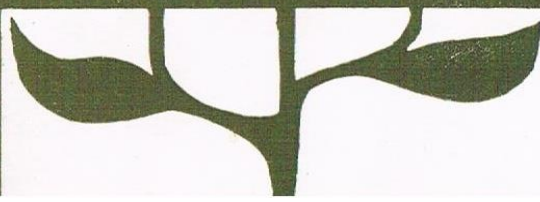


MITCHAMIAN



summer
1964



THE 1st XV

Back : A. J. Lewis, T. G. Marsden, R. J. Davies, M. J. Porter, K. G. Charise, M. H. Walton, D. A. Brushett, Mr. Greenall.

Middle : R. E. Worrall, D. M. Margerison, D. R. Bishop, B. E. Lord, G. W. Duffield, R. L. Snell.

Front : T. James, R. England.

The Mitchamian

MITCHAM COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

NUMBER 41

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Editorial

THIS time last year the satirists were in full spit. Since then not only has the language of abuse declined but language generally seems to be going out of fashion. Language, of course, has been in use for some time now and has enjoyed an almost continuous run of popularity ever since its inception. It was inevitable perhaps that, ultimately, the *trends* would move against it. But for teachers of English like myself, who are going to be left with a lot of unsold stock on their hands, it is a serious matter. We either find a new sound or a new job. As one of the more articulate exponents of the sub-culture put it recently :

"Language? Yeah, well, like it's kind of - you know - well, sort of *all right* if you, well, like that sort of thing, like - but, I dunno, I feel - yeah! I *feel* it's not - you know - for *me*, like. I got, like, 'A' levels and that. But you got to give the fans something to aim at. They got to have a level they can bring themselves *down* to. Like this Cabinet Minister said: 'The young are rejecting some of the sloppy standards of their elders . . . They have discerned that something of this kind is essential to restore the human instinct to excel at something and the human quality of discrimination.'"

In view of the last sentence, a study of whose basic structure yields the important truth that something is something, I feel I must apologise to readers for any bits of connected sense in the magazine that may have got through the editorial censorship. Lapses of this kind must be attributed to my assistants, A. S. Austin, D. A. Brushett and V. A. C. Reece, who have not always been as ruthless as one would wish in rejecting the sloppy standards of their elders.

The School Year

THERE were fewer changes of staff last September when we welcomed three new members to the School. Mr. Ashley took charge of the Biology Department, Mr. Robins took over the Music Department, and Mr. Wilkie joined Mr. Hallam in teaching Geography. Mr. Lalor, who came to teach Mathematics temporarily, is leaving us this term, and will be replaced by Mr. Speller in September. Mr. Balch will be succeeded by Mr. Kipps and Mrs. Green will temporarily replace Mr. Harris during the coming year. We congratulate Mr. Harris on his appointment as Head of the Modern Language Department in Earley Grammar School, Reading, and wish him success in his new post. Monsieur Bitoun's year with us as French Assistant was brought to an unhappy and premature conclusion, and we were deeply sorry to hear of the tragic death of his parents in a motoring accident.

This year the School has had four Sixth Forms totalling some 112 members, a number constituting more than a quarter of the whole School. In consequence of this expansion a second large classroom was granted us, but we unfortunately had to wait until the end of the year to receive it. It is at the moment being erected and should be complete before the end of term. The provision of a new Biology Laboratory is still under discussion, and there seems little prospect at present of supplying the School with its long-felt need of an assembly hall and stage, a provision recently supplied to our sister institution in Mitcham. The redecoration of the School, postponed last year, is now expected to take place during the next six months.

On 7th November we welcomed Mr. R. R. Pedley, President of the Incorporated Association of Head Masters, who presented our annual prizes at Speech Night, and his humorous address, delivered with sure touch and immediate personal appeal, was much appreciated by the School and the parents.

The Christmas and Easter Carol Services were again given in St. Mark's Church at 8 p.m. on the evening before the last day of term, and I should like to thank the large number of parents who responded to my appeal for support for these functions. It is gratifying and encouraging to us at School to have such visible proof of interest in School affairs from the parents of our boys, and we welcome all such occasions as these when the School and parents may come into contact with each other.

We congratulate our three winners of Open Awards at Oxford:

M. N. Cawdery, who gained an Open Scholarship in Natural Science at Oriel College; M. J. Boylett who won an Open Exhibition in Metallurgy at St. Edmund Hall, and V. H. Smith, who was awarded an Open Exhibition in Engineering Science at Keble College.

The following thirteen boys were awarded places at the Universities:

D. A. Baker, (Oxford); M. J. Brown (Bristol); P. J. A. Harris (London); I. G. D. Hellard (Durham); M. W. Walder (Cardiff); A. Doig (Leeds); B. L. Johnston (London); R. V. Kenning (York); A. J. Pollard (Southampton); G. Smale (Durham); M. H. Stamper (Cardiff); V. F. Thornton (Leeds); D. R. Wilson (Bristol).

We were particularly pleased to hear of the success of a former pupil, L. Horowicz, who three years ago won an Open Scholarship in Natural Science at St. Peter's College, Oxford, where he has just taken his final degree examinations. He has just received an award of a Scholarship from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he is to carry out research work in Geophysics leading to the degree of Ph.D.

HEADMASTER

School Music

THE School Choir this year has largely concentrated on its contribution to the end-of-term services. At Christmas, the carols were mostly those which we had sung before, including traditional and modern ones, and carols from Poland, Germany and France. An innovation, however, was the singing of the fine German hymn "Unto us a boy is born", and the service ended with David Willcocks's magnificent descant soaring above the singing of "O come, all ye faithful". Eric Bardell again sang the opening solo well in the processional hymn.

The Easter term was occupied with preparations for the House Music Competition, reported elsewhere in the magazine, but at the end of term, the choir sang four anthems in the Easter service: Mozart's beautiful "Ave Verum Corpus", Goss's "O Saviour of the World" and two written in the 16th century. Alan Pearmain and Malcolm Porter, both first formers, sang solos and Martin Hughes of the second form played two movements from a Handel violin sonata exceptionally well.

Our congratulations go to Hughes on gaining a scholarship at the Royal College of Music.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the members of staff who have helped the choir (with disastrous results on Mr. Ashley's baritone voice at Easter as he tried to strengthen our depleted tenor line!), especially Mr. Harris who has accompanied rehearsals and Mr. Male who has played the organ so well at the services.

The School Orchestra has unfortunately declined in numbers, as have the boys attending instrumental classes. This is a great pity for I am sure there are many boys in the School who would benefit from learning an instrument. The pleasures of listening to music are in no way comparable to those of playing it. However, it should not be expected that by attending classes once a week for a year or two a boy will become a proficient instrumentalist. Patience and a great deal of practice are required. However, the rewards far outweigh the sacrifices.

B.H.R.

"Henry IV Part I"

WITH some trepidation, the present writer saw, in one week, school productions of *Macbeth*, *Hamlet* and, sandwiched between the two, *Henry IV Part I*. As against the other two plays, *Henry IV Part I* has no real climax: the Prince's announced reformation leads, not to the killing of Hotspur in battle later in the play, but to his kingly victories in *Henry V*. The play is therefore unfinished; *Macbeth* and *Hamlet* and their heroes are finished. One rather feels that if the sole object of the Prince's apparent hypocrisy and threat to turn over a new leaf is to kill the likeable Hotspur, then the game wasn't worth the candle. The Prince (A. S. Austin) is often portrayed as an unpleasant character, a pale imitation of Falstaff vainly trying to convince himself that he is an incipient demagogue. Austin contrived to make him quite a sympathetic character, which does say something.

As compared with *Macbeth* and *Hamlet*, the opening scene is excruciatingly dull, the King's (D. A. Brushett) crusading zeal ringing very

false, of a piece with the rest of his rather false life. Brushett was always comprehensible, always the dull politician. The surrounding courtiers are on the whole a rather unattractive lot, particularly Lord John of Lancaster, whose chief function is to lead the Prince to his tent but who comes out in his true despicable colours in Part II.

The rebels' side is in not much better care. Perhaps the object of it is to glorify Hotspur (F. J. Barker), but the repetitive Worcester, the unfortunate Vernon, the craven Northumberland, the renegade Mortimer, Lady Percy (what a difficult part for a boy to play), and Lady Mortimer ("a self-willed harlot") are not very rewarding parts. Both Douglas and Glendower are more fun. We hope that all Welshmen drop their h's. Against it all Hotspur shone out. If he elocuted at the beginning, he elocuted well and seemed to become more natural as the evening went on.

As with the court scenes, the first "comic" scene between the Prince and Falstaff (D. M. Margereson), with its puns, which must be incomprehensible to the normal audience, is very dull. Actually it was quite well done. With the robbery scenes, however, the play warmed up. Gadshill was good, Falstaff's remark about the necessity for levers to raise him up raised the first real laugh of the evening, the robbery free-for-all was very funny, the long tavern scene (and even Francis's "Anon, anon, sir," part of it) did not drag at all, and, above all, Falstaff was always entertaining without over-acting; on honour he was excellent. Mistress Quickly had by far the easiest of the three women's parts. Bardolph looked and acted sufficiently gormlessly, but where, oh where, was the red-faced link that was going to light Falstaff from tavern to tavern?

The simple scenery was pleasantly colourful; we were impressed by the various moustaches, especially Blunt's (with a Jimmy Edwards effect); the "gym-boxes" found their way to the right places; the crafty Falstaff's 300 pressed-gang was entertaining; the play ran smoothly throughout; we were not disappointed.

