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STILL LIFE

by D. A. BAKER VII

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MITCHAM COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

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Editorial

SOME of our readers who, like Chaucer, find vice and folly more stimulating than virtue, might well complain that the Magazine, as a record of our worthiest activities and achievements during the year, shows only one side of school life. There are, of course, other aspects no less spirited and diverse, and these are recorded in a work which is, in a sense, the counterpart of the Magazine, and with which many readers are already familiar—the Detention Book.

Not surprisingly, the bulk of entries in the "Offence" column records sins of omission. These, although amazingly varied, from the ubiquitous "Failure to hand in homework" to the bizarre "Failure to hand in running vest", are unenlightening since they tell us not what a boy does but what authority would have him do. It is the positive, daring and frankly eccentric violations of the law which really capture the imagination.

One is immediately struck by the sheer drama of extra-curricular life—the devilish incendiary plot that clearly lay behind "Burning matches in class"; the torments of frustrated will that exploded in the heroic but tragically futile act of "Trampling on paper given for imposition"; the madness of "Inane laughter in class" that afterwards supervened; the acts of gratuitous violence—"Beating a boy about the head with a book", "Throwing a board rubber at another boy", "Bursting into a classroom"—which indicate the endlessly recurring struggle for survival, waged against both authority and fellow inmates. The classroom is the scene of a continually "renewed skirmishing", as one entry puts it, the issue forever in doubt.

Some boys seek alternative means of self-assertion and preservation, from the straightforward escapism of "Climbing through a window" and "Leaving the classroom without permission", to the more subtle "Reading Shakespeare in Physics class". For others, the cares of the classroom are soothed by music—"Singing in class" is very popular, "Humming" scarcely less so, "Whistling" a good third, and who knows but that the boy charged with "Making a disgusting noise repeatedly" was not in fact attempting some kind of percussive effect?

For yet others, exercise provides diversion. "Walking in class" is a mild enough offence, but when this develops into "Persistent acrobatics", as happened on one occasion, there seems to be some irregularity in either the curriculum or the boy himself which cannot be overlooked.

Some classroom misdemeanours are prudently concealed beneath phraseology that condemns them by its very reticence. Who can tell what canons of taste and decorum were offended by "Unseemly behaviour" and "Inappropriate conduct"? Others, like "Unprepared for a lesson" are so general as to be almost universally applicable.

The picture of the School that emerges from these pages is certainly more colourful than that which the Magazine offers, but neither more, nor less, realistic. The truth lies somewhere between the two; the majority of boys, generally honest, intermittently hard-working and rarely detained, do little to merit inclusion in either. Perhaps we should be satisfied that in no sense will they ever set the School on fire.

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*, *The Suttonian*, and *The Windsorian*.

School Notes

FOUR new members joined the Staff in September: Mr. A. Richardson (Handicraft), Mr. D. G. Thomas (Physical Education), Mr. Street (Modern Languages) and Mr. Benham who came to us temporarily for the year to take charge of the Physics Department. In addition to Mr. Benham two other members of staff are leaving this Summer: Mr. Axon is joining the staff of his old school in Leicester and Mr. Allsopp is moving to Sutton. Monsieur Menel has spent the year with us as French Assistant and has given the French Department valuable help. Mr. Wickwar, our groundsman, emigrated to Australia in the Summer Term, and his successor involuntarily introduced some confusion in bearing the name of Perry. To many generations of Mitcham Grammar School boys the name immediately brings our caretaker to mind, who has for so long kept a watchful eye on the School.

On December 9th Speech Night was again held at the Baths Hall and Mr. T. G. C. Woodford, Headmaster of Leeds Grammar School, presented the prizes and delivered an inspiring address. On the evening of December 20th the School Choir gave the usual Carol Service in St. Mark's Church, and at the end of the following term on Monday evening, March 20th, they performed a festival of Easter Carols. On the last day of the Autumn and the Spring terms the School held its End-of-Term Service in St. Mark's Church. The Leavers' Service will be held there on Friday the 21st July, when our preacher is the Rev. J. F. M. Llewellyn, Headmaster of St. Paul's Cathedral Choir School and formerly Chaplain of King's College School.

The annual Civic Visit took place at the end of the Spring Term, and the Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Evelyn Baker, addressed the School and afterwards presented the House Rugby and Cross-Country Cups. The School entertained the Mayor and Mayoress to lunch and, before leaving, the Mayor expressed a wish to present a picture to the School Library; we are very grateful to her for this generous gift.

Our congratulations go to the five State Scholarship winners—G. M. Barling, B. W. Forsdick, L. Horowicz, A. Wallis and J. G. Williams; to L. Horowicz on winning an Open Scholarship in Natural Science at St. Peter's College, Oxford; to C. S. Selley on the award of an Exhibition in Natural Science at Exeter University; to B. W. Forsdick on gaining admission to Downing College, Cambridge, to read Mathematics; and to the following who, besides those boys mentioned above, won places at the Universities: P. C. S. Anger (Magee), T. M. Baines (Nottingham), E. J. B. Dufour (Manchester), V. C. Green (Sheffield), T. J. Lewis (Manchester), R. D. Long (Leeds), P. M. Robinson (Leeds).

The Parents' Association continues to give the School generous help and we are indebted to them for providing the Senior Prefects' gowns and for the donation of three large pictures for the School Hall.

Music Notes

THE first event of the autumn term was a Parents' Social Evening for which the musicians of the School provided a varied programme of instrumental and orchestral items. Davidge, playing Dohnanyi's 2nd Rhapsody, showed good control of tone and variety of touch but his range of expression seemed limited and some of his finger work was muddled. Walder and Macdonald played a trio sonata by Telemann; Jarrett played some variations for piano and Walder a piccolo solo. This last item left our ears buzzing for some time. Duets were provided by Davidge and Mr. Chapman and the orchestra concluded with an item by Haydn.

The service of Nine Lessons and Carols in St. Mark's was held at the end of term. The traditional singing in procession of *Once in Royal David's City* was followed by a service of great beauty, especially memorable performances being given of the *Sussex Carol*, *Gems of Day*, and *Past 3 o'clock*.

H.M.S. Pinafore also occupied a great deal of our time during this term and rehearsals reached a climax at the end of January. The production is fully reported elsewhere but one or two words about the music may not be out of place here.

The Ladies' Chorus sang well especially when it was not required to be "gaily tripping". The sailors would have benefited from voices with greater range but their singing was at all times salty and vigorous. Amongst many good performances that of Wilson (Buttercup) had a fullness and beauty of tone which was remarkable in one to whom the alto voice was new. Margerson (Sir Joseph) had no idea that he could sing at all, yet his voice had a light but penetrating quality well suited to the part. Chapman (Josephine) had, in rehearsal, a small voice but his accuracy and hard work gave the impression of fullness and rounded tone at the performance. Members of the School in the orchestra were Sage, Doig, MacDonald, Tyler and Walder.

Pinafore being over, we at once began rehearsals for the Easter music and this was given on Monday 20th and Wednesday 29th March in St. Mark's. It was a pity that there were so few to hear us at the evening performance for there was much good singing and playing as well as a selection of outstanding Easter music. Anthems by Farrant, Hassler, Bach, Handel, Mozart and Goss were sung, with instrumental interludes by Mozart.

In April we were pleased to hear that R. V. Hill had won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music and he begins his studies there in September. We offer him our congratulations and good wishes.

The orchestra continues to grow and has now twenty-three members. The viola, cello and double bass class will soon be ready to join. The choir needs more tenors and basses but has received valuable assistance from Dr. Bingham and Messrs. Morris, Male and Harris.

The Summer Term is necessarily taken up by revision and exams. This year seven boys are taking music at "A" or "O" levels and next year the number should be eighteen.

Rehearsals continue as usual in choir and orchestra.

Librarian's Report

ON the whole, the librarian has had the good fortune to be in office during a singularly uneventful year. Unlike many of his predecessors he has had few hardships comparable to those of administering a new withdrawal system, or of changing the card indexes. He has, however been treated cruelly by the history department. The change in the periods and nations now studied by "A" level historians has meant that the librarian has been called upon at all hours of the day to classify and access books on Modern European and American History. From the speed with which they acquire newly published books, it is clear that the history staff are avid readers of book critics. The French literature section has also benefited considerably from the year's accessions, mainly in the form of glossy French paperbacks. As a mathematician himself, the librarian has been pleased above all else by the addition to the library of mathematical text-books of a standard beyond "A" level, many of which he has temporarily purloined for his own use. Additions to other sections have been relatively small, particularly in fiction where the only new books have been donated. The tragedy of the year has been the loss of the expensive *Dictionary of Physics* before Easter. We can only hope that it will turn up again soon.

The librarian wishes to thank all those who have contributed to the library, both in giving books and their free time, this year. Particular reference should be made to the work of B. C. Carpenter, who has looked after the sixth form library capably, to the prefects, and to those who have found stock-taking a convenient way to avoid playing rugby once a term. Finally he wishes his unknown successor an easy year.

