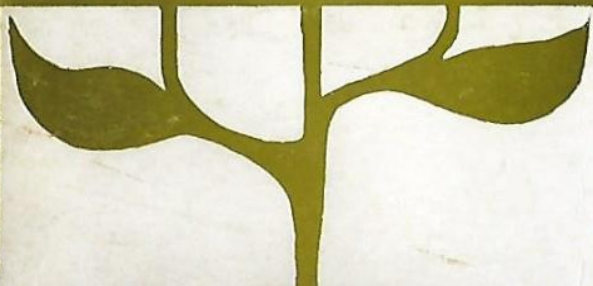
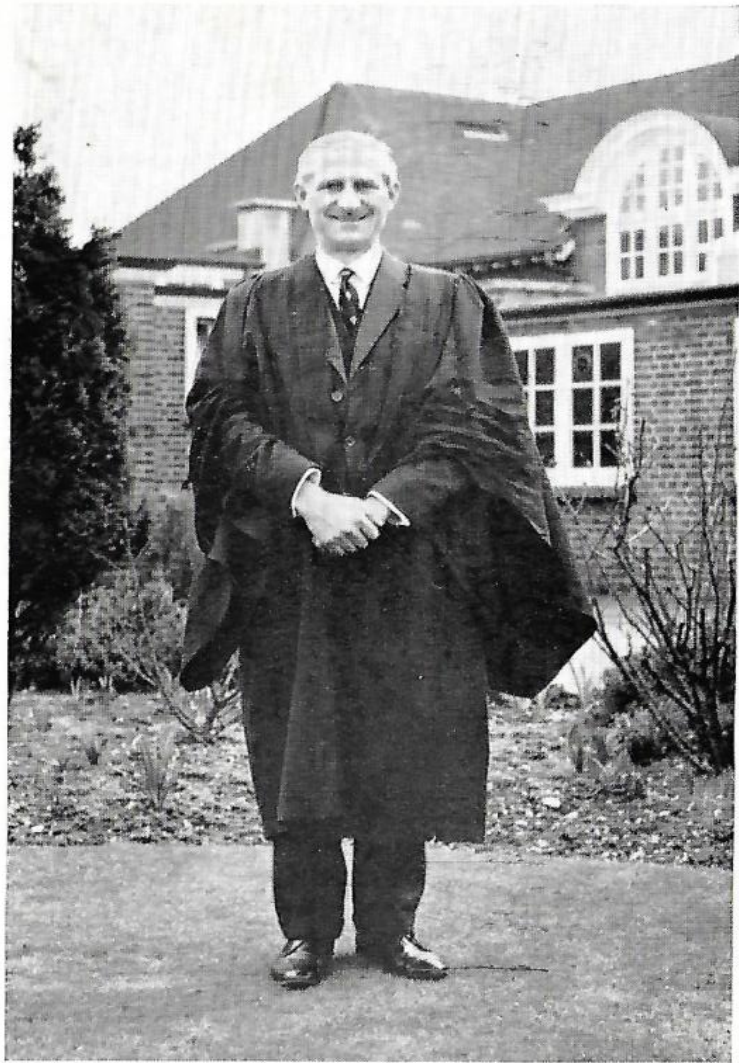


MITCHAMIAN



summer
1969



Mr. B. F. Atherton

THE MITCHAMIAN

MITCHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

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Editorial

It has been a year of innovations, not the least of which was the arrival of our new Headmaster, Mr. Atherton, from Elmwood High School. We have watched the changes taking place and have approved or disapproved according to our educational predilections, but we can never complain that our opinions were not canvassed before the innovation was introduced. Mr. Atherton is, above all, a democrat: a great believer in the right of the individual to express himself and to be heard—hence the formation of the School Council. He is also an ardent campaigner on behalf of the underprivileged in this world and his principles are in evidence in assemblies and in the steady flow of books that have been classified under 240 on the library shelves. Added to this we have noted a distinct emphasis on the more traditional virtues of punctuality, tidiness and civility . . . and there is, no doubt, much more in store. We look forward to its making its appearance in the formative years ahead.

The remainder of the innovations stem, of course, from the principal one. There has been the establishment of a sixth-form enclave in the old C.C.F. hut, but what exactly happens there it is difficult to discover. Certainly a number of its denizens were busy cleaning it out recently: very praiseworthy; undoubtedly it is a place of high conversation and civilised games: admirable; but why would no one write the inside story for the magazine? Then there is CULT, the monthly publication devoted to the expression of strong opinions in prose and recondite emotions in poetry: a magnificent effort by its editors, not merely in getting it typed, printed and sold, but also in raising a few disturbing winds of controversy. Add to these the re-thinking of the prefect system, the revival of dances in the hall, the proliferation of educational visits, the ritual obeisance to "Hair", open-necked shirts when the temperature is in the seventies, and you have a liberal and stimulating environment to work and live in.

All this is not to say that the old institutions have been abandoned or have lost their vigour. No. The Arts Competition has continued to supply the school with music, literature, art and oratory that is considered by some

to be incomparable in its aspiration; nor has the sporting vitality of the school diminished, though with our numerical decline some coaches have had to press the David and Goliath analogy rather hard at times. Underlying all the frenetic sporting, social and cultural activity there has been, of course, the bedrock of lessons, uncomfortable for many, but for others containing a welcome spring or two.

The school year is portrayed in the magazine, but as this is the final Mitchamian we have been looking back over the decades also. Hence, and very appropriately, Mr. Purbrick's article on the growth of Mitcham Grammar School, and also some quotations from back numbers of the magazine to remind us that, modest publication though it is, it has been a mirror of the times and has touched on events that have been crucial in the lives of several generations. Thus, the present number takes its place in the archives. Who knows what some future school historian may select from its varied contents as the most significant item?

THE SCHOOL YEAR

THE year opened with a number of new faces in the Staff Room. I counted myself fortunate in taking over a School which was such a going concern from Dr. Bingham, and it is in no small measure due to his abundant energy and enthusiasm that the School is so successful both academically and in sport. We all wish him well at the Glyn School, Ewell, and shall welcome him whenever he is able to pay us a visit.

During the year the following new members of Staff joined the School: Mr. Smart (Second Geography Master), Mr. Winter (Head of the History Dept.), Mr. Palmer (Senior Chemistry Master), Miss Bache (Art), Mr. Ahuja (Head of the Physics Dept.), Mr. Singh (Head of Biology), Mr. Perks (Mathematics), Mr. Bunce (Head of P.E. Dept.), Mr. Kemp (Head of German), Mr. Hood (Chemistry), Dr. Ghosh (Physics), Mr. Pankhurst (Science), Mrs. Bunyan (French and English), Mrs. Iwobi (Chemistry), Mr. Dickie (Laboratory Technician), Mrs. Shaw (Secretarial), Mr. Walker (Caretaker) and Mrs. Curran (Catering).

Mr. D. K. Winter brought a lively approach to the teaching of History and has shown energy in cross-country running and in cricket coaching—so much in the latter that we have suffered a record number of broken windows! The teams have appreciated his photographic talents, and the skiers his coaching. It is with regret that we lose him to Ilford County High School at the end of the year.

We have enjoyed Mr. Perks' North Country forthrightness and appreciated his work on Swimming and as Treasurer of the Parents' Association. We regret losing him to industry at the end of the year but wish him well in his future career.

Mr. M. Bunce, fresh from a refresher course at Carnegie College of P.E. Leeds, has imparted to boys his own enthusiasm, whether in Rugby, or Basketball (which he built up from scratch into a fine team), Athletics, Cricket, Swimming or almost any other activity that can be mentioned. As he goes to our neighbour Lonesome Primary School, to broaden his experience to include all age groups, we wish "all the best" to one who will surely go to the top of the tree in his profession.

At the end of the Autumn Term we welcomed Mr. Pankhurst who has rendered most useful service to the school and will be leaving for Trinity College, Cambridge, at the end of the year.

On the Language side we lose Mrs. Lovell whom we first knew as Miss Brumm, who will now go into Primary School teaching, and Mrs. Bunyan, who came to us from Redhill Technical College and who has taught English and French. To both we extend our best wishes for the future, as also to two Science Masters, Mr. Hood and Dr. Ghosh, who both go into industry, one in Australia and one in India.

Mr. C. G. Nicholls has been with us since September 1966 and now goes as Music Master to Rutlish School. During the time he has been here the standard of music has been high and in addition we have appreciated all the extra things he has done: the firm notes at Morning Assembly, the music for "Noyes Fludde", all the contributions of the Choir to the end-of-term services, and the organising and encouragement of competitors for the House Music Competitions. With all this, he has been a friendly co-operative colleague, and he goes away with our best wishes for the future.

It has been pleasant to refresh my rusting knowledge of Latin by an occasional chat in Latin with Mr. Judge who has a quick gift of repartee which I have much enjoyed. He has kept the flag of Classical Scholarship flying and enjoyed imparting to successive generations Classical and Biblical knowledge. He has been most assiduous in his duties as Staff Representative on the Mitcham R.F.C. Committee. Now as he goes to Rutlish, where he took some Mitcham boys who remained in the district during the general evacuation in 1941, we acknowledge his many-sided contribution to the life of the School and say "Vale".

With so many changes, one might have expected that, as occurs in so many places, there might be some divisions in the staff, but old and new have settled down as one right from the start. This is in no small measure due to Mr. Purbrick, the Deputy Head, who has almost unnoticed welded all our members into a team. Indeed, the unusually friendly and united atmosphere of the Staff Room is a great compliment to him. He has been a member of staff since 1934 and Deputy Head since 1958. During all this time he has taught a cross-section of the school, performed minor miracles of time-tabling, and been the "guide, philosopher and friend" whom both Head and staff need. I personally am particularly deeply indebted to him for the way in which he made my taking-over so much easier by being ready for consultation time after time during the holidays and out of school hours as well as in school. He now feels he would like to change over to working on a part-time basis, and we all rejoice that he will be with us as a teacher of English at Eastfields, as the "Mr. Chips" of Mitcham.

Mr. Richards started Economics in Form VI, took over responsibility for Careers and I have welcomed the excellent co-operation we have

enjoyed with Mr. Goddard and Mrs. Martin Smith of the Youth Employment Office. In addition Mr. Richards took over responsibility for Rugby, and produced the best ever record the 1st XV enjoyed: 16 matches won out of 20, with scores 338 for and 184 against bears testimony to his work, ably aided by Mr. Bunce. Our thanks go also to all others who assisted in refereeing.

At Christmas Mr. Harper retired to his native Isle of Wight after 20 years service to the School as Physics Master, and 5 years' previous service with Surrey County Council. He was presented with a long-service scroll by Mr. R. Greenwood, Chief Education Officer.

On 1st February the school suffered a severe blow by the sudden death of Mr. J. N. Tweddle, Senior Science Master and Senior Chemistry Master. He had held these posts since September 1957, had rendered sterling service to the school as a knowledgeable Science teacher who set both himself and others high standards of attainment, with the result that we had several Oxbridge entries in Science. He was engaged in forward planning as Head-designate of Science at Eastfields High School, and he will be sorely missed; the School was represented at his funeral at Mitcham Methodist Church.

Monsieur Bizien of the University of Rennes, a Breton—though whether a Nationalist we do not know—and Herr Rumpf, a graduate of the Free University of Berlin with teaching experience, have been most welcome Language Assistants.

We have had Mr. R. Wood of Goldsmiths' College, Mr. A. Field of Whitelands College, and Mr. J. Thorman of King's College on Teaching Practice.

We started the year with 289 pupils: a smaller number than in recent years, mainly owing to 1 one-stream entry in Form 1. The VIth form was large: 109, of whom three came from local Secondary Schools. At the beginning of the year Nicholas Dawson was Head Boy, providing valuable continuity with last year. He rendered yeoman service to the School, not only as Head Boy but also as Captain of the Rugby XV in a most successful season and we wish him well as he goes to Durham University to read Geography. His deputy, John Cade, who had rendered great service to the Christian Union and to Debates, has left to read History at Selwyn College, Cambridge, and his successor, Alan Faircloth, goes to Brighton College of Technology to take Business Studies.

John Bance has been made Head of School and Brian Ansell Deputy Head of School.

Our Speech Night, held at Eastfields School on 28th February, had a witty speaker who both held his audience and put over a message—Rev. Kenneth Slack, M.B.E., of the City Temple.

What of the future? I feel strongly that people cannot be accurately graded at 11, and the fact that non-Grammar Schools have any G.C.E., "O" and "A" level examination successes at all proves this. We should therefore welcome the abolition of selection, and the opportunities that the newer buildings and larger unit at Eastfields have to offer us. There are bound to be teething troubles, and indeed nostalgia for happy memories of the past linked with our old buildings. But as the chrysalis changes to form a butterfly, we too may lose our form of existence for a better one, especially if we intend to make it so. In planning for the future, I have been greatly helped by the friendly co-operation of Mr. H. J. Smith, B.Sc.,

Headmaster of Eastfields Secondary School, his Deputy Mr. Morgan and the staff there. Now we welcome to our School Mr. H. H. Turpin, M.A., a Cambridge graduate in Modern Languages with earlier teaching experience at Selhurst Grammar School, now Head of Modern Languages at De Burgh School, Tadworth, Surrey. He comes to join the Mitcham staff supernumary from 2nd June in order to assist with planning for next year. The appointments for the new School have inevitably taken up much of my time recently, and I am glad to say that the staff is now virtually complete. Happily we shall have a good measure of continuity in that the vast majority of the staff are going over to Eastfields.

The list reads :

Headmaster Mr. BERNARR F. ATHERTON (Mitcham)

Deputy Head Mr. H. H. TURPIN (De Burgh)

Associate Deputy Head Mr. MORGAN (Eastfields)

English

Head of Department

Mr. E. J. Boagey (Mitcham),
Mr. D. S. Dunham (Eastfields) and
Careers,
Mr. W. H. J. Armiger (Eastfields),
Mr. E. E. Gill (Eastfields),
Mr. D. R. Scoular (Warwick, Waltham
Forest).

