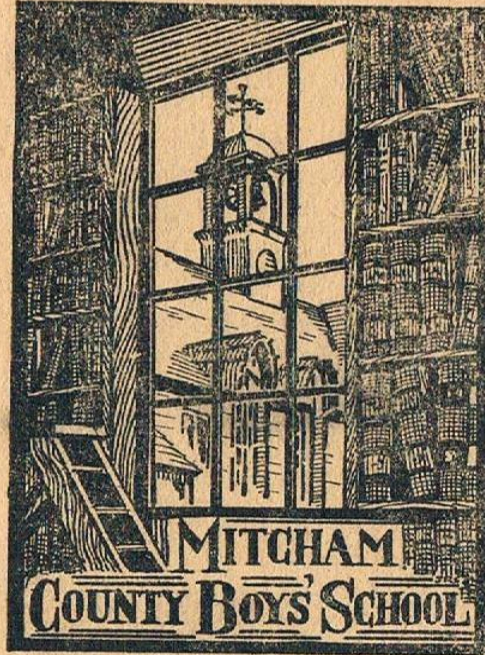


P. R. Hull

W. G. Carter



O'Leary

D. H. Morris VI sez.

The Mitchamian

EASTER 1950

R. R. ...

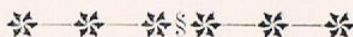
THE MITCHAMIAN

Editorial

This edition heralds the end of yet another School term, full of academic and out-of-school activities. The Cross Country race, and the Aesthetic Competition with all that it embodies, have been contested with as great enthusiasm as have the terminal examinations, although the standard of the latter, we understand, is not as high as it might have been.

Our one regret is that the second round of the inter-house rugby competition which is always awaited with eager anticipation, was cancelled, owing mainly to the hopeless condition of the school field. Whether or not the cricket competition will suffer the same fate remains to be seen.

There was, unfortunately, a poor response to the appeal of the Editorial Staff for voluntary contributions. It is hoped that this apathetic attitude, which is particularly noticeable among the juniors, will have disappeared by the time of the next issue and that the "Old Faithfuls" will be given some more competition.



Mr. Bottoms

Mr. Bottoms left the school in December, after teaching Geography here for nearly 15 years. Some mention is made elsewhere in this magazine of his interest in the Geographical Society; for the last year he was in charge of Red House; since his return from the Services he has been treasurer of the Parents' Association; under his guidance a film-strip of Mitcham has been compiled, during the course of which, among other Mitcham curiosities, the VI Form has traced the trickles of most of the Wandle's tributaries.

In Barnsley, no doubt, the swallet-holes will be plumbed and the coal seams mapped, where until now only the curlews have cried and the wild miners sung.

Geographical Society

It was with great regret at Christmas that we said good-bye to our Founder and Chairman, Mr Bottoms, who had done so much for the Society and is responsible for its present high position in school activities. Before departing, Mr. Bottoms gave his "Swan Song" as the last lecture of the Autumn Term and was presented with a leather writing case by the Society.

This year the Society has relied more on outside material for lectures than of late. One example of this was the set of lantern lectures obtained free from the L.T.E. and British Railways; these were tried as an experiment but did not prove very successful. Use of the L.T.E. Mobile Film Unit was made and an interesting show given.

Other lectures have been given by members of the staff. One, by Mr. Jones on "Indian Religions," provided about the most interesting lecture of the session. Mr. Brewer spoke on "The Chilterns." Mr. Mounsey, our new chairman, lectured on "The Alps of Italy and Switzerland," and illustrated it with his own film strip.

Mrs. Reynolds, an official National Trust lecturer, spoke on "Aspects of the National Trust." Mr. Scivier and Mr. Burgess filled in a gap by giving a lantern lecture on "The West Country."

Other lectures of this term were: Lt. Col. Bidder D.S.O., talking on "Saxon Remains of Mitcham" and a C.O.I. lecture on "World Food Resources."

We wish to thank Mr. Brewer for leading two very interesting rambles in the Chilterns and Mr. Clemas for accompanying us on our coach visit to Canterbury at Christmas. By doing so they have considerably helped the smooth working of the Society.

The Cartographical Section under Mr. Burgess and Mr. Wayte has helped the Ramblers Association in making complete footpath surveys of Headley, Kingswood and Chipstead parishes for a new set of maps which are going to be published soon.

To end this quite successful session the Society had its Annual Tea and Theatre Visit on March 17th.