B. W. FORSDICK VI 3

H.M.S. Pinafore

MORE than most of the G & S operas, *H.M.S. Pinafore* satisfies the modern audience's demand for immediate interest. The men's chorus is discovered, blessedly and busily, on stage and in our production Little Buttercup (Derek Wilson), the rosiest, the reddest but surely not the roundest beauty in all Spithead, sang adequately if somewhat breathily of her rather curious sales position on the ship. She looked throughout rather like a well-

intentioned Welsh witch surprised in good deeds, and destined for whatever heaven good witches go to; and one remembered her with affection! Dick Dead-eye (Christopher Shrubbsall), a necessary adjunct to any respectable ship's company, suitably shambling and sinister, heralded the entry of the hero Ralph (Ivan Sexton), to sing, naturally, of his thwarted love-affair, on which Captain Corcoran (John Lord) was to cast no favourable eye. The Captain, who gave the impression of under-acting at the beginning, reaped his reward as the opera proceeded. *Ars, perhaps, erat celare artem.*

The heroine, Josephine (Philip Chapman), in whom, poor girl, hope was dead, gloomed on to the stage, if such a radiant beauty could gloom; we should have almost shouldered Ralph off the stage to present our respects to her if the female chorus had not flashed upon the eye. They looked lovely, they moved ladylikely, they were dressed variously, they sang quite sweetly and, glory be, they seemed to laugh at themselves, led by a wide-eyed Hebe (Brian Lord), who took nobody, least of all Cousin Joseph (David Margereson), seriously. Sir Joseph over-acted, if that is possible in G & S, but did it with gusto, contrasted effectively with the Captain, and made us laugh. By this time there was no fear that the opera could be dull.

We remember Josephine's flashing eye on Ralph's proposal, given with an urgency even a haughty beauty would not resist; the revolver episode, very amusingly done; Buttercup's laudably audible song in which she explained the resolving of the impasse; the Boatswain's Mate (Gerald Studd), a British tar, one gathered; the Carpenter's Mate (Anthony Cooper) a venerable British tar, one observed.

The scenery, one set only, was good (has the bridge always the name of the ship blazoned all over it?); the lighting effective; the orchestra unobtrusively competent; and the production smooth.

Reading the script after seeing the performance, one is struck by the fact that there are more and worse puns than one had realised; and that the words of the songs often did not get over (but do they ever do so?) To the present writer, whose singing is such that strong men blench to hear him at Morning Assembly, the voices seemed, if in no case outstanding, in every case competent, particularly the choruses. Of all the songs the trio in the second act was the most fun, but, if we tra-la through any meadows that bloom in the spring, it will be to the air of "Sweet little Buttercup" that we shall be tra-la-ing.

North Wales

AT the first gathering of the party, towards the end of the Spring Term, it was interesting to see so many survivors of past expeditions. For most it was their second, and for six old hands it was their third, and their second Bryn-y-dinas. These gentlemen had liberally informed the rest of the party about the food and the accommodation, and had ostentatiously laughed at the form which mentioned "a series of safe walks".

We assembled at the unearthly hour of 8.15 a.m. Newcomers were easily spotted by their anoraks and boots; the majority wore safely anonymous sports jackets. The vans, when they appeared, were quite new, and grey. Anxious memories about the human assistance required last

year by their tired black predecessors, in two high streets and on countless hills, were forgotten. Owing to playful obstruction on the part of the owners of the vehicles, our departure was delayed until after 9 a.m., but the journey was uneventful until Wales, where the twists and dips proved too much for one member's stomach.

Our arrival in Nant Gwynant was followed by several shocks. The centre, which we had fondly imagined would be large enough for us only, was already occupied by thirty boys of the Mancunian breed, entrenched firmly in the best accommodation. We were relegated to the garden chalets, approached by countless winding paths through the trees, and quite impossible to find at night. The management had changed and the luxurious food which we had prophesied did not materialise. The evening was spent in a seven mile round trip to what one of my predecessors described as "the fleshpots of Beddgelert".

If the centre was changed, the mountains had not, but our plan of attack had to be, owing to the absence of Mr. Purbrick. He had the reputation of being at the top before the rest had started, and Messrs. Marsh and Hallam were accustomed to following at a more dignified pace. To fill the gap, each day a "leader" was appointed from among the "old contemptibles". On Saturday Dymott led the party over Cnicht, and on Sunday Sargent "led us up the Watkin path". This route passes the Gladstone Rock, which we all climbed, struck Gladstonian attitudes, addressed imaginary slate workers, and were photographed for posterity.

Monday found us in Caernarvon, where those who had seen the castle, and the Philistines amongst us, repaired to a coffee bar. The afternoon was employed in the scaling of Moel Siabod, renamed *Siabob* after Stacey, our gallant leader for the day. The descent was rocky, to the delight of the "hard men", who ran down with gay abandon. The following day the present writer led the hordes over the famous Snowdon "horseshoe". The day was sunny and the dreaded ridge Crib Goch was happily traversed. Cader Idris was undertaken on the Wednesday and abandoned by all but Mr. Hallam and three heroes owing to low cloud and heavy rain. The remainder, too wet to care, splashed and sang their way down. Much to our surprise, the four did return and several rode in the van without trousers. On the last morning, which was wet, the revolutionary Hut 4 vetoed climbing and the party went to Bangor. After lunch a few partially climbed Tryfan, while lesser mortals had a skirmish in the Nant Ffrancon pass.

Throughout the week the band of escapists drank in the beauty and peace of the mountains, and most were sorry to leave. Among the memories that remain are Hut 4's rendering (after lights out) of "Land of my Fathers" interrupted by Mr. Marsh; Dymott's hat; the singing coming back from Beddgelert; the row of "dead" boots, left as a gift from Mitcham to Wales, each labelled "contaminated" across the toe-cap. Once again we owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Hallam and Mr. Marsh for leading another very successful expedition.

A. R. CARPENTER VI 2

Field Studies

THERE is considerable doubt in the minds of those unconnected with the Geography department about the validity of the second-year sixth Field Studies week in the autumn. Some openly, and most secretly, regard it as

a pleasant little holiday for the geographers in the middle of a long term. If they were not doubtful before, the news that the five who went to Slapton were the only boys on a course with twenty-three girls, immediately made them so. None of us would deny that the company was extremely charming, and that the week by the sea was more acceptable than a normal school week, but at the same time it was definitely the most valuable week of the sixth form course.

The centre is situated at Slapton Bay in South Devon and is ideally placed for a wide range of geographical studies. The coastline exhibits lots of erosion and deposition features; there are rivers and streams in all stages of development; a close succession of different rocks and relief, with associated land use. The River Dart, and the interesting settlements of Dartmouth and Totnes, and Dartmoor itself, are only a short journey away. The warden of the centre, Ian Mercer, is probably known to naturalists among the lower school as the compere of the television magazine "Out of Doors."

Our programme involved field work during the day, with lectures and discussions in the evening, after which the time was free for writing up field books, or using the extensive library. The first two days were hikes with the warden, the object of which was to teach us to look at landscape. On the Saturday we followed a set route of grid references on our own, observing as we went. The Sunday was free, and most people spent a few "dead" hours in Dartmouth. The coach trip to Dartmoor followed on Monday, and included some of the bleakest and wettest moors in England.

The final day provided the supreme test; we divided into small groups and carried out research work of our choice. The groups with which we were connected descended on various towns and on an agricultural village to find out their geographical significance. In the evening each group gave a most illuminating lecture on its findings.

And so the Torbay Express carried us back to the daily round. There is at least one of us whose field book is still not completed, but nevertheless we are all slightly better geographers as a result.

A. R. CARPENTER VI 2

School Charities

THE result of this year's charity collections has left me wondering whether the repeated warning by educationalists and probation officers about the dangers of too much pocket money are beginning to take effect, at least in some homes. Though the autumn term collection of £61 8s. 8d. was only a matter of shillings less than that of the previous year, it must be remembered that £9 7s. 10d. was gained from the sale of Christmas parcel labels for the National Spastics Association and not entirely from gifts. Similarly the cheque to Sharon in the spring, at £39 5s. 0d., appears to be fairly generous, although several pounds less than that sent in 1960, until it is realized that towards the end of that year nearly £50 was sent to aid the refugees, in addition to the collection for the orphanage. The customary collection of toys at Christmas was to have been abandoned this year in accordance with the wishes of the superintendent of Sharon, but one determined junior presented the prefects with a large box full.

It may have been noticed that I have referred not to "Netherheys" but to "Sharon" in this report. The reason is that, fearing I would go down in the history of school charities as the prefect who has done most to water the milk of human kindness, I decided that I would demonstrate my integrity by exposing a deception that began to be practised on the School over five years ago when the orphanage left Croydon for a new home in Woking—Sharon. My triumph at this revelation would be complete, were it not for the fact that I spent an entire wet afternoon, and ten shillings, searching in vain for the place. Perhaps some amateur psychiatrist will see in this a reason for the dampened enthusiasm of the School as a whole.