Mathematics

Head of Department

Mr. R. J. Marsh (Mitcham),
Mr. S. R. Edwards (Western),
Mr. S. Caws (Eastfields),
Miss J. Duncan (Mitcham),
Mr. B. Saunders (Eastfields),
Mr. A. J. D. Foster (Industry).

Physics

*Head of Department and
Head of Science*

Mr. S. Conchie (Wandsworth),
Mr. O. P. Ahuja (Mitcham).

Chemistry

Head of Department

Mr. W. P. Palmer (Mitcham),
Mrs. L. Iwobi (Mitcham),
Mr. K. Hill (Bath University and Maria
Grey College).

Biology

Head of Department

Mr. J. Singh (Mitcham).

General Science

Miss J. A. J. Jones (Hatfield Poly. and
Inst. of Educ. London).

Modern Languages and French

Head of Department

Mr. R. J. Dean (Mitcham).

German

Head of Department

Mr. J. Kemp (Mitcham).

History

Head of Department

Mr. G. Sexton (Eastfields),
Mr. W. R. Richards—History and
Economics (Mitcham).

<i>Geography</i> <i>Head of Department</i>	Mr. D. R. Wilkie (Mitcham), Mr. R. J. Smart (Mitcham), Mr. K. J. Geary (College of St. Mark and St. John) Geography and History.
<i>P.E.</i> <i>Head of Department</i>	Mr. A. J. R. Philpotts (Eastfields), Mr. P. E. Nicholls (Garth).
<i>Technical Studies</i> <i>Head of Department</i>	Mr. H. G. Winstone (Eastfields), Mr. A. Richardson (Mitcham) Wood- work and Technical Drawing, Mr. J. S. Clements (Western) Metalwork, Mr. D. Farrant (Eastfields) Woodwork and Technical Drawing, Mr. F. E. Webb (Eastfields) Woodwork.
<i>R.I.</i> <i>Head of Department</i>	Mr. J. Humble (Western) also some Music.
<i>Art</i> <i>Head of Department</i>	Mr. M. Ball (Eastfields), Mr. J. Quenzer (Eastfields) Pottery, Miss B. E. Bache (Mitcham) Art.
<i>Music</i> <i>Head of Department</i>	Mr. A. W. Tregoing (Eastfields).

PART TIME

<i>English</i>	—	Mr. W. T. J. Purbrick (Mitcham)
<i>Physics</i>	—	Mr. A. Rhead (Eastfields)
<i>French</i>	—	Mr. W. J. Davis (Industry)
<i>German</i>	—	Mrs. M. H. Beazley (Mitcham)
<i>Music</i>	—	Mr. Martin (Eastfields)

B.F.A.

MR. PURBRICK

W. T. J. PURBRICK joined the staff of Mitcham Grammar School in September 1934. It is probably a commentary on the change in manners that no one knows what these initials stand for—in the staff room he has always been "Purb". It is certainly a commentary on the change in prices that in his first year he was known to the boys as "Twopence", the then current price of Messrs. Walls' confections "per brick".

While in his earlier years he taught several subjects he has always specialised in the teaching of English, being Head of the Department for many years before his elevation to the post of Deputy Headmaster. His

tenure of this position included a half term as acting Headmaster between the departure of Mr. Courtney and the arrival of Dr. Bingham. His service to the school has been varied and valuable.

At the time of his appointment all members of the staff (they then numbered eleven) took duties on games afternoons, but his special interest was in athletics, of which he took charge. He was for more than twenty years secretary of the Surrey Grammar Schools Athletics Association, and made all the arrangements for their annual meeting.

From the first he was an Assistant Scoutmaster in the large and successful troop which the school ran in pre-war days. He was particularly interested in camping and during a summer camp would invariably grow a beard which would be the envy of a sixth-former today.

During the war the school started an Air Training Corps with the then Headmaster, Mr. Doig, as commanding officer and Mr. Purbrick as second in command with the rank of Flying Officer.

Many Old Boys will remember the walks and occasional scrambles over the mountains and fells of the Lake District and Snowdonia which Mr. Purbrick led during the Easter holidays on the tours which Mr. Hallam organised for many years.

Thirty-five years in one school is a very long time, though he spent the year 1937-38 on an exchange visit to the United States, where he taught English in Wethersfield High School in a suburb of Hartford, Connecticut. Also the two years from 1940-42 were spent in the congenial surroundings of Weston-super-Mare, to which the majority of the school was evacuated.

His colleagues in the English department are better qualified than I to assess the value of his teaching, but I can testify from the number of contacts I have had with Old Boys to the warmth with which he is remembered.

Fortunately, though he is abdicating from the position of Deputy Headmaster, he will still be with us in a part-time post.

MR. H. S. JUDGE

THE threat of a Comprehensive system of education in the Borough has occasioned an enormous staff turnover at Mitcham Grammar School in the last year or two. Old faces have disappeared and new ones have made a transitory appearance for the final year before the amalgamation with Eastfields takes place. One of the most significant moves to take place as a result of the new order is the transfer of Mr. H. S. Judge to Rutlish High School to teach Classics. As a result, 34 years of association with both School and Old Boys will be severed.

Mr. Judge came to Mitcham in 1935 after three years service in a Prep. School at Cobham, and immediately took up the Housemastership

of Green House (now Ravensbury). He recalls that a rather unusual practice took place in School at that time of having a "Greek Week" when teaching in all subjects was given a Greek bias.

On the outbreak of the Second World War Mr. Judge was left in charge of a number of boys when the bulk of the School was evacuated to Weston-super-Mare. In 1940 he entered the R.A.F. and took a Commission in the Intelligence Branch, seeing service in all countries of the U.K. and Gibraltar in Coastal Command.

After six years and with the rank of F/Lt. he returned to Mitcham as Housemaster of Red House (Witford). In this connection he had some success in producing House plays which were a feature of the House competition at that time. It was at this time that tragedy struck because in 1948 he underwent an operation for a tumour on the brain which deprived him of his sight. He endured this loss with considerable fortitude and determination and at Whitsuntide in 1949 he returned to the School as a trained blind person where after a short time he was accepted by the then Headmaster, Mr. Doig, as a permanent member of staff in the Classics department.

His association with the O.B. dates back to 1946 when he was elected Chairman of the Old Boys Rugger Club. In 1957 he was appointed to the Committee as School Representative, since when he has been a strong link between the School and O.B. Association.

In 1960 he was the instigator, with Dr. Bingham, of the annual pilgrimage to Oxford for the reunion dinner, a function which he has organised each year since then.

Mr. Judge will be missed by all the Staff and pupils alike of this School and we wish him every happiness and success when he takes up his new appointment in September.

MR. HARPER

In December last year Mr. Harper retired after teaching Physics in the School for twenty years. He has returned to his native Isle of Wight where he can indulge his hobbies of studying its flora and fauna.

We hope he will forgive us if we reproduce a colleague's tribute to his going which was to be heard in the Staff Room on one of those memorable end-of-term occasions. It goes to the tune of "Sea Fever":

I must go back to the Isle again, to the chalk and the Alum sands,
And all I ask is a goggle-box that fires on all three bands;
And a Hillman Minx that rarely pinks, an occasional grandson's voice;
Three rooms up, and three rooms down, and a telephone for choice.
And I want no more than half my pay, and I surely can't settle for less;
Mine be the life that dispenses with Physics, with or without the "s".
To live with my wife a stationary life, with the time to explain a pun
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream, when the long retirement's done.

May his retirement be, indeed, a long one!

MRS. SWINSTEAD

It is with regret, yet with a great sense of appreciation, that we record the impending departure from School life of Mrs. Swinstead at the end of this term. Mrs. Swinstead has presided over the secretarial affairs of M.B.G.S. for the past three years and there can be few boys or members of staff who have not, at some time or other, had cause to bless her patience, her willingness to help and her quiet efficiency. She has been more than a Secretary, of course, as any boy will testify who has ever been to her with a problem, a headache or a bruised knee; and she has always been able to pause in some urgent piece of typing to talk about the everyday and personal affairs of life, knowing that a school is very much a human institution and that one adds to its humanity by being interested in people as well as in work. We hope we shall see Mrs. Swinstead in the future at some of the School's functions and we wish her a pleasant retirement.

M.B.G.S. 1922-1969

It appears that the School began its physical career in the first years of the century, at about the same time as the present writer was leaping about in his rompers, little conscious of what the School was to mean to him. It was then a primary school, possibly reminiscent of the one attended by Mr. Polly in his formative years, "when he was set sums that he did not understand and that nobody made him understand"; and it was built in the style or architecture favoured by the Surrey County Council of the day—a hall surrounded by classrooms (now rooms 2 to 8) on three sides, the present cloakroom, and possibly the Black upper-storey Hole (half of which was the Headmaster's room) which now serves as a Staff Room. One can imagine the Headmaster of the time frantically ringing the turret-bell to summon the School round him while he expanded on some important matter of policy. There seemed no other reason for such a central forum.

In historical terms, in 1922, came the great change to a Grammar School, with the probable addition then of the present Craft Room for use as a Science Laboratory to befit its newly acquired status. The beginnings must have been small, for there were Headmaster and five members of Staff only, for about seventy boys. It is on fairly dependable record that one of the Staff, a naturalised Frenchman, acted as School Captain for the first year. He must have benefited from the experience, because he became Deputy Headmaster in the 1940's. (There is also a story, perhaps not so dependable, that the British Intelligence Corps refused to accept his services during the First World War, because his French was not good enough.)

During the whole of the 1920's the School had a one-form entry each year (shades of the last few years!), which must have restricted numbers

to well under 200, as Sixth Forms were almost negligible in those days. It was not until the end of the decade, with a new Headmaster, that a two-form entry was established. (Had the School been larger in numbers it would have been moved to the Girls' Grammar School buildings in Cranmer Road when they were put up in the early 1930's; and probably the higgledy-piggledy collection of buildings that it is now would have been inhabited by girls.) This new Headmaster, who was always having ideas, called his First Forms J.S.C. and J.S.D. (Lower School C and D) and his Second Forms J.S.A. and J.S.B., could think of nothing original to call his Third and Fourth Forms, and called his Fifth Forms U.S.A. and U.S.B., the latter (United States, Britain) being the first recorded take-over by a North American organisation. With a new Headmaster came a new caretaker, Mr. Perry, a legendary figure who, with his equally legendary wife, retired only three years ago.

By 1933 the expansion of the School required the building of proper laboratories (Rooms 9, 10 and 11), of two classrooms (13 and 14) and a Headmaster's room (the present Secretary's office). In 1937 the Library block was built, to add a Library and to replace the Gymnasium (for which the Small Hall had been used), the Art Room (formerly Room 7) and the Geography Room, which was previously in an erection irreverently referred to as the Tin Tabernacle; as this erection was also used as a dining-hall and kitchen, it was doubtful whether it was the worship of Geography or School dinners that gave it its vaguely religious name.

That, for some years, was necessarily the end of additions. The suburbs of London were far too concerned, with the coming of the blitz, to keep more or less intact what they had already got. Large shelters, where the nets now are, protected the School by day and the local population by night, and a land-mine behind the School in September, 1940, raised the roofs and made the School buildings virtually unusable. The majority of the boys and a number of girls from the Girls' Grammar School were evacuated to Weston-super-Mare until July, 1942, when the enemy was misguided enough to burn down with incendiaries half of the host School. As evacuations went, it was a successful evacuation, but that was the end of it and back the School came. It had two consequences—it convinced many who experienced it that there was a lot to be said for mixed education, and it brought women teachers into the School for the first time, a good thing in its way.

After the war the 1944 Education Act, which the government, with incurable optimism, had passed during the thick of it, came into operation. It meant, among other things, that entry to a State-maintained Grammar School like ours was to be through the eleven-plus examination only; the lesser breeds without the Act, whose parents had previously paid part of the cost, had no longer any loophole by which to get in. For some time it was a matter for debate whether this made the School a better or a worse place to live in. The School got back to its normal size of about 400; Rooms 17 and 18 (the latter as a Music Room) arrived about 1950 as temporary accommodation—they are naturally still temporising. There were occasional years when three First Forms were admitted in one year. But perhaps the greatest change was in the size of the Sixth Forms; whereas before the war there were generally less than ten in all three Sixth Forms together, the 1950's saw seventy or eighty sixth-formers and the 1960's up to one hundred. The successful Grammar School boy was raising his sights from the Banks and the Executive Civil Service to the Universities, old and new—hence the large Sixth Forms. (There were

those who said, cynically, that some boys stayed on in the Sixth Form because it was an easy option compared with the wide world of business and industry. There are still those who say so, cynically.)

Bit by bit new classrooms enclosed the Cricket Nets area. The Canteen was built to replace the Small Hall as a dining-room. The very good acoustics of the Small Hall had meant that the champing of jaws combined with the cultured yet lively conversation of the jawers persuaded many members of Staff that dinner-duty was a fate worse than death.

In 1965 the London Borough of Merton was born, Surrey washed its hands of us, Comprehensive education was in the air and the days of Mitcham Boys' Grammar School were numbered. It is a pity—there are those of us who think it had its place. Perhaps, upon consideration, its place was twofold. Firstly, it did its best with the weaker brethren—many boys, who in a larger school would go to the wall, contrived to get their three or four G.C.E. passes; only just, perhaps, but they got them. And secondly, while all other games had their ups and downs, School Rugby flourished from its beginnings in the early 1930's right to the end, when the School had its best season for many years. Numbers of players to choose from were always small compared with other schools; for years the School pitches, sited in a gravel pit built basically with a mixture of discarded furniture and old buses, were cursed by standing water or by the rising of objects from the inferno below, but the Rugby, played now on pitches as playable as any in the area, remained constantly and remarkably good. And one of our best Rugby Captains contrived to get an Oxford University Blue—at Soccer.

