

The
MITCHAMIAN

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G. D. SAUNDERS
School Captain, 1957-1958

School Officers

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<i>Vice-Captains</i>	E. N. Tweddle, S. D. Votier
<i>Senior Prefects</i>	H. J. Covington, S. Gould, P. J. Norris R. M. Sharp, B. Weeden.
<i>Prefects</i>	P. H. Fettes, C. F. Hugill, D. Humphries, P. K. James, J. Kavanagh, K. E. Leach, J. McLean, D. E. Parsons, P. T. Platten, A. L. Sharpe, H. J. Slater, M. L. Smith, J. Stark, A. P. Styles, M. Teague, T. Thompson, A. C. Warren, D. J. Wills.
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<i>Team Captains</i>	ATHLETICS: P. T. Platten. CRICKET: E. N. Tweddle. TENNIS: S. D. Votier. RUGBY: K. E. Leach.
<i>Phalanx Chairman</i>	G. D. Saunders.
<i>Phoenix Chairman</i>	G. D. Saunders.
<i>School Librarian</i>	B. Weeden.

The Mitchamian

MITCHAM COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

NUMBER 35

JULY, 1958

Editorial

THROUGH the generosity of the Parents' Association we have been able to extend this year's Magazine by eight pages. This is not the only innovation but it is by far the most important since it has allowed more scope for publishing original contributions and therefore has helped to make the present issue a more representative product of School opinion and creative effort. It cannot be claimed, however, that the Magazine is yet fulfilling its true function in this respect.

In order to give some incentive to creative writing in the School, prizes have been awarded this year for the most interesting work submitted. The results of this competition were in some ways encouraging but the number of boys who took advantage of this opportunity to determine the contents of their own magazine was still far too small.

One of the ways in which a school presents itself to people outside it is through its magazine. In the following pages there are records of many interesting activities in which the School as a whole or various groups within it have taken part. But the life of the School exists also in what its members think or do as individuals, and this it is equally important for the Magazine to record if it is to give a true picture of our achievements.

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The Editor acknowledges with thanks the receipt of *The Suttonian*, *The Beccehamian*, *The Record*, *The Link*, and *The Magazine*.

School Notes

SINCE the last issue of the Magazine the school has suffered a sad loss in the death of Mr. M. Hopton, at the end of the summer term, 1957. An obituary notice appears elsewhere in this magazine.

We acknowledge with thanks a trophy presented by Mrs. Hopton in memory of her husband. It will be awarded annually to the best student in Chemistry.

Two boys have met tragic deaths in road accidents in the past year—B. W. Pearce and M. G. Crout. In memory of Crout's prowess at cricket a bat has kindly been given by one of the school Governors to be awarded annually to the boy with the best individual performance of the season. It will be known as the Michael Crout Bat.

During the year Mr. Madden, Mr. Martindale and Mr. Rose have left to take up other posts. They have been replaced temporarily by Mr. Davies, Mr. Foster and Mr. Blackham. Mr. Shaw has become Housemaster of Lodge.

At the end of this Summer Term we have to say good-bye to Mr. Lewis, Mr. Holmes and Mr. McKie, to all of whom we extend our best wishes and thanks. Mr. Lewis has been with us since 1935, for the greater part of the time as Deputy Head. His service to the school

has been outstanding in every respect and we shall miss him keenly. He is leaving to take up the post of Deputy Head of Holloway School.

Next term will see a number of new faces among the staff. We shall welcome Mr. V. Bainbridge (Music), Mr. G. Bernbaum (History), Mr. G. Holmes (French), Mr. D. L. Male (Head of French Dept.), Mr. N. N. Morris (Mathematics), Mr. R. Summersby (Chemistry) and Mr. E. J. Thomas (Botany and Zoology).

In September we shall have an intake of 90 new boys instead of the usual 60. This will inevitably place a strain upon our accommodation for a year or so, but work has already started on a new kitchen-dining-room, and two new laboratories. When they are ready we shall be much more comfortably housed.

The guest at Speech Night on October 23rd was H. B. Toft, Esq., B.Sc.

We congratulate D. H. Knott, G. D. Saunders and R. A. Welch on winning State Scholarships, and P. J. Norris on being elected to the Richard Taylor Exhibition at Keble College, Oxford. The following are to be congratulated on winning County Major Awards:—T. J. Benjamin, H. J. Covington, B. D. Galbraith, S. Gould, B. E. Lambert, D. A. Preston, E. N. Tweddle, S. D. Votier, D. A. Watkin, B. Weeden.

Our best thanks are due to one of the school Governors (who prefers to remain anonymous) for a gift of rose-bushes, and to M. Byford, G. Pearce, A. Wooten, and the parents of R. A. Welch for gifts to the Library.

The school again expresses its thanks to the Parents' Association for the gift of a Tape Recorder and for its support in a variety of activities.

An Old Boy of the school, E. F. Woods (1929-36) has recently been appointed British Vice-Consul at Teheran.

Dates for the school year 1958-59 are:—

Autumn Term: 9th September-19th December.

Spring Term: 7th January, 1959-26th March.

Summer Term: 20th April-23rd July.

