

THE
WYCOMBIENSIAN



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THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

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

*This issue is edited by P. WINDSOR, assisted by D. REAR,
R. J. HANDSCOMBE and B. D. BUTCHER.*

EDITORIAL

The sense of community, of having a common basis of understanding and tolerance for the next fellow, is one of the most valuable advantages that our education here gives us. Once in school for the day, the boys enter into its spirit and its interests without much thought for what they have left behind or what they will return to. For the time being they belong to the School. It is by no means an easy spirit to cultivate in a school ; many feel the lack of it, but there can be no doubt of its presence here, however unconscious it may be for the most part. It governs the relations between the staff and boys, which are far more friendly than in most foreign schools ; and even after successive generations have left the place, they are still linked to it and to each other.

This issue of the magazine contains articles by members of the staff, by an old boy and by present members of the School : it should be the truest expression of the spirit that is here. We must, however, face the fact that ours is far from being outstanding among school magazines. We feel that the best attitude boys can adopt towards the magazine is to regard it as the opportunity for their first literary ventures. In this issue we are making an effort to improve *The Wycombiensian*, and hope the result will justify it. We do not see why editorials should continue to have similar themes, or why the articles should be so characteristic. Humour is certainly not amiss, but it should not be so laboriously or exclusively sought after.

If we do rescue the literary standards of *The Wycombiensian*, we shall be more than thankful ; if boys feel they are getting more for their 1/6, we shall consider our effort worthwhile.

SCHOOL NOTES

General.

During the early part of the school year, the sixth form heard two interesting lectures. One was given by Mr. J. Gibson Clark, secretary to the Church Committee on Gambling; he spoke on gambling in this country.

In November, Mr. J. B. Calkin gave an illustrated talk on Roman remains in Britain.

The School opera, "The Pirates of Penzance," was presented for the week of the 7th-12th of December. It made a clear profit of £113 for the School fund. There is a full report later in this issue.

On the 8th of December the School had a half-holiday, on account of the Oxford *v.* Cambridge rugby match, which many boys saw.

Shortly before this, the History Society visited the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The Carol Service was held on the 16th of December.

Early in the Spring term, Mr. J. G. Huddle, of H.M. Colonial Service, gave the sixth form a very lively and entertaining talk on the Service today.

On the 17th of December, the School Hockey XI lost to the Joint Services College, Latimer.

A party saw "Twelfth Night" at the Old Vic on February 25th, and on March 11th another saw "Hamlet."

Cross-country Championships were held on March 3rd.

On March 4th the Science Society visited the Vauxhall Motor Works.

Boxing Championships were held on the 17th of March.

The Naval Section of the C.C.F. has built a new stores.

The Prefects' Room has been redecorated.

Mr. Howard and the Dramatic Society will present Agatha Christie's "Black Coffee" at the end of term.

Staff.

We were glad to welcome Mr. D. T. Nightingale, who came at the beginning of the school year as an assistant P.T. Master. He has also taken charge of the Naval Section of the C.C.F. He is an old boy of the School, who played for the 1st XV, and was captain of the 1st cricket XI.

We have this term welcomed Mr. G. B. Stanley, Mr. W. Jacobsen, from Reading University, and Mr. T. K. C. Rattray from Oxford, who are doing their teaching practice here.

Congratulations to :

P. Windsor on gaining the Senior Postmastership in History at Merton College, Oxford.

P. W. James on his Open Scholarship in Mathematics at Jesus College, Cambridge.

B. Sinnatt, G. D. B. Jones and the above two boys on their State Scholarships.

Obituary

It was with grief that we heard at the end of February that one of the victims of a flying accident through the collision in mid-air of two Meteor jet fighters was Flight Lieutenant A. Lang, one of our own Old Boys. Andrew Lang was at the School from 1938 to 1944. Always quick and alert, keenly interested in all sorts of activity, vigorous and cheerful, he did well in School both in work and in games and was captain of the School cricket XI during his last year. He proceeded to a University short course awarded by the R.A.F. to Jesus College, Oxford, and after a short period of service was selected for the R.A.F. College, at Cranwell, where he represented the College in football. During his short Service career he displayed high promise, so that his untimely death was a great loss to the Service as well as to his friends and relatives. We extend our deepest sympathy to his father and mother as well as to his brother who is a present at one of the Cardinal Colleges at Rome.

E.R.T.

TO THE NIGHT

What art thou? Whose enshrouding cloak doth hide
The lonely habitation of mankind,
Who giveth sleeping souls, that do abide
Upon this earth, their well-earned rest of mind.

Thy distant heralds, shining in their hosts,
Respectfully await the welcomed morn.
Then, at thy bidding speed, ere the sun's boasts
Do drive thee far away, while yet new-born.

Black, deadly night, arousing childhood fear,
Beloved of spirits for their evil deeds ;
Dweller of mystery, thy shadows clear
Are depths unknown, untouched by human needs.

Thy secrets are thine own, to love and cherish
Ne'er let them go from thee, ere mortals perish.

K. FOUNTAIN, VI.

OUTWARD BOUND

The word "adventure" embraces a multitude of great ideals—courage, tenacity, selflessness, endurance, faith. But its most potent ingredient—the spirit of the volunteer for hazardous tasks—cannot be summed up in a single word. Man has this capacity for adventure within him from the moment he is born. Spirit in a child is felt to be praiseworthy, but as childhood gives way to adolescence and adolescence to manhood, the spirit of adventure tends to be restrained, if not displaced, by caution. Therefore, although adventure is sought because of an insistent fire within the heart of man, it is often quenched either by reason or more often by lack of opportunity. Every individual should be given the chance of adventure early in life, and mine came when I attended a course at the Outward Bound Sea School at Aberdovey.

No location could be more suitable for a sea school, situated as it is on the hillside flanking the River Dovey, with every window embracing a view of river and sea. Divided into watches, we were taught rowing, canoeing and sailing. There was no attempt to make sailors out of landsmen who, in all probability, will spend the rest of their lives ashore; but it was possible to learn an amazing amount about tides, knots, ropes, sails, splices and so on, all interesting knowledge and of great practical value. As my seamanship project I chose canoeing and, with a partner from H.M.S. *Conway*, I manned a canoe in which we used to put out on every possible occasion; after preliminary disasters in a choppy sea and a fast-flowing current we rapidly became more efficient and, with greater experience, our immersions were less frequent. There was also the keen inter-watch competition for launching the school lifeboat when each one performed his own prescribed task. After a few days of rowing in the estuary and a plentiful crop of blisters, we turned to sailing in dipping-lug cutters, a rig which, although perhaps not to every yachtsman's taste, might well have been designed expressly to keep fourteen boys simultaneously employed.

Behind the School itself rise the mountains, gaunt and impressive, with Cadir Idris towering above them all. Of the many qualities that give them their own endearing charm, the greatest is variety—of form, colour and atmosphere. They presented to us both a stimulus and a test—a stimulus in that they enabled us to rejuvenate in the health-giving air and sunshine, a test in that they brought out qualities of determination, leadership, strength, skill, and endurance. It is on the sea and in the mountains that we are brought into contact with Nature untamed and unspoiled, at her grandest and most beautiful. Unlike all other adventuring, in which there is a practical goal of one kind or another, the reward of mountain climbing, confined, as it is, to a test of stamina and spirit, is mainly limited to the

reward derived from a sense of achievement. Our first expedition was but a short afternoon's ramble in the foothills above Bryneithin but we were soon venturing further—five, nine, and twelve miles over the mountains. Then came the great day of the thirty-five-mile trek. Most of us caught the train at the nearby halt while the world was yet half-asleep and journeyed up the coast towards Barmouth, party after party alighting at the various stations as the train travelled northwards. My own party got out at Fairbourne. The various groups spread out over the hills with maps, compasses, whistles and, most important from our point of view, ample rations. We followed a route which embraced Birds' Rock, Dolgoch, Taren Hendre and Happy Valley, involving in all a climb of six thousand feet. The weather was superb as we climbed over the ridges and descended into the valleys, looking into the very heart of the mountains. From the heights we could see the distant shimmer of the sea, green at the rim of the land and blue in the deeper waters. On and on we climbed over the short springy turf, over the coarse wind-bent grass with sheep and raven as companions, descending on occasion to the green pastureland of the narrow valleys, where swift and swallow fly. Then with the gathering shadows the purple heather changed to black and distant peaks soon faded from sight. We rallied our weary limbs for the final effort and arrived back at the School in total darkness—to a supper of hot broth.

Later, when we had become more proficient in seamanship, came the climax of the whole course—a voyage on the *Warspite*, the School's own 80-ton ketch. Although our own passage was curtailed we managed to sail across to Abersoch in the Lleyn Peninsula. A mere handful of boys learnt how to move a sailing ship at sea and at last we really came to grips with the elements. Few have known an easy passage, for the ketch gets little summer sailing in that corner of Cardigan Bay and there is no waiting for the perfect weather that never comes. The climax of the passage was the anchor watch, mounted through the night. All was calm after a rainstorm that had soaked the sails and rigging. A cloudless sky, bathed in the shimmering light of the moon, formed a background across which rocked the gaunt black outline of the crosstrees as the ship dipped gently to the incoming tide and every twenty seconds the whole scene was bathed in eerie light by St. Tudwal's lighthouse. In the direction of Abersoch a few lights twinkled while occasionally the twin beams of a car's headlights illuminated the coast road. The other yachts in the roadstead were dim shapes gently rising and falling around us. We had a short rest and we were up on deck again to hoist main and mizzen sails and put out once more over the grey-green waters to arrive off Aberdovey with the dawn.

G. B. D. JONES.

A NOTE ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE SCHOOL

In the last years of Henry VIII, a traveller through the Borough of Wycombe, passing from the broad High Street into Eastyn Town, would shortly have found his way blocked by the buildings and grounds of the ancient hospital of St. John. For upwards of three centuries this place, maintained from the revenues of modest endowments of land, and organised on monastic lines as a brotherhood, had been a refuge for the poor of Wycombe in their old age.

Now its days as a hospital were nearly over. Henry VIII and his council, having confiscated all the lands of the monasteries, prepared a measure to be set before Parliament, authorizing the seizure to the King's use of all properties of Chantries, Colleges, Religious Gilds and Hospitals.

The death of the old King in January 1547 hindered the project, but before the year was out the advisers of the boy Edward VI had passed through Parliament a similar measure, reinforced by fulminations against the superstitious practices which they considered these numerous and ancient foundations served.

For the first time Wycombe was directly threatened by this legalised confiscation of religious endowments, and the burgesses appear to have made some move towards resisting the enforced closing down of the Hospital of St. John, with loss of its lands and those of the Gild of St. Mary. On the 13th of March, 1548, the townspeople met on the Rye and resolved that "Master Mayor and his brethren* shall enter into the hospital of St. John for the use of the whole house and relief of the poor people according to the foundation thereof." There is here a solid sense of the value of the hospital to the borough and a common interest in preserving it. To some extent this resistance appears to have been successful, for the Hospital and its lands were not immediately confiscated to the Crown. Four months later Christopher Chalfont, the Master of the Hospital, in whom, as in his predecessors, all the endowments were vested for life, made over his rights to Sir Edmund Peckham, and George Juncklyn, in return for an annual payment of £8 for 21 years.

Chalfont was in no position to do this legally, as his rights in the hospital lands were not absolute, and in any case, since the Confiscation Act of 1547 had ceased altogether. The endowments now belonged to the Crown. Of all this Sir Edmund Peckham must have been very well aware. For some thirty years he had been in the close service of the Crown and had risen from being a clerk in the Royal Counting House early in the reign of Henry VIII to the highly responsible position of the Master of the Mint in 1546; a post he was to hold until the last year of Edward's reign, to regain early in Mary's, and to retain for the first six years of Elizabeth's.

* The Mayor and his brethren—*i.e.* the Mayor and Common Council.

Through his hands passed many thousands of pounds paid into the royal coffers by the nobles, gentry, merchants, lawyers and speculators who flocked to buy the spoils of the monasteries and chantries. No man in England could have had a more intimate knowledge of the whole picture of confiscation. And it is perhaps in the very completeness of his knowledge, not only of the law in these matters, but also of the chicaneries of those who most profited from them, that the explanation of his conduct in Wycombe is to be found. Fuller, the 17th-century historian of the English Church, makes the accusation that the chantries were suppressed in more than one sense "not only put down, but also concealed—never coming into the exchequer, but silently pocketed up by private—but potent—persons." He also says that many "friars and convents" on the eve of dissolution had ante-dated leases to their friends in order to save properties from confiscation, and that the Court of Augmentation which had been set up to deal with the monastery spoils "was very tender in continuing any leases upon this least legal consideration." It seems that Peckham, a Bucks J.P. with an estate nearby, in Denham, might have possessed himself of the lands of the Hospital of St. John for nothing, and indeed he so far relented of his generosity to Christopher Chalfont as to secure from him only a fortnight after the conveyance of July, 1548, a second grant, cancelling the first, and conveying to him all the unfortunate Master's rights "without any rent to the said Christopher or any other thing paying or doing."

