelled because of frozen grounds, but the team gave a very good account of themselves against Jesus College at Oxford, where they lost by the one try of the game. Finally we lost, by 3 pts. to 6, against Newland Park Training College, very much against the run of the play.

In almost every game this team demonstrated their determination and powers of recovery, and were by the end of the season a workmanlike and efficient side, and Hall is to be congratulated on the spirit of the whole team and on his own leadership.

The 1st XV for the team photograph was : T. R. Bulpett†, B. K. Johnson*, R. Ludlam†, M. Bridges†, R. G. Clapton†, D. J. Thomas†, J. P. Osborne†, E. Hall†, P. C. S. Hall† (Captain), G. J. Bristow†, T. W. Abdallah†, D. F. E. Hill†, A. Kenyon† (Vice-captain), R. File† and B. C. Stevens†. Others who played were R. E. Hester*, M. F. Booth*, C. M. Edwards*, P. J. Webb*, D. R. Owen*, J. M. Hanna*, P. S. Reader*, B. G. Wheeler*, B. K. Debenham* and J. Weaver.

(† indicates first colours, * second colours.)

2nd XV

Played 8, Won 3, Drawn 2, Lost 3.

The 2nd XV had five of their fixtures cancelled for various unfortunate reasons. After beginning the season extremely well, they were very upset by frequent changes among the backs. Even so, they would have won more games had the forwards been willing to get their heads down and do a fair share of the work in the scrummages. Several players have been mentioned as playing at times for the 1st XV, but the most consistently efficient player in the side was probably B. G. Wheeler. Only lack of weight and height kept him from at least a trial with the 1st XV, and when he at last got his chance as a substitute he played extremely well.

The 2nd XV for the photograph was : J. C. Colver, P. J. Webb*, D. R. Owen*, R. E. Hester*, S. W. Stock, P. S. Reader*, R. A. Kipping, J. M. Hanna*, G. F. Regan, M. F. Booth*, C. M. Edwards* (Captain), C. G. Emmins, M. J. Garratt, J. Weaver and B. G. Wheeler*. Others who played for the team were B. K. Debenham*, D. H. Bolton, P. H. G. Burt, I. T. Johnston, B. Sinnatt, R. C. Wing, A. J. Elburn, T. E. Hawes, R. B. Ashby, P. P. Crowther, R. A. J. Small.

3rd XV

Played 9, Won 2, Lost 7.

The 3rd XV were a far better team than their record would suggest, and there are a number of very promising players in it. Their numerous defeats can mostly be explained by the poor scrummaging of the forwards, but some of the tackling also was weak.

The 3rd XV for the photograph was : P. P. Crowther, B. K. Debenham*, I. T. Johnston, P. C. White, R. B. Ashby, J. W. Pursey, B. Sinnatt (Captain), D. H. Bolton, R. C. Wing, I. C. Birch, T. E. Hawes, V. Lear, A. J. Elburn, J. R. Young and P. W. Elliott. Others who played for the team were T. Baker, G. D. B. Jones, R. H. Powell, W. R. Weston, J. D. Dixon, P. A. Verhoeft, F. J. R. Hobson, J. Diller and R. B. James.

COLTS XV (Under 15)

Played 7, Won 6, Lost 1.

This team, as was expected, played splendidly and owed its success to all-round ability and enthusiasm. The backs, from scrum-half to full-back were a most formidable lot in attack and solid in defence. Much of the running and tackling was equally good, a splendid pack; and apart from the side's one defeat at Watford they won all their matches by a comfortable margin. A number of these boys will be competing for places in next year's First Fifteen.

The Colts team was : R. C. Jones, J. S. Dunningham, M. J. Reavey, T. E. Uphill, K. C. Jones, G. W. Snapes (Captain), R. C. Ashby, D. J. Gittins, G. R. Davis, T. R. Moxham, A. J. Gordon, R. A. Mann, A. F. Abercrombie, T. C. Olsen, G. R. Orchard.

F. E. J. Hawkins captained the side until he was injured early in the season. Others to play were B. H. Cornish and R. Burrows.

JUNIOR XV (Under 14)

Played 8, Won 8.