Mr. Hopton

WITH the death of Mr. Hopton in July, 1957, was broken the last link connecting the School with its birth as a Grammar School in 1922. Thirty-five years is a long time in the life of any man, and a long time in the life of a growing London suburb; in 1922 there was no Tooting-Morden Tube, no St. Helier Estate, and the Lonesome district really was lonesome. The nucleus of the School existed, as a Primary School, in the form of the classes round the present hall; the Craft room was a laboratory and Mr. Hopton the only Science Master in a staff of a Headmaster and few assistant masters, to teach a young school of 70 boys. It is said that one of the younger staff did the School Captain's work! There was no gymnasium, no playing field and, of course, no decorative air-raid shelters. Soccer was played on the Common and the story is told of one member of the staff who, to make sure that nobody was offside, always kept the goalkeeper and two backs on the goal-line. Not until 1932 was rugger introduced and a little later the field, a filled-in gravel-pit, came into use.

Throughout this time Mr. Hopton worked in equipping the laboratory and in organising the Science teaching of a steadily growing school. For many years he was Housemaster of Red House, as it was called; he organised school outings and holidays abroad; he arranged school dinners, before the County stepped in, for a very select group of staff and boys—and they were good dinners. In 1933 the laboratory extension was built and the Science accommodation more than doubled in size; in 1938 the Library block was built and the old kitchen swept away, but dinners were now served in the hall from the present kitchen.

The Blitz shook the School, literally and metaphorically, and it was evacuated to Weston-super-Mare for two years. Here Mr. Hopton was Anti-gas Officer in Civil Defence, and he and Mrs. Hopton were most efficient and popular in organising the billeting and care of part of the School. After the return to Mitcham in 1942 Home Guard duties occupied a lot of his time until the end of the War.

Latterly the printing press was Mr. Hopton's chief interest and he quickly acquired a remarkable grasp of the technique and practice of small-press printing. Untold programmes, tickets and leaflets flowed from the printing room, while for many years the School Magazine was produced to time at the end of the Easter and Summer Terms, eminently legible, accurate and a pleasure to see. Mr. Hopton's enthusiasm infected a succession of boy helpers, but it was he who produced the necessary drive to keep it going.

Mr. Hopton always took a most sincere interest in the Old Boys' Association, and of recent years all Old Boys who visited the School asked to see him. In thirty-five years a master is found out for what he is. Every boy who passed through the School knew Mr. Hopton for what he was—sincere, honest, generous and a gentleman, and they will remember him as such.

Music Notes

THIS has been a most satisfactory and indeed progressive year as far as the School's musical activities are concerned—an encouraging answer to those who deplore the capitulation of modern youth to the meretricious attractions of current commercialised caterwauling.

The Choir was fortunate enough to preserve intact its bass line from last year, and this has again given a solid foundation to all the singing. Many members are in their sixth year of membership and deserve great credit for their continued loyalty and support. Owing to Asian flu and the consequent inadequacy of full rehearsal time the choir had to yield its traditional performing space at Speech Night to an ad hoc Junior Choir, who sang French songs. They were fully recovered, however, for the Festival of Carols in St. Mark's Church and the evening concert for parents, when the central item was Vaughan Williams' "Fantasia on Christmas Carols," with Mr. Rose as baritone soloist. We have been very glad of his help during his stay at school.

For our oratorio in the Easter Term we again performed Haydn's "Creation," partly because it had already been chosen for a London performance to which our tenors and basses were committed. This latter occasion given by representatives of 34 Grammar School choirs

took place in the Central Hall, Westminster, with Trevor Harvey as conductor, and was a valuable and exhilarating experience to all who took part. For the Mitcham performance we were joined by the excellent choir of Rosa Bassett, and the choral work was particularly successful this year.

We have entertained the local Darby and Joan Club this term and are giving our usual end-of-term concert.

The Orchestra continues to progress, and now boasts two 'cellos, an unprecedented luxury, and two trumpets. Music of a more ambitious kind has been tackled, largely because of the improved technique of the woodwind section, two of whom attended the Easter orchestral course run by Surrey Education Committee. Mr. Shaw took over the violin classes at the beginning of the year and it is good to know there will be a succession of violinists who will one day graduate to the orchestra. We are still hoping that one day a boy will decide to learn the oboe or bassoon. There are few things as rewarding as intelligent music-making.

The Recorder group continues to flourish and to explore many trios and other works from the instrument's repertoire.

Concert-going has been well supported and a record number of boys have attended the Saturday morning Festival Hall concerts. There have also been gramophone recitals during the winter months.

Librarian's Report

ONE or two experiments in the administration of the Library this year have proved very successful. The dust covers of books have been used to attract the attention of boys, while hundreds of books have been mended with the aid of sellotape.

So far this year we have had over three hundred new books and this number has been increased by the generosity of the Parents, who purchased no less than seventy-one books for us at the recent Parent-Staff meetings. As usual the Parents' Association has been in the forefront of contributors during the year.

The appearance of the shelves was vastly improved at the end of the Spring Term by the withdrawal of large numbers of tattered volumes and musty tomes. In the near future it is hoped that the Phalanx will provide a new method of displaying some of our out-size volumes.

Finally, I would like to add a note of thanks to those members of the lower school who have given help many evenings after school in maintaining the standards of the Library. Without their assistance it would have been impossible to repair so many books.

B.W.

The Importance of Being Earnest

WE were told, regretfully, before the play, that it is "funny to see boys dressed up as girls."

No doubt the Girls' School had *their* doubts about us before the play. We hope they were resolved, as ours were. No two boys, for example, could have been so exquisitely catty towards each other as Gwendolen and Cecily in their friendly get-together in Act II.

