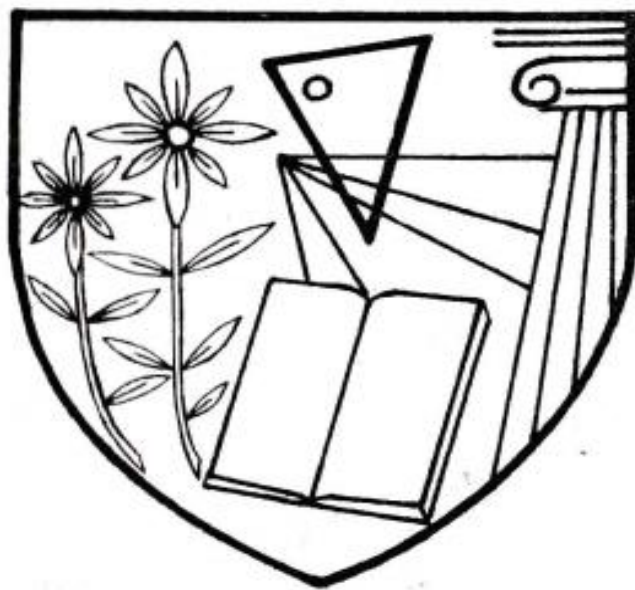


THE
MITCHAMIAN



SUMMER

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C. R. BINGHAM, M.A. (LONDON), D.Phil. (OXON)

The Mitchamian

MITCHAM COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

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Editorial

THE most important feature of the school year has been the arrival of our new headmaster, Dr. C. R. Bingham, who took up his post in January. Such an event is naturally attended with some speculation, and perhaps, uneasiness, for boys and staff alike are conservative by instinct and dislike having to adjust themselves to a new situation. We have found, however, that Dr. Bingham is both human and a headmaster, and that our old ways were apparently not so wicked as to require extensive reformation. The life of the school goes on pleasantly and smoothly under his direction.

Dr. Bingham has come to us from Leeds Grammar School, where he was Middle School Tutor and Head of the German Department. Although a Yorkshireman, he is no stranger to the London area, having taken a degree before the war at University College, London. At the end of the war, during which he served in the Royal Air Force with the Air Directorate of Intelligence, he returned here to serve with the Political Intelligence Department of the Foreign Office. He has spent most of his teaching career in the north of England where, before going to Leeds, he taught at Bolton Grammar School and at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School for Boys, Mansfield. Whilst reading for his doctorate at Oxford he lectured and tutored for several colleges.

Dr. Bingham has already made quite clear the three main qualities he expects in boys at this School: first, truthfulness and complete personal integrity; second, sincere and vigorous effort; and third, courtesy and consideration for others. He plainly believes that a school is happiest when it is working hard and thus has disappointed those optimists amongst us who may have hoped for a more indulgent dispensation. But no-one would deny that, in this, he knows what is best for us, and we wish Dr. Bingham a long and happy headship.

The Magazine this year remains a modest production, reflecting the unpretentious nature of the School whose activities it records. We should like to extend its length and the variety of its subject matter, in particular by including more photographs and illustrations, but the cost of printing does not allow us to do this. One way of helping to pay for these additional features would be to accept advertisements, but it is generally felt that this might involve too great a sacrifice in the appearance of the Magazine and in its status as an independent publication. Moreover any enlargement of the scope of the Magazine would be primarily for original contributions and the volume of these at present is not sufficient to justify such a step.

If the nature of some of the original verse and prose which is included in this issue is at all representative, it appears that the School is passing through a phase of nostalgic retrospection and pre-occupation with death and decay. The Editor, except to regret the absence of humour,

neither applauds nor deploras this tendency. He would have it known, however, that he has not deliberately made this theme the basis of his selection, and that he is not, as readers might otherwise suppose, himself suffering from acute melancholia.

The Editor acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the magazine of Mitcham County Grammar School for Girls, *The Beccehamian*, *The Croydonian*, *The Magazine*, *The Pelhamian*, *The Record*, *The Ship*, *The Spur* and *The Suttonian*.

School Notes

IN September the School welcomed four new members of Staff: Mr. Axon, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Greenall and Mr. Harris, whose appointments were mentioned in our previous issue. Mr. Bainbridge left us at the end of the autumn term and his place was taken by Mr. Chapman. Mr. Shaw went to Brockley County School to become Head of the Modern Languages Department, and he will be succeeded in September by Mr. Street. His place has been taken temporarily for the summer term by Mr. Herrington, who is joining the staff of Wolverhampton Grammar School in September.

At the end of this term we are to lose Mr. Wright, Mr. Prowse and Mr. Pryke. Mr. Benham will take over the position of Head of the Physics Department when Mr. Wright joins the Physics Staff of Glyn School, Ewell. Mr. Prowse leaves us to become a Tutor in Physical Education at a college in Holland. Mr. Thomas, who succeeds him, will help Mr. Greenall with the Rugby and assist in the Science Department. Mr. Pryke is moving to Letchworth Technical College and his successor, Mr. Richardson, will help in the Mathematics Department in addition to taking charge of Woodwork.

As Mr. Courtney was leaving for Isleworth Grammar School at half-term in the autumn term, Speech Night was arranged for October 21st and was held in School. Mrs. Alderman, the wife of our Chairman of the Governors, kindly consented to distribute the prizes. During the last half of the autumn term Mr. Purbrick, the Senior Master, took charge of the School, and Dr. Bingham assumed his duties at the beginning of the spring term.

Monsieur Macaudiere has been with us this year as French Assistant, and Mr. Wickwar came to us in September as gardener and groundsman.

Our warm congratulations go to the three winners of Open Scholarships: to A. C. Warren on gaining an Open Scholarship in Science at Birmingham University; to N. Sproxton on being elected to an Open Scholarship in English at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford; and to J. G. Williams on being awarded a Major Open Scholarship in Science at Southampton University. J. F. Wainwright is also to be congratulated on gaining a place to read English at St. John's College, Oxford. We congratulate P. T. Platten on being awarded a Kingsley Fairbridge Scholarship to the University of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the three winners of State Scholarships, A. L. Barker, N. Sproxton and A. C. Warren, and the following, who received County Major Awards:

A. S. Cheeseman, R. A. Fenton, P. J. Hart, R. L. Haywood, D. J. Hegarty, K. M. Lohmann, J. McLean, A. L. Sharpe, A. J. Shelton and P. W. Sherwin, and also J. B. Jackson who gained an Art Award.

T. J. Lewis, Head of School, moved from Mitcham to South Wales during the spring term and shortly afterwards his Deputy, N. Sproxton, also left School. They were succeeded by P. M. Robinson as Head of School, and R. J. Batten as Deputy Head. The term saw another innovation in the introduction of gowns for the Senior Prefects.

During the Arts Trophy week at the end of the spring term, the Mayor and Mayoress of Mitcham, Alderman and Mrs. D. W. Chalkley, graciously accepted an invitation to pay an official visit to the School. The Mayoress kindly presented the House Rugby and Cross-Country cups. His Worship addressed School, and the Chairman of the Governors, Mr. Alderman, was also with us on this pleasant and interesting occasion. All our guests stayed to lunch with the School. It is hoped that this may be the inauguration of an annual Civic Visit which will give pleasure to the School and strengthen our close connection with the Borough which we serve.

Music Notes

THE first concert of the Lent term was one given at the School on Saturday 13th February. Mr. Chapman and Mr. Morris played duets by Moussorgsky, R. F. Macdonald gave a solo for violin by Viotti, R. N. Davidge played Chopin's Nocturne in F sharp, and boys from the first forms sang duets and part songs. The concert ended with a rousing galop for piano duet.

On February 25th a party visited Sadler's Wells and saw an extremely enjoyable performance of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro".

The School orchestra has been expanded by the inclusion of some younger members of the string class; it is now some seventeen in strength, and since January it has been playing regularly in assembly. Despite an increase in numbers, one of the greatest difficulties at Mitcham is to present a work for choir and orchestra when our best players are usually our best singers and vice versa. Nevertheless the Easter concert was given at St. Mark's on April 15th and consisted of the Requiem of Faure, the Violin Concerto in A minor by Vivaldi, and the chorale "O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden." All these works were performed by boys with no outside help apart from the soloists and the organist in the Requiem. The soprano (Christine Mullord) showed a voice well suited to Faure, with great beauty of tone. The tenor (H. V. Abbott) was confident and pleasing to listen to but had one or two distracting mannerisms. Mr. Chapman conducted the choir and orchestra and Dr. Michael Swallow provided a discreet organ accompaniment. The playing of R. F. Macdonald was of a very high standard in the Vivaldi and in the slow movement particularly it was surprising to find such beauty of tone, intonation and control in such a young performer.