W.P.P.

In the Low Countries

WE arrived in Brussels on Wednesday evening after a very calm 3½ hours crossing and a somewhat bumpy journey over one of Belgium's earlier autobahns. The hotel was very comfortable and the evening meal very good. Afterwards, part of the town was surveyed by small parties of boys, but most were glad to return to the hotel for a well-earned rest.

We had no sooner got to sleep when, at 8.15, we were awakened and informed that we would be leaving at 9 o'clock sharp. To our surprise, every boy was ready, but there was a fifteen minute delay while waiting for the masters to arrive. In the morning we visited the Atomium, which was erected at the Brussels World Fair in 1958, and in the afternoon we visited the scene of the Battle of Waterloo. However, after a climb of over 200 steps up a hill, all we could see was a few fields, and by then most of us were too exhausted to grasp the full historical importance of the site.

The next day we waded for two hours through the mud in the Grottoes of Han, in the Ardennes. That evening, in the hotel, the second floor was the scene of a "bring your own bottle" poker game. This was interrupted after several exciting minutes by the arrival of Mr. Marsh, who later entertained us at 12.30 in the morning by thumping the beat of "She Loves You" on the wall, to accompany our singing.

We arrived in Amsterdam on Saturday, after stopping at Antwerp, where we were let loose for an hour. In Amsterdam, we were packed sixteen to a dormitory. The food served out to us in the evening made even school dinner seem respectable, but things brightened up upon the arrival of 22 girls, who were staying in the two rooms adjacent to the senior boys' dormitory. Our spirits were dampened on Sunday by a heavy fall of rain. Quite by coincidence, that was the day decided for a tour of Amsterdam's picturesque canals, but most of the party was only too glad to return to the hotel. That afternoon we were delighted by the works of Rembrandt and others at the Rijksmuseum.

The following tours were made interesting by running commentaries from our driver, Julian and from Mr. Wilkie; Mr. Marsh seemed too modest to supply us with gems from his vast store of knowledge about Holland. On Tuesday we visited a clog-maker at Broek, in Waterland, and Mr. Wilkie proudly donned his new clogs and walked back to the coach looking like a true native. Thursday saw a visit to Hilversum, but we spent an hour going round in circles looking for the radio station we had to visit. Finally we gave up and our navigator, Mr. Marsh, was forced to admit that "something had gone wrong in the calculations".

That evening was our last in Amsterdam and was celebrated accordingly, both by the boys and the staff of the hotel. The evening culminated in the hoisting of the Union Jack on the rafters, to the tune of "Land of Hope and Glory". We were delayed the next morning by a boy whose stomach had not come to terms with local conditions, but at 10 o'clock he bravely boarded the coach, full of several brands of aspirin and travel-sick pills administered by our temporary nurse, Mrs. Benfield. We stayed at Bruges that evening, and the next morning, an hour before we were due to leave, one fourth-former paid an unexpected visit to the local police station, but was returned in one piece by a policeman an anxious half-hour later. We arrived at Victoria half an hour behind schedule after what we all agree was a very enjoyable holiday, and our thanks go to the masters concerned in organising the trip.

G. LITTLE.

SPORT

Rugby

1ST XV

WON 10 LOST 9 DRAWN 4

COMPARED with previous years the 1st XV Rugby season was very successful. The side was fundamentally built upon a powerful attacking pack of forwards who in turn gave the three-quarters room in which to move. The three quarters were on the whole inclined to be erratic. On occasions they would run the opposition off their feet and at other times they failed to co-ordinate at all. This was mainly due to inexperience, and injury to key players.

The forwards were superbly led by the "Wild Man" (A. Lewis) who was ably supported by B. Lord in the loose mauls and the Barker-Hendley partnership in the line-outs. R. Worrall, in the centre, celebrated his first season in the team by becoming the leading try-scorer; T. Marsden and J. Ahern also scored many fine tries between them. D. Bishop kicked one-third of the team's points.

After a couple of dour opening games the team settled down to play attractive, attacking rugby. Sutton came to Mitcham with an unbeaten record, which seemed to inspire the home team who quickly ground down the opposition, winning 26-0. Wimbledon County and Shooter's Hill were also given the same treatment. A lean period then ensued, which may have been due to two key players being injured (a torn ear and a bent knee). After losing to St. Joseph's and Streatham Colts, wins were recorded against Hinchley Wood (15-0) and the Old Boys (6-0).

In January the second half of the season opened with perhaps the most exciting match of the year. Before Christmas a game had been lost to Selhurst (22-0). They arrived in Mitcham presumably expecting to repeat their performance but returned home despondent after losing 6-3. This was the game in which the team never played better.

Several good draws were recorded against very strong opposition, Surbiton (6-6), Bec (3-3), Purley (3-3), and William Ellis (3-3). These low scores bear testimony to the close marking and firm tackling of the team as a whole.

The season, however, ended as an anti-climax, the team losing to Harrow (20-0) and Reigate (12-3). Both matches were disappointing not only in the result but because of our inability to put our regular fifteen into the field through injuries.

Team chosen from : D. Bishop* (Capt.), F. Barker* (V.-Capt.), A. Austin*, J. Ahern*, D. Brushett*, B. Hendley*, T. James, R. Davies, A. Lewis*, R. Beckham, G. W. Duffield, B. Lord*, T. Marsden*, R. Worrall*, R. Snell, G. Williams, A. Heath, D. Margereson, R. Harris.

* Awarded colours

D. R. BISHOP.

SURREY SEVENS

THE School Seven again had reasonable success in the Surrey Sevens Competition at Esher, but failed to equal last year's performance of reaching the final of the Loser's Plate where we lost to Whitgift.

By a coincidence we were drawn against Whitgift in the first round this year and, as usual, went out and into the Loser's Plate competition. We managed to reach the semi-final losing to Douai, the ultimate winners of the Plate.

D. R. BISHOP.

2ND XV

This year the 2nd XV has enjoyed the leadership of no fewer than six captains. Time and time again the captain of the XV was called to "that higher place". The qualities one needs for this position it seems, are the ability to toss a coin and a voice which can be heard over the grumbles, curses and discussions of the previous evening's television of the other players. Many times we found it difficult to turn out a full team with the result that many unsuspecting and often unwilling "potentials" were pressed into service.

Five matches were won, ten lost and two drawn. As the season progressed, the more experienced and fitter the team became and the worse the results got, thus confounding all theories of training which our persistent coach, Mr. Bateman, propounded. We started the season in September with two victories against Wandsworth and Raynes Park but had to wait until November for our next two victories. These included a very satisfactory win against Isleworth, avenging our defeat of the previous season. During the Spring Term, all matches were lost, excepting a single draw against St. Joseph's.

It has always been difficult to encourage loyalty and enthusiasm in a team which is, through necessity, always losing its best players. It would raise the status of the team tremendously if a captain were appointed at the beginning of the season to serve as captain for the whole season. This would not only produce a certain amount of stability, but would also demonstrate that the School regards the 2nd XV as a team in itself and not just a reserve pool for the 1st XV.

The team was chosen from: Walton (Capt.), James, Brushett, Scott C., England, Harrison, Scott A., Chaplin, Franklin, Porter, Holmes, Stembridge, Duffield, Lynch, Hunt, Goldsmith, Reece, Margereson and Todd.

D. A. BRUSHETT.

THE COLTS XV

THE summary of last season's results is: Played 20, Won 7, Lost 13.

The Colts' XV, although winning only 7 of their matches, were beaten in many games more by bad weather conditions and lack of players turning up than by the skill of the opposing team.

The strength of the side lay in the light mobile pack, which although often outweighed, proved more than a match for some of its heavier opponents. All the forwards played well but especially Baker, Lynch, Forster and Griffith who all had some very fine games. Miller at wing forward improved greatly throughout the season.

At scrum-half Davis often held the ball too long, but started some very good attacking moves by dummying inside the wing forwards.

The handling in the three-quarters was in general poor, but the running of Maxted, Singleton and Crowley plus the tackling of Shafee often had good results.

The side that was entered for the Surrey Sevens did very well in winning the first three rounds and reaching the quarter-finals, in which they were beaten 3-0 by Raynes Park.

Two members of the team – Davis and Singleton – were also chosen to play for Surrey.

The team was chosen from : Armstrong, Baker, Bellamy (Capt.) Crowley, Davis, Fain, Forster, Griffith, Leman, Machlejd, Maxted, Miller, Porter, Rogers, Sanders, Shafee, Singleton, Spindlow, Stanbridge and Still.

A. W. BAKER.

UNDER 14 XV

THIS season the Under Fourteen Rugby Team was slightly more successful than last. Out of a total of sixteen matches we had eight victories, five defeats and three unrewarding draws.

Much of the success was due to the superb goal kicking and forward play of Gregory, the splendid jumping in the line of Crouch and Mackintosh and the three-quarter play of Reed. The greatest victory was when we defeated Purley by 26 points to nil. On 30th November we suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of Wanstead, but this was probably because we did not have our normal three-quarter line. The most exciting match by far was against Beverley when we lost only in the last minute by one point. In this game Sanders did a magnificent job of replacing the injured Dawson at fly-half. Despite these outstanding performances most of the credit is due to Mr. Greenall who patiently and untiringly coached the team through the winter months. In general then, a tough pack, intelligent three-quarters, speedy wings, a reliable full back and endless coaching resulted in a successful season.