The play is all very clever and the plot most ingenious, but when it is acted one realises that much of it is monologue and not dialogue; on many occasions Algy takes a short breath, and Lady Bracknell a long one, in order to address the audience. The quips are very funny, "mais ce n'est pas le drame." Somebody says somewhere, "I'm sick to death of being clever," and we agree. The first belly-laugh in the play, when Jack says that he can produce a hand-bag at any moment, was obtained by a line that was not funny in itself, but depended entirely on the situation for its effect. The first ten minutes palled, but that was the fault of the play and not of the players.

The play is a kind of Lord Mayor's banquet, particularly for Algernon (Peter Norris), who never muffled a mouthful of tea-cake. A cross between a left-wing intellectual and a somewhat jaded sprig of nobility, he captured the heart of at least one six-year-old female member of the audience who probably did not realise that he was that kind of cross. Jack Worthing, J.P. (Nicholas Sproston)—heaven help the bench of magistrates!—kept well in mind the vital importance of being earnest and was an excellent foil to Algy.

To mention, with some trepidation, the women. Gwendolen (Penelope Biggs) was, too, an excellent contrast to Cecily (Eileen O'Hara). The latter looked rather a neo-Elizabethan than a Victorian miss until the feminine exchange of courtesies over the tea-cups, when all was well—at that point came out the eternal woman where even the modern ingénue and Cecily Cardew are sisters under their skins. Lady Bracknell (Jean Hyatt) got over the handicap of a relatively small stature and some dreadfully long speeches and did a difficult part most adequately. Miss Prism (Margaret Birch) was convincingly flurried at the end; she might have been more governessy at the beginning to provide one of the contrasts on which the play depends. After all, it is much larger than life.

Canon Chasuble (Frank Webb), in a small part, over-acted just about sufficiently. The odds and ends, as Crichton calls them, served and buttled and footed without loss of a syllable or a tea-cup. Merriman, the butler, no doubt deliberately and in our view mistakenly, looked an unbelievably gloomiman.

The play was not the most ambitious the school has been concerned in, but it was the most competently acted. The grouping, the stage-technique, the audibility and the general production were excellent, and we enjoyed it.

Crozon-Morgat, 1957

THERE are those who camp, and those in whom the mere idea of camping produces an unavoidable sense of nausea. I, myself, am a supporter of camping; but I will concede that, if my experience of French Camp is any guide, there is some slight justification for the opposite view. To arrive at St. Malo after a sleepless night, even if one is fortified by the last bacon-and-eggs for a fortnight, is not to see that historic town at its best: and the prospect of one hundred and forty miles in a French auto-car, with the certainty that someone (who—the boy behind me?) is going to be sick and that lunch is six hours away, is not encouraging. (The temperature in a French auto-car, *chose curieuse*, is never less than 95 degrees Fahrenheit; do you

remember that broiling afternoon we went to Brest, when B-tt-n, after taking a picture of warships in the Arsenal, inquired the meaning of the notice nearby, forbidding the taking of photographs under pain of imprisonment?) The party discovered, however, that the temperature is lowered when the windscreen falls out, as it did on the return journey eighty miles from St. Malo.

Then there are the Health-Giving Walks in the Rain, which I consider essential, after twelve hours of downpour, to keep up the morale; at this point I should confess that in my years of camping I have somehow always been prevented from participating in one.

But camping has its compensations. This year the sun shone; we got sunburnt; we had swimming, with wide stretches of almost empty beaches to play on and the water warm enough to laze in; walks over the heaths and among the pine woods at the cliff's edge; *crêpes au jambon* with *Lion d'Or* cider, ice-cold; songs at the fireside at night-fall, with mugs of surprisingly nice tea; Martinis before lunch on the terrace of the Grand Hôtel de la Mer, with the wide sweep of the Baie de Douarnenez to look at, and the sparkling Atlantic. And what a sense of achievement one has after cooking forty succulent *côtelettes de veau* (I have never been allowed to forget the stew I roasted at Roscoff, with the help of an over-enthusiastic fire-king called Sumner).

People in camp this year all seemed cheerful, even those camping for the first time, and there were many of them: one remembers the boy who fell into the sea fully dressed clutching his bathing trunks—(Could it have been A-g-r?); the indefatigable P-pe, seen usually at the bottom of yet another enormous latrine hole, pick in hand; Monsieur Pierre, who had come all the way from Roscoff to be with us again, and whose Vespa was not in a holiday mood. One remembers H-cks, whose voice would penetrate eight-inch steel, if need be; Gl-v-r, spherical in shape, always busy, his smile invariably capped by what looked like a tea-cosy; the pleasant company of boys and staff, talk in the evening over a bottle of wine, and many conversations with French people in cafes, shops, at the well, or in the fourteenth-century farmhouse with Madame, whose appearance, one felt, suggested that she had seen the English before—when they built the *manoir*.

I was asked to write a few words on the title at the head of the article, and it seems I have hardly started. At any rate, the majority of my readers, who are themselves prone to this sort of literary crime, will forgive me.

Lake District Expedition

I JOINED the Lake District Expedition as a layman. I was neither geographer nor climber. I went for the best reason in the world—a holiday. I took no map, no sketch book, nothing but a pair of surplus army boots and a capacity for enjoyment. At half-past seven on a Saturday morning we boarded a black Thames van, ably driven by Mr. Hallam and at seven o'clock in the evening we alighted in the Great Langdale Valley. Despite our weariness, I could not but be impressed by my first sight of some of the highest mountains in

England. I was not inspired to write poetry or to make sketches, but just to look in wonder and to breathe in the clean air.