Term ended with the House Music Competitions, which are reported elsewhere.

For the summer term's music we are rehearsing a Handel suite and Vaughan Williams' "In Windsor Forest". A visit has also been arranged to the Royal Festival Hall.

Librarian's Report

THIS year a thorough library check has revealed that a number of books are missing. It is doubtful whether anyone in the School would knowingly steal a book but there must surely be a line beyond which forgetfulness becomes dishonesty. Even members of the sixth form have been fined but this is an imposition which merely strikes at the people who *do* sign for books and has no effect on those who do not—the real culprits.

A new system of employing the help of an Assistant Librarian has met with varying success as interest and effort have varied from individual to individual. The main work of these librarians has been during stock-taking when their help has been invaluable. Help has also been obtained from some junior boys who have given up their own time to put books back on the shelves after they have been returned. Worthy of special mention in this respect are the first and second formers, Johns, Heath, Campbell, Chalkley, Henshall, Rowe and Young. Tidiness has never been one of the Librarian's greatest virtues and these people have contributed very greatly to any order which may have been achieved.

Also new is the method of withdrawal of books by forms one to five. The new method involves the use of a continuous list in an exercise book, known as the extractions book, to which new entries may be added at the end and books returned crossed off at the beginning. A new page is started for every day. Thus all the books due back on any one particular date are found listed together. This was felt to be preferable to the more bulky card system previously in use. However, some people responsible for signing for books as boys take them out apparently have difficulty in mastering the idea that the date of return stamped in the library book can be used as a reference to find the entry in the extractions book. This inability was not discovered by the Librarian until the end of the autumn term when he was able to save some of the hours wasted in flipping aimlessly through the extractions book in search of one name in three hundred or one book in four thousand five hundred. Even now it is felt that what goes on in the Library is still something of a mystery. E.J.D.

'The Lady's Not For Burning'

FOR the first time the Schools produced a play in verse; that it was in verse would probably surprise most of the audience. The rhythm:

The whole thing's a lot of amphigourious
Stultiloquential fiddle-faddle

was almost inevitably lost in production; on the other hand, the glory of the fiddle-faddle, occasionally almost incomprehensible as it was, came over magnificently from time to time. All the characters, even Skipps (Derek Carter), have their lyricism; but the earthiness of Skipps, happily neither murdered by Thomas nor dogged by Jennet, almost shatters, like the prosaic apologia of the Knights in "Murder in the Cathedral", the moonbeams of the self-martyring Thomas. Skipps was a pleasant irruption, if one so drunk can be so described.

Just as Skipps was reminiscent of Doolittle, so was Margaret (Jean Hyatt) a memory of the Lady Bracknell of the Wilder Nineties. One

stage direction makes her enter "without her placidity", but it was not obvious. Whatever glimmering sunsets might fall, she was unperturbed by the wonder of it, and said with point and poise some of the best lines in the play.

The Humphrey (Roger Davidge)—Nicholas (John Lord)—Alizon (Avis Clark)—Richard (Richard Hill) part of the plot is necessarily the profane counterpart to the presumably spiritual love of the major characters. Profanity, unfortunately, is not as inspiring as spirituality. Alizon looked and spoke nicely, but it is a rather dull part. Richard looked superb in tights, acted all the time, and proposed elopement like a gentleman.

Tappercoom (Ian Medhurst) might have just finished his stint as the Butler in "The Importance of being Earnest." Whereas he was no Merriman, he was an admirably gloomy Tappercoom and got the loudest laughs of the evening. Like Ko-Ko in "The Mikado," he had a little list; unlike Ko-Ko, he scratched the hero and heroine off his little list.

The Chaplain (David Vale) and the Mayor (Peter Fleming) fussed, the one with a suitable parade of simple-mindedness, the other with perhaps too little show of impotent authority.

There was no doubt about the authority of Thomas (Nicholas Sproxton), about three years more, we were told in the evening papers, than that of Jennet (Judith Hart). Between them they dominated the stage when they were on it and the duologue in the Second Act was the best part of the play. Thomas showed a decent combination of speed and comprehensibility and almost convinced us that we understood the meaning and appreciated the poetry of what he said. Jennet, heralded by an embarrassing excess of superlatives before her entrance, almost acted up to them, with or without broomstick. Because it was a school production, the relative emotionalism of the end of the play:

I was only suggesting fifty
Years of me

was less effective than the verbal give-and-take of the other scenes between Thomas and Jennet. But they carried the play most convincingly.

The costumes were fitting, in both senses of the word; the scenery and lighting simple (or did they only seem so?) and effective. The audiences seemed to understand the meaning of most of the play; the present writer understood some of it; but is assured on quite high authority that "poetry can communicate pleasure before it is understood". In this case, it did.

The Lake District Expedition

THE journey up was via the only three motorways in the country, and we arrived in good time despite the activities of the operator of the Manchester Ship Canal swing bridge. When we arrived, however, we were in for a surprise. A member of staff had mentioned that the guest house was a rabbit warren but no-one had thought that he had meant it literally. The place was inhabited by about 200 people, all members of school parties of such an age as to make our own feel positively senile. These inhabitants

spent two thirds of their lives running. All day they ran up and down mountains, all evening they ran up and down stairs, all night (we think) they slept. The food was plentiful but, terrible sin of omission, there was no tea with dinner.

On Saturday, our first full day, we undertook our first excursion. The path led up to the top of Cat Bells where we stopped; then we went on, down and up and down and up and up and up. At this point the party became split into two groups—those who could and those who couldn't. It was suspected the latter section also included a large number of those who wouldn't. Now, since those who could went very fast and those who couldn't went very slowly, it was soon impossible for the back half to know what the front half was doing, which meant that whilst still walking in roughly the right direction they lost the path and had to walk along almost vertical scree faces and descend precipitous waterfalls. By the end of the day we were all convinced that the hills should have been made flatter.

The second day was split in two, the morning being vacant for private activities. Most people rested the hot pulsating lumps that were our feet. In the afternoon most of the party undertook a climb along Sharp Edge on Saddleback. During this walk many of those present remembered a form which had emphasised the safety of the walks and wondered if the leader had ever seen it. They probably remembered also that they had signed away any responsibility that anyone might have for them and that if they fell off and dashed their brains out they wouldn't get a penny. By evening they were soaked through and tired, but at least some of them insisted that they had enjoyed it. Except one, the walks all followed a similar pattern of climbing up grassy slopes and along edges and walking down scree slopes. The views were magnificent.

The only exception was the trip to Calder Hall which was a pleasant relief for most people's feet. Many people were dismayed to find that electricity is merely a by-product of this establishment whose main job is the production of plutonium for atomic weapons. However, no-one attempted arson and no-one was arrested.

The Lake District has a magnificent natural beauty. For myself I feel that I must go back to these hills; they have an almost magnetic character. Surely in a place such as this, in the magnificent mountains, there is more to do than merely climb them. Some appreciation seemed lacking. In the words of the poet, we hadn't "time to stand and stare." Nevertheless everyone seemed to enjoy the holiday and a view that was shared by most who went was that it was well worth going.

E. J. DUFOUR VI (3)

School Charities

THIS year has been another good year for School charity collections. The autumn term collection totalled £61 16s. 1d. and in the spring term we received £43 19s. 1d. These figures reflect a very creditable spirit of generosity in the School. In the last week of the spring term a special appeal was launched on behalf of the World Refugee Year. No effort was spared during this week to raise money for this very worthy cause and

at the end of it we were amazed to find that the sum of £49 8s. 6d. had been collected, of which £25 4s. 0d. was from form collections. The remainder came from a collection at a School concert, a sale of badges by Mr. Keen, a collection by Mr. Perry in his tuckshop and an admirable display of models by members of 2b.

