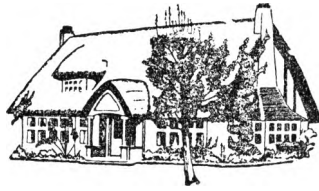


THE
WYCOMBIENSIAN



Vol. XI. No. II.

APRIL, 1953



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on SATURDAY, 30th MAY, 1953,

to be held on the Royal Grammar School Field, in aid of the
Old Wycombiensians' War Memorial Fund.

Gates open 2 p.m. Formal Opening at 2.30 p.m.

by

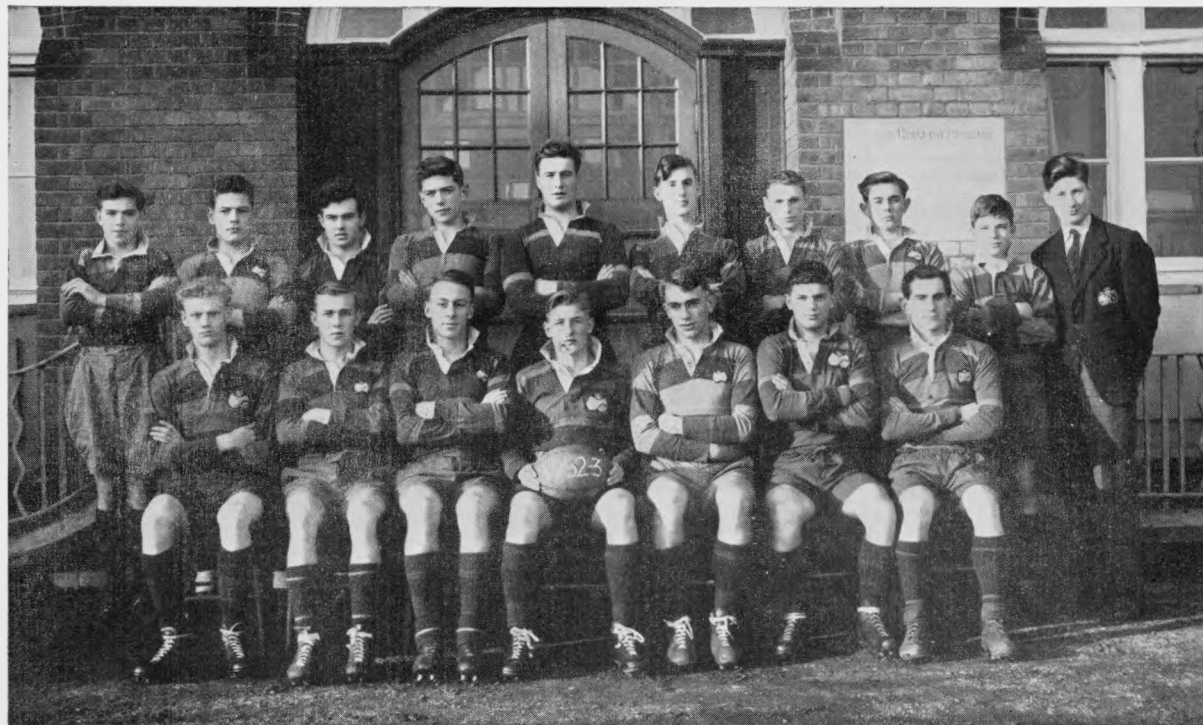
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FIRST XV

Standing (left to right) : K. C. JONES, R. C. JONES, G. W. SNAPES, C. M. EDWARDS
R. A. MANN, T. E. UPHILL, I. T. JOHNSTON, R. C. ASHBY, P. J. WOODS.
Seated : R. C. FILE, R. LUDLAM, E. HALL, P. C. S. HALL (Captain), G. J. BRISTOW,
T. W. ABDALLAH, D. F. E. HILL.

THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

(THE MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HIGH WYCOMBE)

This issue is edited by R. J. HANDSCOMBE, assisted by G. R. SMYTH.

EDITORIAL

The School has always been noted for its achievements in sporting circles as well as academic ones. This term, through the activity of two masters, Mr. Hood and Mr. Geoffrey Morgan, a new sport has been added to the list—Hockey. Even the most inactive members of the Sixth Form have been carried away by the spirit of the thing and have been observed keenly whacking hockey balls all over the School field. The golfing gentlemen amongst us start, as may be imagined, with a bit of a disadvantage; one frequently hears “sticks” as they top the ball into a nearby bunker; they are obviously more concerned with their follow-through than they should be.

There are many people at School who have not the physique nor the skill to play Rugby—they prefer to leave the almost unbeaten school teams to play—only the really able ones can acquire any real proficiency in it. In Hockey at the moment there is little competition, and consequently more people can play in the true public school spirit—not so much for the glory of winning as for the participation. They have no need to worry about being no good or off form; in friendly matches there is sympathy not condemnation if, like the Editor, one misses open goals.

The opportunity of playing any sort of sport for the School is not often come by in the case of the less athletic type of boy. If he is not good at running or rugby, hitherto the normal winter sporting activities, he is liable to get despondent and his keenness for supporting School matches is somewhat damped. In hockey, a person does not have to excel to be keen—his own interest in the game supplies that. Nor does he feel that he has been drafted into sport, as it were, if he does it of his own free will.

In the coming term we have something very special to look forward to, the School Fête. This, if well supported, should supply sufficient money to enable a new pavilion to be built, and, as the First Eleven say, how we need it! With the Coronation so close, one feels that the project is bound to be a success, and if everyone pulls his weight it certainly will be.

SCHOOL HOUSE

We are proud that our house has the "honour" of educating the yearly batch of new boarders in the art of fending for themselves. The new load of little terrors has now been licked into some sort of shape! Already many are showing that they are worthy of belonging to one of the most influential sections in the School, and are quickly developing a healthy contempt for mere day-boys. In five or six years I expect them to be as successful in School activities as our seniors have been in the past.

Since the last issue our most outstanding achievement has been M. A. Crowther's State Scholarship (in Classics), the second in the history of the house. With this scholarship he left us for Jesus College, Cambridge, where we hope he will be as successful and well-liked as he was here. R. G. Clapton left us at the same time to join the R.A.F., where he hopes to get a commission. In sport the house has had reasonable success and more is looked for in next term's cricket. After graduating from the Colts to the 1st XV, R. A. Mann is to be congratulated on gaining his colours. J. C. Colver, who is also a regular member of the hockey team, was awarded his 2nd XV colours. P. H. G. Burt, P. Crowther, and R. Sainsbury played for the 2nd XV, and M. G. Knight for the 3rd XV. A. J. C. Wright has done very well in both boxing and rugby. He is the County Junior Flyweight Champion and captain of the School Colts, of which K. Faulkner is also a member. K. Inglis and S. Williams are School Boxing Champions in their respective weights. R. C. Jones and H. W. Clark, who came in 1st in the Junior Colts Cross-Country match, both reached the finals. School House was also able to produce enough runners to beat Uplyme at cross-country.

As ever, we enjoyed ourselves on Guy Fawkes' night, and the Christmas party went off with the usual "*gaieté de coeur*" that helps us to forget the little difficulties of Boarding House life that become so prominent near the end of term. Another diversion occurred when the cable of a glider being towed by an Auster, broke, forcing it to land on the School field. At the moment the great novelty is the new fire in the "Scout Hut." This has made the place much more habitable and now it has virtually become a Senior Common Room.

If any of us has thought of the summer term it will have been with widely differing feelings. For some it means games, for others exams., but whatever it is, I hope that our efforts will meet with success.

P. G. VARLEY.

TYLERS WOOD HOUSE

The arrival of spring and dancing classes has had a profound effect on the more susceptible Sixth Form members of the house. Tripping the light fantastic has become the order of the day and even the more cumbersome amongst us have actually been seen executing intricate steps with a tolerable amount of skill.

This is but an innovation, however ; house life has more or less kept to the same peaceful and happy ways as it always has done. Memories of Guy Fawkes' night are still vivid with enjoyable recollections of the sausage supper round the huge fire and numerous stray fireworks that accidentally exploded behind startled onlookers. It may be a significant fact that each year whereas the fireworks become smaller in size they become infinitely greater in number and lethal capability.

In our turn we suffered the 'flu epidemic and, except for Hickey, who spent a few weeks in hospital, all the stricken managed to recover just after the exams. had finished—perhaps another significant fact.

Sport, as usual, has been well served by members of the house. Gordon and Johnston were awarded their 1st XV colours, and C. Edwards also played for most of the season. Hickey was a regular member of the unbeaten Junior Colts and many others in the house played for one or other of the School teams.

Academically the house has also done very well. To round off the term comes the news that A. Hussein has gained an Open Exhibition in Natural Sciences at Balliol College, Oxford. He is to be congratulated on this fine effort which has brought distinction both to himself and to the house.

T. W. ABDALLAH.

UPLYME HOUSE

Since the last magazine Uplyme has increased its numbers to twenty-five. To all the new boys we extend a hearty welcome. Old Boys may wonder at our present numbers, but we may say that if one more boy comes the roof will probably be his abode.

The last house report seems to have had quite a good effect on most people. There is much more activity among the juniors, though the seniors are still rather lethargic. We only hope their energy goes into their work and we wish them luck in their coming exams.

Cross-country running seems to be the favourite house sport at the moment. We congratulate Geoff. Baker on gaining his School cross-country colours (the first Uplymer to do so), and also Ketch,

May, Ragg, Tagg, Volkonsky and Watson on running for the School junior teams.

The boxing is still very prominent in our memories and we must congratulate our three finalists, two of whom were victorious. Many juniors entered the competition, but again the seniors were singularly backward in coming forward with their entries. We hope this situation will be altered next year.

We hear occasional news of our old Uplymers. All are flourishing well and as far as we can tell are avoiding anything in the nature of hard work. Pte. "Froggy" Waters, Sgt. Reg. Robey and Officer Cadet Pete Reader are all serving in different branches of the army. The latter, training at Sandhurst, tells us that he is looking forward to 1974, when he will once again be a free man. We only hope he lasts out and we wish him luck.

News also floats in about other Old Boys. Blondie Baker, who is still working for his father, Chater is working in a hospital, Dick Dickenson is out in Canada as a lumberjack, R. H. Jones is a ship's wireless operator, Thirlway inspects sewers still, and "Dumbhead" Harcourt is still at London University. Most others seem to have forgotten the School.

Former Prefects will be pleased to hear that the study has been tastefully re-decorated by the present prefects. Having noticed the County Architect's pleasing colour schemes around the School, we decided to challenge him with our coffee-coloured ceiling, cream walls and orange woodwork.

Congratulations to McCreery on obtaining a place at the London School of Economics. If, in a few years' time, the country runs to ruin it will probably be the fault of our old friend Mac. We wish Geoff. Baker the best of luck in his forthcoming Architects' Association exam. in London.

Next year will probably see a completely new set of prefects. We wish them all the best and hope they will carry on in the glorious tradition of their predecessors.

E. HALL.

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

This year's opera started sensationally. On the Tuesday morning after the first public performance one was greeted by long faces, by words like "awful," and "shocking," by forecasts of disaster, and a general air of despondency. Something had gone wrong. One was told that it was stupid to have attempted a work clearly more difficult for boys than the other operas. But a few simple, though fundamental alterations were made, the enthusiasm came back and the Jeremiahs were confounded by the splendour of the evenings that followed.

Let us not, however, gloss over the weaknesses. Most of them arose from the nature of the opera. Only a really superlative performance can give life to the first twenty-five minutes. As it was, Read, attractively though he sang the part of Phoebe, was never quite audible enough ; the Yeomen tenors were never quite good enough to make their first chorus effective ; of course, we have had singers before whose words have not been clear, but here it mattered more. Evans sang the part of Elsie well enough and moved about the stage quite attractively, yet one never knew really what he was singing about. File's playing of Jack Point came so very near to excellence that he must deserve our congratulations ; yet it fell short, again because one had to strain to hear. He looked well, danced well, moved well ; but he only won our sympathy ; he did not break our hearts.

If we are critical, that gives us also the right to praise. We have seldom heard better singing than by Hall, and in particular, Hobson, even though their acting left something to be desired. Hall, during the week, ironed out some of the fussiness with which he started, and he certainly gave character to Fairfax. Here, indeed, was a self-important popinjay who might well have been beheaded and saved Jack Point his despair. Hobson, beautifully though he sang Sgt. Meryll's part, must be criticised for persistently throwing away his lines, and not making the best use of his resonant speaking voice. I felt also that he should not have "guyed" his entry after the shot ; dramatic effect was here sacrificed for a cheap laugh. Hall and Hobson might both note that an over-indulgence in meaningless gestures is not acting. The economy of movement and studied speech of Nelson as the Dame, whether deliberate or accidental, was certainly preferable.