There are, of course, many other aspects of the School that remain unmentioned. These are the views of merely one member of Staff who has, regrettably perhaps, liked the place and who hopes to remember it with affection for some time to come.

W.P.J.P.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Extracts from past issues of the MITCHAMIAN

“a
magazine
for
diversion
and to keep
loyalties
young”

EASTER, 1930.

THE SCOUTS IN BELGIUM

Extract from Log of Summer Camp of the 16th Mitcham Troop, 1933

(P. L. BECKET)

Wednesday, 2nd August. Get up at 8.30 a.m. Have breakfast. Then hike along the coast over the borders of Holland. When we were swimming on the way back we met a German Jew Boy Scout who had been turned out of Germany by Hitler. Get home 6.30 p.m. Play games in camp in evening. Lights out 9.30 p.m.

EASTER, 1934.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Ginger. We cannot think why your parents consider the homework to be excessive. But why not try doing it yourself?

CHRISTMAS, 1934.

THE OLD MITCHAMIANS

and The Philosophical Society

On 19th October, 1933, Mr. Doig read the first paper before the Society; it was entitled, “Can the English Public Schools save Civilisation through Socialism?”

On 21st December, Mr. Bracken (Hon. Member for “Sez-too-Much”) introduced in a very able speech the first measure to be read before a Parliamentary meeting in the School. The Bill was entitled, “That this House cause to be set up before the 31st December, 1933, such Boards, Committees or other Machinery as may be necessary, in co-operation with

His Majesty's War Department in order to achieve complete and immediate Disarmament". Both by the attendance and by the number of people who spoke for and against the motion there was no doubt that the experiment had proved popular and attractive to the members. The voting was 20 AYES and 13 NOES.

EASTER, 1934.

At one a.m. one night, a few days before the outbreak of war, I was pushing my way among the crowds of Times Square and Broadway, goggling at the blaze of lights of a great city; it was the last blaze of light I was to see for a long time. The next evening the German "Bremen" set out on her voyage to dodge British warships on the way to Murmansk, the French "Normandie" cancelled her sailing, and the British "Aquitania", on which I travelled, started her zig-zag course across the Atlantic, completely blacked out, her passengers wondering whether they would have to use the gas-masks with which they were issued.

They were not necessary; a week later Southampton Water seemed as smooth as it had ever been in happier days; the barrage balloons floated serenely in a peaceful sky; we had returned, safely, to England at war.

W. PURBRICK.

CHRISTMAS, 1939.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Doubts and Evacuations—Then there was the uncertainty of whether the School would be able to re-open on account of the imminence of air-raids. Finding ourselves still alive after the first alarms, we were eventually glad to hear that we might be allowed to re-open when adequate trenches had been constructed for the whole School, or rather, for those members who had not then decided to seek a safer neighbourhood. Facilities for a second chance to be evacuated to safety were offered, and for a time nobody could tell how many boys were likely to be left.

Digging Ourselves In—When the number of evacuees finally proved to be about fifty, some of the more stalwart and energetic members of the School undertook the heroic task of digging trenches for the remainder—what time the Authorities deliberated upon the official plans. Every day for over a week the diggers laboured in the burning sunshine, stripped to the waist, only to find at last that their work did not meet with the approval of the powers-that-be, who then undertook the work themselves.

CHRISTMAS, 1939.

MEMOIRS

A.T.C. Camp 1943

Towards the end of our stay at camp a dance was held, and here we saw those lads who had told us so many times what eventful times they had; now they appeared retiring in the face of the W.A.A.F. Many of these gay young dogs sampled the joys of strong liquor for the first time

and, prudence being thrown to the wind, some had no recollection of reaching tents; others slept in their uniform that night. Our flight had only one black sheep in the fold, but fortunately not a member of our unit; he was received with pity and terror by those of more temperate tastes.

The stay at camp gave an opportunity to see how the representative of a County School stood up to a 'butcher's boy from St. Pancras. I found that at times he was no better than the crowd but was certainly more ingenious at inventing excuses.

SERGEANT.

The Unofficial M.C.B.S. Magazine
DECEMBER, 1943.

H.M.S. PINAFORE

How it happened I cannot think, but after five months of perseverance, mainly on the part of the producer, there were in the school fifty boys who, if given their note by the pianist and a helping hand by the prompter, were able to proceed reasonably well through the words and music of "H.M.S. Pinafore". At last the producer declared himself satisfied and everyone breathed a sigh of relief. The situation was promising; a whole week to go before the performance and everything going smoothly. Everyone expected something calamitous to happen at the last moment, but fortunately nothing did. The tickets came, attractively printed on red, yellow and green card, and were rapidly sold out. Then the costumes came. What excitement! Everyone offering his opinions at the same time, cries of "How does this do up?" and "These trousers are too big!", besides demonstrations of fencing with swords belonging to Sir Joseph and the Captain.

There were still two days before the opening night and into them were fitted: two full dress-rehearsals, the second of which was concluded by the cast listening to the King's broadcast to the nation, for it was 6th June, D Day.

CHRISTMAS, 1944.

Mitcham has a number of wide, open spaces, some put there by nature and others ugly scars of bombs and V-weapons. They were all put to good use and the latter part of VE day was greeted with the red flames of Victory bonfires. People sang and danced in their light; in the main roads, where no fires were allowed, floodlights were switched on and radios moved into the front rooms so that Bing Crosby's version of the Victory Polka, with the inimitable Andrews Sisters, was heard the length of the road. The public houses, cheery, warm meeting places of the "hoary headed swains" of Mitcham, soon became drowned in song and good spirits. Even the houses seemed victorious, bedecked with flags of every allied nation, some with red, white and blue fairy lamps and others with neon signs proclaiming "V" for victory!

S. YASS (5b).
SUMMER, 1945.

DEBATING SOCIETY

ANEW to life at the start of this term
Sprang up the Debating Society.
We expected to hear both wisdom and wit
Banded without impropriety.
But despite a keen start by those who turned up
With speeches of dash and bravado,
Our spirits were damped without more ado
By the news of the start of "Mikado"
We were forced to retire as in terms gone by
When faced with events operatic;
Our first glorious rush was stopped in a trice,
Our condition was very much "static";
We cast back our minds to the previous time
When "Pirates" debates superseded,
We knew what would happen before very long,
And the tide of our keenness receded.
We held one debate and a brain-teazing quiz,
In spite of the folk vocalistic:
We are hoping to start up again in the Spring,
At least we are most optimistic.
So turn up in force and bring all your pals,
Next term we will show all our paces;
Our most regular member will still hold the chair,
And beam on the sea of new faces.

P.A.L.

CHRISTMAS, 1945.

The weekly collection, which is now devoted to the fund for the purchase of a new School Flag, has been very poor this term, having reached a total of only £18.

SUMMER, 1950.

Though the year has been unexceptional in most respects, one noticeable feature has been the emergence of a political and moral conscience in forms not previously remarkable either for their public spirit or their virtue. It is not surprising that the cause of nuclear disarmament, which seems to offer its supporters such a wide range of social activities, should find adherents in the School, but other issues, such as the Common Market and the Liberal Revival are debated with equal vehemence. The heated and abusive nature of these controversies in one fifth-form classroom has been a revelation to those who believed boys of this age incapable of concern for anything beyond their own personal affairs. In view of this it is, I suppose, uncharitable to mention that the increasing desire for effective government does not seem to make the Friday detention any less well attended. Nor does it appear that schoolmasters are included in the mankind for whose well-being there is such intense concern.

SUMMER, 1962.

THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

THE first meeting of the School Council took place on 15th December, 1968. Since then it has grown into one of the school's major institutions, with its own news-sheet. It is composed of elected representatives from every form in the school, as well as the Head of School, two staff representatives (Miss Duncan and Mr. Palmer) and the Headmaster, who acts as chairman.

It has discussed thousands of topics, too numerous to mention here, ranging over all aspects of school life and, in spite of all the talking, or, perhaps, because of it, has achieved concrete results. Among the achievements of the Council have been the extension of sixth-form common rooms to the Prefects' and the C.C.F. huts, the granting of one half-day holiday each term to waiters, publication of the "G" fund accounts, the introduction of voluntary assembly readings and, after some discussion, an agreement to allow pupils into their classrooms a little earlier in the morning.

However, if the Council is to be a success in the future it will have to guard against two inherent dangers. First (and there have been strong symptoms of this already), that the school, through apathy and indifference, may not exert influence on its representatives, who would then represent only themselves and thus not use the Council properly. Secondly, the very nature of the Council could be changed by authority using and exerting its influence upon the representatives. In that case it would become just another means by which authority forces its wishes on the school. At all costs this has to be guarded against.

If these dangers are kept in mind, and if the Council continues along the path it has so far followed, it should flourish and become a useful addition to Eastfields High School.

M. J. CONSTANTINE.

SCHOOL MUSIC

MITCHAM this year has felt the wind of change in many ways. In keeping, School music has been partly forward looking and partly linked with tradition.

A "new style" Christmas Service put more emphasis on the literary aspect. With less singing to do, the choir was able to tackle some unusually ambitious music. A French Carol and an item composed by Kent were technically the most difficult music the choir has performed for some years. Both items were most effective.

Encouraged by the success of the Christmas service, the Easter version went further from convention. The congregation at the Methodist Church were no doubt surprised to find themselves plunged into near darkness. Spotlights focussed on the speakers, and the choir was placed at the back of the church. Various instrumentalists, as well as the choir, had an integral part to play in the evening. The climax came with Kent's own poem, "Dark is the Night". The atmosphere of the opening, with flute interludes between the sombre verses, leads into the new vigour of "Spring is Come". The percussion instruments scatter the gloom, and the

choir join in repeated "alleluyas", an exhilarating conclusion to an exciting and unusual presentation.

At the end of the Easter term a few older boys took part in the Merton Schools' Festival. Parts of Haydn's "Creation", with other works, were sung by a large choir of boys and girls from schools in the Borough.

The Parents Association Musical Evening was enjoyed by many mothers and fathers. A small choir and several instrumentalists contributed to the evening. Other musical activities and lessons continue as ever. A new venture, a "guitar evening", has revealed some talented guitarists.

My personal thanks go to the many boys who have taken a keen interest in School music over the last three years. Every musical event is a challenge, and in each case the challenge has been taken up and mastered by those concerned. Every time the effort has been worthwhile in the end. I shall leave Mitcham with pleasant memories, and will follow the progress of our musical "stars" with great interest.

C.G.N.

THE EASTER SERVICE: 1969

THE somewhat battered aura of the end-of-term Easter service was shattered this year. Previous services have been beautiful in their way, but somehow incomplete; this "service" combined successfully and originally the religious aspect with poetic and musical interest. Faced with the task of bringing new life to a custom, the purpose of which was often lost in the hurry to bring the school term to an end, Mr. Boagey was able to inject a stream of creative energy into a project on which a great many people collaborated.

Standard passages from the Bible were wisely avoided and were replaced by a series of poems, many of them medieval, but including three of Donne's Holy Sonnets, a chorus from "The Rock" and a passage from "Four Quarters" by T. S. Eliot (both benefiting enormously from being divided into parts spoken as a challenge to the audience). It was at first intended to include an early Miracle play, but after much deliberation it was decided to substitute three original monologues, spoken by Pilate, Judas and a Citizen in the form of a self-justification. The whole performance gained from being virtually transformed into a stage play instead of being a service. It set the cast more at ease, I think, to know that they were performing to an audience and not to a congregation. Moreover, the lighting, under John Bance's direction, created some beautiful and impressive effects, particularly in the Methodist Church where the evening performance was given.

The musical side of the service also underwent a change, not merely in the choice of carols (sung by the choir under Mr. Nicholl's guidance), but also in the introduction of a guitar and in the original composition that concluded the service. John Currie composed the music for the fifteenth century poem "Quia Amore Languet" and accompanied himself on the guitar, whilst John Kent's poem "Dark is the Night", set to music by the author, brought the evening to a magnificent climax.

All who took part deserve to be congratulated on the success that was achieved.

DAVID JONES.

LEE ABBEY

ONCE again a party from Mitcham attended a Sixth Form Conference at Easter. This year, the unfortunate institution was Lee Abbey, situated on the North Devon coast in a two hundred and sixty acre estate. In complete contrast with Iona, the Abbey was beautifully decorated and furnished, the meals were of excellent quality and the facilities were worthy of a first class hotel. Within half an hour of arrival, the Abbey's staff and guests were being entertained by two of the more musically proficient in our party and the Mitcham contingent continued to stamp its indomitable personality on the community, acquiring a flock of female admirers and making the other males at the conference turn green with envy.

The mornings were occupied with a forty-five minute lecture followed by coffee and then forty-five minutes' discussion in small groups. After this time the groups returned to the central lounge to relate to the conference what had been discussed and what conclusions, if any, had been reached. Having solved the world's political, social, economic and religious grievances, we would retire to lunch and have the afternoons to ourselves. Hikes were arranged but were not compulsory and besides, there was a great deal of pleasant walking in the near vicinity of the Abbey. The evenings were also free but for a fifteen minute Epilogue, during which time we talked, sang and did whatever people do in mixed company.

Highlights of the week were a camp fire, at which tea and sausages were handed out; a concert compered by our very own John Currie-cum-Groucho Marx and featuring Ramblin' Graham Crouch; a "Beggars Banquet" followed by country dancing; "Yer Actual Activities"—twice during the week—at which the conference was split up into activity groups, the pursuits ranging from "Madrigals" to "Knots and Splices".