Rugby

The 1st XV has enjoyed quite a successful season. Of the ten matches played so far only two have been lost and one drawn. The team has to its credit wins against Wallington, against whom the school had not been successful since the season of 1946-47, and against a strong Old Boys' "A" side. Though the side has been handicapped by the state of the school field and the number of cancelled matches, it nevertheless has maintained a constant improvement throughout the season.

TEAM:— A. J. North, Clarke, D.H. Morris, Kinsley, Peters, B.W. Mitchell, D.E. Carter, Rowland, Ashwin, Gough, F. Ashton (captain), Bamber, T. Gillard, B.H. Cradick, G.A. Embleton.

At the end of the Autumn Term colours were re-awarded to F. Ashton and G.A. Embleton and awarded to A.J. North, D.H. Morris, B.W. Mitchell, D.E. Carter, T. Gillard and B.H. Cradick.

2nd XV

The season has not been so successful as in previous years. Lack of finishing power, poor tackling (though this has improved greatly during the season), and occasional lack of fitness contributed to a poor score sheet.

Team from:— Scivier (captain), Cramp, Case, Adams, Galbraith, Hilton, Howe, Larkin, Eldergill, West, Jeeves, Ockenden, Maberley, Venner, Weightman, Taylor, Kent.

Colts XV

The Colts had difficulty at the beginning of the season in finding a full-back but Hempstead, brought from the scrum, ably filled the gap. In a team where forwards were on the whole stronger than backs D. Burt at scrum-half was outstanding. The side showed promise in some of its matches which bodes well for future school sides.

Team from:— Hempstead, Deadman, Pearcey, Laming, Allenby, Robinson, Burt, Pearson, Emere, Parsons, Plummer, Leigh (capt.), Stimson, Lacey, Wilson, Barrow.

RESULTS

AUTUMN TERM.	1st XV	2nd XV	Colts XV
TIFFINS	L 3—11	L 6—17	
SURBITON	W 28—9	L 6—25	L 6—15

PURLEY	L 3—5	W22—11	L 6—21
SHOOTERS HILL	W 6—5	L 3—19	W11—3
WALLINGTON	D 3—3	L 0—8	L 0—3
OLD BOYS "A"	W11—0		
SELHURST	W14—0	L 8—11	W11—0
BADINGHAM		W 9—6	
OXTED		W 3—0	W14—0
SUTTON		L 5—16	
BEC			D 0—0
SUTTON		L 0—41	
SPRING TERM			
WALLINGTON	W14—3	L 5—17	W 9—3
BADINGHAM		L3—18	
ST. OLAVE'S	W14—0		
TIFFINS	W 3—0	W28—0	

TEAM RECORDS (to date)

	PLAYED	WON	LOST	DRAWN	Pts. FOR	Against
1ST XV	10	7	2	1	99	36
2ND XV	13	4	9	0	98	189
COLTS XV	9	5	3	1	78	45

ADDITIONAL FIXTURES.

3rd XV	v.	ST. OLAVES	W12—10
2nd Colts XV	v.	WALLINGTON	L 0—13
	v.	OXTED	W19—0
	v.	BEC	L 0—12

Critiques

Full back: North. Has a good kick and a very safe pair of hands. A capable full back with a good sense of position. Three quarter backs: Peters. Must learn to swerve outwards to avoid his man. *or a Peters* sense of position. Runs well when free.

Morris. One of the most improved players in the team. Kicks well both in defence and attack. A good tackler.

Kinsley. The only man on the side who can swerve. Is inclined to miss his man in defence. A good kick.

Clarke. His tackling is weak and he is inclined to run into the defence. Runs well when free.

Half-backs: Mitchell. The soundest member of the team. A good kick with a fine sense of position. Must learn to run.

Carter. A very good scrum half who has done excellent work for the side both in attack and defence. Sometimes a little too flustered under pressure.

Forwards: Ashton. A very capable Captain who sets a good example to his side by hard work. He has shown

F. Ashton

excellent leadership and is always ready to encourage his men. A good all round forward.

Ashwin. Does not use his height in the lines-out to the utmost advantage and should learn to kick. A hard working forward.

Cradick. A very much improved forward who is dangerous near the goal line. Should be quicker on the ball.

Gillard. One of the best forwards on the side and is always on the ball. Should get down quicker in the loose scrums.

Rowland. Has done excellent service in the lines-out and will do even better when he learns to give the dummy from that position. A very hard working forward.

Gough. A good place kick. Must learn to lie on the ball. Is apt to get flustered under pressure.

Embleton. When fit is a good forward, who is always on the ball. Is better in the loose than the tight scrums. Should get down quicker in the loose scrums.