Although we were heavily outnumbered by purring Bristolians, our stay in the Holiday Fellowship Centre was a pleasant one. The beds were not too uncomfortable—witness our reluctance to leave them, even for plates of steaming hot porridge. Having never climbed anything more ambitious than Box Hill on a Geog. Soc. ramble, I was looking forward to grappling with the giants towering above us. So eager was I that I attempted the foothills at Mr. Purbrick's pace, a relentless *vivace*. The result was that I almost collapsed from exhaustion, aggravated by the sun, which was as strong as I have ever felt it in England. I had learned my lesson. For the remainder of the expedition, I kept Messrs. Marsh and Hallam as my pacemakers.

On Sunday we climbed Bowfell, the more energetic of the expedition taking Pike of Stickle in their stride too. The face of Bowfell was covered with an impressive facade of ice, with which we quenched our thirst, but the summit had to be reached by ascending what, to my amateur mind, was a distinctly treacherous gully. On Monday we assailed and conquered Helvellyn, having traversed the perilous *arête*, Striding Edge, from which we noted a huntsman had once fallen to his death while still in pursuit of the elusive fox. On Tuesday we toured the Lakes in our van, stopping to venerate Wordsworth's shrine and later to stare at Calder Hall. Wednesday saw us at the summit of Scafell, the highest peak in England, and probably the barest. Thursday's rain forced us, or rather gave us the chance, to explore the fascinating Ingleborough Caves and almost lose ourselves on the Yorkshire Moors, looking for the largest pothole in England.

I was proud to be a member of the "A" party which on Friday surmounted Saddleback in the driving hail and, for the last part of the climb, in the midst of a cloud. Even our soaking garments did not mar our moment of triumph. The journey home, somewhat of an anti-climax, gave us the chance to see Manchester and Kenilworth Castle before giving Mr. Hallam a resounding cheer for his skilful handling of the van and for leading such an enjoyable expedition.

P. J. NORRIS, VI (3)

Theatre Visits

DURING the past year the sixth forms have been afforded the opportunity of visiting the Old Vic to see performances of 'Hamlet' and 'King Lear'. There were always plenty of people eager to go and the parties were made up not only of those studying the humanities, for whom the visits were a pleasurable necessity, but also of scientists keen on improving themselves.

'Hamlet' was universally praised; the performance of John Neville in the title role and of Judi Dench as Ophelia will long be remembered. Opinion varied over aspects of the production of 'King Lear' but the play was memorable for the powerful performance of Paul Rogers as the King.

We also saw 'The Tempest' at the Drury Lane Theatre. Despite the

fact that the stage was too large for so few players, it was well used for some remarkable visual effects. Sir John Gielgud as Prospero was not hampered by the size of the stage, nor was Alec Clunes as Caliban. Everyone was thoroughly enthusiastic about 'The Tempest' but it is just possible that the seats, which were remarkably comfortable after those in the gallery of the Old Vic, helped form this opinion.

N. SPROXTON, 6 IA

"The Picasso Mystery"

EARLY in the spring term, a group of enthusiasts from the Sixth Form paid a visit to the Curzon Cinema where "The Picasso Mystery" was showing. The majority of us went with an open mind prepared to approve or condemn, but left inspired by the irrepressible genius of this great artist.

It is easy to see why Picasso has achieved such world-wide acclaim. Even at his advanced stage of life he is able to achieve thrilling paintings full of vivid colour, movement and power. It has been said that he has not painted any masterpiece since "Guernica". This is probably true because nothing has affected Picasso so profoundly since that occasion. Nevertheless anyone who has seen "The Picasso Mystery" cannot fail to wonder at the incredibly beautiful paintings which were shown in this film.

The difficulties of showing art actually being created on the screen were overcome by using an absorbent canvas and focusing the cameras on the reverse of it. In this way the painting was seen being made up step by step, but I wondered whether this technique did not tend to divorce the art from the artist, and I thought perhaps a closer analysis of Picasso himself was called for.

However several paintings remain firmly imprinted on my mind even now. In particular there was one which depicted a bullfight. This subject, being close to his heart, was tackled by Picasso firmly and with excitement. A huge bull's head dominated most of the picture and around it were the matador and the bull ring. The colouring was particularly bold. Another one I remember was a reclining nude which Picasso altered as his ideas changed.

Not all the paintings were successful, in particular a large holiday scene which was changed from what was originally a pleasing painting into what eventually turned out to be a mess.

But many of the paintings will always be remembered. So also will the original music which ideally captured the tone of the film. Seventy minutes is not long to demonstrate the undoubted genius of Picasso but those of us who saw it will never forget our experience.

R. NORMAN 6 (1)

Rugby

1ST XV

THIS year's 1st XV was younger and less experienced than most recent XV's, starting the season with only six people having previously played

for the first team. Unfortunately the list of fixtures was considerably shortened by several matches being cancelled in the spring term owing to the weather.

Except on rare occasions, notably the Bec game, the backs lacked that vital incisiveness and the forwards never really played as a pack. The team was beaten soundly by St. Joseph's and was reduced at one point to twelve players. We were defeated also by the Old Boys in both matches by the weight of their forwards and the general experience of the teams.

We finished the season having lost two games more than we won but we look forward to a better record next year since we shall be able to call on at least ten players who have had First XV experience.

On behalf of the team I should like to thank Mrs. Shaw and Parents for their invaluable help in providing the teas.