This picture of tepid generosity I have drawn is perhaps not entirely justified, as the steady response by a large majority of the School has maintained collections at a level which over the year should once more amount to a very creditable figure. My disappointment stems from the complete failure of my attempts to elicit an intelligent interest from some people in a human problem that they can do much to alleviate by a small sacrifice.

D. A. DAVIS VI 2.

Rugby

1ST XV

THE 1960-61 1st XV was not an outstanding one, but nevertheless a better one than that of the year before, and there were a number of boys in the team who will be at school next year having derived much useful experience from the season's matches. Of the nineteen games that were played, nine were won and ten were lost. There were good victories against Sutton, St. Joseph's, Wallington, the Old Mitchamians; disappointing defeats by Surbiton and Windsor, and close, exciting matches at Bec, where Mitcham lost 3-nil, and against Harrow County.

The best features of the team were the same as those of the previous season. Firstly, there was a general tenacity in the tackle and in defence, and only against Surbiton was this not in evidence. A high standard of formal forward play, particularly in the line-outs, where Farr was excellent, and in the loose scrums, where Batten used his strength to good purpose, was also characteristic. The front row play was excellent, and Studd was a stalwart in tight and loose. If the pack had been bigger it might have risen to greater heights in attack, but this handicap, together with a certain lack of wit and *elan* led to relatively few tries being scored by forward efforts alone. This lack of individual brilliance and initiative in the team as a whole was the main reason why so many games, such as the spring term fixture against Selhurst, so narrowly fought, did not yield victory. The three-quarters tackled well, passed well and sometimes excellently, but rarely looked menacing. Charlton played well, Dymott ran quickly and Anslow never gave anything less than his utmost; but the whole three-quarter line played better on wet days than on dry, a strange state of affairs.

The following boys played for the 1st XV in 1960-61: Giddings, Cooke, Dailly, Horowicz, Charlton, Hill, Bishop, Dymott, Anslow, Studd, Scott, Hoskings, Farr, Batten, Walder, Eddolls, Wilson, Matthews, Goodchild, Walton and Moore. Colours were re-awarded to K. J. Giddings, and awarded to Studd, Farr, Batten, Hill, Charlton, and a half-colour was awarded to Horowicz.

A small tribute must be paid to K. J. Giddings, who captained the 1st XV through two relatively lean seasons, 1959-61, and whose natural brilliance as an attacking fly-half was rarely given the support it deserved. On no occasion did he fail to give less than his best in attack and in covering in defence, and at times from the touchline it appeared that he was playing the opposition by himself. It is hoped that in his post-school rugby his innumerable breaks, half breaks and high and cunning kicks ahead will have the finishing they deserve.

2ND XV

A successful season in which more games were won than lost was the just reward of the team's spirit and perseverance. Indeed, an unbeaten home record was maintained during the autumn term—only to be smashed in the first game after Christmas.

First team demands and injuries were so heavy that on no two successive games did the same fifteen people turn out, and we were thus unable to form any sort of working plan. Stacey and Cooke, two of the side's most reliable players, were each put out of action for six weeks following appearances for the 1st XV. Despite this sorry state of affairs, however, the team put up some spirited performances, as in the hard game against Selhurst at home, and the defeats suffered were usually inflicted only in the last few minutes of the game. Credit must be given to Cooke for his fine goal-kicking which saved us time and again.

The team may have lacked polished skill, but its fight and enthusiasm proved a worthy replacement. It is to be deplored, however, that this was not matched by a similar keenness to turn out for practices. Had it not been for the meagre attendances at training, which prevented any real co-ordination in team movements, and the marked lack of support both from within the School and on the line, which would have given the team the added incentive it needed, I am sure that this season could have been even more successful.

Team from: Moore (capt.), Stacey, Garrett, Walton, Cooke, Sexton, Sage, Morphew, Brushett, New, Ahern, Lavey, Hellard, Austin, Wiseman, Brown, Carter S. J., Pollard, Dymott, Eddolls, Hosking, and Goodchild.

O.A.M.

COLTS XV

UNDER a very enthusiastic and capable captain, R. White, the Colts team had a good year of companionship and rugby. Generally speaking, the team and reserves realised the value of working together and learning the finer points of the game. Consequently I am sure that they enjoyed their rugby and this in turn meant a good team spirit.

The forwards on their day were hard to stop and were able to use a variety of tactics. Behind them the three quarters were often a little undecided and lacking in confidence which meant that their line was often not the power that it could have been. Individually they had talent but it only fused together in a few games. At full back the team could rely on powerful and full-bodied tackling.

James is to be congratulated on playing for Surrey and the writer hopes that all the team will continue to enjoy their rugby in the years to come. It's a great game.

UNDER 14 XV

THE team under the captaincy of Marsden were engaged in a number of close matches which, with a little luck, they might have won, and so improved their record on paper of four matches won and seven lost. It was pleasing to see the gradual but definite improvement, as the season progressed, of each player's individual skill and his team spirit.

This season has been primarily one of learning the all-important basic skills and moves. With these more fully mastered it is hoped that next season will be more successful.

Cricket

1ST XI

So far this season, the results obtained by the 1st XI are as follows:—
Played 6; Won 1; Drawn 2; Lost 3.

On the whole they are disappointing but lack of practice during the early part of the season can be held responsible for our defeat in the first match against St. Olave's. The School started off fairly comfortably but in one disastrous over, four wickets were lost for two runs and the side collapsed to 38 all out. Giddings and Hellard then retaliated by sending five batsmen back to the pavilion. This, coupled with two run-outs, saw seven St. Olave's wickets down before they obtained the required total.

In the next match it was a relief to see our batsmen batting confidently after the catastrophe of the week before. Our opponents on this occasion were Bec, who managed to take eight of our wickets for 124 before the school declared at tea. Their batsmen, however, were in fine form and it was with some difficulty that our bowlers held them down to 111 for 5 before the close of play.

Our visit to Raynes Park proved most successful, the winning of the toss being a useful asset on such a warm afternoon. After scoring 30 runs in the first twenty minutes the tempo of the School's scoring died down somewhat but a total of 121 was obtained before tea was taken. After a fine start, Raynes Park suddenly collapsed and were all out for 88 giving the School a victory by 37 runs.

Sutton proved to be much stronger opponents and after electing to bat they amassed the total of 127 for 4 declared, leaving the School one hundred and five minutes in which to get the runs. This proved too much for our batsmen although we managed to struggle to 55 for 6. Forsdick and Carpenter put up a stern resistance against a strong attack when with 6 wickets down there was still half-an-hour to the close of play.

Poor batting against John Ruskin saw the School all out for 77, on a day which was more fit for rugby than cricket. Boylett, by flourishing his bat, obtained an invaluable top score of 20 thus bringing the side's total up to respectability. Giddings and Hellard, as they had done against St. Olave's, bowled extremely well and had John Ruskin in trouble when 3 wickets were down for no runs. Despite this, John Ruskin recovered and some poor fielding on our part gave them victory by one wicket. An exciting finish? Perhaps, but a match we could so easily have won.

For the third time in the season, the School reached treble figures, in the match with Wallington, our local rivals. The final total was 112 but Wallington set out determined to obtain the necessary runs and this they did with seven minutes to spare, obtaining 113 runs for the loss of 5 wickets. Ring, who joined us from the 2nd XI, bowled extremely well and if he maintains his present form he should be a useful asset to the 1st XI, providing support for the opening attack of Giddings and Hellard.

The fine team spirit which exists among the 1st XI players makes it difficult to criticise, but one feels that the ground fielding has let us down badly and there is still room for improvement in the running between the wickets. There is little to complain about in the batting, and the bowling has been of the highest standard although the lack of a change bowler has been the cause of some worry.

The completion of the school nets should see a marked improvement all round and the remainder of the season is eagerly awaited.

1961 team from: D. J. Farr, Studd, Giddings, Bishop, Katesmark, Carpenter B.C., Hellard, Dailly, Boylett, Matthews, Forsdick and Ring.
D.J.F.

2ND XI

ONCE again last year the 2nd XI finished the season with the best record of the School's four teams, its victories exceeding its defeats. Whether this is because the team is an easy-going side, playing purely for enjoyment, remains debatable. However, with Mr. Bernbaum at our head, and with high spirits favourably comparable with former years, hopes are high for a successful season this year too.

This year, like last season, the 2nd XI began badly with two defeats, but these may be partially blamed on the lack of early practices and an inexperienced team with only four members from former years. Thanks to excellent bowling by Ring and Hill, ably backed by Beames, Berglin and Baker, two victories have been gained, and there are definite hopes of future *coups*.

The batting was at first suspect, but it is slowly recovering and several good individual scores have been made by batsmen who, as the season progresses, should make a lot of runs. The fielding is generally good, and opposing sides have often been dismissed for moderate scores, the only problem remaining being the amassing of the winning total.