Mann looked magnificent as the Lieutenant and he carried his superb costume and spoke his lines with real dignity. But the most satisfying performance amongst the principals was Crump's. Whether singing or speaking, he delivered his lines clearly, resisted the temptation to over-play his part, and did indeed give us something to remember. Of the others, Walker was adequate enough in the small part of Leonard. In the "Strange Adventure" quartet, Nash gave us quite the prettiest singing of the whole opera, and one could only regret that the part of Kate was so small.

No matter how well our principals perform, however, the greatest moment of our operas has always arisen from the combined choruses ; on them has largely depended success ; when the whole company has joined on the stage and stirred us with the splendour of the singing. That is why this opera must be counted a triumph. I am certain that we have never had anything better than the two finales. The last twenty minutes of Act I reached new heights of

performance. Here was splendid grouping, with Mr. Grant's austere set just the right background for the brilliant colours ; and never has there been such control over lighting. The singing of principals and choruses was at this point superb and dramatic, and the whole thing was played with great verve. There was some quality of tense perfection here which really gripped the listener.

Of the choruses, the men were more than adequate, except for the one occasion mentioned. The "girls" sang throughout with admirable purity of tone. Moreover, they looked enchanting and were most active and expressive. Dell and Sutton in particular were quite outstanding.

One cannot end without thanking the orchestra. Not only did they play well, they played with a sympathy for the singers, which helped tremendously towards full success, both in the solos and choruses.

The "Yeomen of the Guard" must mark a turning point in School productions. Mr. Rainbow, having established a tradition, has gone. Now Mr. Piner must accept our sincere thanks, not only for carrying on, but indeed for producing something even better, in the massed singing. This was also the most difficult task yet attempted. Let us wish Mr. Piner all success in his future plans.

F.S.E.

THE SCHOOL CONCERT

To imagine a school concert to be an affair in which the doting parent, proud of his child's ability to play or sing, may alone take pleasure is as wrong as to expect it to be a performance of Third Programme standard. This is not to suggest either that opportunity is not given to all who are willing to share in its production, or that no attempt is made to set the highest standards. One's approach to the event must be Aristotle's mean, and it might be as well to bear in mind his remark in his definition of a gentleman, "that he should be able to play the flute—but not too well." Any further doubt, if we may harp further on a Classical theme, *solvitur audiendo*.

After Elgar's fine arrangement of the National Anthem, the School Orchestra opened the programme with "Spring Tide" by Woodhouse, and a musette and march by Handel. The opening item in a concert is perhaps always the most disquieting for the performers, but after some initial nervousness, the orchestra, nicely balanced and well led, soon displayed its ability. D. Rance then delighted the audience with two solo pianoforte pieces, played with a sensitivity and regard for feeling remarkable in one so young. It might be thought that the Junior Choir would be at a disadvantage following such fine playing, but they proved equal to the occasion

and well earned the applause of the audience for their two songs. We may remark here that in all the choir items during the evening, it was a pleasure to hear all the words so clearly ; as this is perhaps the most difficult part of choral singing, its accomplishment is to the credit of their conductor.

Recorder playing requires more skill than the appearance of the instrument might suggest, and it would have been excusable had the young members of the Recorder Club found that some of their fingers had become thumbs for the quick-moving pieces in which this instrument delights. However, they acquitted themselves and their music well.

The first part of the next item—Nursery Rhymes arranged by Carse—did not stir up as much amusement amongst the audience as one might have expected. Perhaps the world today is too blasé to laugh at such childish things, or has the propaganda of the child psychologist against this form of verse had its effect ? Yet how the choirs enjoyed singing them ! T. Klemperer's rendering of two pieces for the violin was marred somewhat by a nervousness that the quietness and lightness of the music could not conceal.

Madrigals well sung are always a delight to the ear and the audience were far from disappointed by the performance of this group. It is to be hoped that there will always be a succession of voices suitable for this type of music and of boys willing and interested enough to devote their time to the hard practice it requires. Their rendering of "Little David, play on yo' harp" was particularly pleasing.

After two waltzes by Mozart and trumpet tune and air by Purcell played vigorously by the full orchestra, the senior choir, forgetting the shyness of last year that prompted them to sing *Gaudeamus igitur* offstage, assembled in full view of the audience, and sang "Come, landlord, fill the flowing bowl" and "*Vive la compagnie*," followed by the song of the "Jolly Roger." The buccaneering spirit was perhaps somewhat lacking from the latter, but that might be attributed either to the landlord's bowl flowing too far, or the bosun piping "Up spirits" too soon. D. S. Hearn and P. Chamberlin on the two pianos played the scherzo from "A Midsummer Night's Dream," by Mendelssohn, and, keeping well together, convinced the audience "what a naughty little Puck he was."

Finally the two choirs joined together to sing Handel's Coronation Anthem, with its thrilling Hallelujahs—a fitting end to a concert held in this Coronation Year.

A concert such as this requires hard effort and devoted work on the part of many members of the School, and the audience showed its appreciation of the many performers and the work that

had gone into the production with its ready applause. It was again evident how the boys of the School take great pleasure in their music, and how they can convey to others that pleasure and delight. To Mr. Piner and Mr. Ingate we owe our especial gratitude for creating the opportunity for this enjoyment.

J.B.B.

ARCTIC JOURNEY

It was a bright Arctic day when I arrived at Rovaniemi, a town situated on the Polar circle. From here north I was to penetrate the home of the Lapps, the Arctic area of Northern Europe. In the market square, I found the bus-cum-lorry which was to take me north along one of the two tracks that lead into the interior of Lapland.

I felt rather out of place as I managed to find a seat amid a mass of the local inhabitants. The bus was absolutely crammed with noisy Lapps, with a few hardy Finns, sitting near the front. No windows were open and the mosquitoes inside had a rather hectic time. In the back of the bus there were the Lapps' belongings and also a pile of reindeer pelts, upon which my rucksack was resting. I still imagine I smell the reindeer when I sniff the bottom of the rucksack. The bus at last started and headed north. It stopped every few miles so that passengers could get off, or a bale of reindeer hides picked up. However, after going about fifty miles, the bus came to a more definite halt. Everyone got out. When I got out I was assailed by a swarm of mosquitoes, the scourge of Lapland. I then noticed the river and then the ferry which was to carry the bus. It was a simple affair, rather too simple for my liking. A few planks lashed together drawn across to the other side by a rope. I was relieved to reach the other side and clamber into the bus.

After this the bus's stops became infrequent, as the settlements became further apart. We passed through miles of virgin forest, and I began to enjoy it, as I had at last forced a window open. Late in the afternoon we reached Muonio, the last settlement of any size. The mosquitoes became worse and I was compelled to put on anti-mosquito cream. Some few miles north of Muonio one comes dramatically to the northern limit of tree growth. The pines end rather like a wall and north of here are only small amounts of birch scrub. Often groups of reindeer were to be seen eating the inevitable moss, and once we had to stop for them. We eventually reached Karesuando, which straddles the Swedish-Finnish border. It was here that I noticed that it was quite cold and I looked at my watch, 11 p.m. The sun was still up but soon disappeared, to reappear about 2 a.m. It was just too late in the year to see the midnight sun, though it never got dark during my stay.

North of Karesuando there is nothing except Lapp villages and encampments. The track has been made only since 1944 and so the Lapps here do not see many outsiders. The scenery at about 69° N. becomes mountainous and really desolate, with plenty of snow lying around. At 3 a.m. we unceremoniously came to the end of the route. Nothing except two houses signified that this was Kilpisjarvi.

The Finns with whom I was to stay lived some way away, so I had to walk the last part of the journey, stared at by the local Lapps. When I arrived no one was awake, so I went into an empty room and slept.

My troubles really began next morning when I found that the people I was staying with spoke neither English nor Swedish. The food was peculiar, including raw fish, which is quite good when one gets used to it. I spent some happy days amongst the Lapps and walking in the fells around Kilpisjarvi until at last I had to look towards the south again.

M. J. PORTER, VI.

TRIP TO FINLAND, 1952

Inspired by the proverb, "What do they know of England who only England know?" some forty boys under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Rees visited the XV Olympiad in Helsinki last July. The previous year we had a corresponding number of Finnish boys to stay for a month with us, and the problem of accommodation in what would have otherwise proved an expensive country was solved.

Travel from England to Finland was, of course, mostly by boat, along approved sea routes, in spite of suggestions by keen party members to make for Comrades in Leningrad and Riga. Harwich was our stepping-off point, because we were going *via* Esbjerg and Copenhagen. So far, everyone was feeling as fit as can be expected except for a pair of broken hearts over having to leave the stewardess for ever. From Esbjerg to Korsor the only thing of real interest was supplied by the sprints from station to sweet-shops and bakeries whenever we had to change trains. We have it on good authority that the School half-mile record was broken by five boys, when they suddenly saw the train for Copenhagen pulling out from the station with a leer on its funnel.

The party split up in Korsor. Most boys remained with their Danish friends, but three with a taste for luxury and two attracted by the prospect of adventure set off for Copenhagen on their own. Four days later the party re-united and went on to Helsinki, wrangling the while about whether it was "up sharp end" or "down sharp end" for the prow, and about whether it was "up blunt end" or

down blunt end " for the stern. An amnesty was agreed upon when we arrived ; and the party split yet again to join their Finnish hosts.

The Finnish people seemed genuinely pleased to have us as guests ; we were made to feel as if we were wanted. Trips to the Olympic Games had been arranged for most boys ; sightseeing tours, and trips generally were quickly organised. Food was, of course, expensive, and consequently most meals were home-cooked. An average midday or evening meal would be roughly as follows, eaten in this order, each dish separate :

Small square of very salt fish.

Piece of tomato.

Some cucumber.

Some potatoes.

Meat.

Fruit.

The whole washed down with liberal goblets of milk, and garnished with black wholemeal bread and very good butter. It can be seen from this that the Finns are passionate lovers of a diet full of vitamins, and that explains one of the main differences between the attitude of the Finns and the English to athletics.

In the country itself there are some six hundred running tracks, most of them available for everyone to use. Instead of being dismissed instantly as something free and therefore not worth the trouble of attending, each of these tracks is used as often as the climatic conditions will allow. They take their athletics to be not only a sport for the few, but as a method of attaining general fitness by the many.

A love of vegetables also includes a great love of flowers. It is very uncommon to find any sort of flower in Finland during the winter months, and they are very expensive to buy. Many people have indoor plants of the creeping variety (see photo), and this constitutes one of the most beautiful of Scandinavian interior decorations.

An interest in bodily cleanliness supplies the most famous of all baths, the "Sauna" or dry Turkish bath. Many summer houses have these little pine-wood sheds instead of a bathroom. The place is heated by throwing water on to red-hot stones—the wooden walls absorb the steam and a dry heat remains. As soon as a temperature of some 250 degrees has been reached, the bath is ready. One is rather over-powered at first and is inclined to remain at floor level out of sheer inability to climb the steps to the warmer regions (the Finn is there already, perspiring healthily and sneering at your efforts to drag yourself up the lowest rung). After a while, preliminary perspiration over, one darts thankfully outside into the

lake (temperature 28 degrees). Then back inside to wash, and once more into the lake, dear friends, once more. After three heatings and three coolings one dresses, and, though having once contemplated heart-failure as a pleasant release, one surprisingly feels fitter and cleaner than ever before.

Everyone's experiences of Finland were bound to be different, but the voting was unanimous when asked if they had all had a good time. The return journey was noteworthy because of the excellent food aboard ship, and because it was then that we could show our appreciation of the fine work done by the organisers, Mr. and Mrs. Rees. As a token of our appreciation they each received a small gift, but it was with neither gifts nor words that we could thank them adequately for their kindness and generosity in taking on such a formidable task.

R. J. HANDSCOMBE, VI.

“PER ARDUA AD ASTRA”

Slowly the bulk of the instructor left the aircraft. He spoke confidently.

“O.K., old chap, I've done all I can do—take her round yourself now.”

Although I was glad that he had that much faith in me, I was fearful of the wrath to come. I taxied slowly to the start, swinging her nose gently from side to side so that I could see where I was heading and then turned across wind. Trim, Throttle, Fuel, Gyros ; slowly and painstakingly I went through the cockpit check.

Nothing was in the circuit, so I turned into wind. A thumbs-up from the instructor, a deep breath, . . . and slowly the plane moved forward as I opened the throttle. 20, 30, 40 read the air speed indicator as I held the stick forward and kept her straight with rudder. Soon I felt the tail rise ; I pulled the stick back, and lifted her off the grass.

I felt better now. There was no one to shout at my errors. I climbed rapidly and the hills seemed to level out beneath me. Fences, hedges, farms and villages sprang into view. This was the life, with the purr of the Gypsy Major and the sickly sweet smell of hot oil. The sun shone on the wings and the world was gay. To the south glistened Southampton Water, to the north the spire of Salisbury Cathedral. This was why man had conquered the air.

. . . Sudden thought : stop day-dreaming ! I had to land the thing yet. I was still at 800 feet, so I cut the throttle and pushed her into a gliding turn. I opened the port hatch and leaned out to watch the earth gently rise to meet me. I levelled out and began to float. “Back . . . back,” I urged, and she softly stalled on to three-points, and safely came to rest. P. P. CROWTHER, VI.

