

Mitcham County School For Boys



THE
MITCHAMIAN



CHRISTMAS 1944

Editorial

An attempt is being made to bring the school up to its pre-war standards. This magazine is part of it. Nor is this all; it may have been observed that the assembly has been turned around in the hall. The school bell rang—once! Now this magazine is produced very nearly on the same lines as those of years ago and we hope that, after the gallant attempts by the editors of the unofficial magazines, this one, printed by the school, will be received with pleasure although we are, of course, too modest to expect delight.

Not that we mean to decry the works of our predecessors, but we are of the opinion that a properly printed record of events, as well as some individual work on the part of members of the school, will be of more value and interest to you in the future than a conglomeration of literary effusions, however great their individual value.

We intend to raise the prestige of the school but we can go no further until you can bring yourself to the realization that it is your support we need. If we could think of a euphemism for the phrase "voluntary work" we would use it, but, failing this, let us implore you to look the words boldly in the face and let their meaning sink into your minds. We need your voluntary help; your help without coercion of any kind. That means your attendance at out-of-school functions, your best work when in school, and your support for the school and its activities wherever you go.

This appeal is addressed to the apathetic many; there are a few who are doing their best already. Our thanks go to Mr. Monnaie and his merry gang of pie-makers for the fine job they have made of printing this magazine.

J.G. Delin



CHRISTMAS 1944

Cricket 1944

The cricket season of 1944 showed promise of being a good one, even the few matches played being proof of this, but the flying bomb raids completely cancelled all our cricketing activities.

Practices were held for the first time for several years on one of the concrete wickets behind the school, after the 'allotments' had been cleared and levelled. These practices were well attended and they helped to correct the faults which lost us the first game of the season, namely, lack of polish in batting and lack of variety in bowling. The 1st XI went on to win the other four matches which it played.

During the season most of the bowling was done by Peacock, Ransom, J. W. Smith, and May. On the batting side Walden, Peacock, Bessell and Simpson made useful scores at times.

1st XI—Ward (captain), Godwin, Walden, Peacock, Bessell, Simpson, Ransom, J. W. Smith, May, McDowell, Dunkley and Tanner.

A. Simpson.

H. M. S. Pinafore

When the school met again after the Christmas holidays the Headmaster announced his intention of producing a performance of "H.M.S. Pinafore" by the boys of the school. To say the least, this was a shock. Most of us had heard of Gilbert and Sullivan but what was "H.M.S. Pinafore"? We were destined to find that out very soon.

On Monday, 24 January, a notice went round the school to the effect that the first rehearsal would be held after school in the Hall. Thus began the period which members of the cast will always remember as rehearsals. On looking back to those first rehearsals I remember thinking how

wise it was of the Headmaster to stipulate in his appeal for singers that to be able to sing was not necessary. If it had been, no captain's daughter would have eloped with a curly headed hero, only on the 7 June to be caught in the (second) act by an irate and very vocal father.

After it had been made clear to us that we need not be potential "Taubers" it was explained that we should have to act and, as none of us knew how, we had to be shown. If you were to ask any member of the cast today what he learned he would probably explain that he knows now how to steal carefully on tiptoe and trip gaily in time to music.

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 first 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 June 6, D Day.

Of the performances not much is left to be said except that they were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone concerned, from the audiences and cast to the painstaking members of the school staff who wielded the grease paint and gave the girls such healthy complexions.

In conclusion it can be said that, by the performances of "H.M.S. Pinafore" this year, the standard of Gilbert and Sullivan light opera has been maintained at its highest

level, particularly as only three members of the cast had taken part in this kind of activity before. We all anxiously await next year's effort and may it be as fine as this one.

Dick Deadeye

Noel

by TH. GAUTIER
(Translated into English verse)

Dark are the skies, and white the lands;
Ring, happy bells, both high and wild!
Jesus is born - The Virgin bends
Her charming face towards her child.

No curtains drape the crib so bare
To shield from cold the Infant mild,
Nought but the webs of spiders there
Hanging from beams above the child.

He shivers on the fragrant hay,
This darling Jesus, holy Babe,
While Ass and Ox beneath him stay
And breathe their warmth into the crib.

The drifting snow piles foamy white,
But o'er the roof the skies are torn
Apart, and angels clad in light
Sing to the shepherds: "Christ is born!"