Those who played in the team were Aitken, Bance, Beckham, Crouch, Dawson, Gregory, Griffin, Johnson, Mackintosh, Marsom, Newman, Phillips, Reed, Rush, Sanders, Sullivan, West, Leverick and Theobald.

N. DAWSON.

UNDER 13 XV

ON paper it would appear that the Under 13's had a poor season, winning only two matches, drawing two, and losing six. However, most of these defeats came in the early part of the season, and were due to the fact that in most of their games they were outweighed by their opponents. As the season progressed, so did the team's performance. By the latter stages of the season they were displaying an appreciation of basic principles which should stand them in good stead in the future, one of which is that to score points possession from the loose scrummage is vital.

The outstanding player was G. B. Jones who ran powerfully in the centre to score a good proportion of the side's points. Good performances were also returned by Jessup, who applied himself earnestly to leading the forwards; from Grant, who played in fiery fashion throughout the season; and from Richards, whose tackling at full-back was of a consistently high standard.

R.B.

Cricket

1ST XI

LAST season : Played 10, Won 3, Lost 5, Drawn 2.

Unfortunate injuries and lack of form throughout the season greatly hindered the team, which rarely attained any cricket heights. Batting was erratic and the bowling often failed to make any impression on our opponents. A poor set of batting averages at the end of the season showed

quite clearly where our main weakness lay. Several times a total collapse in the batting meant heavy defeats.

Now and again, however, notable pieces of individual brilliance produced a decisive win. Such was the case in the match against Sutton when I. G. D. Hellard found his form and bowled with extreme accuracy and speed taking at the end of the match five wickets for only ten runs.

Against Dorking however, the whole side was bowled out for only 38 runs. A similar defeat was inflicted by Purley. A week later however, the side made a dramatic recovery by beating Raynes Park.

The 1963 team was chosen from D. R. Bishop (Capt.), I. G. D. Hellard, (Vice-Capt), Matthews, Barker, Beames, Baker, Lord, Jenkin, Berglin, Boylett, Wilde, Parsons, Wilson and Snell.

Colours were awarded to Beames and Matthews and reawarded to Hellard. Half-colours were awarded to Lord.

So far this season the side has Won 2, Lost 4 and Drawn 1. The first two matches against St. Olave's and Bec were lost, though not too heavily. The following match, which was a new fixture, against Rutherford, produced some good batting from our side. The rather cosmopolitan opposition were harrassed by accurate bowling from Child who took 9 wickets for 10 runs and were bowled out for 63 runs. Against Sutton the team scored 138 for 5. The challenge was not taken up by Sutton and the match petered out in a draw. The School has been very lucky this year in acquiring the 'News of the World' Sports Ground which has a superb pitch. The ground, which is surrounded by tall chestnut trees, is an ideal setting and the fast pitch has greatly helped to boost our cricket morale. In the match against Heath Clarke the School won by 7 wickets, Beames taking 5 for 11. This was due to some excellent fielding close to the bat.

The 1964 team was chosen from : D. R. Bishop (Capt.), R. P. Beames (Vice-Capt.), Seabrook, Franklin, Lord, Wallace, England, Worrall, Jennings, Snell, Jenkin, Child and Katesmark.

R. P. BEAMES.

2ND XI

THIS season's Second XI has shown a marked improvement on that of last season. Last year's team ended with a bad record, but, as always in the Second XI, defeat never means despondency. This same lighthearted attitude towards the game is present in this season's team. So far the enjoyment of the game has been spiced with a good record by Second XI standards. Out of six matches we have won three, lost two and one match resulted in a tie, the first in the School's memory. Much of our success has been due to our more than usually competent openers, Katesmark and Medler, backed by a team which has more ability than any Second XI for a long time. On two occasions the matches have been very close, victory being snatched from our grasp by an element of bad luck or by carelessness. But our tails are up and the rest of the season seems very promising both from the prospect of more victories, but more important, the prospect of more enjoyment which is the criterion of second eleven cricket.

This season's team has been chosen from the following: Margereson (Capt.), Harper, Medler, Katesmark, Goldsmith, Reeves, Clancy, Winfield, White, Jenkin, Chaplin, Duffield, Austin and Chapman.

D. M. MARGERESON.

Athletics

THE loss of several very good all-rounders before the beginning of the season, did not presage much success in the coming fixtures. However, the use of the 'News of the World' field helped in attracting athletes to training sessions, and this improved our performances.

The School Sports was a very lively occasion; new events were introduced for the juniors, and several records fell. Canons comfortably won the Athletics Cup. The first winner of the new Victor Ludorum Cup was Marsden (Ravensbury).

The first fixture, a senior one against Henry Thornton, was easily won. The second was a triangular fixture against Surbiton G.S. and Thames Valley G.S. There were many well earned victories in this match especially by runners. The result, a tie for second place with Thames Valley, was creditable considering that we did not enter all events.

There soon followed a match against the strong opposition of Isleworth and Battersea Grammar Schools. We won only one event and finished a low third in the competition as a whole, but the excellent facilities of Tooting Bec track were enjoyed by all.

All three teams were very successful in the District Sports, though our athletes were often frustrated by the poor, unco-ordinated organisation of this meeting. The juniors won their age group and with it a large shield. The intermediates were second and the seniors first in their respective age groups. As other local schools have only small sixth forms, the senior team was not given recognition for having won all but one event. In the meeting three school records were broken and two district records, the latter by Simmons and Marsden.

In the Surrey Grammar School Sports we obtained an unusually high number of points. These were achieved by Austin in the long jump, and Maxted, who was third in a record-breaking 220 yards and who also anchored the School's junior relay team to give them second place.

We hope that the junior and intermediate teams will improve their performances in the remaining fixtures.

Amongst the many athletes the following deserve special mention: Lord and Austin for repeatedly increasing the School records in the discus and long jump; Marsden, Sanders and Jones in the sprints; Faircloth and Hill in the half-mile; and Reed in the long jump.

M. H. WALTON.

Cross Country

THE senior team, after their last year's dismal record, managed to avoid defeat three times during the season; however, nine times they failed to do so. The victories can definitely be attributed to improved form as the season progressed. This is shown by the reversal of a previous result against Glyn G.S. In the winter they beat us by 31 points, but we had an Easter victory by 10 points.

The Under-15 team had a creditable final tally of ten wins and seven defeats plus the very rare instance of a draw. The hero of the team was Hill who came in first on ten occasions, and was always among the leaders, except when he went off course. This misdirection of cross-country runners has become a standard joke in the School. Assembly is never quite the

same if the Headmaster does not make some reference to it. The cause is either that the markers along the course are too few or that they have been misinformed and it only happens during away matches.

Despite the fact that they were sent in different directions on numerous occasions the Under-13 team recorded fourteen victories during the season. This, however, was offset by two defeats, thus ending a run of twenty matches without defeat, a record surely unsurpassed by any other school team. Hale won several of the first matches. The monotony must have deadened his ambitions, because in later matches he slowed a little for his friends and five times he, Bardell, and Treleven came in first holding hands.

M. H. WALTON.

Badminton

In the competitive field the club has had rather a lean season, losing all six matches played. We suffered defeat at the hands of Trinity (twice), Glyn (twice), John Ruskin and Rutlish schools. In the face of these adverse results I must compliment the team on their continued enthusiasm for the game.

Attendance on Tuesday evenings has generally been good, support coming particularly from the lower sixth form. I hope that considerable support can be raised from next year's fifth form to maintain the Badminton Club as one of the senior school's more flourishing societies.

The biggest drawback for the Club has been the lack of good equipment; some rackets were restrung, but the real necessity for two or three new rackets still remains.

We must once again thank Mr. Benfield, Mr. Warwick and Mr. Street for their interest in the Club.

1963-64 team from : M. J. Boylett, R. W. Woodley, B. G. Hendley, E. Wilde, T. Rider, C. Medler, R. Lewis, B. Armstrong and R. Beames.

M. J. BOYLETT.

Tennis

THIS year for the first time the School has run two tennis teams, the 1st VI and the Under 16 VI. There are two reasons for this. The first is that the School now has its own courts and the second is that tennis has been introduced into fourth form games.

The 1st VI includes four new faces this year and so results of high quality could not be expected. The 1st VI has so far won two matches and lost three including a defeat by Wimbledon County in the Rootham Shield.

The Under 16 team through lack of experience has yet to register its first win, but better results are hoped for in the future.

We must thank Mr. Benfield and Mr. Warwick for giving up so much of their time in encouraging tennis in the School.

The team was chosen from : T. Rider (Capt.), B. Armstrong, F. Barker, B. Lord, C. Porter, M. Porter and R. Snell.

T. RIDER.

Basketball

IN its first season in the Northern Surrey Basketball League the School team had varying success. It improved as a side, with Harper as captain, and its final position in the league was sixth, a commendable if not glorious achievement. The team took time to settle down in the first few matches, but teamwork was developed by practice. We had convincing wins against Wimbledon and Shene, besides many close matches, such as against Sutton and Hinchley Wood. Through the enthusiasm of Mr. Thomas the sport has gained in popularity, and the standard of play should rise.

The team was chosen from: Harper (Capt.), Hunt, Beames, Charise, Margereson, Marsden, P. C. White, Child and Lord.

K. CHARISE.

Other Activities of a Sporting Nature

1ST XI HOCKEY

SOMETHING seems to happen to the fair and gentle sex on the hockey field. They become transformed from sweet and lovely creatures into fast-moving deadly weapons. I still bear the scars of one miniature Minerva's attempt at my assassination.

