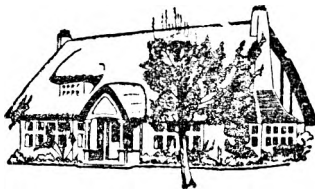


THE  
WYCOMBIENSIAN



Vol. XII. No. 6

SEPTEMBER, 1956



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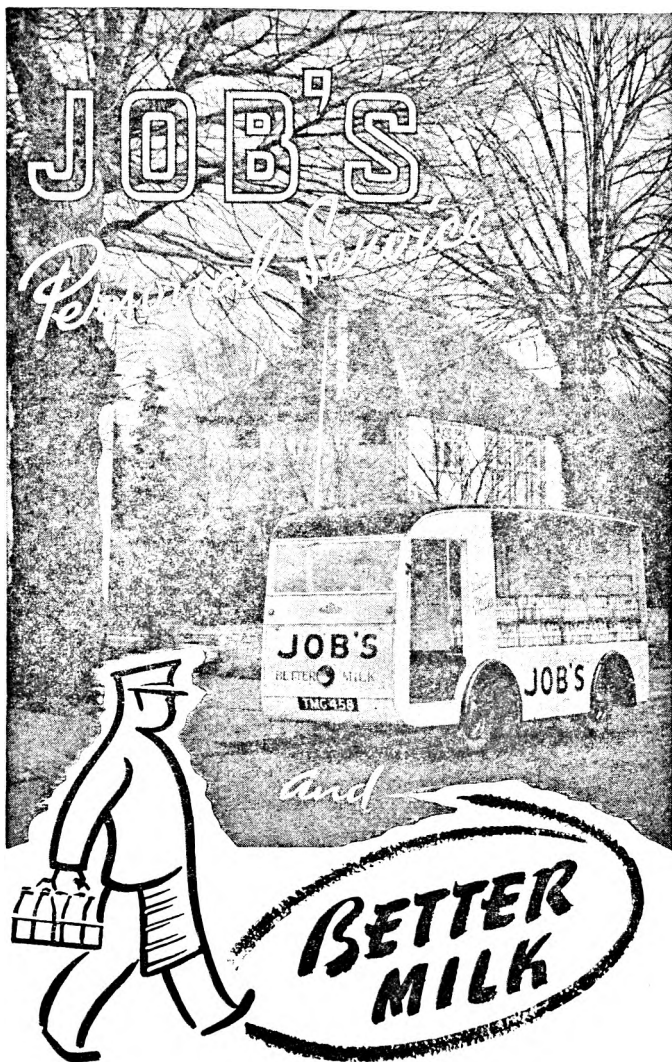
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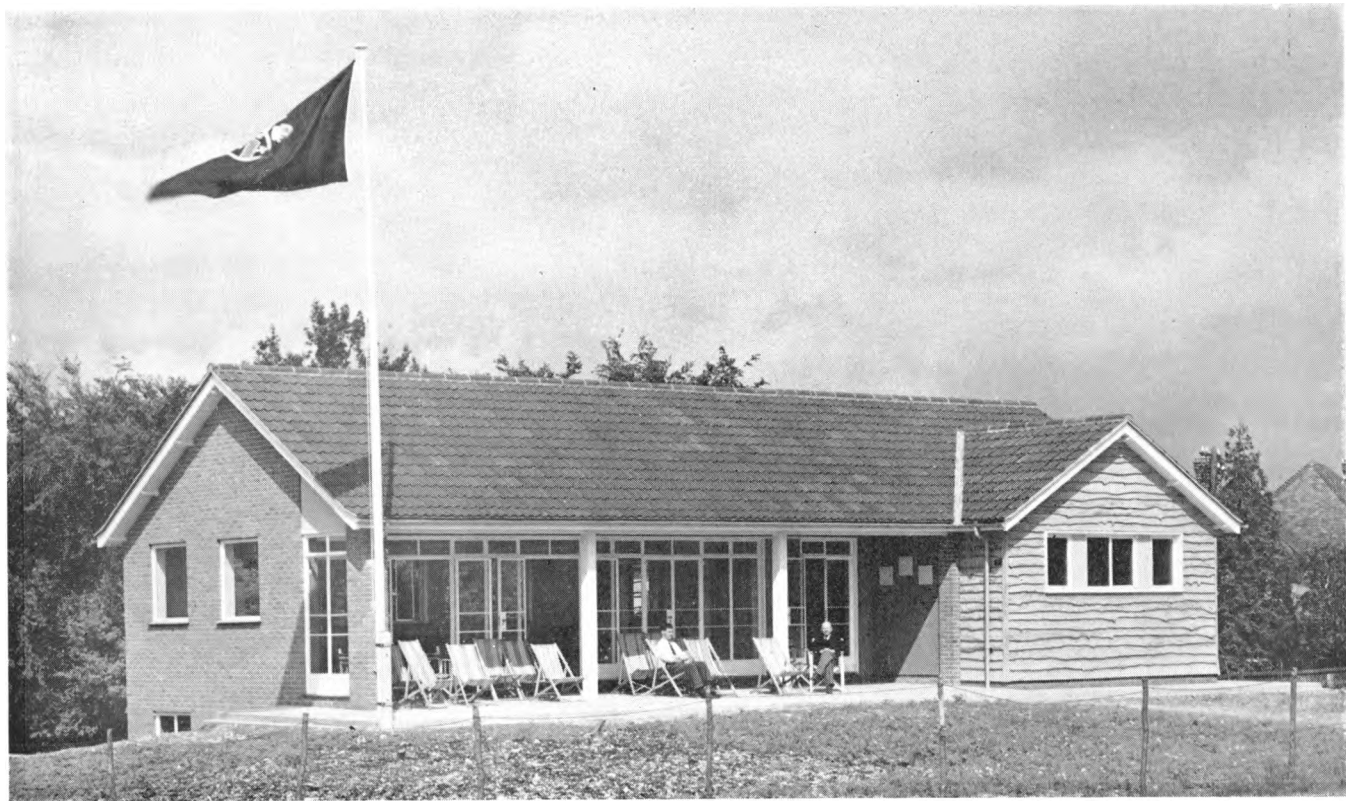
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THE MEMORIAL PAVILION



SCHOOL 1ST XI 1956

*Back Row* : R. J. Dawe, R. C. Jones, R. C. Todd, J. Smithers, A. E. Edwards, J. Pettifer

*Front Row* : A. J. C. Wright, A. Harvey, F. E. J. Hawkins, E. M. Squires, J. C. Briden and D. P. Ketch (Scorer)

# THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

(THE WYCOMBE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL MAGAZINE)

*Editor* : D. M. JAGO

*Sub-Editors* :

J. A. BEDFORD-JAMES

R. T. PUTNAM

D. S. SUTTON

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## EDITORIAL

*"I had rather be any kind o' thing than a fool."*

—THE FOOL in *King Lear*

If the Fool had cause for complaint, how much more has the editor of a school magazine, for he must produce something which, even leaving aside such people as parents and friends of the School who see it as it were by accident, is specifically directed to two sets of readers who have nothing in common whatsoever.

For boys and old boys are entirely different in their attitude towards and interest in the School. To the schoolboy, the word "school" means those boys, masters, and pursuits which affect him most nearly—how many boys care two hoots whether the School is overcrowded, the Hall too small and the laboratories inadequate?—while to the old boy it means the school of his time (as he remembers it) and the general outline of present policies. With the exception of the small band who have left a short enough time ago to still retain links with their old forms, there is no personal intercourse between the two groups, while mutual interest in each other's doings is well-nigh non-existent.

And yet for these the editor is expected to produce a homogeneous collection of articles and statistics. Statistics! They present an even greater problem, for if the boys and old boys each enjoy their own particular corner of the magazine, the records and statistics interest nobody, except perhaps those who appear in them and those who are closely connected with the School's sporting activities. Not a very large number. We would be far from denying that such things deserve to be put in print, but see what incongruous companions they have. There is writing of lasting interest and writing intended for the present moment only. A week-old news-



paper is of very little interest, yet here notes and articles on the term's events, original articles of only transitory interest are huddled hotch-potch together, with lists and details that are quite out of place in their present position. Who would want to produce the Grey Book as a part of the September magazine? and yet the prize lists and team lists are, though just as necessary, just as unsuitable for ordinary reading. We cannot think that anyone could defend the theory that it is the duty of every boy in the School to buy and keep a copy of the term's successes and failures, and yet that is what has now come about.

Once in a particularly bold deviation from the party line during an erring youth, we refused, and successfully refused, to buy an issue of the magazine. We were told that we were being very foolish, that buying the School magazine is an "investment for the future," but if it is primarily intended for a nostalgic old age, to be kept, yellowed with age, and pored over over a night-cap, then the articles are sadly out of place. Our contributors, like ourselves, do their best, but to condemn their attempts, and ours, to immortality is merely to hold them up to the amusement of coming generations, when the last stick of rhubarb has crumbled into dust, and digs at the School library are not sure of provoking an immediate burst of laughter. You cannot have it both ways: either the articles should not be put in with the statistics, or the statistics have no place with the articles. To say that part of the magazine is intended only to be read now and part kept only for reference, is to rise to heights of subtlety where the present editor cannot follow.

What is one to do with this extraordinary mixture? Our solution would be to explode it. It may be divided into three main parts: articles of general interest to the School, records and statistics of permanent value, and the old boys' section. A certain amount of overlapping would be inevitable. If details of matches and so on were printed separately, there would, of course, have to be a more general article to cover them in the ordinary edition. Similarly, such events of outstanding importance, as the School Fête, and the Opening of the New Pavilion, would find a place in both the School's and the old boys' editions. (This would not mean mere repetition; if the one were written from the boy's angle, and the other from the old boy's, they would probably be entirely dissimilar.) The School edition could appear more often, say, once a term, and in a less formal format. The events of each term would then be covered more fully and vividly, and it would be cheaper. The old boys would take over the running of their own section and would be able, if they so wished, to expand it and add articles from their own ranks. A complete rupture between the two would be undesirable, but it would be quite easy to avoid this by putting a small number of copies of the School edition on sale to the old boys and *vice versa*.

Results of matches, sports results, exam. results, prize lists could easily, and far more fittingly, be an annual publication like the Grey Book for those who want them.

But the power of an editor is limited in the extreme. Many edit a single issue and there are very few who survive more than two. (The magazine is thus for ever in the hands of an inexhaustible line of novices, each of whom leaves as soon as he is getting to know the ropes. The proposed system, if each editorial board were appointed for the year's three issues, would eliminate this difficulty.) None, therefore, has sufficient time to bring any perceptible influence to bear on his particular issue. Moreover, they are, after all, only boys, and if any radical change is to be made, it must at least be approved and assisted at a higher level than our own. It seems a little churlish to make so sweeping a suggestion and then go off to Cambridge leaving others to carry it out, but that is due to the system rather than to our own indolence. And after all, when all's said and done, at 18 one cannot conquer the world single-handed.

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## SCHOOL NOTES

On the nights of April 12th, 13th and 14th there were three performances by the Dramatic Society of Dorothy L. Sayers' "Busman's Honeymoon." An account of this will be found elsewhere.

A month later the Jazz Club ran an outing to a recital by the celebrated negro trumpeter, Louis Armstrong, at the Empress Hall. He was ably seconded by his All-Stars band, which included Edmund Hall (clarinet) and Trummie Young (no printing mistake) (trombone). The trip was chaperoned by Mr. A. Davies, who later told us, with a mirthless smile, that he "enjoyed himself very much."

On June 22nd, a trip to "Macbeth" was run for the benefit of the forms who were about to take English at "O" level. Exam. fever was at this time so high and the consciences of the V uppers so raw, that the response was very heavy. Indeed many people had to be turned away. 5UA also went to "Henry V" at the Old Vic, and on July 20th Mr. Hett led an expedition to an open-air performance of "Twelfth Night" at Polesden Lacey.

The Prefects' Dance was held on Tuesday, July 10th. An outside band was hired, Teddy Chapman and his sextet (they were not as good as the late School Jazz Band). As always, the cooks from the canteen had provided a magnificent spread (the little raspberry flans were delicious) and there was an enormous basket of fruit to be raffled. Mr. Nightingale acted as Master of Ceremonies and guided the proceedings along with his usual suavity. The Last Waltz was danced at about 11.15, and after "Auld Lang Syne" the party broke up.

On July 13th Mr. Dawes arranged for the High School orchestra to come up and play with our own. Apart from the horror of the visiting players when they saw their parts—apparently Mr. Dawes had given them the impression that they only had to play on the open strings—the afternoon passed very pleasantly. It began at 2.0 with an hour's rehearsal, followed by tea in the canteen. At 3.20, when ordinary school was over, a short concert was given for those who cared to attend, some forty people, together with the Headmaster, Mr. Hills and Mr. Gareth Morgan. As well as the orchestral items, solos were played on the violin and piano by D. M. Jago and D. O. Rance respectively, and M. D. Packham sang. The concert ended a little before 4, in time for the players to go home and have another tea if they so wished.

During the term C. L. Rankin, who left at Easter, won a Flying Scholarship, and M. Zander and P. W. James, old boys of the School, both now at Jesus, Cambridge, won firsts in Law and Mathematics respectively.

At Easter, about twenty Sixth-formers went to Paris on the Annual Cultural Holiday that hundreds of pupils from all over the country attend each year. This was probably the highest number from any one school. They all enjoyed themselves immensely, although the little affair of who removed the tricolour from the front of the school where they were staying has never been satisfactorily cleared up.

## Staff

We have to welcome, somewhat belatedly, two new members of the staff who joined us at Easter.

Mr. J. S. Dawes, M.A. (Cantab.), Mus. Bac., who has given up the post of County Music Organizer in order to be Director of Music here, and who, even in his first term, has had so strong and happy an influence on the musical life of the School ;

and Mr. A. H. Hall, from the Carnegie College of Physical Education, who has come to help Mr. Nightingale with P.T. now that Mr. Rees has left us.

We hope that their time with us will be happy and profitable.

Five members of the staff have left us at the end of the Summer Term :

Mr. G. M. Jones, who has now been with us for ten years, and, besides his official subject, Mathematics, has spent so much time and trouble training and encouraging the Colts' rugby team ;

Mr. D. J. Barnes, who has taught French for the past four years;

M. André Labratut, who has acted as French "assistant" for the past year and who now returns to France covered in glory (see elsewhere in this issue under the account of the Staff Match) ;

The Hon. Stephen Cawley, M.A. (Oxon), who came part-time to teach Science and ease the pressure on the science staff ;  
and Mr. J. W. Jones, a student from Reading, who came to help Mr. Dawes with Music while Mr. Piner was away.

We wish them all success in their new posts.