A.L. Delin (4b)

Harvest Camp

(Owing to the arrival of the flying bomb, the Harvest Camp this year started a fortnight earlier than intended, on July 22; it finished on September 2. In addition to the harvesters a number of Juniors spent rather more than that period under canvas, helping in orderly duties and occasionally doing harvest work as well as amusing themselves with and without supervision. Numbers remained fairly constant at about 35 Harvesters and 35 Juniors; 90 boys in all attended camp for periods varying from two to three weeks.

The camp was held in Cowdray Park, Midhurst, West Sussex, at the foot of the South Downs; potatoes and the corn harvest provided most of the work; the Midhurst Grammar School baths provided most of the out-of-harvest activities; the orderly duties provided most of what few complaints there were.

A Senior and a Junior have written their accounts of the camp.)

* * *

The school harvest camp, 1944, was definitely a success; may be this was because there was nothing to remind one of school, except the Headmaster's blazer. The staff did not behave like school masters or mistresses at all, but were quite human and informal, and the helpers, in the persons of Mrs. Doig, Mrs. Sexton, Mrs. King and Mrs. Pillinger, proved themselves equally at home with the awkward cooker-cum-furnace as with their own gas-stoves. This year's camp was an exception in some ways through the presence of thirty five juniors, who turned to and made themselves very useful as orderlies.

The camp site was both pleasant and central, the tents being pitched in a large field by the river, ten yards from Cowdray ruins, the cookhouse and fresh water, and two minutes walk from the town of Midhurst, which might be described as a group of public houses separated by streets. There was also one cinema which prided itself on showing no film under six months old.

The work was hard and therefore unpleasant in the eyes of most harvesters, but some was also very interesting and thus the harvesting redeemed itself. For work the camp was split up into parties of four under a leader and generally two or three parties went to each farmer. Some of the more unusual jobs were at North Park where two parties stooked one field and then played pontoon with their foreman for the rest of the day, and Veasey's where there was only one party and each member had two cups of tea and half a pint of milk every dinner hour.

From work to sport—which proved the main pastime. The greatest attraction was the swimming pool, kindly lent to the camp by Midhurst Grammar School. The pool was open air and had a changing room and showers attached. It was so popular that there were two or three swimming parties a day. During the latter weeks seven-a-sides were played with great enthusiasm; the camp's Cricket XI played a Midhurst School team, but were unfortunately beaten.

Shortage of space forbids more than a mere mention of the camp's new music, ably supplied by two budding musicians, and the fate of a well known Maths master's pyjamas and tent on the last night, but all those who attended the camp can only have recollections of a vigorous and enjoyable holiday; if you didn't attend, then why not come next year?

S. Yass.

* * *

If I called the camp for Juniors a Harvest Camp I would be asked "What had the Juniors to do with the Harvest?" True, the Juniors did do some work on farms but quite a few did not, for work was not compulsory. The stooking they did was said to have been very poor, for some stooks were placed upside down. The Juniors also did a few days of potato picking

Camp lasted for seven weeks; I stayed for six and came down the second week with the Seniors. I was told the first week was alright; the cooks cooked on an open fire

and Juniors helped in erecting tents.

I came to camp by train and brought my bicycle with me (it later proved worth the trouble of bringing it). I found my way through the town to the Grammar School; opposite it were two large iron gates leading to the Causeway at the end of which were two tank traps and a "White" gate; passing these I came to the cowshed and farmhouse where cooking was being done; turning sharp left then, I saw the Marquee in which a game of cards was going on, and behind this were five bell tents for the Seniors; later in the day eight Junior were pitched farther along the large field. Opposite these tents were the woods separated from the field by the River Rother.

My first night was rather sleepless for planes kept roaring over. I soon became used to ignoring them and getting used to normal camp life. A typical day's duties started with kit inspection; then we collected sandwiches, went for a hike on the Downs and when coming back through the town bought something to help us on our way. We then went swimming at the Grammar School Baths.

The one bad thing was the Plague of Wasps. I was stung nineteen times. The only place where wasps could not be found was on the Downs.

During the whole of the camp the meals were good; I enjoyed myself very much and I think the others did.

D. Aldridge. 3a.

Queen Wilhelmina's Country

The majority of people think that Holland is a primitive nation of dogs pulling milk carts, National costumes and windmills. True, there used to be all these things but they have disappeared except for the windmills (although in some villages people still wear the costumes for the sake of tourists.) Life in the Dutch schools is much harder and

more interesting than in England; in the elementary schools the scholars do much more homework than do the boys in English Secondary Schools, and by the time they are fourteen they know both English and French and sometimes German.