THE C.E.W.C. LECTURES

Inspired by the knowledge that our worthy County Education Committee would show its appreciation of our interest in current affairs by paying the expenses involved, nine members of the second- and third-year Sixth attended the annual lectures and discussions for "Tomorrow's Citizens," organised by the Council for Education in World Citizenship at the Central Hall, Westminster, for four days of the Christmas holidays ; 2,500 boys and girls from 380 schools attended, some having come from Scotland and Northern Ireland. It was obvious at the start that there were about three times as many girls as boys, but it was also interesting to note that in the queues at "Question Time" boys were inevitably in the minority. Few of the girls bore any resemblance to schoolgirls as we know them, which was not altogether displeasing.

As was feared, Mr. Eden was unable to deliver the opening address, but his Under-Secretary, Mr. Anthony Nutting, was a most satisfactory deputy, outlining clearly the problems in the way of European unity. When one questioner introduced the topic of the comparison between health and defence expenditure, Mr. Nutting emphasised the fact that health insurance is impossible without life insurance. The two other speakers on the opening day, Mlle. Eva Curie and M. André Philip, were most impressive, having quite different styles of address in dealing with the Atlantic Community and European Economic Co-operation respectively. Mlle. Curie made it clear that N.A.T.O. is still a long way from attaining the maximum defence requirements.

The Polish Socialist Party in exile took care to present their point of view by means of leaflets before we heard Mr. Michalowski, the Polish Ambassador, explain the Eastern European view. To hear a speaker from behind the Iron Curtain was quite novel to many of us, but the same could not be said of his proposals for peaceful co-operation between East and West, and his denial of Russian influence over the Polish Government. Such statements as "religion in Eastern Europe is completely free" were questionable, to say the least. The interest of the audience in Mr. Michalowski's view was carefully noted by the reporter for the *Daily Worker*, which announced next morning that the school-children of Britain were all good comrades. Mr. Herbert Agar, an American writer, and the Indonesian Ambassador, Dr. Subandrio, each presented their view on the subject in the light of their country's general attitude towards Europe.

The third day opened with an admirable address on the future of Germany by Dr. Heinz Koeppler, the Warden of Wilton Park College. It was encouraging to hear that those West Germans who, by their national and militarist agitation, tend to impair the friend-

ship between their country and the rest of Europe, were definitely in a minority. He cited the gift of a window to the new Coventry Cathedral as an example of the goodwill of the West Germans towards Britain. The next speaker, Mr. M. J. Sudjic, of Yugoslavia, was, in the opinion of most of the audience, justified in criticizing the attitude of certain London newspapers towards the visit of Marshal Tito. In view of the fact that the agreement between the United States and Spain was concluded shortly afterwards, it was valuable to hear the Spanish historian, Dr. J. M. Battista, outline the present-day situation in his country. In his opinion, the Franco regime is "entirely alien to the democratic spirit of Europeans." Dr. Halliday Sutherland presented a far less acceptable view, saying that he actually enjoyed more individual freedom in Spain than in this country.

Mr. Kenneth Younger, M.P., in the concluding address, stressed the fact that European unity could be achieved and the problems involved settled only through the United Nations. His "Five Points for 1953," were remembered by most of the audience as reaching the essence of the problem. After appeals and talks on behalf of C.E.W.C. and U.N.A. the conference ended with a European Brains Trust. It was indeed invaluable to be so enlightened on what are perhaps the outstanding difficulties facing the world in 1953.

D. REAR, VI.

SINGING WITH THE R.S.C.M.

Last August, I was privileged to attend the Annual Cathedral Course run by the Royal School of Church Music which is held each year at a different cathedral; in 1952 we had the good fortune to be at Winchester, which has one of the most historic and beautiful cathedrals in England. The town is justly proud that it was once the capital of this land, and the glories of the past are embodied in the architecture and adornment of this church, set in the lovely Hampshire countryside. The atmosphere is a direct contrast to that of Westminster Abbey; "cabined, cribbed, confined" by smoky London.

It would be surprising if the forty-four boys on the course were not inspired to fine efforts by these ideal surroundings and, in Mr. Edred Wright, we had a choirmaster who knew always how to obtain the best results from us. For a fortnight we sang the Matins and Evensong at the Cathedral and ended with a broadcast. We learned that such an undertaking required long and strenuous practice to maintain the standard set by previous courses. It was calculated that we sang for at least eight hours a day, beginning at 8.45 in the morning, which is hardly the best time for keeping in time. One has

to consider in this respect that only a deaf mute could have slept in our dormitory before eleven o'clock on the quietest night.

The masters on the course realised that when we were not singing we needed to let off steam, and therefore took great pains to provide us with adequate facilities for recreation. The sports organised for us included cricket, tennis, swimming, and the inevitable and everlasting table tennis. We were also treated to a fine organ recital by Mr. Alwyn Surplice, the Cathedral organist, and the climax came with the concert on the last night in which almost everyone performed in some manner.

We were a very happy party and we had the greatest fun, especially on the last night on which there were dormitory raids up fire escapes, covering ourselves with tin baths to ward off cascades of water from the Juniors. The annual song at the end of the concert, written by Roger Kirk, of Lancing, recalled many other memorable events of our stay. We remember the brighter side of our trip to Southampton, when we drifted in an open boat for two and a half hours in pouring rain ; this was the day before our broadcast, and gained us not a little local publicity.

Nothing ever really disturbed our enjoyment and none of us can hope to spend a happier time anywhere. The experience of singing with such a choir in such a fine cathedral is unforgettable, as music-lovers will understand, and many of us are looking forward to going again next year.

D. J. CRUMP, VI.

THE SCHOOL CONFIRMATION SERVICE

The annual School Confirmation Service was held this year at St. Francis' Church, Terriers, on Wednesday, March 11th, when 24 boys were confirmed by the Lord Bishop of Oxford.

The Bishop was assisted at the service by the Vicar of Terriers (the Rev. E. W. Shaw) and the Vicar of High Wycombe (the Rev. A. L. Evan Hopkins).

In his address to the boys on the meaning of their Confirmation the Bishop advised them to take as a text by which to remember that day, and the promises they had made, " Enter ye in at the strait gate ; because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life." (ST. MATTHEW, Chapter 7, part of verses 13 and 14.)

The Bishop said that a village church in England with its narrow gate and path gave a constant reminder of this text. The gate represented their admission to God's service ; their Baptism was the unlatching of the gate, their Confirmation the opening of that gate to its widest extent, while the path thus revealed was their way to enter upon God's service. The walk to God's House along

that narrow path gave many opportunities to trip and stumble and even to wander off the path itself. That path, said the Bishop, was the equivalent of life itself with its many temptations—temptations to grow slack in work and in faith, to keep aloof from organised religion, to give way to the common advice to get rich quickly by any and every means, and thus to drift away from the brotherhood of Christian people. The Bishop advised them to be regular in gathering with God's people in God's House, on God's Day, and especially to be regular and earnest in their attendance at the Holy Communion.

The boys confirmed were :—

Peter Aikens	Roger Alfred Parsons
Robert William Randall Deacon	Thomas Randall
John Grover Deller	Peter George Rose
John William James Freeth	Rodney Sayer
Cyril Andrew Henry Fryer	John Oliver Small
Trevor Crichton Gage	Ian Stephen Smith
Michael Victor John Hayward	Edward Michael Squires
Cedric Charles Hufflett	Malcolm Graham Walker
Roy Brian Humphries	Christopher Leslie Westcott
Michael Lacey	Brian Whiting
Jonathan Cecil Graham Lawson	David Christie Willatts
Peter William Herbert North	Patrick John Woods

TERPSICHORE

Dancing classes were started early in the spring term, the first being held at the Grammar School when we were hosts to a number of girls from the High School. Since then the classes have been held at the two schools in alternate weeks.

The dances have been made up of American square dancing and old-time steps with a small slice of English country dancing and a good helping of modern ball-room dancing. "Couple" dances have alternated with "square" and "longways" sets, to add variety. The types of dance, formation and step, have been varied greatly, the dancers having some taste of all types. This will help them to choose the style they like best and concentrate on it. But perhaps, like so many dancers, they will find all types equally attractive so that they cannot drop one style in preference to another.

In order to make the teaching of such a large group a great deal easier, several couples have given up some of their time on Friday afternoons to practice, and they have been able to demonstrate the dances to the whole class.

We are very grateful to Miss Ainslie, who has given us such expert instruction, and for the records provided by the High School, and to the boys who have played such difficult and fast tunes so well, also to those who formed part of the exhibition sets. G.E.M.

VISIT OF THE PIANO TRIO

We were delighted on Monday, March 16th, when the Headmaster announced that a Piano Trio would be coming to play to us. The audience consisted of the Sixth Form and the Music sets from the Middle School. The players were Miss Margery MacGibbon (violin) and Miss Lily Phillips (cello), from the MacGibbon String Quartet (who has visited us once before), and at the piano was Mr. Dawes, the County Music Advisor.

First the Trio played two movements from a piano trio by Loeillet, followed by a complete trio by Mozart. Then Miss Phillips played two solos, "Danse Orientale," by César Cui, and "The Swan," from the "Carnival des Animaux," by Saint-Saëns. For her two solos Miss MacGibbon played Kreisler's arrangement of Chaminade's "Spanish Dance" and a transcription of the Minuet from Mozart's 17th Divertimento. Next the two string players gave an excellent rendering of Hal Forten's passacaglia on a theme by Handel. Finally, the Trio played Haydn's Gipsy Rondo. Their playing was sufficiently admired to require three encores—a scherzo by Mendelssohn, and a repetition of Cui's "Danse Orientale" and the passacaglia.

The playing was on the whole first rate—the soloists especially excelling in the more brilliant passages. The balance was perfect; no instrument was lost or came over too strongly (it often happens that the piano takes too much of the glory, but Mr. Dawes was admirably self-effacing). The Trio, in short, deserved all the applause we were eager to give and we would like to thank the organisers of the recital for giving us such an admirable opportunity of hearing good music and fine playing.

P. KIRWAN, VI.

C.C.F.

ARMY SECTION

The summer term will be a very busy one for all sections of the C.C.F. The Coronation, Annual Inspection, Annual Camp and Certificate "A" Part II will provide plenty of work for all.

One Cadet from the Naval Section, four from the Army, and two from the R.A.F. Sections will be chosen to see the Coronation Procession from reserved accommodation.

The Annual Inspection will be carried out this year by Major-General H. Bainbridge, C.B., C.B.E., on June 11th. The standard demanded by Inspecting Officers seems to get higher each year, but this year at any rate, the turn-out should be better than previous years, with the whole of the Army Section in new-type battledress and navy blue berets.

Annual Camp this year will be held near the south coast and the attraction of being near the sea may swell the numbers going to camp. The importance of annual camp cannot be stressed too much these days when National Service follows a boy's school career, with the possibility of active service only a few months away.

P. S. Reader is now safely at Sandhurst and is to be congratulated on being the only post-war entry to the Academy. R. Bowler, who use to be in charge of the Signals Platoon, is now with the First Commonwealth Division Signals Regiment in Korea, and P. Verhoeft, who left the School last July, is bound for Korea *via* Japan in the near future. T. C. Williams, who also left last July, has been accepted by the War Office selection board for a commission and is now well on the way to realising his ambition. We shall be pleased to receive news of other Old Boys in the Forces. R.P.

ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

Since the appearance of the last *Wycombiensian* the Royal Naval Section has attended its first summer training. Fifteen cadets spent a very happy week aboard H.M.S. *Haydon* at Sheerness. The *Haydon* was tied up alongside H.M.S. *Berryhead*, the depot ship of the reserve fleet stationed at Sheerness.

We were welcomed in true naval style on the evening of July 17th and soon settled in to what was, for most cadets, an entirely new experience. Only one cadet failed to pass the whole first night in his hammock, but many groaned in their sleep or wakefulness. Three days (and nights) sufficed for all to become experts in the art of sleeping in hammocks.

The week provided a great deal of entertainment as well as instruction. Sailing, swimming, and power boats provided the main attractions—scrubbing decks was among the lesser enjoyments. We learned how to build boats, make bends and splices, and what it was like to take the wheel of an M.F.V. (motor fishing vessel to the uninitiated). Visits to the dockyard, a minesweeper and a frigate provided a great deal of interesting detail, especially the new radar gun-laying mechanism.

It was pleasing to find that our cricket strength was easily sufficient to overcome a team from the supply and secretarial branch.

All cadets were rather sorry to leave their new-found home. We hope to see practically the whole section at next summer training.

Since September our numbers have greatly increased and we now have a strength of forty-two. Five cadets will attend a naval flying course in the near future. Our congratulations are extended to Cadet Edwards, C., on passing his Petty Officer's Examination, and to Cadets Edwards, J., Lawson and Garratt on becoming Leading Seamen.