We welcome three new members and one part-time member, who all began this term :

Mr. D. C. F. Edginton, M.A. (Oxon), who has come to us from Plymouth College to teach French ;

Mr. M. Bridges, B.Sc. (London), a boy at this school until four years ago, who has come to teach Physics and Mathematics ;

Mr. A. J. Harley, B.Sc. (Leeds), Ph.D., who is to teach Chemistry ;

and Mrs. Wood, M.A. (Cantab.), J.P., who is coming part-time to teach Mathematics.

The Rev. A. J. Skipp, who has been teaching Latin part-time for two years, is now a full-time member of the staff and will teach English and Latin.

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## SPEECH DAY

At 2.45 on Thursday, July 19th, the guard-of-honour was drawn up in front of the School and rows of boys from the Navy and Air Sections of the C.C.F. lined the route, and the band waited to shatter the silence with a more than usually noisy version of the Salute. Parents and boys clustered thickly round the edges of the parade-ground, waiting expectantly. At the far end of the drive a little knot of people appeared and began to move slowly up. Foremost among them were the Headmaster and Viscount Astor, who was to present the prizes. They approached, halted, and acknowledged the salutes of Major Pattinson and the guard, while the band broke forth so loudly that even those of us who were in the comparative safety of the Hall were startled. Speech Day had begun.

After Lord Astor had inspected the guard, everyone moved into the Hall, where the Chairman of the Governors, Mr. R. P. Clarke, introduced the first speaker, the Headmaster, with his Annual Report.

The Headmaster welcomed Viscount Astor and also paid tribute to Mr. P. C. Raffety who, for the first time for many years, was not taking the chair. He spoke of the heartening response of the parents to the previous term's appeal for the Memorial Pavilion, whereby nearly £800 had been raised, leaving them only £200 short of their target. The Divisional Executive had at last recommended the building of a new laboratory block in the coming year and he said that with luck we would have a new Hall and Junior School by 1962, the year of our quatercentenary. After outlining the examina-

tion successes of the past year, he spoke of the old boys who had continued to gain honour and glory at their universities. He also mentioned last year's head boy, G. D. B. Jones, who had this year led another expedition to explore forgotten Roman roads in Wales, for which he had been awarded the Annual Prize of the Oxford Archaeological Society. Mr. Tucker spoke of the ever-increasing size of the School—next year it would probably number 850 boys—but, he said, he did not want anyone in the sixth form who was not eager and anxious to take every advantage of the manifold opportunities that the School offers.

After distributing the prizes, Lord Astor said that he remembered how he had attended many functions such as this when he was a boy, and how he could never recall a word of any of the speeches. He was, therefore, going to make his as short and as simple as possible. He urged the boys to take stock of their capabilities and then see that they used them to best advantage. He advised them to be adventurous and not to stick to conventional paths but to break away whenever opportunity offered. This way they would get far more fun and interest out of life than those who played safe. He congratulated the C.C.F. on their excellent turn-out. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. MacA. Bexon and seconded by Alderman G. H. Baker.

The speeches ended at 4.0, and after tea, parents and boys trooped down the hill by every route for the Commemoration Service in the Parish Church at 6.0. The service was taken, as usual, by the Vicar, the Rev. A. L. Evan Hopkins, and the preacher was the Rev. R. C. C. Watson, Chaplain of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, who took as his theme a "Tale of Two Cities" and compared the links between London and Paris with those between Earth and Heaven. Just as one man may telephone to another in so far away a place as Kandy, so man may experience communion with God. An anthem, "Let us now praise famous men," by Ralph Vaughan-Williams, was sung by the Junior Choir.

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## EXAMINATION SUCCESSES 1955-56

### Open Scholarship Awards :

D. M. Jago, Open Major Scholarship in English, Jesus College, Cambridge.

### State Scholarships Awarded on the Result of the General Certificate of Education, Advanced and Scholarship Level :

G. E. Bates for French and German, Jesus College, Cambridge.

P. A. Chamberlin for English, French and German, Jesus College, Cambridge.

D. N. Crowther for Mathematics, Jesus College, Cambridge.

A. J. Gordon for Chemistry and Physics, Jesus College, Cambridge.

R. F. Jones for French and Latin, Exeter College, Oxford.

J. H. Speight for Mathematics and Physics, Jesus College, Cambridge.

### **Bucks County Major Scholarship :**

J. T. Moore for Mathematics and Physics, King's College, London.

### **Bucks County Major Exhibitions :**

T. B. Baldwin for Music, Jesus College, Cambridge.

T. C. Carter for Mathematics and Physics, King's College, London.

P. R. Coward for Mathematics and Science, University College, London.

J. N. Chinery for Botany and Zoology, Jesus College, Cambridge.

B. E. Devlin for English and History.

M. S. Dickens for Medical Subjects, Leeds University.

I. A. Fisher for Mathematics and Physics, Bristol University.

D. J. Glasspoole for Mathematics and Physics, Imperial College of Science, London.

A. F. Giles for Mathematics and Physics, Imperial College of Science, London.

D. J. Gittins for Mathematics and Physics, University College, London.

F. J. R. Hobson for Botany and Zoology, Bangor University.

A. J. Mactavish for English, Downing College, Cambridge.

S. R. C. Malin for Mathematics and Physics, King's College, London.

J. A. Norrish for French and German, University College, London.

E. G. J. Oliver for Chemistry and Physics, Jesus College, Cambridge.

D. L. Rose for Theology, Jesus College, Cambridge.

P. N. Rogers for Botany, Zoology and Chemistry, King's College, London.

R. C. Todd for Botany and Zoology, Jesus College, Cambridge.

R. D. Thomson for History and English, Bristol University.

G. N. Taylor for Mathematics and Physics, St. Catherine's Society, Oxford.

M. H. Vaughan-Rees for French and German.

J. L. Wingrove for French and Spanish, Leeds University.

### **Essex County Major Exhibition :**

A. J. C. Wright for Chemistry and Physics, Queen Mary College, London.

### **Royal Navy Technical Cadetship, Dartmouth and Jesus College, Cambridge :**

T. J. Gowan.

### **R.A.F. Technical Cadetship, Henlow and Imperial College of Science :**

M. Lacey.

### **Royal Navy Cadetship, Dartmouth :**

J. S. Kelly.

### **Royal Navy Scholarship :**

R. W. Thorne.

## **SPECIAL PRIZES**

**Headmaster's Prize :** G. E. Bates.

**Governors' Reading Prize :** R. T. Putnam.

**Governors' Classics Prize** (presented by R. P. Clarke, Esq., C.B.E., M.A., B.C.L.) :  
R. Babb.

**Graefe Cup** for best C.C.F. Cadet : R.S.M. R. D. Mitchell.

**Harte Cup** for best A.T.C. Cadet (presented by Wing Commander C. S. W. Harte) : F/Sgt. G. E. Bates.

**Giles Keen Memorial Cup** for best Naval Cadet (presented by Mr. and Mrs. A. Keen) : Petty Officer M. J. Green.

**Art Shield** (presented by A. Hastings, Esq.) : M. D. Ridley.

**Hope Cup** (presented by Mr. and Mrs. W. Hope) : S. A. Leader.

**Marti Prize for French** (presented by Mrs. A. Marti) : G. E. Bates.

**Goodchild Prize for Mathematics** (presented by C. J. Goodchild, Esq.) :  
J. H. Speight.

**Thorne Prize for English** (presented by Mrs. G. Bayley) : D. M. Jago.  
**Westney Prize for Music** (presented by M. W. Westney, Esq.) : T. J. Hemuss.  
**Lance Memorial Prize** for Persistent Progress : 1st year—G. D. Sherley ;  
 2nd year—S. N. M. Evans.  
**Raffety House Cup for School Work** : Youens.

### FORM PRIZES

**FORM II A :**

1st, P. J. C. Clark  
 2nd, C. L. Dupond

**FORM II B :**

1st, D. R. Walker  
 2nd, R. N. Broadley

**FORM II C :**

1st, D. S. Culley  
 2nd, R. E. M. Hedges

**FORM II D :**

1st, D. J. Thornton  
 2nd, C. L. Day

**FORM III X :**

1st, D. R. Cox  
 2nd, R. W. Hammett  
 3rd, E. G. Finer

**FORM III Y :**

1st, J. P. Carter  
 2nd, K. G. Sansom  
 3rd, B. H. Harding

**FORM III A :**

1st, R. A. O. Stockwell  
 2nd, C. Swain

**FORM III S :**

1st, D. M. Elvey  
 2nd, J. Bowman

**FORM IV X :**

1st, M. B. Wood  
 2nd, R. P. H. Green  
 3rd, P. J. Wilson

**FORM IV A :**

1st, P. J. Yates  
 2nd, A. R. Watters

**FORM IV S :**

1st, R. J. Lawrance  
 2nd, J. E. Burnell

**FORM IV SHELL :**

1st, R. G. J. Shelton  
 2nd, G. M. Collinge

**FORM V X :**

1st, D. A. King  
 2nd, E. W. Burrows  
 3rd, J. A. Vickers

**FORM V A :**

1st, J. R. Garland  
 2nd, A. J. Kennedy

**FORM V S :**

1st, D. J. Craft  
 2nd, S. A. Leader

**FORM V SHELL :**

1st, D. W. Cox  
 2nd, D. J. M. Rendall

**FORM V U A :**

1st, P. J. Muller  
 2nd, R. G. Saunders

**FORM V U S :**

1st, J. C. Holdbrook  
 2nd, A. M. Fowler

**FORM V U SHELL :**

1st, G. W. Moss  
 2nd, R. C. Chandler

**NEATNESS PRIZES :**

VU I. M. Tomes  
 V P. G. Robson  
 IV G. S. Wood  
 III M. J. Bedford  
 II R. N. Broadley

**SPEECH PRIZES :**

VI D. J. Bloxham  
 VU } R. A. P. Wilson  
 VX }  
 V G. H. Duffell  
 IV C. R. S. Wood  
 III C. Hawkins  
 II R. L. Smyth

## HANDICRAFT PRIZE :

D. W. Cox

## MUSIC PRIZE :

D. A. Rance

## FORM VI—1ST YEAR :

<i>Ancient</i>	
<i>History</i>	S. C. Williams
<i>Latin</i>	R. J. Nuthall
<i>Greek</i>	R. J. Collett
<i>French</i>	G. Gilbertson
<i>German</i>	T. W. Brown
<i>English</i>	J. Kitching
<i>History</i>	G. W. F. Ewins
<i>Geography</i>	G. W. F. Ewins
<i>Economics</i>	J. Kitching
<i>Chemistry</i>	M. Jarman
<i>Physics</i>	D. M. Cunnold
<i>Mathematics</i>	D. M. Cunnold
<i>Biology</i>	C. J. Smith

## FORM VI—2ND AND 3RD YEAR :

<i>Greek</i>	A. F. King
<i>Latin</i>	R. Babb
<i>Ancient</i>	
<i>History</i>	A. F. King
<i>Modern</i>	
<i>Languages</i>	P. A. Chamberlin
<i>French</i>	
<i>2nd Year</i>	D. S. Sutton
<i>3rd Year</i>	J. A. Cox
<i>German</i>	
<i>2nd Year</i>	P. M. Slotkin
<i>3rd Year</i>	M. H. Vaughan-Rees
<i>English</i>	J. A. Bedford-James
<i>Spanish</i>	P. M. Slotkin
<i>History</i>	T. G. D. Klemperer
<i>Geography</i>	D. C. Willatts
<i>Economics</i>	K. F. Biggs
<i>Chemistry</i>	
<i>2nd Year</i>	J. O. Small
<i>3rd Year</i>	R. D. Mitchell
<i>Physics</i>	
<i>2nd Year</i>	D. P. Nash
<i>3rd Year</i>	J. H. Speight
<i>Botany</i>	G. A. Cullen
<i>Zoology</i>	E. J. Hunt
<i>Mathematics</i>	A. G. Newton
	J. C. Williams

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**THE MEMORIAL PAVILION**

Work began on the Pavilion after Christmas and continued throughout the winter and spring. As readers will no doubt remember, the weather was not at its kindest during this period and must have retarded the work considerably. Indeed the severe frosts caused the foundations to fall in shortly after they had been dug, and they all had to be begun again. For two reasons, then, the choice of Saturday, June 16th, for the opening was unfortunate : it rained heavily all that day and the building was still unfinished. Even so a large number of parents and friends of the School turned up, and the Hall, where the opening was held, was packed to the doors when the speeches began at 4.0.

Mr. R. P. Clarke, the new Chairman of the Governors, opened the proceedings by calling upon Mr. P. C. Raffety, "by far the oldest old boy", who had himself been chairman for some years previously, to declare the Pavilion open. Mr. Raffety told the audience how impossible the dream of a pavilion had seemed when it was first conceived before the war, and how the coming of the war and ever-rising prices had drawn it steadily further and further out of their



reach. But now the dream was realized. He then declared the Pavilion, which was "out on the playing field in the wet," open.

Mr. Jack Theed, old boy of the School, past captain of cricket and now President of the Club Cricket Conference, followed. He said that he always liked batting third, but that, whereas his usual task was to keep in, this time he had to get out as soon as possible. He praised this worthy memorial to the old boys who fell in the war, and said how fitting it was that they should be remembered by something which seemed to epitomize that peace which they, in war, died that we might have. He then formally handed the Pavilion over to the School, and the gift was acknowledged by the present captain of cricket, Freddy Hawkins, who thanked both Mr. Theed and the Committee very warmly.

The last speech was made by Mr. Tucker, who gave a short resumé of how the money was collected and thanked various donors, particularly those who had given in kind, one the electric fittings, another the memorial tablet, and so on. Finally, he paid tribute to the workmen who had worked so hard to get the building into a reasonable state of readiness, working until past 8 the previous evening and even coming up that morning.

The visitors then dispersed to inspect the Pavilion and have tea before going home.

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## C.C.F. NOTES

### ARMY SECTION

The Army Section has had one of its busiest terms. Shooting competitions, Annual Inspection, Speech Day and Camp made big demands on Officers and Senior N.C.Os.

The Inspection was carried out by Brigadier R. N. M. Jones, C.B.E., A.D.C., the new Deputy Commander of Salisbury Plain District. The Headmaster, representatives of the Governors and representatives of the T. & A.F. Association were also present. Unfortunately the rain descended after the March Past and the programme had to be switched to the wet weather alternative. The Brigadier and his staff officers were very complimentary in their remarks and had no adverse criticisms.

On Speech Day the Army Section provided the usual Guard of Honour; on this occasion for Lord Astor. During the tea interval the Corps of Drums beat retreat and gave a display of counter-marching. The Camp Guard trained by R.S.M. R. D. Mitchell gave a display of guard mounting.