As you know, the Dutch are famed because they have reclaimed land from the sea; that is how the Dutch saying, "God made the world, but the Dutch made Holland" originated.

In pre-war days the food, including fruit, was very cheap, so that the poorer class people could indulge in as much nourishment as they wanted. In the season, the luxury fruits such as peaches and grapes could be obtained for 15 cents, a few pence, a pound.

On the 31st of August, the Queen's birthday, the children don't go to school, in the evening there are fire-works, and you have a gay time.

"Nederland zal herrijzen"—"The Netherlands shall rise again."

Sidney Dirks (2a)

Nevern Fair

(Nevern is a little town in West Wales in which the author found himself while recuperating from a bout of rheumatic fever. . . .Ed.)

I first heard about the show when I went down to Nevern to buy some household commodity or other at the little shop there.

Nevern is a picturesque little village, about a mile down the road from where I was staying. On the way down you encounter only two or three houses and then, as you come round the bend, where "Glyn Deri", a little bungalow, nestles into the hill, you get your first view of

Nevern Church with its square Norman tower rising above the yews which encircle the churchyard. When you reach the church you can also see an older yew, inside the churchyard, which is reputed to bleed when cut; and near it is an old Celtic cross which Saint David is reputed to have carried across from Ireland on his back and placed where it stands to-day. As you turn away from the church gateway you see, about a yard away from you, the old mounting steps recently repaired by public subscription. Then there are two or three houses a short distance away to your right, and on your left a Memorial Hall, storehouse and the shop. Further along is the schoolhouse, where live the schoolmaster and his wife, adjoining one of the most exclusive little schools in the British Isles.

It was in the shop, which is the centre of news and discussion in the village, that I saw a poster announcing a forthcoming agricultural show, to be run by the Young Farmers' Club of the Nevern district for the benefit of the Red Cross. As I left the shop I saw in the window a large silver cup with a card on it which said that it had been presented by one of the farmers, to be won by the farmer with the highest number of points at Nevern Show on Saturday August 19th.

As the day for the show came nearer I began to be excited and I asked a lot of questions about what it would be like, until it was at last the day appointed for the show. It was a fine sunny day and at about two o'clock we went down to the field, where the show was to be held. At the entrance there was a man with a rubber stamp and, when he had paid, he stamped the backs of our hands, so we were free to go in and out as much as we liked without having to pay again. Then I met a friend of mine, a London evacuee since the beginning of the war who had taken a job on the farm when he became fourteen. We went to the edge of the ring together to watch the start of the show.

The first item was cow judging. Actually there were two or three events at the same time. Announcements were made from a radio car. The boys and girls had races while at the same time horses were being judged and a bottle of sweets raffled. All the people were in their best clothes

and the horses and dogs were beautifully clean. The horses had coloured ribbons plaited into their manes and tails. Around the tea tent there were crowds of people and I had a very nice tea. After that I watched dogs being judged. The radio car was giving the name of the winner of the raffled bottle of sweets and at the same time a cake was being raffled. In the ring were children running and horses were being shown off. At the side of the field in a canvas enclosure there was an embryo of a bull which a man was showing at sixpence a look. Then everybody went inside the ring and the children rode ponies in races. They handled their mounts like veteran riders, it was marvellous to watch. The horse racing was the high spot of the day and the people cheered and clapped. There were lots of horse races and then I went to the auction of the vegetables and cakes that had taken prizes. When the auctioneer, who was very good at his job, had sold about eight tarts he picked up the ninth and proclaimed it to be the last tart, and left the audience to assume that it was therefore the best tart. He got a high price for it on that score, but when the money had been paid over along came four more tarts; the "last tart" had just been a ruse.

When the auction ended, my friend and I went to watch the tugs-of-war, but a man stopped us and asked us to hold his horse while he went to get something which apparently he had left in the pub. We rode the horse round the field in turns for about an hour and still the man did not come back. We neither of us remembered what he looked like so after looking round for a while we tied the horse to a tree, and walked home after a most enjoyable day.

A.L.D.

The Library

There's a war outside, our windows are smashed, our books are all over the place, but we sometimes have peace

and quiet.