Team from: D. J. Couzens (capt.), Shrubsall (vice-capt.), Hill, Baker, Barker, Ring, Stacey, Wilson, Berglin, Beames, Margerson, Green, Tidy.
D.J.C.

Athletics

THIS year the devotees of athletics have managed to obtain a beach-head on the green of the School playing fields. We have had the opportunity to train during the games periods but unfortunately we have not been able to encourage a great many to take advantage of this.

One method of attracting more athletes would be to have evening or Saturday afternoon athletics matches against other schools. At the moment,

after training for the whole season, the athlete has the opportunity to take part in only two competitive meetings—the School sports and Motspur Park. This is hardly very much of an incentive.

The only way to raise athletics from the level to which it has sunk in this School is to give it something of the same status and prestige that other sports enjoy. K.R.D.

Tennis

It has proved to be an unsuccessful season for the School team from the point of view of results, with all the games so far played having been lost. But to balance this, much useful experience has been gained, especially by the younger members of the team who will form the backbone of next year's team.

Early on in the season the team suffered defeat against Raynes Park and also against Dulwich College in the second round of the Rootham Shield. This was due, in the main, to lack of thoughtfulness in anticipating their opponents' moves and in positioning themselves both in attack and defence. However, in the last two matches with Dorking and Wandsworth, the margin of defeat was much reduced and our opponents had a harassing task in achieving victory. Matches are yet to be played with Hinchley Wood, Raynes Park, Purley and Dorking, and there is the usual fixture with the Staff. Despite defeats the team is still very optimistic and hopes to achieve some success even though it may be limited.

Team from: R. E. Dailly (capt.), I. G. D. Hellard, B. W. Forsdick, D. J. Farr, L. Randall, D. R. Wilson, D. R. Bishop, B. G. Hendley.

R.E.D.

Badminton

THE Badminton Club this year increased its membership to the very satisfactory number of twenty. Thus nearly every Tuesday evening there were ten enthusiasts, or more, enjoying their games and subscribing to the treasury. With good financial reserves behind us, we were able to repair dilapidated equipment and provide a substantial tea when we entertained visiting teams from other schools.

We had three home matches against Selhurst, Sutton and Glyn. In the first two the School was successful but in the third suffered an honourable defeat. In the return at Glyn, I am afraid that the wonderful tea that was laid before us did our play no good at all and we lost by eight matches to nil with one drawn. However, a few days later the Staff encountered the full force of our wrath and were defeated by seven matches to one with one drawn. In the annual match against the Old Boys the team played well although losing by six matches to three.

During the year the Old Boys have again aided us by allowing members of the School team to join their club and gain valuable experience and practice. We hope that return matches can be arranged with the Old Boys and Sutton after the examinations.

Our thanks are extended to Mr. Allsopp and Mr. Morris for their continued interest in the Club and we look forward to an even more successful season next year when five of the present team will still be available.

Team: I. G. D. Hellard (capt.), R. E. Dailly, T. R. Blok, C. C. E. Shrubbsall, B. W. Forsdick, M. H. Stamper. I.G.D.H.

House Notes

CANONS

WITH a larger sixth form than usual in the House we set out with determination at the beginning of the year to be Cock House. As success followed success our determination mellowed into self-satisfaction.

Victory in the Cross-Country was ensured by winning three of the four classes. This was, I think, due to consistent training throughout the House. There was keener competition however in the rugby. We drew with Ravensbury in both the seven-a-sides and fifteens, giving us a half share in the Rugby Cup. It must be noted that during the last House rugby match we had to win our game and Ravensbury to lose theirs if we were to have a part of the cup. Luck played into our hands and the results were as we had hoped.

The crest of our fortunes was reached at the end of the Spring Term when it was announced that we had won the Arts Trophy. In the individual sections we had won only the Music, for which competition we found a surprising number of good musicians.

The Summer Term has so far provided its full share of excitement. Witford gained a lead over us in the Athletics Standards and, despite a great effort from our A and C classes, maintained their slight lead to the end.

At the time of writing we have a lead in the Swimming Standards but I feel that we must maintain a greater effort in both the Swimming and Cricket Competitions to retain our nine-point advantage in the Cock House Competition. K.J.M.

LODGE

DESPITE the keen leadership of Mr. Morris, our new Housemaster, the House has not been wholly successful this year. The failure could perhaps be due to the small size of the House.

Lack of numbers certainly lost us the Cross Country Competition and difficulties were experienced in raising rugby teams. However all our teams gave spirited displays despite their lack of success.

We were at least consistent in the Arts Trophy, gaining third place in every section, except the Magazine where we fell very heavily. This failure was due to the lack of contributions by the House as a whole and to unoriginal work. Our greatest effort was in the Unison Song section of the Music Competition, the seniors winning and the juniors being runners up.

The House again occupied bottom position on completion of the Athletics Standards, but by the efforts of individual performers on Sports Day we managed to take third place in the Athletics competition as a whole.

We are hoping to be more successful in this term's competitions. The House has a number of able swimmers and cricketers and with the co-operation of the remaining members of the House we will stand a reasonable chance of success.

At the moment Lodge House is going through a process of rebuilding. There are some very promising members in the middle school who will form the nucleus of a strong House in future years. G.G.S.

RAVENSBURY

RAVENSBURY began confidently in the Autumn term, after having been Cock House the year before. But confidence is not enough and we were soon ousted from first place, which had been ours for the previous three years, in the Cross Country Cup.

After this set-back the House did much better and the junior rugby sevens team managed to pull us up to a tie for first place with Canons. It was the junior team again which did best in the fifteens and enabled Ravensbury to obtain joint first place in the Rugby Cup.

To avoid the usual last minute rush, work on the house magazine started early; but the lesson had not been learned by the organisers of the model who began work when the other houses were almost finished. So it was that we achieved first place with the magazine and a very sorry fourth place with the model.

A new section of the Arts trophy this year was a unison singing contest, but Ravensbury did very poorly here, perhaps partly because we lost our conductor just before the contest to a rugby team. We were third in the junior and fourth in the senior competition, giving an overall fourth position.

Owing to the apathetic response by the House we came third in the Athletics Standards and since these decide the contestants for the school sports it is hardly surprising that in the latter we sank to fourth.

Swimming, cricket and a recently introduced minor games competition remain and, judging by our present position, we can confidently expect any but first place. K.R.D.

WITFORD

THIS year the House did not distinguish itself in the Cross-Country or, despite some very good matches, in the rugby. These results were, however, expected and they did not lessen our keenness in later competitions for which we had much higher hopes.

In the Arts Competition Witford took second place. The model was extremely good and we are indebted to the people who worked so hard to produce it. In the debate we surprised ourselves by winning against the experienced team of Canons debaters. Our victory was made possible by the strong support our main speakers had from the floor. Unfortunately a similar report cannot be made about the magazine. Although a few individuals, who were mainly in the middle school, showed a keen interest, in general there was a good response from the untalented and a poor one from the talented. The magazine is intended as an opportunity for boys to use and display their artistic and literary abilities. They should try to have more confidence in themselves and make use of this chance.

We are not a very musical house but we were pleased with the effort that many people put into the music competition. The community song was not popular and some difficulty was encountered in holding practices, so we were satisfied with being third in this section.

Witford did well again in the athletics, winning both the standards, and on sports day. We do not depend so much upon individual performances in this competition as upon a general effort throughout the House.

At the moment we are second in the Cock House Competition and if we show the same keenness in the swimming and cricket that we displayed in the athletics we could well be Cock House, but this is not something which we consider to be extremely important. It is the benefit derived by the members of the House from taking part in the various activities that really matters and in this respect we feel that Witford has had a most successful year.

E.A.E.

The Arts Competition

LITERATURE

THE competitors were very conscious, not very surprisingly, of the imminence of mass-destruction. One was conscious of the threat of individual destruction by capital punishment:

"Hang 'em!" says the Daily E.

"They must die!" says the Daily M.

"To the gallows!" says the Mitcham N. and M.

The two articles which gained the most marks were pacific: a poem on "Night," by Hooker (III); and a prose account of a Senior's feelings on the last night of the G. and S. opera, by Forsdick (VI 3). Ideas and expression in both were excellent.

It may perhaps be useful to future editors to list the contributions which, in the opinion of the judge, came next in order of merit:

Canon's Mouth: L'Alouette—Vale (VI 2); *Hints on Bicycle-keeping*—Sampson (IV); *Passing Night*—Davies (III).

Janus: *Backwards or Forwards: the African Problem*—Carpenter B. (VI 2); *Jazz*—Walder (VI 1).

Raven: *Battle of Britain*—Johnson (II); *Jungle Search*—Wild (III); *Falls of Measach*—New (V).

Timon: *A Depressing Tale*—Katesmark (VI 2).

Three editorials had some ideas; the fourth merely recorded the progress of the House.