A record number of 140 cadets attended annual camp at Pirbright and had the good fortune to be blessed with the best weather of the year. A number of excellent demonstrations were arranged— aerobatics by the R.A.F., assault landings by the R.E., and a number of tactical exercises by a platoon of the 3rd Bn. the Grenadier Guards. The cadets themselves had several exercises, including an exciting night operation and left for home with mixed feelings of eagerness and regret but with a satisfactory feeling of a sense of achievement.

It is with considerable regret that we bid farewell to many who have done much for the C.C.F. The work of R. D. Mitchell as Cadet R.S.M. for two years will always be remembered for its good influence, whilst C.S.Ms. Cox and North have given him excellent support. C.S.M. A. J. Mactavish is also to be congratulated on the excellence of his Signal Platoon.

It is pleasant to record the names of a few who have given of their best without any thought of reward other than the satisfaction of a job well done. R.P.

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## Shooting

Under the guidance of Lieut. J. G. Lloyd rifle shooting is becoming very popular throughout the School. A start has been made in the Public School competitions and whilst the low position in the various events may be attributed to lack of experience there is promise of better things to come.

The best performance of the team was in the Salisbury Plain District Rifle Meeting in which it was the runner-up in the Application. Cadet G. L. S. Hickey was one point behind the best individual score of the day.

In the Ashburton at Bisley lack of experience of adjustable sights undoubtedly affected the scores, but a position of 80th out of 84 teams should give the team cause for serious thought on how to improve their scores. Cadets R. D. S. Clark 62, M. R. Pattinson 60, G. L. S. Hickey 59 were top scorers.

The .22 Range has been well patronised ; the House Shooting Cup was won by Youens House. This is a new venture and it is hoped to extend the competition to include a greater number next year.

In the "Country Life" competition the team finished 37th out of 50. Mistakes in identification of the target in the Landscape Shoot resulted in a loss of some points, but as practically the whole of this year's team will be available next year there is hope of considerable improvement on these performances. R.P.

## R.A.F. SECTION

The Easter Camp, held at R.A.F., South Cerney, was most successful. Forty-eight cadets attended camp, flying in dual-controlled Provost aircraft amounted to 31 minutes per cadet, six swimming certificates were gained and seven marksmanship certificates. Cadets spent a very active and enjoyable week at this R.A.F. station. The Summer Camp is to be held at R.A.F., Hawarden, in Flintshire. By the end of the summer vacation two cadets will have attended a special camp at R.A.F., Filton, at which they expect to have about 10 hours dual flying instruction. Congratulations and best wishes for the future are accorded to Cadet C. L. Rankin, who has been awarded a Flying Scholarship, and to Sgt. J. A. Bedford-James, who is to enter the R.A.F. College, Cranwell, at the beginning of the next session. With the ending of the present term, the unit is losing the valued services of a number of N.C.Os. Sincere thanks are expressed for their work, which has been a major factor in the successful running of the unit, and best wishes are offered for their future careers. E.M.

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## NAVAL SECTION

The past two terms have been busy ones for the Naval Section. This term in particular, in common with the other sections of the C.C.F., we have been preparing for the Annual General Inspection. This has taken up most of our time, but it was worth while and the inspecting officer was very pleased with the work and spirit of the Naval cadets.

Despite many periods spent on the parade ground getting our drill smartened up, the necessary "academic" side of our work was not neglected, and Hunt, Rogers, Harding and Green were passed by the interviewing officer as Cadet Petty Officers. Also fourteen cadets passed their leading seamen examination, a very good effort. As soon as the inspection was over we tried to get as many cadets as possible sailing, and our excursions on the river at Bourne End have been pleasant, instructive and amusing.

Fifteen boys have attended courses during the Christmas and Easter holidays, and the training given is generally of a very high standard. These courses are a very important part of the cadets' training and therefore very valuable to the Section.

This year the Annual Training is to be held at H.M.S. *St. Vincent*, a boy seaman's training establishment, which I am sure we shall find very interesting. D.T.N.

## CONFIRMATION

This year's School Confirmation Service was held in Terriers Church on Thursday, March 22nd. The service was conducted by the Lord Bishop of Oxford, Dr. Harry Carpenter.

The following boys were confirmed :—

Peter John Avery	Edwin George Mann
Brian Anthony Barratt	Charles Brian Matthews
Geoffrey Warren Boireau	Michael William Moore
James Arthur Brannan	George William Morrison
Christopher Edwin Bristow	Keith Osborne
Brian Norman Buckley	Angus John Paine
John Edward Camp	William Barry Pickin
Ronald Clive Cary	David Jeremy Rendall
Michael Alan Claridge	Ross Astley Richards
Michael Henry Clarke	Robin Douglas Sackett
Neil Philip Connor	John Bernard Simmons
Adrian Colin Cook	Philip Edgar Sleigh
Michael David Coward	Stuart John Smith
Anthony John Edwards	Edward Andrew Speight
Andrew McDonald Fowler	Geoffrey Stewart
Robin Barrington Hatherall	Jeremy Douglas Thomason
Harry James Hodkinson	Barrington Arthur Torrens-Burton
Michael Anthony Hollingham	Michael Frederick Turner
David Neil Hubble	Michael Gordon Welch
Michael John Iremonger	Anthony Charles Wood
Graham Francis James	Michael Richard Woodhouse
Barry Leslie Kew	

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## ARNISON HOUSE

The House activities have been pursued this year with the usual mixture of spirit and apathy, and Arnison have emerged with fair success. When the House won the Senior Rugby competition and the House Boxing Cup, mainly owing to a good spirit in the Senior School, hopes were high for an Arnison "coup", but it was not to be.

The Cross-Country Championships produced their usual excitement : the Seniors easily won their race, and Slatter, who won the individual race in record time, in particular deserves our warmest congratulations. Lack of training lower down the School, however, only enabled Arnison to finish second in the overall aggregate to Disraeli ; a great pity when, with a little more combined effort, it would have ensured success. Early in the summer term we had the Sports and, judging from the results of Arnison athletes, or rather the lack of them, it was much too early, for we finished last. Now

the Sports is one of the Inter-House activities which may be won by force of numbers alone, not by a few above-average athletes. The response of the House to the events was deplorable all through the School ; it is indeed a sorry state when a race is run and the House is not even represented ! Let us hope that a bigger effort will be made next year ; a statement made far too often by House officials.

A new House event, the Shooting competition, was inaugurated this term. Largely owing to hard work by Beckford the House did remarkably well, finishing a very close second to a strong Youens team. A very good effort ! The Music competition was also held this term, in which we finished third to the very talented Youens musicians. Barwell did a terrific amount of work for this in training the choirs and advising the soloists, and it was not for the lack of spirit and practice that we were not successful. Lastly, the Final House Cricket Match was fought out between Arnison and Fraser. This was one House competition which we felt we had a reasonable chance of winning, but, alas, it was not to be. Put in to bat on a good wicket, the three 1st XI batsmen of which Arnison could boast quickly came out and it was left to Saunders and Cunnold to make the score look respectable. These two together with Pettifer, who surprised everyone by belting the Fraser bowling all over the place in a last wicket stand of 36, enabled Arnison to reach the fairly respectable total of 129 for 9 dec. With the School fast bowler revving up from his 25-yard run and the School "tweaker" just waiting to get his fingers round the ball, we thought we had a good chance of getting the opposition out. Wright, the Fraser captain, however, played a magnificent match-winning innings of 54 not out, and we lost. It was a big disappointment, though particularly pleasing were the performances of the younger members of the sides, Munro, Rally and Miller for Arnison, and Blokland for Fraser, who all gave the impression that in the years to come the standard of cricket in the School will continue to improve. Congratulations then to Fraser on winning a keen but spirited game. House Tennis was decided upon at the very end of term, but unfortunately the matches were left unfinished, with Arnison in a strong position ; we were particularly fortunate to have four of the 1st VI in the House.

So ends another School year and another session of House rivalry. It only remains for me to thank all those people, many not mentioned in this report, who have willingly undertaken House offices and duties, selected and trained teams, and played or worked for the House. Thanks are also due to Mr. Eldridge and Mr. Leggett for taking such a keen interest in House affairs. Next year Arnison can, and should do better ; I wish the House the best of luck.

F. E. HAWKINS.

## DISRAELI HOUSE

Since the last House report the Athletics and Cricket competitions have been completed. In the Athletics, it was very encouraging to see the magnificent efforts of the Colts and Juniors who won the great majority of their events. If the Seniors had done even half as well, the competition would have been won yet again by Disraeli. As it was, Fraser won nearly all the open events, which carry far more points than other events, and just won the competition by a narrow margin. Next year, with such promising athletes as Pratley, Gilbertson and Priestley, Disraeli should do very well again.

In the Cricket competition the House fared rather badly, mainly because of a poor display of batting. The side, which was captained by Harvey, a player of exceptional ability, lost to Fraser in the first round of the competition.

Another School year has ended and Disraeli have had average success, but should have done better. Next year, if the House will give adequate support to the more outstanding members, instead of taking such a mild interest in competitions, then Disraeli can go far. In nearly all the competitions the same group of people have had to carry the burden of the rest of the House, who have not had the spirit to support them. When this ends, and Disraeli pull together as a House, then success cannot evade them.

The House offers its thanks to those "active" members who are leaving at the end of this year, and wishes them all success in the future.

J. SMITHERS.

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## FRASER HOUSE

Once again Fraser have had a successful year, though not quite as good as the last one.

We were most unfortunate to lose the Music Shield by only two points, after a magnificent effort by the choir. The shield has been above our notice board for many years and we must do our utmost to win it back nest year. In the newly-instituted Shooting competition we performed creditably, even though some of our best shots were absent. In the Athletics we scored a wonderful victory. This was due mainly to a wealth of athletic "stars" now present in the House. We especially congratulate Dean (who later became an All England champion) on winning the Senior Cup, and also Hall, Bunday, Hollomon, Gilder and Edwards, who did so well, but there was a noticeable lack of support from the Juniors. This must be remedied next year.

Once again we won the Cricket competition with what looked on paper to be only a mediocre side. We started by gaining an easy victory over a good Disraeli side. The match was notable for a splendid innings by Gilder and also some good bowling and fielding. We then had to meet a formidable Arnison side. They were dismissed fairly cheaply and we made a bad start to our innings. With our backs to the wall the captain managed to steer the side out of trouble, backed up by some staunch batting from Dawes and Dean, and we finally won the match quite comfortably. As usual, the winning factor in these House matches was the fielding, and as long as we continue to have the best fielding side we shall keep on winning.

Several new House competitions are to be introduced next year and we hope they will be well supported by everybody. There is everything to gain and nothing to lose by supporting the House, and anyone who fails to do so is missing an important part of the School life.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Mr. Clark and Mr. Scott for managing the House and to wish my successor all good fortune in the coming year.

A. J. C. WRIGHT.

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## YOUENS HOUSE

We have been more successful this term than in the previous two, winning the House Music Shield, the House Shooting competition, and the House Cup for School work.

We came a good third in the House Athletics. A point of great interest is that we came second in all the relays. (The Colts won on the disqualification of the winners.) These results were due only to the hard work put in by the runners and by J. H. Richardson in training them, and illustrate what a little keenness and House spirit will do.

In the Cricket we were soundly beaten by a vastly superior Arnison side. We only played one match, as no time was available for fixtures against the other Houses. The inter-House matches should not be subordinated to the School fixtures as they are at present. Whilst this arrangement is continued there is no possibility of regaining the House spirit, which all House captains agree is sadly lacking in the School.

The House Tennis team were beaten by Disraeli in the first round of a knock-out competition.

With the building of the swimming pool on the Rye the old House Swimming competition may well be revived. There is a cup for this and Youens hold it at present. If this is swum for next year I wish the House the best of luck in retaining it.

J. R. MORGANS.

## SCHOOL HOUSE

This term the House has not experienced any radical changes, and the members have settled down to distinguish themselves in both sport and school work.

Our Head Boy, R. C. Todd, together with R. C. Jones, was awarded his Cricket Colours, while our other two stalwarts, Tony Wright and John Smithers, have again given faithful service to the 1st XI. "Ginger" Clark must be congratulated on gaining his Tennis Colours, and it was very gratifying to see so many of our Senior boys doing well in the Singles Tennis Championships. Chris Hall has continued to perform well in the athletic field, and he reached the final of the "880" in the All England Sports. To complete the line-up of sportsmen, Mann lent his talents to the Colts' XI on several occasions.

It was very satisfying to note several School House boys on the prize list, although the Middle "dorm's" contribution fell rather short of that expected.

This term several "Old Boys" visited the House, among them being Ralph Mann, Knight, Roger Sainsbury, Birch, Ken Inglis, Garry Savin and Smethurst. We also welcomed back our wandering ex-Housemaster, Mr. R. Howard, for a short stay, and we spent more than one enjoyable evening listening to his "shaggy-Turk" stories.

The House would like to give its best wishes to those leaving. Todd and Wright will be safely stowed in Cambridge and London Universities respectively, while Smithers and Bedford-James are hoping to go to "College", the former at Leicester University, while James goes to R.A.F., Cranwell. Ford also leaves to join the aircraft industry.

It only remains now to thank Mr. Runswick for guiding us through another successful term, to wish all our members a happy holiday, and the best of luck for the future.

J. A. BEDFORD-JAMES.

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## TYLERS WOOD HOUSE

The last few months at Tylers Wood have been particularly quiet, as thirteen of the boys have taken G.C.E. and were working hard. We were pleased to see that four of our boys received prizes on Speech Day. G. Moss and P. Yates gained 1st prizes for their respective forms, J. Randall 2nd prize, and A. G. Newton 6th form Mathematics prize.

On the sporting side, G. L. S. Hickey and C. Chandrubeksa excelled themselves at the County Sports, "Chan" winning the high jump at 5 ft. 6½ ins.



As usual, our Junior Cricket Team played and bat Hazlemere Choir in their annual match.

Our congratulations are extended to A. J. Gordon, last year's Head Boy, who gained a State Scholarship to Jesus College, Cambridge, and also to T. J. Gowan and M. Lacey, who were awarded Technical Cadetships in the Navy and R.A.F. respectively.

We had very few visits from the Old Boys, but amongst those we saw were A. J. Gordon, M. Lacey, F. Cafoor, T. J. Gowan, and especially P. J. Woods.

Finally, we sincerely hope that all those boys awaiting the dreaded results of G.C.E. will be satisfied beyond all expectations.

P. S. MATTHEWS.

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## UPLYME HOUSE

Once again another School year draws to its close, and with it comes the inevitable departure of several of our Senior boys. We are sorry to lose three of our four prefects : R. D. Mitchell, our Senior Prefect for several years, who is hoping to enter King's College, London, in the autumn ; R. B. Humphries, who will be applying for entry to Sandhurst Military Academy ; and finally, P. W. H. North, who is hoping to attend Leeds University. The House and the School have suffered a great loss, and we shall miss them. We wish them every success in their future careers.