Bamber. A hard working forward. Should get about more in the loose and needs practice in the line-out.

Moon. An aggressive and much improved forward. He should learn to handle the ball. He played some very good games at the end of his career.

S.C.

The Yeomen of the Guard

Again, for four successive nights in December, passers-by in the London-Road, Mitcham, had to endure the sounds which issued from the Baths Hall. This is no exaggeration. One celebrated gentleman suggested that the stentorian voice of Sergeant Meryll was responsible for the unceasing movement, to and fro, of the main hall swing-doors.

Rehearsals this year proceeded throughout the term with the same vigour, the same hopes and fears, and the same feelings of anxiety as in past years. The result of this work

was undoubtedly good, but such a success would not have been possible without the combined assistance of the many willing helpers.

Despite the fact that many of the "old firm" were no longer with us, the principals were well-chosen and for this the Producer deserves special credit. Much new talent was discovered. No one will deny that the "discovery" of Sgt. Meryll, Jack Point and Phoebe contributed considerably to the success of the show. The part of Sgt. Meryll, in particular, was in doubt for some time, but I am sure that his rivals will agree that Morris carried the part very well.

The orchestra was again very good and they kept in time with the singers even better than in previous years. Despite rumours that Mr. Doig was not going to conduct, there he was on the rostrum once again—thank goodness! People do not realise just how comforting is the protruding tongue and raised eyebrows to the nervous, quivering principal. The single note in time from Mrs. Doig is almost as indispensable and our thanks are extended to her for her unselfish and untiring work.

Our thanks must also go to the band of helpers behind stage, spurred on by Messrs. Lewis and Marsh; also to Mr. Brewer for his efforts to improve the junior chorus—a thankless task. They did, however, compare very favourably with the "old men" of the senior school who formed the senior chorus of yeomen and citizens (save one intruder from the first form). Our thanks also to the three make-up artists, who did an excellent piece of work in completely transforming some of our faces, to Mr. Ayerst and his ushers who, I believe, ushered even better than during last year's performance. Mr. Hopton and Mr. Marchant-Jones are to be thanked for compiling such an admirable programme, Mr. Madden and Mr. Mounsey for their work in the sale of tickets, and Mrs. Hurring for her help behind the scenes.

Of the principals, mention must be made of Wilfred and Point, who provided most of the (intentional) laughs. One can scarcely realise that Wilfred and the ultra-aesthetic Buntorne are one and the same. The singing of Elsie Maynard was delightful and we can look forward to even better future performances. She contrasted very well with the flippant and coquettish Phoebe whose attentions were not wholly

confined to Col. Fairfax but to " Yes, you in the front there!" Her brother, Leonard Meryll, provided some admirable tenor-singing (I hear too that he made an excellent yeoman). The commanding character of Dame Carruthers was very well portrayed by Freeman.

Everyone did his best to maintain the high standard of the School Operas. Those of the cast who are leaving this year feel that never again shall we find the same sort of pleasure that we experience through being in the school show. We know, however, that under the expert guidance and in the capable hands of our producer, Mr. Doig, the school will continue in the future to sustain the high standard of G. & S. productions.

Colonel Fairfax.

Ode to Gardening

I 'ates gard'nin', I does.
 I 'ates it 'cause it means too much 'ard graft;
 I 'as to get up early in the morning,
 Betimes, I think as 'ow I must be daft.

His Lordship comes up sometimes, when I'm digging,
 And says to me with fervour in 'is voice,
 " This garden is my loveliest possession. "
 Myself, I d rather 'ave 'is new Rolls-Royce.

I wonder 'ow 'e'd like it if I swapped 'im,
 I 'ad 'is job for a day and 'e 'ad mine,
 When 'is 'ands were filthy and 'is back was breaking,
 Per'aps 'e wouldn't think it quite so fine.

Specially if 'e did it in the winter,
 When the frost 'ad turned the earth as 'ard as steel,
 And the east wind chilled 'is bones, and freezed 'im
 proper,
 I'd give my ears to know just 'ow 'e'd feel.

Operation Leprechaun

This manoeuvre was to be something "out of the ordinary" and yet it was one of the least organised camping tours I have yet been on. A week before embarkation four of us roughed out a plan of campaign. We next saw each other in Holyhead at 23.30 hrs. on Wednesday, August 24, after an uneventful journey "hitching up." It seemed uneventful at the time, but looking back, it isn't everyone that puts out a fire in a corn field or 'phones the Police, believing his rucksack to have been stolen!