Some articles were purely factual, e.g. specifications of aeroplanes and of moths, and got little credit. What is more important, the judge was convinced that three poems were copied (in one case he happened to know who wrote it). A parody is one thing, but sheer word-for-word cribbing is another thing and the magazines concerned were penalised.

MUSIC

HOUSE Music Competitions were held on 22nd March and the adjudicator was Mr. John Parkinson, Director of Music at the Trinity School of John

Whitgift. Mr. Parkinson is well known for his ability in training and conducting choirs and as a most capable pianist. His comments were helpful and constructive.

An innovation this year was the introduction of house unison songs and instrumental ensembles. The unison songs allowed everyone in each house to compete and in this way every member of the School was able to take part. The songs were "Captain Stratton's Fancy" by Warlock, (Senior Song) and "Trottin' to the Fair" by Stanford (Junior Song). Apart from the initial run-through with Mr. Chapman, the rehearsals were arranged and conducted by senior boys. Despite dark mutterings by those whose voices were "out of tune" or those who were uncertain whether or not they had a voice, the School soon entered into the spirit of the thing and some rousing interpretations were given. The antics of some conductors seemed to suggest that we had no future Beechams or Toscaninis with us but, on the whole, they were able to achieve most of the effects they wanted. Witford Juniors gave a lusty, full-blooded quality to "Trottin' to the Fair" and won their section, while Lodge won the Senior Section. Canons' attempt made Mr. Parkinson ask whether Captain Stratton's Fancy was lemonade, not rum!

The Senior Instrumental was tied between Hill (trombone) and MacDonald (violin), both of whom played outstandingly well. Hill (whose performance was tape-recorded owing to his absence) showed excellent control, agility and full tone; MacDonald, still having difficulty with his bowing, gave a vigorous performance of the Bach A minor Violin Concerto.

Sage, Walder, Sampson, Wilson and Davidge all gave creditable performances. The Junior Instrumental was won by Still (piano) whose playing of some Variations by Beethoven had good variety of tone and touch as well as a sense of humour. Other good performances were by Swain, Nuthall, Jarrett and Atkins.

To get an instrumental ensemble together is a difficult task for some houses and one which resulted in some curious arrangements. This section was won by Canons with a Mozart Divertimento arranged for three clarinets. Witford and Lodge tried hard but lack of instrumentalists or suitable combinations made their choice less appealing.

There were thirty-two entries this year of whom seventeen were finalists. Enthusiasm seemed to be as strong as ever and, by a narrow margin, Canons emerged victorious.

As usual we give our thanks to Messrs. Harper, Harris, Male, Thomas, and, especially, to Mr. Morris for invaluable help in accompanying rehearsals and performances.

ART

This year the art marking of the magazine was done by Miss Henson of the Girls' School. Miss Henson commented that she found the four magazines to be of a high general standard and containing a considerable amount of illustration material and presentation ideas to applaud.

The tradition of house magazines is now well established and each year produces a better standard than the last. This time there were some particularly imaginative and artistic presentations. The literary contributions were often advantageously displayed in single or double page settings which invited the reader to read on. Furthermore, at long last, editors have

listened to criticisms and have been careful to provide illustrations to the text. They have also made an attempt to represent all age ranges. One criticism only needs mentioning: copies of other artists' work are not considered works of art, however meticulous and exact in execution.

CRAFT

THE models this year reached an extremely high general standard and once again our visiting art examiner was very impressed. Perhaps only Witford and Canons were able to retain the impression of a definite conception. Lodge's effort just seemed to grow without planning and Ravensbury's scheme was a little empty. There was a marked similarity in the smaller details which suggested that ideas had been copied owing to the proximity of models whilst under construction.

An important thing to realise is that an early start to planning the overall design must be made and then the enthusiasm of house members must be tapped to make the individual parts from detailed scale drawings. Subjects for the models are selected from a list of suggestions made by boys and there is plenty of time to consider these in advance.

JUNIOR ELOCUTION

WE noticed this year yet another improvement in the general standard of work in the competition. With one rather notable exception—was the House so badly off for talent or was the selection rather a haphazard affair?—the standard was good with one or two really outstanding performers. This year competitors were allowed to read a passage of their own choice in addition to the prose and verse pieces selected by the judges and it was here, oddly enough, that great disparity showed itself. The choice of pieces was almost universally satisfactory but the performances were very varied. In the poem that had to be learnt by heart expression was perhaps confined to the lines of the metre and the meaning behind it was inclined to be neglected. The unseen passage from *The Guardian* proved in some cases rather a stumbling block and competitors were on the whole unable to grasp the construction of a sentence as they were reading it.

It was a most enjoyable competition and a pleasure to judge.

The House Debates

NEITHER debate was particularly memorable. A few felicitous remarks come to mind—

“If we've got to have drains and sewers, who better to run them than those who use them?” (Davis).

“Of what use is a good Christian gentleman?” (Harris).

But, in general, the subjects were treated rather like familiar household objects in an annual spring clean.

There was plenty of keenness about, but one felt that it was inspired less by the subjects themselves than by the competitive stimulus of the Arts trophy. Carefully briefed figures rose from the black-coated ranks, read, mumbled or, in whatever way they could, got rid of their considered opinions, and, having done their bit for their house, gratefully sat down again. Some had actually listened to what had been previously said; others

gave the impression that, had the subjects been changed at the last moment, they would have made the same offering. If these were brave in their devotion to duty, the principal speakers were Olympian in their assumption of roles to which they were clearly unaccustomed.

It was style rather than matter that was wanting in most speakers. Several had spent great care on the preparation of their cases and had sensible points to make, which they delivered with some competence; yet with scarcely a ripple of effect on the inert masses about them. They had of course a double handicap: their own inexperience, and the intellectual torpor of the senior school. The latter was even more engulfing than usual, and it seems that nothing less than the complete shattering of the formal atmosphere of debate by some gross colloquialism or verbal custard pie can rouse such an assembly to laughter. Wit is a delicate plant in these conditions and, whether through prudence or ineptitude, little was attempted.

The judges, nevertheless, had a pleasant afternoon and awarded marks which were certainly no lower than in previous years. The obvious lesson to be drawn from the contest is that many of those to whom they listened could become stimulating debaters with the practice for which the School, at the moment, gives little opportunity.

Chess Club

THE team played only one inter-school match this year, and lost. This was at Selhurst, where some junior members gave creditable performances, while one or two seniors held out well against the clock. Our limited facilities for practice are in some way to blame for this, especially since the lunch-time chess was stopped early this year. However, it will be possible to play in the lunch hour next term.

One innovation this year has been the inter-house chess matches, which will in future form part of an annual competition involving four minor games. At present we have only two senior and three junior members in each team. It is a modest start, but we hope that these numbers will be increased later.

Gym Club

AFTER a rather disappointing start, the Gym Club sessions were fairly well attended especially by the junior boys in the School. Most of them were very keen and enthusiastic and, as a result, learnt quickly the vaults and agilities which seemed very difficult to them at the beginning.

As the year progressed, it was with awe and perhaps with a little envy that some of the senior boys viewed the difficult movements attempted successfully by their juniors. We hope that next year more senior boys will attend, because their presence will undoubtedly be appreciated.

Among the most ardent and skilful members are:—Rogers (3b), Ash (3h), Littlechild (3b), Gibson (3b), Roberts (2b), Skardon (2b), Davies (1m), Spindlow (1h), Shafee (1l).

The Hopton Press

THE Hopton Press is unique among School clubs and societies in that its activities are voluntarily undertaken and yet become almost obligatory. This is necessarily so because the Press exists to carry out a regular programme of work for the School and not merely to provide interest for its members. Occasionally, when the pressure of work is urgent, boys may find that the whole of their free time during the day is spent in the printing room, but the responsibility is willingly accepted and to think of going on strike is as far from their thoughts as it is from those of their masters.

Enthusiasm for the printed word, which unfortunately does not mean a love of reading, has remained high during the year, although it has not always been matched by care in execution. Some of the fourth form members have yet to learn the essentials of attractive presentation, and are still capable of marring the work of days by a grubby fingerprint. Moreover, the industrial relationship of time and motion lies beyond their understanding. However, some pleasant pieces of printing have ultimately emerged from the room, and our programme for *H.M.S. Pinafore* in particular was well thought of, inside the club at least.

The main responsibility for organisation this year has fallen on Brushett, with valuable assistance from other fifth form boys. That he has become noticeably careworn in the process is evidence of his conscientious vigilance over the activities of the less thoughtful, and the great amount of actual printing he has done himself. Dormer too has worked extremely hard since he joined the club at the beginning of the year, and his keenness is outstanding.

Our old machine, never very tractable, recently had a convulsion which has put us all out of work. For the time being, therefore, we shall be dependent on a hand-operated contraption in which the traditions established by Caxton are visibly embodied.

Natural History Society

THE Society has flourished until the summer term when numbers have declined, presumably owing to the press of other school activities.