Peace and quiet, peace and quiet, a healthy mind and a stout diet. We prescribe that as a minimum for keeping well alive. And it is our intention to provide you with at least part in the school library. We are well stocked and are sure to have something about what you want, not to mention lots that you don't want but which may come in handy sometime.

A great success has been made of this library, now over six years old, and we are always ready for more custom. If you can escape for a brief instant from the pressure of homework we can find you a book to read. Then when you've read that we can find you another. Try it.

For the sophisticated gentry who have read everything we have, Mr. Purbrick will go up to the Charing Cross Road and buy some more.

J.C.D.

Parents' Association

Few boys now at the school will remember that before the commencement of the present war a Parents' Committee was formed with the object of encouraging support and interest in the various school activities. Funds from which the school has benefited were raised; unfortunately, however, the activities of this committee were brought to a close in the early part of the war.

With the return from evacuation the committee was reformed in November, 1943, and it immediately set to work to co-operate with Mr. Doig on schemes to support and encourage school activities. Since then the Parents' Association has come into being and the response to the invitation sent out to parents to support the association has proved very encouraging.

It is not my purpose here to go into the details of the

work of the association; there is however a recent innovation, much appreciated, I believe, by the members of the school rugby teams, to which I may perhaps be allowed to refer. The ladies on the committee have kindly undertaken to serve refreshments to all boys playing in the representative games held on the Mitcham playing field on Saturday afternoons. It would be appreciated if a few more volunteers could be obtained to take a turn on the rota so I should be glad to receive the names of any parents willing to assist in this way.

In addition to the activities of the Association on behalf of the school the committee is endeavouring to arrange attractive social events for parents as soon as conditions permit. It is the aim of the association to keep up the good tradition of the school and to raise funds for the benefit of the school, particularly in its out-of-school activities; it is hoped, therefore, that boys and their parents will support the association in its endeavour.

R. J. Reader
(Hon. Sec.)

N. B. Book these dates:—

Saturday, January 6 1945. WHIST DRIVE 6.45 pm

Saturday, January 20 1945. SOCIAL & DANCE 7.30 pm

Tickets may be obtained through the school from members of the committee.

Examination Results June 1944

Higher School Certificate with exemption from Inter. B.Sc.:

J. D. Aldridge, Wardill.

Higher School Certificate:

Aston, Bungay, J. G. Delin, Godwin, Kensdale, P. B. Taylor, Ward.

County Major Scholarships:

Bungay, Godwin, Kensdale, Ward, Wardill.

General School Certificate with Matriculation:

L. Bartlett, Bessell, R. G. Brett, Bull, Cousens, Hunter, Ives, Jefferies, Kelly, Parkinson, Watkin, Winfield, Wootton.

General School Certificate:

J. E. Allen, Bristow, Crawford, Dabbs, R. F. Dew, K. J. Harrison, T. E. Laker, Lewis, Matten, Prentice, L. Price, J. D. Smith, J. W. Smith, J. H. White, Wills, Wilson, Child, Gatland, A. Humphries, Knight, F. E. Laker, McDowell, Massey, Peacock, Ransom, A. Simpson, Tanner, Terry, B. F. Walden.

Scouting

16th Mitcham Troop

The camping season this year passed by with only one Troop Camp, owing to matters beyond our control and much to the disappointment of all. The one camp, however, went off quite well. Pioneering was carried out enthusiastically on the camp site and, although the cooks' lives were in constant danger, the food didn't appear to suffer much.

The numbers of the troop are fairly high, high enough for six patrols. A large amount of badge work has been done during the Monday evening Troop Parades, and, lately, signalling seems to have come to the fore. Both Morse and Semaphore are being learnt enthusiastically and the hall resounds to the flap and crack of swiftly moving flags. Patrol Meetings are being held on Saturdays by some of the P/Ls and quite a lot of outdoor Scouting has been carried out. Monkey bridges and other marvellous feats with rope, and two trees, were experimented with a few weeks ago, with some small measure of success.

Those of the troop who attended the Harvest Camp had a good opportunity for bird watching, crossing rivers by primitive means (besides getting dry by means of two matches and a handful of tree) in fact, the natural side of Scouting. Some members who were there, did avail

themselves of this opportunity and enjoyed doing so.

A recent Church Parade was attended by a few, a large percentage being P/Ls, and all P/Ls' Meetings have been attended, thus keeping the troops informed of district affairs.

