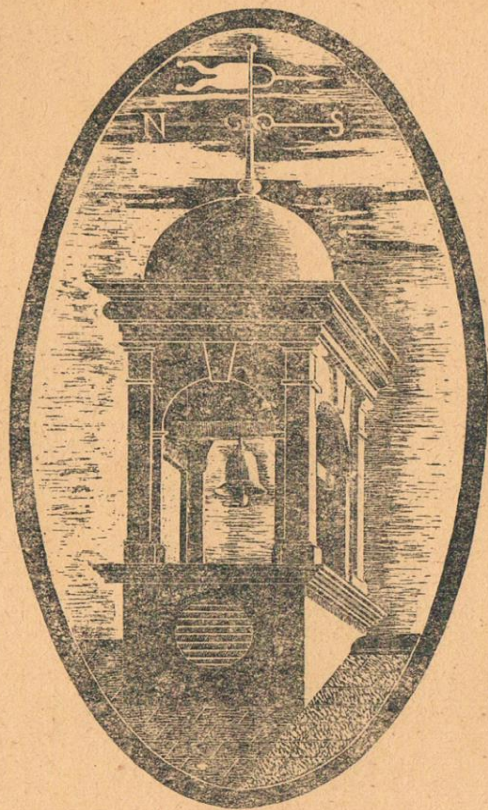


THE MITCHAMIAN



SPRING

1951

EDITORIAL

The Easter term has always been the one most crammed with activity and this has proved no exception to the rule. Everyone, from the humblest first former upwards, has been caught in the whirl of industry accompanying the various inter-house competitions which have competed for custom with the normal organisations, now supplemented by yet another, the Historical Society. The terminal examinations have laid further responsibilities on us, yet in spite of all, the standard of enthusiasm has been maintained with one or two notable exceptions — the first XV, for example, would certainly have improved its score-sheet with more touchline support. Even at this stage in the term there is no lessening of pressure — various members of the Upper School are already dropping hints about "pressing-on" in the holidays, whilst it has been reported that athletics practice for the Imber Court Sports is now proceeding apace.

* * * * *

The observant will no doubt notice the inclusion of a photograph in this edition: the step was taken not without hesitation, bearing in mind the cost and actual difficulty of the printing process, but should the experiment prove successful we shall try to include another in the summer edition.

The increased response to our appeal for voluntary contributions has been encouraging this term, although there is still much room for improvement. The paper shortage may mean a magazine considerably reduced in size next term, but we hope that this will not be too serious a deterrent to those few who have literary aspirations.

The School wishes to express its thanks to several kind donors. In particular to Mr. Thompson of Messrs. Thompson and Langley for having our printing machine completely overhauled and repaired; to Baysford Press for unfailing courtesy and assistance in cutting our card and to Mr. Dawson for the gift of some type.

RUDDIGORE 1950

Once again, there came, in the middle of September, a call for the loud—and rose-bud—mouthed in the Upper and Lower School respectively to gather round and assist in the production of yet another G. & S. Opera.

Instructions were given on how not to blush when pronouncing the title; rehearsals and all the visions of chaos that that word conjures up began, and for the next eleven weeks were conducted under the deprecating eyes of the Producer, "Illa cui parendum est," Mr. Lewis and Mr. Brewer. Twice weekly the cast returned to a school extravagantly lit by present standards, until it was suddenly realised that performance time was imminent. The Producer's regular frowns increased, and turned into black despair as terrible Tuesday of dress rehearsal approached. Most of the costumes arrived, the scenery was transported from the Art Room and finally, everyone assembled at the Baths Hall. Several hours later the cast went home with the traditional lack of optimism.

But the audiences gradually warmed to their duties and by the last night encores were coming profusely.

The Murgatroyd menage revelled in their villainy; an only slightly less villainous addition to the household nearly came to grief with his shiny shoes and bell bottoms, but his clapper never once failed to function. Their visitor, Sir Roderic, created such a stir that Sir Ruthven consistently wailed his lines at that juncture. The latter's adventure with Rose, an ex-chorus girl, ended happily, but one could have wished his brother, Sir Despard, a better fate than to have been caught by an exquisitely mad Margaret.

The Chorus work was none too fairly shared; for whilst the Juniors were curtailed to open-mouthed simplicity, the Seniors had the joy of a costume change which delighted none of them. The latter's Buxom Blade clothes were more uniform than the Ghost dress; the elegance of one Ghost's moustache caused him to be reluctant to lose it and on one occasion he sought to augment further his beauty by optically artificial means.

The Producer had described the Senior Chorus work

in connection with the Ghost Scene as "Pure Jam." The purity was sometimes lacking but the stickiness was always in evidence, for one of the excellent portraits nearly lurched prematurely on to the stage; the terror this caused behind the scenes was only matched by that occasion when the chief scene shifter indulged in a dance of triumph perilously near a support.

Nevertheless this scene was well received and an usher reported an indirect compliment to the Art Room Boys from a surprised elder patron to whose assistance he was forced to run when the portraits began their song.

As always, everyone in the cast was sorry when the curtains finally descended on Saturday night, especially those for whom it was the last show.

J. D. B.

THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE TIDES OF THE BAY OF FUNDY

The Bay of Fundy, in the Maritime Provinces of Canada, has a bearing of forty five degrees North, sixty five degrees West on a zenithal conical projection with three standard meridians. The huge seventy feet tides are due to sea level being several feet higher on the American side of the Atlantic. These tides have great economic consequences and the repercussions are world-wide.