Despite the homicidal tendencies of our female foe, we enjoyed some fast, lively hockey. Wilde displayed unforeseen talent with a stick, leaving most of his team-mates standing, and waving aside hurt shins and feelings (I heard one of the opposition describe us as "hulking great bullies"), we established male supremacy by winning both our fixtures, the first 1-0 and the second 2-1. The girls established theirs by making us wash up after the tea they gave us.

The ladies as usual supplied the numerous referees which seem to be necessary, and we thank them for giving up their time to supervise our antics. If these matches have done nothing else, they have at least given us courtesy on the field of sport. A large male, after barging some poor little girl into the mud, was heard to say, "Sorry, love," whereas if the same incident had occurred on the rugby field, the remark might have been of a different nature.

Teams from: Ahern, Barker (Capt.), Bishop (Capt.), Beames, England, Harrison, Reece, Holland, Jenkin, Wilde, Worrall, Walton.

V. A. C. REECE.

1ST VII NETBALL

NETBALL is, according to the book, a highly skilled game involving a large number of rules and played at a fast speed. Such a hypothesis was admirably disproved in our little *débauché* against the Girl's School. In a match during the Christmas Term we were well and truly beaten, mainly because every time we managed to lay our hands on the ball, the referee would promptly whistle and then proceed to give the girls the ball. Such discrimination, though possibly deserved, was frustrating and we felt that we had been cheated. As of course the Girl's School provided the referees we could in no way argue as we ourselves did not even know the rules.

During the Spring Term we were determined to win by fair means or foul. The latter approach seemed the more expedient as our ignorance of

the rules had already proved too great a handicap. This involved their complete abandonment, with of course firm approval from the girls. When they tried to shoot we moved the post, which had the desired effect of stopping them scoring. However, we had under-estimated the fighting spirit of our opponents who, no sooner had we effected this, repeated the experiment on us, which meant in the long run that neither of us got very far.

The referee by this time was looking decidedly embarrassed by the whole affair as the game of netball was very quickly developing into a game of rugby. Our simple and effective methods of sabotage and guile paid off however, and the match finished with us leading by 8 points to 7.

We are always hoping that the girls will take up our challenge to play us at rugby but until that time comes I am sure that our little encounters will prove very enjoyable and amusing.

The team was selected from : B. G. Hendley, M. J. Boylett, A. S. Austin, T. V. Jennings, A. Scott, D. A. Brushett and F. J. Barker.

A. S. AUSTIN.

HOUSE AFFAIRS

Canons

THIS year Canons have once more proved themselves superior. Already, in the Cock House Trophy, with the swimming and cricket incomplete we have secured enough points to bring us well out on top. This follows a long tradition of Canons successes during the last seven years. The qualities of leadership among the upper part of the house and the keen enthusiasm shown by the younger boys has been an ideal combination in securing these continued successes.

Even though we are very ready to extol ourselves we are just as ready to admit our limitations in certain fields. The model was one of our outstanding failures but it only proved to harden our determination to win the Arts Trophy which we did thanks to a prodigious effort in the field of music where the notable successes of Hughes coming first and second, and Still coming first should not go unmentioned.

Canons' superiority in the Rugby field has been a long school tradition. The invigorating atmosphere of house affairs produces hyperhormonal activity among our boys, making them grow faster than the boys in the other houses. This of course puts the other houses at a disadvantage on the rugby field and we do make a point of apologising if we are a bit rough when we beat them.

The Athletics was a foregone conclusion and our superiority made itself felt by a lead of almost a hundred points. We, at the head of the house, thought that Sports Day could well have been cancelled but the other houses wanted to fight it out between themselves so that the main focus of the day was not on our superb wins but on the squabbling further down the field.

We look forward to another successful year and we thank the whole house for their keen and encouraging support.

A. S. AUSTIN.

Lodge

WHEN I first came to this school eight years ago, Lodge House was the best in the School. Since then something seems to have happened to it.

Owing to the lack of the Jackson Master Plan, we started the year by coming fourth in the Cross-Country race with the minimum points possible. We were unfortunate during the rugby season to have only eight boys to pick a Fourth Form VII from. Still, we did not do too badly in the rugby, coming second. To the great surprise of all concerned, we won the Art section of the Magazine. I am still trying to work out how we managed it with two entries less than the number specified in the rules. Thanks to a lot of hard last-minute work by a few senior boys we managed to come second in both the Model and the Magazine. The music section was not one of our successes, largely owing to the fact that our conductor was required to play rugby on the day.

Lodge has not done too well this year, largely because of a lack of support from certain sections of the House, notably the fourth and fifth forms. House activities are supposed to be voluntary, and the House seems to lack the *esprit de corps* which the other houses have.

V. A. C. REECE.

Ravensbury

THIS has been a satisfactory though not particularly successful year for the House. Generally we plodded on a noble second to Canons in most activities.

As always we did well in the Cross-country. "B" Class gave an exceptional performance and with some unexpected support from "A" Class we were able to tie for first place.

The rugby sevens followed the usual pattern. The 1st VII drew and narrowly lost to the two strongest opponents, then finally they were defeated by the weakest House. Having completed the fifteens we found ourselves second in the rugby competitions.

Though we won the debate, and came second in the elocution and magazine, we failed to impress in the fields of music and model construction. The outcome was a disappointing overall third in the Arts Trophy.

We had a number of outstanding athletes who enabled us to gain a second place in the Athletics Cup.

We are almost certain of being runners-up once again in the Cock House Competition.

M. H. WALTON.

Witford

BEFORE writing these House Notes, I asked the Witford contingent of prefects what we had achieved so far. "Nothing," he replied, "except honourable failure." This made me realise that Witford, as the smallest House in the smallest Grammar school in Surrey – itself the seventh smallest county in England – occupies a position rather similar to that of the Chinese "seventh son of a seventh son."

However, we did have our successes. Rowe produced an excellent model which won the competition, and which restored some of our self-respect before finally passing into the hands of the militaristic oligarchy in the fifth form; and the gravel-throated senior members of the House won their section of the Unison Song with a spine-chilling display of stentorian bestiality.

In Rugby and Athletics there was some enthusiasm, but little ability; despite excellent performances by individuals, Witford still remains the ultimate victim of the House System, and there is little hope of a revival of the Witford greatness which so dazzled the School in the 1930's.

Whatever else this year has been, it has certainly not been uneventful. On the playing fields we decisively humbled the proud arrogance of all-conquering Canons; after being 20-0 down at half-time, we rallied brilliantly in the second half to lose 42-0. This improvement was continued in subsequent matches, which we lost by ever decreasing margins – 39-0 and 18-0. Also, we were the only House to produce a Magazine whose Editorial occupied a position similar to that of the engine in a Continental car – at the back.

So, once more, it is the usual Witford story; despite commendable efforts by individuals, the bulk of the House remains a living advertisement for intellectual Famine Relief.

J. B. LOVE.

THE ARTS COMPETITION

Literature

THE Judge must again express his thanks to all the editors for the clarity of the typing, but he does suggest most strongly that potatoe, imense, greatful and a host of other words are more obviously miss-spelt in type-script than in handwritten copy. As he quite often says to his forms, read it through. This applied less to Witford than to the other three Houses.

The judge was glad to find that nothing that was written was merely factual and therefore unassessable. Lodge did not produce a line of verse and was penalised by 10% of the marks it scored. Witford produced a lot of verse, some of it good. The Ravensbury Editorial was most entertaining. In the judge's opinion the best contributions were the Editorial mentioned, "The Sun Times" (Brushett), and "A New Animal" (Herdson). The best verse was "A Long Wait" (Goode) and "Something Dawns" (Curtis). The prize for the bulkiest magazine goes easily to Witford.

W.P.P.

Music

WE were pleased to welcome the Rev. Canon S. H. Heaton-Renshaw to adjudicate the house music competition on 18th March. He showed commendable patience and his criticism was always helpful.

Many seniors showed an apparent dislike of their song which, even if felt, should never have been conveyed to an audience. The song, *The Birthright* by Christopher le Fleming, told of a love of the countryside, but the "magic of frost" was transformed into farmyard mud, the "smell of gorse" into something far less pleasantly odorous, and "the curlew's cry" sounded more like an enraged bull. The song was full of pitfalls, especially in the varying lengths of rests between phrases, which resulted in near calamity for one house. Witford won a low-scoring contest.

The junior song, a setting of Shelley's *A Widow Bird* by Gordon Jacob also sounded as if the singers had boots on, but was altogether better performed. The houses who omitted their bass trebles sounded a little more pleasing, and Ravensbury won.

The senior instrumental competition was dominated by pianists, though D. C. Croxson (Lodge) on the trumpet only just yielded fourth place to L. St. J. Jarrett (Witford). Second and third places were gained by absentees who tape-recorded their efforts, A. J. Lewis (Lodge), with his playing of the last movement of Beethoven's *Pathétique* sonata, beating B. E. Lord (Lodge). After winning the junior competition in recent years, R. D. Still (Canons) gained the distinction of beating the other seniors, though he is only in the fourth form. He played Felix Swinstead's *Humoresque* with considerable panache to gain 93 marks.

However, the outstanding performance was in the junior section, by M. J. Hughes (Canons) who gained 94 marks for his playing of Handel's violin sonata in F. His piano playing of a Kuhlau sonatina ran his violin playing a close second, while R. A. Essex (Witford) and J. W. Kent (Ravensbury) also played well.

The competition as a whole was won narrowly by Canons with Witford second, and Ravensbury just gaining third place from Lodge.