So far, Peckham seems to have had no consideration for the feelings of the Burgesses of Wycombe. But before the following Spring, George Juncklyn, his fellow purchaser of the original grant from Chalfont, had died. Juncklyn had not been mentioned in the second, and free, grant which had been to Peckham alone, but he appears to have insisted that he still had some claim to the hospital lands and to have expressed some desire in his will that the lands should go to the Borough of Wycombe. For it was as one of Juncklyn's executors that Peckham in April of 1549 made over the hospital and all its endowments to the Borough for the sum of £30. Again Peckham's motives can only be guessed at. Perhaps Juncklyn's will was an embarrassment to his own absolute claim to the property, perhaps he was following the royal example of what Fuller called "greater tenderness" to the Hospitals. Perhaps he had reasons of his own for wishing to placate the Burgesses of Wycombe. A few years later the Borough elected his son Henry to be one of its representatives in Parliament. It is possible that Sir Edmund was "nursing the constituency," placating his conscience and clearing a profit of £30 into the bargain.

The return of the Hospital to the Burgesses, alike its patrons and its beneficiaries for centuries, was, however, accompanied by a condition. Part of the thin cloak of respectability that had covered the spoliation of the Chantries had been a clause exempting those where a school "had been or ought to have been" kept. And this was Peckham's model. The burgesses had to undertake to use the whole Hospital property "for and towards the foundation and setting up and finding of a Grammar School to be founded and kept within the said town of Chepping Wycombe," and to do this within two years. Failing this they undertook to return all to Peckham and receive their £30 again. On 25th March, 1551, at the last moment, within a week of the expiration of the time limit, the decision was at last taken and confirmed. Again the burgesses met on the Rye and "the whole house agrees to keep the Hospital of St. John in the whole hands of the Town." The Mayor and his brethren were to have control of the letting of the properties. The schoolmaster was to be paid £8 a year (the exact amount of the rent Peckham and Juncklyn had originally agreed to pay to Chalfont) and was to receive real marks of welcome and goodwill from the burgesses in the shape of "the pleasure and profit of a cow or tweyn in our common according to the custom of the town and to have five loads of wood yearly."

Towards Peckham too, all was goodwill. He was voted hearty thanks and allowed, or requested, to appoint the first schoolmaster, who took the old Hall of the Hospital for his house, and either the refectory or the chapel for his schoolroom from which, in the intervals of breaking in the first Wycombiensians to the elements of Latin, he could glance out of the window to where his one or two cows grazed with the town herd on the Rye.

Of the needs of the poor, and the original intention of the foundation, there is no mention; though the long delay between the date of Peckham's grant to the Burgesses and that of their final acceptance may be accounted for by the resistance of a section of opinion insisting that these needs should be met. Nearly 12 years later they were to be satisfied by the terms of Queen Elizabeth's charter. But meantime, in dubious circumstances, and at the expense of the poor, the Grammar School was first founded by Sir Edmund Peckham. It is perhaps fitting that the four hundredth anniversary of this event passed three years ago completely unnoticed.

L.J.A.

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

When my husband and I were just married, he saw that advertisement where Kitchener pointed at everyone that passed by, and said, "Your country needs *you*." And off he went to the war. "Lilian," he said, "patriotism is a noble virtue."

"So it is," I thought, and I still think so ; but when my Willie brought home a copy of your last issue, and I read that the masters had nearly made Welsh the official language of the School, I said, "Really, that's going too far!" Not for one moment would I criticise the fine Welsh qualities of some of the masters (my Willie likes them all so much), and I expect that if I were Welsh too, I would be as proud of their language as they are, but I do think the poor boys have enough to learn as it is. Look at Willie's case. We did want him to be a scientist, so that he could earn enough money doing research on cosmetics or atom bombs, to keep us very comfortably when my husband has to retire (though that won't be for a little time yet, thank God, although our youngest child Willie will soon be leaving school), but his form master said, "No, he's brighter at classics." So now he's spent some years on Latin and Greek, though I personally think those languages aren't much use. Still, he's spent a lot of time on them, and we've grown used to the fact that he'll have to just be a teacher, when there's this threat to make him learn another language. Frankly, you know, Welsh might be nice to speak, but it isn't much more use than Latin, as I hear you can get along quite well in Wales by just talking English to the natives.

So I hope after reading this that the masters will not make the School learn Welsh, and even if they do, do you think they might exempt my Willie, as he's very busy getting ready for what used to be called his Higher School Certificate, though I'm not quite sure what it is now?

Yours faithfully,

MRS. WILLIESMAR.

THE ORIGINS OF JAZZ

Starting in the 16th century, shiploads of slaves were transported from Africa across the Atlantic, to be used as cheap labour in the sugar and cotton plantations of the New World. A slave's lot was seldom a cheerful one, but he usually managed to get some free time. During these precious hours, the slaves would get together and enjoy themselves, usually in a musical form, as they had brought their primitive music, based on the drum, the chant and the dance, with them. Completely severed from its original environment, the slaves were forced to plant their music in a new soil ; the result was jazz.

There were other influences at work in the formation of classic jazz. First of all, there was the music of the French and Spanish colonists—stately aristocratic dances or rhythmic folk-tunes. Then there were the ballads of the English settlers in the East, who, under

the terms of the Louisiana purchase of 1803, acquired a vast tract of land west of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, and began to move out into it. Even today, traces of an eighteenth-century Bristol street-ballad can be found in the jazz classic, "St. James' Infirmary Blues." Lastly, there were the new, hybrid Afro-cuban rhythms, created in the islands of the Caribbean. Their calypsos and beguines played a great part in defining the "Spanish tinge," which a famous jazz musician deemed essential for the music.

The natural melting-pot for all these influences was New Orleans, that thriving seaport and vice-den, planted firmly in the alluvial mud of the Mississippi delta. Originally French, the town had always been essentially cosmopolitan and all the races of the Gulf of Mexico thronged its fine streets and haunted its disreputable pleasure-houses. After the Civil War, the freed negro slaves flooded into the already over-populated town to find work. They often lived in the most disgraceful conditions, in crowded, jerry-built tenements. Like primitive people all over the world, they knew only three ways to enjoy themselves—wine, women and song. New Orleans, "the Paris of the Union," provided all three in abundance.

The negroes' musical activities were naturally very primitive. They still had their voodoo chants and their rhythmic dancing and they often used to congregate in such places as Congo Square or the Vieux Carré, to meet each other and to have a good time. They used as instruments anything they could get hold of—old bedsteads, asses' jawbones, primitive tom-toms and broken bottles. The din must have been indescribable. But some lucky negro may have been able to get hold of a second-hand instrument from one of New Orleans' innumerable junk stores. After the Civil War, there were many such brass band instruments, discarded by their owners, in the Southern States. The negroes taught themselves to play and even tried to play the white man's music. But they welded into it their own chants, dances and rhythms. The result was the earliest form of jazz.

The Creoles were the French-speaking, coloured aristocrats of New Orleans. They had always been treated well in the easy-going atmosphere of the town and had often risen to quite a high social status. They were especially fond of music, and doting parents would often spend large sums on buying instruments and in teaching their children to play them. The Creole musicians would play old French quadrilles at their own gatherings, or even classical music at a concert. However, the coloured man in them soon pulled them towards the new, still hardly respectable sounds of the negro quarter. Soon, classical pianists, like Ferdinand la Menthe (later to become the celebrated "Jelly Roll" Morton), intoxicated by the glitter of Storyville, the legalised vice-district of New Orleans, moved into it to play battered uprights in the saloons and gambling-joints of the

gaslit French quarter. The negroes, too, played in Storyville, because their music was cheaper than that of the whites. Jazz was not born in Storyville, but it went there owing to the pecuniary attractions and the less rigid moral attitude of the place. The music they played was varied. There were "stomps"—wild dances, with their roots in the stamping rhythms of Congo Square and the slave compound. There were "rags"—intensely syncopated piano music, often, like the famous "Tiger Rag," "produced" from French quadrilles. Then there were the "Blues"—perhaps one of the deepest forms of human expression in music. They grew out of slave songs, often coloured with the deep religious feeling the negro possesses, and were reinforced by harsh conditions in the towns. These melancholy songs were often tinged with bitter satire, directed at the harsh treatment of slave days and the subsequent "laissez-faire" attitude of the white population. Sometimes, even, they sank to the lowest depths of despair :

" I'm gonna lay my head on some lonesome railroad line,
I'm gonna lay my head on some lonesome railroad line ;
And let that 2.19 train pacify my mind."

Another form of jazz deserves more comment. All negroes were "society-minded"; most of them joined strange secret societies and clubs, with mysterious rites and ceremonies. When a member died, the society would arrange a costly funeral, complete with musical accompaniment and a banquet afterwards. They used to play slow dirges on the way to the cemetery and red-hot jazz marches on the way back. These marches, created from the brass band traditions of Sousa and the brass band instruments the negroes had acquired, all pervaded with a vigorous negroid influence, were a feature of colourful New Orleans at the turn of the century. By now, under such men as "Buddy" Bolden, the negro barber, the form of the jazz band had crystallised. Trumpet, trombone and clarinet played the tune on three different levels, improvising upon the theme, while the outfit was held together by a steady rhythm, provided by a piano, set of drums, string bass or tuba and banjo or guitar.

Bands would often parade along the streets of New Orleans—Canal Street, Rampart Street, Basin Street and Perdido Street (all immortalised in jazz tunes) and would "cut" each other for honours. Two bands would play side by side until the crowd, by its applause, named the winner. Before long, one band would emerge as the best in the town and its leader became known as "King." He was often asked to bring his band along to the town's many functions and carnivals.

Jazz would probably have remained in New Orleans had it not been for the first World War. In 1917, the U.S. government closed

Storyville as detrimental to the well-being of the armed forces. The saloon owners and gamblers packed up and left ; the jazzmen were left unemployed. Rather than let it stagnate and die with them, they left the Crescent city and gave their music to the world.

G. WARNER, 6M2.

(The contributor wrote this with the intention of stimulating interest in jazz in this school. We see no reason why there should be no society here.—EDITOR.)

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

“The Pirates of Penzance” is surely the best known of all the Gilbert and Sullivan operas ; from early childhood we have grown accustomed to hearing excerpts from it given by the local Choral Society (with one of the local butchers mincing the more attractive arias) and its overtures blown by Grinder’s Works Band at their annual concerts. And why not ? This opera contains some of Sullivan’s best music and shows the influence of two great composers, Dowland and Schubert ; in fact, had Gilbert’s verses been a little less smooth Sullivan’s name would today stand for more musically worthy compositions than comic opera and “Onward Christian Soldiers.”

It will be remembered that the opening scene of “The Yeomen” placed the onus of “warming up” the audience on practically one person. This year’s production, however, went off to a breath-taking start, revealing a whole host of genteely ferocious pirates drinking a toast to the hero of the whole work, Frederick. A most promising opening which the pirates, urged on by Sam (T. B. Baldwin, whose baritone augurs well for future productions), delivered with much gusto.

In this scene, J. A. Norrish played the part of Frederick and used his agreeable tenor to its best advantage ; it was a pity that some of his gestures were so fussy. D. J. Maurice so thoroughly lived the part of Ruth that he made his performance the best of the “female” side ; the more puritanically minded of the audience perhaps took exception to his laugh ; the writer enjoyed it ! The Pirate King was played by F. J. R. Hobson, who seems to have learnt his lesson from last year’s performances and who was really first-rate both in his speaking and singing, making full use of his richly resonant voice.

It is always rather a shock when one sees acquaintances in different guises. It was wondered, with a certain amount of anxiety among the uninitiated, exactly how ugly little Oompah of 3 W would survive the translation from male to female attire. Even Frederick’s cry, “a bevy of beautiful maidens” might be an unreliable guide, for Frederick himself had admitted his inexperience

in such matters. But any concern was unfounded ; there were Oompah and Company gaily tripping the measure and managing to produce remarkably pure tone even when standing on one foot.

Four of the " props " of Major-general Stanley's old age deserve attention : W. F. Hodge as " leading lady," Mabel, did very well although hampered by a naturally small voice, and delivered two difficult cadenzas with the conviction of a singer with far greater experience ; we look forward to hearing him again. R. J. Orsler and P. Read competently played the parts of Edith and Kate ; indeed, it was pleasant to see the latter boy come up again for the third time of asking in a school production. Isabel (S. C. Dell) had no solo singing to do, but what few lines she had to speak were delivered in a most clear and melodious manner.

The proud descendant (by purchase) of the ancestors buried in the chapel (in which Act II takes place), Major-general Stanley (M. O. Simmons) was indeed a most prepossessing spectacle. Simmons is to be congratulated on the way he handled this part, and especially on the clarity of his diction. Although not mentioned in his vocal catalogue, it was felt that this military genius had, among his many other accomplishments, learnt speech training in a hard school . . .

One further section of the chorus remains for comment : the Policemen, consisting of several knock-kneed specimens (effectively represented by a group of basses) and ably led on by their brave sergeant (P. J. Woods), had the audience in frequent fits of laughter.