Colours were awarded to Tweddle, Slater and Fettes.

Team from: Leach (capt.), Tweddle (vice capt.), Slater, Fettes, Saunders, Sharp, Norman, Webb, Sproxton, Thompson, James, Moyes, Russell, Knight, Bull, T. J. Lewis.

K.L.

2ND XV

DESPITE the sudden reduction in ranks due to influenza and the occasional demands of the 1st XV, the 2nd XV has had a better record than usual.

Opening the season with a convincing win over Sutton, they quickly learned to work as a team and gained further victories over Wandsworth, Selhurst, Raynes Park and Wanstead. The annual match with Wallington was a clean, hard-fought game which resulted in a last-minute draw.

Their strongest opponents were St. Joseph's and although we suffered defeat at their hands on two occasions, the matches were among the best of the season. The Old Boys were kept in check during half the match but with only seven forwards the 2nd XV was gradually overpowered by sheer weight.

After losing four matches in a row during the spring term, they ended the season with further victories over Sutton and Wanstead.

The forwards worked well as a pack and were surprisingly energetic in the loose; the backs, although occasionally spoiling attacks by poor handling, were very solid in defence.

Team from: Parsons (Capt.), Hughes, Court, Robinson, Styles, Read, McConnell, Goddard, Powell, Kavanagh, Humphries, Newbound, Platten, Anger, Moore, McLean, Carter, Giddings.

D.E.P.

COLTS XV

WITH only two victories to its credit the team's results do not show the promise of early matches which is probably a reflection of the injury to Summers in the third game of the season. There was however a lack

of determination in the face of adversity which gave no credit to home team members.

Consistently good players were Studd, Cain, Palmer and Walder forward; Horowicz and Holton outside the scrum. Others were effective on occasions but this erratic enthusiasm produced some very one-sided games.

UNDER 14 XV

GOOD team spirit and steady training in skills were rewarded towards the end of the season by a number of conclusive wins. Cheerfully captained by Wilcox, the team gradually realised that they had the necessary talent and that they were not always smaller than their opponents.

Early season defeats were generally decided in the closing stages of the game. This was fortunately remedied by further tackling instruction, by repeatedly pointing out that Rugby was a Man's game and that the opposition should be made to fight for the ball if they want it.

We all look forward to an enjoyable and successful Colts season next school year.

Cricket

LAST year's 1st XI, with nine of the previous season's players available, had, on the whole, a disappointing season, since it lost more frequently than in the year before. Matches were won, however, against Surbiton, Raynes Park, Wandsworth, Selhurst, Dorking and the Parents, and a match with Wallington was drawn. Those against Sutton, Purley, Beckenham and a return match against Surbiton were lost. Crout made some useful scores and D. Ellingham, who also kept wicket well, was very consistent, but the batting was mostly disappointing. J. Ellingham and Baines bore the brunt of the bowling, while Mogg led the team excellently.

Colours were awarded to J. Ellingham, D. Ellingham and E. N. Tweddle.

1957 team from: Mogg, Baines, Couldridge, J. Ellingham, D. Ellingham, Tweddle, Slater, Woodley, Crout, Halford, T. J. Lewis, Riley.

With only four of last season's team the present 1st XI looks weaker than in former years. Up to now we have lost against St. Olaves and Bec, drawn a game with Surrey Grove and won an easy victory over Raynes Park. Performances have been encouraging: Dodd batted well against Raynes Park, Woodley has made some useful contributions, Slater has bowled extremely well and Cook is in good form. The batting however needs to be tightened and batsmen must learn to play themselves in before attacking the bowling.

1958 team from: Tweddle, Slater, Woodley, T. J. Lewis, Goddard, Sharp, Williams, Dodd, Cook, Votier, Robinson, Parsons.

E.N.T.

Athletics

SCHOOL Athletics has always been placed second in importance to school cricket in the field of sport, despite the fact that we have in the past produced an international athlete but never an England cricketer. It may seem unpatriotic but there are people in the school who prefer the glorious liberty of running, to hitting a ball of leather with a length of willow. It is to these few gentlemen that the school turns each year for brilliant achievements in the S.S.S.A.A. sports at Motspur Park. Last year Goddard, in the senior 220, Leach in the senior shot putt and Charlton in the junior 220, did very well indeed. These athletes, however, provided our only successes.

The real fault in School Athletics lies not in the lack of talent, but in a lack of sufficient interest in the development of that talent. More importance seems to be placed on the limit point system and House Competition than the development of a good School Athletics team. It might be a good thing for School Athletics if the system of limit points were abolished. It would then be possible to arrange the School Sports earlier in the term, enabling the school team to have fixtures with other schools before the Surrey events. It would also stop the wasting of training time for the real athletes who look upon 'limit points' as being merely a somewhat limited exercise of their talents.

P.T.P.

Tennis

WITH a great success in last year's Rootham Shield Competition, when we were runners-up, to inspire us, we look forward to another season of good tennis. We have again entered for the competition and have drawn Reigate C.G.S. in the first round. There is a full list of fixtures already arranged and, although examinations will restrict practice to some extent, it is encouraging to note that a large number of boys have joined the Tennis Club. Most of last year's team have left and the strength of the teams has been somewhat weakened, but we hope with Mr. Davies in charge that the standard of play will improve throughout the term. The Club meets every Friday after school at the Kowan Road Courts, and if the support already promised continues, then many an enjoyable rally will be played.