The House has had a very successful term, both in academic and sporting spheres. We congratulate Volkonsky on gaining his Tennis Colours, and Dawes, who has also represented the School in the District Athletic Sports, on being awarded his 2nd XI Cricket Colours. North and Humphries rowed in the very first "School Four", which entered the Egham Regatta. The boat was coxed by Maurice, one of our seniors.

In the inter-boarding house competitions, we have had a memorable season, playing School House twice at 15-a-side Cricket, winning the first game and tying in the second.

Many of our boys have tried G.C.E. at all levels this term, and we wish them "happy postcards" during the holidays.

J. H. SPEIGHT.

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## "BUSMAN'S HONEYMOON"

The Dramatic Society has always shown good taste and a knowledge of its own limitations when it produces its annual play. These twin virtues were well in evidence when "Busman's Honeymoon" was chosen as the Society's 1956 offering and the production can fairly lay claim to be the best in the seven years of the Society's history.

This claim rests, not only upon the cast, but also upon the play itself. It is customary, in reviews of school productions, to practically ignore the play and to concentrate upon the cast. In the case of "Busman's Honeymoon," this would be a grave mistake, for the quality of the play added much to the Society's performance. In their preface to the play, the authors—Dorothy L. Sayers and M. St. Clare Byrne—stress their belief in the "fair play rule" for the detective-thriller, by which, they say, "every clue must be shown at the same time to the public and to the detective". The clues as to means, opportunity and motive are successively presented in three acts and the *dénouement* takes place at the end of Act Three. To present these problems of means, opportunity and motive successively and, at the same time, to prevent any two of them from dropping out of the picture altogether while the third is being discussed, requires a great deal of artistic skill—a skill which the authors certainly possess.

The characters, too, are more highly developed than is usually the case in plays of this kind. Any actor will find it difficult to excel in a part which is either inadequate or so true to "type" as to be meaningless. "Busman's Honeymoon" gets round these difficulties to a certain extent. For example, Bunter, normally so staid and reserved, becomes only too human in his annoyance when Mrs. Ruddle spoils his port. Then, the Reverend Simon Goodacre is a stage vicar, but he is human enough to take an almost childish delight in firing the shotgun up the chimney. Superintendent Kirk, too, could have been just another unimaginative policeman whose cases are solved for him by the hero. But he is slightly different, because he has a taste for literature. We even get a very strong impression of the character of the murdered man, although we never see him. There are little touches, it is true, but they help to raise "Busman's Honeymoon" above the level of the usual "whodunnit."

The cast which actually presented these characters in the Society's production was of a very high standard. There were no shining stars to overshadow their fellow-actors and one thus achieved an impression of unity. J. Bedford-James was a great success in the part of Lord Peter Wimsey. He seems to take a delight in playing clean-limbed young Englishmen and his zest and enthusiasm were evident throughout. His light-hearted *bonhomie* enlivened the play whenever it showed signs of flagging and he carried off the difficult love scene particularly well in this vein. M. Vaughan-Rees as Harriet, Lord Peter Wimsey's wife, gave another one of his excellent feminine portrayals. He has been a great asset to the Dramatic Society in previous productions and each performance seems better than the last. Various ladies in the audience to whom I talked on the final night of the play were unanimous in their praise of Vaughan-Rees' acting and no higher praise is needed. G. R. Williams made

a very convincing killer. To appreciate his talent, you have only to compare the part of Crutchley with the one he took in "The Housemaster" last year. A previous reviewer has expressed his admiration of Williams' acting in "The Housemaster" and I fully endorse his opinion with regard to "Busman's Honeymoon." The scene where Crutchley insults Miss Twitterton was particularly well done, revealing that element of tragedy in the situation which the authors intended to convey.

D. Maurice as Miss Twitterton had a tradition of R.G.S. "old ladies" behind him. If he did not quite come up to the standards set by C. J. Goodchild and M. Dickens in similar rôles, he did not suffer much in comparison either. The stage directions refer to Miss Twitterton as an "eager sparrow" on one occasion and Maurice brought out the fussy element in the character extremely well. The support he gave Williams in the scene mentioned above made it one of the most effective scenes in the whole play. M. Green gave to the part of Constable Joe Sellon a prominence which was not altogether implicit in the play. In the scene with Kirk and Wimsey, Green's performance as the panic-stricken but innocent police officer, who had been blackmailed by the murdered man because of a trivial lapse of honesty, completely dominated the stage. Fresh from his parade-ground performances, R. O. Mitchell gave a brilliant performance as Mr. Puffet, the local odd-job man with a touch of homely philosophy, the sort of character who often turns up in English comedy. Mitchell's boisterous humour provided the perfect contrast to the more sophisticated wit of Lord Peter in the early stages of the play. J. O. Small's portrayal of Bunter, the "gentleman's gentleman" was pleasantly restrained when it could so easily have been over-played. He must be congratulated, too, for his courage. Climbing up a rickety ladder in full view of the audience is a risky business, and I understand he was involved in a little mishap one night.

D. M. Jago played the Reverend Simon Goodacre with a rare feeling for the part. He almost seemed like of Anthony Trollope's Barchester clergymen. Jago's own sympathy for this kind of character had, I feel, much to do with his success. The part of Superintendent Kirk is not a major one, but A. J. Mactavish did succeed in portraying a methodical, rather unimaginative, but rigorously honest policeman and, exactly as the authors intended, he was the perfect foil to Wimsey in Act Two, where the different approach of the two detectives to the crime was clearly demonstrated. W. Fisher, as Mrs. Ruddle, had a difficult part for a young boy. His voice was a trifle high-pitched for it, but we can hardly blame him for that. His mannerisms and accent were extremely good and I should like to congratulate the make-up people at this point for making an excellent job of this character. P. Aikens as Mr. MacBride rounds off this survey of the cast. His voice was perhaps

not strong enough for the hall in which he was playing, but he certainly looked the part! The pencil-thin moustache, the loud tie and even the way he walked, branded him as a typical "spiv" of the Arthur English variety. It might be thought that this character is hardly in keeping with the representative of a firm of solicitors, but that is the authors' fault, not Aikens.'

It remains for me to express the debt which every audience owes to the back-room boys—the make-up people, the lighting-men, the prompter and the stage-hands—and, of course, the producer, Mr. A. L. Runswick. The producer has to mould the play to suit his cast. I have a copy of the play in front of me, covered with Mr. Runswick's emendations, which proves how well he did this job. A producer also has to mould his cast to suit the play and enough has been said by now, I hope, to demonstrate amply his success in that light. We can only hope that he will put his mind to the task of producing another play in the very near future.

G. WARNER.

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## SHORT STORY—POETIC JUSTICE

The spaceship, a glittering silver dumb-bell, hung amongst the stars that were scattered like dust across the heavens. Humming and clicking softly to itself, the wonderful automatic machinery of the ship watched, with sphinx-like patience, over the two sleeping crewmen. Everything, in fact, was just as it was meant to be . . .

But, out of the deep, never-ending night of space, a meteor, ambling along at the usual cosmic speed of *psst*, headed on a direct collision course with the ship. . . . The instant it came within two thousand miles of the ship, the radar's never-sleeping eye picked it up. Electrical impulses ran swiftly along wires, the meteor-alarm listened carefully, and, finally, made up its rather limited mind.

A continuing, ear-splitting screech, which did full credit to the maker's claim that "our alarm is the noisiest thing in space," echoed and re-echoed around the tiny crew cabin. Twenty-five seconds later the meteor struck. Not surprisingly, the crewmen woke at the first screech of the alarm. Clarke, the pilot, switched it off, and, casually yet carefully, the two men got into their spacesuits. Having checked the fastenings, they passed cautiously through the airlock, Hart, the astronaut, carrying a supersensitive leak-detector.

They found the meteor hole after covering only one-third of the ship's surface, Hart stuck a sticky patch over it, and they returned thankfully inside. Gratefully, they stripped off the suits, and, while Hart busied himself making coffee, Clarke pored over a detail-plan of the ship. Finally he decided that the meteor had struck somewhere in the wall of the ship's hold.

"Better go and see just where, I suppose," he said reluctantly, sipping his coffee.

They went down into the hold, found the hole, stuck another patch over it, and, to check that no other damage had been done, began to check over the cargo—medical supplies, precision instruments, three boxes of French cigarettes, a case of rare wine, five cases of books for the Venusberg Library, a box containing, apparently, the thirteen reels of the new super-epic, "The Labours of Hercules" (which had just beaten the censor off Earth and was impatiently awaited on Venus), and, well, lots beside.

Hart grinned cheerfully at the case of wine, passed on, glanced casually at the ship's refrigeration plant, stopped dead in his tracks, blinked, looked again, and began to swear in a way which, while interesting, was hardly of instructive value, and can scarcely be quoted in a respectable magazine.

"What's up?" Clarke inquired, ambling across to Hart.

"That — meteor"! said Hart, almost incoherently. "It's busted the 'fridge's motor."

(In reverse of popular opinion, space is not "ice-cold." On the contrary, any object travelling in space rapidly becomes too hot for comfort. Hence the need for a refrigeration plant to keep things bearable.)

"We'll just have to live in our suits for the next hundred and twenty-seven days," said Hart, when he had at last exhausted his extensive vocabulary.

"I don't much fancy that," Clarke complained, as they went back into the cabin. "Still, as opposed to roasting, it's definitely preferable." They put their suits back on, helmets excepted. Clarke began on another brew of the inevitable coffee, and Hart, as regulations demanded, began, somewhat morosely, to check over the control panel.

"Hell," he swore suddenly, "one of the airtanks is empty—the biggest one, too." Clarke peered at the dial, and groaned audibly.

"Air for eighty days," he said, grimly, "and we're still one-twenty-seven out from Venus!"

"If we fired the rockets, and accelerated", mused Hart, thoughtfully, "we could reach Venus in eighty-four days at the least. We might last the extra four."

"Except that we wouldn't have enough fuel to stop with," pointed out Clarke. Hart relapsed into silence.

"One-twenty-seven days out. Eighty days' air." Clarke's brain repeated the two facts over and over.

He wondered curiously just what it was that they reminded him of. Then he realised, and, for an instant, his mind carried him back to his early schooldays. "Can't you understand, Clarke," the ghost of his old maths. master said irritably, "that, if four men dig a trench in nine days, it will take three men twelve days to dig it

...?” If so much air will last two men eighty days, how long will it last one man? If did not take a mathematical genius to calculate that one man, and one man only, could yet live to breathe the muggy air of Venus. With a sudden surge of horror, Clarke forced his mind away from the thought, but, somehow fascinated, his mind insisted on returning to it. Calmly, Clarke began to consider the situation. Could he really bring himself to kill Hart? Ten minutes before, the answer would have been a definite “no,” but now he was not so sure. The instinct of self-preservation can do nasty things to a man’s mind. After all, said his mind, seeking some justification, he had as much right, probably more, than Hart to survive, for, by any standards, he was the better man, having as he did the responsibility of a wife and four children back on Earth. Hart, Clarke knew, had quitted his wife (who had since died), had no children, and no responsibility to anyone. No one would be any the worse for his death. Yes, decided Clarke’s mind, Clarke should be the one to survive. Problem—how to get rid of Hart? He knew there was no such thing as a gun or knife aboard, so . . . Happy thought—poison. There must be some in the medicine cupboard. Problem—how to get Hart out of the way while he looked through it?

“Nip down and get a bottle of that wine in the hold,” he said, conversationally. “We might as well have a sort of last drink before we put those — suits on. It’ll be the last chance we’ll have, ever.” That, Clarke thought, should fix it, Hart had always had a partiality for the ceremonial. He smiled inwardly as Hart nodded agreement, put down his coffee, stood up, and shuffled out the door. Twenty seconds later, Clarke dived frantically towards the cupboard . . . The fourth bottle he looked at bore a warning, in vivid red, that “one half gram causes instantaneous death.” “Just what I wanted,” thought Clarke, shuddering, as he tipped a little of the deadly grey powder into Hart’s unfinished coffee.

For the first time, he wondered what alibi he could have. But that didn’t matter now. Plenty of time later to think out a good story. . . . He heard Hart returning, hastily shoved the bottle back in the cupboard, and resumed his seat, trying hard to look unconcerned.

“Here,” said Hart, a bit too cheerfully, plonking a bottle on the table. Clarke drained the last of his coffee.

“Empty yours, and I’ll pour some wine in”, he said pleasantly.

“Oh no,” Hart returned, his voice suddenly grim. “I touch nothing I didn’t prepare myself.”

“But, but,” said Clarke, and shut up. Hart, ignoring him, sniffed cautiously at the coffee, laughed, emptied it down the sink, and rinsed the cup round thoroughly.

“I thought you’d more imagination,” he remarked casually, “but I quite agree that one of us has got to die. However, I don’t think it exactly fair that *you* should have the final choice.”

"What do you suggest then?" Clarke managed to get out.

"Some entirely unbiased way. Cutting cards, say. Loser walks out of the airlock. There's a pack in the hold. You fetch them, and I'll write out a statement that we both agreed on it. That'll save the winner any trouble." Realising that Hart had come through far better than himself, and half ashamed of himself, Clarke went down into the hold. . . .

He put the cards on the table, picked up the statement, read it, and scrawled his name under the neat signature of Hart.

"You first," invited Hart. Clarke wiped his forehead, reached hesitantly for the cards, and looked doubtfully at Hart.

"It's the fairest way," Hart shrugged. "You've got as much chance as me. I never was lucky at cards either." Clarke's panic subsided at this; he'd won a lot of money on cards. More certainly, staring at Hart, he drew out a card. He laid it on the table, prayed fervently to his long-forgotten gods, and then, at last, looked down at the card. The breath he hadn't realised he was holding, exploded out of him with a sudden, whooshing sound.

"Phew," he said thankfully, "thank God." He looked again at the king of spades. Hart shrugged fatalistically, quickly and decisively pulled out a card, looked at it, laughed, and flicked it, face upwards, on to the table. The king of diamonds glared malevolently at Clarke.

"You again," Hart instructed, somehow managing to grin. His nerve now thoroughly gone, Clarke gave a repeat performance, and slowly drew another card. He burst into hysterical laughter as he laid down—the king of hearts. "That's it," he thought, "the odds against him getting the last king must be astronomical."

"Ace high, of course?" Hart asked again, to Clarke's utter astonishment, managing to grin.

"Of course," Clarke consented. The odds against an ace must be nearly as high as those against a king.

This time, Hart also drew his card slowly. He glanced quickly at it, and then, frustratingly, started to laugh again.

"What is it, damn you?" shouted Clarke, his control snapping. Hart laughed again, and dropped it on the table. As he saw that it was the ace of diamonds, something in Clarke snapped. "I won't go, I won't go, I won't go," he screamed, jumping up, and lunging furiously at Hart. The table collapsed, and the bottle shattered on the floor, but neither man noticed. Hart, surprised, stopped a left and two stinging rights before he'd retaliated by smashing his right into Clarke's eye. He fainted with a left, landed another right, stepped back to dodge a vicious swipe—and slipped in a pool of wine.