Mr. Wilkie was again a great success. On arrival he was appointed a discussion group leader and throughout the week he played a vital role in helping to relax the tension, enabling people to mix freely. During the week, however, he suffered a mental lapse. Rising slowly from his chair in the central lounge and much to the astonishment of all present, he proceeded to chase the cook around the sofa, pausing occasionally to fling a cushion in her direction. I am pleased to report that neither party suffered any permanent damage and Mr. Wilkie remained mentally and emotionally stable for the rest of the week.

We had only one complaint and that concerned the length of the conference which started on a Saturday and finished exactly a week later. Thus there were only six days in all and we found this too short a time to get to know everybody. Most of us were still making new friends as late as the Thursday and it was extremely frustrating saying goodbye just two days later.

The week was thoroughly enjoyable as all of us were able to combine the intellectually stimulating conference with a pleasant social life, making new friends and coming away with an abundance of happy memories.

Those who attended the conference were:—Mr. Wilkie, Currie, Crouch, Prior, Wills and myself.

N. DAWSON.

THE SKIING HOLIDAY

THE journey was fair, the hotel average and the food sufficient. These parental questions satisfied, we can move on to the more interesting parts of the holiday: the girls from Coventry, and Mr. Winters and his trousers.

The story connected with the latter began on the train journey to Bludenz when Mr. Winters ("an experienced traveller, you know") realised he had forgotten to pack his ski-trousers. This he passed off as a trivial oversight, saying he would ski in "these"—the objects in question being a pair of light blue, faded jeans which he wore with the inordinate pride of a pensioner with a "Radio 1" tee-shirt.

All went well for the first three days, but on the fourth day a split appeared on what can only be described as the blunt end of the jeans. As time passed, this split grew at an alarming rate, crawling between his legs and down to his knee. It seemed to cause him great annoyance when falling at speed in the snow, for apparently the split acted as a kind of scoop. Despite cryptic remarks as to where to apply the sun-tan lotion, "Woolly" advertised the split with a great deal of apparent pride, but remained modestly seated in female company.

One of the more riotous evenings occurred towards the end of the holiday when "Heidi 2nd", a hearty gym instructress from Coventry, decided to organise an evening's entertainment. This entailed clearing the room of furniture, grabbing a girl and hurling yourselves at each other with the intent of bodily harm. I heard the words "country dancing" applied to these actions, but despite the fact that we followed Heidi's instructions carefully, our efforts seemed far removed from the serene handkerchief-waving gents on the holiday postcards. The person who seemed to derive the most pleasure from the dancing was Heidi's mother, who sat knitting in a corner singing "Red River Girl" and emitting loud whoops at irregular intervals. Another character present was "Woolly" who remained seated (probably owing to the aforementioned circumstances) and read a book on Bismarck, indifferent to the riot around him and slow y drinking a half-pint of the renowned Austrian wine. The evening was terminated, however, when the owner of the hotel, who lived in the basement, complained that the dancing had extinguished the lights in his living room and that plaster was flaking off his ceiling.

The rest of the holiday passed peacefully, the daylight hours being occupied by skiing and the evenings being much enhanced by the presence of the girls from Coventry.

M. GIMBLET (4a)

IMPRESSIONS OF A GERMAN VISITOR

OUR stay in London began at Victoria Station, on which our English partners bade us welcome. The sunny weather was, indeed, not typical of England, but it was very agreeable for us people from the Continent. In a quiet street I found my new home for the next three weeks. My partner's family greeted me with great politeness and heartiness. After I had drunk a cup of English tea in my new family surroundings, I realised that they intended to provide me, not only with three weeks' relaxation, but also with some study of the English language.

Each school day began for me at 7 a.m. when I was brought a cup of tea. When I had finished breakfast, my young host and I rode to Mitcham on our bicycles. Traffic was very heavy around 8 o'clock, but I found the London motorists very considerate towards cyclists.



The boys in the fourth form, in which I studied, were kind and open-minded towards us. I should like to thank the teachers, too, who devoted their time to instructing us in the geography and customs of Great Britain, as well as giving us some very useful tips! To all the people involved, both directly and indirectly, we offer our thanks for providing us with such an interesting exchange. For us six boys and one girl, the memory of this will remain favourable in our minds for a long time to come.

ROLF-DIETER HAUG.

NOTES ON FIELD DAYS

RHYD-Y-CREAU: Arrived at about 2 p.m. to the massed applause of the local inhabitants and proceeded to reconnoitre our surroundings which were to be our home for the next week. This did not prove to be too difficult, since the "village" consisted of nothing more than four shops, seventeen houses and two pubs. Later that evening, we were told that these last mentioned dens of iniquity were out of bounds. At about 3 p.m. the train pulled into the station with other members of the Field Course. Greatly relieved to find that the girls outnumbered the boys. This question had been one of the main worries on the journey up. Could now settle down to a serious job of work. Arrived at the house and met the "house-father". He had a beautiful growth which would have done The Dubliners proud and was apparently known to most of the yokels as "Fuzz-face". Title seemed very appropriate and our "escape committee" decided it would suffice for nickname. Evening meal uneventful, except that we thanked waitress for meal and were accused of "leering". Week progressed rapidly. Heart-breaks, spiritual love-matches and Great Stone Hoax (or how I tried to be a donkey and pick up a sack of mineral ore). Highlight of week on Saturday evening. By concerted effort all eleven boys persuaded remainder to evacuate hostel and retire to local. Company of 50. Fuzz-face not amused when told that evacuation was really fire-practice and produced lighter as evidence. Turning point in our relationship.

GEORGE COLLARD.

ORIELTON: "Tree" (nickname given to warden by previous batch of Mitchamians and readily adopted by us) made everyone welcome, but barred us from local pub which, in any case, was several miles away. Spoke of experience of effects of drink on youthful communities. "Tree" hereafter seen only at meal times, except by people he met while roaming the house at dead of night. Two groups of students formed. Found ourselves in group with geological bias and spent time either in "lab" (old stable renovated for classrooms) or on location—exploring an old mine and foundry, crawling along dark, narrow, low-roofed tunnels with only four torches for the twenty of us. Assistant informed us that she was not responsible if we failed to return to surface. Eventually, Assistant descended to find us. Thenceforth concentrated on human aspects of Pembrokeshire geography. Last evening presented teacher with gifts to show our appreciation—one bottle of stout with glass, a box of chocolates and a plastic rose. For return journey, those of us who could obviously neither see, taste nor smell, accepted usual picnic lunch. Happy memories in years to come, providing "exams and the routine fail to assassinate thought".

NIGEL RICE.

SPORTS

1st XV RUGBY

THE 1968-69 1st XV was the last ever to wear the lavender and green jerseys, and in its final year the team improved upon the success of the previous season. A total of 20 games was played, resulting in 16 victories, 3 defeats and 1 draw.

Eleven players with 1st XV experience formed the nucleus of the team, but several enthusiastic younger players emerged as the season progressed and these players will be the core of next year's team.

The standard of 1st XV rugby has improved over recent years and the players now realise the value of playing as a team. The pack worked together as a unit, providing the backs with "good ball". For the first part of the season the team was unable to find a fly-half, but this position was later filled by Leverick, and as the backs played together more their confidence increased and they began to score some good tries.

Crouch was the leading points-scorer, with 103 points, of which 91 came from place-kicks. Bance was again the leading try-scorer, with 29 tries to his credit. It must be emphasised, however, that the success was a team effort: the front row scrummaged well; the second row gained good possession from the lines-out; the back row covered well and tackled fiercely; the half-backs learnt to work together; the centres were adventurous; and the wings ran in the tries.

For the second year in succession Crouch led the pack—by example, rather than instruction. Other individuals worthy of mention are: Jessup, who played in a number of positions; Rayner, who worked tirelessly in the pack; Simmons, whose speed proved invaluable; and Goodson, who proved a most tenacious scrum-half.

Of the three defeats, that inflicted by Shene was unfortunate in that we were forced to field six reserves; against Selhurst a selection muddle meant that we had to play with only fourteen men. But there were some splendid victories: Raynes Park, Shooter's Hill, St. Olave's, Wallington, and St. Joseph's were all defeated in very keenly contested matches.

After last year's success, the team looked forward to the "Seven-a-Side" competitions. Unfortunately, the 1st VII never performed to the best of its ability. In the tournaments at Beckenham, Mitcham, Warlingham and Esher the team exhibited Sevens' skill far superior to that of its opponents, yet made little progress, probably owing to insufficient fitness and lack of mental discipline.

One of the team, Dawson, was chosen to play for the Surrey Schools' Team.

The team wishes to express its thanks to Mr. Richards and Mr. Bunce, who gave invaluable coaching throughout the season.

The team was chosen from: Ansell, Armstrong, Bance, Corke, Crouch, Currie, Dawson (Capt.), Goodson, Grant, Green, Hall, Jessup, G. Jones, Leverick, McTaggart, Rayner, Rix, Simmons, Shaw, Stark and Warne.

N. DAWSON.

CROSS-COUNTRY: THE 1968-69 SEASON

CONSEQUENT to the continual reduction of the number on the roll in the school, an increasing paucity of talent has become apparent. The result of this is that we have invariably fared badly when running against schools that were mathematically two or even three times our size. Although all the matches this season were held on weekday nights in an effort to avoid the loss of our runners to various rugby teams, the Senior team for example, was able to field the full complement of eight runners on one occasion only. The sad result of all this is that Mitcham Grammar School's undeniably traditional superiority on the cross-country course has, this season, been little more than a myth, and the militant, characteristic spirit that has inspired us in the past seasons, to do battle with and beat other schools, has been sadly lacking this year.

The season began with a new face at the top. Mr. Wilkie, after serving the team faithfully for six seasons, was evidently finding the pace too much for him. Therefore we retired him to a nice cosy corner of the staff room and called upon the services of Mr. "Woolly" Winter. Yet even he, with all his verve and ebullience, did not succeed in checking the apathy and despondency that set in after the first few defeats. Moreover, weekly training sessions, a sine qua non for any sports team intent on success, were virtually non-existent. Consequently standards did not improve as the season progressed.

The Juniors had a bad season, managing to beat only Pollard's Hill. However, some good performances came from France, Williams (2a), Patten and Palmer.

The Intermediates also had a lean time, although they won well deserved victories against Battersea and Heath Clark towards the end of the season. The mainstays of this team were Selwood, Simmons and Ford.

As far as the Senior team is concerned, the less said about their record the better. Both Oliver and Hall ran well and consistently attained high positions, but nobody else was fit enough to back them up and the whole team was never able to capitalise on their talent.

If this report makes depressing reading, then it has done justice to a depressing and highly unsatisfactory season. Even the team's supreme ambition, viz: to run a match against an extremely famous (or perhaps notorious) local girls' secondary school situated somewhere in the neighbourhood of the Wilson Hospital, was left unfulfilled. Cross-country at Mitcham Grammar School has ended, not with a bang, but a whimper.

Senior team was chosen from: Hall (Capt.), Ansell, Bardell, Faircloth, Goodson, Munt, Oliver, Peachey, Porter, Simmons, Treleaven and Warne.

K. A. PEACHEY.

SWIMMING

LAST year must have been the most successful in the life of school swimming. In the Standards, Witford, with the greatest number of swimmers, gained the most points, rivalled only by Ravensbury. In the School Gala, however, Ravensbury streaked ahead, with Tillin swimming outstandingly well. Overall, the cup was shared by Witford and Ravensbury.

although a new School record in the Intermediate hurdles by Warne was set up.

This year the School was unplaced in the Surrey Grammar Schools' Championships, even though Warne again bettered his hurdles record (at the same time beating the previous Championship best) in an England standard of 14.5 secs. Crouch was the only other victor of the day; winning the Open triple jump.

Once again the School showed its strength in the Merton Schools' Championships. Walton easily won the Under-13 100 metres, but the team was unplaced overall. The Junior team came third in their section, with Simmons winning his hurdles in a new School record time. The Intermediate Boys came second overall. Shaw won the shot, just failing to beat the School record by one inch. Johnson set a new School record for the hammer event, whilst Warne continued his unbeaten record in winning the hurdles and also the 200 metres. The Senior team also came second in their section. Crouch was the only victor once again, winning the high hurdles and the triple jump, the latter being a new School record and an England standard at 44 ft. 0 in.

The School Athletics Cup was won this year, by Ravensbury, with Witford second, and Canons and Lodge trailing in third and fourth places respectively. The Victor Ludorum winners were: 1st form: Platten (W); 2nd and 3rd forms: Simmons (C); 4th and 5th forms: Thompson (W); 6th form: Crouch (R), for the third year in succession! The only record to be broken was that of the 4th and 5th forms high jump by Sandy.

With more training and determination, the team could win its remaining matches against larger schools. The following boys are to represent Merton in the County Championships: Simmons (Junior Boys); Adams, Ellis, McTaggart, Sandy, Shaw, Thompson and Warne (Intermediates); Bance, Crouch, Dear, Oliver, Porter and Simmons (Senior Boys).

J. SIMMONS.

CRICKET 1st XI

THE 1969 season has so far been a reasonable one for the 1st XI, our record to date being 2 won, 2 drawn and 2 lost. This is a better result than at the same time last year and is even more pleasing when one remembers that several useful players are unavailable for Saturday morning matches. Several of last year's 1st XI have left school and the team has been rebuilt, but already Richardson and Smith show promise as batsmen. As expected, Green has been the mainstay of the batting and, in addition, is very safe behind the wicket. Porter and Leverick remain the most accurate bowlers, whilst Porter is emerging as something of an all-rounder and will perhaps take over from Leverick in this capacity. Great improvement has been shown in the team's fielding ability, giving nothing away to the opposition, while Crouch's immaculate returns from the boundary and Johnston's first-class fielding close to the wicket often have the opposition in difficulty.