The annual collection of toys was held at Christmas and several big boxes of toys were taken, not this time to Netherheys, but to a boys' home at Kingston. We must thank Mr. Marsh who kindly transported the toys to Kingston for us in his car. During the Easter holidays a bag full of books was taken to Netherheys at Woking.

Up to the time of writing, collections in the summer term have been good and we should maintain the magnificent standard of giving that has been set this year.
G.M.B.

Rugby

1st XV

THE 1959-60 season was one of the most unsuccessful the School has ever suffered. There are several good reasons for this failure on the field, the main one being a marked apathy in training. For the most part the ideas of Mr. Greenall fell only upon the ears of a faithful few, for it was not until the very end of the season that practice attendances improved. This lack of keenness in training did not show on the field of play however, for everybody in the side put a great deal of effort into his game. Unfortunately keenness on the field did not make up for the general lack of polish and knowledge of the game that were apparent in the team.

Making an analysis of the team, the forwards were generally the more effective section. The pack usually gave a spirited display but on the whole lacked technical knowledge and mobility. Often in fact it was only the consistent hooking of Studd, and the inexhaustible Hughes and Walder which kept the forwards up to a reasonable standard.

An estimation of the back division can be summed up in a few words—strong in defence, weak in attack. The three-quarters always stood as a solid wall repelling the majority of the attacks made on their line, but were usually found unable to retaliate. Ideas were few and lack of experience in the centre meant that the wingers had very few chances made for them. Although there were no stars in the three-quarter line, Hill was very sound in defence and Charlton sometimes managed to use his speed to good advantage.

The School won some of the most coveted matches of the season including those against Bec, St. Joseph's and Wallington. The final result sheet was rather depressing however:

Played 16; Won 4; Lost 11; Drawn 1.

Colours were awarded to Hughes; Half-colours to Robinson, McConnell, Medhurst, Studd.

Team from: K. J. Giddings, N. Sproxton, Green, Hill, Charlton, Summers, Medhurst, McConnell, Studd, Batten, Sargent, Hughes, Walder, Robinson and Blazdell.
K.J.G.

2ND XV

THE team, as a whole, gained much in the way of experience for the future during the season, and in the last few games really began to play together, not as individuals. The results, mediocre as they were, do not show with what spirit the team fought, a spirit apparent in all matches, whether won or lost. Any defeats suffered were usually by the odd point or two and it was, in the opinion of most, these games which added a fervour of excitement to the season. Outstanding games were those against Wallington and Wanstead, the former being lost and the latter won, both by one point. Conditions at Wallington were far from favourable and despite the stalwart support of three masters who braved the elements, the game was lost.

The start of the season saw the usual crop of injuries and with the 1st XV requiring players, the team was continually being changed, allowing no chance for anybody to settle down.

Had there been more team practice, the result would undoubtedly have been much better. With only a few players turning out each week, it was impossible to form plans of any nature. This, coupled with more support from the line, would have provided an entirely different 2nd XV.

Team from: Sexton (capt.), Moore, Stacey, Farr, Horowicz, S. J. Carter, Wainwright, Eddolls, Scott, Dailly, Wiseman, Gardner, Palmer, Anslow, Shrubsall, Vines and Blazdell. I.S.

COLTS XV

HARD grounds for the first few weeks of the season meant that all teams were unable to play their early fixtures. However, the Colts had a reasonably successful record for the remainder.

Many of our opponents can choose players from much larger school numbers but I think we can justly claim to have given all teams a hard and clean game. We rely on team spirit and this grew steadily and enabled us to reverse previous results.

All players were pleased at the personal success of their captain, Bishop, who progressed as fly-half through trials for Surrey, South of London and South and East England.

Perhaps our most successful feature was the excellent loose scrummaging by the forwards but our backs did often demonstrate some good individual tackling. However, we never quite managed to get a three-quarter line moving forward at speed.

I wish the members of this team all success in their future rugby.

UNDER 14 XV

As far as results are concerned the season was disappointing, but this should not be the only criterion by which the season is assessed. In the first place results tend to give an unbalanced picture of the game, for in this kind of rugby, tries are frequently scored by individual players rather than through team-work. In the second place most of the points against the under-fourteen team were scored during the last fifteen minutes of the second half, which is a comment on stamina rather than rugby skill.

The team was potentially good from the beginning and in practices displayed skills that could have been used to considerable advantage

during a match. Unfortunately the practice match and the real match were two different things, until the latter end of the season, when suddenly the forwards became more aggressive, and the three-quarters were given the ball more frequently. The change came when the forwards packed three-four-one, instead of the usual three-two-three. The result was that the forwards pushed harder, heeled more quickly and broke away faster when the ball was on its way out to the three-quarters. This greater mobility gave the forwards chance to exploit their weight and height, to the fullest advantage, and the victories needed so much earlier in the season began to crown the team's final efforts.

In this sense the season, though not victorious, was rewarding, because the last matches, against opponents who had beaten the team earlier in the year, were highly successful.

Cricket

1ST XI

LAST season was a satisfactory one as far as the 1st XI was concerned, for we finished the season having won more games than we had lost. This, in view of previous seasons, was quite an achievement.

Slater proved to be an excellent captain endowed with a virile personality, and it was he who often spurred us on to victory when defeat seemed inevitable. As well as being an excellent skipper, he was also a vital cog in our bowling attack for he and Cook took over ninety wickets during the season.

The batting however was very suspect owing to the fact that we could not find a reliable pair of opening batsmen. We had only one stand of over twenty for the first wicket and that was after we had acquired the services of Farr who came to us from Western Road School.

The fielding was not of the highest standard and I feel sure that had it been better we would have won one or two of the matches which ended in defeat. Team spirit was very high throughout the season and I think this contributed largely to our success.

Played 13; Won 6; Lost 5; Drawn 2.

M. D. Cook and G. G. Studd were awarded Cricket Colours.

This year we have nine members of the team who have had previous 1st XI experience, and we hope for another successful season. Unfortunately with the departure of last year's captain, Slater, and Goddard, we lost two fine pace bowlers. Hellard has already proved himself to be an adequate replacement.

The loss of practice facilities in the Mitcham Cricket Club nets on the Cricket Green has come as rather a blow. But through the hard work of our groundsman we now have a small area on the School field on which to pitch our nets.

At the time of writing we have unfortunately lost three and drawn one of our matches.

The first match against St. Olave's provided a very exciting finish. Due

to some fine bowling by Robinson, St. Olave's were dismissed for forty-one runs. The School batting, however, collapsed badly and the last wicket fell with our needing two runs for victory.

The batting is steadily improving and we are hoping that victory will not elude us for much longer.

1959 team from: H. J. Slater (capt.), Lewis (vice-capt.), Cook, Robinson, Studd, Giddings, Forsdick, B. C. Carpenter, Goddard, Williams, Green, Farr, Platten.

1960 team from: M. D. Cook (capt.), Robinson (vice-capt.), Studd, Farr, Giddings, Forsdick, B. C. Carpenter, Williams, Duffield, Hellard, Bishop, Hill, Baker. M.D.C.

2ND XI

THE 2nd XI usually has a better record than the other School elevens, and this year's team seems to be no exception.

Our strong points are our bowling and fielding, and, though the batting is still suspect it is improving rapidly. Hill, in particular, is proving a very useful all-rounder, whilst the wicket-keeping of Katesmark has been of the highest standard.

There is a strong team spirit and this, coupled with a healthy enthusiasm, will make for a successful season.

Team from: Hughes (capt.), Green, Hill, Summers, Katesmark, Baker, Couzens, Dailly, McConnell, Wilson, Shrubsall, Gardner, Brushett. J.H.

Athletics

THE 1959 track season brought with it just two meetings, the Surrey Grammar Schools' Sports and a match against Selhurst. The outcome of the meetings was rather unsatisfactory as far as the results were concerned, for, as usual, a few individuals did win but the majority of the team found themselves struggling against athletes who possessed techniques which were far superior. Of last year's successful individuals, J. Goddard shone above all others and is to be congratulated on his performances in the Surrey and All England finals of the 220 yards. This season, success was achieved in the Mitcham District Sports but the keener competition of the Grammar Schools' meeting found the School lacking.