This article must not conclude without general reference to all those behind the scenes and particular mention of four members of the staff whose efforts did so much to make this year's production such a great success. Mr. Piner, whose enormous task included not only the training of the individual voices and choruses but also the control of the orchestra, which he wielded into a most effective and sympathetic body of players ; Mr. Grant, whose two sets, admirably constructed to give the cast the maximum amount of space possible on the stage, managed to convey the atmosphere of each act from the moment the curtains parted ; Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge, who once again painstakingly supervised the wardrobe ; and last, but certainly not least, Mr. Hills, who skilfully guided this enterprise from its early rehearsals to its final night with a skill and understanding which comes only from long experience.

All, it is sure, look forward to next year's production. For those concerned with it, work will soon be starting again and time will fly ; to the audiences, in the words of Mabel, " It seems so long . . . " D.I.

SCHOOL CONFIRMATION

Thirty boys were confirmed by the Bishop of Oxford at Terriers Church on Friday, 12th March, 1954.

Assisting at the service were the Vicar of Terriers (the Rev. E. W. Shaw) and the Vicar of High Wycombe (the Rev. A. L. Evan Hopkins). The robed choir, under the direction of the music master (Mr. L. W. Piner), was composed of boys and masters of the School.

In his address to the candidates the Bishop advised them to take as their motto both for their confirmation and for the rest of their life the words "Led by the Spirit." He drew the parallel between Christ's temptation in the Wilderness with those that face man in his life—temptation to self-indulgence, self-conceit and advertisement, and self-assertion, and said that if they could overcome these three then they would live up to their confirmation promise.

The Bishop emphasised that for each of His temptations Christ had found the answer in the Bible, and that regular Bible reading would give them spiritual help when help was needed.

They would also be helped by the voice of conscience which God had given to every man, and by regular faithful attendance at the Lord's Table which would protect and inspire them.

On Monday, 15th March, boys previously confirmed joined with the newly-confirmed in Communion at Terriers Church, and 107 boys made their Communion.

Those confirmed by the Bishop were :—

David Glyn Ashby	Colin Christopher Marsden
Lawrence Michael Becket	Derek John Maurice
James William Beckford	Dudley Philip May
Richard Douglas Stuart Clark	Christopher John Melsom
Robin Edward Darvill	George William Moss
Colin Francis Davis	Reginald William Paine
Keith Gilbert Faulkner	Christopher Lance Rankin
Edward Charles Franks	David Edward Reeves
Brian John Hardy	Andrew George Saxby
Gerald Lawrence Stephen Hickey	David Andrew Scott-Kiddie
David Edward Icke	Peter Severn
John Neville Johnson	Brian Tettmar
Roy Charles Jones	Ian Maxwell Tomes
John Stuart Kelly	David William Robert Woodley
Charles Stephen Julian Mardell	Ivan Warner Youds

WORLD CITIZENS : I

“ The Challenge of Africa ”

The C.E.W.C. devoted this year's Christmas holiday lectures and discussions to African problems. They had drawn to Westminster groups from schools all over the British Isles : those who had travelled great distances were loudly applauded when they asked questions from the platform.

Two contrasting points of view made the first day noteworthy. Doctor Kenneth Little regarded Africa as an European world, while Mr. Peter Abrahams took the African standpoint. Doctor Little stressed the advantages which the west had brought to African life, and said that Europe was so far advanced that her industrial and agrarian revolutions of the nineteenth century were only now taking place in Africa. Mr. Abrahams startled the audience by some of his bold statements. The Africans considered the English two-faced—they said one thing and practised another. Educators and “ articulate ” politicians were causing the trouble. Did the English really know what was best for the African ? The subject of Africa inevitably brought up the question of the colour-bar and in this respect I think Mr. Abrahams made a very important point—there would be no African problem if English people all had black faces ; and if they could experience negro conditions they would be come very pro-negro.

The well-known broadcaster and former B.B.C. correspondent in South Africa, Mr. Julian Duguid, gave a very revealing talk on the second day of the lectures on “ The Pattern of White Supremacy.” He talked of the different groups of people in Africa. There were the followers of Doctor Malan who were still “ fighting ” the Boer War. He stressed that General Smuts, although regarded as a national statesman in this country, was regarded by Doctor Malan as something of a traitor. The Indians of Natal held a terrible attitude towards Europeans and hated Africa. Young coloureds of some parts would leave their families and pass their parents in the street without recognition of them.

There was a very controversial discussion on the Pattern of Partnership in East Africa. Mr. Mbiyu Koinage accused Europeans of failure to carry out promises and of being insincere. Mr. Kendall Ward, former Executive Officer of the Electors' Union in Kenya, put forward three patterns ; the most worthy and probable was that the races should live side by side in amity, with their own social life, but working together for a common cause. Mr. Koinage's solution to the problem was based on two factors. Electoral reform would have to be carried out and the African would have to be free to enable him to play his part in world progress.

I have dealt with only a few of the lectures : those which I consider were the most interesting and controversial. There were three points which struck me forcibly when the lectures had finished : there can be no solution to the African problem while there is a colour-bar ; Europeans and Africans must face one another in truth and sincerity ; and it must be realised that Africa is not so much evil as medieval.

B. D. BUTCHER, VIM.

WORLD CITIZENS : II

In Holland

During the summer holidays, I went to a C.E.W.C. conference held near Arnhem, in Holland. Thirty young people from France, Belgium, Norway, Germany and other countries were there, and heard lectures on European Federation from speakers of various nationalities.

Monsieur Gerard, of France, who is president of the Universal Federalists, and head of French broadcasts to Germany, talked to us on European Defence. He pointed out that a destroyer costs as much as 8,000 houses—but we had to build up our forces, and avoid a repetition of 1939. France did not want a German army, but she realised that Germany should participate in a European Army. It would be a great advance to create the “United States of Europe.” There was a European Steel and Coal Union, with six member-nations : this could lead to a United Europe—a charter of which is now before each Parliament, and has been accepted by the Netherlands.

Herr Finkelstein, from Germany, spoke on “Germany and Europe.” Many people, he said, did not realise how divided Germany was. There were the three zones of Western Germany, the Central (better known as “Eastern”) area under Russia, and the real east under Poland. France controlled the Saar, and the Four Powers Berlin. But Herr Finkelstein said that Germany did not again aspire after military power ; she wished to ride with the West.

Dr. Nederhorst, a Labour M.P. in the Dutch Parliament, and a member of the Coal and Steel Council at Luxembourg, told us about Holland, and her part in European co-operation. Protestants and Catholics lived side by side, but kept very much to themselves, with their own schools, political parties and broadcasting stations. Holland wanted Britain to take a full part in European affairs, and expected Scandinavia to follow the lead if we gave it.

The last lecture was by the secretary of the Netherlands U.N.A., Mr. Rabin, who spoke on Europe's relationship to the world community. He stood for a united Europe, and said that we were afraid of the U.S.A. as well as of the Asian and African countries who have received independence. European Unity, however, would be an example that might lead to unity of the world.

But lectures were only one feature of our visit ; on our first full day a civic reception in our honour was given in Arnhem Town Hall, and we afterwards made many excursions and visits. We spent one afternoon at an Open Air Museum where houses, windmills and exhibits show Dutch life through the ages. There was a day-trip to the Zuider Zee, in the course of which we called at the village of Giethoon, which has canals instead of streets. Another day was spent at the Hague, where we saw the Houses of Parliament, the International Court of Justice, and a model village which rivals Bekonskot. Holland must be the only country in the world whose Parliament buildings are not in the capital—Amsterdam.

We spent three very enjoyable days in this place after leaving the conference centre, visiting the Rijksmuseum, the home of many famous Dutch paintings, including Rembrandt's "Night Watch." We spent some time, too, in boats on the Zuider Zee, and found a village where national costumes are still worn—in the tourist season.

In fact, our visit to Holland was very enjoyable, with a great deal of free time. It was not expensive, and boys should be encouraged to spend part of their holidays at these conferences, which are held in France, Switzerland and Jugoslavia, as well as in Holland and Britain.

P. D. DRAPER, VI.

WORLD CITIZENS : III

In Wycombe

The creation of the High Wycombe Youth Section of the United Nations Association was brought about largely by members of the sixth form of this school, who continue to control the policy of this supposedly powerful voice of the town's youth. It cannot be denied that some of the section's regular supporters take no part in the discussions and activities, although others have a keen interest in international affairs.

We are aware that it is not quite like other youth sections : it has a larger membership than normal, though this is drawn almost entirely from the various schools in the town. The meetings are naturally dominated by the members from this school. No one seems to regret this presumably on account of the belief that the section would decline without our support.

D. REAR, VIM.

JOHN MILTON AND JOE McCARTHY

Few people can fail to justify to a great extent Milton's reasoning in the "Areopagitica." Although it failed to sway the Lords and Commons of England, it would appear to have been in its day as honourable a plea for democracy as any uttered before it. Our belief in its principles must now of necessity be qualified, but can be no smaller than our appreciation of the work as a literary masterpiece. What, then, is the English citizen of today to think of the parvenu from Wisconsin, who would appear by all accounts to be threatening the very liberty that Milton cherished?

The suggestion of "book-burning" on McCarthyite lines would presumably have been most disagreeable to Milton. It is difficult to conceive a man to whom the destruction of books killed "reason it self," approving of the wholesale extermination of the works of writers of any persuasion. On the other hand, it is debatable whether Milton would have regarded the bulk of McCarthy's fuel as "good Bookes." The nature of Communism and the attitude the democrat should adopt towards it are in fact the roots of this issue. We realise that Milton the politician did not write quite for all time and that in this age of the Welfare State and empty churches there must be a certain degree of "cloistering" for many virtues; but it does appear probable that he would have regarded Communism as a natural and legitimate adversary of his ideal of constitutional government, and would at least have granted it freedom for a fight. Here, as guardians of the "publick good" today, we can surely do no better than endorse the view of this currently maligned genius.

It is impossible, however, to dismiss lightly the infant though fearsome creed of Senator Joe. Backed by an upstart and powerful new bourgeoisie, he is fast establishing a tradition that may well prove to be of considerable importance in the evolution of ultimate democracy. Faith in McCarthyism obviously embraces the conviction that Communism is corrupting as well as being diametrically opposed to democracy; it is furthermore the faith of a prosperous and largely contented community, whose only fears are for its downfall at the hands of those not in agreement with its own view of life. The evils of McCarthyism are not confined to its significance as the antithesis of democracy, which Milton would have found so deplorable: various cases of governmental conflict have shown that it is highly likely to provoke internal strife that is really quite irrelevant.

McCarthy would doubtless contend that the virtues of the Western democratic way of life are too precious to be allowed to "sally out" and meet the adversary totalitarianism. If this were

justifiable and Communism adjudged to be not a fit competitor in the race for that "immortal garland," we could only conclude that Milton would not have written the "Areopagitica" had he known of the creed. No Englishman could accept this. To cloister McCarthy's ideal of government in the way he advocates is to all intents to place it on a higher level than Christianity itself. The virtues of our faith are never "unexercis'd and unbreath'd": human nature is such that men will always differ in taste and outlook, and cannot help gaining insight and understanding with regard to their own religion through sampling others.

The problem of McCarthyism is clearly of no less importance to us than that of the liberty of unlicensed printing was to Milton. Neither cause is wholly acceptable or censurable: but we to whom the revolution of 1649 is a landmark in the history of democracy will surely stick by glorious John before the withering glare of the ogre Joe.

D. REAR, VIIM.

"DEAR MUM AND DAD . . ."

Nineteen-year-old Corporal Grenville chewed at the end of his pencil and gazed thoughtfully at a spider crawling up the planked wall of the dugout. The battalion had taken over a section of the Korean front line some two hours before, and as soon as everything was settled, he had fished out his battered writing pad. Now he was racking his brains to think what he could write about, but he was not getting very far; in fifteen minutes, he had written:

"Dear Mum and Dad,

I hope you are still well. I am fine.

Absolutely nothing has happened here. I have only heard one bang."

This was true—a lone shell had landed a hundred yards or so from the truck as it brought them to the front and a small splinter had even hit the side, yet try as hard as he could, he found it difficult to make the incident sound at all stirring. The enemy were very quiet: the corporal, whose section had occupied the position before Grenville's men had relieved them, said that little had happened that day. Grenville himself felt indebted to this man for the excellent dugout and trenchwork but he doubted very much whether his parents would appreciate this in a letter. He looked round the dugout—the still forms of eight sleeping men, the boxes piled in the corner, the battered paraffin lamp, the sandbagged roof, the upended ammunition box which served as a table, a tattered pin-up on the wall left by the other people—no inspiration these. The

thought of the events of the past few days, the incessant jolting about in covered lorries from dark village to dark village, nameless, unfriendly and forgotten as soon as the truck lurched off again. Nothing worth reporting at all.

One of the inert figures yawned and sat up.

"What's the time?"

"Ten to twelve, Alan."

"Uhuh! Curse this ruddy pack! Something's poking in my lug!" He thumped his pillow fiercely and put his head back on it. "Aren't you going to 'ave a bit of shuteye? What is it you're at? Blimey, not letters at this time."

Grenville looked up and grinned. "I don't feel very tired."

"You're welcome." He snuggled down under his greatcoat again. "Aah! This is as good as the Ritz. Thought this was the front line. By the way, s'pose nowt's 'appened?"