S.D.V.

Badminton

It would be pleasing to report another successful season for the Badminton Club but, unfortunately, our hopes were disappointed, owing mainly to lack of support from the senior school. However, a number of Old Boys came along during the season to coach and offer tips to the members, and their help was gratefully appreciated. Games were played against Selhurst and Glyn, and two against the Staff, in which the honours were even. The absence of Mr. Madden was greatly felt after Christmas as he had been running the club for several years. Mr. Allsopp has taken his place and a number of the

Staff have played with us from time to time. It is to be hoped that a little more enthusiasm will greet next season's captain.

Team from: Votier (capt.), Sharp, Slater, Saunders, Parsons, Tweddle, Webb, Woodley and V. C. Green.

S.D.V.

House Notes

CANONS

By managing to win the Cricket Cup we assured ourselves of being Cock House for the school year 1956-57, but so far this year we have been convincingly in bottom place. Victory in the Rugby Cup was followed by our coming bottom in the effort marks three times running, and last in the Arts Competition.

It would be impossible to speak of our victory in the House Competition last year without mentioning the Ellingham brothers. Now that they have left the school there is a void in the leadership of the House which it has been impossible to fill adequately, and it is a fitting tribute to the time and energy they gave to the House that we should have been Cock House in their last year. Backed as they were by a keen and efficient team of prefects, it will always be a memorable one in our annals.

This year has obviously been an anti-climax. Not only have we lost many of our valuable members, but we have also found the House less willing to co-operate. There is always something that each member of the House can do and, unless he is willing to devote his time, we cannot hope to be Cock House again. We badly need to do well in the Work Cup, but the example of the Spring Term is not a good omen. The summer sports—cricket, swimming and athletics—are usually our weakest spheres, and we can merely look forward (from our lowly position) to a close struggle between the other three houses for top place.

B.W.

LODGE

It was with regret that we bade farewell to our Housemaster Mr. Madden, under whose leadership we have done so well. We welcome Mr. Shaw in his place.

The House began the year well by tying for first place in the Cross-country, and taking second place in the Rugby Sevens. However, we managed to occupy our usual bottom position in Work Cup and were consequently only second in the Cock House Competition.

The Spring Term began with the Rugby XV's and once more we took second place, thanks mainly to the senior team winning all its matches. The Arts Competition was approached with more vigour and optimism than usual and, thanks to good editing and feverish construction we were second with the magazine and first with the model, which meant we were in the lead. The House then decided it had worked hard enough, and by the end of the competition we were third instead of first. We have, however, done better in the Work Cup during this term, and although only third, we are only three points behind the leaders.

The House entered the final term with a good chance of winning the Cock House Competition if only it did not once more relax its efforts as soon as it was in the lead. The first of this term's competitions was the Athletics Cup, which the House won comfortably. Our fears, however, seem to be coming true, for after this we were last in the effort marks, and are at the moment last in the swimming competition, which we thought we should, and indeed still could, win.

R.S.

RAVENSBURY

The House this year has had its triumphs and we hope has still more to come; but the erratic fluctuation from victory to disaster, from success to disappointment, which always seems to be the lot of those who serve the green banners of Ravensbury, was once again in evidence. Last year we were second in the Cock House Cup. This year we again have the chance of winning this much-coveted trophy and, as long as we attain those zeniths of greatness to which we climbed last year in the course of the Summer Term, it is ours. If we succeed it will be mainly due to the worthy efforts of the junior section of the House, usually at the receiving end of so much prefectorial abuse. Our victory in the Magazine Competition was due more to the high standard of the junior entries than to the abstract essays of the seniors. The Junior Elocution was a triumph for our younger members and the mathematical mind of our Housemaster. The seniors of the House, however, have met with little success this year, except in the Cross-country. Perhaps they cannot hear the sages of the prefects' room chanting, "O Ravensbury, thou hast never conquered"—the chanting which seems to spur our juniors on.

P.T.P.

WITFORD HOUSE

THE House has few star personalities these days but its members have worked together very well as a team during the year. On the departure at the end of last year of Mr. Martindale, who had been with us for a number of years, the role of Housemaster was taken over by Mr. McKie, with Mr. Lindsay-Smith and Mr. Holmes playing an effective part in House affairs. Witford started off in style leading in the Work Cup Competition after two terms and with every promise for the summer term. Parsons was elected Captain of Rugger, but despite the energy which he expended, Witford were bottom in the Rugby Competition. With Goddard as Athletics Captain we did a little better in the cross-country, but despite great efforts by a few people there was not a great deal of support for them, resulting in low placings in the School Sports.

With first places in the Music and Debating and good positions in the other sections, Witford won one of the closest finishes for a long time in the Arts Trophy, a magnificent effort on the part of everyone.

T. J. Lewis has been elected Cricket Captain, Hugill Swimming Captain and with a large and co-operative Sixth Form the House looks forward to the Summer Term with enthusiasm and hopes of further success.

S.D.V.

The Arts Competition

LITERATURE

ONE editorial assured the judges that notice had been taken of their last year's hints on magazine production; another laughed kindly at the judges; two were good editorials; two were dull, which is the ultimate crime in any editorial.

Lodge's magazine, based on the principle of quality, not quantity, achieved neither in the prose, but burst into pleasant verse. Read (Va) wrote well. Ravensbury's verse, including an Ancient Editor parody, was good, Canons was bad, and Witford, despite an amusing poem by Hobbs, lost marks because there were only two attempts at verse.