T.E.H.

R.A.F. SECTION

It is pleasing to record that Sgt. P. P. Crowther successfully completed his training under the Flying Scholarship Scheme during the summer vacation and now holds a Private Pilot's Licence. He is the sixth cadet of this unit to be awarded a Private Pilot's Licence. Sgt. Crowther also had the good fortune to continue his flying with the Oxford University Air Squadron during the Christmas vacation.

A group of eight cadets enjoyed a course in navigation at R.A.F., Halton, at the end of last term. The results of this week's course were highly creditable to the cadets and to the unit. A proficiency examination was held in December at which ten cadets were successful, three passing with credit.

New cadets who joined the section at the beginning of this term have brought the unit strength to above 100 cadets. We are thus the largest R.A.F. Section in 62 Group, comprising 43 schools. It has been found possible to deal successfully with this increased number of cadets by the willing help of the newly proficient cadets who have undertaken with enthusiasm and with great success the task of instruction. It is a matter of great satisfaction to all concerned with the section to observe the thoroughness and effectiveness with which the re-organised training scheme is being carried out.

There has been a great deal of instruction on the glider during this term and the cadets concerned are now progressing from the "static" training to the perhaps more exciting "ground slides" and "hops."

The continued help and assistance given to the section by Mr. A. D. Leggett and Mr. J. C. Butterfield are gratefully acknowledged.

E.M.

ARNISON HOUSE

As in previous years, our efforts in the rugby competition have not brought any material reward. We appeared, on paper at least, to have a strong team, containing as it did five 1st XV colours, but, mainly owing to injuries—our principal excuse—we were beaten by both Fraser and Youens, our sole victory being over Disraeli. In spite of good work by our captain and excellent team spirit, the toll of injuries was too much for us.

In the Senior Cross-Country Finals the house was placed third, a position unworthy of our past performances in this field.

Our only consolation lies in the hockey competition, which we opened with a resounding victory over Fraser (9—2), and in which we finished first, and, above all, in the outstanding work shown by our Colts and Junior teams in the rugby and cross-country competitions.

Every year, the captain of Arnison House has to upbraid the senior members of the house for their lack of enthusiasm, and to congratulate the juniors on their irrepressible optimism. In the rugby, the Colts team won all their matches, as did the junior team and in the cross-country, the Colts and Juniors overwhelmed all opposition.

The record of the seniors is in no way illustrious or inspiring, and once more we must look to the Lower School for examples of house spirit and keen enthusiasm. With these ignominious performances past, our confidence grows as we consider our chances in summer activities.

M. G. WALKER.

DISRAELI HOUSE

Coronation year started with a very vigorous programme for the house. In all competitions Disraeli has tried hard and has shown some admirable team spirit.

The House Rugby Championship was finally wound up after some closely-fought games. The Seniors combined well and fought back strongly even when in arrears. They beat Youens and narrowly lost to Fraser and Arnison. The Colts, although not quite coming up to expectations, performed adequately, in beating Fraser, but losing to Arnison and Youens. In the Junior knock-out competition, Disraeli reached the final, where they were beaten by Arnison.

The house was again triumphant in the boxing, where our team put up some splendid performances, winning five of the finals. We again tried very hard in the cross-country championships, although not finishing at the top. R. B. Davies, in particular, did extremely well to finish sixth in the senior event.

A new competition started this term, namely the House Hockey Championship. Disraeli managed to reach the final, where they were narrowly beaten 2—1 by Arnison in a tough game, fought on the London Road cricket ground.

In the near future, the Music Competition will take place and we can rest assured that Disraeli will not be content with other than maximum effort.

B. K. JOHNSON.

FRASER HOUSE

Good all-round spirit enabled the house to come out of the two most important house competitions of the term (the Rugger and the Cross-country) honourably, and as successfully as expected. Indeed, if it were not for our wonted and undisputed supremacy of only a year or two ago, we might feel well satisfied with the term.

After a series of hard-fought games in the Rugger we finished level with Youens on the league basis. In the play-off we naturally felt very ill-treated by fortune in losing Hall, our captain, when the score was 8 points all. Soon afterwards Youens scored a try by which they finally won. In spite of our raillery at fortune's dealings, we congratulate Youens, who had quite the strongest backs of all the houses, and certainly they gave us a thorough beating in the earlier league match (11—6).

The Colts were rather poorer than usual this year and by the time the Senior XV had robbed them of their most valuable members, they could only lose gallantly—and by rather large scores. The Junior XV was not much more successful, but here there was very little disparity between the houses, and in spite of their final position, they played very well, especially Hollomon and Clark.

Our runners succeeded in coming first in all the cross-country races, except for the Colts, Clark beating the Junior record set up by Long in 1948. Garratt, R. I., for the second year running won the Senior event, and Currell won the Junior Building. We won the team race in the latter, and thanks to Veale, Garratt, M. J., and Sainsbury, all of whom ran extremely well, we were second in the Senior.

In the Boxing, which unfortunately has declined as a house competition, we were second, and congratulate Garratt, M. J., on winning the Senior championship. The newly-formed Hockey competition provided an enjoyable and amusing match with Arnison, who (probably because they had two or three people who had played before) scored rather more goals than we did. R. C. FILE.

YOUENS HOUSE

At last we have won the coveted title of House Rugby Champions. All matches that we played were hard and there was no match won by more than eight points. Our first match was played with a very weak team against Disraeli and we were defeated. The next two matches against Fraser and Arnison were both won, but in order to decide the championship it was necessary to have a play-off against Fraser. This match was a close and exciting game, and when there were but a few minutes left to play, and the score standing at 8—8, Hall, Fraser's captain, had to leave the field because of injury. This had a disastrous effect on our opponents and we immediately scored the winning try. The team played well throughout the matches, but Gordon, leading the pack, and Uphill, in the back division, were outstanding.

For the third successive year we won the Cross-country Championship in grand style. Among the first seven to finish were five

Youens runners. Barrett, our captain, ran a well-judged race to be only a second behind the winner and only a few seconds outside the record.

Because of the growing enthusiasm for hockey a house championship was arranged. We played Disraeli in the first round in a desperately fought match, which became even more desperate when we were reminded of the free tea for the finalists. Even with this thought and the frantic efforts of Porter to rally his team we were defeated.

There were few entrants in the boxing, so naturally we could not be expected to be placed any higher than fourth.

We confidently look forward to a win in the School Sports in the summer term.

R. LUDLAM.

SCHOOL SOCIETIES :

TWENTIETH CENTURY OPINION SOCIETY

The School has now had a debating society for a great many years. Unfortunately, the society's history has been fitful and its appearances made in various guises. As far back as 1913, when it was very active, it was just called the "Debating Society"; at other times it masqueraded under such names as the "Addison Society," the "Disraeli Society" and the "Debating and Current Affairs Society." Whatever name was used made little difference to the society's work. Under each the scope was very wide and in 1943 it was made as wide as possible when the society became the T.C.O.S., whose aims were defined as being :—

1. To examine and discuss manifestations of human enterprise, past and present, in all spheres.
2. To examine and discuss social, political, economic, literary and general developments in the modern world.

The original of the constitution was lost during the period of inaction from 1946-48. Since then the society has revived and become the most active of all the School societies.

Despite the many possibilities within the society's scope, the T.C.O.S. has for the last two years confined itself almost entirely to debates. It is hoped that we will be able to provide a little variation for the summer term.

As usual, we began the Christmas term with an internal debate, the motion being, "That the public house has done more for the general good than the public school." After listening to some rather amusing speeches, the audience, making themselves liable to censure, voted in favour of public houses.

On October 14th we had our first debate with the Maidenhead County Girls' School, which turned out to be one of the best that

we have ever had. B. Sinnatt distinguished himself in his speech for the motion, "That the woman's place is in the home." This was carried by a majority of eleven, after some very lively speaking from the floor. The successful impression made by this was so great that we had a return debate on the 27th November. The motion, "That whipping should be re-introduced to prevent the spread of juvenile delinquency," was passed by four votes.

The first Maidenhead debate was followed by one with the High School, on 28th October. We had a good speech from R. C. Wing, and an even better one from Miss Gillian Wilson. Consequently the proposers had difficulty in competing and the house defeated the motion "That it is a nation's scientists that make it great ; the arts are a mere luxury," by thirty votes.

Our able chairman, R. C. Wing, who is also chairman of the "Feenix" Inter-Schools Debating Society, was in the chair when the F.I.S.D.S. held a Balloon debate on the 20th November at Slough Grammar School. Members of a large number of schools in Berks and Bucks attended to hear the defences of five people representing Aneurin Bevan, Dr. Malan, Max Miller, King Farouk and Rita Hayworth. D. Bailey, of Borlase, was very successful as Max Miller, though this was largely due to his use of Mr. Miller's jokes. King Farouk was represented excellently (during the debate and the evening celebrations) by I. J. McCreery, wearing a fez and dark glasses. When the chairman called for silence it was voted that Dr. Malan should be thrown out of the balloon. Eileen Moody as Rita Hayworth only escaped this fate by one or two votes.

During the spring term the society was, unfortunately, much less active. We began with a disappointing internal debate on the motion that "Beer is Best," and had another at Maidenhead Grammar School on March 5th. This was poorly attended and not so successful as the last. The motion "That this house deplors the influence of the United States on Britain," was passed by a majority of two.

Besides B. Sinnatt, who was outstanding on both the platform and the floor, and those already mentioned, the following were boys who spoke from the platform : R. C. File, P. G. Varley, R. Ludlam, M. G. Walker, W. A. Booth, R. Sainsbury, P. Crowther, G. Sherlock, B. Butcher, and R. Owen. It is hoped that many more will speak and give their support to next term's meetings.

Among the proposed items for the summer term is a debate with Wycombe Abbey and one with the High School. If these are anywhere near as successful as last year's, they will be well worth attending.

P. G. VARLEY, VI.

SPANISH SOCIETY

Although the Society has now completed its first year, it has not yet seen much activity, and probably for this reason the Hon. Treasurer is finding it difficult to extort the subscriptions.

Last term, it may be remembered, Mr. J. J. Crofts gave a talk abundantly illustrated with Latin gesticulation, on Spain generally. Bull-fighting was the most popular episode, with Mr. Crofts, who had been to several in his two years' stay in Valencia, demonstrating the technique. He talked also of "*las Fallas*," or festivals that take place in Spain on Saints' Days, with floats and firecrackers, singing and sambas.

The film, "A Visit to Spain," made by Leicester school-children, was amusing as well as educational, but it was poorly supported, probably because of the small charge made to cover some of the cost of hiring.

"The Influence of Malta on Spanish History" was briefly expounded by Mr. G. C. Enriques, a native of the island. The talk was well received, and paved the way to discussions about a Spanish Oral Competition, which we hope will take place next term. (The prize is a half-guinea book-token.)

Two of our members, M. G. Walker and R. J. Handscombe, took part in a similar contest at Chiswick County School for Boys. Owing to a misunderstanding, neither of the School representatives was successful, even though they missed a whole day of the half-term holiday!

Finally, the Society hopes next term to remain numerically the largest of the various Societies, in spite of its present inactivity.

B. J. ANTONY, VI.
R. J. HANDSCOMBE, VI.

SCIENCE SOCIETY

The loss of our very able former secretary, Reynolds, did not necessitate any real change in the Society's programme. Films on various subjects have been shown regularly by Mr. Hood; steel ropes, paints and peas being the most popular.

Arrangements for next term include a series of lectures by Sixth Form boys on topics to be chosen by themselves, and a trip to Vauxhall Motors at Luton.

The interest shown has been excellent, and we sincerely hope that the activities of the Society will keep it so.

R. D. OWEN.

MUSIC SOCIETY

The chief difficulty with the Music Society is the comparative lack of support. Meetings are held once a week, making it second only to the Chess Club in regularity, but fewer than a dozen boys ever turn up. There are probably several causes for this ; lack of interest in musical matters, dislike of the two-minute walk to Uplyme, or, perhaps, general indifference to things cultural.

Another problem is what to play. The sadly depleted stock of School discs is hardly sufficient to provide for weekly meetings, but with the co-operation of interested members (particularly on the Science side) there have been regular meetings. There has not been a great deal of choice in these matters, because we have had to play what we have been able to get ; yet, on the whole, we have had a good selection of works from most periods—Classical, Romantic, Modern, symphonic music, concertos, piano music, operatic music. So far, however, we had no "live" performances.

We look confidently forward to next term, when we hope there will be greater enthusiasm.

P. KIRWAN, VI.

HISTORY SOCIETY

The school year, so far, has been most successful for the Society. It has not become the society for ancient and moribund historical scholars. Instead it is a flourishing society with a membership of over fifty boys.

An interesting talk on "Local Architecture," by E. A. L. Martyn, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., opened the Christmas term's programme. Then came the most successful event of the term : the visit to the Houses of Parliament on November 5th, which proved most enjoyable. So many boys wanted to go that a second trip has been arranged for the summer term. A most ambitious meeting was the last event of the term : two form-rooms with an opened partition were used for a Mock Parliament. A debate on the High Wycombe Re-development Plan was borne through the House with the correct procedure.