We all boarded the mail-boat to Dublin as "third class non-sleepers." Had it not been for the boat being held up for five hours in thick fog we would have known little of our fellow travellers. Our favourite character was "Baron Munchausen" whose tales were legion. The strangest of all however was "Springheel Jack." At first he appeared to be a typical American, but, despite drape cut jacket, yellow socks, sandals and a ten gallon Stetson, his brogue dubbed him as a "modern" Irishman.

A huge crowd of Irishmen greeted the ship at 14.00 hrs. They were only waiting for the morning papers from England—not as we at first supposed. Our rucksacks parked beside large cannons and under the watchful eye of the Commissionaire of the Bank of Ireland, we explored Dublin, relieved the Bank of Ireland of its new responsibility and after dismissing "Anti-Fenian" thoughts from our minds, left the Bank intact.

Great difficulty was experienced in getting the right 'bus to take us to the Wicklow Mountains. After a while we began to master the brogue and eventually found ourselves at Eniskerry where we camped for the night beside a babbling brook. The next day we walked into Bray where we bought a rucksack full of provisions at the lowest prices. Bray is a strange place; it is in the transition stage between an Irish village by the sea and an authentic "Brighton type" sea side resort. I was brought back to reality by the sight of a small figure in a green blazer that had the initial "M." emblazoned on the pocket. I didn't have the heart to give him an essay for not wearing a cap!

On returning to camp we cooked the sort of meal that would only have been rivalled by those of Henry the Eighth. Pork chops, four inches by seven and an inch thick, constituted the "meat" while the "veg" took the form of one pound of potatoes and half a pound of fried onions per head. Yes, I know it was bad for us, but it was good. Sweet was furnished by tinned peaches and cream, then half pound of cheese and a large Spanish — or was it Irish? — onion. A pint of milky coffee put us to bed, uncomfortable, but contented.

August 27 the "tour proper" started. I don't know whether it was the previous evening's meal or the heat, but we soon had to adopt Union Rules: five minutes walking, ten minutes rest! We paid our sixpences and entered Powerscourt Estate, ignored the warning notice and climbed up the Powerscourt waterfall, promptly losing ourselves on the mountains. We eventually descended to what at first appeared to be a lake of Guinness but proved to be Lough Tay. Our day's walk totalled only ten miles but I wish some one would tell me if a heart beat of 108 per minute is dangerous. I'm inclined to think the mountains were not meant for hiking over!

Once before I had encountered the "fiery demons" and I had forgotten my own warnings about camping near lakes and heather. We spent hours slapping our faces before the midges were cleared by smoke from our peat fire. A handkerchief soaked in disinfectant and hung over the face is not a deterrent. The midges returned in the morning so we didn't stay for breakfast. Instead, we rushed on towards Naas. We bathed and breakfasted at Liffey Head amid awesome mountains. That night we camped at Kilbride and in the morning breakfasted in the rain with a pig that ate wire wool!

We reached Naas at noon and once again split into pairs to hitchhike to Killarney. The next two nights we continued to "meet up" and camp together. The second night we all four got our last lift on a four foot square donkey cart and spent the evening in the owner's cottage talking politics. That day in Limerick we had seen the typical "Irish-American" cop—he was six feet three with a bulging waist line,

cap at a rakish angle, one thumb hooked in his belt while the other hand held a foot-long truncheon that was swinging in the air.

Wednesday Aug. 31 and we had reached Killarney. Our tent was pitched for three nights in the Youth Hostel grounds while one of our number recovered from stomach disorders! Andrews Salts became the order of the day after this mishap. Saturday we left the hostel and headed over Dunloe Gap. We refused offers of rides on ponies by the local "wide boys". We camped the night in a peat bog accompanied by moving lights and weird noises, (which we all heard!), sounding like a flute. The lights were explained but Sunday, in Kenmare we were the centre of interest and there was much speculation about the weight of our packs. ("Shure Oi know Oi shouldn't carry it".) We caught the bus to Raleigh Bonane, a Youth Hostel where we spent the night, our first since leaving home, in a bed.

Our walk to Glengarriff consisted mainly of short cuts with "every man for himself and his own wet boots". The mountain sides were teeming with water. Glengarriff is a true beauty spot; the water in the harbour was a pure blue with the rocky brown and dark green wooded islands outlined against it and the brightly painted boats moving as leisurely as the few white clouds; the whole scene was one of tranquillity and it was only when we reached Cork that we fully appreciated the beauty of Glengarriff. We had to take a long bus ride out of Cork to find a camping site, where we had a goat, a cow and a donkey as companions.