This fine team was, if anything, even better than last year's : their excellent record (158 points to 9!) was not gained by one or two out-sized boys bullocking their way through but by excellent combined team-work and hard play, as well as by regular and enthusiastic training in the evenings and dinner hour.

The Under 13 team played three matches, all of which they lost by the narrowest of margins : they looked a promising lot of boys. The new boys (2nd forms) played very pluckily against a much bigger and stronger side from Thorpe House.

The following played for the Under 14 XV : B. M. Ashby, R. J. Austin, J. A. Barwell, E. C. Bond, T. J. Bond, P. Chamberlin, J. A. Cox, M. Dietchman, B. E. Devlin, K. G. Faulkner, N. C. Gosling, J. W. Harding, A. Harvey, M. D. Jones, J. S. Kelly, M. J. King, D. J. Mendy, J. H. Richardson, M. J. Richardson, A. J. Sallows, J. Smithers, E. M. Squires, A. J. C. Wright (Captain).

The following played for the Under 13 XV : P. Aikens, G. W. Andrews, B. M. Ashby, R. J. Austin, F. R. Ede, J. Glemster, J. W. Harding, P. D. Hares, A. Harvey, G. Hickey, A. P. Malein, C. R. Rake, J. H. Richardson, G. E. Rushby, J. O. Small, J. V. Sullivan, M. H. Vaughan-Rees, C. L. Westcott, R. L. Weston.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

1st XV

Sept. 22	Saracens' Gipsy XV	...	...	Home	Won	16	3
.. 29	Windsor County School	...	...	Away	Lost	12	16
Oct. 6	Marylebone G.S.	...	...	Away	Won	6	0
.. 13	Henley G.S.	...	...	Home	Drawn	8	8
.. 17	Watford G.S.	...	...	Away	Lost	3	13
.. 20	Borlase School, Marlow	...	...	Home	Won	22	0
.. 24	Stowe School 2nd XV	...	...	Away	Lost	6	8
Nov. 3	City of Oxford School	...	...	Away	Lost	0	26
.. 7	Tiffin School	...	...	Home	Won	15	11
.. 10	Reading School	...	...	Home	Drawn	3	3
.. 21	St. Edward's School 2nd XV	...	...	Home	Won	6	0
.. 24	Abingdon School	...	...	Away	Lost	0	6
Dec. 1	Southfield School	...	...	Away	Won	11	0
.. 5	Leighton Park School	...	...	Away	Lost	10	19
.. 8	Old Boys	...	...	Home	Won	8	6
Feb. 9	Jesus College, Oxford	...	...	Away	Lost	0	3
.. 16	Newland Park Training College	...	...	Home	Lost	3	6

(The matches arranged against Watford G.S. at home and against Newbury G.S., Army Apprentices School, Arborfield, and Balliol College had all to be cancelled for bad weather.)

2nd XV

Oct. 6	Marylebone G.S.	...	...	Home	Won	50	0
.. 13	Aylesbury G.S. 1st XV	...	...	Away	Won	15	12
.. 17	Watford G.S.	...	...	Home	Won	22	16
Nov. 3	City of Oxford School	...	...	Away	Lost	0	13
.. 7	Tiffin School	...	...	Away	Drawn	3	3
.. 10	Reading School	...	...	Away	Lost	5	18
.. 21	Leighton Park School	...	...	Away	Drawn	3	3
.. 24	Abingdon School	...	...	Home	Lost	3	19

(The fixtures against Dunstable G.S., Southfield School, Newbury G.S., Thame School, and Arborfield Army Apprentices had to be abandoned.)