The prose, apart from Lodge, was more even. Hughes (Ravensbury) wrote pleasantly about November! Votier (Witford) thought inconsequentially and entertainingly; Hart (Canons) rushed about Wessex on a bicycle; and Clark (Canons) collected butterflies with infectious enthusiasm.

The crosswords, three of them, were given 8, 6 and 4 out of 10. They do neither much good nor much harm.

Ill-digested encyclopedic knowledge is useless, stories are extraordinarily difficult, description of what you have done or seen is a safe bet; *your personal* view of almost anything is what is wanted; and, but only in the hands of those who can do it, the slightly fantastic can bring a gleam to the judge's jaded eye.

MUSIC

THERE was a good number of entries in the Music section for this, the second year of its re-introduction into the Arts Competition and undoubtedly the general standard was much higher than last year's.

The Senior song, Schubert's "Linden Tree," had been learnt quite accurately by most entrants, but regrettably few singers attempted any interpretation, which is vital if lieder is to be brought to life. The Juniors had an easier task with Handel's "O Lord, whose mercies," but they were on the whole poorly prepared by their Houses and there should have been many more boys entered. Brook deservedly gained full marks here. In future years it would be a good thing if boys were to commit their song to memory.

The Instrumental Section revealed as much diversity as ever, the entries ranging from the orthodox orchestral instruments, via the ubiquitous piano, to the guitar and Whiffin's banjo. Nearly all the chosen pieces were very well performed and it would be invidious to single out names for mention where so much undoubted talent was displayed in both the Junior and Senior sections.

We were again fortunate in having Miss Deveson from Rosa Bassett School to adjudicate, and we thank her for her very helpful comments and criticisms. Witford won the contest on points.

ART

LODGE chose to employ large coloured sheets and made good use of the various attractive arrangements made possible by this means. Each item was given ample space and illustrations showed up well against

a black background. The neat and clean frames were a particularly good feature.

The intriguing and well-designed motif (Janus) and cover gave a hint of the general quality of the interior layout, which in turn gave ample evidence of the care and attention lavished by editors Webb and Sproxton.

Ravensbury had ideas and some good illustrations (for example by Kent), but allowed tatty presentation to mar the general standard. Newspaper cuttings do not show up well on white paper, and illustrations do not mount on thin paper, which soon cockles to an unpleasant shape.

Canons were quiet and purposeful. A compact quality was achieved, no doubt as a result of the editorial note of conservatism. This house was alone in trimming the file paper used.

Witford had a strong cartoon contribution, but these were not presented with much creative thought. The inclusion of cartoons at the foot of pages is in itself a good idea but needs to be considered as an integral part of the page. Illustrations by Hallett and Wainwright were particularly good.

In general, future Editors would do well to consider the following points:—

1. Typing is preferable to anything but good handwriting.
2. Lined file paper is not visually attractive.
3. A border or frame improves individual illustrations.
4. Subjects could be explored much more for their illustrational material.

JUNIOR ELOCUTION

We can most confidently begin by stating quite categorically that the general standard this year was very much higher than last year. The poem was better learnt and undoubtedly better studied and understood, while the famous passage in praise of famous men from Ecclesiasticus was on the whole read with understanding and feeling. It was a pity that some boys did not realise that the writer was giving a list of men worthy to be praised and therefore missed the point of some verses. In the recitation of the poem there was not enough emphasis laid on the difference between "the quinquireme of Nineveh" and "the dirty British coaster" and where such emphasis was given, too often the role of the "tramp" was treated with scorn and disdain that surely Masefield neither felt nor meant. One final word about the competition in general would, we think, be in season; competitors must not mumble nor seem to apologise for what they are saying.

We have studiously avoided mentioning the names of any individual performances as the competition was an inter-house contest.

The winners of the competition were Ravensbury, with Canons, Witford and Lodge as runners-up.

CRAFT

THE craft entry for the Trophy this year was much improved, mainly owing to the fact that the organising body of each House had a much better idea of what was expected—the experience gained in two previous years. The subject set—Town or Village Street Scene, 1750-

1850—gave much scope to those boys who were prepared to look for the wealth of information available on this period.

On the whole the models presented were good, a decided improvement on any previous entries. Much more attention had been paid to scale, layout, and finer details of individual articles. Ingenious ideas for road surfaces, ponds and areas of grassland were abundant and very pleasing.

Judging this year was not a simple matter by any means, and although Lodge House were winners of this section of the competition, they were very closely followed by their competitors.

The House Debates

THE House Debates this year, although providing a diversion which the Senior School clearly enjoyed, produced few verbal fireworks. There was certainly no lack of speakers (27 in all) and several gave competent performances, but the general standard of debating was not high and too much was said that was not to the point.

Platten (Ravensbury), who proposed the motion "This house deplores the standards of the popular press," failed in this way to exploit his strong position, and merely deplored instead of giving adequate reasons for having to do so. It is not enough in a debate to hold up the object one is attacking and let it speak for itself. Saunders (Canons), who opposed, no doubt felt himself in the position of devil's advocate and had to make the best of a bad case. It was this, rather than a lack of debating skill which gave the day ultimately to Platten, who, in his summing-up, just about succeeded in demonstrating that Saunders, despite himself, had been speaking for the motion. The other speeches in this debate tended to lose sight of the central issue but we were partially rewarded by an effective little burst from Shadenburg and by a number of incidentals including Hart's admission that he was "a senseless idiot," and some characteristic jonkling from Jonkler.