Exams. in February made the Society rather inactive during the first half of the spring term. However, the Society "went modern" at the end of January. A highly interesting History of Jazz was given by two enthusiasts—Messrs. Warner and Lennard. To conclude the programme for the term there is to be a Coin Exhibition and a Book Review.

Altogether, the Society has been well to the fore in the School's activities. As a parting comment, one might add that there is not nearly enough support for the meetings after School.

I. J. MCCREERY, VI.

BASKETBALL

The School basketball season was started very late this year, as we had to wait for new backboards and baskets. The Christmas term was without basketball activities, but once the boards were up this term a great interest was shown in the game once more, especially in the 5 Uppers.

Mr. Rees quickly organised two leagues to be run side by side and to be played off in the lunch hour. These have run very smoothly and are nearly over. Although they have three more matches to play VIs should win the first league, as they have played and beaten all the hard teams.

Owing to lack of funds the School team has only had three matches, all of which were against Mill End Old Boys. The first of these the School lost 35—38, but the other two were won 21—17 and 45—28. The latter being rather a walk-over even though we had a weakened team out.

With so many activities in the School basketball does not get much chance of gaining the popularity of the other games, but we hope that it will always be played and enjoyed with the best of spirits. Those who do play the game now will, I am sure, support me in saying what a good game it is, and I hope it will spread among the juniors and that one day we will be All England Schoolboy Champions. Very few people know that the School reached the semi-finals of this competition last year.

The following are regular members of the School team : E. Hall (capt.), Bristow, Brooks, Dunningham, Johnson, B. K., Pilgrim, Stevens, M. J., Weaver.

E. HALL.

CHESS CLUB

The traditional report to make on the activities of the Chess Club is : "The Club continues, in its quiet way, to give enjoyment to many people." As anyone who has wandered near the Biology Lab.—our new headquarters—during the dinner hour can testify, "quiet" is hardly the right word : but there is no doubt about the "enjoyment." Even those members who insist on opening their games by advancing alternate pawns to the third or fourth ranks—or, even worse, by playing P-R4 and trying to develop a rook *via* R3—enjoy themselves. Play is of a "lightning" character : it is no uncommon thing for a player to finish three or four games in a forty-five minute session. There has recently been an outbreak of Draughts, but we are pleased to report that the members are, on the whole, resisting the infection well. The Chess Competition continues, as usual, slowly, but fairly surely.

Chess Team.

The Chess team this year has had an unusually successful season : particularly gratifying have been our victories over our old and formidable rivals, Borlase and Amersham Grammar School. We also won an informal match against the staff ; but several of their stars were not available on this occasion. In the Berks and Bucks Schools Shield competition, which we usually leave in the first round, we have beaten Slough Technical School, Eton College, and Borlase, and are at time of writing in the Final, where we are to play Reading School. Although some of our " old hands " will be leaving at the end of the year, we have some young players who promise very well for the future.

The following have played for the School Chess team : Hester, D. A. (captain), Ashby, J. R. P. (vice-captain), Stevenson, R. A., Griffiths, D. J., Sutton, D. S., Boreham, B. A., Batchelor, B. D. (Hon. Sec.), Wilson, R. A. P., McGregor, A. J., Greeley, C. E. C., and Elias, D. J.

The match results to date have been :—

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Result</i>
Oct. 3	Borlase H	3	3	D
Oct. 10	Windsor A	4½	3½	W
Oct. 17	Amersham H	5	1	W
Oct. 24	Slough Tech. H	3½	2½	W
Nov. 7	Reading H	3½	2½	W
Nov. 13	Amersham A	3½	2½	W
Nov. 21	Windsor H	4	4	D
Nov. 28	Borlase A	4½	1½	W
Dec. 5	Reading A	2½	3½	L
Jan. 16	Staff	2½	1½	W
Jan. 23	Borlase A	3½	2½	W
Feb. 3	Slough Tech.* A	4	2	W
Mar. 5	Eton College* A	4	2	W
Mar. 6	Borlase H	3½	2½	W
Mar. 13	Borlase* A	4	2	W
Mar. 16	Maidenhead A	2½	3½	L

(* Berks and Bucks Schools' Shield Match)

D. A. HESTER, VI.

HOCKEY

The spring term of 1953 saw a big development in the introduction of hockey as a School game. Interest, already very keen in the Sixth Form, was greatly stimulated by the presentation of a magnificent cup by the High Wycombe Hockey Club for house competition. Owing to a shortage of time this competition was organised on a knock-out basis.

In the first round Arnison defeated Fraser by 9 goals to 2, and Disraeli defeated Youens by 3 goals to 1. The final game between Arnison and Disraeli was played on the High Wycombe pitch. Although Arnison were hot favourites and were expected to win quite easily, they only just managed to win by 2 goals to 1, after a very close and exciting game. The two teams were treated to a very fine tea by Councillor J. W. K. Taylor, a governor of the School, after the match, and Mr. Roger Raffety, captain of the High Wycombe 1st XI, presented the cup to the Arnison captain.

Apart from the house matches, several School fixtures were arranged. Once again the 1st XI renewed their rivalry with the High School 1st XI and beat them by 7 goals to nil, Saddler scoring 4, Caffoor 2 and Wing 1. A 2nd XI match was also arranged and the School won this by 8 goals to nil, Stevens scoring 5, Johnston, Miller and C. M. J. Edwards 1 each.

The next match was against a strong High Wycombe Club XI and the 1st XI, strengthened by the inclusion of Mr. Hood and Mr. Hett, succeeded in reversing last year's result by winning 6—3. The School played very good hockey throughout and thoroughly deserved their victory. Goals were scored by Caffoor 3, Wing 2, Saddler 1.

Two days later the 1st XI proved their win against High Wycombe was no "flash in the pan" by beating M. J. Banham's XI by 6 goals to 1, Caffoor 3, T. E. Hood, Esq., Wing and Johnson scoring the goals.

The Staff match, which last year ended in a draw 2—2, unfortunately had to be cancelled this year owing to the inclement weather.

Hockey has thus made a definite start and it is hoped that next year it can be organised on a far larger scale. All those who have played hockey this term would like to thank Mr. Hood and Mr. Geoffrey Morgan for the work they have done and the energy they have shown in attempting to promote hockey as a School game.

P. C. S. Hall, F. J. Hobson and F. Caffoor are to be congratulated on being selected to represent Bucks Schoolboys in the annual Easter Tournament at Seaford College on April 8th, 9th and 10th.

The following have played for the 1st XI : F. Hobson, P. C. S. Hall, R. Lamb, J. E. Brooks, F. E. J. Hawkins, B. D. Batchelor, R. Pilgrim, A. Saddler, F. Caffoor, R. C. Wing (capt.), B. K. Johnson and G. Sherlock.

R. C. WING.

CRICKET, 1953

Captain : R. C. WING

Vice-Captain : M. G. WALKER

It is always a difficult task to try and forecast the form of any team and this is especially true when the team happens to be a School Cricket XI. While we know the achievements of the old "colours" in the previous season we have no real guide to their form in the coming term, and the influx of new and younger members makes the task almost impossible. We must therefore look to the hockey field to find some guide to the form we may expect this season. The cover-drives of the full-backs, the late cuts of the half-backs and the neat footwork of the forwards combined with the inability of many old men to stop the hockey ball except with their feet shows but little change from 1952.

Five old "colours" are returning and the six remaining places will be competed for with, we hope, great keenness. With this in mind, a few words of advice may be of use to those hoping to get a regular place in the XI. The first and most important point to remember is that a good fielder can command a place in most XI's. Twenty runs given to the opponents through mis-fielding or lack of anticipation have to be made by the unfortunate man before he can start to score on the credit side of the book. The second point has been stressed before and is given in the introduction to the M.C.C. Coaching Book (now in the School Library). This has been quoted in the past and will be quoted again in the future :—

"Cricket is, in a sense, warfare in miniature and a cricket match should be fought out by both sides with all the resources of spirit and technique at their command." In other words—go out on the field to win. The time will come when the game is a relaxation after the toils of the week, but this is only when the eyesight is going off and the wind not so sound as it was. Then the local club will welcome you in their "A" XI, where you can drop the catches and make the usual "duck," remembering all the time the skill that was.

We hope that this season will see the end of the ancient and honourable pavilion, bought by Mr. H. G. Brand for £10. The Fête on May 30th will raise the required amount if all work with a will. All the sporting members of the School will be expected to make a maximum effort and the cricketers of all ages should be prepared to do even more than their maximum.

To all young cricketers who have ambitions to play for the 1st XI—remember that the surest way to get there is to play regularly for the under 14 and under 15 XI's.

H.W.J.

BOXING, 18th March, 1953

The School Boxing Championships this year attracted only 70 competitors—a disappointing entry compared with previous years. It must be realised that this competition is organised for House, as well as Individual, championships. The more entries a house puts forward, the better chance there is of gaining the highest points, since each boy who enters the ring obtains one point. The standard of boxing, however, through each phase of the many preliminary bouts, was undoubtedly high, and clearly demonstrated the value of attendance at training classes after School.

Results in the House Championships :—

Disraeli	...	...	...	...	...	...	53	points
Fraser	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	„
Arnison	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	„
Youens	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	„

Individual Bouts—Junior School

1. LEAF-WEIGHT : RAGG (F) *v.* GIBSON (F)

Gibson was the cleverer boxer, although Ragg was the more aggressive. Gibson, with his firm left lead, followed invariably by a right uppercut, often got Ragg into difficulties, but Ragg attacked always very gamely and was declared the winner by a short head.

2. CIGARETTE-WEIGHT : PETTIFER (A) *v.* CLARKE (F)

Pettifer repeated his last year's performance by out-pointing a game and elusive opponent. Clarke countered well at times, and was the better at close quarters, but Pettifer made the most of his height and reach to keep the fight at long range. For his posed style and excellent footwork he was adjudged Junior Champion.

3. GNAT-WEIGHT : PIERCEY (A) *v.* JOHNSON (A)

Johnson, despite a most courageous display in which he showed real boxing ability, was no match for his stronger opponent who has shown amazing development since last year.

4. PAPER-WEIGHT : WILLIAMS (D) *v.* SCOTT-KIDDIE (F)

Both boxers were tall for their weight, and their long reach often led to inaccurate punching at close quarters. Scott-Kiddie won the first round and throughout showed better ringcraft by manoeuvring Williams into the corners, but once there he failed to take advantage of the position, lost the initiative, and allowed Williams to sneak the decision in the last round.

5. MIDGE-WEIGHT : THORNE (F) *v.* JARMAN (F)

Jarman, who came in as a last-minute substitute for the indisposed Jones of IIIA, was outpointed by a very aggressive and punishing Thorne, and the referee wisely stopped the fight half-way through the second round.

6. MOSQUITO-WEIGHT : GILBERTSON (D) *v.* BONE (D)

This bout was enthusiastically conducted on both sides, but there was an obvious lack of boxing ability and general boxing tactics. Gilbertson's counter-attacking nullified Bone's rushes and won him the fight.

Senior School

7. FLY-WEIGHT : HARES (D) *v.* YOUENS (D)

Hares, a very accomplished and orthodox boxer, was the winner against Youens, a very game trier. This was a very lively and spirited contest with both boxers, and particularly Hares, showing first-class footwork.

8. BANTAM-WEIGHT : BRINE (D) *v.* INGLIS (D)

Inglis used his experience to advantage but at times was over-confident and allowed his opponent to come in and gain points by superior in-fighting. There was good boxing in this bout, won by Inglis, who dictated the fight at long range.

9. FEATHER-WEIGHT : RICHARDSON (Y) *v.* TAYLOR (F)

Taylor would have boxed well had he been given the chance. Richardson moved in from the bell and it was quickly evident that his strength would prove too much for Taylor. The latter showed great courage and landed some good blows.

10. LIGHT-WEIGHT : ASHCROFT (A) *v.* PILGRIM (D)

This had to be cancelled because of the Medical Officer's decision that Ashcroft was not fit enough to box. It promised to be a very good final.

11. WELTER-WEIGHT : ASHBY (Y) *v.* GITTINS (Y)

A contrast of styles, Gittins favouring the modern "fighter" approach, Ashby imitating the style of the old prize-fighters, afforded some amusement to the audience. Gittins won the fight by heavy two-handed punching.

12. MIDDLE-WEIGHT : JONES (Y) *v.* REAVEY (Y)

This promised to be a very good contest with Reavey a very experienced campaigner, and Jones strong and very game. But, just before the end of round one, after some exciting and lively exchanges, Jones caught Reavey with a hard left jab to the solar-plexus. This punch put Reavey out of action long enough for the referee to stop the fight.