He fell forwards, his head hit a corner of the table, blood spurted out, and he collapsed silently on the floor. A red mist still obscuring his brain, Clarke dropped on the motionless body, and

savagely battered its head against the floor. Finally, however, his rage cooled, and he realized, at last, that Hart was dead. Hardly knowing what he was doing, he dragged the body into the airlock, went back into the ship, pulled the inner door shut, and pressed the button opening the outer. The air in the lock whistled away into space, taking with it the body of the unfortunate, too-civilised Hart. . . . Clarke shut the door, went back into the cabin, kicked the broken glass into a corner, decided it was getting too hot, put on his space-suit, and laid down on his bunk.

After a while, he laughed. Who said crime didn't pay? It had just paid him the biggest reward of all—life! Who said the perfect crime was impossible? Hadn't he just committed it? But, he had been lucky. Hart, by obligingly providing the perfect alibi, had removed the one real obstacle to his murder. The perfect crime! He lay there, laughing at it from time to time, until, five hours later, a buzzer by his ear warned him that he needed to change his suit air-tanks. Still laughing, he went slowly down into the hold, and threaded his way towards the pile of reserve tanks. Half-way across, he halted, and stopped very, very suddenly. He had just remembered a fact, hitherto forgotten, that made nonsense of all his plans. . . . The fact was simple. One man, alone, cannot change his air-tanks, he needs help to connect the couplings. For Clarke, there was no help, no way whatsoever in which he could get a fresh supply of life-giving air. His present tank would last roughly another hour. After that—well . . . He laughed again, but, this time, there was more than just a hint of madness in it. "Poetic justice," he shouted, screamed and went on screaming, screaming, screaming. . . .

He was completely mad, and *still* screaming, when death by suffocation came to him fifty-eight minutes and forty-three seconds later. . . .

PETER KENNARD, 6M2.

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## IDLE THOUGHTS ON ACTIVITY

*Par la fenêtre* the martins are busy ;  
Their gymnastics and twirlings are making me dizzy.  
They zoom and they swoop, they climb and they dive,  
I simply don't see why they feel so alive.  
For if Spring passed this way bringing sunshine and roses,  
It was all lost on me : I was doing French proses.

Some dark clouds are seen and they sail o'er,  
But along come some white ones and they simply pour  
Down all the water that's cooped up inside,  
And the farmers still grumble, "The forecaster lied !"

P. M. WILSON, 6M.



## GRAND PRIX MOTOR RACING IN BRITAIN

Since the war British interest in motor racing has increased steadily, but unfortunately the number of tracks, good ones, that is, has not kept pace with the rise in attendances. The superb tracks at Brooklands and Donnington are now completely useless, chiefly owing to the war. Most of Britain's motor racing takes place on old war-time airfields, the perimeter tracks of which, if widened, make quite a good circuit, although not up to the standard of tracks like the Nurburgring in Germany. The most important circuits now in use in this country are Silverstone, Goodwood, Aintree and Brands Hatch, the last mentioned being the home of the great 500 c.c. "banger" races. Silverstone, although a flat circuit, exacts the maximum in driving skill from the competitors owing to the fact that the camber on most of the corners, instead of sloping into the corners, slopes away from them. This does not appear to be so from the position of a spectator, but a journey round the circuit will soon prove to anyone how easy it is to slide off at the corners when travelling fast.

Although the circuits have changed little since the beginning of motor racing, the design of the car has progressed steadily. In 1921 a restriction was placed on the size of the engine of a Grand Prix racing car, the capacity being limited to 3 litres. (Previously the size of engines had risen as far as 21 litres.) In 1922 the maximum capacity was reduced to 2 litres, and in 1926 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . Unfortunately the last-mentioned formula proved very expensive, so a new idea was tried out: the only thing to be limited was the weight of the car, which must not exceed 1,650 lb., excluding tyres, fuel, oil, and driver. This formula also failed, because the German firms of Mercedes, Benz and Auto Union were soon producing light-weight engines capable of developing 600 horse-power. So in 1938 a new formula of up to three litres was agreed upon. After the war the formula changed to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  litres supercharged or  $4\frac{1}{2}$  unsupercharged. But again the expense involved in the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  litre engines was fantastic and so more interest was being shown in the formula 2 events for cars up to 2 litres. The formula was changed in 1953 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  litres (unsupercharged) or  $\frac{3}{4}$  litre supercharged, although up to now only one firm has taken advantage of the  $\frac{3}{4}$ -litre size.

On the average the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -litre engine produces around 260 brake horse power and has when fitted to a car a top speed of around 170 m.p.h. It is significant to notice that the race average for the British Grand Prix has risen from 72 to 98 m.p.h. in nine years. When it is remembered that the fastest speed possible on the circuit is around 136 m.p.h. and that there are eight corners on the Silverstone circuit, these speeds show how much the development of the Grand Prix car has progressed in the last nine years.

D. W. PARKINSON, 5US.

## LAMENT ON A WINTER'S MORNING

- NARRATOR : Rise ! The alarum clock, accursed sight !  
Has rung the chime that puts thy dreams to flight,  
And with its tintinnabulating clang  
Proclaims the passing of another night.
- BOY : Dreaming, with dull reverberating snore,  
I heard a voice outside my bedroom door :  
"Eight times the clock has struck its even note ;  
The sun is high. Awake and sleep no more".
- NARRATOR : Dispel the dull night's vapours from thy brain,  
And lift thy head above the counterpane.  
Ah ! winter's frigid breath is on thy face.  
Heed not the voice. To sleep, to sleep again !
- BOY : Ah ! whither these sweet fancies of the night ?  
And whence this icy grip of Fahrenheit ?  
Oft have I meditated on this theme,  
But ne'er untwisted all its knots aright.  
And while I thread this misty maze of fate,  
The clock announces 'tis no longer eight.  
Once more the voice : "Arise ! Arise ! Arise !  
Thy bacon hath congealed upon the plate".  
Scorning the icy terrors of the day,  
I spring from off the pallet where I lay,  
To brave the water and its cold caress,  
To comb my hair, and gird me for the fray.
- NARRATOR : Engulf thy breakfast with imprudent speed !  
Let not digestion claim a moment's heed !  
Though Fate approach with whatso'er he will,  
Still on thy daily journey must thou speed.  
The clock no question makes of mice or men,  
Nor hath he speech, save that of NOW and THEN,  
But when the chime of Westminster hath rung,  
Duty asserts his ninefold deep Amen.
- BOY : Ah ! punctuality indeed before  
I swore—but it was summer when I swore,  
And, as the sun forsook the sky, my vows  
Drooped with the rose, and are, like her, no more.  
And thou who for me many times in vain  
Hast gazed beyond the clouded window-pane,  
And turning with a soft, regretful sigh,  
Hast murmured, "He is late, ah ! late again".  
When thou with joy shall hear the timid knock  
Of me, the latest comer of the flock,  
Remember, 'tis not I whom thou must blame.  
Reproach *me* not ; the culprit is THE CLOCK.

D. R. A. FRIEND, 6S.

## ODE TO A STICK OF RHUBARB

O noble stick of red and green !  
So grateful for thee have we been,  
When thou, like rope or stringy string,  
Bought from the Co-op (Wycombe and Tring)  
For ninepence a stick or a shilling a pound,  
Wast given to us in custard drowned.

(Or else to plate from basin dropped  
Wast given to us in custard slopped.—Ed.)

O noble stick of rhubarb ate !  
And so our stomachs were upset  
And we were very sick because  
The rhubarb cost three farthings an oz.  
But this was not the rhubarb used  
In the sand-pit where the prefects snoozed.

Now rhubarb makes us very quick  
To solve maths' problems in a tick ;  
For when we know the old cosine  
And know that we are doing fine,  
We think of how we ate last night  
Some rhubarb sticks to wake up bright.

(All sticks of rhubarb in this poem are purely fictitious and bear no relation to any living stick of rhubarb.)

J. G. BURNELL, 4s.

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## A VISIT TO NIAGARA FALLS

When I first went to Niagara Falls it was in the summer so that there was a great deal of water pouring down and large numbers of sightseers. Having gazed at the Falls themselves, we went out on a boat called the *Maid of the Mist* ; it was not a very large boat, but it was quite sufficient for its purpose, which was to take sightseers out around the Falls.

At one time we went so close to the Falls that the spray came down on us as hard as hail. During this trip we had to wear macks and sou'-westers. After this we had lunch in a place known throughout America : it was "Howard Johnson." Here you could get more than thirty different flavours of ice cream.

After lunch we went back to the Falls and once again we had to put macks and sou'-westers on ; this time we went down a long flight of steps to a small cavity and we found ourselves actually behind Niagara Falls, with the water thundering down in massive torrents. The noise was so terrific that you could only hear anyone talk if they shouted in your ear. Ten minutes down there was quite enough and when we got up we were glad to drive away.

S. C. TOMES, 2B.

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## SCIENCE SOCIETY

The Society's activities were curtailed this term as a result of the G.C.E. examinations. A lecture on Printing Inks was given to a small but interested audience. Two films were shown during one lunch-hour to a much larger but less interested audience.

A party of 30 visited an exhibition dealing with oil in all its forms, from its locating to its final utilisation, given by the Fluid Oil Company at Teddington.

We were unfortunate to lose our Secretary, Chinery, during the Easter holidays. He is in hospital at Henley with a serious illness. The members of the Society hope he will make a complete and speedy recovery.

J. R. MORGANS, 6S.

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## HISTORY SOCIETY

The History Society Exhibition of 12th-13th July was undoubtedly the Society's most successful venture during the past school year.

Much credit was due to the efforts of R. Thomson and A. G. Mactavish, who organised the amazing number of contributions from boys and staff.

The Library was transformed for the occasion and during the two days most of the School visited the exhibition either in form parties or of their own free will.

The centre of attraction was the section dealing with weapons, consisting of firearms, swords and knives. The collection of Japanese samurai swords attracted much attention, the demonstrator of this section holding second-formers fascinated with details of ceremonial suicide.

Other sections were devoted to archaeology, maps and documents, domestic and miscellaneous articles. The exhibition consisted of 178 articles ranging from a 1500 B.C. statue of Rameses II to a German Spandau machine gun of the First World War.

P. J. R. HAMES, 6M.

## CLASSICAL SOCIETY

Owing to the fact that most of the members of the Society have been arduously studying for the examinations, the committee felt themselves unable to arrange any talks or excursions this term. Next term, however, we hope to renew our activities and new members will be very welcome.

A. F. KING, 6C.

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## TWENTIETH-CENTURY OPINION SOCIETY

As above.

D. M. JAGO, 6M.

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## JAZZ CLUB

The annual exam. fever has struck the Jazz Club in the same way. It did, however, run one trip to hear Louis Armstrong. This is reported in the School Notes.

P. E. REAR, 6M.

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## ATHLETICS

### SCHOOL SPORTS

This year's School Sports took place on May 17th. The following boys were placed :—

- 100 Yards (under 12) : 1 Priestley (D), 2 Simple (A), 3 Walker (F).  
100 Yards (Junior Colts) : 1 Smith (D), 2 Ralley (A), 3 Hall (Y), 12.2. sec.  
100 Yards (Colts) : 1 Pratley (D), 2 Muller (Y), 3 Whatley (A), 11.4 sec.  
100 Yards (Open) : 1 Squires (A), 2 Gilder (F), 3 Richardson, J. H. (Y), 11.4 sec.  
220 Yards (Junior Colts) : 1 Small, D. (D), 2 Ralley (A), 3 Doug'as (D).  
220 Yards (Colts) : 1 Muller (Y), 2 Pratley (D), 3 Whatley (A).  
220 Yards (Open) : 1 Hollomon (F), 2 Dean (F), 3 Gilder (F), 23.8 sec. (Record).  
440 Yards (Colts) : 1 Whatley (A), 2 Gilbertson (D), 3 Kern (A), 58.4 sec.  
440 Yards (Open) : 1 Hollomon (F), 2 Westcott (D), 3 Clark (A), 54.7 sec.  
880 Yards (Junior Colts) : 1 Darvill (D), 2 Yates (Y), 3 Smith (D), 2 min. 20.2 sec.  
880 Yards (Colts) : 1 Gilbertson (D), 2 Bristow (F), Currell (F), 2 min. 15.6 sec.  
880 Yards (Open) : 1 Dean (F), 2 Hall (F), 3 Westcott (D), 2 min. 4.5 sec. (Record).  
Mile (Open) : 1 Dean (F), 2 Hall (F), 3 Slatter (A), 4 min. 41.6 sec.  
High Jump (under 12) : 1 Priestley (D), 2 Searle (Y), 4 ft. 2 in.  
High Jump (Junior Colts) : 1 Gillette (A), 2 Yates (Y), 3 Robson (F), 4 ft. 7½ in.  
High Jump (Colts) : 1 Leslie (D), 2 Sagar (D), 3 Nicholls (D), 5 ft. 2 in.  
High Jump (Open) : 1 Bunday (F), 2 Richardson (Y), 3 Cunningham (D), 4 ft. 9½ in.  
Long Jump (under 12) : 1 Walker (F), 2 Priestley (D), 3 Barlow (D), 12 ft. 5 in.  
Long Jump (Junior Colts) : 1 Palette (Y), 2 Yates (Y), 3 Smith (D), 14 ft. 10½ in.  
Long Jump (Colts) : 1 Kern (A), 2 Sagar (D), 3 Eales (A), 16 ft. 8½ in.  
Long Jump (Open) : 1 Bunday (F), 2 Richardson (Y), 3 Gilder (F), 18 ft. 9 in.  
Discus (Colts) : 1 Kern (A), 2 Sagar (D), Leader (A), 88 ft. 6 in.  
Discus (Open) : 1 Dean (F), 2 Hickey (Y), 3 Westcott (D), 114 ft. 2 in.

Javelin (Colts) : 1 Whatley (A), 2 Muller (Y), 3 Miller (A), 88 ft. 6 in.  
Javelin (Open) : 1 Mactavish (F), 2 Smithers (D), 3 Melsom (Y), 126 ft. 11 in.  
Shot (Colts) : 1 Muller (Y), 2 Whatley (A), 3 Gilbertson (D), 33 ft. 7 in.  
Shot (Open) : 1 Edwards (F), 2 Smithers (D), 3 Mitchell (D), 36 ft. 6½ in.  
Hop, Step, and Jump : 1 Richardson (Y), 2 Bunday (F), 3 Gosling (F), 36 ft. 2¼ in.  
Cricket Ball : 1 Harvey (D), 2 Hawkins (F), 3 Squires (A), 92 yds. 1 ft.  
Tug-of-War : 1 Fraser, 2 Arnison, 3 Disraeli.  
Relay : (Under 12) : 1 Disraeli, 2 Youens, 3 Fraser.  
    (Junior Colts) : 1 Disraeli, 2 Youens, 3 Fraser.  
    (Colts) : 1 Youens, 2 Arnison, 3 Fraser.  
    (Open) : 1 Fraser, 2 Youens, 3 Arnison.