B.H.R.

Art

AN important requirement of a book is that it should be pleasant to handle. It is therefore essential that whatever the binding method used it should be proficiently executed to produce a firm, clean and properly finished book.

Both *Janus* and *The Canon's Mouth* met this requirement. *Timon's* ragged pages, inefficiently attached to an imposing cover did not; neither did *The Raven* with unwieldy, buckled loose leaves ringed into a sloppily covered binder.

A publication containing a wide variety of styles needs considerable planning if it is to present an integrated visual effect.

Janus solved the problem well with an attractive colour theme of blue and white and with clear consistent layout throughout. Illustrations and text were given plenty of room, and the additional ink decorations seemed only occasionally inconsequential.

The yellow and green of *The Canon's Mouth* was a less happy choice of colour (too close in tone) but layout again shewed a respect for simple clarity and appreciation of the value of an open space.

Timon contained some interesting designs which, where finished, were often very successful. Pages out of sequence with frequently incompleting designs however, made the overall effect inconsistent and uncohesive.

The Raven was afraid of unfilled space. Pages appeared to be filled to capacity, often with oddments, rather than to be designed. With no unifying theme the result was clutter and confusion.

Illustrations in all four magazines too often seemed inhibited by the small scale required. Amongst the weak and the "tight", though, there was good work to be found. The "ciné" illustration in *Janus* was particularly successful, and, though not easily apparent through the muddle, *The Raven* contained some admirable work. Well integrated with design, some very appropriate and well-executed work appeared in *Timon* whilst the use of photographs in *The Canon's Mouth* indicated a field worth exploring.

If the considerable potential apparent in this year's productions is fully realised in the future, results should be impressive. Competent binding adequate lettering, clear layout and appropriate illustration provide the basis from which refinement could lead to excellence.

N.W.

Craft

ONCE again we were indebted to Miss Henson, Art Mistress from the Girls' Grammar School, who kindly consented to co-operate with our own Mr. White in the judging of this year's model. She has done us this service for a number of years but confessed that this year's subject was the most difficult she had ever had to judge. This was confirmed most emphatically by our own adjudicator.

The subject chosen for this year, "An Interior", was given the widest possible interpretation by all Houses concerned and because of such a diversity of treatment much of the competitive element was immediately diffused. The problem of possible cribbing of ideas which had been suspected in previous years was obviously partially eradicated by the wide choice of topics for illustration but there was once again the feverish haste

as the closing date, nay, as the closing hour drew near, and it seemed that once again the responsibility for each House's model had been left in too few willing hands.

The standard of workmanship and finish was as high as previously without deserving special comment but as usual one house seemed to outstrip the other three, whose efforts were more or less on a par, and Witford are to be congratulated on their winning effort.

A.R.

Junior Elocution

THE competition this year was of a very high standard and it is a matter for congratulation that it is our opinion that every year lately there has been a very considerable improvement in the general standard. We noticed, however, a general tendency to over-dramatise the poetic excerpt, some of the 'own choices' were not very well conceived and some of them seemed to reveal a rather limited range of general reading. Of the individuals, Jones, D.G. (Canons) and Frost (Ravensbury) were well ahead of their rivals; Jones beat Frost by only one mark. Canons were the winning house and are to be especially congratulated in that their competitors had all been well-drilled and that all three boys were in the first five.

For a number of years now Mr. Purbrick and I have judged the inter-house competition for elocution. During that time we have set the lines of poetry to be learnt; we have chosen the piece to be read unseen and we have instituted the scheme whereby competitors read something of their own choice. With due humility can it be suggested that the houses might devise some alternative syllabus for this competition? Mr. Purbrick and I enjoy to the very full judging these competitions, nor do we wish to retire, but perhaps the houses would like to agree to the syllabus and leave us to do the judging only.

H.S.J.

The House Debates

THERE were plenty of high spirits but, as usual, not much continuity of argument. Ideally the two sides in a debate should be fighting over the same territory; here they may occasionally have heard one another's guns, but they never actually reached the battlefield. Thus, in the first debate, the tastes of his own generation which Love deplored were not the ones which Brushett was prepared to defend. It was not until his summing-up, when he said he'd much rather have Ringo than bingo that Ravensbury came to the point. The second debate also misfired through lack of agreement over what the most important term in the motion might be taken to mean, and some curious views of education emerged. It might be worthwhile in planning the strategy of future debates for the houses to meet beforehand and establish more precisely the issues they are to contest.

Another reason why arguments in debate fail to interlock is that too many speakers have carefully prepared scripts to which they cling irrespective of any unexpected turn the debate may take. Often they are so intent in rehearsing their set pieces that they do not even hear the case they should be attacking. One speaker who certainly could not be accused of this was Ferris - "I came here today . . . with no intention of sayin' anything. But

after what I've heard I must say there's nothing wrong with our tastes. This generation has good tastes, very good tastes. Take my tastes . . ." It did not carry much logical weight, but as a comic turn it was probably the best of the afternoon. The practice of briefing speakers from the floor too carefully inhibits many who might otherwise be prepared to chance their arm with a more spontaneous, lively and relevant contribution.

These general criticisms aside, there was much to enjoy, especially in the first debate. Love has cultivated a deadly line in ironic vilification of his opponents and every sentence has a barb. If Brushett was less monumental than usual it is because he is far happier deploring, but he was still impressive. Some very funny things were said: unfortunately wit rarely survives repetition in cold print but I liked Wiegand's remark that in a few years' time the only decent literature left would be pornography, and Love's parting jibe that seven years of popular culture had left Brushett's mind as young as it ever was.

The second debate was a more solemn affair. Barker, Jennings and Austin presented their cases with earnest dignity but the many opportunities for parochial humour which the subject offered were completely missed. Perhaps the connection between Education and the classroom activities of the staff was thought too tenuous to be worthy of even ribald comment. Debating is a game to be played seriously, but it must above all be entertaining.

A.A.J.

CLUBS and SOCIETIES

Chess

FOR so many years now the chess reports, while telling a sorry tale of lack of interest and dwindling support, have always shown hope for the future. This year, at last, a little progress has been made in encouraging support and raising the standard of play.

In the Autumn term a school competition was organized on a league basis, divided into senior and junior sections. The senior section was won by B. Armstrong and the junior section by Newman. Support for the competition was far greater than expected and much hidden talent was unearthed.

As in previous years an inter-house competition took place in the Spring term and was won by Canons. This confirmed the growing enthusiasm for chess, especially in the junior school.

1st Team Results :

Played Raynes Park	2	Won 2
Played Rutlish	1	Drew 1
Played Wimbledon College	1	Won 1
Played Sutton	1	Lost 1

Team from : B. Armstrong (61A), B. F. Armstrong (4A), R. B. Beek (62), R. A. Canovan (61A), M. Seabrook (62), P. C. White (61A), J. Ingold (61A).

For the coming season the School first team has entered the 'Sunday Times' inter-schools competition and the Briant Poulter League. These competitions will provide the extra matches that are badly needed to raise the standard of the team's play.

R. B. BEEK.

The Hopton Press

AFTER the previous year's low membership this year began encouragingly with a large number of recruits. Though the level of attendance has fallen slightly we have nevertheless continued under the excellent supervision of Mr. Jackson to produce good work with the equipment and time available.

As usual we have been in business printing the School Calendar. In November we were assisted by the Art department in the production of programmes for the School play.

During the Spring Term we were very grateful for a visit from Mr. Hopley who gave us some desperately needed expert advice on new techniques in printing.

After this year's encouraging sign of growing interest we can only hope that the Hopton Press will continue to be "the most flourishing and efficient society in the School".

A. R. DOE.

Scientific Society

In the past year the weekly practical meetings of the Society have been rather poorly supported. However some interesting work has been done in several fields, including photographing oscillating light sources with a rotating camera, and the development of various photoelectric devices using transistors. An attempt to photograph the School from above using a camera supported by gas-filled balloons was abandoned after a series of mishaps. A study of the fluorescence of soap powders and detergents under ultra-violet light was, however, more successful, and showed there is indeed something unique in WM7.

We have had a number of film shows during the year, and these have attracted wider support than the practical meetings. The Society will continue to meet on Wednesdays in the Physics laboratory, when any boys from the IVth or above will be welcome.

P.C.H.

Natural History Society

THE Society at present consists of a small but enthusiastic group of boys mainly from the senior part of the School and the average attendance at meetings has been seven. It is to be hoped that in future years many more boys from the first three forms will decide to join. Mitcham is well situated from a natural history point of view with a wide variety of habitats to the south and west and amenities such as Kew Gardens, the Natural History Museum and Regents Park Zoo all near at hand. In view of this it is surprising that so little interest in the School Society is shown by the lower forms.

During the autumn and winter months members gave talks on aspects of natural history in which they have a particular interest and these included 'Aspects of Parasitism' by Green, 'Animal Coloration' by Herdson, and an account of the habits of Chameleons by Watts, enhanced by the presence of two of his own very co-operative specimens of this unusual group of reptiles.

In order to give the Society a definite objective which could be followed up from year to year it was decided to attempt a comprehensive ecological survey of the animals and plants found on Mitcham Common. This is a formidable task and it was decided to begin by collecting and examining the various organisms found there. As a preliminary to this work Reece gave a talk on the insects, and Thompsett on the birds likely to be encountered on the common and Mr. Ashley gave a talk on methods of collecting and preserving small animals, and of pressing and mounting wild flowers. Several excursions have been made on to the common and a small collection has been started including a rich variety of material from the ponds. There is at present a marked lack of interest in flowering plants within the Society and throughout the School which I hope this field work will help to remedy.