3rd XV

Sept. 29	Windsor C.S. 2nd XV	...	...	Home	Lost	3	9
Oct. 6	Reading School	...	...	Home	Lost	8	14
.. 13	Old Wycombiensians "B"	...	...	Home	Lost	8	20
.. 17	Watford G.S.	...	...	Home	Lost	8	16
.. 20	Borlase School, Marlow	...	...	Away	Won	21	3
Nov. 7	Tiffin School	...	...	Away	Lost	0	15
.. 10	Old Wycombiensians "B"	...	...	Home	Lost	0	14
.. 17	Leighton Park School	...	...	Away	Lost	0	5
Dec. 1	Borlase School, Marlow	...	...	Home	Won	50	0

COLTS (Under 15 on September 1st, 1951)

Sept. 29	Windsor County School	...	...	Away	Won	17	0
Oct. 6	Marylebone G.S.	...	...	Away	Won	14	3
.. 13	Watford G.S.	...	...	Away	Lost	0	16
Nov. 7	Tiffin School	...	...	Home	Won	20	10
.. 10	Reading School	...	...	Home	Won	15	0
.. 24	Henley G.S.	...	...	Away	Won	13	3
Dec. 1	Stowe School	...	...	Home	Won	35	0

JUNIORS (Under 14 on September 1st, 1951)

Sept. 29	Windsor County School	...	...	Home	Won	22	0
Oct. 6	Marylebone G.S.	...	...	Home	Won	20	0
.. 13	Watford G.S.	...	...	Away	Won	8	3
.. 20	Southfield School	...	...	Away	Won	30	6
Nov. 10	Reading School	...	...	Away	Won	28	0
.. 24	Henley G.S.	...	...	Away	Won	24	0
Dec. 1	Watford G.S.	...	...	Home	Won	14	0
.. 8	Borlase School, Marlow	...	...	Away	Won	12	0

JUNIORS (Under 13 on September 1st, 1951)

Nov. 3	St. Anne's School, Caversham	...	...	Home	Lost	8	9
.. 17	St. Anne's School, Caversham	...	...	Away	Lost	0	6
Dec. 1	Watford G.S.	Home	Lost	3	8

JUNIORS (2nd Forms)

Feb. 28	Thorpe House School	Home	Lost	0	30
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HOUSE-MATCHES

The Senior House-matches were played on the League system, and the cup was deservedly won by Fraser. Their closest game was against Youens, but this game was an example of good forwards beating quite good three-quarters.

The Colts and Junior competitions were played on the knock-out system. Arnison had a great struggle with Youens in the first round, but won the final easily against Disraeli.

Youens won the Junior competition easily. They had quite a good side, but owed much of their superiority to the physique and skill of their captain, M. J. Richardson.

RESULTS OF SENIOR HOUSE-MATCHES

Fraser	beat	Disraeli	18	0
Fraser	beat	Arnison	21	6
Fraser	beat	Youens	6	0
Youens	beat	Arnison	24	0
Youens	beat	Disraeli	6	3
Disraeli	beat	Arnison	11	8

COLTS COMPETITION

First Round.	ARNISON	beat	Youens	9	8
	DISRAELI	beat	Fraser	18	3
FINAL	ARNISON	beat	DISRAELI	24	9
	(Youens beat Fraser 26—6 in the playoff for the wooden spoon)				

JUNIOR COMPETITION

First round.	YOUENS	beat	Arnison	28	3
	DISRAELI	beat	Fraser	9	3
FINAL.	YOUENS	beat	DISRAELI	22	0
	(Fraser beat Arnison 12—0 in the play-off for the wooden spoon)				

ATHLETICS

This year the Annual Athletics Championships are to be held on May 7th, when there is a much greater likelihood of fine weather. For long now we have had to be content with very inadequate facilities for the jumping events because of the unsatisfactory nature of the ground. Now a part of the field has been levelled and a suitable site chosen for long and high jump pits.

Some athletics matches, apart from the District, County and National Schools Championships, are planned for the summer. We also have a great deal of interest in the Olympic Games this year, since a party of 40 boys have the much-envied opportunity of a voyage to Helsinki in July.

This year a team of boys is to participate in the Indoor Junior Championships at Harringay Stadium.

The School was honoured last January in that one of the boys, B. K. Johnson, was chosen out of many applicants to join a selected band of young athletes for a course at Mootspur Park.

BOXING

Again this year there has been a good entry from the Houses and preliminary bouts have given bright promise of attractive finals on 26th March.

A change in the organisation of the competition separates the Junior and Senior Schools in actual competition, although both championships will take place on the same afternoon.