We continue to maintain aquaria, one of which has been used to follow the development of frog tadpoles, and our guinea pigs still flourish, having bred again this year. Until recently they have been in cramped accommodation but, as a result of the hard work of Hunt, Gibson, Miller and Green of the fourth year, they now have capacious quarters out of doors. The offspring are dispersed to the homes of interested boys.

In addition to these group activities members have followed their own special interests. A number of boys have carried out dissections of various animals, one is in the process of arranging a display of shells, another has prepared a comparative display of vertebrate hearts, and we have seen the development of two or three types of moth. We welcome new members who would like to pursue some particular interest of their own, for which we try to provide materials and facilities.

Bad weather and the time-consuming process of setting up the guinea pig cages have limited our outside visits. We have, however, managed to spend a few hours at pond dipping and we have arranged a combined walk and collecting trip to Leith Hill.

Phalanx

THE members of the Phalanx are sure, in themselves, that the year has been one of monumental significance in the history of the Society. Precisely why, few of them would say, although each one considers his own strength of character alone to have been sufficient contribution to the meetings.

Since the outside of the School was painted during the year, scope for the work of the Society was immediately reduced, to the intense sorrow of all unconcerned. The Society does claim however, to have mended the cycle stands, despite protests to the contrary from within its own ranks. Proposed repairs to a notice board were hampered, so those responsible said, by the need to preserve the equilibrium of a copy of Mendeleeff's table.

Enough society badges were constructed to last for many years, and were promptly worn either on the right lapel instead of the left or not at all, until disciplinary action was taken.

Interruptions by the School opera, examinations and the Arts competition meant a long period in the middle of the year without meetings. However, with the renewal of its activities in undertaking the proposed additions to the cricket boundary boards, the Society, it seems, will continue to flourish. G.G.S.

The Radio Club

AFTER an initial surge of interest and enthusiasm, common to all new societies, the Radio Club has been going through a period of consolidation, and is now at the end of this first phase of its existence. This last year has been remarkable chiefly for added strength, in the shape of tools, test equipment and spares, all housed in an increased store of red "oxo" tins. How this has been achieved on a limited budget is the real reason for that contented expression sometimes seen on the faces of club officials. The gaze of Lewis, our secretary, has become increasingly enigmatical during the year; only he fully understands how the cupboard has been filled although the account has not been emptied.

In January, Batten located a number of old television sets in a local junk shop and after consultation he somehow brought two along to the club. This occasion was curious, for, despite the need for parts, no-one at first had the callousness to suggest breaking the sets down. Indeed every excuse was found to keep them together, even as far as exclaiming that the faintly incandescent smudges, produced in conditions of semi-darkness, constituted a good picture. Eventually, however, cold reason intervened and it was decided that the sets, both of them, should be taken apart.

Our eager first-formers started on this. Watched by the blank, empty cabinets, reminiscent of polished skulls, they enthusiastically cut, snapped, twisted and ripped off components, until quietly advised that in the interests of future efficiency the parts would certainly benefit from gentle handling. They agreed. The demolition is almost complete and has provided over thirty valves, several "oxo" tins of resistors, condensers, tag panels, variable controls, valve bases, nuts, bolts, screws and two useless cathode-ray tubes. On this score we can hardly be blamed if we give way to a satisfied chuckle—all this cost ten shillings.

We hope to spend an afternoon visiting an electronics factory this term. Last summer we visited Philips, Ltd., at Croydon. After a whole afternoon spent in conducted tours round the factory, we had a special tea provided for us in the canteen, during which several members of the Research Laboratory answered questions.

Looking back over the last two years, we have covered a fair amount of ground. We began thinking in terms of small radio receivers; this year we have spent most of our time thinking about television. Now, we might ask, what of the future? With a good stock of components, and some tools to go with them, the next phase must be a creative one. A few receivers have already been built, and apart from test equipment we also have an audio amplifier, but the way is open for something more ambitious. One of our first hopes was for short-distance transmitters, or even an elementary radio-telescope. We never realised these hopes, but perhaps something like them will materialise in the future. On a different level, there is a great deal of scope in the realm of audio amplifiers and high-quality sound reproduction from records and radio. Those of us who have been with the club since it began give our best wishes to those who will take it over next term. Perhaps they will achieve some of the things we would have done had we had the equipment. No doubt they will develop ideas which we never contemplated. If the enthusiasm and good fortune that we have had continues, next year the Radio Club will not walk, it will run.

Thursday Club

THE Thursday Club has been revived after a year's relapse. The opening meeting promised well, forty-eight boys being present, and similar numbers attended for some weeks. Support for meetings has declined considerably since, especially in the summer term, but this is to be expected.

The largest meeting of the year was held on December 1st when a Cadbury Film Unit visited the School. Seven members were stirred to write essays and later received a variety of bars of chocolate as prizes—Ash, Chapman, Frost, Gerrish, Hatzfeld, Herdson and Swain.

During the year the film shows have been consistently the most popular event. The films have been of a geographical, economic and scientific nature as well as features of general interest.

Only one active games evening was held before rugger invaded the gymnasium but two "games and puzzles" evenings proved to be enjoyable.

Quizzes have been a regular feature of the programme and the "Brain of Thursday Club", D. Herdson, was successful in a preliminary test for "Junior Criss-Cross Quiz" and may soon be seen in less vigorous competition than the rigours of Thursday Club.

Early in the year a visit was arranged to the Motor Show. Numbers had to be limited for this and several boys were unable to come. For the trip to the Boat Show we were unable to fill a coach and public transport was used on later visits to the Ideal Home Exhibition and Science Museum. The committee would welcome constructive suggestions for outside visits.

A few members have been to the swimming baths this term and we hope to arrange a visit to the last session of play at the Oval later on.

Thanks should be expressed to the committee—Coles, Croxson, Fain, Frost, Gerrish and Langmead for their work, and particularly to Griffiths (VI 2) for help on more than one occasion arranging film shows at short notice.

It is difficult in a club of varying membership (*all* members of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd forms are welcome to *all* meetings) to retain any real unity. Perhaps this is not essential.

We look forward to an active and varied programme for 1961-2.

Christian Fellowship

MEETINGS have started on Wednesdays at 1.40 in Room 4. These have been devoted to Bible readings and comments by members based on the Scripture Union notes for the day. A regular gathering is building up and we are beginning to learn more of our role in the School—though small in number as we expect to be.

A tape recording on the New English Bible was heard by some members and we hope to use more of these later in the term.

The School has sent parties to three other Christian Unions in the area to listen to skiffle, hear talks and to see, quite recently, a "Fact and Faith" film.

Activities will be expanded in the Autumn term and we hope that more Christians will come forward then and help decide what activities the Fellowship can undertake in the coming twelve months.

The Double

THE numerous "they" said it could never be done, and yet within a few months it has been accomplished twice. On the second occasion a great deal of publicity attended this event; television, the radio, newspapers, all proclaimed that Tottenham Hotspur had achieved the double. But between 1897 and May 6th, 1961, another soccer team had gained an equally impressive double. On two prematurely sunny days in March of

this year a soccer team chosen from the Staff defeated a team from the prefects and then one from the fifth form. The story of these two victories is not widely known and the purpose of this piece is to give some details of this hitherto unacknowledged double triumph.

The first match, against the Prefects, is an annual event and the two teams took the field in brilliant sunshine before a large crowd. A quick count by the Captain of the Staff revealed that he had eleven men in his team, in marked contrast to last year when the prefects scored three goals before the Staff could get eleven people on to the field. This time then, eleven each from the beginning, with Mr. Tweddle to referee.

The game started at a lively pace with both sides vigorously chasing the ball. However, it soon became obvious that the prefects' tactics of trapping, passing and kicking with the instep were ill-considered. Such novelties were no match for the scythe-like manoeuvres of Mr. Axon, the lightning dashes (without the ball) of Mr. Thomas, the strength of Mr. Greenall and the experience of Messrs. Allsopp and Summersby. One up at half-time, the Staff, obviously much fitter than the prefects, drove home their advantage in the second forty-five minutes with two more goals. A memorable triumph had been achieved, and the victors were content to rest for another season.

But uneasy lies the head that wears the crown. The fifth form were determined to renew the civil strife. During a Religious Instruction lesson (perhaps they had some vision of their fate) they challenged Mr. Summersby to a game. So it was that just a few days after their first success the battered pedagogues were on the field once more. This time, they were assured, defeat was inevitable; after all, wasn't it true that the fifth form actually played the game regularly—all of them? Certainly it was true that the fifth form had skill, Master Anderson and Master D. Green being very noticeable in this respect; but such foreign tricks as dribbling and short corners were treated with the contempt they deserved. Employing their tried and trusted methods, and greatly strengthened by the return (from playing the piano at Lyon's Corner House it is rumoured) of Mr. Morris, the Staff held out until half time. They finished the game with their usual energy and vigour by scoring two goals.