That, except for the boat trip back to Fishguard and the hitch-hike to London, was the end of the manoeuvre and I was sorry. There is something about Ireland that we seem to have lost in England, the cheerful nod from everyone you meet, the obliging salesman and those small things that make the dull moments shine: perhaps things aren't "slick", but at least you feel you are welcome, providing you believe in Irish Home Rule!

F. R. J.



The Debating and Literary Society

The progress of the Society since last September has been marked by a number of new features. Any success has not entirely been the result of an increase in membership to 65 nor to the Society's new name but an increase in enthusiasm. One quarter of the members may be relied upon to speak; this is a considerable improvement though much is still to be desired.

Apart from the debates a number of new functions have developed, the chief being the introduction of lectures on subjects of some literary interest. Our thanks are due to Mr. Purbrick for his very amusing selections of "Humour in Verse". "English Caricature", the first of the series, was considered by the secretary. During the Christmas vacation a party of members saw the Covent Garden production of Richard Strauss' "Der Rosenkavalier". Also a larger party visited Oxford by coach on half term last, in order to see something of the Colleges and the Torpid Races.

The first debate of the term was not well attended owing to the house matches but even so the motion was well fought before being defeated. The most enthusiastic debate concerned Spiritualism and the house was swayed by Mr. Ashton to defeat the motion "That Spiritualism is Humbug". The remaining activities of the Autumn term consisted of a debate on the relative merits of films and plays, and finally "That Father Christmas is a myth."

The Spring Term came to life with a "Grouser's Hour", which produced a certain amount of light humour, still a feature of the successful meetings. Mr. Sallabank and Mr. Jeeves being chiefly responsible. As in all such meetings the grousers went on until 5.30 and the chairman was forced to bring them to an abrupt end.

Secretary

Cross Country

The second season for the School team has been very successful and has provided many new interesting fixtures and inter-school runs.

Many of last year's faults have been corrected and new names have been included in the team but the point that has been most noticeable is that we are now running as a team and not primarily as a set of individual runners. This, I think, has been responsible for the good results and the greatly improved times we have obtained.

Three inter-school cup matches have been entered for: the Ranelagh Cup, the Judge Cup, in which a Junior Team has also been entered, and the Densham Cup of the S. L. H.

Team from:—

Scivier (capt.); Bryant; Clark O. W.; Durham; Hodges; North; Phillpot; Rance; Reay; Sallabank; Rowland J.; Yates; Weightman.

RESULTS

Purley	L	62—21	pts.
Tiffin	W	35—49	"
Roan	W	33—45	"
S.L.H.	W	49—56	"
Mitcham A.C.	L	50—28	"
Purley	L	44—34	"
Ranelagh Cup	— 14th out of 21 schools.		
Judge Cup	— 4th out of 8 schools.		
Densham Cup	— 11th out of 25 Schools.		

Parents' Association

In accepting the position of Secretary to the Parents' Association, I realised that I had a difficult task before me, in following such an able man as Mr. Reader. However, thanks to the assistance from that gentleman and the committee, everything has been made easy for me.

The association made a good start with membership, and I am pleased to report that practically 100 per cent. of the new boys were able to interest their parents in our soc-

ial circle. Our membership is over 300, and we receive very good support at our different activities. We try to arrange such a variety of entertainments, that all of our members find something which appeals personally to them. Our Whist Drives are very popular, and the average attendance is about 100. These evenings are noted for their sociability, and enable the parents to meet other parents and discuss their sons' activities at the school and on the playing fields. As you know, the Ladies of the committee serve tea to the school and visitors' teams on the occasions of Saturday afternoon matches. The members of the staff take a very keen interest in our various functions, and we are indebted to them for their services.

We have a full programme for the coming months and, given our usual support, we shall carry on with the good work we are able to do for the boys and the School.

We are looking forward to the annual cricket match, and hope to repeat our victory of last year. It is a great occasion, from our point of view, and there is great rivalry between us for a position in the team. Most of us suffer from stiff muscles, after we have put in some strenuous work at the nets behind the school. We do not know the venue of the next match, but you can be assured that we shall do our best to give you a good game.

On the evening of May 18th we are again staging our "Careers for Boys", and we hope to have a team of eminent men from the commercial world, to explain the possibilities of careers in their various professions. These evenings are usually well attended, and we do feel that they give some idea of the different fields in which you will be called upon to serve.