R. W. D.

School Athletics 1944

The outstanding feature of the School's athletic programme is the Annual Inter-School Sports. This year only a very curtailed programme of training could be followed, and the effects of this were particularly marked as no limit point contests had been held previously. Thus the prospective members of the team had little chance to show their true form and selection was difficult. However, great keenness prevailed and the team finally chosen acquitted themselves well.

In the sprinting events Walden secured second place in the 220 yards finals, and Brett took second place in the under 14 event. The senior relay team finished third in the final, Ransom showing a remarkable turn of speed as third string. Baker in a determined effort ran home second in the 400 yards under 15. Using the western roll, the intricacies of which he has only recently learnt, Godwin took second place in the "open" high jump. Perhaps the most exciting event was the mile. Humphries, after working up to the lead from twelfth place, was narrowly beaten on the post.

Though the final checking of points gave the trophies to other schools, Mitchamians present at Imber Court, both competitors and spectators, felt fairly satisfied with, and not a little proud of, what had been achieved.

F. W. B.

History & Geography Society

Interest in the above society has ebbed and flowed. The society was not formed, as many boys seem to think, for M.O.I. lectures alone, but for rambles and short lectures by the members. The rambles cannot take place owing to blackout and wartime conditions. Two meetings were arranged when members were to give short lectures on interesting topics. The first failed because only three boys came as audience, while in the second the speakers did not turn up. From this, one is to assume that boys of the Upper School are not interested in the functions of the society unless they are very spectacular.

The three M. O. I. lectures were very well attended. The most successful was when Brigadier-General Young lectured on "India". He gave many reasons why the British Government had a difficult task in modernising India, and in dealing with the type of person one was likely to meet in different parts of India. Other lectures were given by Captain Greenland on "The Far East" and Mr. Wilson Temple on "South Africa."

P. D. Gatland, (Hon. Sec.)

289 A.T.C.

The school A.T.C. has been in existence for nearly four years. Great enthusiasm has been shown in all aspects of training and sport. Last year a Seven-a-side Rugby team did extremely well in a large tournament. They played Tiffins A.T.C. in the finals and were beaten only after extra time.

This year we have founded a Soccer XI which has played local squadrons with remarkable success; we have lost only one match of the four which we have played. The team is captained by its pioneer White, and has, along with the captain, some spectacular players such as Corporals Bessell and Humphries.

Some of the cadets spent, in September, an enjoyable week at the R. A. F. station at Lasham. They speak very highly of the fun they had and the varied jobs that were found for them to do. All cadets enjoyed the flying that was done in some of the latest R. A. F. aircraft.

The work done at parades varies between route marches, Morse and Navigation. Some cadets attend Headquarters some evenings to be taught either Morse or Aircraft Recognition. Senior cadets have been on a Gliding course at Hamsey Creen and speak of the thrills of Gliding although they receive only elementary training. However, more recruits are needed to maintain the squadron strength and thus keep the A.T.C. the strongest body in the school.

G.W.

Rugby Notes

1st XV The school was unfortunate this season in commencing with a very inexperienced team. Keeness has, however, to some extent made up for this deficiency. The results have been a slight improvement on last year's but even so the members should bear in mind that many unnecessary mistakes are made, mistakes which constant practice alone will rectify.

Team:— Glover; Dunkley, White, Dawson, Searl; E.J.Humphries.(Capt.); Bessell; A Simpson, Gatland, R.F.Dew, Atterbury, Cresswell, Ockenden, Simmons, Wilson.

2nd XV The results of this team's matches have been somewhat better than was expected. This is no doubt due to the whole-hearted effort on the part of a few members.

Team:- Coleman, Potter, Palmer, Rich, Lunn, Edney, Yass, Delin J.G.(Capt.), Best, Butler, Harrison, Harbert, Lewis, Gatenby, A. Humphries.

Colts XV The Colts XV possess two or three outstanding players and in consequence the team is apt to rely on

individuals and not on team work. Nevertheless we have great hopes of them.

Team:-Humphrey, Channing, Luney, Brett(Capt.), McDaniel, Salter, Goldney, Sorrell, Burns, Wilcox, Stokoe, Wesley, Chapman, Ellis, Dew M.