B.R.A.

Christian Fellowship

THE Christian Fellowship has grown considerably in the last year, from a mere five or six members at the outset to the twenty or more at the moment. The Wednesday lunchtime meetings are designed mainly for Christians as well as for those who are searching for a personal faith in God. These meetings have included Bible studies covering several books from both Old and New Testaments, as well as discussions on such things as the authority of scripture, and tape recordings on "Science and Christianity".

Once a month, on a Friday evening as far as possible, we have held meetings open to the whole School, and occasionally the Girls' School too, in which we have had films, such as 'The Stones Cry Out', a film about archaeology and the Bible, and 'Time and Eternity'. We have also had film-strips including 'Head in the Sand' - the challenge of the Word of God in an individual's life - and also 'Mid-century Martyrs' - the story of five missionaries who gave their lives in South America. Speakers at these meetings have included several clergymen, and also an ex-television actor.

At this time when there are so many forces influencing our lives the members of the Fellowship believe that it is important for everyone, even in the junior school to consider the power that has changed countless lives presented by people who have found that it really works.

G. T. JENKIN.

The Thursday Club

THE present function of the Thursday Club is to provide entertainment for boys in the first three forms of the School. This will continue to be the policy next year; but visiting speakers and discussion groups will be introduced to provide a more balanced programme.

Basketball and five-a-side football have been the most popular activities of the year, with Crouch, Binnie and Reed as the star performers. A variety of travel, scientific and religious film shows have rivalled the sports meetings in their attendance figures. The largest crowd, however, was for a visit to the Motor Show in the autumn.

Next year the Thursday Club will meet every week during the winter terms and every fortnight during the summer. The subscription will be 3/- for the year, or 2/- for each term. Sporting activities will be held every fortnight during the winter, with films or speakers in the intervening weeks.

Most of the regular members of the Club this year have been in the third form. This may be because they have the advantage of size in games like basketball. Giants such as Gregory will be leaving the club this term, however. Those in the second and first forms now should therefore take the opportunity of joining at the beginning of the new school year.

D.R.W.

[A report on the activities of the Phalanx was not published since there appear to have been no activities to report - *Editor*.]



SKETCHES

By D. J. WELLS.

POEMS and ARTICLES

Notes on the Social and Moral Implications of the Nursery Rhyme

1. THE INSIGHT OF "SIMPLE SIMON"

"Simple Simon" is a work whose insight into human nature has largely escaped modern criticism. Its opening stanza alone summarises the whole conflict between innocence and materialism, between the corruption induced by society on the one hand and the innocence derived from closeness to nature on the other. There is a deep significance in the fact that Simon met the pie-vendor only when he was *going* to the fair. In other words, neither of the two protagonists is actually *at* the fair (which symbolises society and all organised human activity). This conflict therefore exists outside the range of normal human experience, close to and inextricably linked with the purely physical world. Simon's naive request to the pie salesman – "let me taste your ware" – is natural innocence itself, and its fate is the fate which awaits all such affirmations of trust in mankind. It is savagely suppressed by dour materialism in the person of the pie-retailer – "First give me your penny". The conflict of values is presented in all its naked intensity; the two attitudes are fundamentally irreconcilable.

After the conflict has been stated in the first stanza the prevailing theme of the rest of the work becomes one of DISCOVERY, of "finding how this world goes". This process is communicated by a series of sharply rendered physical experiences. Thus, when he sets out to fish for a whale in his mother's bucket, and when he tries to keep water in a sieve Simon is – by learning that such things are difficult and require concentration – acknowledging the value of stoic endurance. Ultimately will come the realisation of his own limitations – that there is not enough room in a bucket to make a decent cast for a whale, and that keeping water in a vessel which has no lid is pointless. Simon is portrayed by the writer in several moving scenes in which the general truths implicit in his particular experience are conveyed by, or rather embodied in the direct physical apprehension of concrete situations. Simon, for instance,

"... went to shoot a wild duck,
But the wild duck flew away."

This leads him a stage further to the profound awareness of

"Said Simon, 'I can't hit him
Because he will not stay.'"

In such passages as this we are reminded of that other journey along the path of suffering and disillusionment towards the goal of self knowledge – for Lear too, like Simon before him, is DISCOVERING.

2. CATHARSIS IN "JACK AND JILL"

The first thing that strikes one about "Jack and Jill" is, I suppose, its high degree of sheer artistic competence. The opening line – "Jack and Jill went up the hill" – not only introduces the *dramatis personae* and establishes the setting for the action of the work, but also sounds the first tragic notes of what is to be the dominant theme. The clear aspiration imagery of "up the hill" shows their ascent of this peak to symbolise Man's eternal upward struggle for a lofty, intangible ideal. This ideal – the ultimate achievement of Man, the point of contact between Man and God where boundless Heaven and the limitless mind intersect – is symbolised by the "pail of water" so aptly placed as the object of their climb. This theme

is carried to its inexorable conclusion in the line, "Jack fell down and broke his crown", which places so dramatically the futility of his striving against the vastness of his aim. Jack, in "falling down", fails to realise his goal. His abrupt and unforeseen descent of the hill is, in fact, the purgatorial process so essential to the development of his character; Jack "breaks his crown", his ego is pricked, and pain becomes the instrument by which he is brought to full consciousness of his smallness. It is no accident either that Jill "comes tumbling after"; Mankind and Womankind are united by a common bond of suffering.

3. "THREE BLIND MICE" AND THE PROBLEM OF THE OUTSIDER

The theme of this work is a deeply urgent one – that of the position of the Outsider in relation to the rest of society. The characteristics of the Outsider are established by the recurrent imagery of baseness and animal lowness centred on the apparently insignificant figure of the mouse. In fact, the writer mentions *three* such rodents, and the repulsion effect is further reinforced by the frequent repetition of certain key passages such as "three blind mice" and "see how they run". But society's attitude is most obviously conveyed in the epithet "blind" which transforms a domestic commonplace into a potent symbol. Somehow one feels that a blind elephant, a deaf dog or a dumb orang-utang would be quite acceptable to the senses; but an undiscerning rodent seems to lie at the core of all that is basic.

The writer's view of the problem is not, however, one-sided. In his portrayal of the forces of society there are some penetrating social criticisms, indirect though they may be. Hence those inside society, the "normal" people, are represented by the Farmer's Wife, and the institutions of society, the weapons used against the Outsider, are represented, most appropriately, by the carving knife she uses to remove the tail of each animal.

Unfortunately the writer seems to have made a curious gesture here by portraying the mice as chasing the Farmer's Wife. This does not fit in with my interpretation at all.

J. B. LOVE, VI 2

(with no apologies to D. Holbrook and others)

Something Dawns

Crumpled cigarette butts in the ash-filled tray,
The air befugged and smoky incense sweet.
The friends have now all gone, as well they may,
Since now, in grey, the night and morning meet.
The coffee cups are empty like the smoke-heavy room,
The silence magnifies the slightest sound.
It's not so much the sickly fume,
But loneliness, which makes my headache pound.
No fear of concrete things preys on my craven mind:
Oppressed by fear of thought I sit awake,
And listening, long for company of kind –
I never think amidst the noise they make,
If hell is other people, heaven be my hell!
To think and never know is bad enough,
But company wards off this morbid stuff.
Whatever's done is done, and what will come, come soon!
For deeds and words are tangible, if few,
While hopes and fears and memories balloon,
Distort the past, contaminate the new.
My thoughts engulf me like an empty room.

P. CURTIS, VI 2.

You May Remember . . .

It is important that boys should not only fully understand and enjoy works of literary merit, but that they should be able to convey their impressions in accurate and concise prose. It is in this spirit that, annually, we set and mark English Literature exams throughout the School.

The following extracts from this year's papers do, we feel, illustrate our belief that a gifted candidate can always add a new dimension to even the most familiar text.

ON A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM:

When the play starts it has the players telling you who they are, E.G. "I am not a lion dear woman but (for instance) Wat the Blacksmith."

ON HENRY IV PART I:

Prince Hal and Poins soon untided the travellers and gave them back their goods, then they rode off to a pub in East Cheam where the robbers' meeting place was.

ON TOAD OF TOAD HALL:

So Mole likes Rat and he likes Mole because he knows that Mole likes him and he also knows that Mole is a timid animal who needs help in the world.

ON A CHRISTMAS CAROL:

In my opinion Bob Cratchit and his family would be very nice people to know. If you are a child you have got the two young Cratchits to play with, racing round and round the garden, in and out of the house, and if you live next door to them you could even take the fence down which parts the two gardens and therefore have a much bigger playing area. It would be fun. You could get some old pieces of canvas or just ordinary material and sew them together to make a large oblong and make a tent out of it. But before you do this you must find some sticks to support the canvas. Would not that be fun? You and the two young Cratchits can go out and find a wooded area and then get some sticks for your tent. But before you did this you would want to climb trees and run around and track each other down. Yes, I do believe it would be fun.

Whereas if you were a grown-up you could have cups of tea and even maybe dine with the Cratchits. You could even go for a Sunday afternoon walk with the Cratchits. Yes, the Cratchits are a very pleasant family. I know something anyway, and I think it applies to you too. I would just love to live next door to the Cratchits. They are a happy-go-lucky family, and, to sum the matter up, I suppose that if they went in for a "Best All-round Family of the Year" contest they would win first prize.