As they trudged from the field the men of the Staff knew a memorable double had been achieved; skill, energy, fitness and comradeship had all helped to make it possible. After a brief discussion between the leading members of the side a statement was issued to the effect that it had been decided not to enter next year's European Cup Competition.

by ONE WHO TOOK PART

On the Last Night

THE auditorium is packed. Boys, who have been dressed and made up as sailors for the past two hours, gather expectantly in the wings, ready to begin the performance. The producer is still busy in the dressing-room helping with the make-up—forty-three people to be made up, some only just ready by the time they must make their entrance. A hectic, tiring and tedious job, giving forty-three faces and necks an orange colour—some retain this from the previous evening. Tedious but rewarding, tiring but

purposeful. The conductor, immaculately attired in evening dress, chats nervously in the wings, waiting for the word from the busy stage-manager that all is ready for the performance to begin. The sailors are engaged in telling each other to watch the beat and to sing with gusto. By the time he takes the stage, every sailor has been told this by each of the sixteen other sailors—and still some forget the advice.

As the ripple of applause greeting the conductor gets louder, the sailors smile and wager among themselves as to whether it is a full house. They look forward with pleasure to the best performance of the three, to the reactions of an appreciative audience, ready to participate actively in the entertainment. As the applause for the conductor subsides and the timpanist opens the overture on the kettle-drum, the deck begins to fill up with the crew, a motley lot, carrying with them an assortment of accessories: mops, swabs, ropes and rum bottles (one of which has contained something which was certainly not rum). The stage-manager dances across the deck in an effort to convince us that gout has yet to get him; jokes, varying from rude to crude, are made from sailor to sailor. As the overture nears its close, they begin, in unison, to take deep breaths, for no other reason than that the producer has said that this will do them good—probably an old producer's tale.

The volume of applause for the overture is an encouraging sign. The introduction to the opening chorus is the signal for everyone to be at the ready. Eight Bells is sounded at the cabin entrance. We hope there is no Ancient Mariner in the audience to tell us that Eight Bells does not signify twelve noon. Eight Bells sounds good and dramatic effect must not be subservient to nautical accuracy. As the curtain is raised and rum bottles smelling of other liquids are placed to the lips, every sailor senses that this is a very special performance. When the audience actually applauds the opening chorus—well!

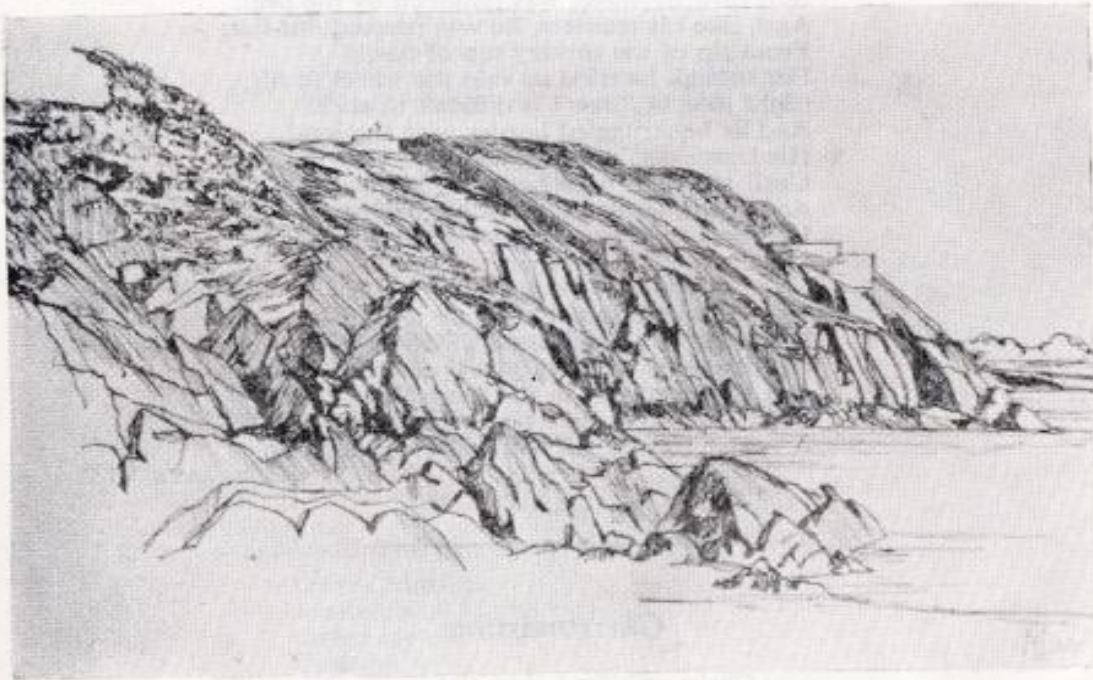
As we trot off after the encore of the Captain's first song, there exists a strange feeling in the heart of the British Tar. His mind is on the performance, and there is some talk about the audience, about the danger of complacency and, of course, about watching the beat. But somehow tonight is different. Already we are feeling a tinge of sadness mixed with our enthusiasm. A part of the opera that we have rehearsed for four months we shall never perform together again, and we begin to realise what "last performance" means. Not only the best audience and best performance of the three, but an end, a sudden and complete . . . But no more time for thinking further than the present. Soon Sir Joseph Porter, First Lord of the Admiralty, will be on board to inspect the crew. We must get back to being sailors.

The audience warms to Sir Joseph and his numerous female relatives. We are all enjoying the action, but he is really living the part. He'll be sad when he leaves the stage and goes back to being a fourth-former. Still, he will have the chance to do this kind of thing in the future; he can act and sing; that's more than I and ten other sailors can do. The ladies aren't worried. Look at them. Some of them will have perhaps six more chances to do G. and S. Perhaps in six years' time some of them will be in the sailors' chorus in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, cursing the juniors at rehearsals as we have cursed them. They are the lucky ones; they don't feel empty and sick. When they finish this evening all they will think about will be the food promised them. The more sensitive ones will feel a certain

disappointment that the work of four months is over. Others will decide that they have had enough of evening rehearsals, nagging, bullying, hard work. They won't be around next time when a new cast for a new production is required.

For the majority of the seniors, however, this has been a cruel beginning and end of their experience in playing G. and S. What operatic society wants you if you can't sing, can't act, and your sole operatic experience is a chorus part in the second shortest of the Savoy Operas? All you can say now, as you look back to the photographs, programmes and reports, is, "It was fun while it lasted".

B. W. FORSDICK VI 3



SKETCH

by M.J.LOVE VI 1

A Depressing Tale

Here rest the sad remains of Herbert Stroller,
Elasticated by a large steam roller,
Which trapped poor Herbert with its deadly load,
Half way along the Upper Wapping Road.
"How," you may ask, "upon that tragic date
Came Herbert by his elongated fate?"
Well, Herbert's trousers needed a good press,
To reinstate the fading central crease.
Alas, but our poor Herbert had no iron,
Which he his baggy trousers could apply on;
And, still desiring an appearance neat,
Observing a steam-roller in the street,
He hurried forth with trousers over arm,
Quite confident that he could do no harm
By using this iron monster as a press,
But got his "bags" and person in a mess.
He laid his trousers down before the wheel,
But, slow to move, was pinioned by the heel,
And, like his trousers, he was pressed out flat,
From tip of toe to very top of hat.
For though he tried in vain the wheel to lift,
Eight tons of "iron" is difficult to shift.
And as he struggled harder with the load
His frame was pressed out further on the road;
Until at length with power of body spent,
And spirit, let us hope! in heavenly passage sent,
His form (and trousers) statically lay
Stretched out misshapenly about the way.

So trouser pressers all beware if you
Enlist the aid of a steam-roller too;
Or, like poor Herbert, you'll deceased soon be,
Just six feet under in the cemetery.
For if you don't take heed they'll bear you off in
A twelve feet by ten feet by two inch coffin.

M. E. W. KATESMARK VI 2

Christmastime

Christmas is a happy time,
A parcels, presents, pudding time,
When we forget the winter time,
And everyone is gay.

Christmas is a peaceful time,
A sitting by the fireside time,
Of eating cake and drinking wine,
And watching the firelight play.

Christmas is a holy time,
For thinking of the baby time,
When Jesus Christ himself did come,
Upon this earth to stay.

M. FAIN IM

Accidental Life

Standing black in the pale winter sun,
With a sky like a piece of tin,
They have come to bury one
Who was the same as them . . .

And yet I saw on each man's face
The usual look for such a place,
Of those who neither know nor care
Why they now breathe the chilly air.

But his whole world stopped still
In that uncharted moment
When, amid an iron shower, awareness died,
And with a gasp he sank upon his side.

Since then in sundry beds he's lain
Unknowing of the kinsfolks' tears,
Or of the patient surgeon's care
That could have been employed elsewhere.

A living death that would not pass—
Less than the quivering spears of grass,
Forgotten as the rustling leaf that blows
In a swirl of dust from the dry dog-rose.