Afterwards the Mayoress presented the cups, of which three of the winners of their respective age-groups were Dean, Muller and Smith. Fraser, with 172 points, won the House Cup, defeating last year's winner, Disraeli, by 28 points. Youens and Arnison had 111 and 99 points respectively.

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## DISTRICT SPORTS

### Holywell Mead, May 31st

This year's team did outstandingly well at the District Sports with 11 wins, of which five were records. Among the Juniors, Sagar won both his events, with a record of 130 ft. in the Discus, and Higgins, Bristow, Gillet and Kearne all attained performances which put them in the County meeting.

However, our greatest success came in the Intermediate Group. The Mile record toppled before Dean and Slatter, who had respective times of 4 mins. 44 secs. and 4 mins. 52 secs., and Edwards, Hollomon and Leslie all beat previous best performances.

Other wins went to Hussey, Richardson and again Dean in the Discus, and altogether 11 people went through to the County meeting.

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## COUNTY SPORTS

### Slough, Saturday, June 30th

The general high standard of this year's County Meeting was in a great part due to the efforts the competitors from this School. Dean and Hall set up new records in their events, and Chandrubeksa equalled the previous best performance with a high jump of 5 ft. 6½ ins. and was unfortunate in not being chosen for the subsequent Inter-County Meeting. Other standards went to Bristow and Sagar in the Seniors, Slatter, Hollomon and Richardson in the Intermediate Group, and Westcott in the over-seventeens. Ill luck in the field events came with our Senior competitors, Lamb and Edwards.

Lamb failed to make a throw but gained a place in the All-England which his performance justified and Edwards just made a no-throw which, at over 45 ft., would have otherwise been a record.

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## ALL ENGLAND SPORTS

The 26th S.A.A. All-England Championships were held this year at Plymouth on the 20th-21st July. Those R.G.S. boys competing were Sagar in the junior boy discus, Hollomon 100 yds., Dean and Slatter 1 mile, and Richardson J. H., triple jump, in the intermediate boys' class, and Hall 880 yds., Westcott 440 yds., and Lamb javelin in the senior boys.

Unfortunately success did not extend to the Bucks team except for Dean, who ran a fine race to win by 15 yds. in 4 mins. 33 $\frac{1}{5}$  secs. Hollomon was unfortunate to find himself in a heat with the subsequent winner and runner-up, but finished third with a time of 10.4. Hall gained entry to his final but finished eighth. Richardson was able to achieve a jump of 4 ft. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins.

The accommodation arranged for us was excellent and we deeply appreciate the hospitality.

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## ROWING

During the past year the four which, owing to C.C.F. engagements, were unable to compete last summer, have trained hard.

Some of us were extremely lucky when the Headmaster gave us permission to go down to Marlow on Wednesday afternoons. Despite the problem of transport, sometimes twelve of us were down there, training in bank- and moving-tubs as well as in fours.

The highlight of this term was Egham Regatta, to which our first four was entered. Unfortunately they lost by three-quarters of a length to Strode's School in the heat. But it must be remembered that this was the School's first participation in such an event. Those who represented the School were :—

Bow	....	R. Clark
2	....	R. B. Humphries
3	....	P. W. H. North
Stroke	....	A. J. Mactavish
Cox	....	D. J. Maurice

Finally, it would only be right to thank the various members of the club who have coached us. We must, above all, thank C. P. Keeling, who, in the last weeks before the regatta, gave the four a great deal of help.

## LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Played 10, Won 5, Drawn 2, Lost 3

This year's team was without doubt the best balanced side we have had for some time. The first and second strings (Simmons (Capt.) and Barwell, Rear and Whitehead) were more or less equal in strength but very different in style and strategy. Simmons and Barwell played good tennis often, while Rear and Whitehead simply wore down the opposition with most commendable determination. The third pair, Volkonsky and Clark, were more erratic and unreliable but they looked like tennis players and occasionally did very well. Most of the team will be returning next year and if it keeps up its present progress it will be quite capable of gaining some prestige for us at the Public Schools Lawn Tennis Association Youll Cup Tournament at Wimbledon. The team has two very promising reserve players in King and Bishop.

Colours for the 1956 season have been awarded to Whitehead, Volkonsky and Clark.

The results of the School Lawn Tennis Tournaments are as follows :—

**Senior Singles :** D. F. Simmons beat A. H. G. Whitehead 1—6, 8—6, 6—0.

**Handicap Doubles :** P. G. Rear and A. H. G. Whitehead beat Wright and Smithers 6—1, 6—1.

**Junior Singles :** H. Clark *v* Wilson, R. A. P. (not played).

### RESULTS

- May 5 *v* Newland Park Training College, lost 3—6.  
.. 12 *v* Courtaulds L.T.C., won 7½—1½.  
.. 23 *v* Slough G.S., won 6—2.  
.. 26 *v* Windsor County School, won 7½—1½.  
June 2 *v* Old Boys XI, won 5½—2.  
.. 23 *v* Watford G.S., drew 4½—4½.  
.. 30 *v* St. Benedict's School, won 9—0.  
July 7 *v* Magdalen College School, lost 7½—1½.  
.. 11 *v* R.A.F., Medmenham, lost 7½—1½.

Four matches were cancelled owing to rain.

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## REVENGE IS SWEET

### The Headmaster's XI *v* 2d

Last year the Headmaster said that he, with a team of mothers of boys in 2c and a few other ladies, would easily beat 2c at cricket. So 2c put that to the test and found that he was right. The Headmaster told us of this and we were sure that we could beat them, so the match was arranged and played as follows.



Mr. Tucker after winning the toss put 2D into bat and the opening batsmen paced nervously up to the hard, dry wicket. The first wicket soon fell, when 1 run had been scored. Things looked black for 2D.

But steadily the score mounted till 2D had 48 runs for the loss of three wickets. Still the score rose, even against the bowling of Mr. Tucker and Miss Dirkin. At the wonderful total (for 2D) of 123 runs 2D retired at tea, Cockerham having been caught by Mr. Everett when he was only three short of his half-century.

After a very good tea, 2D took the field and promptly dismissed the first batswoman. Priestly cautioned the bowlers to be lenient, which they were, as only three wickets were bowled. More wickets soon fell, but Mrs. Davies was only out when she had scored the very good total of six. Mr. Everett made a very creditable eight runs considering he has not played cricket for 15 years. Mrs. Tucker made a very good five runs, but Mr. Tucker was not able to show his prowess with a bat, as Mrs. Tucker was bowled by Macready.

Perhaps Mr. Tucker will get *his* revenge next year.

	<i>How out</i>	<i>Runs</i>		<i>How out</i>	<i>Runs</i>
R. Smyth	caught ...	8	Mrs. Priestly	caught ...	1
J. Davies	caught ...	0	Mrs. Davies	caught ...	6
P. Cockerham	caught ...	47	Mrs. Everett	caught ...	0
T. Cann	l.b.w. ...	15	Mr. Runswick	bowled ...	0
Priestly (capt)	caught ...	17	Mrs. Smyth	caught ...	0
Macready	not out ...	22	Miss Dirkin	caught ...	0
Maysey	not out ...	6	Mr. Everett	bowled ...	8
Sherley	} did not bat		Mrs. Folley	caught ...	2
Everett			Mrs. Tucker	bowled ...	5
Trick			Matron	run out ...	1
Roman			Mr. Tucker	not out ...	2
	Extras ...	8		Extras ...	—
	Total ...	123		Total ...	25

A. L. SMYTH, 2D.

## CRICKET CLUB 1956

### FIRST XI

*Captain* : F. E. J. HAWKINS

*Vice-Captain* : A. HARVEY

1st XI Colours : F. E. J. Hawkins, A. Harvey, E. M. Squires, J. C. N. Briden, A. J. Wright, J. Smithers, J. Pettifer, R. J. Dawe, R. C. Todd, R. C. Jones, A. E. Edwards.

Played 22, Won 12, Lost 5, Drawn 5

At the start of the season the Captain, with a year's experience behind him, decided that a policy of aggression would be adopted for the season. Drawn games are usually dull affairs, especially if one side has no intention of trying to win. As the bowling was always slightly suspect, it meant that the early batsmen had to score runs freely and consistently, and the fielding at all times needed to be of the highest standard. Winter indoor nets for the whole XI and courses at Lords for the two main run-getters helped the batsmen to reach form quickly, and intensive field practice raised the standard of fielding above that of previous years.

An all-out attempt to win games inevitably leads to a few defeats, especially if the Captain is determined to declare and give the bowlers a chance to get the wickets. This happened when Borlase were given 90 mins. to get 93 runs in a game that was delayed until after tea through rain. The visitors won a fine game with two balls to go, by 5 wickets, after their opening pair had put on 78 for the first wicket. Against Amersham the School scored a miserable 55 and were deservedly beaten by 2 wickets. These two defeats were the only inter-school losses of the season, all the other school games were won, in most cases by big margins, except for a dull draw with Slough, who made little effort to get the runs. The new fixtures with Emanuel and Queen Elizabeth's, Barnet, were very pleasant games, especially as the School won the first by 7 wickets and the second by 9 wickets. Watford did not provide the usual tough opposition that we have come to expect from them and the game was won by 89 runs on the stroke of time!

The Club games provided the usual attractive cricket and the match with Wing-Comdr. Edward's star-studded XI gave the regular spectators some delightful batting and fielding by both sides—425 runs were scored in this game including three individual 50's. The final match with the Combined Schools XI—this game serves as a first County Colts Trial—although drawn, was a delightful game to watch. The opening stand of 87, one little short of the highest for the season, showed Harvey at his best, and Hawkins at No. 3 took 40 mins. over his 50, including 20 off a five-ball over from the Colts' Captain. This was a fine last effort for the Captain.

As was expected, the Captain—F. E. J. Hawkins—in his fifth year with the side, showed how much a cricketer improves with experience. His wicket-keeping was, as usual, first class, but perhaps his greatest asset is his ability to get runs very quickly in delightful style and so often change the whole state of the game. This was made possible by the fine opening stands of a pair of batsmen who did the job for the complete season. Hawkins was always most ably supported by A. Harvey, a delightful bat to watch and an excellent field. J. C. Briden, who with E. M. Squires is the most improved batsman of the year, played some good innings inspite of a

very ugly hook shot. A. J. Wright at No. 4 was always forceful and entertaining, even if some of his cover-drives finished at the third man boundary ! and his energetic running between wickets did much to keep the side on top. A. Edwards made some useful scores in the middle of the order, and the rest of the side, when called upon, could be relied upon to get runs.

The bowling lacked the bite of the previous season. Squires bowled fast but too often off the target. J. Smithers proved to be a useful stock bowler with ability to move the ball away. J. Pettifer in his first season with the XI was steady throughout, and J. C. Briden again bowled his usual number of overs, often with great success, helped as usual by the wicket-keeper. The introduction of a second "off-spinner" in Harvey eased the situation for the regular men.

The fielding was good. Outstanding ground fielding by Harvey, excellent throwing by the whole team and close fielding by Jones, Dawe, Todd and Squires delighted the spectators and opposition alike.

As usual the Club is in debt to Mr. Hills and Mr. Runswick for their help with the umpiring ; to Mr. Beeson for his ever excellent wickets, and to Mrs. Clarke for her help with the catering in the Memorial Pavilion. How good it is to have tea in such pleasant surroundings instead of tramping to the canteen and wasting valuable time in the process. The catering on the all-day games was done by Mrs. Nightingale and Mrs. Hawkins, and the Club is more than grateful for their willing assistance.

Good luck to all the leavers, many of whom have made their mark in school cricket. The Captain must have created an all-time record for years of service with the XI. There is not much doubt that he will be heard of in better class cricket in the near future.

H.W.J.

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### FIRST XI RESULTS

- May 2—v Newland Park T.C. Newland Park won by 34 runs.  
Newland Park 140 (Briden 3 for 40, Pettifer 4 for 30).  
R.G.S. 106 (Hawkins 28).
- .. 5—v Amersham G.S. Amersham G.S. won by 2 wkts.  
R.G.S. 55.  
Amersham G.S. 56 for 8 wkts. (Smithers 3 for 18, Briden 4 for 17).
- .. 12—v High Wycombe "A" XI. Match drawn.  
R.G.S. 147 for 9 dec. (Harvey 38).  
High Wycombe "A" 138 for 9 (Smithers 4 for 32, Briden 4 for 49).
- .. 23—v Slough G.S. Match drawn.  
R.G.S. 156 for 9 dec. (Briden 57, Wright 41, Squires 21).  
Slough G.S. 105 for 8 wkts. (Smithers 3 for 26).
- .. 26—v Windsor County School. R.G.S. won by 4 wkts.  
Windsor 129 for 9 dec. (Smithers 3 for 18, Briden 3 for 31).  
R.G.S. 130 for 6 wkts. (Wright 38 not out, Squires 22).