In a school the size of Mitcham (and here I follow in the footsteps of a predecessor, P. T. Platten) I think it imperative that the system of limit points should be abolished. This system only serves to take up valuable time which could be used for beneficial training and it also tends to crush the enthusiasm of promising junior athletes. This point is clearly shown by the intermediate relay team who have achieved a certain degree of success by practising the technicalities of baton changing diligently. It is obvious that this quartet has a great deal of potential, potential which has not had time to be realised. The field event exponents have also suffered for it is only recently that they have been able to use the equipment freely. As the important meeting in the School calendar has only recently been

completed the techniques which they are now evolving and the better performances which come with them are too late to enhance the prowess of the School in the field of athletics.

It is hoped that next year some reforms will be made concerning athletics. The enthusiasm is present, especially in the fifth form, and with training sessions that will produce results taking the place of limit points, I am sure that this enthusiasm would spread throughout the School.

K.J.G.

Tennis

THIS year the membership of the Tennis Club has been opened to the fourth form, who can use the courts on Friday afternoon, and can practise with the more experienced players of the School. By this new approach it is hoped that the standard of tennis in the School will improve, as the ability of the younger players will not lie dormant for a year. Because we have no courts of our own we have to rely on the public courts at Rowan Road, and so we are unable to build up a strong and experienced team. The only chance players have of playing together is on games days, but as most tennis players play cricket this takes priority. Hence it would seem that for us to produce a really competent and experienced team we need our own tennis courts.

In the first match of the season we played Raynes Park and the first and second teams were beaten. Yet again, as last year, we were unlucky to be beaten 3-2 by Sutton in the first round of the Rootham Shield. In our third match against Purley our 1st VI was beaten, but we play them again later in the term and we hope to avenge this defeat.

Even though our team appears to lose more matches than it wins, the games are fought with keenness and we usually give our opponents a good hard fight.

Team from: Green, Cook, Williams, Robinson, Farr, Dailly, Bishop,
Barling. V.C.G.

Badminton

IN the competitive field the Badminton club has not had a very good season. In other ways the season has been highly successful. A number of fifth-form boys have been successfully introduced to the game and have maintained their interest in it. In fact the club has been almost entirely composed of fifth-form boys, the number of sixth-formers participating being very disappointingly small.

The club is once again indebted to Mr. Allsopp and Mr. Morris for giving up so much of their free time to supervise the meetings of the club on Tuesday evenings.

A number of matches were played against other schools. In all of these, the School was defeated, the margin of defeat becoming less as the season went on owing to the team's gaining valuable experience in the early

matches. The best performance was a 3-6 defeat by Sutton Grammar School. It must be said, however, that never during this bad spell did the team lose its keenness and enthusiasm. The end of the season brought some consolation to the team when the Staff were heavily defeated.

Next season should see an improvement in results of matches against other schools, the foundations of a good team having been laid this season with many of its younger players having gained experience in match-play.

Team from: G. M. Barling, J. G. Williams, I. D. Hellard, D. K. Philpott, C. E. Shrubsall, R. E. Dailly, J. C. Stuttard, M. D. Cook.
G.M.B.

House Notes

CANONS

THE House began the year by surprising everyone including itself by taking joint second place in the inter-House cross-country, and might have done even better had the juniors tried a little harder. However the rugby teams did not do well, and we were third in both the VIIIs and XVIs.

It seemed as if we were already out of the running for Cock House, but owing to the large proportion of marks allocated to the magazine competition, which we won, we managed to win the Arts Trophy and pull up to second place in the Cock House Cup.

The end of the spring term marked the crest of our fortunes, however. Hopes that we would again surprise everyone by doing well in the athletics, suffered a bitter blow, when most of the House registered its disapproval of the limit points system by not trying, with the obvious consequences.

At the time of writing the House is trying to redeem itself in the Swimming Cup. Having won this last year we are in the strange position of being expected to do so this year. If a little more effort is put in I am sure that we can do so. Despite the promising outlook as regards swimming, the chances that Canons will win the Cock House Cup are very small. However, if our not-very-talented cricket teams manage to hold their own, we have a good chance of being runners-up. B.W.F.

LODGE

AT the beginning of the year the House came second in the cross-country; but we showed our true form in the rugby VIIIs in which the Senior School won every match.

During the spring term our attentions were focused on the House magazine and on the other allied competitions of the Arts Trophy. The House was as usual very slow in producing entries but, with persuasion from above, entries were then forthcoming. Unfortunately our magazine, "Janus", came last, but we were in no way disgraced as we won the literature, and in the final analysis the four houses were only separated by a few points. In the Model Competition, by a very late but sustained effort our model was finished and we were runners-up to Ravensbury.

The House's effort was sustained and we did well in the other part of the competition, notably in the Senior Debate, when we were placed second, after a spirited debate with Ravensbury.

It was to the rugby XV's that we next turned and in this it seemed that our iron hold on the Rugby Cup was to be broken. But in the deciding 1st XV match with Ravensbury we scrambled to victory and so Ravensbury had the honour of sharing the cup with us.

In the athletics there was a great battle between us and Ravensbury, on Sports Day, for second place. The result was in the balance up to the last relay race of the day when we finally beat them by half a point.

It is possible for us to be Cock House this year. We can only hope that our relative success in the athletics will spur the House to even greater effort and finally to victory.

At the end of the spring term we had to say goodbye to our House Master, Mr. Shaw. This was a sad occasion for the House as he has led the House to victory in the past two years. We should like to express our grateful thanks for all that he has done for Lodge House, and wish him the best of luck in his new post. V.C.G.

RAVENSBURY

THE autumn term was a triumphant one for Ravensbury and highly encouraging in that our successes were due to a combined House effort. The system of supervised training runs combined with numerous "pep" talks had its reward when we won the Cross-Country Cup for the third year in succession. Though Ravensbury cannot boast, as in previous years, of a monopoly in long distance runners, we still managed two individual "firsts" and won two of the three classes.

We swept into the seven-a-sides, and surprised everyone but ourselves by losing only two matches, and these by very narrow margins. The 2nd VII and the two junior VII's must be congratulated on their unbeaten records.

The spring term brought further successes in the rugby competition; our very keen Colts XV won all their matches and although the 1st XV lost two matches we had amassed enough points to share the cup with Lodge.

The House took second place in the Arts Competition mainly owing to the fact that there is no happy medium for us. We won the modelling with a very good model, and the elocution and debate were similarly secured. The magazine, however, suffered from a lack of poems and our music from a lack of musicians. The House must be congratulated, however, on a fine effort and the final result was a fair one.

The House has now an eight-point lead and our chances of being Cock House depend almost entirely on our effort in the swimming.

Ravensbury will suffer a great loss this year in the departure of Mr. Wright. As House-Master of Ravensbury for six years he has been selfless and untiring in his efforts on our behalf. We hope that the esteem in which Ravensbury and the other Houses hold him is some consolation for his efforts. We should like to thank him for all that the House owes him. We hope that his new school will appreciate him as much as we have.

As a final note I should like to thank the House for its continued support throughout the year, especially from the sixth forms. I hope the team spirit and general friendliness which I and the House prefects have tried to foster will continue, for it is this that has made our successes possible.

J.H.

WITFORD

AT the end of the autumn term Witford suffered the loss of a very remarkable House Captain, T. J. Lewis. The lack of his influence was particularly felt in the Arts Competition in which we had previously achieved consistently good results. By the end of the spring term the smallest house in the School was at the foot of the table in the Cock House Competition. However at the time of writing Witford has been victorious in the Athletics Competition for the first time since the war and seems in a favourable position to do well in the Swimming Cup and Cricket Competition.

It might seem out of place here to mention specific people who have helped in any success that has been achieved but the organising ability of the athletics captain and the artistic talent of the art editor in the magazine have counted for a lot. In addition, just as certain members of the fifth form have been completely uncooperative there are also those others who have given up their time to make the athletics victory possible. Particularly praiseworthy were the efforts of Heath, Perrin, Davidge and Stamper. However, the combined nature of the effort must be emphasised and it should be pointed out that boys in other forms have made just as great an effort. I mention the fifth form in particular since, with examinations approaching, their time is so limited and valuable.

Finally, Witford has had a year of mixed success but the material revealed towards the end of the year promises well for the future.

E.J.D.

The Arts Competition

LITERATURE

THE judge was impressed by the Space Travel and the Scenes of Violence. No Columbus himself, he is quite willing to recognise the claims of Alpha Centauri; no Jack the Ripper himself as far as he knows, he does not enjoy gore and sudden death for its own sake. Perhaps he is old-fashioned.