On a text as yet unidentified:

The person I would like to write about, although I have forgotten his name, at this moment, was the victim of a trick. But yet, now I come to think of it, I believe it was Hypolyta playing a trick on this woman victim, by placing a faked letter on the ground, which was on the route that the victim took. The letter was addressed to this victim, who I still cannot recall the name of, and it was a faked love letter to pretend that her lover, who, if I remember correctly, was Myranus or Myrius, or something like that, hated her and wanted her to run away from the district.

The reason most probably being that Myranus wanted to be parted from this victim. It started by placing this letter in the path of her footsteps, and the victim noticed the letter, and, being nose-y, looked at it, or maybe

to give it to the owner. But she found it was for her and it was sealed with Myranus's seal, done by Hypolita and carved out of it.

She opened it, and to her horror it was a disgraceful letter, signed in Myranus's own handwriting, forged of course. And then Myranus was sent to jail for assault, and he went mad and said it was a frame-up.

Wrecched Gerdoun

Bifil two yeer ygo I say,
In Mitchamme toun ypon a day,
Didde I beginne myn studie right
And worketh hard eek noon and night.
To passe at A levelle I soughte,
But I ne coude I'd haveth noughte
To show for alle myn swynke and toile,
Except oon ulser and oon boile
On myn left shinne. O peyne smerte !
For wel I woot it doth right herte.
But O ! a jobbe moot now I finde
Else smiten will be myn behynde,
What kan I, wight of mien gentil,
To been a millere in a mill,
Or reve, monk, frankelyn, and eek knight ?
Nought knoweth I the art to endite !
Wel woud I liken to been poppe
Singere at everich local hoppe,
As Elving Parslamb, eek therto
Thise Betelles whom ye knowen do.
But dremen I, as yow wel see,
For sikerly wille I now be
A swepere of the rodes, poore me !

P. W. FERRIS, VI 2.

Reflections on the Gulbenkian Exhibition

ONE of the most outstanding exhibitions ever to be held in London was the Gulbenkian, which ran for two months at the Tate Gallery. This was a representative selection of painting and sculpture from all over the world which has been executed in the last decade. With the coming of such a large exhibition as this (over three hundred and fifty works of art were involved) the pseudo-critics were again up in arms saying how absolutely dreadful this modern art was. After the doldrums of the inter-war period, art is truly in a state of regeneration and in reaction to this the popular critics are cracking the same old philistine jokes about it.

I will not attempt to explain away abstract art in a few glib phrases; this is impossible. First of all, however, abstract painting should not be looked on as a completely recent innovation. The first abstract was executed over fifty years ago by a painter called Kandinsky. The two original "cubist" painters - Picasso and Braque - were attempting to go beyond the purely physical aspects of life in order to produce a geometrical statement of the outside world. In viewing abstract art one must try to

accept the fact that painting is not obliged to reproduce nature: the painter has the right to paint what he likes.

Most important of all, one should take the trouble to go and see such paintings. Most of the anti-abstractist critics do not even bother to have a good look at what they are meant to be criticising. They give the painting (or more usually, reproduction) a cursory glance and reject it, because they are so mentally lazy that they cannot adjust their sensibilities to a new form.

It is difficult to give a relative assessment of current trends in painting (which was the theme of the Gulbenkian Exhibition). Many painters have tended to become more public-conscious, resulting in a greater professionalism in technical fields. "Geometrical" art – pure abstract paintings and constructions – is gaining a new importance and is probably best represented in this country by Ben Nicholson and Victor Pasmore. Another important development has been the use of commercial art as subject matter for "museum" art – a manifestation known as "pop" painting. In England the best exponent of this form is Peter Blake.

There is an over-all air of excitement in art today. Both figurative and abstract painters are exploring experimental paths with the aid of increased patronage – though deep-rooted prejudices still exist. A great many young British painters show a rare promise which, if fulfilled, will be a challenge to every thinking man. To turn one's back on painting throughout life leaves a vast territory of human experience unexplored, but to attempt to appreciate it must enrich one's life immeasurably.

R. DAVIES, VI 1.

Birds

They soar so high, up in the sky,
They never even wonder why.
I'd like one day, to fly away,
And join them in the sky.

They build their nests of mud and clay,
There is no one to show the way.
I'd like one day to build as they,
My house – but not of clay.

They migrate to far off shores,
Without the aid of maps or oars.
I'd like one day to do as they,
And pack my bags and sail away.

D. J. ANDERSON, I L.

The Sun Times

Sunday, 13th March, A.D. 2964. No. 3,146,298

From our Special Correspondent on Earth. London, 12th March.

MUCH excitement has been caused here on Earth in the past four weeks over a large number of strange objects which have been unearthed in the excavations for the new space-port at Whitehall. This, it may be remembered, is the site of old civil-service buildings which were the power-house of Ancient Britain. The objects (see diagram) are spherical in shape,

having a spout at one side, a handle at the other, and a removable lid on top.

A. A. Jakesun, Professor of Ancient English at the University of Neptune, has been studying one of these objects for the past two weeks. After much deliberation, he has concluded that the object was known to the ancient English as a "TEE-POT".

R. L. Allgreen, Professor of Earth History at the University of Pluto, has dated the "TEE-POT" circa 1964 A.D. It may be remembered that this coincides with the short period between the two Conservative Ditherments. (1951-64: The Short Ditherment; 1965-2342: The Long Ditherment.) Thus the "TEE-POT" may well have been used by the two great rulers of the time - Big Chief Home and Maximillan the Great.

Opinions differ as to the function of the "TEE-POT".

G. N. Black, Reader in Art at the University of Saturn, believes that it is an early form of headgear.



However, Professor P. C. Hacker of the Moon College of Technology feels that it more likely is an early form of hearing aid. The shape of the spout bears a remarkable resemblance to that of the auricular cavity. Sound would enter through the lid, be amplified in the sound box and force its way down the spout.

B. H. Ribbons, Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of Mars, is convinced that neither of these theories is correct. He maintains that the "TEE-POT" is an early form of musical instrument. By blowing down the spouts of various "TEE-POTS" he has found no less than fourteen tuned to the key of C Flat Major. Indeed, Professor Ribbons claims that they may even have been played in the ancient English orchestras. To demonstrate his theory, he has composed a special work entitled "Concerto for "TEE-POT" and Orchestra", which he intends to play next Thursday at the Royal Festival Crater.

Far more plausible than any of these theories however, is that of Dr. J. R. Belch, Professor of Divinity at the University of Heaven. He claims that the "TEE-POT" was an early god which gave the civil-servants of Whitehall a strange power. Evidently they bowed down and worshipped the "TEE-POT" six or seven times a day. This may seem strange to us, but it must be remembered that A.D. 1964 was in the Dark Age of Education when no less than 83% of the population of Britain could not even tell Stork from butter.

D. A. BRUSHETT, VI 3.

Tale of the Lost Appendix

TO BE suddenly cast into a hospital ward as the youngest inhabitant, surrounded by men of all ages from seventy to seventeen, is, to say the least unnerving. I can now make tea, discuss ulcers, enthuse upon tumours, compare the respective merits of hernias and appendicitis. Car accidents, broken limbs, etc., come under the heading of everyday small-talk.

I was pitchforked into this situation at midday on a fine Saturday, and during the afternoon after being prodded, injected, and otherwise beaten-up, I was given what is laughingly called a "pre-med".

This consists of plunging a needle which feels like a rather oversized cycle pump into one's body, the general idea being to see how far out of the other side it protrudes. When they have you sufficiently pinned down, you are forced to undergo further indignities to the extent of putting a gown on back-to-front and large white socks which blindfold one. Let me whisper the next – a large rubber sheet was placed under me, and I can only conclude that they feared the worst.

At five o'clock, after lying supine for an hour or more, the "ghost-train" or theatre trolley arrived, and my next stop was the anaesthetic room. Before plunging into the unknown, I asked the doctor if it were possible for me to collect my bottled appendix to keep as a souvenir, but was gravely informed that this was not possible as all such odds and ends were the perks of the theatre orderlies, who sold them to a local sausage factory

The next I remember was waking up in the ward and counting my stitches, which, at first, I made ninety-eight in number; so I went to sleep again, but was later able to settle for a modest eight. This was later amended to nine, as it seems one large one must have had pups. I should explain that, under modern techniques, one's stitches are not bandaged, but are sprayed with a transparent plastic compound – this I found to be extremely handy when proudly showing visitors and comparing scars with mere hernias in the ward.

There is an old story told whereby a South African soldier, when pinned to the ground by a Zulu spear, remarked that it only hurt him when he laughed. This is unquestionably true where appendicitis is concerned, and as there is always a joke going around the ward, I sometimes found life very difficult indeed. As soon as I was mobile again, I was promoted to tea-boy, and further added to my education by visiting every patient and hearing the intimate details of their suffering or operation. Nevertheless, in all seriousness, I must conclude with a sincere tribute to the doctors and nursing staff of St. Helier Hospital who surely must all have a pair of wings and a halo set by for them when their appointed time comes.