In the County Championships at Wolverton on 13th February, School representatives acquitted themselves very creditably, with the result that Hawkins, Oxley and Bond will box for the County team at Edmonton on 8th March, as well as Harvey and Dunningham. Space is too limited to describe all the bouts in which our boys took part, but a word must be said about Reavey, whose exhibition against a very strong opponent was so full of pluck and technical brilliance as to merit a different decision by the referee.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Looking back on this season, the School team has had its most unsuccessful yet, but even so the majority of matches went in our favour. During the season, the team showed occasional glimpses of the brilliance which made last leason so outstanding, but on the whole form was rather mediocre. At Oxford we easily beat the R.A.F., Little Rissington, Culham College and a strong Keble College team, gaining 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 9th places. Again at Culham College we beat both the home team and Brasenose College, Oxford, who had not been beaten until then, by a convincing margin. On the other hand, we were soundly beaten by Army Apprentices, Arborfield, and R.A.F., Halton. This term, in beating us by 92 points, Southgate Harriers inflicted what is almost certainly the heaviest defeat suffered by a School team at any sport. It may be some consolation that Southgate are firm favourites to retain the Southern title, which we jointly won with them last season.

The main fault with the team seems to have been the great difference between the first three scoring men and the rest of the team. Until Christmas, P. Carpenter and B. Hall were outstanding, and with the exception of the redoubtable Long, were easily as good as anyone in last year's team. But the absence of backing from the rest of the team was undoubtedly responsible for more than one defeat. At Christmas, Hall left, but as Blackshaw soon found his best form, Hall's absence was not greatly felt.

Amongst the rest of the team, no one was outstanding, but Fellows, Barrett and Norwood were quite consistent, and by next season should have improved appreciably. The remainder, who always did their best, had great enthusiasm.

In the Colts and Junior teams, the early season promise did not justify itself and neither team has been very successful. Rackstraw, of the Junior team, and Jones, of the Colts, deserve mention. These two boys have been consistently good, and with perseverance should contribute greatly towards a very strong School team in the near future.

It is with pleasure that we notice the success of certain Old Boys of the School. D. J. Wood put up a superb performance to win the County Junior Cross-country Championship by over 250 yards from Kennedy, the Cambridge University and County 3 miles Champion. T. A. Long, A. J. Redrup and B. M. Hall, all members of last year's team, did very well to finish second to Belgrave Harriers in the Vale of Aylesbury Youth Road Relay. Redrup also put up a great performance in winning the School *versus* Wycombe Phoenix Harriers match.

R. GARRATT.

SUMMARY OF MATCHES

Oct. 31	Royal Naval Air School, Culham	... Home	Won	37—41
Nov. 3	Army Apprentices, Arborfield	... Away	Lost	97—51
.. 7	William Ellis School	... ..	Away	Lost 48—32
.. 14	Jesus College, Oxford	... ..	Away	Won 35—47
.. 17	R.A.F., Halton	... ..	Home	Lost 57—29
.. 21	Slough Grammar School	... ..	Away	Won 31—50
.. 24	Wycombe Phoenix Harriers and Vale of Aylesbury A.C.	... ..	Home	Lost 35—59—108½
.. 28	Keble College, Oxford ; R.A.F., Little Rissington and Culham College	Away	Won	32—66—113—118
Dec. 1	Watford Grammar School	... ..	Away	Lost 43—38
.. 5	Culham College	... ..	Home	Won 28—62
Jan. 16	Bishopshalt School and Slough G.S.	... ..	Away	Won 32—69—77
.. 19	Southgate Harriers	... ..	Away	Lost 154—62
.. 26	Vale of Aylesbury A.C.	... ..	Away	Won 34—53
.. 30	Culham College and Brasenose College	Away	Won	29—48—56
Feb. 2	Vale of Aylesbury Youth Road Relay :			
				"A" Team 5th
				"B" Team 13th. 22 teams ran
.. 16	Ranelagh Harriers Inter-Schools.			9th of 21 teams
.. 23	Southern Counties Championships			13th of 43 teams
Mar. 1	Judge Cup—Kingston			5th of 7 teams

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

Births

A. N. ABBOTT (1933-38). On February 23rd, 1952, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Abbott, a son.

E. G. BARNES (1919-25). On March 26th, at Gerrards Cross, to Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Barnes, a daughter.