He was pleased to read typescript in all the magazines, and pays homage to the editor of the Raven, who for the judge's sake repressed his natural zeal for the art of calligraphy. The Raven mistakenly introduced each article with a build-up. It might have profitably replaced some of these puffs with more verse.

The Canons' three sixth-form contributions were all good; so was a first form contribution on Shark-Fishing, which at any rate sounded like personal experience.

In the Witford magazine, a fourth former wrote well on the Gobi Desert and seemed to disprove the general rule that personal experience is the most convincing. A sixth former looked back delightfully into his childhood. The judge can only express his regret that contributors prefer to remain anonymous—but he cannot penalise them.

Lodge produced a good third form description of an old church and, in contrast, a good fifth form discussion of the Atomic Age.

It was noticeable that as a whole modern problems were treated sensibly.

MUSIC

WE were very happy to welcome Mr. J. S. Odom, Director of Music at Whitgift School, to adjudicate the House Music Competitions. Mr. Odom, an ex-Choral Scholar of King's, Cambridge, and a very accomplished pianist, was able to give us some useful points to bear in mind.

For many weeks before April 7th groups of boys (often the least likely ones) were to be seen rehearsing round one of the School pianos. The strains of "The Yeomen of England" and "Fairest Isle", the set pieces, echoed round the School. Boys one had never suspected of having the slightest musical ability began to make visits to the music room with highly technical questions and highly improbable instruments.

The result of all this was that a record entry was made for the competition. There were fifty vocal and over eighty instrumental entries. The majority of these were of a very high standard. Our thanks are due to Messrs. Harper, Male and Morris, who, assisted Mr. Chapman in judging the preliminary rounds.

On the day of the competition itself, Mr. Odom commented favourably upon a large number of performances and his remarks about breathing and ways of holding a copy were justified and helpful. Towards 5 p.m. the result was announced: Witford had won the competition, with Lodge, Canons and Ravensbury as runners-up.

Bearing in mind the disparity of talent amongst the Houses the general standard was high and everyone who took part must, surely, have felt his efforts to have been well worth while. A word of special praise went to L. St. J. Jarrett (winner, Junior Instrumental), R. F. Macdonald (winner, Senior Instrumental), J. R. Brook (winner, Junior Vocal), J. G. Williams (winner, Senior Vocal).

ART

UNLIKE one House magazine editor I do not mourn the passing of handwritten articles. There are very few boys in the School whose handwriting is good. Evidence can be seen in the editorial in question and typed pages are certainly neater and more easily read. But can I once again make a plea for more creative illustrations to written material and greater attention to captions and the standard of lettering. Copies and tracings cannot, obviously, be entertained favourably as creative work.

Remember the sections under which the marks are awarded:

- 1—Magazine format and presentation;
- 2—Standard of the art entries (with age allowance);
- 3—Opportunities taken to illustrate the written material.

Ravensbury. The art contributions in this magazine were of a generally high standard; those entries by T. M. Smith, Gammell and Dyson were particularly good. Whereas the House cannot claim to have been inspired in their presentation there was an overall neatness suitable to the task. Their articles were most agreeably illustrated throughout.

Witford. Owing perhaps to the influence of Edmonds their magazine was presented with flair and pleasant visual design. Each set of pages was displayed so as to attract the viewer.

Canons' effort was contained in a neat and attractive book and the beautifully typed contributions were placed with precision and care. Much of the credit for this is, I believe, due to Morpew. But I must emphasise that however laboriously executed, copies of tracings will not ever compare with examples of creative work.

Lodge's magazine was a disappointment after previous years. It was adequate but lacked finesse. The editorial page was most unprepossessing.

JUNIOR ELOCUTION

THIS year the general standard was immeasurably higher than last year. Almost without exception competitors were both audible and distinct. The set piece, the poem, had been well and thoroughly learnt by all contestants and on the whole it was repeated with understanding although it seemed that some had merely conned it by heart without making the attempt to understand it fully.

The judges will recommend next year that another test be added so that each competitor would then have three tests to perform.

May I in conclusion offer my congratulations to almost all the "Junior Elocutionists" of 1960.

CRAFT

THIS year's House models were the best group yet. Perhaps the overall quality was high as a result of four years' experience. There was the usual last-minute flurry to assemble the models but the judges felt that there had been far more preparation. It should be fairly obvious to senior boys that a master-plan must soon be established to give coherence to the layout. It then remains to delegate responsibility to individuals in the House to prepare various parts.

Ingenuity and individual imagination are well in evidence in *Canons'* dam and power supply idea which rivals the background of floating helicopters on the model of Lodge House. However Ravensbury were extremely exhaustive in their considerations and one feels that a real space travel station could easily be like their model. It was certainly a most comprehensive solution. Congratulations to all who took part in the competition.

The House Debates

DEBATING is still very much an unfamiliar art in the School and will be so while it is regarded as an annual tax on the self-confidence and opinions of a minority in the fifth and sixth forms. The quality of argument this year was generally higher than last, but few spoke with the assurance or conviction necessary to sway the uncommitted or, at least, to impress them by the skill with which they acted a part. As every politician knows, a bad case has never hampered the man who can give the appearance of believing it to be a good one.

The only speaker in either debate to give us the true fire of impassioned rhetoric was C. S. Selley, who, on behalf of Canons, opposed the motion, "This house believes television to have a desirable cultural impact on society". His manner would have been more appropriate in the less confined spaces of Hyde Park, and argument was not always clearly discernible amid the torrent of words, but he did satisfy two basic requirements of effective debating—he was fluent and arresting. Unfortunately he was also completely humourless. Dufour, proposing the motion for Witford had adopted a far too defensive approach and had confined himself mainly to refuting some of the charges made against television, not realising that the burden of proof was his. This line was followed by Edmonds, who made a brave attempt to find the holes in Selley's arguments but who fell back eventually on mere recommendation of individual programmes, some of which were not self-evidently "cultural" in any way. The main stumbling block to the whole debate was in fact the term "cultural," and no-one, with the exception of Davis, who spoke for Canons, made any real attempt to say what it meant to him. Other terms, too, such as "intellectual" and "working class" were freely bandied about as if they had some kind of precise meaning. All this naturally led to a good deal of irrelevance which each side frequently recognised in the other but neither could avoid. Of the speakers from the floor Davidge was by far the best: he is a debater of considerable promise and his House would do well next year to make him a principal speaker.

In the second debate the issues were more clearly grasped and the arguments were full of sound, close reasoning and occasionally enlivened by humour. Hughes (Ravensbury), proposing the motion, "This house considers itself unfit to receive the vote at the age of eighteen", had clearly given the subject much serious thought and was refreshingly critical of himself and his contemporaries. A tendency to read from his script, especially towards the end when he was running out of time, was the only major fault in a speech which otherwise showed him to be a much improved debater. Robinson too had much of interest to say, though delivered a little too ponderously to be fully effective. The arguments that followed contained excellent material and it was encouraging to hear so many speakers seizing on points made by opponents and thus maintaining the continuity of debate. Ultimately the house showed its recognition of Ravensbury's greater cogency and the motion was carried.

Ravensbury, in fact, won the competition by a comfortable margin, with Lodge, Canons and Witford following in that order. The judges had an enjoyable afternoon and felt that both subjects had been profitably re-aired.

The Phoenix Society

It would be foolish to pretend that this has been a good year for the Phoenix Society. Of the several meetings arranged for the first term only one actually took place; the rest were unfortunately cancelled owing to the inability of the proposed speakers to keep their appointments. Since that time the Society has been dormant.

The reasons for this are several. First, the master in charge had a large amount of personal and School work to attend to during the year and has not found time to spare for organising the sort of meetings which were so successful during the 1958-59 session. Second, apart from one or two individuals, there seems no great enthusiasm for such a society in the School. It was noticeable at the end of last year's function that attendances were falling away and for the one meeting held this year boys were literally "press-ganged" into attending in order to confront the visitors with a respectable audience. It must be remembered that it is impossible to invite outside speakers if only a handful of people will turn up to hear them. Third, the Society was unfortunate during the first term when several meetings had to be cancelled.