Our two wins over Garth and Heath Clark were quite considerable, while we were unlucky to draw with Sutton who were struggling at 39 for 6 in reply to our 84 all out on a bad wicket, when rain intervened. Conversely, we were lucky to draw with Raynes Park when they had

amassed a total of 135 for 5 at tea, only to see us struggling at 7 for 2 when rain stopped play for a considerable time, thus destroying their chances of victory. The two losses against Beverley and Purley were against very good sides. Nevertheless, Purley were struggling at 48 for 5 in reply to our 89 all out, yet we lost control of the game and they won by five wickets.

I think the 1st XI can look forward to as many victories as defeats in 1969.

Team chosen from: Hall (Capt.), Green, Porter, Leverick, Johnston, Richardson, Shaw, Smith, Driver, Bance, Basford, Olton, Crouch, Ford and Driscoll.

D. HALL.

JUNIOR CRICKET

Up to June the Colts have won 2, drawn 1, lost 3. As yet they are more a collection of units than a team but they have the makings of an above average side. The batting lacks a dependable run-maker. The side has no Green. But it usually gets over 70 runs. The lack of a quick opening bowler is more damaging. On his day, Chubb (11 wickets) bowls usefully, supported by White (8 wickets) but the former is inclined to bowl loose down the leg; the latter, short. Lowings (8 wickets) and Godwin (4) are developing well as accurate medium seamers, bowling quite beautifully against Raynes. The fielding is Caribbean. When things go well (Raynes, Pollards) it is quick, catches held. When the runs flow against (Western, Purley), a team from the girls' school would be more reliable. Of the batsmen, Smith (51 runs) is developing well against all types of bowling. White (44) and newcomer Bentley play without fear but are not quite on the fast bowling wavelength. Lowings (32) is a cumbersome but useful opener. Shipham (77), a cross-bat specialist, has played two big innings. Silcock (24) plays delightfully off the back foot, appallingly off the front. Godwin (42) while driving and pulling poetically, has not yet played the big innings he could. Both these last have played for Merton colts. All in all, there is something of the curate's egg about the Colts to date.

The Under 14's have contrived to lose their five games. Much of this is to do with lack of experience. It is their first season of school matches. The batting is showing promise. After a couple of ducks, Handsley has shown his stylish hand with innings of 26 and 33 (66 runs). Dunkley (37) is beginning to hit the ball though beating air rather than leather with his frequent sweeping. Williams could get a lot of runs if he bats as he did in the house matches. After an initial 35, Chapman has played like a lost soul. On the bowling front, Brunton (13 wickets) bowls straight, on a length, brisk medium. So far he has no support. White will bowl well when he finds a length. Dunkley looks promising. Tillin can bounce the ball twice before the batsman, Higham three times. Only when the bowling is tighter will the batsmen have a target within their reach. The batting of Tylee and Walton, the bowling of King of the first form is worth note. Each has done well in school games.

D.W.

TENNIS

WITH the loss of five of the first-team members of last year it was inevitable that this year the tennis section would find itself with a programme of rebuilding on hand. Happily, the enthusiasm of Bumstead, the one surviving first-team member, has spread to a select band of followers who regularly attend practices and acquit themselves well in representative matches.

We have entered in the Surrey League in both over-16 and under-16 sections, and although the opposition includes some specialist tennis schools, we hope to hold our own with the majority of our opponents. To date we have a rather unlucky record of having lost to Raynes Park, St. Joseph's and Trinity, but in two of these matches victory was within sight and results should improve in the future.

The combination of schools next year should strengthen our team considerably and we look forward to opportunities of encouraging the junior members of the new school to take part in the game, thus giving a greater depth of selection than we enjoy at present.

1st VI: Bumstead, Wills, P. Jones, Brooks, Chester, Treleaven, Crouch.

2nd VI: Hackney, Shaw, Green, Ecob, Harrison, Storey and Tillier.

R.J.S.

STAFF PULVERISE SCHOOL

STAFF 2, SCHOOL 1

Mill House Football Ground, March, 1969

THE muddy conditions and the strong wind seemed to favour the fitter school team when the staff football team played the school last term (writes Syd Perks).

The goal-posts were ceremoniously erected and in front of a large and vocally active crowd the two teams took to the field. The staff won the toss and elected to play against the strong wind.

Play was hard, with the school having the better of the early exchanges. When on the attack the staff always looked dangerous, but their defence finally cracked in the thirtieth minute when a mistake by "Safe Hands" Smart in the staff goal allowed the joyous school forwards to pop the ball into the net.

This state of affairs continued till the 55th minute when a speculative but accurate banana shot from "Bomber" Bunce eluded the school defence and nestled sweetly into the corner of the net. This goal really roused the staff, who began to stroke the ball around the field with growing confidence.

Then in the 70th minute a staff attack down the left wing drew the entire school defence and when the ball was slipped across the face of the goal "Spike" Richards coolly rifled the ball into the back of the net.

This heralded some strong attacking moves by the school which were repulsed by an equally strong defence, marshalled ably by "Woolly" Winters and "Powerhouse" Pankhurst, two strong full-backs. No further goals were scored and at the final whistle three cheers were given by the dejected school team for the winners.

R.P.

Each house definitely had something to offer, and not only in the generally accepted field. The modern trend towards folk music was evident and performances of this type of song were sincere; our marking, consequently, was also sincere. We felt that this type of singing required a certain amount of sympathetic unity between soloist and audience. In the general atmosphere of the occasion, which was in the main light-hearted, this was successfully achieved. Soloist, audience and judges were at one.

The quality of the instrumental playing was again high. The spirited performance by Martin Hughes of the Dvorak Violin Sonata, Opus 100, deserved considerable praise. Instrumentalists with less than a year's tuition showed, already, a certain mastery of their instrument. In particular, one might mention Baker and his performance of the Pastorale from the Christmas Oratorio, played as an oboe solo.

Great praise should also go to Kent, of Ravensbury, for his original piano composition, which he also played. It was extremely impressive, both in composition and performance.

One house, of course, was the winner, but congratulations should go to all four houses, whatever their final position, for a most musically enjoyable afternoon.

T. LEE.

DEBATING

TRUE, the debates help to acquaint us with the rules of debating; they get us off a double lesson; they permit eccentric performances to a captive audience; and they exercise the embryonic intellect on subjects thought suitable for its development. Moreover, during recent debates, some speakers sounded as if they were passionately convinced of their argument: Cade on community service, Hendry on sexual abstinence, Crouch on sporting ethics, and Summers on just about everything, but particularly points of order. Others—and it would be churlish to name them—spoke as if they had barely read the motion, let alone understood it. Press-ganged, presumably. One recalls a young speaker who opposed community service on the grounds that he didn't approve of prayers in assembly.

There are certain incidents that stick in the memory: when Spickett began his speech with a yokel rendering of "Uncle Tom Cobley" and had the house eating out of his hand—until they slowly realised that the intellectual nourishment he had to offer was less substantial than his presence; when Hendry, in the most dramatic opening of any speech, declared: "I love you!"—but learnt at the final count that the house didn't reciprocate his feeling; and the poignant moment when the young debating aspirant told a humourless joke that left the audience wholly silent, and continued with: "Now seriously . . ."

There was a tendency to introduce effects other than strictly oratorical ones. The junior who produced a bottle of curdled milk in an attempt to prove that we hated school milk and that it should be discontinued didn't really carry much conviction; the copy of "Soldier" containing a modern nude in a classical pose (so they say) which was handed to Mr. Lidiard for his disapproval aroused interest and curiosity in the house rather than

support for the speaker; whilst the earnestness with which, in one debate, speaker after speaker asked permission to take off his jacket proved that the room rather than the debate was becoming heated.

There were, however, some excellent speeches, by Waddilove, Summers and Halls, in particular—which had obviously been thought about seriously and which were delivered with fluency, conviction and the briefest of reference to notes. There were also occasions when speakers and the house actually *cared* about the issues being debated, when everyone was constrained to question his own position and to take sides. This was fulfilling the purpose of debating and it meant much more than idle humour, dutiful speeches or quibbling over points of order.

The debates held during the autumn term were:

Senior: "That Community service ought to be compulsory for young people." (The motion was defeated by an overwhelming majority.)

"That Britain ought to discontinue aid to underdeveloped countries." (Carried: 73:43.)

Junior: "That this House believes that U.F.O.'s are a hoax." (Defeated: 26:108.)

"That this House believes that an urban upbringing provides the best background for a boy's development." (Carried: 69:53.)

The debates held during the spring term were:

Senior: "That Britain should support a withdrawal from the Olympics." (Carried: 19:113.)

"That our society is debasing the meaning of love." (Defeated: 46:64.)

Junior: "That this House supports the campaign for an independent Scotland." (Defeated: 12:106.)

"That the decision to discontinue the provision of free milk in secondary schools is the right one." (The voting of the House was 60:60. The judges were asked to vote and the motion was defeated by one vote.)

In a wider sphere, Ridley and Summers entered the Evening Standard Debating Tournament and spoke on the motion "That fashion enhances the female, but diminishes the male." Summers was adjudged the best individual speaker and went on to the second round. We also entered a team, consisting of Anderson, Bawden and Pearmain in the Merton Public Speaking Competition but were overshadowed by teams of poised, articulate young ladies.

E.J.B.

CLUB AND SOCIETIES

THE SIXTH-FORM SOCIETY

A clamorous horde of seven greeted the speaker from Lloyd's shipping in one of the meetings during the 1967 summer term—and this seems to have been the story ever since.

After the examinations had virtually killed it, the society was revived the following term and various formulas, including "coffee and record evenings" and even whist drives, were tried in an attempt to stimulate interest. Indeed, the whist drive seemed to be the most popular meeting, with an attendance of thirteen, while what we hoped would be a major attraction, the speaker from the Anti-Common Market League, only dragged seven along. In its attempts to revitalise itself the society, on the one hand, descended to the level of having a joint meeting with the Christian Fellowship and, on the other, rose to the cultural heights of reading the play "The Fire-raisers," by Max Frisch.

Nevertheless, a good number came along to the elections at the end of the autumn term. Unfortunately, the secretary elected then was able to organize only one meeting—a political forum—the next term, before he left. Since then the society has lain dormant. Any suggestions that it resembles a corpse can only be half true, since a recent, magnificently lurid advertising campaign in support of it demonstrated that its heart is still beating faintly.

If the society is to rise again it might well be in a new format with, perhaps, meetings after school instead of in the evening. Meanwhile, one can only hope that the positive value of having at least one cultural, non-religious society is realised by the school.

M. J. CONSTANTINE.

CHESS

THERE has been a revival of interest in chess during the past year. Several tournaments have been organized, there being an entry of over fifty for the Junior Tournament held during the autumn term. A most pleasant surprise this year has been the playing standard of first formers. With Stamp, who won the Surrey Under-12 Championship, Whitehouse, who finished 7th, and several others of a high standard, we have the makings of an outstanding team.

This year, for the first time, the school entered teams in both the London and the Briant-Poulter chess leagues. We were overwhelmed by Dulwich College, this year's London champions, and Trinity, last year's champions, but gained our revenge with good wins against Rutlish and St. Joseph's. The team will be much stronger next year and we hope for better results.

Members of the team: R. Wills, N. Peterken, J. Pond, E. Bardell, R. Stamp, B. Bumstead, S. Whitehouse. M. Edser and D. Treleven.

N. PETERKEN.

Music Captain for not taking advantage of the potential and enthusiasm that existed in the House. The debates also produced a third place which resulted in our tying for first place with Witford in the Arts Trophy.

I hope that the enthusiasm shown in these competitions will appear again to give us victory in the Swimming and Cricket cups, which are the only cups still to be contended.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking members of the House for their help in recent years, especially Dawson, Ansell and Hall, and also Mr. Boagey, Lodge housemaster. Lodge House will be missed by many, as will the School which it served for so many years.

J. F. BANCE.

RAVENSBURY

"THIS year's results are very disappointing . . . it is clear that we shall have to relinquish the trophy that we had come to regard as our own." Thus spake the House Captain in last year's report. Yet during the summer term following this, Ravensbury achieved a "miracle" and pulled itself back in time to win the Cock House Cup for the third year running.

This incident illustrates the character of Ravensbury, the ultimately invincible house. Once again, this year, we appeared to be resting, but in fact another sudden and overwhelming comeback was being prepared for this, the final term of House and School.

Although we lost the Badminton and Magazine competitions, we managed to achieve second places in the Cross-country (organised by Faircloth) and Music (marshalled and conducted by Kent); while thanks to our unrivalled Ist XV (led by the House Captain), we achieved equal first with Canons in the Rugby. Debates brought in another first. Somehow, after these very creditable results, we were lying fourth in the overall competition. Things looked bleak. And then . . . then the old magic started working again. House members actually turned up to get standards in the Athletics and on Sports' Day itself Ravensbury achieved overwhelming victory. The consequent first place in Athletics brought the House rocketing back to equal first place with Witford in the competition as a whole.

During the past year Ravensbury assemblies have undergone something of a cultural revolution. Purely religious readings have given way to elaborate tales of St. George and the Dragon, as well as readings from, as Mr. Perks put it, "something I've just picked up off the floor". Furthermore, various House members have been invited to come and put on some kind of entertainment in assemblies—including, one week, presenting the Top Three. The reader will thus see that Ravensbury is not only the Super-house, but also the fountain of everything civilised in the school. Alone, it defends this sacred cause against the Red, Blue and Yellow hordes.

With renewed confidence and vigour, therefore, the House strides forward to the final challenge. Whether we shall see the completion of another "miracle" and the House the winner of the Cock House Cup, only time can tell.