- May 30—*v* R.A.F. Apprentices, Halton. Halton won by 98 runs.  
Halton Apprentices 134 for 6 dec. (Squires 3 for 13).  
R.G.S. 36.
- June 2—*v* Emanuel School. R.G.S. won by 7 wkts.  
Emanuel 120 (Pettifer 4 for 21).  
R.G.S. 121 for 3 wkts. (Hawkins 63 not out).
- .. 6—Sir William Borlase' School. Borlase won by 5 wkts.  
R.G.S. 92 for 9 dec. (Squires 22 not out).  
Borlase 93 for 5 (Squires 3 for 32).
- .. 13—*v* R.A.F., Medmenham. Medmenham won by 1 wkt.  
R.G.S. 130 for 7 dec. (Harvey 38).  
Medmenham 131 for 9 (Squires 4 for 23).
- .. 20—*v* J.S.S.C., Latimer. R.G.S. won by 7 wkts.  
Latimer 120 (Squires 4 for 30, Briden 5 for 36).  
R.G.S. 124 for 3 (Harvey 43, Hawkins 36).
- .. 23—*v* Watford G.S. R.G.S. won by 89 runs.  
R.G.S. 159 for 4 dec. (Harvey 46, Briden 35, Hawkins 40, Wright 24).  
Watford G.S. 70 (Briden 5 for 23, Harvey 2 for 6).
- .. 26—*v* J.S.S.C., Latimer. R.G.S. won by 50 runs.  
R.G.S. 171 for 2 dec. (Hawkins 35).  
Latimer 121 (Pettifer 3 for 18).
- .. 30—*v* St. Benedict's. R.G.S. won by 46 runs.  
R.G.S. 116 (Hawkins 44).  
St. Benedict's 70 (Squires 6 for 20, Smithers 2 for 27).
- July 17—*v* Staff XI. Match drawn.  
Staff 168 for 9 dec. (Hall 37, Morgan 37) (Squires 3 for 41, Pettifer  
5 for 43).  
R.G.S. 155 for 9 (Harvey 31, Briden 21, Hawkins 22).
- .. 7—*v* St. Bartholomew's School, Newbury. R.G.S. won by 5 wkts.  
Newbury 149 for 9 dec. (Smithers 5 for 58).  
R.G.S. 151 for 5 wkts. (Harvey 47, Briden 22, Hawkins 35, Squires 37  
not out).
- .. 4—*v* R.A.F., Halton, Officers XI. R.G.S. won by 4 wkts.  
Halton 111 (Smithers 2 for 23, Squires 3 for 34).  
R.G.S. 112 for 6 (Harvey 43, Wright 33, Hawkins 20 not out).
- .. 11—*v* Dunstable G.S. R.G.S. won by 100 runs.  
R.G.S. 176 for 6 dec. (Harvey 24, Hawkins 91).  
Dunstable 76 (Pettifer 5 for 9, Briden 2 for 2, Harvey 2 for 6).
- .. 18—*v* Abingdon School. R.G.S. won by 33 runs.  
R.G.S. 110 for 3 dec. (Harvey 39 not out, Briden 41).  
Abingdon 77 (Briden 7 for 27).
- .. 20—*v* Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet. R.G.S. won by 9 wkts.  
Barnet 67 (Smithers 2 for 20, Briden 5 for 16).  
R.G.S. 70 for 1 (Hawkins 41 not out, Briden 21 not out).
- .. 21—*v* High Wycombe "A" XI R.G.S. won by 7 wkts.  
Wycombe "A" 86 (Squires 3 for 24, Briden 4 for 24).  
R.G.S. 90 for 3 (Harvey 51 not out).
- .. 24—\**v* Wing/Commandr. Edwards' XI. Match drawn.  
Wing/Commandr. Edwards' XI 223 for 5 dec.  
R.G.S. 199 for 10 wkts. (Harvey 54, Briden 28, Hawkins 45).
- .. 25—\**v* Bucks Colts Trial XI. Match drawn.  
R.G.S. 180 for 4 dec. (Harvey 70, Briden 41, Hawkins 60).  
Bucks Colts 141 for 6 (Squires 3 for 20).

\*—Twelve-a-side.

## FIRST XI AVERAGES

		<b>Batting</b>						
		<i>Innings</i>	<i>Times Not Out</i>	<i>Highest Score</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Average</i>		
Hawkins	... ..	22	3	91	647	34.05		
Harvey	... ..	21	2	70	596	31.31		
Squires	... ..	16	5	37*	196	17.8		
Briden	... ..	22	1	57	366	17.42		
Wright	... ..	18	2	41	251	15.6		
Edwards	... ..	14	4	24	110	11		

\*—not cut

		<b>Bowling</b>						
		<i>Overs</i>	<i>Mdns.</i>	<i>Wides</i>	<i>No-balls</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Wkts.</i>	<i>Average</i>
Briden	... ..	189.2	34	—	1	538	49	10.97
Squires	... ..	198.3	43	1	—	502	41	12.24
Pettifer	... ..	108	26	—	—	276	18	15.3
Harvey	... ..	69.1	8	2	1	217	14	15.5
Smithers	... ..	209.1	60	1	—	474	29	16.3

**Catches :** Hawkins 14, Harvey 10, Briden 8, Squires, Edwards 7, Jones, 5, Wright 4, Todd 2, Pettifer, Smithers 1.

**Stumpings :** F. E. J. Hawkins 25.

## SECOND XI

Played 14, Won 6, Lost 6, Drawn 2

The Second XI has performed in its usual carefree way. The team have played purely to enjoy their cricket. The three occasions on which fine weather was really desired were wet. The game against Royal Masonic had to be cancelled and so revenge for a crushing defeat last year has to be postponed until next year. The Reading match was played in light rain and resulted in a resounding quick win for the School. A fruitless trip was made to Birmingham as it was raining there. This match had last year been lost owing to the only no-ball of the season.

The results have not been as good as were hoped at the beginning of the season. Six members of last year's team remained. The poor results were mainly due to the failure of the batsmen and some lapses in fielding. Unfortunately the team got into a rut right from the beginning of the season by first losing a match and then winning a match. This sequence was only broken at the end of the season when two matches in succession were won.

None of the batsmen really settled down this year. However, most of the batsmen had one day on which they scored well. On two fine days particularly high scores were made. Against Emmanuel

the only century stand for the School was made by the opening batsmen, Saunders and Gilder, but ten catches were dropped and the match ended in a draw. Another high score was made at Dunstable, but Dunstable played for a tame draw. Nearly half the overs bowled were maidens, and despite the fact that six overs were bowled in the last ten minutes the last two batsmen could not be removed. Hares scored consistently towards the end of the season, and Saunders, Bone and Gilder had their days of brilliance. Dawes also had remarkable success with his leg sweep-cum-hook shot.

The bowling was more consistent, although sometimes weakened. Dean bowled well on the hard dry wickets. Bates, too, had success on his less erratic days. Hares bowled well and very consistently. However, a demon bowler was found in the last three matches when Bone took 11 for 43.

The fielding could have been better, particularly in the slips, but it was never really bad. Thanks are due to all the umpires, especially Mr. Barnes, and the scorers for helping to make it an enjoyable season for all the members of the team.

## SECOND XI RESULTS

- May 2—*v* Newland Park (away), lost by 43 runs.  
Newland Park 80 (Dean 5 for 18). R.G.S. 37.
- .. 6—*v* Thame (away), R.G.S. won by 1 wkt.  
Thame 91 (Dean 6 for 25). R.G.S. 92 for 9.
- .. 13—*v* Amersham (away), lost by 37 runs.  
Amersham 76. R.G.S. 39.
- .. 23—*v* Slough (away), won by 10 runs.  
Slough 73 (Saunders 5 for 15). R.G.S. 83.
- .. 26—*v* Windsor (away), lost by 3 wkts.  
R.G.S. 109 for 8 dec. Windsor 113 for 7.
- June 2—*v* Emmanuel (home), drawn.  
R.G.S. 153 for 4 dec. (Saunders 71, Gilder 51). Emmanuel 113 for 5.
- .. 6—*v* Borlase (away), won by 57 runs.  
R.G.S. 108 for 7 dec. Borlase 51.
- .. 23—*v* Watford (away), lost by 48 runs.  
Watford 108. R.G.S. 60.
- .. 30—*v* St. Benedict's (home), won by 8 wkts.  
St. Benedict's 56. R.G.S. 57 for 2.
- July 7—*v* Newbury (home), lost by 3 wkts.  
R.G.S. 82. Newbury 84 for 7.
- .. 11—*v* Dunstable (away), drawn.  
R.G.S. 175 for 8 dec. (Bone 61). Dunstable 80 for 9.
- .. 14—*v* Reading (home), won by 6 wkts.  
Reading 58. R.G.S. 59 for 4.
- .. 18—*v* Abingdon (home), won by 7 wkts.  
Abingdon 43 (Bone 5 for 22, Bates 5 for 19). R.G.S. 44 for 3.
- .. 20—*v* Barnet (home), lost by 57 runs.  
Barnet 116 (Dean 4 for 19). R.G.S. 59.

## SECOND XI AVERAGES

			<b>Batting</b>				
			<i>Innings</i>	<i>Not Out</i>	<i>Highest</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Average</i>
Saunders	...	...	13	2	71	167	15.2
Bone	...	...	9	0	61	124	13.7
Hares	...	...	11	1	38	135	13.5
Gilder	...	...	7	0	51	92	13.1
Dean	...	...	8	6	8	22	11
Dawes	...	...	13	3	20	104	10.4
Bates	...	...	11	3	27*	83	10.3
Reeves	...	...	8	2	20	52	8.6
Tate	...	...	5	1	14	29	7.25
Muller	...	...	10	1	30	64	7.1
Cunnold	...	...	12	2	21*	59	5.9

\*—not out.

Also batted : Gosling 8, Read 2, Babb 13, Collett 3.

			<b>Bowling</b>				
			<i>Overs</i>	<i>Maidens</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Wickets</i>	<i>Average</i>
Bone	...	...	20.4	4	43	11	3.9
Dean	...	...	140.1	49	233	37	6.29
Hares	...	...	55.2	18	117	16	7.3
Reeves	...	...	17.4	7	41	5	8.2
Saunders	...	...	27.2	6	70	7	10
Bates	...	...	153.1	42	391	33	11.9
Dawes	...	...	16.4	2	52	3	17.3

**Catches :** Gilder 6, Bates 5, Muller 5, Saunders 4, Dean 4, Dawes 4, Bone 3, Hares 3, Reeves 2, Babb 2, Gosling 1, Cunnold 1.

**Stumpings :** Gilder 2.

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## COLTS XI

The Colts XI have had quite a successful season this year. Eight matches were played, five were won, two lost and one drawn.

Of the batsmen Puddephatt showed the most aggressive spirit with the best style, and Breslin and Simpson, with Puddephatt, were the most consistent scorers.

The team were unusual in that there were no slow bowlers, which was unfortunate, for we usually look to the Colts to provide First XI players eventually, and lack of a slow bowler in the Colts might mean no slow bowlers for the First XI.

However, of the fast bowlers, Currell and Blokland bowled particularly well and finished up with averages of 3.6 and 3.9 respectively.

Miller proved a good skipper, ably supported by White, his vice-captain. Miller also did creditably as the wicket-keeper.

If one can generalise about a team, I would say the Colts lacked finesse in their batting but made up for this by aggressiveness in fielding and bowling.

Colours were awarded to Miller, White, Simpson, Puddephatt, Cox, R., Munro, Rally, Blokland and Currell. D.N.

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## JUNIOR COLTS

Played 8, Won 6, Lost 2

The season's play with three matches cancelled because of rain has left mixed impressions. At the start it appeared that the team would be reasonably strong in batting, but the bowling very weak. Yet in fact the position became almost reversed. The bowling improved very quickly, became reliable and very difficult to score from. The batting, however, never quite fulfilled its promise.

The most pleasing feature of the batting has been the determination of those lower in the order to get some runs, if the early batsmen failed. This was the key factor in several matches won. In the field, too, the steady bowling was supported by competent team work, which lacked just that little essential bite and attack to make it really good.

One must again comment on the failure of several boys to profit from their net practice. Only by applying the techniques they are taught there can progress be made. As usual it was those who did so who had most success ; but that appears to mean nothing to some ham-fisted brethren.

Team : Horley (Captain), Dronfield, Dawes, Simpson, Wrench, Holdship, Waller, Matthews, Stockwell, Macready, Janes.

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## THE STAFF MATCH

Old Boys and old masters have pleasant memories of many free-hitting staff matches full of surprises for individuals on both sides. There has been good cricket played in this match before, but this year's game seemed a specially good one. The new look of the masters' team only became obvious when they fielded. Runs never came so freely as to turn the game into a contest of fast scoring ; but Mr. Hall and Mr. Johnson batted with brisk success, and Mr. Morgan demonstrated the correct use of the long handle. The Headmaster surprised the innocent with some fine strokes. (These two have been in regular practice outside my class room.)

It was in the field that a change was noticed. The boys have some formidable batsmen this year, but they found the fielders no longer so slow and lazy as of old, but bounding about like harte-beest on the veldt. Our team had young blood in its veins, in the



persons of Mr. Hall, Mr. Bridges, Mr. Alan Davies, Mr. Thomas, M. A. Labatut, L-ès-L, Mr. Nightingale, and Mr. Barnes and—for politeness—others. The bowling was brisk and some excellent catches were held. We are bound to record for posterity that M. André Labatut in his first and only game of cricket, fielding as substitute for the Headmaster, held a magnificent catch to dismiss A. J. Wright. After Harvey and Briden had entertained the spectators with some batting good to watch, and the Captain, Hawkins, had been mercifully restricted to twenty-odd quick runs, the match ended very fairly in a draw. C.M.H.

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## OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

### Births

GRANT, R. (1932-38). On May 24th, 1956, at Woking, to Mr. and Mrs. Roger Grant, a daughter.

LITCHFIELD, A. P. (1944-49). On July 7th, 1956, at Amersham Hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Litchfield, a son.

### Marriages

CLARKE—PERRY. On April 1st, 1953, at High Wycombe, G. J. Clarke (1940-45) to E. Perry.

MOORE—STONE. On September 3rd, 1953, at High Wycombe, R. B. Moore (1934-40) to Miss Beryl June Stone.

### Deaths

T. H. REDINGTON (1892-96). On March 21st, 1956, at High Wycombe, Thomas Hugh Redington, aged 74.

Redington was a recognised all-round sportsman and excelled at nearly every outdoor sport. He played as goalkeeper for Wycombe Wanderers for several seasons, was a stalwart member of the High Wycombe Cricket Club 1st XI and played in the Bucks County side. He also excelled at hockey and badminton, playing for premier High Wycombe clubs and for county teams. He played regularly and often captained the O.B.'s against the School from 1907 to 1924 without a break, and was an expert at getting singles. His widow, Mrs. Janet Redington, was the first woman teacher at the R.G.S. and helped on the staff during the Second World War.

W. G. HITCHCOCK (1914-20). On April 1st, 1956, at High Wycombe Hospital, after a sudden collapse, William George Hitchcock, aged 50.

After leaving school, Hitchcock qualified as a sanitary and heating engineer at the London Polytechnic, where he was awarded a gold watch by the Institute of Plumbers for obtaining the maximum marks awarded in any competition. He joined the business founded by his grandfather in 1860, and in 1940, after the death of his father, he took over the business with his sister Muriel. He was President of the Ironmongers Assistants' Association and a member of the High Wycombe and District Chamber of Commerce. He leaves a widow and one son.

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### Annual General Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting** was held in the Art Room of the Royal Grammar School at 6.45 p.m. on Saturday, March 17th, 1956. The President (Mr. E. R. Tucker) was in the chair and nearly fifty O.B.'s attended.

Discussing the Memorial Pavilion, the President gave a comprehensive summary of the situation up to date. He mentioned in particular the generosity of O.B.'s. Eric Janes was giving his services free as architect ; Ron Cubbage was prepared to install the heating apparatus free of cost and another O.B. not named was giving oak furniture towards the furnishing of the Pavilion. It looked after taking everything into consideration, including the splendid contribution of about £1 per head from the parents of boys at present in the School, as if there would be a deficit of around £600. It was resolved that the Committee at their next meeting should consider a further gift of up to £100 from the funds of the Club. There would be a special function at the official opening on Saturday, June 16th, with a cricket match between the O.B.'s and the School.