In conclusion, I would like to say how much I appreciate the honour of being secretary to the Parents' Association and assure you that I shall always do my best.

A.F.Furnish.

Combined Cadet Force

Since the last appearance of any news of the school cadets in this magazine, there have been some changes in organ-

ization and numbers.

The unit now consists of 45 cadets, divided into two platoons, each of which comprises three sections. The unit parades every Tuesday, instruction time being divided between Guards instructors from Caterham, who instruct in drill and the handling of the L.M.G., and the unit's officers, who prepare the cadets for Certificate A.

A Certificate "A" examination was held on Friday, March 24th. The following cadets were successful in Part 1 :— Cornish, Cullum, Deadman, Gingell, Harris, Leigh, Manley, McCabe, Robinson, Taylor.

In the Christmas holidays, eight cadets attended a week's course in drill and weapon training at Caterham. This brought home to them the difficulties experienced by the average Guards recruits, and confirmed certain of them in their desire to join the R.A.F. At Easter, some cadets will attend another course at Caterham. Forthcoming activities include a field day, and an inspection in the Summer Term, and weekend camps will be held at Pirbright Guards Depot. Both the Army and Air Force sections will hold summer camps in the holidays. At the Pirbright Camp last year, attended by cadets from most of the schools in and around London, the cadets had a great variety of activities. There was shooting on the range and, since the most important part of an infantry man's training is field manoeuvres, these took up a great deal of the time. There were demonstrations by the Corps of Signals, the Airborne Division, and the Royal Artillery. A whole day was given over to sports.

At Thorney Island, the Air Section enjoyed flying in Ansons and Tiger Moths, shooting with .22 and .303 rifles, and lectures on aspects of modern aviation. There were also instructional visits to Portsmouth and, a Meteorological Station. Sport was not neglected here. There was cricket, swimming, and a P.T. parade every morning before breakfast.

To conclude, there is still need of recruits for the unit. The age limit is 14. Recruits are promised interesting training and an easier time during National Service. Drill is not the sole attraction, as many would believe, for after

the preliminary training cadets go on to interesting work in either the R.A.F. or Army Sections. The Air Section deals with Air navigation, and other aspects of flight, and have progressed so far under their instructors from Kenley that four cadets have taken the Advanced, and five cadets the Proficiency examinations. So come and join; it is good fun.

Corporal.

The True Story of a Corkscrew, an Electric Light Bulb and Big Ben

When Parliament is sitting a light shines in Big Ben as a symbol of democracy. The War Office has just released the story of a sinister plot against this very symbol made exactly ten years ago today. Seven Irish Republicans cooked up a cold blooded scheme on New Year's Eve before the crowds assembled to celebrate. Parliament Square was almost deserted when the men tiptoed across Westminster Bridge and quietly sawed off Big Ben at the base.

Gently they carried it to the Embankment where a small Aircraft Carrier waited to sail for Ireland. Landing safely at Cork they erected the clock and while they admired it I noticed that the light had failed. The leader, a small Irishman called Williams, suggested that they should borrow a light bulb from a nearby bottle factory. The men stole silently in the empty bottle factory until one accidentally kicked over a pile of corkscrews and woke the night watchman. He chased them past ink bottles, milk bottles and oil bottles, round coal bottles, density bottles and over blue bottles until he finally cornered them in a bottleneck. This particular bottleneck was made of gutta percha and had a zip fastener instead of a cork.

Southern Ireland had, however, no light bulbs to offer and Williams was forced to travel on horseback to Lough