M. J. CONSTANTINE.

WITFORD

WE began the year with several changes. Mr. Lidiard, our previous Housemaster, left at the end of the summer term and we were put under the pastoral care of Mr. Richards, assisted by Mr. Dean and Mr. Palmer. Brian Summers, Witford's former Captain, left during the course of the year and Bumstead was made Captain. Summers had done a great deal for Witford during his captaincy, particularly in leading the House in debates and in organising the cross-country team.

The position in the House Competition is a close one. We got an equal first in both the Cross-country and in the Arts Trophy (winning in the Music, but not faring well in the Debates); we found ourselves rather weak in Rugby; we did fairly well in Athletics but were unable to catch up with Ravensbury's massive lead in Standard points on the actual Sport's Day and ended up with a second place; whilst in the Minor Games we are standing about equal with the other houses.

House assemblies during the year have been arranged almost entirely by prefects and we have enjoyed a vast range of musical entertainment and education. We are, of course, a highly cultured House.

Little remains of the year and Witford itself. It has had a splendid history and having won the Cock House Competition three years ago we are determined to make the final chapter a worthy one by winning the Competition again.

B. BUMSTEAD.

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

RECORDS of inter-house competitions up to 1939 did not survive the wartime interruption. House competition was resumed in the school year 1946-47 and the number of times each house has been either a winner or a joint holder is given in the following table:

	Canons	Lodge	Ravensbury	Witford
Cross-country	9	6	11	2
Rugby	11	6	7	3
Athletics	7	8	5	3
Swimming	4	6	8	8
Cricket	4	5	5	9
Arts	8	5	4	7
Games Shield	8	7	7	1
Cock House	8	6	6	3

was that rehearsal had not quite reached its peak, and performances did not realise the full potential. The moral is that captains, choirs and soloists alike should start rehearsing seriously earlier in the term. However, all four captains deserve the thanks of their houses for taking on a difficult task and making, all in all, a good job of it.

C.G.N.

ART

If the compiling of house magazines succeeded in nothing else than whipping up the Sixth formers into a frenzy of nervous energy, then the project was well worth the effort. The general panic that passed through the Upper Sixth, like some contagious disease, was a sight to behold. Naturally a few remained immune, whilst others thought fit to add a rebellious note to the proceedings, like Witford's simple epitaph, "We didn't really want to do the magazine anyway".

A brief explanation of the marking system adopted will help to clarify any misunderstanding as to how the results were obtained. A maximum of ten marks was awarded to each of the years, the Sixth being divided into upper and lower. The remaining thirty marks were divided between the book binding and general presentation.

Ravensbury lost a great deal of marks on both counts. The magazine can only be described as "miniature" with the covers soon showing signs of wear and tear. The contents followed the same trend with a general sparsity of illustrations, most of them having been done by the hardworking "Olly". There was also evidence that Ravensbury were unable to count above nineteen as we had to be satisfied with "etc." after the aforementioned number. A noble effort by P. Smith (2B) in entering a couple of photographs (was the boy really running in teeming rain and an early morning mist?) However the appearance would have been considerably improved if the photographs had been mounted rather than glued.

Witford, despite their reluctance to produce a magazine, did a little better. As the editors point out, they were divided in opinion as to whether the title should be "Idol" or "Idle". General appearance of the magazine suggests that the latter title, eventually chosen, was the correct one. The book binding was poor with cardboard corners on the front cover poking through the material. Again a lack of art entries forced the editor to resort to some very clever use of "space" and include an unoriginal collage(?) submitted by some enterprising Sixth former. A word of praise, however, for the lettering, which was impressive.

In contrast to "Idle" the editors of "Janus" produced a sound, professional-looking magazine. The book binding was technically excellent and indeed it was difficult to fault the layout and presentation:— no smudgy messes, lop-sided illustrations, criminal looking finger prints here. As such the weak Sixth form art entries managed to look "good" even though they obviously had to rely on the limited talents of non-artists.

Nevertheless the ability to present a technically competent magazine is not sufficient. There needs to be some signs of imaginative thought, some artistic originality. Why no exciting visual images, no controversial style, form or ideas?

Canons magazine attempted to break away from tradition with some fresh ideas in presentation. The cover design was eye-catching, the colours bold (an understatement). Although the editors expressed concern over the "continual decline in the numerical size of the house", they counter-acted this deficiency by making the magazine ambitiously large. Inside, the illustrations were of a high standard, especially the Sixth form entries—the labels were clear and easy to read, although occasionally there were signs of an over zealous use of glue. Only the title remains a mystery—"Two points for Canons".

Canons won the art competition by quite a number of marks, not only because their entry was progressive and original, but also, to a certain extent, because they worked as a team and this was clearly reflected in their magazine.

B. BACHE.

LITERATURE

Is it that fact is slowly moving towards science fiction and that the young imagination is already accepting the prospect of universal cataclysm that prompts so many contributors to the house magazines to take up the theme of the annihilation of mankind? Janus (Lodge) contained an article describing God's boredom with his universe and his decision to withdraw his energies from whole galaxies. This was followed by Brooks' poem on mass extinction by a malignant gas, whilst Selwood envisaged a monstrous, suffocating growth of vegetation destroying everything in its path. Constantine, in Raven, wrote succinctly:

One thin wire,
A million souls.
One man's voice,
A million minds.
One man's will,
A million hearts:
A twist
And all are twisted;
A light
And all are lit;
A frown
And death dissolves a nation.

In Canon's magazine, more conventionally, Scott reminded us of the mushroom cloud and the finger on the button. Idle (Witford) alone seemed free of the prevalent obsession with the End.

The final marks for the literature were very close, but there were obvious instances of scraping the literary barrel in Raven and in Idle. Raven thought fit to air its editorial differences on the first page with a testy editorial recording the "disunion, discord, dissatisfaction and dissent" that



Molten Iron

T. Singfield



Self Portrait

Oliver L62

were occasioned by the production of the magazine. Well, with a literary style like that, what can you expect? It sounded as if there had been a real battle of wills, with one editor actually breaking loose and declaring his own editorial policy half-way through the magazine. What went wrong? Four editors was probably too many—particularly as they all seemed to have artistic temperaments, as well as considerable talents, as their individual contributions showed.

Idle, the new self-effacing but not, we are led to believe, inappropriate name for the Witford magazine, tended to be prosaic, with some pedestrian writing on transport and sailing; yet there were some effective articles, particularly T. W. J. Dean's evocative "An Evening Stroll" and Geoff Rayner's recollections of the Australian bush. The magazine was generally weak on poetry, however, and some of the poems included seemed less than uninspired.

Two Points for Canons (another title in need of revision) contained some excellent writing, imaginatively presented. David Jones proved he has a facility with rhythm and word-play, as well as having something to express. Keith Peachey, both in his well balanced editorial and in his poem "Anima Gaudii", brought a sense of style and maturity to the magazine that created a marked contrast with slipshod writing in some of the rival magazines. In addition, Jim Hartup produced that rarity in school writing—a really funny article.

Janus, which won the literary section of the competition, contained an impressive collection of literary offerings and was particularly strong on prose. Apart from the science fiction contributions there was a competent piece of essay writing by P. A. Smith and a skilful description of a railway station by Nigel Rice.

The house magazines, let it be said, are an excellent institution—ask anyone who has worked on one! They produce co-operation—or discord—and offer very instructive lessons in personal relations. They encourage those with literary or artistic talents to exert themselves and cause boys to embrace skills such as typing, designing, book-binding and printing that they might never otherwise have had an opportunity of tackling. The editors and their assistants are to be congratulated: the magazines set an excellent standard for future productions.

E.B.

THE ARTS COMPETITION 1968-69

	Canons	Lodge	Ravensbury	Witford
Magazine: Art	16	12	4	8
Literature	8	16	4	12
Total:	24	28	8	20
Music	4	8	12	16
Debates	12	6	16	6
TOTAL:	40	42	36	42

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

VARIETY is the keynote of the Sixth Form Society's activities, ranging from a free discussion on Christmas, a talk on spiritualism, and a lecture on galactic phenomena, to a monologue on International Socialism. We have had such diverse speakers as a retired M.P., a medium, an astronomer, a part-time anarchist and, of course, Mr. Marsh, whom we successfully shipwrecked on a desert island with a rather battered record player. But do not think that we are bound by the library's walls, for with the help of a coach-hire firm we have broadened our horizons, taking trips to see three London shows: "Hair", "The Canterbury Tales", and The Houses of Parliament. We also spent a pleasant afternoon on a conducted tour of Rosebury Girls' School, Surrey's revolutionary educational showpiece. Two of the best attended and most enjoyed meetings consisted of live and sometimes original folk and poetry, performed by members of the School and outside guests.

But despite these magnificent achievements, the highlight of the Society's year was undoubtedly the acquisition of an unbreakable set of coffee cups, complete with sugar bowl and plastic spoons. The gain was even more pleasing since we did not have to pay for it (thank you, Mr. Marsh!). Speaking of money, our hon. treasurer informs me that our financial situation is far from good and that a short term loan may be needed from the central bank (thank you, Mr. Marsh?). If not, an extra levy on coffee and ginger biscuits will be unavoidable.

The committee stands united as ever in its attempt to brighten the lives of the sixth form, ever spurred on by that chairman of ingenious creativity, Mr. Dean. Gaining confidence from the unswerving support of the committee, his plans have gone from strength to strength and the latest idea is for an open-air folk and poetry evening, complete with barbecue. (We are at present looking for a suitable plot of land.)

Thus this first year of resurrection has proved a very successful one for both the organisers and the organised in the Sixth Form Society. Let us hope that it will continue to be so when we ascend to Eastfields.

J. W. KENT.

THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

BECOMING Chairman of the Christian Fellowship in September, 1968, was a frightening experience. I actually had to organise something! With considerable help from Mr. Wilkie, however, our first meeting got under way with a talk, illustrated by slides, by Mr. Palmer, who had just returned from Nigeria. The meeting was extremely well attended. I discovered later,

after the failure of one or two meetings, that well attended meetings are concurrent with good advertising and announcements, and also with meetings held in conjunction with Mitcham County Girls' School.

I eventually got into the swing of things, with some new ideas and, unfortunately, some old. Our meetings consisted mainly of talks by guest speakers, followed by discussions. The speakers included a school chaplain, a worker with ex-prisoners, a representative from the National Association of Mental Health, a representative from Oxfam and the local vicar. A number of meetings were held in the Girls' School.

Outside activities have not altogether been neglected. Brian Ansell and I attended a fast held at Piccadilly Circus and organised by Oxfam in aid of their Christmas appeal. Plans are at present going forward for a project to help the National Association for Mental Health in July. This would involve working on the decoration of a hall or a house. A number of boys have already asked for information on the Oxfam walk planned for July 13th, in which it is hoped 50,000 people will take part, finishing at Wembley Stadium.

This was, then, a very successful year for the Christian Fellowship.

MARTIN CANNING.

CHESS

THIS season we have won matches only against Raynes Park and Selhurst. This is not due to a lack of boys who can play chess, but to a lack of boys who are willing to turn up for a match. This year it seems to have become a habit for people to say they will play, but then fail to arrive. Consequently there was often a marked weakness on the lower boards which usually led to our defeat. The situation was not helped when, at Christmas, two of our best boards left school.

Despite this, however, we did have a number of close matches, particularly against Glyn, Sutton and St. Joseph's, when we were only beaten by an odd point.

At the beginning of the season Mr. Palmer took over as chessmaster and he has helped a great deal with transport difficulties, attending as many matches as he could. The team greatly appreciates this help and the interest he has shown during the season.

The team was chosen from: B. Bumstead, R. Wills (Capt.), W. Peterken, J. Pond, S. Whitehouse, R. Soper, D. Treleven, M. Toop and J. Russell.

R. WILLS.

CULT

THE ambitious plan of producing a magazine entered our minds when we realised that there was no outlet for the opinions and creative work in the school community. Thus, overflowing with self-confidence, we set about our task in a truly democratic spirit, proclaiming that 'Cult' was "in the hands of the people who wish to make use of it." The foundations of our ambitions trembled a little when we discovered that there were numerous things to be done, about which we knew practically nothing. Printing and selling, as well as editing, were completely unknown to us. With the nagging fear that 'Cult' would fail and leave us destitute, we anxiously duplicated and stapled our first issue. After a brief advertising campaign, the November edition was released to a public notoriously critical and to our astonishment we sold every copy within the first few days. With the invaluable help of Robert Oliver and the diligence of our faithful production team, 'Cult' soon doubled its circulation and edged its way into the controversies reported by the local press. We were even asked to consider a merger. The continuing success of the magazine was a great encouragement, as was the generous gift of £10 from the Parents' Association.

Above all, however, we are grateful to all those who have sent us poems, articles and letters, for it is these contributors who have enabled 'Cult' to become a vehicle for the opinions of the readers, rather than a medium for a possibly biased editorial policy.

C. BAWDEN.

J. KENT.

ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT FOIL

DURING the latter part of the winter term several sixth-formers approached the Headmaster to ask permission to organise a School dance—something which had not previously been done in our school. After gaining the Headmaster's approval, preparations were put into full swing, tickets and posters were made by the School, local schools were visited and gradually, as our experience in salesmanship increased, so the sale of tickets rose.

The music was supplied by two local groups, Tangerine and Blend, the latter being composed partly of past members of M.G.S. After the first hour things began to warm up—in fact, to one member of staff it seemed so warm that he found it necessary to remove some articles of his clothing. Those who had never been to anything quite like this before found that the style of dancing was very easy to pick up. The dance was very successful and a profit of forty pounds was given to charity.

The next occasion to warrant a dance was St. Valentine's Day. The hall was decorated with a cardboard having a foil finish and this gave a psychedelic effect when coloured lighting was reflected from it. After the dance a generous member of staff offered to supply coffee to anyone who cared to make the journey to his lodgings at Cheam and about thirty of us accepted his kind invitation.