R. BARNES (1935-42). On January 21st, 1952, at Ealing Hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. R. Barnes, a daughter.

D. J. BATES (1923-27). On September 16th, 1951, at Watlington, to Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Bates, a son.

T. F. RAYNER (1934-40). On October 29th, 1951, at Cliveden, to Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Rayner, a son.

D. J. STAMMERS (1936-41). On January 11th, 1952, in London, to Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Stammers, a daughter.

F. R. UNDERHILL (1922-29). On March 23rd, 1949, at Gerrards Cross, to Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Underhill, a son ; on March 17th, 1951, a daughter.

D. R. WITNEY (1934-41). On December 29th, 1951, in London, to Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Witney, a daughter.

Marriages

BARNES—MARRIAN. On December 22nd, 1951, at St. Mary's Church, Handsworth, L. B. Barnes (1924-31) to Miss J. Marrian.

FLETCHER—INMAN. On October 20th, 1951, at Kirby Cross, Essex, C. T. Fletcher (1939-46) to Miss D. M. Inman.

GLENISTER—HERITAGE. On July 25th, 1951, at Hughenden, B. Glenister (1931-37) to Miss M. J. Heritage.

LEACH—COBBETT. On September 8th, 1951, at St. Saviour's Church, Wimbledon, H. L. L. Leach (1942-46) to Miss M. Cobbett.

MORTIMORE—TOPHAM. On July 28th, 1951, at Wanstead, N. Mortimore (1931-36) to Miss I. Topham.

PICKLES—WATSON. On January 12th, 1952, at Liversedge, Parish Church, Yorkshire, B. Pickles (1937-42) to Miss K. J. Watson.

RICH—CHRISTIANSON. On March 5th, 1952, at High Wycombe, R. T. Rich (1934-37) to Frk. Inger M. Christianson.

WARREN—WOODLEY. On September 1st, 1951, at St. Lawrence's Church, West Wycombe, J. Warren (1939-45) to Miss J. Woodley.

Killed on Active Service

J. B. WARREN (1933-42). On September 23rd, 1951, in Korea, John Beverley Warren, Capt., R.A., only son of Mr. and the late Mrs. Russell Warren, aged 27.

It was with great sorrow and personal regret that we heard of the death, while fighting in Korea, of Captain J. B. Warren, who was at the School from September 1933 to July 1942. As a boy he was marked out by his outstanding keenness for the Corps as a future soldier. I suppose it is true to say that we never had an abler and more efficient Sergeant-Major than he proved himself to be at a very difficult and critical time. Going first to the Indian Army as a cadet he was later transferred to the British Army and soon obtained a Captaincy in the Royal Artillery. He visited the School frequently when on leave and always expressed the most earnest desire to take part in the fighting in Korea. We extend our deepest sympathy to his father and sister in their great loss.

E. R. TUCKER, Headmaster.

Death

MRS. BARTLE. On September 12th, 1951, at Reepham, Norfolk, Mrs. Bartle, wife of W. J. Bartle, on the staff of the School 1901-1935.

Many Old Boys, especially those who were boarders with the Bartles at No. 1, Priory Avenue, will learn with very deep regret of the death of Mrs. Bartle. She had suffered greatly from arthritis, but in spite of this handicap continued her painting for many years after she and her husband retired to Reepham. The most sincere sympathy goes out from us all to Mr. Bartle and his family in their bereavement.

OLD BOYS' NOTES AND NEWS

J. A. BLAND (1939-46) has provided news of the following O.W.'s who are at Cambridge :—

M. BELBIN (1941-45) is married now and working in the Dept. of Psychology at the University.

S. L. M. CLARKE (1940-44) is studying Mathematics at Trinity College, and fences for the University.

B. FLETCHER (1941-48) is reading History at Sidney Sussex College.

A. OXLEY (1942-47) is taking Natural Sciences. He is a scholar of Pembroke College.

R. RAY (1941-48) reads Modern Languages at Jesus College.

F. RICHARDS, formerly F. Suessman (1939-47), is reading Medicine, and has played an active part in the Universities' Tuberculosis campaign, of which he was for a short time secretary.