13. HEAVY-WEIGHT : GARRATT (F) *v.* OLSEN (D)

Both boxers, particularly Garratt, were quick off the mark and going into attack in the best tradition of school heavy-weights. Garratt did not box as well as he did against Clapton last year, but a good first round brought him a victory and the Senior Cup.

Both the winners and runners-up had certificates of merit.

RUGBY RETROSPECT 1952-53

1st XV

School Matches : Won 9, Drawn 2, Lost 1

Other Matches : Won 2, Lost 2.

"A" Team : Won 1.

A mixture of some very experienced old hands, mostly in the forwards, with seven of last season's under fifteen side, mostly behind the scrum but two of them forming the second row of it, has made up a highly successful First Fifteen. P. C. S. Hall, in his second year as captain, wisely insisted on all-round team work, and an excellent pack of forwards has not only given the backs plenty of the ball in most of our matches, but covered up in defence in a most remarkable way.

Although the loose scrummaging and heeling from the loose has at times been poor, in most other departments the forwards have shone. P. C. S. Hall understands the art of hooking and sets his side a fine example in the loose. His two enormous "props," E. Hall and G. J. Bristow, dominated the line-outs and covered up excellently in defence. R. A. Mann and A. J. Gordon, though young and light, packed and shoved well in the second row, and Gordon played some particularly fine games in the spring term. R. C. File, in what used to be called the lock position (now No. 8), has played with a new fire and dash this season. Of the loose forwards, T. W. Abdallah has had some good games, being especially forceful in attack: he has harassed but by no means always subdued the opposing stand-off half. D. F. E. Hill, our oldest member, has maintained his previous season's form on the blind side. C. M. Edwards and A. F. Abercrombie have played in the pack on many occasions, and both G. F. Regan and G. R. Davis deputised for P. C. S. Hall after Christmas. Abercrombie did especially well.

Behind these forwards a youthful pair of halves, R. C. Ashby and G. W. Snapes (P. J. Osborne left School after the Marlow match to take up a job), have not only shown the greatest promise but have held their own with most pairs they have played against. Ashby has not a long pass yet, but he plays with irresistible energy and imagination. Snapes, just fifteen at the beginning of the season, has all the talents, handling, running, kicking and tackling: with growing strength and a more developed positional sense he will be able to go to the top or somewhere very near it, if he cares to.

Centre-threequarter play is a problem not confined to schools: where are the players who can (a) stop their opposite number, (b) penetrate or at least draw the defence, and (c) pass to their wing? (I say nothing of kicking, because they can all kick, and do so—far, far, too often.) We had one centre left from last season, R. Ludlam, who has skilfully nursed a young and inexperienced back division. His defence is courageous and he runs straight with fair powers of penetration; but he has starved his wing. The other centre position was after prolonged experiment given to T. E. Uphill, whose powers of penetration are very good indeed, who occasionally remembers to pass and does so fairly accurately, but whose defence, partly unskilful, partly irresolute, has kept the corner-flagging forwards very busy indeed. It is fair to add that he improved it enough to arouse hopes.

I. T. Johnson has tackled and run well on the right wing: indeed his determination has been impressive. K. C. Jones, less experienced but equally resolute, promises to be an unusually fast and strong wing threequarter in a year or two's time. R. C. Jones, like his namesake barely fifteen at the beginning of the season, has

committed most of the sins which full-backs should not commit, except to lose his head or his nerve ; he has saved many an awkward situation by a variety of methods. Quicker positioning would have helped him.

I cannot remember a side with more boys in it whom I would confidently recommend to the earnest attention of first-class clubs searching (well ahead) for talent.

For the opening match Saracens sent down a weak Gipsy team and were easily beaten. Windsor County School gave us a hard game at Wycombe but were outweighed forward. Marylebone G.S. were below their usual strength and our team were able to run riot. Watford G.S. then visited us and we enjoyed a tussle against their excellent backs : some superiority forward and good covering enabled us to draw the game with the help of a penalty goal. At Marlow injuries during the game could not prevent our beating a smaller side, and an "A" team beat Henley G.S., who have had to rebuild their entire side this season. Stowe 2nd XV had a large and high-spirited pack, but our three-quarters, now reorganised, made some lively and successful attacks. Perhaps the best game of the season was that against the City of Oxford School, who brought down a very good side : their three-quarters, though inclined to over-elaborate, soon scored two good tries. The School replied with a penalty goal and a goal, but fell behind again when Oxford scored another try. In the last minute or two Snapes kicked a winning penalty and Oxford failed to take a good chance of replying. A game in which the forwards excelled with their defensive covering, but we were lucky to find the opposition place-kicker having an off-day. The match against Tiffin School was narrowly won, but rather spoilt by endless difficulty getting the ball into the scrum. At Reading the wings were given a fair share of the ball for the first and only time during the season, and the play showed a vast improvement. On a wet and horrible day at Watford, we got the invaluable lead of a try, thanks to a clever pick-up and pass by the captain ; but, alas, some anonymous forward handled in the scrum and so allowed Watford to earn a draw with a fine place-kick. Then came our only school defeat at Abingdon, by two goals and two penalty goals to five tries. It was a sad story of dropped scoring passes and missed place-kicks, while the Abingdon side kept pegging away and their place-kicker had a wonderful afternoon out.

In the spring term, E. Hall took over the captaincy on the field from the injured P. C. S. Hall, whose hooking was sorely missed despite noble efforts by his substitutes. He handled the team well. Arborfield Training School were soundly beaten ; but at Oxford, Balliol College paid us the compliment of turning out their whole "Cuppers" side on a dry but windy day. We did well

to keep our loss down to five points against eleven. A close game against St. Edward's "A" team was won largely owing to some first-rate place-kicking ; and, again at Oxford, Jesus College grew tired in the second half and were soundly beaten. The Old Boys turned out a splendid side for the last match of the season, and despite some plucky but disorganised tackling, routed a side rather weakened by injuries : they played most attractive open football.

Place-kicking has decided for or against victory in several of our matches. There is a double moral : practise kicking and keep to the rules.

The First Fifteen was : R. C. Jones ; I. T. Johnston, T. E. Uphill, R. Ludlam, K. C. Jones ; R. C. Ashby, G. W. Snapes ; E. Hall (Vice-Captain), P. C. S. Hall (Captain), G. J. Bristow, R. A. Mann, A. J. Gordon, T. W. Abdallah, R. C. File, D. F. E. Hill. All the team have been awarded their colours.

A. F. Abercrombie and C. M. Edwards played in many matches and others to play besides P. J. Osborne and R. E. Hester, who left School in October, were G. F. Regan, P. S. Reader, J. C. Colver, G. R. Davis, M. J. Garratt and B. K. Johnson.

2nd XV

Played 12, Won 7, Lost 5.

The Second Fifteen has had a good season, despite occasional disruption of the side through injuries in the First. Some very good forwards, A. F. Abercrombie, C. M. J. Edwards, M. J. Garratt, J. Weaver, G. F. Regan, J. G. Deller and G. R. Davis, have all either played for the first fifteen or been unlucky not to get the chance. But in addition to having speed and gusto, forwards must know how to combine with the rest of the team, and there was a marked tendency to hold on too long or to take on when a heel was called for. R. G. Pilgrim arose like a phoenix from the ashes of past seasons a well-equipped and energetic scrum-half. The three-quarter play was moderately good, with B. K. Johnson's accurate kicking worthy of praise (as the Latin grammar papers say).

The 2nd XV was (* marks 2nd XV colours) : J. C. Colver*, J. S. Dunningham, B. K. Johnson*, P. S. Reader*, M. J. Reavey, J. W. Pursey, R. G. Pilgrim*, J. G. Deller*, G. R. Davis*, C. M. J. Edwards* (Captain), J. Weaver*, M. J. Garratt*, A. F. Abercrombie*, D. J. Gittins, G. F. Regan*, and I. C. Birch.

Others who played for the team were : P. P. Crowther, B. Sinnatt, T. C. Olsen, T. E. Hawes, R. Sainsbury, P. H. G. Burt, R. J. M. Hart, E. M. Squires, J. S. Kelly, B. E. Devlin and D. B. Read.

3rd XV

Played 8, Won 1, Drawn 1, Lost 6.

The 3rd XV have pursued a course of honourable defeat, surprising considering the individual talent available, but explicable by the poor scrummaging and sturdy refusal to tackle low. None the less there are boys of ability here.

The 3rd XV was : P. P. Crowther, G. D. B. Jones, M. J. Nicholls, J. P. J. Edwards, W. R. Weston, B. Sinnatt, F. E. J. Hawkins, P. H. G. Burt, R. C. Wing, J. Pickard, T. E. Hawes, T. C. Olsen, F. J. R. Hobson, R. Burrows, R. Sainsbury and W. A. Booth.

Others who played were : J. E. Brooks, C. G. Burrell, P. A. Thatcher, M. J. Knight, A. K. Monks, N. F. A. Buxton.

Rugger Stockings were awarded to I. C. Birch, P. H. G. Burt, P. P. Crowther, J. S. Dunningham, D. J. Gittins, T. E. Hawes, F. E. J. Hawkins, F. J. R. Hobson, G. D. B. Jones, M. J. Nicholls, T. C. Olsen, J. W. Pursey, M. J. Reavey, R. Sainsbury, B. Sinnatt, W. R. Weston, R. Wing.

COLTS XV (under 15 on 1.9.52)

Played 7, Won 5, Drawn 1, Lost 1.

The Colts have had another good season as was to be expected, losing only one match—under very wet and difficult conditions at Watford. Among the forwards B. E. Devlin, J. S. Kelly and D. B. Read stood out, while the pick of the backs were E. C. Bond and E. M. Squires. A. J. C. Wright captained the side and played well at stand-off half. There are several other boys in this side with a good chance of getting their colours in a year or two.

The following played for the team : E. C. Bond, T. J. Bond, P. Chamberlin, J. A. Cox, M. Deitchman, B. E. Devlin, K. G. Faulkner, R. J. M. Hart, M. D. Jones, J. S. Kelly, M. J. King, R. E. Lamb, M. J. Leslie, D. J. Mendy, D. B. Read, A. J. Sallows, J. Smithers, E. M. Squires, A. J. C. Wright (Captain).

JUNIOR XV (under 14 on 1.9.52)

Played 8, Won 8.

The "under fourteen" for the second season running won all their eight matches, most of them by a wide margin. They piled up the almost incredible total of 275 pts. to 3. There is some splendid material here, particularly M. J. Richardson, the captain, and J. H. Richardson, the hooker. But the team-work, thanks to constant practice, has been excellent too.

The team was : R. J. Austin, J. Glenister, B. M. Ashby, A. Harvey, R. L. Weston, M. J. Richardson (Captain), J. W. Harding, C. J. Melsome, J. H. Richardson, G. L. S. Hickey, A. P. Malein, M. G. Small, F. R. Ede, N. R. Stokes, H. L. Barrow.

Others to play were : R. W. Thorne, C. R. Rake, D. J. Willis and M. G. W. Taylor.

JUNIOR XV's (under 13, 3rd Forms, 2nd Forms)

Various very junior teams played with vigour and some rudimentary skill.

Those who played for the "under 13" and "Third Form" teams were : Thorne, R. W., D. E. Breslin, R. J. Collett, M. J. Ridgley, P. J. Muller, D. W. Hollomon, J. H. Pettifer, T. D. Reavey, R. I. Fox, J. R. Bone, R. C. Jones, C. R. Rake, J. R. Patrick, G. Gilbertson, R. F. Palmer, D. A. Scott-Kiddie, E. C. Franks, R. C. Hackett, C. G. Brooks, R. J. Orsler.

Those who played against Thorpe House (new boys, except for those marked *) were : G. E. Rushby*, D. F. N. Simpson, K. R. Miller, C. C. Perry, W. F. Hodge, P. D. Hares* (Captain), J. C. G. Lawson*, A. G. Eales, C. R. Rake*, W. D. P. Williams, B. G. Leslie, J. P. Blokland, A. S. Watley, W. E. Shackell, H. C. Bramley.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

		1st XV			
Sept.	20	Saracens' Gipsy XV	Home	Won	22 6
"	27	Windsor County School	Home	Won	9 0
Oct.	4	St. Marylebone Grammar School	Home	Won	58 0
"	8	Watford Grammar School	Home	Drawn	9 9
"	11	Borlase School, Marlow	Away	Won	24 3
"	22	Stowe School, 2nd XV	Home	Won	14 6
"	29	City of Oxford School	Home	Won	11 9
Nov.	5	Tiffin School	Away	Won	6 3
"	8	Reading School	Away	Won	11 3
"	15	Watford Grammar School	Away	Drawn	3 3
"	22	Abingdon School	Away	Lost	15 16
Jan.	24	Arborfield Apprentices	Home	Won	19 0
"	31	Balliol College	Away	Lost	5 11
Feb.	7	St. Edward's School "A" XV	Away	Won	11 8
"	21	Jesus College, Oxford	Away	Won	16 3
"	28	Old Boys	Home	Lost	3 35

(The fixtures against Southfield School, Leighton Park School, and St. Bartholomew's School, Newbury, had, unfortunately, to be cancelled because of bad weather.)