"No. You know, I haven't seen a single Commie yet."

"Nor me. Don't want to neither. Night."

Before Grenville could reply, a shot broke the silence from immediately outside the dugout. For an instant, he froze, then, as the others jumped up, he grabbed his Sten, jammed on his helmet and leapt up the steep steps. The rest of the section collected themselves surprisingly quickly and poured after him. As he reached the top, the section Bren began to hammer out and he heard a confused noise.

He burst into the cold night air, tearing down the blanket hung over the doorway as he did so. The sentry was at the other end of the trench, firing furiously, and without looking up, yelled horasely:

"Quick. A patrol—eight on top of us."

With a shock, he discerned an inert form slumped over the parapet and for a minute he was at a loss what to do. Then a dark figure loomed over the end of the trench, the faint light gleaming on an upraised blade. The sentry had stopped firing for the moment, but was intently peering forward, not knowing his imminent danger.

"Look out!" Grenville let loose a burst of fire, a risky act considering how near the two were to each other. The man with the knife gave a yell and collapsed on to the sentry with a number of bullets in his legs. The Bren toppled over. All was confused. Three more men leapt into the trench and rushed for Grenville. One had a revolver. There was a flash and he felt a sharp blow on his helmet as the bullet struck it a glancing blow and hummed off into the night. He went to shoot down his assailants, but the gun caught on something. A sheet of white flame blotted out his senses . . .

He was floating—floating for miles and miles ; he was so comfortable. Far away he heard a voice :

“ ‘E’s coming round. Are you O.K. now ? ”

He struggled to regain his senses and opened his eyes. Alan was bending over him. He gazed blankly at the old lamp, slowly recollected what had happened and tried to get to his feet.

“ It’s O.K., Corp. You lie there for a bit.”

“ Did . . . did we beat them off ? ”

“ You bet. ‘Ere ! ‘Ave a drop of water. We thought you was never going to come round. That bloke didn’t ‘arf thump you one.”

Grenville took the flask gratefully and tenderly fingered a huge bruise on the side of his face.

“ Don’t think it did any damage. What did he hit me with ? ”

“ Some club effort. You was dash lucky. Yer ‘elmet took most of it.”

Grenville looked at his battered helmet and agreed.

“ Anyone get hurt ? ”

“ Attridge did. We didn’t know till after. ‘E was watching out there an’ suddenly sees those five blokes about ten yards away, crawlin’ towards ‘im. ‘Course they didn’t see ‘im at first, but as ‘e went for the Bren, one of them did and took a pot at ‘im. It took ‘im straight in the mouth, smashed a couple of teeth and came out under his ear. ‘E’s been taken back.”

“ That’s pretty grim for the first night, but I suppose it could be worse. Anyway, what happened then ? ”

“ Oh, ‘e grabbed the gun as the bloke rushed at ‘im and shot ‘im down. That shook the others a bit. Don’t think they’d ‘ave known we was all ‘ere or they would ‘ave scarpered quick. You know most of the rest. One of them copped it, you got another in the leg, the one that beaned you got his shoulder smashed and the other two got laid out like you. They went back about ‘alf an hour ago with Attridge.”

Twenty minutes later, all was quiet again. A new sentry was posted and the rest had settled down once more. Just as Grenville was turning in, he remembered the letter and a sudden enthusiasm seized him. Now he had got something to tell them ! He found the pad again, screwed up the first sheet and began to write furiously. His head was still aching but he stuck to his letter, feeling this was something he could not leave until the morning. This would make his pals at home sit up and what would Mum and Dad say when they read it ?

Yes, what would Mum and Dad say ? The thought of his mother stayed his pencil in the middle of a word. She in particular

always used to say he would hurt himself if he climbed a tree or sailed on a pond ; she was continually worrying over what seemed to him the most trivial things. He began to wonder what her reaction would be to this letter he was writing.

Slowly he tore the second letter into tiny shreds and stuffed them through a gap in the wall planks. Then, with a sigh, he took yet a third sheet of paper and began again :

“ Dear Mum and Dad,

I hope you are still well. I am fine. Absolutely nothing has happened here . . . ”

A. J. MACTAVISH.

LAMENT OF THE SCRUM-HALF

My skins and knees feel ill at ease,
And much I've overrated
The strength of spines, for there are signs
That mine is dislocated.

An eye that's black I sport, alack,
And also, in addition,
A twisted ear that won't, I fear,
Resume its true position.

I've bruises blue and yellow, too,
Upon my frame so battered ;
And my poor nose, I do suppose,
Has from its shape been shattered.

My ankle's sprained, I'm nearly brained,
Through falling on the ball :
For eager feet my head did beat,
Whilst 'neath the raging maul.

And so my gay young friends, you may
Conclude, by use of reason,
That with the rest I've done my best
To play throughout the season.

R. G. PILGRIM, VISC.

C.C.F.—ARMY SECTION

The Army Section is pleased to welcome Capt. T. E. Hood on his transfer from the Naval Section, and Lieut. G. E. Morgan, formerly of the Royal Signals. Capt. Hood will take charge of the work on the rifle range and Lieut. Morgan the training of the Signals platoon.

The main activities of the past few months have been concerned with Certificate "A," Parts I and II. The training of leaders must always be the primary object of the C.C.F. and after passing Certificate "A," Part II, a cadet is very soon given the opportunity of imparting his knowledge to the junior cadets.

Good use is being made of the miniature range and the standard of shooting is improving. Postal matches will be held next term against other schools and a team will be sent to shoot in the Salisbury Plain District rifle meeting ; a team may also be sent to Bisley.

Camp this year will be at Pirbright and will be in the last week of term. Camp is undoubtedly an excellent introduction to National Service and any boy who has been to two or more camps will be ahead of his companions for the first few months of his military service. Very few of the senior N.C.Os. who have been to camp have failed to get a commission in their National Service, and all have been warm in their praise of the value of the C.C.F. in obtaining the Queen's Commission.

R.P.

C.C.F.—R.A.F. SECTION

The strength of the Section has been maintained at 110 cadets. At the same time the number of cadets who have gained the Proficiency Certificate has increased sharply and is now one-third of the total strength. This excellent result reveals the competence of the instructional work carried out in the Section. The credit for this goes to a loyal and experienced group of N.C.Os. whose reward must lie in the satisfaction they gain from seeing their work so successful. A group of proficient cadets is preparing to take the Advanced Proficiency Examination in March.

We were fortunate, in the early part of this session in having a series of informative and instructive talks given to some of the senior cadets by Group Captain G. Muschamp. We were also honoured by a visit from Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Pugh Lloyd, whose interest in the work of the Section was clearly shown in the address he gave to the cadets.

As in previous years, a group of cadets attended an instructional course at R.A.F., Halton, in December. The cadets concerned

spent a very pleasant and profitable time at Halton and did well in their course examinations.

Cpl. J. Deller has successfully completed his training under the Flying Scholarship Scheme, and Sgt. M. Lacey is on the point of completing his training—thus adding two more cadets to the list of those who have gained Civilian Pilots' Licences.

Unsuitable weather has severely restricted the use of our own Primary Glider, but the flight concerned can look forward to a more active time with the return of better weather conditions. Gliding instruction continues at the Gliding School at Booker and a number of cadets have qualified for the "A" Certificate of the British Gliding Association.

E.M.

C.C.F.—ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

During the past two terms the work of the Naval Section has been concerned mainly with preparation for the Leading Seaman Examination in which we hope a number of our cadets will be successful.

The strength of the Section has been substantially increased by the addition of a number of new entries who joined this term.

In September Mr. Hood left the Section to rejoin the Army contingent. Mr. Hood is the founder of our school Naval Section and has done a difficult job with great success. Our gratitude is sincerely expressed to him for the work, interest and good humour with which he brought the Navy to the School.

A new naval stores has been very ably designed and built by Sub-Lieutenant Benson which will make the store-keeping of the Section much easier and more efficient.

It is hoped that all the Section will be able to go to Summer camp at Portsmouth this year.

At the end of this term the Section is to visit Portsmouth at the invitation of Lieutenant-Commander R. Dyer, R.N., who has been a very good friend to us. We hope to visit ships of the Royal Navy and spend some time at sea.

The Admiralty has promised us a 27-foot whaler, so that we shall be able to practice pulling and sailing. It is intended to moor the boat at Bourne End, where the Upper Thames Sailing Club has kindly provided us with the necessary facilities.

For instruction and enjoyment of sailing, we are purchasing a sailing dinghy which will be available this Summer. This is an entirely new venture which we hope will be a successful forerunner of a much larger Sailing Section.

D.T.N.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The Society's activities were resumed this year by a small band of faithfuls, with the help of Messrs. Hills and Runswick. On Friday, November 6th, a coachload of boys enjoyed, at a very small charge, Patrick McDougall's success "Escapade."

At the time of going to press Mr. Howard's production of Agatha Christie's thriller "Black Coffee" is being thoroughly rehearsed. The support of the whole School will be needed for the success of this venture.

C. P. KEELING, VIC.

THE CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club has continued to hold regular meetings with the usual large attendance after a slow start. Particularly pleasing has been the interest shown in the Junior School with many new boys being in evidence.

The Chess team has had a very successful year. Of the eleven matches we have played, we lost one, drew three and won seven. We hope to retain the Berks and Bucks Schools Chess Shield, and we meet Wellington College soon in the first round. The Junior team has been less successful this year, but should soon be a powerful team, with the large number of promising second-formers.

The following have played regularly for the Chess team :—
R. A. Stevenson (capt.), D. J. Griffiths (vice-capt.), R. A. P. Wilson (hon. sec.), D. S. Sutton, B. D. Batchelor, D. T. Elias, B. J. Hardy.

Wilson, Sutton and Hardy have also been young enough to play in the Junior team with J. Tilbury, F. Deacon, R. A. White, J. Bone and T. Klemperer.

R. A. STEVENSON, VI.

MUSIC SOCIETY

Since the last edition of the *Wycombiensian*, the Music Society has progressed in its usual rather modest fashion. Meetings have been held every week, except when rehearsals for the opera necessitated a gap of a few weeks in the programmes. However, attendance at meetings has been remarkably low—on the average about six members—and stocks of available gramophone records have been nearly exhausted. In order to stop a crisis developing, the Society needs a number of new members who are willing and able to contribute programmes of gramophone records. If the new members are not forthcoming, the Society will have to think seriously whether or not it can profitably continue with its meetings.

C. R. F. MAUNDER.

HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society's first activity this year was a visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum on November 20th. About thirty boys came and they were given an extremely interesting talk on the "Use of the Museum in History." Afterwards, special guides took the members to see some of the more notable exhibits.

On December 2nd a talk was given by Mr. W. G. Putnam, B.A., on "The Roman Wall of Britain." A previous lecture on Roman Britain had rather anticipated the effect of the Society's talk and, as a result, it was poorly supported. But the talk itself, illustrated by many varied slides, provided by the lecturer, proved to be very interesting.

The highlight of the term was the Trial of Robespierre, held in the Art Room on December 15th. The room was packed to overflowing and many had to be turned away. Those present heard some interesting speeches, saw some picturesque witnesses and even looked on while a "staged" assassination attempt was carried out. After some lively cross-talk between the assistant counsels, the judge, Mr. L. J. Ashford, summed up and the jury retired. A verdict of "not guilty" was returned for the charge accusing the prisoner of attempted dictatorship, but he was pronounced "guilty" on the mass-murder count.

G. WARNER, VIM.

THE SPANISH SOCIETY

The Society's activities this year have been strictly limited, though at the beginning of the Autumn term a quiz composed by Mr. White was received enthusiastically by the newcomers to IV Shell. It was, however, poorly supported by the rest of the Society, and the number of entries was meagre. K. Fountain, the winner, received a half-guinea book token.

It is hoped that there will be a debate, and films on bull-fighting and on Spain in the near future: strong support would be appreciated. In fact, it is essential if the Society is to flourish.

A. J. SADDLER.

T.C.O.S.

During the last two terms the Society has continued to uphold the debating tradition of the School, with unqualified success. Though under stronger competition this year, it still remains the most active society in the School.

The Christmas term began as usual with an internal debate. This was poorly attended but there was some extremely lively speaking from the platform. On October the 6th, the Society held a session with the High School on the motion "that this House regrets the shortage of English gentlemen." Owing to the manly exertions of A. J. Gordon the motion was heavily defeated, but the practical drive of R. J. Handscombe avoided complete annihilation. The High School's share in speaking from the floor was rather small. This was followed by a Phoenix debate at Slough Grammar School on the motion "that Christmas consists of nothing but alcohol and mistletoe." The speaking was vociferous and "blunt," but often wandered from the point of the question. As a variation from the run of debates, Mr. John Hall, O.B.E., M.P., was approached to give a talk to the Society. The local U.N.A. Youth Section was invited to attend and Mr. Hall's speech on foreign affairs proved to be highly eloquent and interesting, a fitting end to the term's activities.