D. R. STANSBURY (1943-50) is leading an active political life at King's College, under the guise of reading English.

D. WICKENS (1935-43), who was School Captain, returns occasionally to Jesus College to take Law exams. He is working now with the Wycombe Law Clerk.

Bland also gives us the following information :—

J. BACKFORD (1941-45) is studying at a Canadian University and supports himself during the "vac." by working on a golf course (presumably also Canadian).

J. BAILEY (1939-44) has a Commission in the R.E. and is now studying to be a Surveyor.

H. BRIGGS (1940-46) read Economics and Geography at University College, London, and is now in Germany doing his National Service as an R.A.F. officer in Coastal Command.

W. CHINN (1940-46) is heading for high honours in the Boxing world, but finds time to read Natural Sciences at Dublin University. He recently outpointed the Irish champion and international over six rounds and will probably box in the Irish Championships at Easter.

P. CORNISH (1940-45) is a Ship's Officer on an oil tanker, working for the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

A. E. COX (1943-50) is doing his National Service with the R.A.M.C.

D. COX (1939-46) is doing research work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at Grimsby.

G. W. COX (1936-41), his brother, follows in his footsteps by doing research work in Atomic Research at Harwell.

G. GINGER (1940-46) works in Lintafelt Research Dept. with an old member of the staff, Mr. Hudson.

R. HARMAN (1944-49) is now in warmer climes aboard H.M.S. *Devonshire*, cruising in the Caribbean for experience, after completing two years of his training at the R.N.C., Dartmouth. He has promised a present member of the School to bring him back a parrot!

P. HARRIS (1939-45) is at I.C.I. in Slough.

H. HICKMAN (1939-46), who is in the O.W.'s Rugby team, has completed his engineering training at A.E.C., Southall. He has now been called up into the R.E.M.E. and is stationed at Honiton, Devon. He met K. CHURCH (1940-46) at A.E.C., who is doing similar training.

B. S. LARKIN (1941-46), who was a F/O in the R.A.F., in Germany, is now in engineering at Peterborough.

H. MARTIN (1941-46) is down from Oxford and in the Education Corps.

K. O. SURRIDGE (1938-43) is a Government Radio Inspector at Norwich.

Many thanks to Bland for his help.

S. W. ASHFORD (1943-47) is aboard H.M.S. *Sydney*, stationed on Tokyo. He says that the *Wycombiensian* is a source of great pleasure to him, and he wishes the 1st XV the best of luck.

P. G. BADCOCK (1945-51) is in London, and hopes to become a Chartered Accountant after five years.

A. W. BARTLETT (1914-19), with his wife and son sailed for South Africa on January 17th, on their way to Johannesburg. He intends to join a firm of furniture manufacturers with whom his younger brother, who emigrated five years ago, is connected.

H. C. T. BRIDEN (1915-22) has discovered an O.W., WILLIAM GERMANY, among his staff. He was at School from 1940-44, and is going to join the O.W.'s Club.

W. T. BRINDLEY (1910-15). In a letter to Mr. Arnison dated from Police Headquarters, Colombo, January 1st, W. T. B. enclosed a copy of a cartoon of himself which recently appeared in the *Ceylon Observer*. Under it were the following lines :

“ When a few old sportsmen meet for a chat,
You will hear that ‘ Brindles ’ was a brilliant bat.
Great were his feats ; and who can choose
Feet big enough to fill his shoes ? ”

Brindley writes : “ I would like you to have a realistic picture of the type of ‘ Thing ’ you turned out in 1910-15. An old friend wrote to me when this appeared, and said : ‘ You must have played cricket at Dartmoor ! ’ ” “ Brindles ” hopes to enter England with the primroses and crocuses in the Spring of 1953.

J. M. CANTY (1944-45) writes from Malaya, where he is Assistant Manager at a Dunlop estate. He greatly enjoys this life, and gives his address, “ Paya Zang Estate, Batu Anan, Johore.” He has seen I. McQUEEN, who is a police officer.