The most recent dance, at which the local professional group, Mud, played for us, was the most successful. In two weeks of hard ticket pushing we managed to sell forty-five pounds' worth of tickets. Almost every night

had been spent at youth clubs and during the day schools were approached in an effort to make the dance a success. We had an added advantage in that this time the posters were printed professionally. To our amazement we more than doubled our ticket money by sales at the door and financially the dance was a huge success. Nearly five hundred people came to see Mud, who played their new release, "Shangri-la", several times.

After the examinations we are hoping to arrange at least two more dances before the School closes and, naturally, we hope that they will be as successful as the previous three have been.

N. C. LONGDON.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

AFTER many setbacks, the Photographic Society is now getting under way. At first we had difficulty in procuring parts for the enlarger (which was, itself, found in a cleaner's cupboard), but now that this has been settled, I am confident that we shall be able to obtain some excellent results. Later on we are hoping to arrange internal competitions, as well as organise outings to photographic exhibitions both locally and in London.

I understand that there is a fully equipped dark-room at Eastfields and I am hoping that we shall be able to make full use of the facilities next year.

T. W. DEAN.

ARTICLES AND POEMS

SNOW DEVASTATION

London gradually gets left behind.
Into the Chilterns.
Gradually, slowly but surely, it gets colder.
Then a little white blob settles on the windscreen.
Then another,
And another.
It's getting thicker,
Much thicker.
Drifts.
Miles of nowhere.
Wheels slipping.
Can't move.
Desolation—nothing.
Just stuck.
Only thing—
Walk!

K. M. WILLIAMS (11)

ALONE AND WAITING

Alone and waiting,
Leaning against a rough post,
As lonely as a black sheep.
Then I get tied to this post
Feathered heads surround me.
I hear a crackle under my feet—
A fire maybe . . .
It's getting hotter . . .
Must be a first . . . then
I wake up.

The crackle under my feet—no more than autumn leaves
And the heat—no more than the rising sun.
It's getting lighter.
Still waiting, although not alone now.
Hmm! Eight forty-five already.
Horrid, late buses!

C. LILEY (11)

THE TUBE

THE doors slide open and a couple of people step out. I look for a fairly empty compartment and get in quickly before the doors slide together to trap me in an enlarged cigar holder with seats. I sit down in a dusty but comfortable seat and think of something to do.

The train starts off and only the noise of the engine breaks the thick sound of the silence. Opposite, pin-striped trousers protrude from the bottom of a copy of "The Times". Two seats to the right, a large lady tries to find a comfortable position for herself and her three shopping bags. A small child, despite the pleas of his mother and the threats of his father, runs happily, though annoyingly, up and down the gang-way. To my left nostril comes the sweet fragrance of 4711 and by looking at the reflections in the window opposite I am able to see a pretty young woman in a mini skirt, whom I just happened to sit next to. My contentment was short-lived for she got off at the next station.

Boredom begins to creep in once more, so I decide to read the advertisements above the windows. One tells me that if I could solve at least three of the puzzles illustrated by the station after next, I would be able to get a well-paid job as a computer programmer. I solve the puzzles with ease and wonder why they need to bother with a computer with me around?

The next poster was a picture of legs inviting girls to go to the Alfred Burke's employment bureau. Then came a picture of a little man in a hunter's rig-out walking along the back of a crocodile reading a newspaper. From his ignorance of the fact that he is about to be eaten and from the information underneath, I gather that the newspaper does not stop when I am just getting interested (and costs only sixpence).

I finally reach my destination and get out of the train. On the platform I find myself in a world of sexy film posters advertising supposedly sexy films. A large arrow shows me the way out and following it I find myself on an escalator being lifted into a blast of cold air. To the side of me are pictures of bikinis, bras and corsets. By this time I am a little fed up with advertisements of this sort. I reach the top, hand in my ticket and walk into the open air, into the world of reality.

S. TILLIN (3a)

A DROP OF RAIN

MARY performed the ritual once a week—she went to the tool shed, collected the watering-can and watered the many plants scattered in and around the house.

One day when she went to fetch her son, David, home from nursery school a torrential thunderstorm occurred. It lasted until late at night, then it stopped, whereupon Mary hurried home.

The next day was Saturday and Mary and her family decided to visit some friends. They eventually returned home a week later, as her husband had to return to work. When they arrived home they noticed that the grass had grown considerably and that the flowers were larger than normal. That night they went to bed with a strange feeling nagging at the back of their minds.

Then, in the early hours of the morning David started screaming. His father rushed into the bedroom and was horrified to see branches of the trees creeping through the window. The creepers squirmed along the floor and eventually reached the bars of David's cot, entwining it. New shoots appeared from the limbs, each clinging to the nearest object. Quickly the father seized the child and called to his wife to hurry downstairs. It was the same here. The little cacti had grown out of all recognition. The flowers were huge; everything was covered with creepers. The whole room was alive.

Great tendrils reached for the father; he wielded a club at them. They recoiled. Then they attacked again. He swished, hacked and slashed. The walls groaned and split under the strain. Part of the ceiling gave way, knocking the group to the floor. The tendrils reached out eagerly. The first to be grasped was the mother, defending her child to the end. She was smothered and choked to death. Then the boy was overcome and last of all, unaware of the fate of his family, still hacking till every ounce of his strength had been sapped, the father was overcome. As he was smothered he saw lightning, heard thunder; then everything went black.

B. SELWOOD (3a)

SONNET: AFTER SHAKESPEARE

Shall I compare thee to a Winter's grin?
Thou art more cynical and cryptic, mate:
Rough gestures shake the furniture within,
And Winter's speech hath all too wrong a date.
Sometime "Great stuff!" and "Dammit all!" he'll shout,
And often his velocipede is stall'd:
He'll every malefactor winkle out,
By chance, or nature's crafty guile, so call'd.
But thou, eternal Winter, shall not fade,
But shine at Sunday cricket's gay joke fixtures;
Not death warmed up art thou, by nought dismayed,
Not even when 4a's projects earn thy strictures.
So long as boys recall, till eyes grow dim,
So long lives this, and this gives life to him.

DAVID WADDILOVE (4a)

BLEAK MIDWINTER

GONE are the noisy, colourful crowds of summer, the ever shifting kaleidoscopic pattern of humanity on the beach, the rhythms of juke-box music mingling with the shrill cries of excited children. The mood of the season has changed and, instead, the whole length of coastline stands bare and desolate, crouched in dogged resistance to the bitter onslaught of the heaving waves.

Flanking the beach at either end, the cliffs sweep upward and away, to be lost in the grey mist which obscures the horizon. On the rising slopes

the coarse, tufted grass, whipped by the wind, clings tenaciously to the earth, whilst here and there twisted trees turn their hunched backs to the heaving switchback of the sea. Below, at the foot of the cliff, the gleaming rocks bare jagged teeth in defiance of the pounding waves, forgetting the young feet which, in a gentler season, explored their pool-strewn backs.

Behind the beach a line of sand dunes forms a thin link between the swelling cliffs and, hidden in their hollows, there still lurk a few, sad relics of the summer gaiety. The broken shaft of a child's spade leans forlornly against a pile of ice-cream cartons half buried in the rain-scarred sand; and farther off, uncovered by an unheeding foot, lies the split hull of a plastic boat.

Gone, too, are the bright splashes of colour made by summer clothes and gay, striped awnings. The stacked deck-chairs huddle beneath their tarpaulin covers.

Jutting out into the unwelcoming sea like a huge banjo carelessly thrown down by a giant nigger minstrel, the pier looks bleakly inviting. At the entrance, torn posters advertising long disbanded shows, flutter endlessly in the plucking fingers of the wind. Over its damp planking a few regular inhabitants walk briskly along, hands thrust deep in pockets—but not now in search of pennies to set in motion stiff-legged games of football or the clinking balls of pintables. Beneath stout winter garments their bodies shrink from the chilly gusts and the biting grains of sand sting lips chapped by cold.

In the pale daylight the colours are muted to neutral tones of green and grey and the golden sands and blue seas still pictured on the posters of a thousand railway stations have faded to two shades of greyish-green.

The bare stretch of beach itself is marked by an irregular line of straggling seaweed and driftwood, marking the farthest advancement of the sea. Along this line patrol a few cold-eyed gulls in dignified forage for tit-bits among the debris.

Dominating the scene, its contented summer murmur now a menacing roar, the sea sends its cold grey waves ceaselessly onward to the attack. The white spray flung high splatters the smooth wet sand, bringing with it the salty fishy tang of brine.

P. FOUNTAIN (4a)

SEE! THE FAIR IS USING THE SUN!

I sit on the grass and see.
And half a mile from my mind there is a fair—
In action, now.

Those corners of the earth are emptying
As herds of hypnotised humans are drawn in
By the huge entrancing circles of the giant machines.

From here I can hear the sounds of expensive emotion
Of music and machines.
But I can't hear the money
Because that's too soft and subtle,
And hidden by Fun.

STEPHEN RIX.

ALONE, LONELY ONE

Alone
Lonely
One
Beside their
Sideboard there
I'm the only one
The lonely one
Alone.

Alone
Lonely
One
Nineteen people are now
Ten people
And me the only one
The lonely one
Alone.

Alone
Lonely
One
The music uses me
I hear
I listening
Listening
I think
They are just aware
Of where
It comes from
But me being alone
The lonely one
Alone

I listen
And listening
I think:
Why me?

DAVID JONES.

THIS

Image and reality having mixed
Experience become indistinguishable
Emotion unsure
I slip into the hollow shell
Of intellect
And form my arid punctuated shapes.

Like this.

J. W. KENT.

DOMESTIC PSYCHOANALYSIS

Sitting here
I wish that I could drill a secret bore into your brain
And
Inserting five fine sensuous electrodes
Tap
The sources
Of your mind.

J. W. KENT.

THOUGHTCLASH

I used to dream that if
You thought of me when
I thought of you
There would be a mighty explosion
In George Street
As our thoughts met
And the walls of my inhibitions
Would crumble and seep into
Infinity
Because everything we did
Was done with laughter in our eyes
And then I used to wake
Amid the crumbled fragments
Of my dreams
With my inhibitions
Intact.

DAVID JONES.

DOCTOR JOHN'S PHILOSOPHY

Pack up your sanity
Into bills of small denominations
And distribute it throughout the world
Never stopping to think
Or look back.
Wrap up your idealism
In a plain brown package
And send it to yourself
Via a bank
With a fifty-year time-lock.
Curb your inventiveness
Into a square
And file it under y
With the rest of us
Because it's new.

DAVID JONES.

POEMS by ROBERT OLIVER

THE AGE OF TRANSITION

The Age of Transition has arrived,
Catch it as it passes by
In front of your eyes.
This is our age.
Its minutes are the throbbing of our brains;
Each idea that tumbles from our mouths
Becomes a part of the Transition
Which we must pass to our children.
Let us use the passing seconds
To think before we mould our children's
Inheritance
Into the Age of Never.

WAITING

At half past the hour I will be called
To see him that waits.

In his open hand he holds the time;
Between his sagging shoulders sits the world;
From his eyes the river of life flows.

And he longs to take my thoughts
So that he may place them in his hair.

THE ROOM ON THE 39TH FLOOR

I sit in the room of my illusion,
On the 39th level.
Its walls are cloaked with my thoughts,
Frosted by my memory.
I sell it a lie about purpose,
I give it concrete to build with
Till it reaches the sky,
Then, tumbling through these stars
It falls on reality,
And cries on the cold floor.
I open its door to seek for truth,
But step out into darkness.
The fog rises and the truth pains.
There is no purpose, it says.
And to dust the room of my illusions crumbles.
I take an extra step on floor 39
And float away.

EXAMINATIONS

EXAMINATIONS: SUMMER 1968

G.C.E. Advanced Level:

- FOUR SUBJECTS:** P. C. Leverick, R. J. Marlow (Chemistry*, Applied Mathematics*), N. R. Peterken (Chemistry*, Pure Mathematics*, Applied Mathematics*), B. J. Summers (Chemistry*).
- THREE SUBJECTS:** E. E. Bardell, J. E. Cade (Geography*, History*), M. J. Constantine, N. E. Dawson, R. Dorrington, T. Fern, P. R. Flynn, M. J. Phillips (Biology*), J. C. Pond, T. Wyatt, M. J. Zeale.
- TWO SUBJECTS:** J. F. Bance, M. R. Chester, S. R. Cluer, A. N. Dixon, S. J. Gibson (Biology*), I. B. Harper, P. D. Hendry, G. I. McLeod, P. T. Shaffee, M. L. Spickett.
- ONE SUBJECT:** T. A. Bird, K. P. Clarke, G. A. Crouch, R. A. Essex, E. D. Franklin, A. P. Goodson, K. W. Harper, G. R. Hyde, C. Ives, T. Lewis, J. W. Skene, D. A. Williams, B. S. Willmott, G. A. Stansfield (Technical Drawing*).

G.C.E. Ordinary Level (including Supplementary Certificates):

- NINE SUBJECTS:** R. C. Hitchcock (English Language*), G. A. Stark (English Language*).
- EIGHT SUBJECTS:** M. E. Bowman (English Language*, English Literature*, History*, Mathematics*), C. M. Bawden (English Language*), E. J. Green (English Literature*, History*), P. R. Jones (English Literature*, History*), S. C. Olton, M. J. Toop (Chemistry*).
- SEVEN SUBJECTS:** T. W. J. Dean (English Language*), R. A. Dear, P. A. Jenner (English Language*, Geography*, History*), D. G. Matthews, A. J. Moore (Biology*, English Language*, Geography*), J. L. Munt (English Literature*, History*), R. E. Norman.
- SIX SUBJECTS:** L. J. Barham (Mathematics*), D. Hall (English Language*, English Literature*), R. P. Oliver (English Language*), A. R. Pearmain (English Language*), S. A. Smith (English Language*), R. A. Soper, J. N. Tillier, S. Rix.