Despite this disappointing report it is hoped that the Society will flourish again next year. New officers will be chosen at the end of this term and a new programme devised but the fifth and sixth forms must, in the last resort, be responsible for the Society. If it is to survive they must make it their business to attend regularly and to speak their opinions. If they do not do this it must be assumed that there is no desire for such a society within this School.

Art Club

THE purpose of the Club is to provide an opportunity for boys to do creative work of their own choice. I am available for some tuition and advice but the variety of activities means that set lessons are not practicable. Ideally the ideas should come from the boys. We have a few crafts available which are most interesting to do and I should like to see more people trying these activities. Why not illustrate stories by lino cuts or scraper board, make your own posters, do some oil painting or perhaps make a model in clay? All these can provide the greatest satisfaction and enjoyment.

Chess Club

THIS year the fortunes of the Chess Club have followed the usual pattern. Support has come mainly from the lower School and a few senior stalwarts. Enthusiasm has waxed and waned, being dependent on such factors as the popularity of the Gym Club and the strictness of the Choir Master. In the autumn term the evening on which the Club met was changed from Tuesday to Wednesday, a blatant break with tradition which nevertheless resulted in increased attendances.

The School sets, which are now looking a little the worse for wear, were collected from the four corners of the building and assembled in some sort of rough order in the Library cupboard. In addition, four new sets have been bought from School funds and these have helped to encourage new members into the Club. Indeed, support has been such that we have decided to take the unusual step of continuing to meet during the summer term.

The Club has played four matches with other schools, one against Rutlish, one against Raynes Park and two against East Grinstead Grammar School. Success has been variable.

E.J.D.

Gymnastics Club

DURING the winter and spring terms the Gym Club provided facilities for a small but steady number of chiefly young members to increase their range and performance of gymnastic activities.

With help from the senior members of the Club the younger ones are acquiring the experience and co-ordination necessary to perform head-springs, handsprings, arab-swing flic-flacs and somersaults which, as strength and concentration increase, will produce good gymnasts.

Vaulting box, buck and horse offer a challenge which is well met, but more attention must be paid to style. Beamwork is popular with all, although better limited to those strong in arm and shoulder.

There is plenty of potential in the Club. Plenty of practice will bring it to fruition.

The Hopton Press

THE printing room has been the scene of the usual quota of crises this year and one wonders if the educational and social value of making this kind of contribution to the School is not offset by the anxiety states which not a few members seem to have acquired. One of our main problems is that we do not receive an even flow of work. Consequently we frequently have to meet excessive demands on our time and facilities and this inevitably causes delay in publication. One compensation for our occasional tardiness, especially with the issue of the calendar, is that we have provided the School with a stock joke of which it never seems to tire.

One of our more exacting tasks was the printing of the Easter concert programme, which featured a considerable quantity of Latin. The fascination of dealing with an unknown language proved to be a useful stimulus, however, and the job was one of the few to be completed on time.

Philpott, our foreman printer for most of the year, has recently left us to take up a printing apprenticeship with another firm and it is only fitting that we should record our pleasure at our first success of this kind. We are indeed gratified by the knowledge that some of the pride in craftsmanship and the traditional skills of hand printing which Philpott acquired during his training with us are to be passed on to the printing industry at large.

Natural History Society

THOSE who have been required to immerse themselves occasionally in the Biology Laboratory, and subsequently have complained of odours worse than those of chemistry, suffer, not from the results of formal biology, but from the enthusiasm of members of the Society. We have fairly thoroughly explored the immediate neighbourhood of the School and emerged with a variety of interesting trophies—a dead and unsavoury duck, a horse's jaw (intended for lions), and rather too many fish when Seven Islands ponds dried up last summer.

However, besides the more conspicuous dead objects, we have collected and studied a variety of living things and maintained many of them in our aquarium.

The guinea-pigs have been a source of great interest. Their hoped-for offspring were destined for dissection but they were so delightful that plans were changed. Preparations are in progress for the provision of better housing for them in an outdoor cage and run.

We have begun surveying the plant and animal life of the Common but interesting diversions have been so frequent so far that progress has been slow.

As we begin to exhaust some of the interest of the School surroundings we shall be taking excursions further afield to less inhabited regions.

Phalanx

THE Phalanx has had, as it always does, a year of varied activity and mixed success. Perhaps the pinnacle of both was reached when some carefree "fairy" rode his or her super-charged paint-brush with reckless abandon over the roof and windows above the Middle School's classrooms ending up with a final flourish in the bell-tower. The Phalanx was called upon to undo the work of this mischievous libertine. Their monumental efforts, however, were regrettably little appreciated. Some saw no change, some had never even noticed the cankered portions, while others said that they "had done something" for the character of the buildings and that it was a pity we had ever interfered!

Towards the end of this, the summer term, the Phalanx hopes to arrange its annual social evening on a scale which as far as the oldest records show, has never been attempted before. They hope that this time their efforts may meet with greater recognition.

P.M.R.

Radio Club

In October last year a number of radio enthusiasts spent a great deal of their spare time prowling round the School in search of some still unclaimed premises in which to hold meetings, and so give our proposed Radio Club an official identity. The situation seemed hopeless. Then, Mr. Courtney solved our difficulties and gave us the use of the C.C.F. hut. From this point we progressed rapidly. Within ten days the hut was wired with a power socket for our use, Mr. Perry supplied us with a stock cupboard into which we crammed a variety of aged radio sets, and we held our first meeting.

During the first few weeks we were necessarily confined to discussing radio theory in order to establish a level of understanding common to all our members, for while some members were already acknowledged experts others had their first insight into electronics only after they had joined the Club. Our lectures and discussions, therefore, began with elementary physical principles of atomic theory, which became more and more specialised as we went on. Our sixth form members produced some excellent demonstrations with the Wimshurst machine, various discharge tubes, a home-made oscilloscope, several cathode-ray tubes, and a high-voltage power-pack.

The popular conception of a radio club is that of a room filled with elaborate equipment, but unfortunately we are never likely to achieve such a status, for the only funds we have are the subscriptions of our members, and equipment is extremely expensive. However, during the first two months we gradually accumulated old radio sets, some tools, wire, solder and "Oxo" tins. Batten was elected chairman of the Club, Carter was elected secretary, and Day was given the task of treasurer.

We enjoyed some very entertaining experimental evenings, particularly one occasion on which Batten managed to transmit his own programme from the Physics Laboratory to the C.C.F. hut. For obvious reasons the transmission was confined to the short wave and was very low powered. His transmitter was a highly dubious combination of a commercial signal generator, a single stage amplifier and a tape recorder, but it worked. The other members of the Club clustered rather sceptically round a radio receiver in the C.C.F. hut, and had their doubts banished instantly when Batten's voice came through clearly on the twenty-metre band.

While such demonstrations and experiments were being planned the more routine work of the Club continued smoothly. Some members brought their own equipment, and their problems, to the Club, while some were servicing faulty receivers, and everyone was engaged, one way or another, in building equipment of some kind. We now have, as a result, an efficient aerial, a portable D.C. power supply unit, and at least one working receiver. Some members were inspired to build their own oscilloscopes, after one of our demonstrations, and all our members have attempted to build their own receivers.

In March, Mr. Sollit, a Battersea radio dealer, came to School and gave us an illustrated talk on "The development of radio and television since 1920". He brought with him a wide range of apparatus, including a 1920 one-valve radio set and a 1960 17 in. portable television receiver.

Very recently some of our members had free tickets to visit the electronics exhibition at Olympia, and we are planning to visit a radio factory before the end of term. Our future plans include some very ambitious dreams of beaming high-frequency signals across Mitcham, in the manner of a radar beam, but so far this is outside our scope.

So our first School year will end. Regrettably we shall lose most of our sixth formers who have worked so well to give the Club a good beginning, but we hope that new members will come along to the C.C.F. hut on Wednesday evenings next term and bring their equipment with them.

Thursday Club

UNDER Mr. Lindsay-Smith's unflagging leadership, the Thursday Club functioned for several years as an organisation specifically for the junior forms. Activities were numerous and varied: talks were given by visiting speakers and members of the School; games evenings (indoor and outdoor) were frequently held; visits were arranged to exhibitions and sporting functions, and film shows occupied several evenings.