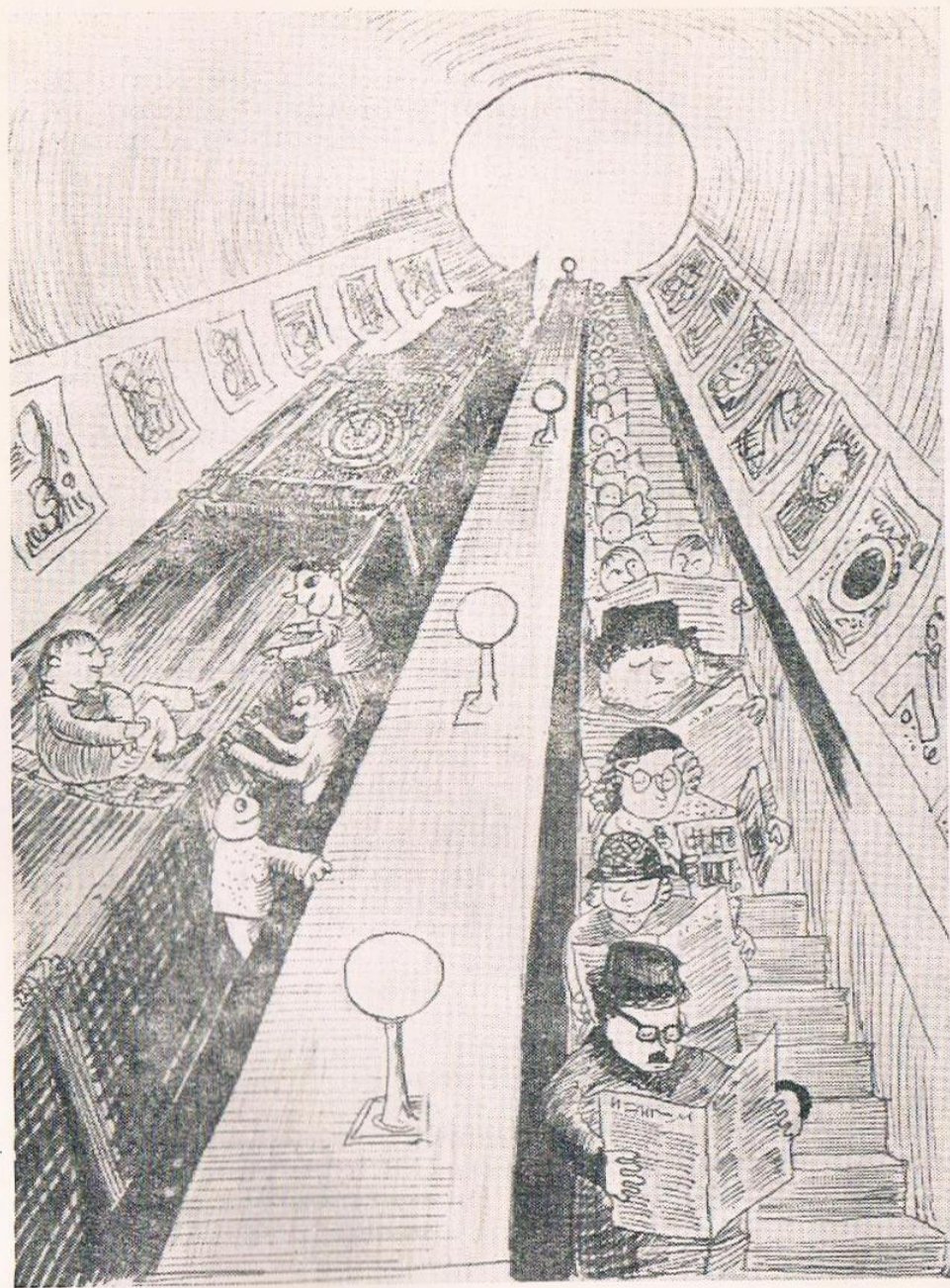
Neagh where his Dutch Uncle grew light bulbs in heavy soils. On the way back the horse threw its rider and ate all the bulbs. (The horse came from Antrim and was no republican.) Williams fixed a bent pin to a cord and desperately fished for the bulbs. The horse retaliated by swallowing the cord, and its rider produced his corkscrew for removing bulbs from horses in an attempt to find the lost cord. It was too late, Big Ben would have to be returned to Westminster.

It was in this hopeless condition that the republicans found Williams, but had it not been for the fact that they brought with them a War Office inspector this story would never have been released. As it happened the inspector was a Leprechaun in his spare time and agreed to help them by procuring a short travel warrant to Charing Cross. They picked up Big Ben and forced it down a coal mine while the inspector recited a Drene (a kind of secret charm), and they all disappeared.

The inspector failed them, for they found themselves not in Charing Cross but in Leicester Square Station. It was with some difficulty that they finally pulled Big Ben up the escalator, holding up the stream of people for half an hour. They were however not so worried about this, as about the problem of getting the clock past the ticket collector.

Meanwhile the Inspector had enchanted the North Bank of the Thames by turning the fountains in Trafalgar Square into geysers depositing calcareous tufa indiscriminately and filling the square with Hydrogen Sulphide. Lava well-ed up through the drains and steam condensed on the water-colours in the National Gallery. Parliament Square was treated similarly and the statues of Prime Ministers smoked at the ears so that they filled the square with furies and emptied it of people.