D. A. DAVIS VI 2

Queen Matilda

(A pot-shaped sculpture in mulberry wood by R. B. Claughton)

Queen Matilda
Monarch of Mulberryland
Grant me one wish,
Said the boy
With the mind that yearned
To create, and the stomach
That had to be fed,
Cry out
To the windborne sand
And the rocks that break the sea,
What secret it is you hold
That makes you so calm and free.

Innocent and lovely
Filled with the holy wine
Queen Matilda is drunk.
For she lives in another reality,
In the Kingdom of Mulberryland,
Where poets are happy
And vultures sing
And the farms breed joy.
Pour out the wine,
That I might drink
And start to live
In Heaven.
Open the gates to your land of love,
Sweet Mulberry Queen;
Break your long gaze
And speak.
With perfect expression
The Monarch is silent;
With natural symbol
The Monarch is still.
For the sake of the sea, now
Paint on the sky
The Royal News:
The Queen is dead.
The poet is ever alive.

E. A. EDMONDS VI 3

The Jumblies' Voyage

The day was fine as fine could be;
The rain came pouring down.
The Jumblies sailed out in their sieve,
To shoot an eider down.

But, alas, they met a storm,
With thunder, lightning too.
They came in sight of an eider bird
On its way to Timbuctoo.

"Ahoy there, bird!" the father said,
"I want your feathers, my dear.
Will you come without a fuss?
We'll feed you; have no fear."

With that the eider, looking down,
Shed an enormous tear.
This made the sieve spin round and round
And crash into the pier.

Alas, the expedition failed.
And, to the eider's glee,
The Jumblies scooped the water out,
And then went home for tea.

J. GRIFFITH 1M

Beautiful Dreamers

(A Letter from Oxford)

COOL Trinity, crisscrossed by shadows and slow-moving boaters, is, from here, in odd contrast to Broad Street with its baking roofs of parked cars. The rapid flow of faceless undergraduates creates not a turmoil in the street but, because of their complete similarity in their most laboured divergencies of dress, rather a sense of the timeless and static. Cars and bicycles give the impression that they each turn round at the end of the street to return in the same monotonous anonymity. All has a oneness which only an observer can discern.

We, looking from our second-floor cafe window remark in the forcedly cultural manner of the undergraduate, "Many suspended together, forever apart . . ." and return desultorily to our coffee spoons. Someone expounding existentialism with sweeping gestures of a very new pipe awakens us from our dream of sea-girls. We descend and join the flow, from here, back to here.

Oxford is looking its best this morning. A man in the balcony of St. Mary's steeple reflects the sunlight in his spectacles, shining a beam across the glittering sea of spires. Live in Oxford and keep your eyes raised—you will live in a world of trapped beauty. The side-streets are dark and cool, not exactly sequestered but holding the promise of being so; and the straggles of American tourists make us feel pleasantly cut off in our ceaseless shuffle of which only we know the pattern.

Shall we attempt to extract meaning from our movements by a continuous narrative? Vinsauf would have us start with a proverb as our story is *artificielle*. This will do: "He who looks for meat 'neath a piecrust is surprised only if he finds none." The great Victorian lecture hall towers above the small audience and the usually scruffy don, for all his histrionics, reminds us of a small boy waving a toy flag in a cathedral. However, his renderings of Middle English verse are invaluablely amusing and though you see us take no notes you see us imbibing education. We shake an hour's lassitude from our shoulders, go down, out, and along. Oxford smiles condescendingly as we wander by. Women, windows, walls, wasters, workers, worriers . . . but you are bored? Well, leave us till this evening when, after despatching a week's work in an afternoon's nightmare of panic, we will collect a bottle and go to a party—anywhere. Here in a small room filled with Brahms or Brubeck you see we are still talking, wriggling through a press of people. Those you see in each other's embrace are dancing; while those holding bottles are drinking. Time passes and the room becomes compressed into homogeneous matter. "Then came we to the Fortunate Isles and lay like fish under the net of our kisses."

Tonight we walk slowly, cooled by a star-brightened breeze which lifts strands of hair from the foreheads of passers-by. Here we are home, and here you will find us, next day, next term, next year.

JIM WAINWRIGHT

Old Boys' Rugby

THE 1961 season for the Old Mitchamians brought much disappointment but also some bright signs for the future. Owing to the bad weather in the first half of the season the 1st XV had seven matches cancelled, and this undoubtedly had a harmful effect on the smooth running of the side. Another factor contributing to a total of nine games lost was the number of injuries that the side suffered. For some time, four first team backs were absent through injury. Their replacements gave good service to the side but still required more experience and confidence.

The pack was one of the best that the Club has had, from the solid front row of M. Butler, M. Moore and J. Henn with M. Rowland and A. Goldney in the second row giving good service in the line-outs, to the destructive back row of W. Everett, B. Mitchell and F. Webb. D. Bull, A. Couldridge, B. Venner and R. Knight were very able deputies on numerous occasions and in no way weakened the overall strength of the scrum.

The continuous changes behind the scrum led to a deterioration in the standard of the threequarter play. Only captain G. Pearson was an ever-present figure and much good service he gave to the side. Towards the end of the season newcomers E. Stanley and K. Leach worked well together as did the Ellingham brothers when they were paired at half back.

The lower sides maintained their usual standard of results, the "A" XV losing four and the "B" XV only two games. The "C" XV played regularly and won seven of its matches. On several occasions during the season boys from the School played for the Club. We were much indebted to them and look forward to their soon becoming members.

At the annual general meeting, held in April, A. Goldney was elected captain of the Club for the 1961-62 season.

1st XV results for the 1960-61 season:

Played 22; Won 9; Drawn 4; Lost 9; Points for 165; Points against 150.

J. T. KNIGHT (*Hon. Press Secretary*)

Parents' Association

LAST October the Parents' Association lost the services of its Chairman, Mr. S. Anger, his place being taken by Mr. L. Gurney, a prominent member of the Committee for many years.

During the year, many pleasant evenings have been arranged by the Committee and enjoyed by the parents attending. In October, we were entertained by a School musical group, who gave a varied and excellent programme. Our thanks for this evening must be given to Mr. C. G. Chapman who arranged the function. During November, talks were given to Parents by members of the Staff, on the subject of preparing for careers.

This year we have not had our usual number of dances in the gym, owing to circumstances beyond our control. We did, however, hold two Old Time Dances at the Baths Hall, one in November, and the other in January. Both these dances were well attended, were most enjoyable, and were financially successful.

A Christmas Bazaar was held during December which after months of hard work by members of the Committee, parents, staff and boys, resulted in some excellent stalls, and gave us a profit of £161 to be used for the benefit of the School.

This year it was decided to hold a Parents' New Year's party in January. On this occasion we had the good fortune to have the Headmaster, Dr. Bingham, and his wife, as our guests. A varied programme of entertainments had been arranged, and the evening passed all too quickly. Our thanks must go to Mr. Hendley and his band of helpers.

In January we again had the Annual "Careers for Boys" evening, at which three interesting talks were given to the parents and boys by executives from different types of industry. This is one of the most enlightening evenings on our programme.

During February a quiz was held between a team of boys from the School and a team from the Girls' Grammar School, which was followed by a film show given by a member of the staff.

In March we held the Jumble Sale, with all its rush and panic. Again our thanks must go to members of the staff and boys for helping to make this a success for it gave us a handsome profit of £35 after a hectic afternoon's work.

A very good evening was spent in May when we were entertained by "The Circle", who presented excerpts from *Noah* by Andre Obey. This was followed by the film *Fuch's Crossing of Antarctica*.

We are now looking forward to a function which will be one of our last for the present year, the annual cricket match between the parents and boys. We are still hoping for that elusive win.

S. TAYLOR (*Hon. Secretary*)

School Officers

Head of School R. J. Batten.

Deputy Heads of School E. A. Edmonds, B. W. Forsdick.

Senior Prefects S. J. Carter, K. J. Giddings, J. A. Lewis,
G. G. Lowthian, K. J. Morphey.

Prefects A. R. Carpenter, B. C. Carpenter,
D. J. Couzens, D. A. Davis, K. R. Dymott,
D. J. Farr, B. P. Garrett, R. V. Hill,
L. Horowicz, P. J. Hutton, J. A. Johnson,
M. E. W. Katesmark, J. A. P. Lord,
P. H. Mackey, T. A. Sage,
C. C. Sargent, C. S. Selley, I. D. A. Sexton
R. E. Stacey, G. G. Studd,

House Captains CANONS: K. J. Morphey.
LODGE: G. G. Studd.
RAVENSBURY: K. R. Dymott.
WITFORD: K. J. Giddings.

Team Captains ATHLETICS: K. R. Dymott.
CRICKET: D. J. Farr.
TENNIS: R. E. Dailly.
RUGBY: K. J. Giddings.

School Librarian B. W. Forsdick.

School Terms

1961-1962

Autumn Term: Tuesday, September 12th—Wednesday, December 20th.

Spring Term: Tuesday, January 9th—Friday, April 6th.

Summer Term: Monday, April 30th—Friday, July 27th.



JILL

by E.A.EDMONDS VI 3

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