The Spring term got under way with a Phoenix debate at Slough, but the highlight of the programme was the debate with Wycombe Abbey. The motion "that the Communist party should be outlawed in this country" was thoroughly thrashed out. Both B. Lewis and D. Rear spoke from the platform with force and clarity. The motion was heavily defeated. Exactly a week later, on March the 2nd, the Society debated with the High School the motion "that the English gentleman takes his pleasures too seriously." G. Sherlock and B. Sinnatt were a formidable pair in supporting the motion, but the High School speaking proved to be somewhat poorer than in the Christmas term debate. The motion was defeated with many abstentions.

The new experiment in running coaches to Phoenix debates has been entirely successful. W. A. BOOTH, VI.

SCIENCE SOCIETY

The two main events of the Easter and Christmas terms have been visits to the Percival Aircraft Company and Vauxhall Motors Ltd.—an old favourite. In the course of these visits we found with interest that membership numbers showed a distinct increase directly before an outing. Bearing this in mind, Percival Aircraft produced 85 members and Vauxhall Motors 45.

During the Christmas term it was our practice to have a film shown once every fortnight, vagaries of the post and school projector permitting. It is hoped to continue this arrangement during what remains of the Easter term, together with some internal activities—suggestions for these are invited. P. H. G. BURT.

ARNISON HOUSE

At rugby it has now become almost a tradition that Arnison has the best senior team on paper, but invariably fails to uphold its reputation. The other houses must think that the tradition has been upheld this year, but in spite of a minor set-back, we are still in the picture and aim to tie in the championship by beating Disraeli. We easily defeated Fraser at the beginning of the term, but unexpectedly lost to Youens, whose team of rather unknown quality played very well and defeated us by 9 points to 6. In the Colts' championship we were rather unlucky in the draw and were soundly beaten, but not disgraced, by Youens. We have, however, a bright future for rugby in the house, for the juniors won their championship in convincing fashion by beating Youens and Fraser.

As a contrast to rugby, our cross-country shows splendid effort and achievement. Although we failed to get a first in the championships, we got two very good seconds in the colts and senior age-groups. In the colts Smith, Croft and Briden, and in the senior K. C. Jones and Rackstraw deserve our heartiest congratulations. The Junior Building race is yet to be run and we are sure everyone will do his very best.

J. W. PURSEY.

YOUENS HOUSE

We entered into this Easter Term, in which most of the inter-house championships take place, full of hopes and fears. The results of these competitions have been pleasantly surprising and many of our fears have been shown unfounded and hopes upheld.

The most important, perhaps, have been the Rugby House matches. Against what seemed to us tremendous odds, the Youens team went into battle against Disraeli. A spirited game left us only three points behind at the finish and still fighting hard. The next game was against Arnison. The muddy condition of the field suited us, and an inspired pack of forwards did some magnificent work, spurred on by R. C. Jones, the captain, who, playing at stand-off half, relentlessly drove the Arnison team back up the touch-line with some excellent kicking. Their fighting spirit gave Youens a very deserved win of 9—6. At the time of writing the Fraser match has yet to be played and we look forward to it full of hope.

The under-15 team, especially the captain, M. J. Richardson, and the pack leader, G. Hickey, did excellent work in winning their knockout championship. They defeated Arnison 33—0 and Disraeli 35—3.

The Junior team were unlucky enough to be drawn against the eventual winners and lost.

The results of the Cross-country Championship were on the whole satisfactory. The Seniors won by a comfortable margin, having seven out of the first thirteen people home, including A. D. Barrett 1st and Cattermole 2nd. The Colts and Junior teams both finished third in their respective races. First Youens man home in the Colts was McCoy, in 2nd position. First Youens man home in the Junior team was Bratchell in 12th position.

The Boxing is now close upon us and we wish good luck to all those taking part. We should like, however, to have seen more people entering for this competition. The contingent representing Youens is very small. We hope people will bear this in mind when the competition comes round again next year, and give their whole-hearted support to the house as they have done in Rugby and Cross-country.

A. J. GORDON.

DISRAELI HOUSE

Disraeli started off the New Year on a high note by beating Youens in the first match of the House Rugby Championship. This match was a battle from start to finish between two evenly matched teams, and credit for the victory, even by such a small margin, must go to our pack, who fought magnificently against formidable opponents.

It was very pleasing to note that this fine form was maintained in the second match against Fraser when, after another fine tussle, Disraeli emerged as victors by 11 points to 3. At the time of going to press the all-important match against Arnison, on which the championship result depends, has not taken place. Should Disraeli be unsuccessful in this match, a triple tie could result.

The Colts did well to reach the final by virtue of a good win over a strong Fraser side but were then well beaten by Youens. The Junior Colts drew with Fraser in the first round in a match they might well have won but unfortunately lost in the replay.

Disraeli were not very successful in the Cross-country Championships, being placed last in both the Senior and Colts events. In both of these we lacked prominent runners and, in spite of brave efforts by the two teams, we could not match the undoubted ability of our opponents. If one may judge from the results of the Junior Colts and Junior Building events (in which we finished second and first respectively), Disraeli may look to the future with confidence.

Well done, Juniors ; keep up that Team Spirit !

B. K. JOHNSON.

FRASER HOUSE

The new school year found the Senior section of the house sadly lacking in accomplished performers of the various sports, who are so valuable in the inter-house competitions. In the Senior Rugby, however, great spirit was shown by the team and although we lost easily to Arnison, we forced Disraeli to work extremely hard for their narrow victory—at the moment we are preparing to beat Youens. The Juniors were good winners over Disraeli in the first round replay but were unable to maintain the same form against Arnison in the final. In a well-fought game the Colts were just beaten in the first round and it is remarkable that no less than seven of this team were promoted to the Senior team.

In the Cross-country Championships Currell for the Juniors and Rankin for the Colts both ran excellently to come in first, setting the foundations of a very good team win in both groups. In the Senior Cross-country, only King runs regularly for the School, so we did comparatively well to beat Disraeli into third place.

Individual members of the House who have done well these last two terms and who are to be congratulated are J. S. Kelly and M. J. Garratt, who were awarded 1st XV colours, and A. J. C. Wright and B. Sinnatt who were awarded 2nd XV colours.

After the rugby has finished we shall regird up our loins to do battle in the boxing and the hockey, and keep Fraser's good name to the fore!

T. W. ABDALLAH.

CROSS-COUNTRY

*"We run because we like it
Through the broad bright land."*

C. H. SORLEY.

This year the School team won two of the nine matches and was second in one of the triangular matches ; for the rest, the result list tells the sad tale. In the championships our choice of boys to form the teams was limited by age limits. The youths' team won the Bucks Championship when twenty boys ran (Jones 3rd, Sherlock 5th, T. J. Bond 9th, K. J. Cattermole 10th). The team came 9th in the Ranelagh Inter-Schools' Race, in which 130 runners from 21 schools took part (A. D. Barrett 12th, Cattermole 32nd, J. L. Fellows 67th, Vickers 90th).

Those who have run are A. D. Barrett (capt.), J. L. Fellows (vice-capt.), T. J. Bond, K. G. Faulkner (new colours), K. J. Cattermole, Norrish, Rackstraw, Stack, Sherlock, Vickers, Rear, King,

Walker, Keen, Butcher. The standard was up to that of the more successful teams of this past, as times show, but rates are improving so rapidly that in future a successful School team will have to train properly several times a week. Let us hope that this will be done and that an R.G.S. team will win the Southern Counties' C.C.C. again.

Many thanks are due to Messrs. T. V. Sheppard and W. A. Rees for their keen interest in the runners, for their secretarial work and for the use of their cars.

ALAN D. BARRETT, VISC3.

CRICKET CLUB 1954

Captain : J. W. Pursey

Vice-Captain : F. E. J. Hawkins

Old Colours returning : J. W. Pursey, F. E. J. Hawkins, R. C. Ashby,
A. Harvey, R. F. Sainsbury.

In these modern times sport, which once was so regulated by the seasons, is now in evidence all the year round. The hockey enthusiasts play summer hockey, the football season has but a few weeks' break in mid-summer and the cricket tours of the Commonwealth keep the game in our minds during the winter. Nevertheless, the approach of a new cricket season is always looked forward to by the lovers of the game because even a double century by Graveney in the West Indies has not the appeal of one's own one-not-out at No. 11 on the village green.

The School XI should be a well-balanced side containing a solid core of batting, a good varied attack and, we hope, eleven good keen fielders. New fixtures include Beaumont College, Harrow County School and the Joint Services Staff College at Latimer.

At one time it seemed possible that the new Memorial Pavilion would be ready for the Summer and the County Cricket Captain had agreed to raise a side for the opening of the building, but it is now impossible for the Pavilion to be ready before 1955.

Congratulations to M. G. Walker, J. W. Pursey, F. E. J. Hawkins and R. C. Ashby, who, between them, made 18 appearances for the Bucks County Colts XI.

It is with deep regret that we record the death in a flying accident on February 21st, 1954, of Fl/Lt. Andrew Lang, R.A.F., who captained the School at cricket in 1944.

H.W.J.

RUGBY RETROSPECT 1953-54

The summary of matches played by the six teams will show what a successful season it has been both for the seniors and the juniors. When not preoccupied with our own matches, we have watched J. E. Woodward's spectacular play at Twickenham with delight, and followed the rugby fortunes of other Old Boys with great interest. Several of our boys played well for the Bucks County Schoolboys in the Christmas holidays. The Old Wycombiensians have been fielding a younger 1st XV this year, and I can promise boys leaving school that their talents are not in the least likely to be overlooked, if they join the club which exists for their benefit. It would be pleasant to see a team of our best players in post-war years take the field regularly.

1st XV

School Matches : Played 14, Won 9, Drawn 2, Lost 3

Other Matches : Played 2, Won 0, Drawn 0, Lost 2

T. W. Abdallah has been an enthusiastic captain of an all-round side, which has not only tried to play open and aggressive rugby but earned a good record in the process. The wing-threequarters, K. C. Jones and J. C. Colver, have had plenty of attacking to do as well as their sometimes excessive duties, so well performed, in defence ; both the centres, B. K. Johnson and T. E. Uphill, are fast and can penetrate with change of speed or direction. J. W. Pursey has usually opened up the game, reserving his kicks for defence and restricting himself to one or two surprise efforts each game to go through on his own or to try the blind side. With more experience and more conscious determination to make openings for the other man, the timing of passes, so vital a matter against a good defence, would no doubt have been better. But the threequarter play has on the whole been good, aggressive and interesting to watch in attack, and reasonably sound in defence. R. E. Lomas at full-back, though slow, tackles very well indeed and does go for the ball without fear or hesitation.

We have been used to the luxury of forwards covering quickly and skilfully in defence ; but to achieve this during the past season, we were forced to move A. J. Gordon from the second row, where he packed and shoved so well with R. A. Mann, to "No. 8," a move which helped the defence as intended, but despite the introduction of heavier forwards in J. Weaver and M. J. Garratt, did not improve the scrummaging. Indeed the tight and loose scrummaging this year has not been good enough. Our most experienced forwards, Abdallah, Gordon and R. C. Jones, were all in the back row : last year the three oldest hands were in the front row, and that is clearly

where they can influence the game most. None the less, these lively forwards gave the enemy plenty to think about. Weaver was splendid in the line-out, and the two "babies" of the team, J. S. Kelly and B. E. Devlin, had a good first season, Kelly's hooking being very competent. Garratt tackled well, and Mann was returning to his best form when he suffered an accident.

Linking the forwards with the backs, R. C. Ashby played splendidly, getting the ball out often under great pressure: he has lengthened his normal pass and added an accurate reverse pass to his game. Invaluable in defence, he has often turned it into attack with deep raids into enemy territory. The place-kicking, which as usual turned the scale one way or the other in several matches, was mostly done by Johnson, a most careful kicker, who, like far more eminent performers, had good days and other days: his ears may have burned with alternate curses and blessings from the touch-line.

We began the season by losing to Windsor County School, a keen and fit side, who but for too much kicking might well have scored more than 8 points. Our own belated recovery brought one or two last chances, but they were thrown away by profitless kicks. A faster pack and better passing to the wings brought us a comfortable win at Marylebone. Uphill's place-kicking was good. The home match against Borlase School was also easily won; the pack played much better and joined in the running and passing movements begun by the three-quarters. At Watford we had our third consecutive drawn game, this time without a score; Watford had only seven forwards for much of the game, but the slow positioning of our three-quarters did not help us to take advantage of a good service. The game was a curious duel between a side which relied on following up various kinds of kick ahead and a side which trusted to running but could not get through the defence.

At Oxford, against the City of Oxford High School, with Johnson and Uphill in the centre and R. C. Jones joining the pack as a loose forward, our attack was much speeded up, and the forward play was also more competent. We won fairly easily, but the play was rather ragged. The last match before Half Term was away against Stowe 2nd XV, and the team played very well, with improved tackling in the centre triangle and some magnificent passes from Ashby. The forwards were lively, and Johnson settled the issue with two grand individual runs.