A. HILES, 3A.

School Top Ten

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | 8.45 | Here I Go Again |
| 2. | Geography | You're My World |
| 3. | R.I. | I Believe |
| 4. | Mathematics | 5-4-3-2-1 |
| 5. | Music | Roll Over Beethoven |
| 6. | History | Not Fade Away |
| 7. | Craft | Bits and Pieces |
| 8. | German | I've Been Everywhere Man |
| 9. | Detention | Stay Awhile |
| 10. | 3.45 | It's Over. |

R. WILLS, 2B.

OLD BOYS

In Advertising

I JUMP as the internal telephone shatters the exotic daydream and jars me wide awake. It is My Producer. "Can you come down?" – and the creative department hunts for a pencil under a pile of sad-looking script orders, grabs a wad of paper – and another assignment has begun. The creative department always descends stairs five at a time, not due to haste but because to do so requires concentration, which prevents thought. It would be pleasant to tell you that this is when I wonder with interest what the job is, or speculate on the shape of the client lurking in the knee-deep carpet below, but I don't. I sweep in to the office in my knee-bag trousers and shredded cardigan and confront him. Today it is a stomach overflowing the revolving bowl chair – they are usually stomachs or sharp suits. The piece of rock salmon that is his hand wraps round mine and the stomach sinks back into the chair and his chest disappears down the cardboard front of his trousers.

He enthuses about his product; he almost sells me one. Today the creative department is in luck – this is better than the people who just say "Write a 1-minute script on plastic balaclavas" – this seems a product we can do something with. But then I always think that at the meeting when we talk confident airy-fairy and all feel good. There seem to be good selling features, plenty of them. Later, of course, I will find that there are too many to get in. The gov'nor asks the questions while holding two phone conversations and thinking of six other things. I say as little as possible, write down everything and finally admit to being "happy", quite forgetting such questions as "Can I be funny?" or "How much?" or "To whom are we selling this?" With luck the coffee or scotch arrives before I admit joy and delight and depart, pausing only to agree to some ludicrous date like next week. By this time it must be approaching lunch or something, so I go and talk to sophisticated secretary A. I used to go and talk to one of our tame directors, but he was sacked for being too genuine.

The next round in the game is the receipt of a script order, probably a fortnight later. If the script is urgent, and they all are, it might be started about then. The start of a script used to be a page of doodles and drawings vaguely connected with the subject. This has now been largely abandoned as it's a bit too much of an effort. The Stomach's script is born like many, in the intervals between the daydreams, and as soon as anything is scribbled on the paper, this is the sign for a break – down to talk to sophisticated secretary B, or the viewing theatre to see some rushes, or the cutting rooms, or the animation studio, or anywhere. As usual, what is finally presented to the client is the result of a feverish hour's work the night before.

Often, my children are never heard of again or sometimes they appear months later and I can read them almost without recognising them. The client takes this one away. We think he likes it. If he does, he will change it – this we know is Justifying his Existence. The Stomach makes his mysterious changes to keep us guessing about our own competence. And it spreads down. I too must guess. I might be told casually that we've got the film before it goes to the inner sanctum, the production office, who tell not a thing. The first I learn of the messy operation that has been performed on the script is when a shooting script arrives through the devious internal post. If one is persistent, it is sometimes possible to find out details like times and dates of casting sessions or even of shooting. By the time the film goes into production the clients, the agency people, the

producer, the director, the production manager, the art director and probably several more, have all had a hand in modifying the film from my conception towards its final shape.

At the studios, I stand at the back, absorbing. By this time, I have little to add, or at least people think so, or they wonder who I am. I can't usually recall, from the dim days, much about the script, even if it's not been changed anyway since I last saw it. The director is now putting his interpretation on the film when he's not chatting up the girls. The client and attendants hover like vultures over the whole proceedings.

And so to the cutting rooms where I have friends. Here down the road on the fourth floor, is where the wandering idea comes home to roost as film, among the pigeons and sometimes as beautiful. Here I can be scathing and enraged and nobody minds. I sack everybody but the editors for killing my creation and still there are the composers, the musicians, commentator and sound engineers to do their bit, and, if it's terrible, there are so many people to blame; and when the Stomach likes it, I take the credit, and go back to my small back room and quickly think of somewhere else to go in case the phone rings.

A. R. CARPENTER

The Oxford Dinner

THE Oxford dinner, instituted by Dr. Bingham when he first came to the School, was held this year on 8th May at The Eastgate Hotel, Oxford. Those members of the staff who had the good fortune to be educated at that University all attended and were accompanied this year by Messrs. Hallam, Harris and Male. The boys – or should we say 'old boys'? – there were Horowicz, Baker and Lidiard, the latter of whom had made all the arrangements at the Oxford end. Moore should have been there but was prevented by a chill which he wasn't allowed to ignore as he was the cox for one of the college boats in Eights Week races. We were sorry too that the imminence of examinations made it impossible for our two Cambridge representatives, Forsdick and Mackey, to come to Oxford for the event.

The evening was a great success; the food was excellent; the wines were of superb quality and the company was most delightful.

It is always a moot point whether the Mitcham undergraduates or the graduates on the staff enjoy the annual event most but the enthusiasm shown every summer term when the event is arranged leads to the conclusion that whatever the opinion of the undergraduates the graduates would hate this function to be discontinued.

H.S.J.

Old Boys' Rugby

THE last season was a most disappointing one for the Club with all four XV's recording few wins. The two junior sides presented the better results so perhaps the tide has turned and the Club will return shortly to the previous dominant position it held so long ago in local Old Boys' Rugby.

The Club's excellent pavilion in the grounds of Wandle Valley Hospital, Carshalton, nears completion but some work remains to be done. The facilities which are available are as good as any in the district and the Club is proud of what has been achieved, mainly by the sweat and toil of a small number of devoted members.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 3rd July, 1964, Barry Pritchard was elected the new Club Chairman. He succeeds Laurie Shepard, who retired after many years of loyal service to the Club. Bob Brett, replaces Barry Pritchard as Vice-Chairman. Dave Preston is the new Treasurer and Ted King remains the Secretary.

This is your Club, and all boys leaving school are welcome as members whether they wish to play Rugby or not.

E. J. KING (*Hon. Secretary*).

PARENTS

Parents' Association

THE past year has once again seen the Association very active, and many pleasant evenings have been arranged by the Committee.

In October, with the help of parents, boys and school staff, a Jumble Sale was held in the Gym. After a hectic two hours' work by everyone, this resulted in a profit of £32, 3s. 6d.

During December a very interesting Education Evening was held when Mr. Hallam spoke on Higher Education and the opportunities for boys who go on to Technical or Training Colleges and Universities.

A most successful New Year's Party was held 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 entertainment was arranged by Mr. Crouch and Mr. Dickson, Mrs. Harper, with the help of the ladies, provided the refreshments, and the evening passed all too quickly.

In February we had the Annual "Careers for Boys" evening. Guest speakers on this occasion were F. G. Needham, Esq., who spoke on Structural Engineering, A. G. Fish, Esq., on Local Government, and R. Hickson, Esq., on the Paint Industry. This is one of the most enlightening evenings on the programme.

For the Social evening held in March, a party went to see the Mitcham Operatic Society's production of *Oklahoma* at the Baths Hall. This is the first time the Association has tried such an event, and the evening was a very enjoyable one.

The highlight in May was the Summer Fete, and, after many weeks of planning and a great deal of hard work on the part of Messrs. Dickson and Crouch, parents, boys, staff and committee, some excellent stalls and sideshows were produced which added to the fun of the fair, and gave us a profit of £140. Our thanks go to parents and friends, who gave us their support.

In May a Treasure Hunt was arranged with 16 cars taking part. This was a most enjoyable evening and thanks must be given to Mr. Marsh and Mr. Purbrick for organising this function.

We are looking forward once again to the Tennis and Cricket Match between the boys and parents, and we hope to have two successes.

G. I. JENNINGS (*Hon. Secretary*).

School Officers

Head of School A. S. Austin.

Deputy Head of School D. A. Brushett.

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M. J. Boylett, M. N. Cawdery, B. G. Hendley,
V. A. C. Reece, V. H. Smith, M. H. Walton.

Prefects R. P. P. Beames, R. B. Beek, A. J. Campbell,
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BADMINTON: M. J. Boylett.
CRICKET: D. R. Bishop.
RUGBY: D. R. Bishop.
TENNIS: B. G. Hendley.
CROSS-COUNTRY: M. H. Walton.

School Librarians R. B. Beek, A. J. Campbell.

School Terms

AUTUMN: 8th September — 18th December, 1964.

SPRING: 6th January — 8th April, 1965.

SUMMER: 4th May — 23rd July, 1965.

"Clothed in white samite, mystic, wonderful"

THIS poetically conceived and awesome illustration is an intimation of editorial mortality. It is not one of the later Roman Emperors nor even, as some have suggested, the noblest Roman of them all. The unveiled truth is that fate has conspired to deprive us of our editor Mr. Jackson, who is to leave us at Christmas to take up a new post as Head of the English Department in Orton Longueville Grammar School, near Peterborough. Although we are pleased at his success and congratulate him on this appointment, we inevitably regret his departure, knowing that the *Mitchamian* which became such a splendid creation under his guidance, will keenly feel the loss of his inspiration in its pages.

He managed to convey to his contributors a sensibility for style, a subtle wit and a highly entertaining lightness of touch, and always succeeded in impressing artistic format and an attractive presentation upon the polyglot copy he received.

He bore with sanguine equanimity the buffets which delays in the letter and parcel post regularly rained upon him in the fortnight before publication, and in spite of other hindrances of a strange and unique nature after copy had gone to press, the magazine was always magically produced on time.

We may well expect the *Mitchamian* to long for the touch of a vanished hand, but let us remember in gratitude the infusion of a high standard of literary awareness which Mr. Jackson's editorship has given to this periodical.

C.R.B.



Sic transit gloria editoris

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