"A" XV

Nov.	18	Henley Grammar School	Away	Won	16 3
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2nd XV

Oct.	4	St. Marylebone Grammar School ...	Away	Won	51	0
"	8	Watford Grammar School	Away	Lost	3	15
"	11	Aylesbury Grammar School 1st XV	Home	Won	23	0
"	22	Dunstable School	Away	Won	35	0
"	29	City of Oxford School	Home	Won	41	5
Nov.	5	Tiffin School	Home	Won	17	8
"	8	Reading School	Home	Lost	6	8
"	15	Watford Grammar School	Home	Lost	3	6
"	22	Abingdon School	Away	Won	19	0
Jan.	24	Arborfield Apprentices	Home	Won	33	0
"	31	Thame School 1st XV	Away	Lost	5	19
Feb.	7	St. Edward's School "B" XV ...	Away	Lost	3	40

(The fixtures against Southfield School, Leighton Park School, and the Old Wycombiensians "Extra A" had, unfortunately, to be cancelled because of bad weather.)

3rd XV

Sept.	27	Windsor County School 2nd XV ...	Away	Lost	5	12
Oct.	4	Old Wycombiensians "B" ...	Away	Lost	3	29
"	8	Watford Grammar School	Away	Lost	8	11
"	11	Borlase School, Marlow, 2nd XV ...	Home	Won	30	0
"	18	Old Wycombiensians "B" ...	Away	Drawn	9	9
Nov.	5	Tiffin School	Home	Lost	0	6
"	8	Reading School	Away	Lost	3	12
"	15	Watford Grammar School	Home	Lost	0	21

(The fixtures against Borlase School at Marlow, and Leighton Park School had, unfortunately, to be cancelled because of bad weather.)

COLTS XV

Sept.	27	Windsor County School	Home	Won	12	5
Oct.	4	St. Marylebone Grammar School ...	Home	Won	33	3
"	11	Watford Grammar School	Home	Won	16	0
"	18	Southfield School	Home	Won	44	0
Nov.	8	Reading School	Away	Drawn	3	3
"	15	Watford Grammar School	Away	Lost	0	3
"	22	Henley Grammar School	Home	Won	52	0

(The fixture against Stowe School had, unfortunately, to be cancelled because of bad weather.)

JUNIOR XV (under 14)

Sept.	27	Windsor County School	Away	Won	43	0
Oct.	4	St. Marylebone Grammar School ...	Away	Won	30	0
"	11	Watford Grammar School	Home	Won	21	0
"	18	Southfield School	Home	Won	59	0
Nov.	8	Reading School	Home	Won	27	0
"	15	Borlase School, Marlow	Home	Won	48	0
"	22	Henley Grammar School	Home	Won	41	0
Jan.	31	Watford Grammar School	Away	Won	6	3

JUNIOR XV (under 13)

Jan. 31 Watford Grammar School Away Drawn 3 3

JUNIOR XV (Third Forms)

Nov. 7 Crosfields Home Won 6 3

Feb. 6 Crosfields Away Lost 0 3

JUNIOR XV (Second Forms)

Jan. 29 Thorpe House School Away Lost 0 21

HOUSE MATCHES 1953

The Senior Rugger Cup was won by YOUENS after a re-play with Fraser. All four houses had strong sides, and some of the results were influenced by the absence of star players. In the play-off there was really nothing to choose between the two sides, who had each scored eight points, when the Fraser captain was injured. Both sides, I think, felt this a misfortune in so close a game, but Youens managed to score the necessary try.

Jan. 14	Fraser	beat	Arnison	18	3
	Disraeli	beat	Youens	9	3
.. 28	Arnison	beat	Disraeli	13	6
	Youens	beat	Fraser	11	3
Feb. 4	Youens	beat	Arnison	14	8
	Fraser	beat	Disraeli	9	0
.. 25	YOUENS	beat	FRASER	11	8

The Junior (Colts) Rugger Cup was won by ARNISON in a league competition, somewhat marred by the failure of one house to turn out a full side.

Jan. 16	Arnison	beat	Fraser	35	0
	Youens	beat	Disraeli	18	9
.. 23	Arnison	beat	Disraeli	3	0
	Youens	beat	Fraser	66	0
Feb. 6	Arnison	beat	Youens	16	0
	Disraeli	beat	Fraser	55	0

The Junior (under 13) Knock-out Competition was won by ARNISON.

First Round :	Jan. 16	Arnison	beat Fraser	9	3
		Disraeli	beat Youens	3	0
Final :	Jan. 23	ARNISON	beat DISRAELI	3	0

Old Wycombiensians' War Memorial Fund

In June, 1952, the special committee appointed for that purpose issued the long-deferred appeal for contributions towards the Old Wycombiensians' War Memorial Fund. Donations were invited so as to enable the Memorial Tablet containing the names of those who had given their lives in the 1939/45 war to be erected in the School Hall opposite the similar tablet from the first world war. It was also hoped that a sufficiently large sum would be forthcoming to enable a Memorial pavilion to be built at the far end of the School field to take the place of the very inadequate structure which has served as a pavilion since 1905. These are, of course, extremely difficult days and high taxation and the multiplicity of other calls resulted in a total to date which could not do very much more than cover the cost of the bronze Memorial Tablet. It was felt, too, that, while the majority of contributions had come from Old Boys and friends in the town, it would be highly desirable for the School itself to make a special effort to provide a large contribution towards the Fund. It was, therefore, resolved in December last to hold a grand Fête and Bazaar on the School field on Saturday, May 30th, the Saturday preceding Coronation Day. Preparations have been proceeding vigorously during the last term. A strong committee of masters under the chairmanship of Mr. Morgan has met regularly and all arrangements are well in hand ; appeals have been made to friends in the town for contributions towards the Bazaar and from these already very encouraging and generous responses have been received ; each boy's parent has received an appeal expressing the hope that every boy and every family will consider most carefully what contribution the family can make towards the School's effort. It has been pointed out that in these days when so many very valuable scholarships are available to the cleverest boys a great amount of benefit is going to be derived during the course of the next seven or eight years by boys who are at present low down in the School from the opportunities that the Royal Grammar School provides, and that it would not be at all unseemly for these boys themselves

to make the biggest contribution possible by their own efforts and interest and enthusiasm towards the success of this Fête, and in that way towards the School pavilion, which it is hoped we shall be able to build as a result of this effort.

We have been fortunate enough to secure as the opener of the Fête and Bazaar our distinguished Old Boy, Lieut. Ian Fraser, who gained the Victoria Cross in 1945 for an outstandingly gallant deed as commander of a midget submarine towards the close of the war against the Japanese. I know it will be of greatest interest to the whole of the present generation of boys and parents to have this opportunity of seeing in person this Old Wycombiensian who has brought such distinction upon himself and upon the School. It is hoped, therefore, that every boy and parent connected with the School will make a point of being at the Fête on the afternoon of Saturday, May 30th.

E.R.T.

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

Births

BADDELEY (1936-41). On February 10th, 1953, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Baddeley, a daughter.

BECKET (1936-40). On January 4th, 1953, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Becket, a son.

BEECHEY (1931-36). On December 28th, 1952, at Princes Risborough, to Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Beechey, a son.

ESSEX (1927-35). On January 2nd, 1953, at Dorking, to Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Essex, twin sons.

FLETCHER (1939-45). On July 30th, 1952, at Hertford, to Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Fletcher, a daughter.

FREEMAN (1915-22). On September 30th, 1952, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Freeman, a daughter.

GLENISTER (1935-43). On March 21st, 1953, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. F. Glenister, a son.

GLENISTER (1931-37). On October 14th, 1952, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. B. Glenister, a son.

GRACE (1930-37). On February 11th, 1953, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Grace, a son.

KYLE (1924-30). On March 10th, 1953, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Kyle, a daughter.

OAKESHOTT (1930-38). On January 7th, 1953, at Effingham, Surrey, to Mr. and Mrs. K. R. Oakeshott, a daughter.

SKULL (1916-18). On November 12th, 1952, at Rossendale, Lancs., to Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Skull, a son.

STANNERS (1933-40). On October 16th, 1952, at Morden, Surrey, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Stanners, a daughter.

STEVENS (1933-39). On January 28th, 1953, at Croydon, to Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Stevens, a daughter.

Marriages

SOUNDY—ALLMAN. On November 1st, 1952, at Hazlemere, High Wycombe, Walter E. Soundy (1924-28) to Miss I. B. Allman.

CHURCH—HOWARD. On June 9th, 1952, at Hillingdon, J. K. Church (1941-45), son of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Church, to Miss June Howard.

COPCUTT—FLETCHER. On August 30th, 1952, at West Wycombe, A. Copcutt (1942-44), son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Copcutt, to Miss P. Fletcher.

MILLBOURN—BALL. On December 13th, 1952, at High Wycombe, J. E. Millbourn (1939-45), son of Mr. and Mrs. P. V. Millbourn, to Miss M. A. Ball.

Deaths

F. W. GEORGE (1878-82). On January 9th, 1953, at High Wycombe, F. W. George, second son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George George, aged 85 years.

G. W. G. KEEN (1947-52). On January 19th, 1953, in Sardinia, Giles Keen, younger son of A. W. Keen (1915-21), and Mrs. Keen, of Rose Villa, Totteridge, High Wycombe, aged 17 years.

A. NORTH (1944-47). On March 14th, 1953, at High Wycombe, A. (Tony) North, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. M. North, The Fox, Ibstone, aged 22 years.

F. W. GEORGE entered the ironmongery trade in 1908 and in 1927 formed the present limited company with his son, E. George (1915-22), as managing director. In his youth he was well known in sporting circles, played several times for the county football team and for the High Wycombe Cricket Club. He was a member of the Royal Bucks Hussars, Churchwarden at High Wycombe Parish Church for several years, a founder of the Wycombe Rotary Club and in 1915 the Worshipful Master of the Wycombe Lodge of Freemasons.

G. W. G. KEEN died following a fall on board the s.s. *Wembley Hill* in the Mediterranean. It was his birthday and he was on his first voyage as a cadet apprentice bound for Marseilles from North Africa. He had been an active member of the High Wycombe Cadet Corps and of the R.G.S. Cadet Corps.

A. NORTH died as the result of the car he was driving hitting a bank not many yards from his home. He was on leave from the R.E.M.E. An officer and four men from his regiment attended the funeral. North was an N.C.O. in the R.G.S. Cadet Force and had decided to stay in the R.E.M.E. at the end of his National Service. He was a member of the School XV and was proud of the fact that J. E. Woodward was his Captain.

The School and Club tender their deepest sympathy to the parents and relatives on the untimely loss of these two promising young men.

MR. BARTLE is still busy and as acting chairman of a housing committee had the unpopular task of raising council house rents by about 15 per cent. Much to his surprise, he found that Reginald Rivett, a Norfolk man who had lived opposite to him in Priory Avenue, High Wycombe, had bought a house not far away.

After recovering from an attack of "flu," the REV. A. M. BERRY had a relapse and was seriously ill in a nursing home for two weeks. He turned up as usual, however, at the Old Boys' Dinner, and was annoyed with his insurance company for making quibbles about his policy, in spite of the fact that his doctor had written to them that he could find nothing wrong with his heart or pulse, and that for a man of 80 years he was exceptionally strong and healthy.

MR. MATTHEWS, to his great surprise, is in great demand ever since he has resumed his enthusiasm for the 'cello, and if his other duties allowed he could be kept quite busy at it.

Old Wycombiensians' Club

The Annual Dinner was held at the Tavistock Restaurant, Charing Cross Road, on Saturday, March 21st, 1952. A guarantee of 135 had been given and 136 were present, many being unable to attend at the last minute.

The President of the Club, Mr. Tucker, was in the chair, supported at the top table by Mr. Arnison, Mr. Brand, Mr. Bartle, Rev. A. M. Berry, and Mr. R. Matthews and three Governors of the School, two of whom, G. H. Baker, and J. W. G. Taylor, are Old Boys; the third Governor was Mr. MacAlister Bexon.

The Guest of Honour was D. J. Watson (1903-09), whose name is the first on the new honours lists in the Hall. He was proposed by Mr. Arnison, who gave a resumé of D. J. Watson's abilities at School both in and out of doors, and of his 1914-1918 war record. The Headmaster responded to the toast of the School and Club, proposed by Jack Theed. There was no entertainment this year; as soon as the official part of the reunion was over, the floor of the hall was cleared and Old Boys could gather round the piano or at separate tables to argue and gossip as much as they liked.

Annual General Meeting and Summer Supper

One of the ideas behind the Summer Supper when it started two years ago was that it would encourage Old Boys to attend the A.G.M., where they could voice their complaints and suggest improvements for the running of the Club. It would also give those who, for some reason or other, could not attend the reunion in London, a chance to visit the School and meet old friends. Last year 80 turned up, as against 88 the previous year, and it is hoped that this time well over a hundred will attend. The supper is very informal. There is no top-table and no speeches, and the food compares more than favourably with that obtainable at double the price elsewhere—cost of ticket about 6/-.