In the other debate ("This house regrets the discovery of America") Webb (Lodge) spoke well, but his criticism of the American way of life lacked weight and verged too closely on the mock-serious to be a match for Balloch's carefully considered and well-argued reply for Witford. This, though not delivered with quite enough emphasis, was the best speech of the afternoon and was well supported by other Witford speakers. Gould and Votier in particular making useful points. On the other side of the house, Norris, who showed sound debating technique in first dealing with the arguments of the previous speaker before proceeding with his own case, spoke fluently and with conviction. Sproxton made a valuable point well, but like many others from the floor seemed in a great hurry to sit down again and failed to develop it as effectively as he might have done. In his summing-up Balloch was no less persuasive than he had been earlier and the motion was justly defeated.

Neither debate was remarkable for its wit and there was too great a reliance on stock responses to old material, though it was perhaps inevitable that the measurements of Mrs. Miller should have been

invoked at some stage or other during the proceedings. But the chief fault which emerged from each debate was that the continuity of the argument as a whole was not preserved and, with few exceptions, speakers made little attempt to refute points made by their opponents. The afternoon was never dull however, and it showed that the Senior School's interest in debating could, with more frequent practice, be matched by a corresponding skill.

At the end Witford was adjudged to have given the best performance, with Canons, Lodge and Ravensbury as runners-up in that order.

The Phoenix Society

THIS year has seen what might be called a minor revolution in the sphere of school societies. On the 29th of January, 1958, the Phoenix Society officially came into existence, having reared its head from the flames, or at least, the ashes of the three major school societies, the Historical, Geographical and Literary and Debating. Prior to the glorious January Revolution these three societies had been going through a period of depression; attendances at meetings of all three had decreased and those of the last two seemed to consist of a circle of half a dozen people who, together with the societies' officers, were the only people interested enough to turn up. In the society year '56-'57, the Geographical Society alone justified its existence. Somehow it managed to draw a respectable number of members to its meetings, probably because of the unjustified stigma attached to History as a subject and because of the absolute dread on the part of most members of the school of getting on their feet in a general discussion or debate and saying something. As the essence of the Historical and Debating Societies is that members should be prepared to air their views on a subject, the overall result was that both these societies reached an extreme state of moribundity upon which all the efforts, however ingenious, of their officers had no effect whatsoever. (It should be noted that the only meeting, a joint one, of these two that drew any general attention, was that concerning a debate with our opposite numbers in the Girls' School.) It was obvious to the members of staff concerned that something had to be done about this sorry state of affairs, so, after much discussion and thought, the first of several meetings was held late in 1957 to draw up a constitution.

The chief aim of the Phoenix Society is to unite the interests of the former Geographical, Historical and Literary and Debating Societies into one society. The advantages of this may not at first seem obvious and require a little explaining. Firstly, the basic idea behind the Society is that it should be able to get a reasonable attendance at each meeting. Instead of having three whose average attendance is very small, the one society catering for the interests of the majority can command the combined average attendances of all three and so have more people turning up regularly. Secondly, and perhaps more important, such a collective society as this would help to bridge the gap between science and the arts and would also dispel the notion that school societies are always specialist. The Phoenix Society hopes to be able to present a programme of topics which both the scientist

and the artist will understand and find interesting so that they can meet on common ground and talk together.

The three meetings so far held we have tried to keep as general as possible—a first-hand account of this year's Monte Carlo Rally, a controversial talk by Hart entitled "Why I am an Angry Young Man," and a joint explanation of the finer points of mountaineering and skiing by Mr. Pennington and Mr. Davies—but they were not given the attendance we had hoped for.

If this society is to flourish it is essential that it should get the full support of everyone in the Senior School, especially at meetings where outside speakers are concerned.

F.W.

Art Club

THE Art Club continues to provide a period of free creative activity for a varied age group throughout the School. The type of work chosen is left to the individual. Creative craft work is encouraged, but unfortunately seldom flourishes owing to the amount of hard, prolonged work necessary for completion. This is particularly true of attempts at wood carving and a fine mosaic design (though this may yet be finished).

Few boys in the Senior School seem to be able to escape from the thought of examinations, but those who do come along appear to derive much pleasure and benefit from their activities. To provide artists in the sixth form with a higher competitive standard and a maturer artistic atmosphere they have been encouraged to attend an evening class at School, and extremely good results have been produced in oils and poster colour.

Recent acquisitions are a pottery wheel and three banding wheels. The Parents' Association are to be thanked for providing the money to enable us to frame some prints by a new method, omitting glass and substituting a varnish surface. They are now displayed about the School.

Photographic Society

SINCE the last report I am glad to say that we have started to carry out our plan enabling members to do their own processing. We have been greatly helped in this by being able to use an enlarger and some other apparatus owned by Mr. Marsh. Apart from two or three sessions in the dark room, we have had only two formal meetings this year. At the first Mr. Wright endeavoured to tell us how to make "snaps" into "pictures," and at the second, Mr. Keen, who judged this year's Photographic Competition, told us why he had placed a picture by Jackson (Vla) first; he also suggested how many of the pictures might have been improved. Perhaps one of the most gratifying features of this year's activities has been the standard of the entries for the competition. This was much higher than last year's, which in itself seems to justify the existence of a Photographic Society in the School. Looking ahead, we are making a visit to the Kodak factory at Wealdstone on July 2nd.

J.G.