Reading brought over a strong and heavy pack, and our forwards had a desperate battle. Reading were soon six points up. Ashby performed wonders in taking the ball off the feet of the enemy forwards and whipping it back to Pursey; and once he broke away on the blind side to send in K. C. Jones for a try behind the posts. The kick was sadly missed, but a fine penalty goal allowed us to

draw the game. Tiffin School, a few days later, visited us with a good side, and our forwards had to face another hammering. But both Johnson and Uphill cut through for tries to give us an 8—0 lead. Constant forward pressure by Tiffin led to a snap try, and their three-quarters, who handled well, made another. Both were converted. There was no further score until, after nearly fifty minutes of the second half (the Society referee's watch having broken down), Tiffin made their well-deserved victory safe with a crash-over try from the line-out.

The home match against Watford found both teams below their best form, and another draw seemed likely. Watford's captain gave a fine display of tackling and kept our three-quarters out (I was told that their line had yet to be crossed in a School match). In the second half a well-kicked dropped goal settled the issue in their favour. A very tired pack stuck manfully to their job in this game ; but for the match against Abingdon some extra weight was brought into the scrum, and Gordon moved back to "No. 8." It was pleasant to see our forwards well on top, especially as the Abingdon backs looked dangerous. Our attacks were easily held until Pursey began to draw the defence better before passing. Constant attacks were at last rewarded with tries by Weaver and Colver showing his usual dash. St. Edward's 2nd XV rallied too late to threaten us ; our attacks were robbed of their full effect by a spate of dropped passes.

Southfield were beaten by 30 points to nil, but at Leighton Park incessant forward rushes and close marking by their open side loose forward made it very difficult to launch an attack with the three-quarters. Ashby showed cool judgment, and Pursey played very soundly under pressure. Lomas dealt faithfully with endless harassing kicks. At last Johnson cut through for a fine try, and the forwards counter-attacking well with Abdallah in the van scored another try. Meanwhile Leighton Park had charged down a clearance kick by Pursey and seemed to have scored, but the referee, after a disconsolate search for a dead-ball line, awarded a drop-out.

In the Spring Term, after the "Big Frost" which cut out the Old Boys and Balliol matches, we enjoyed a good win in a fast and open home game against St. Bartholomew's, Newbury. We then lost very narrowly to Jesus College, Oxford, and to the Saracens' Gipsy XV. Dropped passes, missed kicks and general untidy play cost us the full price in these two very enjoyable games. A. Harvey, promoted, from the Colts' team to fill Uphill's place in the centre—the 2nd XV centres not being available—played his part manfully in these last three matches.

Finally we have to thank the Berkshire Society of Referees for their assistance during the season.

All members of the team were awarded their 1st XV colours ; they were : R. E. Lomas, J. C. Colver, T. E. Uphill, B. K. Johnson, K. C. Jones, J. W. Pursey, R. C. Ashby, B. E. Devlin, J. S. Kelly, R. A. Mann, J. Weaver, M. J. Garratt, T. W. Abdallah (Captain), A. J. Gordon (Vice-Captain), R. C. Jones. Others who played for the team were : P. H. G. Burt, G. D. B. Jones, R. G. Pilgrim, J. G. Deller, T. C. Olsen, A. Harvey.

2nd XV

Played 13, Won 12, Lost 1.

This splendid record was well deserved. R. G. Pilgrim is not only a most competent stand-off but a very inspiring and judicious captain. He was supported by a number of forwards who were almost all aspirants to the 1st XV—G. R. Davis, for instance, a good hooker addicted to kicking for touch ; G. D. B. Jones, fast, energetic and wild ; J. G. Deller and T. C. Olsen, both capable of fine play ; P. H. G. Burt, who played some good games in the 1st XV ; and D. J. Gittins, an admirable young forward in the loose but an awkward packer. The backs combined well at times, with B. Sinnatt very sound on the wing, F. E. J. Hawkins clever in attack, E. M. Squires developing well as a centre-three, and E. C. Bond another good centre gone West (to R.N.C., Dartmouth). R. J. M. Hart, at full-back, has been surprisingly safe for so dignified a player and very courageous. A. J. C. Wright has played at scrum-half this year, but may be needed at stand-off next season, and C. M. Nash returned to the game as a fast wing-three of great promise.

The following appeared in the 2nd XV photograph (* indicates 2nd XV colours) : R. J. M. Hart*, B. Sinnatt*, E. C. Bond*, E. M. Squires*, F. E. J. Hawkins, C. M. Nash, R. C. Pilgrim* (Captain), A. J. C. Wright*, J. G. Deller*, G. R. Davis*, R. F. Sainsbury, J. Smithers, I. C. Birch*, G. D. B. Jones*, T. C. Olsen*, D. J. Gittins*. (P. H. G. Burt* appeared in the 1st XV photograph.) Others who played for this team were : D. H. M. Lipman, P. Chamberlin, R. Wilcox, W. A. Booth, F. J. R. Hobson, D. B. Read, R. C. Todd, M. Deitchman.

3rd XV

Played 9, Won 6, Drawn 1, Lost 2.

A much improved side, rather bigger and stronger than in recent years, reached quite a respectable standard of skill.

The following were selected to appear in the 3rd XV photograph : D. H. M. Lipman, A. J. Saddler, J. M. Eales, P. Chamberlin, J. P. J. Edwards, A. J. Sallows (Captain), R. Wilcox, W. A. Booth, C. G. Burrell, D. Rear, J. Pickard, F. J. R. Hobson, J. A. Cox, N. C. Gosling, R. I. Hellman, R. D. Owen. Others who played were : E. J. G. Oliver, M. D. Jones, M. C. Cutler, J. M. Chinery, J. W. Harding, R. E. Lamb, M. E. L. Field.

COLTS (under 15) XV

Played 8, Won 7, Lost 1.

A satisfactory season. The forwards were only fair as a pack, but excellent work was done by J. H. Richardson and M. J. Richardson. The half-backs, M. G. Taylor and A. Harvey, were good, and the two centres, J. V. Sullivan and J. E. Atkinson, show great promise.

The following boys played for the team : M. J. Richardson (Captain), J. W. Harding (Vice-Captain), J. H. Richardson, A. Harvey, N. R. Stokes, C. J. Cunningham, J. V. Sullivan, J. E. Atkinson, B. M. Ashby, M. G. Taylor, G. L. Hickey, A. P. Malein, R. D. Braybrooke, B. R. Youens, F. R. Ede, A. C. Edwards, H. L. Barrow, R. J. Austin, J. Glenister, C. J. Melsom, M. G. Small, R. L. Weston, N. E. Craft.

JUNIOR COLTS (under 14) XV

Played 9, Won 9.

Good team-work brought these youngsters another fine season. A fit, hard-working and well-together pack of forwards was supported by hard-running backs able to turn the forwards' efforts into points. R. W. Thorne has ably captained a side which owes a lot to the many boys who turned out so faithfully for practice, even if they could not get a place in the side. J. R. Bone, the team's place-kicker, made sure by long and frequent practice that no points were thrown away, and indeed settled the issue in the hardest-fought matches.

The following played during the season : D. J. Maurice, J. G. Gregory, R. H. S. White, R. J. Collett, D. E. Breslin, D. W. Hollomon, R. W. Thorne (Captain), R. F. Palmer, M. Jarman, D. J. Muller, J. H. Pettifer, C. J. Large, C. R. Rake, J. R. Patrick, R. A. P. Wilson, R. C. Jones, J. R. Bone, D. A. Scott-Kiddie, T. D. Reavey, G. Gilbertson, E. C. Franks, C. G. Brooks, C. S. J. Mardell, R. C. Hackett.

JUNIOR XV (under 13)

Played 4, Won 1, Drawn 1, Lost 2.

The many promising individuals in this young team will have to combine their efforts better next year if they hope to emulate their distinguished predecessors. But they played hard and cheerfully in their few matches.

The following played for the team : G. H. Horley, C. C. Perry, A. G. Eales, J. A. Vicars, J. L. Currell, K. R. Miller, R. Pratley,

A. S. Whatley, W. F. Hodge, R. P. G. Owen, J. Blokland, P. J. Hitchcock, H. C. Bramley, E. G. Mann, C. A. W. Dobson, C. H. Simpson, P. J. Miller, L. G. L. Johnson, R. A. Higgins.

The new boys (2nd forms) reached a very satisfactory standard of team work and skill, and were represented in the match which they won against Prestwood Lodge P.S. by : P. J. Holtorp, L. J. Scrivener, E. J. Belcher, G. R. Packman, W. M. Douglas, K. R. Puddephatt, J. A. N. Priestley, R. F. Quirke, A. J. Styles (captain), F. G. Marsh, B. J. Bull, D. H. Nicholls, B. K. Hearn, A. W. Ralley, J. S. Simpson.

C.M.H.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

1st XV

Sept. 26	Windsor County School	...	...	Away	Lost	3	8
Oct. 3	Marylebone Grammar School	...	...	Away	Won	22	3
„ 10	Borlase School...	...	...	Home	Won	32	0
„ 14	Watford Grammar School	...	...	Away	Drawn	0	0
„ 24	City of Oxford High School	...	...	Away	Won	19	0
„ 28	Stowe School 2nd XV	...	...	Away	Won	9	3
Nov. 7	Reading School	...	...	Home	Drawn	6	6
„ 11	Tiffin School	...	...	Home	Lost	8	13
„ 14	Watford Grammar School	...	...	Home	Lost	0	3
„ 21	Abingdon School	...	...	Home	Won	9	3
„ 25	St. Edward's School 2nd XV	...	...	Home	Won	17	8
Dec. 2	Southfield School	...	...	Home	Won	30	0
„ 5	Leighton Park School	...	...	Away	Won	8	0
Feb. 13	St. Bartholomew's, Newbury	...	...	Home	Won	14	3
„ 20	Jesus College, Oxford	...	...	Away	Lost	5	8
„ 27	Saracens' Gipsy XV	...	...	Home	Lost	3	5

2nd XV

Oct. 3	Marylebone Grammar School	...	...	Home	Won	23	3
„ 10	Aylesbury Grammar School	...	...	Away	Won	27	8
„ 14	Watford Grammar School	...	...	Home	Won	19	3
„ 17	Stowe School 3rd XV	...	...	Away	Won	9	6
„ 24	City of Oxford High School	...	...	Away	Won	9	0
Nov. 7	Reading School	...	...	Away	Lost	0	6
„ 11	Tiffin School	...	...	Away	Won	15	13
„ 14	Watford Grammar School	...	...	Away	Won	15	3
„ 21	Abingdon School	...	...	Home	Won	32	0
„ 25	St. Edward's School 3rd XV	...	...	Home	Won	16	5
Dec. 2	Southfield School	...	...	Home	Won	49	0
„ 5	Leighton Park School	...	...	Home	Won	3	0
Feb. 13	St. Bartholomew's, Newbury	...	...	Home	Won	20	10

3rd XV

Sept. 26	Windsor County School 2nd XV ...	Home	Won	9	8
Oct. 3	Old Wycombiensians "B" ...	Away	Won	11	10
" 10	Borlase School 2nd XV ...	Away	Won	19	0
Nov. 14	Watford Grammar School ...	Home	Lost	0	11
" 7	Reading School ...	Away	Lost	5	11
" 11	Tiffin School ...	Away	Drawn	3	3
" 14	Watford Grammar School ...	Away	Won	8	6
" 28	Borlase School 2nd XV ...	Home	Won	58	0
Dec. 5	Leighton Park School ...	Home	Won	13	8

COLTS XV (under 15)

Sept. 26	Windsor County School ...	Away	Won	12	6
Oct. 3	Marylebone Grammar School ...	Away	Won	19	11
" 10	Watford Grammar School ...	Away	Lost	3	6
" 17	Southfield School ...	Away	Won	39	0
" 24	Henley Grammar School ...	Away	Won	23	0
Nov. 7	Reading School ...	Home	Won	13	3
" 14	Watford Grammar School ...	Home	Won	9	6
" 21	St. Benedict's, Ealing ...	Home	Won	14	3

JUNIOR COLTS XV (under 14)

Sept. 26	Windsor County School ...	Home	Won	20	0
Oct. 3	Marylebone Grammar School ...	Home	Won	46	0
" 10	Watford Grammar School ...	Away	Won	6	5
" 17	Southfield School ...	Away	Won	21	0
" 24	Henley Grammar School ...	Away	Won	38	0
Nov. 7	Reading School ...	Away	Won	14	5
" 14	Borlase School... ...	Away	Won	10	0
" 21	St. Benedict's School... ...	Away	Won	11	0
" 28	Watford Grammar School ...	Home	Won	16	3

JUNIOR TEAMS (under 13)

Oct. 9	Crosfields ...	Home	Drawn	6	6
Nov. 7	Reading School ...	Away	Won	6	0
" 21	St. Benedict's School... ...	Away	Lost	3	19
" 28	Watford Grammar School ...	Home	Lost	9	21

JUNIOR TEAM (2nd Forms)

Mar. 18	Prestwood Lodge P.S. ...	Away	Won	5	3
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HOUSE MATCHES

Disraeli won the Senior House Competition after an eight-all tie with Arnison, who had previously lost to Youens, the runners-up, on a pitch and day which restricted three-quarter play. Youens owed a good deal to their captain, R. C. Jones. The winners had probably the best of three good sides, though they handicapped themselves by some peculiar dispositions in the field.