Since Mr. Lindsay-Smith's departure the Club's activities have lapsed, but we hope to resume meetings in September. All members of the junior forms are welcome and anyone who is interested in joining, or, better still, helping to run the Club should see Mr. Summersby as soon as possible.

The Bomb

It was early morning. The city was still slumbering under the soft, caressing glow of the rising sun. Everywhere was peaceful and tranquil. It was at this time that the plane came, a gleaming, streamlined shape, occasionally flashing as a gentle, probing ray from the rising sun behind it caught a wing-tip. The shrill, screeching sound of its jet engines gradually became louder as it approached. It might have been an ordinary air liner, but those inside the plane knew otherwise. This was no ordinary cargo they were carrying, and even they felt some reluctance in loosing this horror on mankind. But it was war; it had to be done. After a slight hesitation, someone inside the plane pulled a lever, the hatches opened with smooth, mechanical efficiency, and an ominous dark shape fell slowly towards the slumbering, unsuspecting city. The plane turned sluggishly and flew slowly back to its base, disappearing into the distant, early-morning haze.

The bomb had gathered momentum, was now a fast-moving, almost imperceptible dot which hurtled through the billowing clouds and dropped towards its target with merciless, unflinching accuracy. Most of the city had now woken up, the sound of the plane bringing apprehension and panic. Figures were standing in the roads, most of them only half-dressed, looking up to the sky for something—anything—to appear. Then they noticed for the first time that insignificant little black dot in the sky, and what it meant to them. Cries of horror went up throughout the city, figures ran to and fro carrying their belongings, others ran back into their houses and cowered, terrified, by the windows. And others stood there in the road, rooted to the spot, paralysed with horror, watching as this thing hurtled down from the sky to destroy them, staring in fascinated horror as it got slowly nearer and nearer . . . sweat broke out in beads on their faces as they waited there for their doom . . . then it struck. A sheet of searing, writhing, yellow flame shot out in all directions, roaring and crackling, convulsing and twisting round buildings, mingling with the screams of people inside the burning houses. The streets were crowded with hysterical people, mad with terror, rushing down the narrow side-streets to get away from this spreading, roaring horror that greedily devoured all in its path. The screams of small children as they fell and were trampled by the hysterical crowd were drowned in the uproar. The flames spread over the city, leaving in their path destruction and tragedy.

It was evening. The fire had long since passed over the city. Slowly, cautiously, the survivors returned to their city, to salvage what they could from the pitiful, smouldering ruins. The terror, the panic, and the deafening noise had gone. All that remained was the tragedy, and the calm resignation of the people. There could be no future for them; they would be a band of homeless, wandering refugees who would try to forget the past and to make a new life for themselves in other countries. But the ruins would remain for a long time yet, to remind them and others of the grief and the destruction caused by a single bomb. As the refugees stood among the ruins of their homes, the huge mushroom cloud which had overhung the city began to drift slowly away. All had been silent until that moment; then came a desolate sound, a sound that rang through the shattered side streets, a sound which echoed through and through the hideous, roofless ruins.

It was a baby crying.

J. B. LOVE 3b

Buttermere

Now the present is all
And nothing, and part of
The vastness of space and of time.

The wind blows thin on the fells
Where life and death are one
Under a sky, impassive and cold
As ever-changing, permanent God.

The rhythm of life throbs under the green
Where light filters down through the leaves
In soft-sinking waves, and everything breathes
And rustles and murmurs,
At one with the wind and the rocks;

All life that flows like a river, eternal,
Unhearing the peevish curses of man.

D. A. DAVIS VI 1

The Old Hut

I found a hidden hut when I was a child,
Some seven years ago;
And I blocked the path with branches and leaves
So that nobody else would know.

It had one foot on the land and one in a stream,
Which trespassed on its ground;
And the battle was great between the two,
For the weak old hut was proud.

Its body was crumbling but it refused to yield,
For its spirit still was strong;
And though weakened by time yet still it clung
To the land it had known for so long.

The walls that were standing were green with slime,
Strained by the rising stream—
A wonderful place to an imaginative child,
Hideous though now it may seem.

There was in the corner a small brown vase,
The one thing left, alone,
In whose dark and murky depths
A spider had made its home.

The hut still stands and the stream has gone.
It has endured the passage of time.
And I feel proud of its triumph, for I've always thought
Of that hut as being mine.

C. ASH 2h

Looking Back

LOOKING back, I can remember when I was a small child, when the world without was suffused with the golden glow of imagination, when the simple things took on a different value. It is difficult to understand now just what it was about those days in the front room, surrounded by model motor cars and trains, which made me so happy. As I grow older my outlook changes, and not so much my memory of those days, but my comprehension of their value to me grows dim. I no longer wish to play with model soldiers or Meccano sets; I no longer wish to play "Bad Eggs" in the street; and yet the happiness of when I did these things lives on. Perhaps it is that time idealises the past, sifting the good for retention and leaving the bad unremembered. But surely even this cannot account for the positive warmth that I feel about those days. Cheap Christmas tree lights and white-haired uncles, Enid Blyton books with my mother in front of the fire on a snowy afternoon, a naivety not troubled with the "isms" of recent years; an acceptance, a faith—not in any god—but in the security that was my whole life.

It is impossible to understand a child by looking at his face: his outlook is different, the things that are important to him are not the same things that are important to adults. Each generation has its characteristics, and each inherits from the one before it. It seems to me that as I grow older I pass further and further from an understanding of what was important when I was a child. It must take a truly great man to cross these barriers of time and understand what makes a child behave as he does. It is one thing to give him a toy because it does no harm and keeps him happy, and quite another to let him have it with sympathy for his needs and desires, a knowledge of which can be gained only from memories of one's own childhood.

The pictures grow dim and fade, the tears and laughter and the vivid imagination pass into the background of my mind. I shall never again have these experiences. Perhaps I am the poorer for the loss.

E. J. DUFOUR VI 3

Un Orage Accompagné de Grêle

A branch quivers, an ominous cloud solemnly approaches,
These indications foretell a hailstorm.
Then, in one vicious gust, the pattering hail descends.
White waves sweep fields, and all the vicinity,
Obstructed only by trees and those who dare oppose it;
Placid pools with peaceful reflections
Become turbulent swells,
Agitated by the merciless downpour.
Spring blossom and the incessant hail
Mix and fall together.
Then the reeds sigh, and blue skies
Portend the end of the storm.
So life passes on,
Interrupted by such unwelcome intrusions.

R. C. FOLLETT 2h

A Momentary Glory

A silver streak of light on the runway poised.
The pilot clambered, like a thing encumbered,
Under the perspex cover of his craft.
She turned, her rounded nose down the long strip
Of black projected.
She thundered,
Roared,
Rose.
Her wheels retracted into her body,
We saw her streak across the sandy waste,
Then bank,
Back.

Up high she screamed, the deafening roar
Of her thundering power impressed
All who heard it, there down below.
Down she dropped to curve
Like a parabolic graph—
But then she jerked,
Jumped,
At some invisible object shied,
Flew out of control
And in a blaze of orange and red,
She died.

D. CARTER VI 2

Out on a Limb

REAL "education", it is a recognised fact, does not begin until one has said goodbye to the sheltered precincts of school to face alone the hard and unromantic world of the wage-earner. Though my own "education" only began a few months ago, I have already gained a great deal of experience and knowledge that will be invaluable during my later life. I was first engaged in demolition work at Croydon; thus if anyone should happen to want his house knocked down I am the person to ask—my fees are very reasonable. I am skilled in the use of pick, shovel and sledgehammer, winch and pneumatic drill; I can remove a roof, chase down a wall and remove a window frame, lift a floorboard without damaging it and clean a brick for re-use; I know how high walls can be pulled down and how they can fall down without being touched. The regular demolition squad were used to this and hardly turned a hair when it happened: the majority of them, of course, had no hair to turn.