The Irishmen had carried Big Ben through Trafalgar Square which was ankle deep in metal tape which had been the British Standard Measure of Length. The man carrying the clock tripped up and caught the end of it alight. Hastily he carried it to the Thames and plunged it in the water while the crowds on the opposite bank watched in wonder



as yet another cloud of steam rose from the North Bank Inferno. The clock was however duly reinstated in its rightful place before the crowds reassembled at midnight to celebrate.

D. A.



Speech Night 1950

The school year of 1948-9 was finally brought to a close by the Speech Night held at the Baths Hall on March 10th. where the prizes were distributed by Mr. A.R. Woolley M.A. and the year's work was reviewed.

The evening started with two songs performed by the whole of the Junior School, followed by the address of Mr. Alderman, the Chairman of the Governors, who presided over the occasion.

Mr. Alderman spoke chiefly of the passing of the old board of Governors which had now been replaced by a new board which was to serve fifteen other schools in Mitcham besides our own.

Next came two songs by the School Choir, followed by the Headmaster's Report. In this, Mr. Doig commented on the recent prominence given to mechanical and psychiatric adjuncts of Education. Despite the growth of these aids, the most important requisite of a good school was a highly qualified and competent staff, and the school could congratulate itself on the quality of its masters. But for their quality, and that of the boys, he would fear the future.

After the distribution of prizes, certificates and cups for inter House competitions, Mr Woolley gave an erudite and inspiring address. Among the many interesting points he had to make was that exposing the fallacy that all men are born equal—a doctrine which could be refuted on Biblical authority.

Mr. Woolley's address was followed by the School Captain's report which was given by G.E.Lane, School Captain for the first half of the year. In a humorous speech he dwelt mainly on the School's performance of Gilbert and

Sullivan's "Patience", because this, as he said, typified the spirit of the school by the unstinted hard work which all concerned had contributed. He was pleased to report the same irrepressible enthusiasm in the boys of the school, a quality which every school captain eventually learnt to appreciate for its own sake.

Old Boys' R.F.C.

The Club is now nearing the end of a very successful season from every point of view.

To begin with, there was an increase in membership made up from boys leaving school, Ex-Forces members, and others returning to the fold from various parts of the country. This enabled us to field three XV's during the holidays, and two regularly each week. It is interesting to note that the Third XV consisted mainly of Senior School members. This support from the school is most encouraging. If we are successful in obtaining a ground or even a pitch each week, we will be able to run three regular XV's next season.

Secondly, we obtained the services of Mr. James as a referee, and have had Bill Cliff coaching regularly each week.

Lastly, both the 1st and "A" XV's records are impressive, the outstanding success being the double win of the 1st XV against the Old Walcountians — the latter being watched by a record crowd including many members of the School. We have also conquered, for the first time, such opponents as Staines and Sevenoaks.

By the time this goes to press the School match will have been played. We all look forward to this match as much as you do. Believe me, the eagerness to get into the XV makes the Selectors' task a very difficult one. Very soon we shall have the Sevens' competitions upon us. Whether we shall be as successful as last season remains to be seen, but we shall do our best to bring another shield to Mitcham.

Capt. 1st XV.

RESULTS	WON	LOST	DRAWN
1st XV	19	5	1
"A" XV	14	7	2

School Notes

- ¶ The inter-house cross country race was won by Green House, who also gained first place in each race, viz., Durham (Senior) and Keen (Junior).
- ¶ Bronze Medallions for life-saving were gained by the following: Cornish, Gillet, Harris, Moss, Mulford, Price, Sallabank and Spooner.
- ¶ It is with regret that we announce the death of Jack Goddard, a pupil of this school from 1944-1949.
- ¶ The Aesthetic Trophy was won this year by Black House with a total of $103\frac{1}{2}$ points. Blue was 2nd with 99 pts., Red 3rd with 93 pts., Green 4th with $64\frac{1}{2}$ pts.
- ¶ We welcome Messrs. Jones and Wright who have recently come to teach at the school, also Messrs. Potter, Sara, Schober and Smith, who are on visits of varying length.
- ¶ The total receipts from the sale of programmes and tickets for "Yeomen of the Guard" were £428, which gave a profit of £199.
- ¶ Five new librarians were appointed at the beginning of the Autumn term. They are: Brenchley, Gough, Mitchell, Ockenden and Phillpot.
- ¶ At Harvest Camp last summer the total amount earned was £228/3/9. This left a balance of £49/3/6 to be divided between the workers.
- ¶ The School Savings group, which has a membership of 161, has raised a total of £219/9/6 this term.
- ¶ The collection for the Cancer Research Fund has so far reached the total of £58/17/0.