Both will take place on Saturday, July 4th, 1953: the A.G.M. at 6.45 p.m. and the supper immediately afterwards. Complaints are expected at the A.G.M., but it is certain that there will be no adverse criticism of the supper, so do turn up, please.

OLD BOYS' NOTES AND NEWS

After his return to New York, V. A. BENNETT (1919-23) wrote to J. W. K. Taylor that there was a possibility he would be making another flying visit to England in January; if not then, certainly in August. His elder son, Duncan, who spent a few days with Mr. Tucker, gave a long talk on his impressions of the R.G.S. when he returned home. This was done after chapel, which plays quite an important part in American social activities, and where Junior and Senior members take part in lectures and discussions.

Applying rather late for a Dinner ticket, N. BIRKS (1935-40), who now lives at 54 Kenilworth Gardens, Hayes, says he is a very hard-working, pipe-smoking family man, is as bald as an egg, and has a son of 2 years and a daughter of 6 months.

G. D. BURCH (1911-15) has been unanimously elected President of the High Wycombe and District Horticultural Society to succeed the late Alderman W. H. Tyzack, J.P.

M. A. CORNISH (1941-46) has had the longest leave since he went to sea in 1949. His last trip in the British tanker *Tern* was one of ten months, seeing Rangoon, Chittagong, the Persian Gulf and Melbourne, and one of five months on an unusual journey for his company, visiting Buenos Aires, Cape Verde Island, New York and Texas City. He wrote this letter while on a stormy journey from London to the Tyne. He hopes to sail soon as a Second Mate, for which he qualified at the first attempt. His brother, who ran well for the R.G.S., has done even better for Wallington County School, winning a medal and cup in inter-school competitions.

A. DODGSON (1913-19), who never misses an Old Boys' Reunion, has been appointed chief assistant to a new school in Wembley. In spite of the very latest in modern fittings, and appliances, he finds the children just the same as those in his old school, but he likes it.

R. H. DANCER (1917-23) has just returned from India and Pakistan after an eight-week "fact-finding" tour for Messrs. Jacksons. In a 5,000-mile journey he made a comprehensive survey of economic conditions and trade prospects in the two countries.

News of the following was obtained from A. G. DUCKERING (1941-47) :—

B. S. LARKIN (1939-46) is an engineer at Peterborough ; P. NICHOLSON (1939-47) as a civil engineer in London is designing water pipes ; T. E. GOLDSMITH (1941-46) is selling tea for Lyons in Newcastle ; M. A. POLDEN (Podeshva) (1941-47), after obtaining his LL.B., is working for his Solicitor's finals at London University ; Duckering himself, who has been joined by M. J. BANHAM (1943-52) at Leeds University, had the honour to tour Wales and Italy with the Universities' Rugby Team during the Christmas vacation. He has another year at Leeds.

In a letter to Mr. Tucker, I. A. FAIRMINGTON (1939-43) wrote that he and his wife were sailing for Canada on March 11th. He wrote from Edinburgh, where he was working on radar.

When C. T. FLETCHER (1939-46) wrote for a ticket for the Old Boys' Dinner he enclosed the news of the birth of a daughter, who, at the age of four months, was doing splendidly. He said that he had not yet finished with examinations, and was expecting to hear the result of one he had just taken in a variety of subjects, including Accountancy. Two other Old Boys, D. A. Collins and M. J. Harris, both from the Bucks County Treasurer's office, were in the same examination room. Fletcher has just been appointed secretary for the Herts County Branch of N.A.L.G.O. In a later letter, he announced that he had come third in the whole examination (intermediate I.M.T.A.) and had been awarded the W. W. Cocker prize for Accountancy.

E. T. FUNNELL (1930-38) thought he was settled down for good at Ferndown, when the Ministry decided to transfer him to Manchester for the second time in his career. The move, however, carried promotion and his address until his family is able to join him, is Air Traffic Control Station, Ringway Airport, Wythenshawe, Manchester. Needless to say, he will be very pleased to see any Old Boys who happen to make use of the airport.

R. S. C. GILES (1939-44) is in New Zealand working with K. SURRIDGE.

MICHAEL GIBBS (1938-44) is doing his National Service with the R.A.F. at Stranraer, Wigtownshire, where he is the station M.O. and Officer i/c Mountain Rescue Unit.

H. R. GUEST (1925-27), with the letters A.M.(Mar.)E. after his name, is the chief engineer for the Army and Navy Stores—a very good firm to work for. He is hoping for more engineering qualifications soon.

A. W. HANDS (1906-08) has been elected chairman of the Oxford Committee, covering Oxford and Bucks, of the Southern Regional Board for Industry.

H. C. HICKMAN (1939-46), after a course at Arborfield as a second-class Telemach. (Radar), is a true boffin. He did so well against keen competition that he was kept on as an instructor and so gets full benefits from his National Service without, however, getting extra pay. He is in charge of a very well equipped laboratory, where some very complex experiments are being carried out and he spends hours setting up apparatus.

He writes that the Surridge brothers have both emigrated to New Zealand, D. G. to train for the Civil Service in Wellington, and K. D. is in the Post Office on the other island. When Brian Larkin was demobbed, he joined B. Perkins at Peterborough for a time, but he is now in South Kent. Hickman has had no news of N. Lucas since he had his B.Sc. at Reading University, but he knows that J. A. Bland has been given a grant enabling him to do three years' research in crystallography at Cambridge University.

H. D. HOWARD (1946-51), before sailing for the Far East, asked his father to pay his subscriptions to the Old Boys' Club. He would be glad of news of any of his old School friends while he is out there.

A. F. JORDAN (1929-35) has been granted full membership of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. He now has his own engineering business at Wick, near Bristol.

D. M. KING (1935-41), after his military service, went to Durham University, and obtained his B.Sc. in Physics and Bacteriology. While there he met Catling, who was successful in getting B.Com.

M. G. R. MACKRILL (1938-43), a captain in the R.A.M.C. with the 3rd Battalion The Malay Regt., KATA, Bharu, Malaya, thought it highly improbable that he would be able to attend the Dinner. He is enjoying himself out there. Fortunately, he says, there is always plenty of work to be done, otherwise life could be grim. He wishes the Club all success and happiness for 1953.

J. P. MARTIN (1939-43), after two years in Nassau, has been transferred by Barclays Bank to open a branch at Rock Sound, Eleuthera, Bahamas. He and his wife are one of the six white families there. They are getting acclimatised by boiling drinking water, baking bread and drinking tinned milk, all of which they prefer, however, to catching the 8.15 a.m. every morning from Gerrards Cross. A good idea of Eleuthera can be obtained by reading *Islands in the Sun* or *Appointment in the Sun* by Rosita M. Forbes, who lives about 30 miles north of Rock Sound.

B. J. MEARS (1942-47) felt quite homesick when he read in the September issue of the School Magazine the account of the trip to Southampton Docks—his home town. When he wrote he was a Junior Engineer on the M.V. *Adelaide Star*, bound for Australia with a general cargo. It was unlikely that he would be back in time for the Reunion.

J. E. MILLBOURN (1939-45), having passed in March, 1952, the Final Examination of both the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and Estate Agents Institute, will now have the letters A.R.I.C.S. and A.A.I. after his name.

C. MORRIS (1914-19) has recently won the Cup presented by the late King George VI for the best cultivated root and green crops. He also won the Palmer Cup for the most points in corn and root crops, and saw his son, Roger, win a first prize and two trophies for two-furrow tractor ploughing.

R. F. RAY (1941-48) gives the following names of Old Boys up at Cambridge this year : Goodchild at St. John's, A. Kenyon, Reynolds, K. Westney, Kipping, M. A. Crowther, and G. T. Harris at Jesus.

This time J. N. ROBINSON (1928-33) sends his annual subscription from Singapore, which he says does not come up to Trieste. Apart from the fine Government and Administrative buildings, it is mostly made up of yells and smells. Considering that there is trouble of sorts across the Johore Causeway, Robinson does not find the work too hard and the scenes remind him in some ways of Ibstone Common.

DR. STANLEY ROPER (1893-95), organist, choirmaster and composer, at Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, is resigning because of ill-health. He was appointed in 1902 and has taken part in three Coronations.

P. R. STEVENS (1939-42) hopes to be at the Dinner if his work at the Admiralty will allow him. He is doing his National Service as M.O. in the Admiralty.

C. G. STRATTON (1887-89), of Princes Risborough, as vice-chairman of the Bucks County Playing Fields Association was photographed shaking hands with H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh on October 17th last.

L. J. THOMSON (1914-18), writing from Colombo, says he often meets W. T. BRINDLEY (1910-15). On a Sunday morning they sometimes play a little light bowls. About a year ago W. A. WOODS (1912-20) appeared on the island and it was not long before Sammy sold Thomson a Broom and Wade compressor!

H. G. TIDY (1924-32) has arrived in Istanbul to join the British Naval Mission as Education Advisor to the Turkish Admiralty. His appointment is for two years, with the temporary rank of Captain, R.N. After taking his degree at Reading, Tidy entered the Royal Navy in 1936. He saw service in the *Nelson* and was three years in Australia. He was Head Boy at School and captain of cricket.

W. H. E. TIMMS (1905-11), a founder member of the High Wycombe and District Young Farmers' Club, received from Lord Carrington, the President of the Club, a surprise presentation of an inscribed cigarette case as a token of the members' esteem and affection. The occasion was the annual dinner of the Club held at the Town Hall on November 21st, 1952.

D. J. WALLINGTON (1943-48) writes that before leaving Harper Adams he gained both the College and National Diplomas, and is entitled to quite an array of letters after his name. As he was going in the capacity of Manager to a large poultry farm in Yorkshire, he was afraid he would not be able to be at the Reunion—he sent his best wishes to the 1948 5um.

D. F. WILLIAMS (1927-33), of Gerrards Cross, has now completed over a year in Mauritius in a Government appointment. With him is the Rev. G. W. McAvan, also of Gerrards Cross.

LIONEL WOOLCOMBE (1887-1894) sent to the Headmaster in January, 1953, a photograph of the boys attending the school taken in about the year 1874, when the late Rev. James Poulter was the Headmaster and the late Frederick Charles Seaborne the Assistant Master. The third boy in the third row was his late brother, Canon George Penrose Woolcombe, M.A., LL.D., founder and Headmaster for many years of Ashbury College, Ottawa, and who died in 1951 at the age of 84. Woolcombe suggested that the grandfathers of some of the present pupils might recognise themselves in mortar-boards! Later in a letter thanking the Headmaster for a copy of the *Wycombiensian* and of the School prospectus, Woolcombe

enclosed for the School Library a cutting from the *Bucks Free Press* for March 9th, 1905, giving an account of the death and funeral of Mr. G. J. Peachell, who succeeded the Rev. J. Poulter. He also asked Mr. Tucker to remind his brother, the Rev. J. V. Woolcombe (1891-98), who is Chaplain of the School Masonic Lodge, that he has received no replies to several letters he had sent to him at his former London address.

Woolcombe wishes to join the Old Wycombiensians' Club ; according to records, he should find that G. E. Stevens (1887-89), the oldest surviving member of the Club, started at the R.G.S. the same time as he did.

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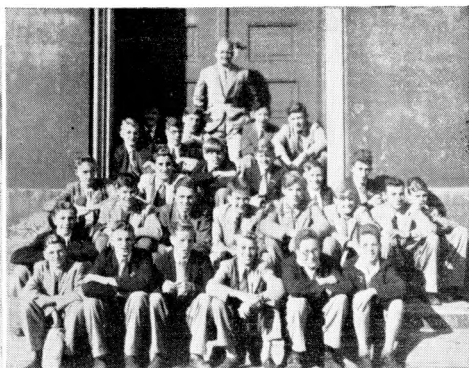
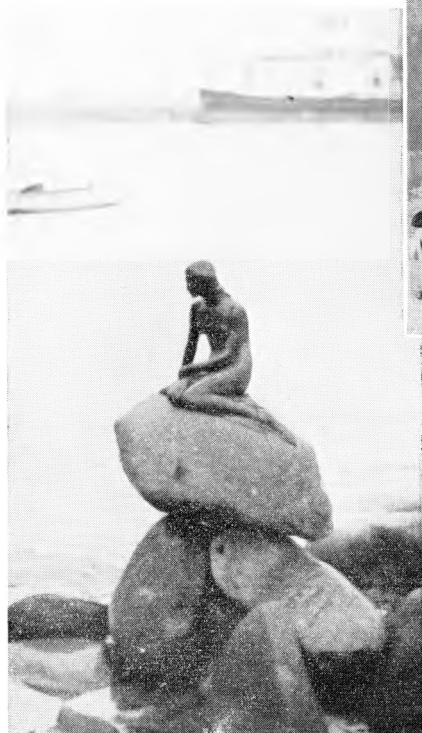
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