It was while engaged on demolition that I got my first taste of scaffolding. It was not this that prompted me to become a scaffolder's labourer, but the prospect of earning a higher wage. I was lucky; I got a job with S.G.B. who put me into a mobile gang in the south-east London area. With them I have worked at Belvedere, Dartford, North Fleet, Sidcup, Gravesend and Greenwich. I have learnt the basic forms of scaffolding and the terms employed. I have helped put up scaffolding in a sewage farm, in several factories, two power stations, an electric grid, around a church and a super-market and on the Rochester by-pass. The most pleasant job we were given involved the erection of a fourteen-foot-high platform outside a private house, where a new window was to be installed. We were working steadily when to our horror we found that the lady of the house was recording the operation with a cine-camera! By contrast the worst job was that of erecting inspection platforms inside a boiler. Inside it rose to a height of one hundred and seventy feet; it had been fired for two years and the walls were thick with cinder that fell at the slightest touch; as we worked it came down ceaselessly. The air was heavy with dust and as the scaffold neared the ceiling the atmosphere became too hot to bear. Because of this the last twelve feet were abandoned as impossible.

The scaffolders themselves I like to divide into two classes; there are those who groan in anguish when they have to do overtime, though they are glad of the extra money they receive; and those who seem to work without a break, days, nights, all day Saturday and Sunday. One might hear (if one listened carefully, for the scaffolder is a rare song-bird) these same men singing "The Scaffolder's Dirge" (to the tune of "Travellin' Light"). It goes:

Got no podger* nor bubble* to weigh me down
Scaffold so fast my standards* ain't touchin' the ground,
Scaffolding light,
Scaffolding light,
I just can't wait to work another ghoster* tonight.

I, of course, am happy to earn my basic weekly wage and spend my nights in bed; having already done my share of night-work, I am convinced that this is the best place to be; yet during the day there is nowhere I would rather be than at work out in the open air except if it happens to be the sewage farm when the wind is in a northerly direction.

*List of terms.

Podger: Scaffolder's key for tightening fittings.

Bubble: Spirit level.

Standards: The uprights on which the whole scaffold is based.

Ghoster: An all night session of work.

N. SPROXTON

(N. Sproxtion, who left us during the spring term, is going up to Oxford in October on an Open Scholarship to St. Edmund Hall.)

Letter from Reading

READING is like a pig-trough. By this I do not mean that the town is foul and stinking, although a stranger, breathing in Simmond's Brewery fumes and the wonderfully various odours from Huntley and Palmer's biscuit factory during the continual damp and mist of winter or the high humidity of summer, might well think so. I refer to its physical shape. The Thames scours the bottom of the trough, flanked on the north by Cavesham, a quiet suburb badly served by public transport and regarded almost as a foreign posting by lodgings students. The south-east quadrant of the town is its life centre, with the Cafe Ole (as in 'ole), the Olympia dance hall, the Town Hall and library, Minet's coffee bar and book shop . . . and the University.

The Bath road cuts its fuming path a short way up the south side of the trough, with a splendid white Georgian block, converted into rooms for some of the female students, facing across the road the administrative and social centre. Behind this, on the rim of the trough, above the town,

a magnificent park contains the Letters Faculty, the Physics department, one of the seven Halls of Residence, the rural life museum and two decaying Victorian mansions. The last pair, separated by a lake, contain forty or so lodgings students, notorious for organising lusty parties. Life here is honestly casual, unlike the Halls of Residence, where one is expected to wear tie and gown for dinner and generally imitate the Oxbridge tradition—without the ivy or the tradition.

Two events are outstanding in the University calendar: Rag Day and the Head of the River race, which attracts crews from all the major universities as well as entrants from schools and the services. On Rag Eve the town is decorated with whitewash and other more substantial ornaments and the celebrations are such that it is a wonder anyone has the energy to man the floats and collect for charity on Rag Day itself.

University women are a topic that has caused a furious exchange in the University newspaper "Shell". They have been accused of a *derriere-garde* attitude to dress, clannishness, and a marriage-market outlook on life at university. But they are vital for Saturday night "hops," Monday night jazz club, and afternoons "at home".

Despite the counter-attractions of sleeping and time-wasting, lectures are well attended and outside speakers draw a small but keen audience. Nevill Coghill, John Wain and Ted Willis are a few of the more notable speakers we have heard.

I am studying English, Philosophy and my post-office account, and, in the silence of my converted gun-room in one of the decaying Victorian mansions, already my heart pounds with pride for Redbrick—*Radigensis illuminatio mea*.

P. HART

Old Boys' Rugby

THIS has been another satisfactory season from the playing point of view. The first three sides all won the majority of their matches, and the "B" XV, in addition, scored almost 500 points. The "C" did not get many games and was not quite as successful as the other sides. Surbitonians, prompted by a certain gentleman no doubt, continue to be our bogey side. Walcountians beat us again, this time by a single point and two dropped goals. On the credit side was a good win against the Gaytonians, and a drawn game, with a weakened XV, against the strong Maidstone team. Smalley, replacing James, had a good season as hooker, and Glover goes on for ever. In the sevens, we at last got back to form. We won the Bec tournament, reached the semi-finals in the Surrey and Mid-Whitgiftians, and the final round in the Middlesex preliminaries. Woodley, with his running, and James with his persistence and attire, both made good first appearances. The main credit, however, goes to the captain, Mitchell, whose persistence brought some compensation for the series of injuries which has kept him out of many of the fifteen-a-side games.

Our thanks go to Dr. Bingham for the interest he has already taken in our affairs, and we welcome him as our new president. Also to Mr. Judge, already a vice-president, who has agreed to become the "link" between ourselves and the School.

New members are always welcome—we shall be visiting the School this term to try to give more information about the Club. There is no subscription for your first year after joining.

Results—

Played 27; Won 20; Drawn 3; Lost 4; Points for 297; Agst. 117.

M. ROWLAND (*Hon. Secretary*)

Parents' Association

DURING the year there have been several changes in the Parents' Committee. In November, owing to his appointment as Headmaster of Isleworth Grammar School, we lost the services of our president, Mr. G. J. P. Courtney, after a period of seven years, his place being taken in January by Dr. C. R. Bingham, the new Headmaster of the School.

We also lost the services of Mr. G. Davies who retired from the Chairmanship, his place being taken by our good friend and secretary, Mr. S. Anger.

Last November, at one of our social evenings, we were given a talk by Mr. C. F. Lewis on his impressions of life in a comprehensive school. Apart from the most interesting talk, delivered in his own inimitable style, it was, indeed, a great pleasure to renew the acquaintance of such an old and valued friend of the School.

We have had the usual number of old time dances in the Gymnasium, but these, on the whole, have not been quite so well attended as on previous occasions. However, the dancers still enjoy themselves immensely. In past years it has been the custom to hold an annual dance at the Baths Hall in January. This year two such dances were arranged, one being held in November in addition to the January dance. These dances were highly successful both from the financial point of view and in terms of enjoyment.

After a lapse of several years, it was decided to hold a Parents' Christmas Party in December, and although the attendance was not large in numbers, the evening was quite enjoyable, the time going far too quickly for the whole programme to be carried out. Our thanks for the success of this function must be extended to Mr. Hendley and members of the Committee who put in such a lot of hard work.

In March of this year, with the help of the School staff, boys of the sixth form and some parents, a jumble sale was held in the Gym. After two hours' hectic work by everyone this resulted in a profit of £33.

During May we were entertained by Mr. Hallam and his friends of "The Circle" with two plays: "The Tinker's Wedding" and "Possession". This was indeed a very enjoyable evening and was appreciated by all those who attended.

Once again we are approaching the annual cricket match between the parents and the boys. This year we are hoping for better things, as in the last match the boys won rather too easily.

S. A. TAYLOR (*Hon. Secretary*)

School Officers

School Captains T. Lewis, P. M. Robinson.

Vice-Captains R. J. Batten, N. Sproxton.

Senior Prefects T. Baines, G. Barling, E. J. Dufour,
J. Williams, P. Anger.

Prefects D. Carter, S. J. Carter, M. D. Cook,
B. Day, E. Edmonds, B. Forsdick,
K. Giddings, V. Green, J. Hughes,
B. Jones, G. Lowthian, A. Frost,
D. Mackenzie, A. McConnell,
I. Medhurst, K. Morpew,
G. Northway, E. Summers, A. Wallis,
J. F. Wainwright.

House Captains CANONS: R. J. Batten.
LODGE: N. Sproxton, P. M. Robinson,
V. Green.
RAVENSBURY: J. Hughes.
WITFORD: T. Lewis, J. Wainwright,
E. J. Dufour.

Team Captains ATHLETICS: K. Giddings.
CRICKET: M. Cook.
TENNIS: V. Green.
RUGBY: K. Giddings.

School Librarian E. J. Dufour.

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