RESULTS

		1st XV	2nd XV	Colts XV
Sept. 22	Tiffins		L 0-8	
29	Selhurst	6-6	„ 0-12	L 0-21
Oct. 4	Whitgift	W 6-5	W 16-6	W 14-5
14	Reigate	L 3-16	8-8	„ 16-13
21	Purley	W 9-0	W 9-6	„ 15-3
28	Surbiton	W 44-0	W 18-3	„ 17-15
Nov. 1	Raynes Pk.	W 3-0	W 12-6	
4	Wallington	L 0-10		W 8-6
18	Sutton	W 28-0		
Dec. 2	Tooting Bec	3-3		5-5
6	Ashted	W 11-5		

E. J. Humphries

Debating Society

The Debating Society this year has made what it believes to be a record: an uninterrupted series of meetings each Friday evening (except at half term) since the beginning of the term. It is doubtful, however, whether this increase in quantity has been accompanied by an improvement in quality. Few debates can honestly be said to have reached the standard of previous years, and throughout the year they have served more to appeal to the popular taste with such subjects as School Uniform, Music, Football, Gambling and Co-education than to reach any high intellectual level. Also there has been an unusual shortage, not only of subjects for debates, but of speakers of the quality of the past; without wishing in the least to belittle the efforts of

those who have taken on themselves the very difficult position of a main speaker, I think it is true to say that nowhere has it been possible to find a really outstanding speaker for any debate so far.

Apart from the debates and discussions outlined above, a Groucers' Hour has been held, and extended to a second meeting—a mistaken policy, as the results have shown. The one further meeting this term, according to Deb. Soc. tradition, will be a Mystery Debate, which, it is hoped, will make a satisfactory end to this series of meetings.

For the New Year we have already one debate prepared, complete with speakers. As for further meetings, it must be left to the members to decide whether or not the standard is to improve. Vigour and enthusiasm are present in plenty and, given a serious interest in the Society, it can become not only a means of amusement but a valuable educational medium.

P.J.Rollings

School Notes

- ¶ Owing to the disruption caused by the flying-bombs no magazine appeared last term; hence the anachronism of a cricket report in the Christmas magazine. This present edition has to cover two terms.
- ¶ We received with deep regret the news of the death of J.D.Waller in a flying-bomb raid, and we offer our condolences to his parents. He was a member of last year's form 5b and he was killed the day before he was due to take General Schools last June.
- ¶ Two Ventures reported elsewhere in this issue were highly successful financially. The total profit from the 1944 Harvest Camp was £116, of which £10 was used as a gift to Midhurst Grammar School in recognition of their hospitality, £90 was paid out to the senior agriculturalists and £16 to the juniors. 7,000 hours were worked by the camp.
- ¶ £84.15s. worth of tickets were sold at the four performances of "H.M.S. Pinafore" and the net profit was £31.17.5d

¶ The Red Cross was adopted as the school charity at the beginning of this term and the very good total of £33 was collected, including £7 in a single collection, believed to be a record for the school.

¶ National Savings are also prospering although it is to be regretted that as yet only one third of the school belong to the Group. £185 was collected this term.

¶ The Phalanx is continuing its work in deadly secret and Wednesday evening relaxations have been well attended. Connection has also been maintained with the Mitcham Junior Youth Council and great work may yet be done.

¶ Staff Changes are imminent and we are sorry to hear that Mr. R. Cook is leaving us after 7 years' fine work in this school. He has been a source of inspiration to our young scientists and we wish him every success in his new post in ever-to-be-remembered Somerset. Mr. Pedersen spent six weeks with us as Geography Master last term and Miss Curnow has been Geography Mistress for part of this term.

¶ Tea after Rugby is a very pleasant thing. We would like to send our thanks to Mrs. Dew and the ladies of the Parents' Association for their generous help in this respect. The china for the Rugby teas was supplied by Mrs. Perry amongst the hundred and one other things she does for us. We boggle at the thought of being Mrs. Perry-less and our gratitude for her presence is immense.

¶ Gramophone concerts have been given to small but select audiences every Wednesday this term. Dann and Winfield, who presided, have given us a well chosen and varied selection of classical works.

¶ We are told on going to press of the dissolution of the Geography-History Society. This is definitely a "poor show," the only good point being that outside lectures are to be continued although less frequently than before.

¶ This term's prefects are J. Delin (School Captain), Best, E. Humphries and Lemin. Sub-prefects are Bessell, Dabbs, Dann, Dew, Lewis, A. Simpson, Winfield, Wootton, Butler, Potter, A. Humphries and Gattand.

¶ A Sixth Form party is to be held this term and, thanks to the exertions of Mrs. Hucklesby and Best, it promises to be a really fine "do."