RESULTS OF SENIOR HOUSE-MATCHES

Disraeli beat Youens	3 0
Disraeli beat Fraser	11 3
Disraeli drew with Arnison	8 8
Youens beat Arnison	9 6
Youens beat Fraser	9 0
Arnison beat Fraser	26 0

(Disraeli, 2½ points ; Youens, 2 points ; Arnison, 1½ points)

The Colts' "Knock-out" Competition was won easily by YOUENS.

First Round.	Disraeli beat Fraser	11 3
	Youens beat Arnison	38 0
 FINAL.	Youens beat Disraeli	34 3

The Junior (under 13) Competition was won by Arnison in a good match with Fraser.

First Round.	Fraser beat Disraeli	18 3*
	Arnison beat Youens	17 3
 FINAL.	Arnison beat Fraser	14 3

(* after a previous match drawn at 11 points each)

CROSS-COUNTRY RESULTS

v Vale of Aylesbury	Lost	43-36
v Army App., Arborfield	Lost	99-47
v Culham College	}	Won 33-41-69
v Newland College		
v William Ellis School	Lost	49-31
v Jesus College, Oxford	Lost	41-39
v R.A.F., Halton	Lost	51-29
v Slough Grammar School	Won	22-64
v Wycombe Phoenix Harriers	}	Second 66-46-72
v Vale of Aylesbury		
v Watford Grammar School	Lost	50-30

OLD BOYS' NOTES AND NEWS

P. W. ADAMS (1947-53) is working for a large building concern and hopes to be articulated as a Civil Engineer.

J. H. BAILEY (1939-43) has been invited to represent the British Y.M.C.A. at a conference of Asian young people in Bagino, in the Philippine Islands, and will be the only representative from this country. During his National Service, Bailey was commissioned in the Royal Engineers and served in Egypt and Kenya. In 1952 he qualified as a Professional Associate of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, and is on the staff of a London property investment company.

G. H. BAKER (1906-11), a Governor of the School, was elected an Alderman of High Wycombe Borough Council on November 17th, 1953.

P. C. BEVIS (1921-25), a technical engineer in Messrs. Broom & Wade Ltd., has been an assistant director since last June and has now been appointed a full director. When at school he was in the 1st XV, a Corporal in the O.T.C., and Senior Boxing Champion, so that he should be able to keep his end up without much difficulty.

H. BARRELL (1913-18) has been appointed superintendent of the Metrology Division of the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington. While at school Barrell was Senior Prefect and Head of the School, Sergeant-Major in the O.T.C., and played in the 1st XI at Cricket and Football. He passed the 1st Division London B.Sc. (Honours Physics) and obtained a Bucks County Council Major Scholarship, a Bucks Local Science Exhibition and a Free Studentship at the Royal College of Science. He joined the Staff of the National Physical Laboratory in 1923 and helped in the determination of the metre and the yard in wavelengths of light and of the reflective index in the dispersion of air. Later he was in charge of research work into optical microwave interferometry, and has published many papers on this subject.

During the war he successfully adapted the Pneumatic Gauging principle in machines for the simultaneous multiple inspection of several dimensions of certain types of ammunition, a principle applied by him to the measurement of variation in the uniformity of wool and cotton between the carding and spinning operations.

His son, J. Barrell (1944-48), after an extensive period on the Seven Seas, obtained his "certificate of competency" as a Second Mate last September and is now Third Officer on a Furness Watby luxury liner plying between New York, Bermuda and the Bahamas.

M. A. BIRD (1944-51) is having the time of his life in a little Nigerian back village 60 miles from the nearest European. He was suffering from a "hang-over" after a great Palaver at the funeral of a village Elder when strings of goats and dogs were sacrificed and drums banged until the early hours. He still follows the success of the School and O.W. Rugby teams and looks forward to the Magazine. He hopes to meet Crutchfield later—at present they are only 400 miles apart.

W. T. BRINDLEY (1910-15) hopes that after he has retired in June of this year, he will be able to attend most School functions. At present the Ceylon police are having a very strenuous time preparing for the Queen's visit.

A. W. BARDLEY (1938-43) has been appointed Drama Adviser to the County of Leicester, where Drama is being developed as part of the school time-table in junior schools. Most of Bardley's work, however, is with adults taking courses in production, make-up, costume, listening to rehearsals, adjudicating at Drama Festivals, and advising on play selection. He hopes to start a children's theatre in the summer, to tour with a religious play and a Russian comedy in the open air.

G. E. BRATCHELL (1939-46) has obtained a Second-class Honours degree of London University in Civil Engineering. While at School, he took a very active part in the A.T.C. and J.T.C., obtaining his Proficiency and "A" Certificates. He is applying for a commission in the Airfield Construction Branch of the R.A.F.

P. R. F. BRITNELL (1927-34), now Senior Labour Officer in Nigeria, was home on leave last autumn. In Nigeria he has continued his cricket career and has played for Nigeria against the Gold Coast. At the R.G.S. he was Captain of both Cricket and Rugger, a Prefect and C.S.M. of the O.T.C. To him and his younger brother (P. G., 1930-36) we offer our sincere sympathy on the death of their father, Mr. R. R. Britnell, who did so much for High Wycombe and Buckinghamshire cricket in his later as well as in his earlier years.

H. S. BROOM (1913-17), joint managing director of Broom & Wade Ltd., is the new President of the British Engineers Association. He was awarded the M.B.E. in 1943 for his war-time work with the firm.

N. BRUDNEY (1941-47) has just qualified as Bachelor of Pharmacy (1st Class honours), Associate of the Royal Institute of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemist (B.Pharm., A.R.I.C., Ph. C.).

W. CHINN (1939-46) flew the 300 miles from Dublin to the Albert Hall to box for Dublin against London A.B.A. before an audience of millions; many of his friends saw on Television Chinn's bout against the toughest opponent he has yet faced, Ron Barton, the reigning A.B.A. middle-weight champion. Chinn landed just in time for the fight and his plucky display against a much stronger opponent won the plaudits of the crowd and the sympathy of millions of viewers.

The brothers CRADWICK C. C. (1927-33) and L. W. (1927-32) were not complaining when they wrote that although "life members" they had not received any Magazine since the Spring of 1948. Every issue, two or three Magazines are returned with "not known at this address" written across them and a charge made for re-postage. Further news of the Cradwicks will be found amongst the Marriages and Births.

R. W. M. CLARK (1916-22) returned from duty in Ceylon about a year ago. He is now Group Captain and second in command at the R.A.F. camp at Manby, Lincs. He joined the R.A.F. in 1923 and was stationed in Egypt and Palestine. He was awarded the D.F.C. for distinguished service during the troubles in Palestine. In the last war he served in the Mediterranean area, chiefly in North Africa, and was awarded the O.B.E. (Military).

W. A. D. COMBE (1928-36), who is the anaesthetist at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, has been awarded the Diploma in Anaesthetics by the Royal College of Physicians in London and the Royal College of Surgeons in England. He was formerly anaesthetist at the Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, London, and subsequently at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London.

W. G. CARDEN (1923-27) is the proud proprietor of a brand new garage in Penn. Besides buying and selling cars, he specialises in reconditioning engines and has several O.B.'s on his books.

A. DODGSON (1913-18) has visions of wealth and plenty now that his two daughters are earning a living, the elder is working in Stockholm, and the younger, after being in a job in the Italian Alps, is about the start work with the Shell Oil Co. His brother, James, hopes to be joined in his electrical engineering business sooner or later by his son, Peter, still at the R.G.S.

A. C. DUCKERING (1940-47) hopes he will be re-elected to the Committee at the A.G.M. (He was.) Duckering is making quite a name for himself in the Universities Rugby World. He hopes to make a trip of about three weeks to Russia over the Easter holidays, and will take a post in September at Leighton Park School. The six now at Leeds University—Banham, M. T., Hill, D. F. E., Smythe, G. R., Garrett, R. I., and Raybould, and Duckering—are all progressing favourably and are busy laying traditions rivalling those of Greystone.

M. EASTON (1943-46), after getting his Engineering degree, is working at the great smelting works of the Aluminium Company of Canada at Arvida, Quebec. After attending a course on business administration and human relations, Easton expects another assignment. The Company is one of the most progressive in Canada ; such is their rapid expansion that the opportunities for advancement are unlimited.

F. R. FISHER (1924-30), who is Hon. Sec. of the Wycombe and District Schools Football Association, was awarded a Coronation medal. He writes that the Association is very largely an "Old Boys'" affair : F. S. Berry was Chairman, S. V. Perfect was

Secretary, N. Thorne Team Manager, P. R. Viccars and F. A. Boreham were on the Committee. One of the objects of the Association is to keep an eye on good Soccer players with the view of their becoming schoolboy International players, like G. Cox.

R. S. C. GILES (1939-44), in sending his life-membership fee, gave no news of himself nor of the Surridge brothers or of B. J. Ransley at 440 Mt. Eden Road, Mt. Eden, Auckland. All are in New Zealand.

C. L. GILLARD (1950-52) is in an R.A.F. Camp near Preston. He hopes to finish his 36 weeks course as an armament fitter early in 1954.

D. J. GREEN (1934-38), as a Flight Lieutenant in the R.A.F., is the Flying Instructor at Oxford University. Already Nobby Hall has approached him for flying lessons. He is very proud of the part played by his school contemporaries in the last war.

A. W. GROSS (1940-43) joined a firm of accountants in Beaconsfield when he left School and has been there ever since, except for a period of National Service. He has passed his Examination and is entitled to the designation Incorporated Accountant. Last year D. L. HARDING became an Incorporated Accountant and is doing his National Service. F. J. BUNCE is a Chartered Accountant waiting to be called up, and A. G. BINDER and J. COLLIER are two other O.B.'s in the same office at various stages along the long and difficult path to success.

C. A. GRIFFITHS (1919-24) is very sorry that owing to parochial engagements he will not be able to welcome the Rev. A. M. Berry at the Dinner. Griffiths thinks he was the only candidate to stick out the three hours allowed for the History paper in 1923; he failed because he confused Simon de Montfort with Oliver Cromwell, but the "Scripture slips" must have helped him to gain the knowledge which has been of great benefit to him since. He is in his seventh year as Curate in charge of St. Paul's Church, Banbury, happily settled with a wife and two stepsons. He was greatly distressed by the death of Reg Lacey—they were together in the Cricket and Football XI's.

F. HALLASEY (1913-18) went to America in 1947 and is now Foreign Patent Consultant at 501 Reynolds Building, Jackson, Michigan, U.S.A. He has a branch office in Detroit and is often in New York, Chicago and Washington. He will be more than pleased to meet any Old Boys visiting the U.S.A.

C. S. W. HARTE (1926-31) returned about six months ago from a two and a half years' tour in Germany. He was kept busy and saw most corners of Austria and Germany and had just reached

the stage of toleration towards the natives when he was recalled to Lancashire. While abroad he took up gliding and hopes the C.C.F. will allow him to join them at Booker some time. Wing-Commander Harte now commands an explosive depot near Salisbury.

L. D. HATCHETT (1946-51) is progressing very well as a motor engineer. He attends Acton Technical College one day a week, and hopes to take the City and Guilds Examination in June.

H. C. HICKMAN (1939-46) is now at Weybridge, Surrey, as Development Engineer on Automatic Electro-plating machinery. His job involves a certain amount of travelling and entails the conception of new ideas to prevent trouble recurring and to make bigger and better machines at less cost. He gives news of the following O.B.'s : A. J. Bland is still on his three years' course of research on crystallography ; the Surridge brothers are in New Zealand, K. O. at Wellington and busy fitting radio telephone equipment for the Royal Tour ; D. G. is now at Christchurch.

D. F. W. HOW (1936-41) is an accounts clerk with the Petroleum Co. Ltd. and hopes to pass both the Intermediate and Final Examinations of the Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants. He is married and has a daughter two years old and lives at 13 St. Mary's Walk, Kennington, S.E.11.

E. G. KEEP (1927-33) is the O.C. of No. 32 (High Wycombe) Squadron of the Air Training Corps, with the rank of Flight Lieutenant. During the war he was a Flight Lieutenant in the R.A.F.V.R. and was Mentioned in Dispatches.

J. E. KIMBER (1921-27) has moved to a larger house ; this meant more furniture, bought, of course, from Waring and Gillows, Liverpool Manager, L. F. WALTERS (1908-14). As far as they know they are the only O.B.'s in Liverpool. Their families often spend an evening together and extend a welcome to any Old Wycombiensian visiting the district. A call at Waring and Gillows would find the home address of either.

R. M. KIMBER (1919-23), of Clay Lane Farm, Marlow, has been elected one of the twenty members of the Council of the British Dairy Farmers' Association which is responsible for the Dairy Show.

J. M. KING (1945-51) gained his B.Sc. (Econ.) degree in 1953 with Economic History as a special subject. He is looking for a post in industry as a Management or Executive trainee with a large firm like I.C.I. or General Motors.

W. A. MALLABURN (1943-50) has been accepted by the I.C.I. and lives at Chester-le-Street, Durham.

R. A. MILLER (1940-46) left his Wembley post in June, worked for three months on a small-holding in the Isle of Wight, and is now a Horticultural Student with about twenty others. He hopes to specialise in greenhouse work.