The statement of accounts for the year 1955 showed a substantial increase due to a record entry of life members.

The President, Vice-Presidents and Officials were re-elected for 1956. A. E. Green and the Rev. A. J. Skipp were appointed to the Committee to take the place of A. G. Duckering and H. C. Hickman, who were afraid they would find it difficult owing to distance to attend all the meetings.

It was resolved that the Annual General Meeting and the Re-union for 1957 should be held again at the R.G.S. at approximately the same time of the year.

## OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

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### Statement of Account for year ending 31st December, 1955

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Cash at Bank (31.12.54) ...	108 16 2	Dinner ... ..	68 8 0
In Savings Bank ... ..	436 9 4	Stamps, etc. ... ..	11 16 0
Subscriptions :		Magazine ... ..	64 19 0
53 at 5/- ... ..	13 5 0	Freer & Hayter ... ..	2 10 7
4 at 10/- ... ..	2 0 0	Cash at Bank (31.12.55) ...	172 13 1
1 at £3 ... ..	3 0 0	Savings Bank ... ..	447 7 4
29 at £3 3s. ... ..	91 7 0		
51 Bankers' Orders for 5/-	12 15 0		
Dinners, 155 at 10/-+6/-...	77 16 0		
3½% War Loan (£325) ...	11 7 6		
Savings Bank Interest ...	10 18 0		
	£767 14 0		£767 14 0

### OFFICERS FOR 1956

*President* : E. R. Tucker, Esq.

*Chairman* : J. P. Lord, Esq.

*Vice-Presidents* : Messrs. G. W. Arnison, W. J. Bartle, Rev. A. M. Berry, Messrs. H. G. Brand, P. C. Raffety, Col. L. L. C. Reynolds.

*Committee* : Messrs. R. W. Bartlett (1900-07), G. Hyde (1948-51), G. C. Rayner (1937-44), J. Read (1942-50), N. H. Theed (1912-19), L. B. Barnes (1924-30), S. E. Hands (1915-20), A. E. Green (1940-46), A. J. Skipp (1929-37), J. K. Prior (1934-40).

*Hon. Secretary* : P. L. Jones, Esq.

*Assistant Hon. Secretary* : H. W. Johnson, Esq.

*Hon. Auditor* : A. E. Franklin Hole, Esq.

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### Annual Dinner

The **Annual Dinner** was held in the School Hall on Saturday, March 17th, 1956, immediately after the Annual General Meeting.

The chair was occupied by the Headmaster (Mr. E. R. Tucker), President of the Old Wycombiensians' Club, and he was supported at the top by two former members of the staff, Mr. W. J. Bartle and the Rev. A. M. Berry, both octogenarians, by Governors of the School and senior Old Boys. Over 200 Old Boys, fathers and sons

were present to pay tribute to the Guest of Honour, Mr. G. A. Grant, who had been in charge of the Art of the School since 1918. The President read a telegram from Mr. G. W. Arnison expressing his best wishes to Mr. Grant and his regrets at not being present for the second time since the Club's inauguration. M. J. Martin (1943-52), proposing the toast to Mr. Grant, said he could not think of any aspect of the School activities in which Mr. Grant had not taken part. Seriously wounded in the 1914 War, he would always be remembered for the organisation of holiday camps at home and on the Continent, harvest camps, School concerts and the scenery for plays and operas, he had been a servant to the School, master of the arts and master of all he had taught.

In his reply Mr. Grant said he had seen the School grow from nine masters and 250 boys to one of over 800 boys with a staff of 40, and 4,000 had passed through the School in his time. His thanks were due to the whole School for the kindness he had received. It had made his long stay seem incredibly short.

In proposing "The School and Club," H. Dodgson (1913-18) recollected pleasant personalities and happenings, and responding Mr. Tucker reviewed the past during which more than 40 boys had gone on to Universities. The Governors were much concerned with preparations for the School's 400th Anniversary in 1962, by which time the School would have a new science block. J. P. Lord (1934-38), Chairman of the Committee, in supporting Mr. Tucker said the Club had not been so active socially during the last year, and to him at least the Rugby Club, although it had changed its name, would always be the Old Wycombiensians' Rugby Club.

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## OLD BOYS' NOTES AND NEWS

Apologies for a misprint in the April issue which made it appear that while undergoing an operation Mr. Arnison was also visiting Mrs. Arnison and his daughter Mrs. Ardron at two hospitals eight miles apart. Both Mrs. Arnison and Mrs. Ardron have now recovered from their minor operations.

M. F. J. ASHFORD (1939-42), now a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Navy, has just spent two years in H.M.S. *Magpie* as the Engineer Officer of the ship. He started off in the Mediterranean in 1954 and then in the South Atlantic station based in Simontown, South Africa. H.M.S. *Magpie* did about 3,000 miles and took the Gough Island Scientific Survey Expedition to Tristan da Cunha, the "loneliest island in the world". They completed their South Atlantic service and went to Lagos as the Royal Guardship during the visit of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in February, and needless to say had a tremendous time. For the next two years Ashford, as

Admiralty Development Engineer Overseer at Messrs. Metropolitan Vickers, Manchester, will not have to wear a uniform.

R. W. BARTLETT (1900-07) was recalled from a tour of Wales because thieves had ransacked his house of furs and jewellery valued at more than £1,000. The thieves had apparently used a skeleton key, they locked up when they left and took Bartlett's knapsack to carry off the loot. After helping the police Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett resumed their tour.

In the rose world G. D. BURCH (1911-15) continues his conquering career. He again won top honours at the Royal Windsor Show and at the National Rose Show was awarded a first prize for a recently developed variety of Floribunda. He also won a second and third prize.

G. D. Burch was presented to the Princess Royal at the National Rose Society's provincial show at Colchester.

R. H. DANCER (1917-23) has been re-elected Chairman of Wycombe Rural District Council and entertained his fellow councillors and guests at a reception.

A. W. HANDS (1906-09), as employer representative, has been re-elected Chairman of the Oxford District Advisory Committee of the Southern Regional Board of Industry.

A. R. HARRIS (1936-41), instructor in military history and law at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, has, in addition, been promoted to chief inspector of physical training.

C. C. HUFFLETT (1951-53), when he was on the *Conway*, became Senior Cadet Captain of the boats, and at the age of 18 has seen in the past twelve months more than most see in a life-time. Appointed a midshipman in the Royal Naval Reserve, he sailed 50,000 miles as a cadet on the M.V. *Durham* of the New Zealand Shipping Company. He is a qualified yachtsman and a member of the Royal Yacht Club.

ALLAN E. M. JANES (1914-19) has received the O.B.E. He is Secretary of High Wycombe Furniture Manufacturers' Association and a director of Ernest Turner Electrical Instruments Ltd.

R. D. S. MORE (1914-18) has been elected Chairman of the Berks Branch of the National Farmers Union.

ERIC R. JANES (1928-30), as a partner in the firm of Messrs. Thurlow, Lucas & Janes, architects, was presented with a bronze medal by the Société des Artistes Français for their design of a new cinema now being built at the Royal College of Science at Shrivensham, Berkshire. The perspective drawing of the design was accepted by

the Societé for their exhibition at the Paris Salon and has been admired by many architects and artists. It was the first time that Messrs. Thurlow, Lucas & Janes had exhibited abroad.

The REV. A. J. SKIPP (1929-37), priest-in-charge of St. Anne's Church, High Wycombe, lost or had stolen £5 in London. The loss, to his pleasant surprise, was made good in a letter from an anonymous well-wisher.

G. THOMPSON (1940-45) has not visited the R.G.S. for eleven years. When he left he and R. E. Chilton joined R. A. Blaikie & Co., Accountants, where Chilton still is as senior clerk. Thompson qualified in 1952 and joined the Internal Audit Development of the Humber Siddeley Group, where he now examines reports and if necessary advises on accounting systems and methods. He meets regularly L. J. Barrett, who is doing very well for himself as accountant with Electric Tubes Ltd. Thompson was married in June, 1954.

D. J. WILKINS (1940-41), unlucky enough to find the School empty when he called two years ago, hopes to have better luck this year. He hopes to be married shortly and is having a house built a few miles out of Southsea, where he now lives. He remembers being complimented by Mr. Birchnell for his smart turn-out at a parade for a visiting V.I.P. to the then A.T.C.

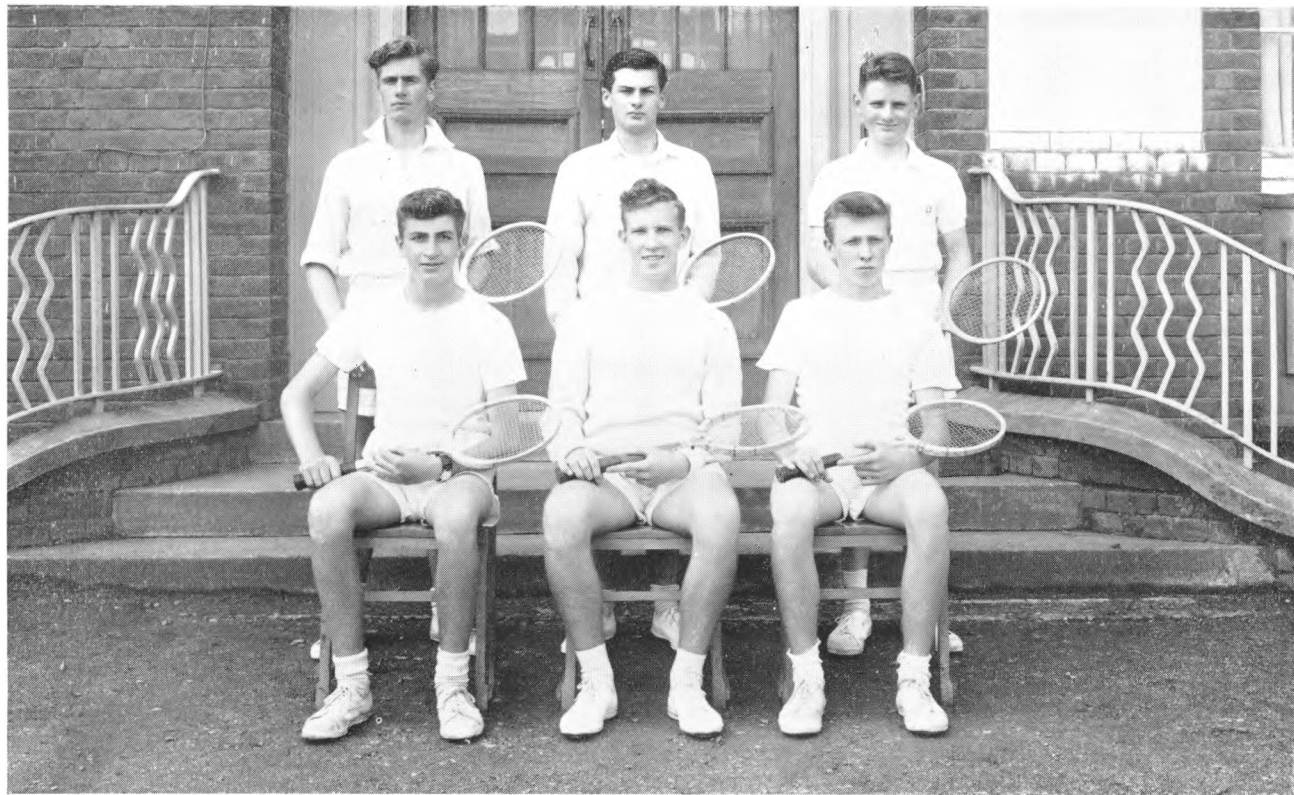
D. WILSON (1940-44) has been appointed Detective-constable in the Criminal Investigation Department and has been posted to Scotland Yard. He has served in the Metropolitan Police for the past four years and has been commended several times.

W. A. WOODS (1912-20) called at the School after an 18 months' spell in India. "Sammy," as an export salesman for Broom & Wade Ltd., with whom he has been for 30 years, has represented the firm in many parts of the world. Before his Indian trip, on which he took his wife, he had been to Canada and Australia, and will soon be going to Ireland. Wherever he goes Woods always manages to meet either an Old Boy or someone closely connected with the R.G.S.

Three O.B.'s were associated with the recent lavish and full-scale production of "Chu Chin Chow" in the Town Hall by the High Wycombe Musical Entertainments Society—H. C. T. BRIDEN (1915-22), P. M. M. SLATTER (1919-26) and T. C. WILLIAMS (1947-52). Slatter, as producer, continued his success

of last year with "The Desert Song" and deserved all the praise he obtained from the Press for a most impressive stage presentation. Briden distinguished himself by his rendering of the well-known "Cobbler's Song," while Williams gave an outstanding performance of "Chu Chin Chow" himself. Both Briden and Slatter have sons at the R.G.S. Young Briden has already made himself a name at cricket, while it looks as if Slatter has a future as a cross-country runner.

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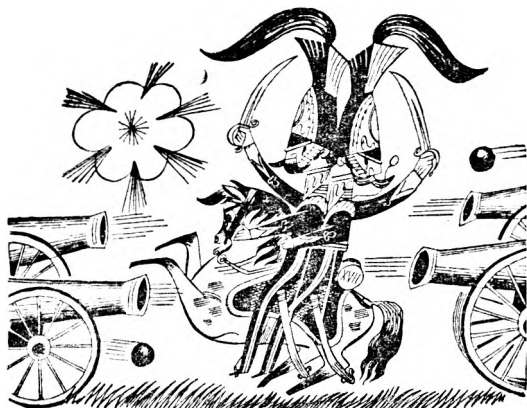
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*Front Row* : J. A. Barwell, D. F. Simmons, P. E. Rear



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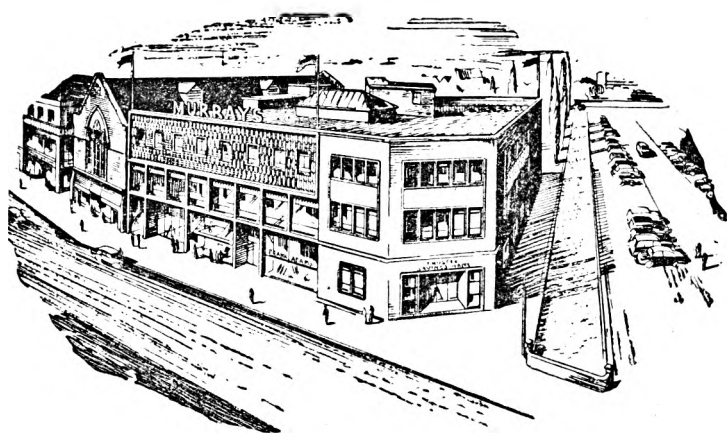
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