- FIVE SUBJECTS:** D. J. Anderson, M. J. Driver, A. E. Gorton, R. V. Moorhouse (Mathematics*), M. H. Porter, A. R. Walton, C. D. Ward (Mathematics*).
- FOUR SUBJECTS:** N. F. Draper (Geography*), S. J. Ecob (English Language*), G. M. Elliott, M. J. F. Roberts, C. R. Spickett.
- THREE SUBJECTS:** L. P. Bradley, G. R. Carter, J. P. Gates, G. J. A. Hinchon, J. Hawkes, G. C. Johnston, R. McTaggart, J. R. Simmons, C. Ives.
- TWO SUBJECTS:** P. Floodgate, C. J. Fossett, L. J. Gayler, A. P. McKean, A. P. Raine, P. C. Treloggan, I. C. Wilkins.
- ONE SUBJECT:** I. R. Anderson, B. C. Ansell, A. B. Armstrong, R. Atkins, R. P. Basford, G. N. Blyth, B. W. Bumstead, M. S. Canning, C. M. Dewar, M. A. Edser, C. J. Ellis, R. S. W. Gates, K. R. Hunt, P. W. James, D. G. Jones, G. B. Jones, B. E. Knight, D. R. Lawson, S. D. Landsberg, N. C. Longdon, M. J. Mara, R. T. Martin, T. C. Miles, M. I. Reynolds, N. S. Russell, J. N. Singh, T. R. Singfield (Technical Drawing*), G. A. G. Stansfield, P. G. Tindley, D. J. Treleaven, D. G. A. Warburton, D. R. Warne, A. P. Goodson (Latin*).

Certificate of Secondary Education

- SIX SUBJECTS:** P. C. Treloggan, I. C. Wilkins.
- FIVE SUBJECTS:** G. N. Blyth, C. M. Elliott, L. J. Gayler, M. J. Mara, D. G. A. Warburton.
- FOUR SUBJECTS:** G. R. Carter, C. M. Dewar, P. Floodgate, G. J. A. Hinchon.
- THREE SUBJECTS:** L. P. Bradley, R. P. Oliver, J. R. Simmons.
- TWO SUBJECTS:** L. A. J. Jessup, G. C. Johnston, A. R. Pearman, S. Rix, C. R. Ward.
- ONE SUBJECT:** D. J. Anderson, C. J. Fossett, D. Hall, K. R. Hunt, D. G. Matthews, A. P. McKean, T. C. Miles, R. V. Moorhouse, J. L. Munt, R. E. Norman, S. C. Olton, M. H. Porter.

G.C.E. EXAMINATIONS: JANUARY 1969

Ordinary Level:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Barham, L. J. | English Literature |
| Collard, D. G. | Additional Mathematics |
| Dean, T. W. J. | German |
| Driver, M. J. | Physics |
| Ecob, S. J. | Art |

Gates, R. S. W.	Pure Mathematics
Jones, D. G.	Pure Mathematics
Jones, G. B.	Latin
Pearmain, A. R.	Pure Mathematics
Reynolds, M. I.	Chemistry
Smith, S. A.	Physics
Tillier, J. N.	German
Walton, A. R.	Chemistry, Physics
Wills, R. T.	Pure Mathematics
Chester, M. R.	Latin
Driscoll, J. J.	Additional Mathematics, Woodwork
Faircloth, A. G.	Latin
Johnston, G. C.	Pure Mathematics

Advanced Level:

Bardell, E. E.	French, Latin
Bird, T. A.	Art
Chester, M. R.	French
Cluer, S. R.	Geography, Pure Mathematics
Constantine, M. J.	English Literature
Dawson, N. S.	English Literature, History
Faircloth, A. G.	French
Goodson, A. P.	French, German
Leverick, P. C.	Pure Mathematics
Pond, J. C.	Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Physics
Spickett, M. C.	Art

Advanced Level Examination passed at Ordinary Level:

Bance, J. F.	Physics
Constantine, M. J.	French, History
Crouch, G. A.	Geography
Harper, K. W.	Physics
Ives, C.	Technical Drawing
Skene, J. W.	Physics

PRIZES

FORM PRIZES:	1l: P. M. Aleppo, S. J. Whitehouse; 1m: R. J. Stamp; 2a: B. K. C. Selwood, D. J. Williams; 3a: G. S. Pinnell; 3b: M. C. Berry, J. C. Russell; 4a: I. Willis; 4b: K. Hackney, D. Oliver.
O LEVEL:	4a: M. Bowman, E. Green, M. Toop; 5a: C. Bawden, R. Hitchcock, P. Jenner, P. R. Jones, A. Moore, G. Stark.
LOWER SIXTH:	Literature: J. Kent; Geography: K. Peachey; History: N. Rice; French: K. Peachey; Mathematics: J. Singh; Physics: B. Knight; Chemistry: M. Canning; Craft: R. Gates; Music: J. Kent; Latin: K. Peachey.
UPPER SIXTH:	Mizen English: J. Cade; Mizen History: J. Cade; Geography: J. Cade; French: E. Bardell; Mathematics: R. Marlow, N. Peterken; Physics: R. Marlow; Chemistry: N. Peterken, B. Summers; Engineering Drawing: G. Stansfield; German: A. Dixon; Biology: S. Gibson, M. Phillips.

SPECIAL PRIZES

Headmaster's Prize for Head of School: N. S. Dawson.

Parents' Association Prizes for Service to the School: J. Cade, A. Faircloth, M. Hughes.

Hopton Trophy for Chemistry: B. Summers.

Jenkin Prizes for Assembly Reading: J. Cade, P. Hendry.

Michael Crout Bat for best performance in a School Cricket Team: P. Leverick.

Dr. Love Memorial Prize: S. Gibson.

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

THE following Old Boys went up to University in October 1968: M. E. Beckham (Newcastle), T. O. Cove (Swansea), P. D. Hendry (Sir John Cass College, London), P. W. Hibble (Bradford), A. M. A. Larkin (Keble College, Oxford), T. P. Mackintosh (Manchester), M. J. Miles (Hull), J. D. Morgan (Durham), M. L. Ridley (Surrey), D. J. Rush (St. Cuthbert's, Durham), D. M. Todd (Selwyn College, Cambridge), A. Griffin (Hull), P. R. Flynn (Bangor), S. Gibson (Swansea), M. Phillips (Swansea), M. Zeale (Exeter), R. Dorrington (King's College, London), T. Fern (Dundee).

The following Old Boys proceeded to other Colleges of Further Education: J. H. Boutall (Birmingham College of Commerce), R. A. Essex (Nottingham Teacher Training College), K. M. Green (Exeter Art College), S. R. R. Harling (Oxford Technical College), P. T. Shafee (Lanchester College of Technology, Coventry), P. R. Smith (Westminster College of Education, Oxford), G. R. White (Teacher Training College, Nr. Bradford), K. E. Wise (Portsmouth Technical College), L. St. J. Jarrett (Hatfield Technical College), G. Macleod (Plymouth Technical College), D. C. Hill (Leeds Training College).

OLD MITCHAMIANS

OXFORD DINNER

It is very trite to speak of Oxford as "the city of dreaming spires", especially today when to cross the High is a perilous adventure; but that does not detract one jot from the charm and enjoyment that we of the older generation find when we are able to return there for a brief visit, as we have been able to do for the past nine years, to revel in the company of the Old Mitchamians who have succeeded us as undergraduates there.

This year was another chance for us erstwhile Oxford undergraduates to reminisce in the delightful surroundings of the University. We were able to take with us this time too, in order that they might savour the joys that, as mere Cambridge men, they missed, Messrs. Atherton (who has accepted the Presidency of the annual dinner), Purbrick and Marsh. The Oxford men who went from Mitcham were Messrs. Bingham, Wilkie, Dean and Judge. The dinner at The Eastgate had been arranged with great care by R. H. Johnson of Trinity, to whom we all owe a great debt of gratitude, and accompanying him were C. P. Mitchell, G. T. Jenkin, M. T. Fayne, S. V. Chamberlain, A. M. Larkin, D. W. Parker, G. H. Pollard, D. M. Todd (Selwyn, Cambridge), and R. J. Davies; afterwards, S. R. Harling visited us before we returned. A most enjoyable time was had by us all—as has always been the case on every one of the nine occasions of these annual meetings. May we hope that these events may continue for very many years to come.

H.S.J.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

Alan Glover (1955-1962) who took an Honours degree in Metallurgy at Leeds in 1965, was awarded his Ph.D. last year.

Martin Hughes, who left Mitcham last year to go to Bromley Grammar School, has been awarded a foundation scholarship to the Royal College of Music, tenable for four years. One scholarship only was awarded on the violin from 800 applicants. Martin will be studying under Hugh Bean on the violin and under John Barstow on the piano.

The Editors would welcome news of Old Boys so that this section of the Magazine might be expanded.

If any past members of the School wish to receive next year's magazine, it can be sent to them on payment of 5/-. Letters should be sent to The Editor, The School Magazine, Eastfields High School, Acacia Road, Mitcham, Surrey.

A FAREWELL PARTY

THE Institution, the seminary of learning known through the universities of many lands beside the United Kingdom as Mitcham Grammar School and which has, we think, during the years of its existence been an adornment to the Borough, is to cease as a separate entity as from the end of this term and is then to be merged into a comprehensive unit to be known as Eastfields High School.

It was thought, therefore, that it would be of great delight to many if a party were to be held at the end of July to which we might invite all past as well as present members of the staff, including the secretaries and, of course, Mr. and Mrs. Perry. The original idea for this party was conceived by Mr. Tweddle and his much-lamented death gave us added determination to pursue the idea.

The response to the idea has surpassed our wildest dreams and we confidently expect that there will probably be present on July 24th about 150 past and present members of the staff with their wives, or husbands, girl friends or boy friends. To whet our nostalgic appetite, let us record the names of some of those past members of M.G.S. staff we hope will be there. Pride of place in this list must go to the former Headmasters—Messrs. Doig, Courtney and Bingham; and, in addition, we are looking forward to welcoming again such stalwarts of the past as Messrs. Lewis, Pettigrew, Charlton, Warwick, Hallam, Bateman, Benfield, Male—perhaps it is invidious to pick out these names for special mention, but the list has been compiled entirely at random and without any kind of motive whatsoever.

The enthusiasm for this party is tremendous; may its outcome be as successful.

H.S.J.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

MITCHAM Grammar School for Boys will cease to operate at the end of this school year and a fresh start will be made in September under the new name of Eastfields High School for Boys, in much larger premises.

Although the present school at Eastfields does not have a Parents' Association, it is our intention to propose to the parents of boys attending the new school, that a new Association be formed, which, with the guidance and assistance of the Headmaster and members of his staff, will carry on where we shall have left off. We have a fair amount of money in the bank and with the much larger school we would hope to be able to widen the scope of our activities and increase the revenue. There are many ways in which the funds may be used and we hope that you will all give us your support, especially by attending the meetings which will be held early in the autumn.

Regarding the current year, we have held various social and cultural events as well as the usual fund-raising schemes, but the expenditure has been kept to essential requirements.

For the 21st June we have arranged our Annual Midsummer Trip. This has proved very popular in the past and I am glad to be able to report that we have received more than enough acceptances to fill the coach.

May I conclude by thanking all the parents who have cheerfully given us their assistance at all our functions and express the hope that they will continue to help the Association after the move to Eastfields.

J. S. ANDERSON (*Honorary Secretary*)

SCHOOL OFFICERS

- Head of School* N. S. Dawson.
J. F. Bance (Jan. 1969).
- Deputy Heads of School* J. E. Cade, J. F. Bance, A. G. Faircloth,
B. C. Ansell (Jan. 1969).
- Senior Prefects* N. Peterken, B. J. Summers, R. J. Marlow,
B. C. Ansell, E. E. Bardell, B. Bumstead,
M. R. Chester, M. J. Constantine, C. A. Crouch,
A. P. Goodson, R. Grant, J. W. Kent,
P. C. Leverick, M. I. Reynolds.
- Prefects* I. R. Anderson, C. Bawden, T. A. Bird, J. Brooks,
M. S. Canning, S. R. Cluer, G. Collard,
R. A. Dear, B. K. Frost, R. S. Gates, D. Hall,
K. W. Harper, R. Hitchcock, D. Jones, P. James,
B. E. Knight, N. C. Longdon, D. G. Matthews,
R. P. Oliver, K. A. Peachey, J. C. Pond,
A. S. Prior, A. P. Raine, G. C. Rayner,
N. A. Rice, S. Rix, I. Roxburgh, T. R. Singfield,
J. N. Singh, J. W. Skene, G. A. Stark, P. Tindley,
D. J. Treleaven, R. T. Wills, J. Currie, R. Atkins.
- Acting-Prefects* G. C. Johnston, S. J. Ecob, E. J. Green,
J. D. Stollery, L. A. J. Jessup, M. H. Porter,
S. C. Olton, J. N. Tillier, G. Jones, R. E. Norman.
- Heads of House* CANONS: J. A. Currie.
LODGE: J. F. Bance.
RAVENSBURY: G. A. Crouch.
WITFORD: B. W. Bumstead.
- Team Captains* ATHLETICS: J. R. Simmons
BADMINTON: J. F. Bance.
BASKETBALL: G. A. Crouch.
CHESS: R. T. Wills.
CRICKET: D. Hall.
CROSS-COUNTRY: K. A. Peachey.
RUGBY: N. S. Dawson.
TENNIS: B. W. Bumstead.
SWIMMING: D. Hall.
- School Librarians* M. J. Constantine, T. W. J. Dean, J. N. Tillier,
R. A. Soper, J. P. Hutt.
- Careers Librarians* P. Jones, C. Bawden.