D. A. CLINCH (1944-49) is on H.M.S. *Antic*, stationed on Portsmouth.

C. T. FLETCHER (1939-46), who is now married, sends us the news that he has won a handsome prize for devising a more acceptable form of Rate Demand Note.

J. E. HUNT (1883-87). In the New Year’s list of Honours to New Zealand appears the name of Mr. John Edwin Hunt, of Wellington, who has received the O.B.E. for “ services to the community.” Mr. Hunt is a native of High Wycombe, was educated at the R.G.S., and emigrated to New Zealand in 1897. He revisited High Wycombe in May, 1950, and was recently elected a member of the Institute of British Carriage and Automobile Manufacturers, the first occasion on which a New Zealander has been so honoured.

L. H. RACKSTRAW (1923-25), after 22 years of teaching in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, has achieved his life-long ambition—to be appointed Headmaster of a “ brand-new ” school. After being Headmaster of a school in Slough and of the Church of England Primary School in Beaconsfield since 1946, he is now Headmaster of Heymill County Primary School, Burnham, with 500 pupils and a staff of 13.

J. M. ROADS CARR (1927-35) has unearthed an O.W., FRANK WOOSTER, of 1923-24 vintage, from the “ Queens,” Sedlescombe, Sussex, and passes on a message from him welcoming any O.W.’s in the Sedlescombe area to see him. Carr personally recommends the fare !

J. N. ROBINSON (1928-33) writes that he is still at Trieste, and getting sick of it ! He compliments the *Wycombiensian* on the high standard it maintains.

E. S. ROPER (1893-95). Dr. E. Stanley Roper, M.V.O., and Organist of the Chapel Royal, presided at a dinner at the Savoy given to Mr. C. K. Scott, on November 16th, 1951, in recognition

of his contribution to English music and the celebration of his 75th birthday.

D. G. SAINSBURY (1943-49) is now in his second term at University College, London, studying Law, and vehemently denies that University life is a gay life.

R. H. THIRLWAY (1945-51) roams around Slough inspecting anything from lamp posts to sewerage water in his training as a Civil Engineer. He is still a keen scout and spends his week-ends at Fulmer Grange.

L. J. THOMPSON (1912-17). Brindley reported that "Leslie" had left Malaya and was in Colombo, where he had quite a big job in Dunlops, that he was getting somewhat portly, but still played cricket and a lot of golf. We congratulate him on emerging in safety from his many years in Malaya, though we are not surprised, for he seems to make a habit of escaping from tight corners.

W. H. E. TIMMS (1905-11). Congratulations to "Farmer" Timms, of Cobbles Farm, Wycombe Marsh, on being awarded the bronze medal of the Shorthorn Society of Great Britain and Ireland in the South-Midland Shorthorn Association's competition for farmers "showing the best young stock from a Shorthorn bull." Timms is now one of the best and best-known farmers in South Bucks, and with his expert knowledge of every aspect of farming has been of great assistance to Young Farmers' Clubs to which for many years he has given the utmost encouragement and help. He has still, however, not succeeded in persuading his pigs to give the lie to the line in his famous song which ran "You can't grow your hams on a pig every day."

D. G. VEALE (1941-49) has been working since Christmas as an Executive Officer at the War Office.

TENNIS CLUB

The Headmaster, Mr. E. R. Tucker, has kindly given permission to O.W.'s and lady friends to use the School Tennis Courts on Friday evenings after 6 p.m. O.W.'s who wish to take advantage of this opportunity of encouraging more gatherings of Old Wycombiensians should get into touch with G. B. Philpott, "The Lodge," Rutland Avenue, Booker, High Wycombe.

IMPORTANT DATE

The Annual General Meeting and Summer Reunion will be held on Saturday, June 28th, 1952. The Summer Reunion was held for the first time last year and was such a success that there was a unanimous decision to have another. There are no speeches at this informal function. The Annual General Meeting will be at 6.45 p.m. and the Supper at 7.45 p.m.

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J. E. WOODWARD

Captain of the School XV in 1947 and 1948. Club: The Wasps. Has represented the R.A.F., Middlesex, Barbarians, and England. Capped for the first time in 1952, he played for England as right wing three-quarter against the Springboks, Wales and Scotland, and has been picked again to play against Ireland.



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