R. MORGAN (1945-49), after finishing his two years with the R.A.F., intends to return to the Civil Service, if possible the Experimental Grade of the Ministry of Supply at Boscombe Down, an aircraft testing station.

M. J. NICHOLLS (1950-53) is on a 7,144-ton cargo vessel bound for Indo-China. He shares a cabin with another cadet. He does normal working jobs during the day and studies Maths., Trigonometry, Navigation, Seamanship and Boat Construction in the evening. His French helped him at Dunkirk, and he hopes to know a little Hindustani before reaching India. The mate has a quick temper and lived at one time in High Wycombe.

R. F. POCOCK (1937-43) has been appointed to the Colonial Police Service in Tanganyika. From 1944 to 1947 he served with the Royal Marine Commandos.

H. E. JOHNS (1919-22) in the half-yearly promotion list announced by the Admiralty, to date from December 31st, 1953, the name of Major H. E. Johns, Royal Marines, appears, promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel.

B. M. PUSEY (1947-51), on leaving school, started a five years' apprenticeship with the B.E.A. and was sent to the Bristol Aeroplane Co. for three years, whence he will proceed to London Airport and be able, much to his relief, to live at home. He hopes to come to the Dinner and wishes he had worked harder at Maths., at School.

M. RAY (1921-26) has been promoted to the rank of Detective Superintendent in the Metropolitan Police, which he joined in 1931. He was transferred to the C.I.D. in 1952 and was a specialist in the finger-print department of Scotland Yard.

J. N. ROBINSON (1928-33) on his way back from Singapore to an Ammunition Depot in Warwickshire called on W. J. Bradley when his ship spent a few hours in Colombo.

J. D. SALMON (1925-31), living at Dartford, has been praising the R.G.S. to the Headmaster of Dartford Grammar School whenever they meet. He was naturally put out when he read that the School lost by one mark to Dartford in the Guard Mounting Competition at the C.C.F. Camp. He has been assured that this will not happen again. Salmon's father, who was at the R.G.S. about 1903, refuses to give the exact dates.

Sending his annual subscription to the O.W. Club, Mr. O. L. Taylor wrote that his son, L. A. TAYLOR (1946-52), was on his way to Korea.

A. J. SKIPP (1929-37) was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Oxford on September 20th, 1953, and is now a curate at St. Anne's, Wycombe Marsh. In the war he was Captain in the East Kent Regiment.

L. S. STALLWOOD (1924-28), who is one of the carpet buyers with Messrs. Waring and Gillow, was sent by his firm recently to Montevideo to supply 20,000 yards of carpeting to its largest hotel, the first large luxury hotel in South America to be completely carpeted. Stallwood, with two English foremen and forty local workmen, completed the laying and trimming of the carpeting in 430 bedrooms, 21 corridors, staircases, lounges, dining-rooms, etc., in seven weeks.

J. R. SAUNDERS (1943-50) obtained an Honours Degree in German at Sheffield University in June, 1953. He is now a Graduate Trainee with Richard Thomas and Baldwin Ltd., steel and tinplate manufacturers. His ultimate aim is a sales managership in the Export branch of the firm.

J. W. K. TAYLOR (1918-24), a Governor of the Royal Grammar School, and a County Councillor, has been installed as the new President of the British Federation of Wholesale Confectioners.

M. F. TILLION (1944-50), after studying at the College of Aeronautical and Automobile Engineering, Chelsea, gained his diploma in automobile engineering.

W. E. WHITE (1928-33), till recently chief accounting assistant to High Wycombe Borough Council, has been appointed Treasurer to Cirencester Urban District Council. During the war he spent six years in the Royal Corps of Signals.

L. A. WILES, M.Sc., Ph.D. (1931-35) has been appointed a Justice of the Peace and will serve in the Faringdon Division of Berkshire. He is now a principal lecturer at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham.

E. WILLIS (1940-45) went to R.A.F., Halton, when he left. At Tangmere, Sussex, he won a silver trophy for aerobatics, and recently in Hong Kong he was the star of an R.A.F. flying display. Piloting a Meteor jet, Willis delighted a big crowd at Kai Tak airfield with his daring display of aerobatics.

B. S. LEWENDON (1949-53) is pleased with his job at Lintafelt (Southern) Ltd., Loudwater. He works from 9.00 to 5.30 five days a week and his wage is £2 15s. 0d. He hopes his experience in seeing the way in which a Sale Office runs will be useful to him in later life. He sends his best wishes to Vus.

M. J. BANHAM (1944-51), who is at Leeds University, will be at Armley Gaol on Sunday, after the Dinner, though he assures us that he is an entirely voluntary guest of Her Majesty. It is a tradition that the Devonshire Hall Show is taken to Armley.

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

Births

D. J. BATES (1923-27). On September 11th, 1953, at Wellington, to Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Bates, a son.

L. B. BARNES (1924-30). On September 15th, 1953, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Barnes, a daughter.

J. R. BUNCE (1927-32). On January 9th, 1954, at Montreal, to Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bunce, a son.

C. C. CRADWICK (1927-33). On February 1st, 1953, at Farnham, Surrey, to Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Cradwick, a son.

A. R. HARRIS (1936-40). On October 9th, 1953, at Aldershot, to Capt. and Mrs. A. R. Harris, a daughter.

A. E. JEFFRIES (1928-34). On February 16th, 1954, at Beaconsfield, to Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Jeffries, a son.

J. A. C. KING (1925-31). On February 15th, 1954, at Beaconsfield, to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. C. King (*nee* Goodearl), a son.

K. J. LUNNON (1922-28). On September 23rd, 1953, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. K. J. Lunnnon, a son.

B. E. H. McQUEEN (1938-43). On July 25th, 1953, at Amersham, to Mr. and Mrs. B. E. H. McQueen, a son.

N. SEARS (1924-29). On December 15th, 1953, at Twickenham, to Mr. and Mrs. N. Sears, a son.

B. A. SHERRIFF (1926-34). On October 19th, 1953, to Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Sherriff, a son.

R. N. STONE (1938-42). On August 31st, 1953, at York, to Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Stone, a daughter.

G. A. SUCKLING (1935-40). On June 2nd, 1953 (Coronation Day), at Chiswick, to Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Suckling, a son.

Marriages

ABBOTT—MILLIDGE. On September 30th, 1953, at Hughenden, M. J. Abbott (1938-44) to Miss A. Millidge.

BANHAM—WINCH. On September 26th, 1953, at High Wycombe, R. J. Banham (1938-44), elder son of O. W. Banham (1916-20), to Miss J. M. Winch.

BRADLEY—TEGETMEIER. On November 2nd, 1953, at High Wycombe, A. W. Bradley (1938-43) to Miss J. Tegetmeier.

CANTY—DENNETT. On March 13th, 1954, at St. George's Church, Changi, Singapore, J. M. Canty (1943-45) to Miss Joan Dennett.

CRADWICK—COLBRIDGE. On September 7th, 1950, at Sale, C. C. Cradwick (1927-33) to Miss E. Colbridge.

CRADWICK—STRUGNELL. On February 28th, 1948, at Morden, L. W. Cradwick (1927-32) to Miss B. Strugnell.

GREEN—WILLCOCKS. On January 2nd, 1954, at Beaconsfield, G. E. Green (1940-45) to Miss J. A. Willcocks.

WESTNEY—DEAN. On September 19th, 1953, at West Wycombe, M. E. W. Westney (1941-47) to Miss E. Dean.

Deaths

JAMES COX (1881-85). On February 10th, 1954, at High Wycombe Hospital, James Cox, of 154 London Road, High Wycombe, aged 80 years.

O. S. LEAR (1903-07). On August 26th, 1953, at Highbury, Lucas Road, High Wycombe, Oscar Syred Lear, aged 62 years.

According to School records, Lear passed the Preliminary Oxford Examination in 1904, the Junior in 1906, and the Senior in 1907. He obtained his colours in Cricket and Football, and was a Prefect. On leaving School, he joined the staff of the *Daily Mail*.

C. G. LOCKE (1916-21). On January 23rd, 1954, at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Clifford George Locke, aged 49 years.

C. G. Locke was in the 1st XI Cricket and Football, a Lance-Corporal in the O.T.C., and a member of the Games Committee. In 1920 he was equal Sports Champion with F. W. Judge, and in 1921 took 37 seconds off the Cross-Country Race record. He was a popular figure at Tylers Green, had been Captain of the village Cricket Team, and was Hon. Secretary of the Tylers Green Village Hall Trust, and correspondent of Tylers Green School.

E. S. ROPER (1893-95). On November 19th, 1953, at 41 Thornton Avenue, S.W.2, Edgar Stanley Roper, C.V.G., Mus. Doc., aged 74 years, organist and composer at H.M. Chapels Royal for over 50 years.

From the Royal Grammar School he went as Organ Scholar to Corpus Christi College, where he obtained his Mus.Bac. (1903). His most noteworthy compositions are a Morning Service in G, and a six-part anthem, "O praise our God, O ye people," but his knowledge found more scope in editorial work for the Oxford University Press and the Church Music Society.

The following O.B.'s sent apologies for not being able to attend the Annual Dinner on March 20th, 1954 :

R. B. M. ASHBY (1951-52) would very much like to attend the re-union of the Grammar School Old Boys, but is sorry that it will be impossible as his ship sails on her annual spring cruise on February 27th. This year the Fleet sails once again to Gibraltar *via* Lisbon. He hopes to join in the fun next year as he is due to be demobbed on the 5th December, 1954. He says that life in the Navy can be very pleasant, but is longing to don a suit of civilian clothes once again. He sends his regards to all the Old Boys of the School.

P. G. BADCOCK (1945-51) is now on his National Service and at present in the Canal Zone.

A. C. COLLINS (1934-40) is afraid that he will not be able to return to Bushey the same evening, but wishes the Old Wycombiensians a very successful time.

At the passing out at Eaton Hall, Groom had the great distinction of being considered the Senior Under Officer, gaining the coveted "Sword of Honour."

P. S. GROOM (1942-50). On March 20th he "passes out" and has been commissioned into the Dorset Regiment, with Hong Kong as his destination. While with 55th Training Regiment R.A. he met six O.B.'s but could only name Martin (a boarder) and Scott.

P. T. HUMPHREY (1946-51) is doing his National Service and is in Hong Kong.

E. M. JOY (1946-47) is getting married on March 6th to Miss J. L. Collins and regrets that he will not be able to come to the A.G.M. and Dinner.

D. LIPSCOMB (1941-46) will be on board the N.Z.M.V. *Cornwall* on his way to the States and Australia.

M. J. R. MACKRILL (1939-45) after returning from Malaya and finishing his National Service has commenced a year's hospital appointment at Slough.

B. J. MEARS (1942-47). His leave expires on February 22nd and he will not be in the country on March 20th.

P. B. NEWELL (1938-45), now living at 210 Iffley Road, Oxford, is afraid he will not be able to get home the same evening.

D. M. PHILLIPS (1945-51) will be working full steam for his final exams.

A. J. REDRUP (1947-51) is with the Oxford and Bucks L.I. stationed at Osnabruck, Germany, where he has been doing very well in the cross-country team. After a series of stiff races he has succeeded in going forward to the B.A.O.R. cross-country finals. He has already one five-mile record and a cup to his credit.

R. N. STONE (1938-42) cannot get time off to attend the Dinner and would be glad of news of P. J. Scally and R. J. Fredericks.

F. C. WICKENS (1931-38) hopes to manage the Supper in the Summer, but is fully occupied on March 20th with the rehearsals of his School Play, writing reports, and lecturing to the local W.E.A. in the evening.

Congratulations to Mr. Bartle on becoming a great grandfather and to Mr. Brand on becoming a grandfather.

Undergraduates' Reunion at Oxford

Old Boys of the School at present at Oxford and Cambridge held a dinner at the St. George Restaurant, Oxford, last November. Nine members of Oxford University and six from Cambridge, as well as N. Gomme, of the School of Architecture at Oxford, were present.

The guests were the Headmaster, Mr. A. S. Hett and Mr. R. Pattinson.

The Chairman, Mr. P. D. Fry, of Worcester College, Oxford, expressed the hope that this being the second of its kind, a series of such dinners had now been inaugurated. He also suggested that associations of Old Wycombiensians might be instituted with a branch at each University.

Replying to the toast of the School, the Headmaster said how glad he was to be present among some of his former pupils now at the two Universities. He thought it worthy of note that eight boys alone had gone to one Cambridge college this year—six with open awards.

He invited all present to a dinner at the School at which he would be host, to be held during the 1954 Christmas vacation.

Mr. J. Bland, of Selwyn, Cambridge, proposing the toast of the guests, welcomed the idea of an association, but hoped there should not be too much formality.

Mr. A. S. Hett, in replying, said that Old Boys did not generally realise the interest members of the staff took in watching their progress after leaving. Too many were never seen again at the School, although those who had gone to Universities invariably made frequent return visits. It was most interesting to observe how they had changed.

Much of the credit for the success of the dinner is due to Mr. E. Hall, of Exeter, Oxford, who made most of the arrangements.

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