Firstly, as a result of the tides part of the town of St. John has been built on pontoons to prevent flooding at high water. There are four pontoons and each is connected to the mainland by a road. The problems caused by the rising and falling of the pontoons are solved by making the roads out of elastic covered with a special quick-drying tar. The tar is an important by product of a bubble-gum factory in New York (Bubblow Inc.) [The tides thus indirectly provide a living for these workers who have a very low marginal propensity to consume, which is rectified by using the multiplier on everything they eat.] The elastic however

comes from further afield. The wife of President Peron of the Argentine owns a rubber plantation, and as a sign of international good-will it is exported to St. John. Some, however, is sent to North Scotland and Norway, where, combined with the produce of the Australian gum-tree, it is used to make flexible coastlines to help schoolboys who have difficulty in drawing indented coastlines.

A second use of these tides is to drive pistons and provide hydro-electric power for the employment in the manufacture of imported raw materials. Ferrous alubidium mined in caves on Mount Racunjiteck (a small mountain on the side of Everest of the plasticene and forensic era of orogenesis) is used to manufacture the one man submarines used for weeding the rice fields of California. The periscopes of these submarines are made from red lead containing the blood of fleas from the flea farm at Fresno in the Central Californian Valley. The fleas are used to destroy the blight on the fruit and then, when aged and inactive, are used in the manufacture of this red lead. Another minor industry is the manufacture of chorus girls' jewellery from Palladium mined at Tagawaya peak, Burma (of the oligopolycone era).

A third effect of these tides occurs in Dequomba Sound in the old French area of Nova Scotia. Here the coast has been submerged but the great tides leave the old sea-cliff exposed at low water, and the depth of the sea ranges from two fathoms to two hundred and thirty fathoms in a few yards. The region is renowned for the giant lobsters with strong muscular legs for climbing this underwater cliff. But the most profitable occupation is the catching of salmon which have high ambitions and ascend this cliff in the spawning season. They are caught by trained albatrosses reared on Mount Auckland, New Zealand, which are first sent to Lake Kyoga in Central Africa (formed by a glut of water melons in 1904) for preliminary training. The salmon bones are combined with iron ore from Bodmin Moor to manufacture the iron combs worn by the Senoritas in the Argentine. This is a return gesture of international goodwill out of gratitude for Senora Peron.

Thus the effects of the tides of the Bay of Fundy are felt in all corners of the earth and give employment and

prosperity to many races and creeds. This prompted Shakespeare to write:

"There is a tide in the affairs of men
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune."
(Julius Caesar, iv, 3.)

(N.B. Resemblance of any fact in this thesis to real geography is purely coincidental),

Four of the Geography Sixth.

MR. CLEMAS

Mr. G. W. Clemas retired at the end of the Christmas Term after 22 years as Senior English Master at the school. We always saw him as the acme of precision and conscientiousness, but he has said that three events did disturb the even tenour of his ways: a threat that he would be unable to get out of Germany to get back to us before the beginning of the war; a threat that the German Air Force, one night at Weston-super-mare, would prevent his meeting his class next day; a threat that the Girls' County School could use his services as a master in 1942. (Of these we feel that the last was the most disturbing to him.) The Debating Society knew him as one who was never vanquished, the School as one who had his high standards and expected his forms to maintain those high standards, the Staff as one over whom any victory in dictionary research was a major triumph.

For many years, Mr. Clemas was Editor of this magazine; some few of our readers may remember the articles written by R. C. Gifkins, a surname to conjure with in the annals of the school. (It was R. C. Gifkins who once discussed "What an Effort Meeting is! or Masterly Inactivity.")

Mr. Clemas maintained throughout his interest in the Debating Society; on his last day he told the School that he would wish to be remembered by it and by its continued success.

In his retirement, at present near the sea at Bexhill, we wish him the best of luck and happiness.

ART CLUB

The Art Club considers that it has acquitted itself well in the last two meetings of the Combined Art Clubs (Mitcham and Wimbledon County Girls, Rutlish Boys and ourselves). The first took place at Wimbledon, where Miss Varley, Art Mistress of Nonsuch Girls' School, gave us a delightfully tactful criticism. Not so the next criticism, an " At Home " where Mr. Bishop, Mr. Jones' temporary colleague, unmercifully lashed each and every fault, albeit all for the sake of Art.

Meanwhile, as Wednesday evening has not been conducive to regular attendance from Senior members, the Club has allowed selected Juniors to enlist. Moreover it has widened its scope; it no longer specialises in the practical but has introduced the rhetorical. In future there are to be Lectures, Discussions, Expeditions and Recitals on the fine arts, which it is hoped will attract those to whom the former purely practical art did not appeal.

M.J.B.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Under the guidance of the new chairman, Mr. Hallam, the Society has found some of its long-lost vigour. It has been encouraging to see more members willing to talk to the Society and the attendance on the last ramble in 1950 was staggering. Two new sections, the Cycling and Philatelic, have been started, and the Geological Section has begun to function again. The Cartographical Section has completed the survey of three Surrey parishes and the re-treads are due to begin at Easter.

Mr. George, who has been a Civil Servant in Burma, and Mr. Revell from the Wool Secretariat were the outside lecturers of the year, and Messrs. Clemas, Hallam and Jones (Econ.) were the members of staff who addressed the Society. Other lectures were given by Brenchley, Bryant,

Clark J., Peters and Wayte.

We must thank Mr. Marsh for leading a very large party in an interesting ramble in the Brentwood area and Mr. Hallam for the same service in the Godstone area of Surrey.

The feed and the theatre visit once again bring the meetings to a close but the rambles will continue throughout the year as usual.

Secretary.

RUGBY

The 1st. XV has not been so successful as in previous years. The team has so far won six and lost seven matches, and should, without undue optimism, finish on the credit side. During matches the potentiality of the side has been evident but lack of finishing power has marred the final result. This is due to numerous injuries, the state of the school field and an occasional lack of fitness.

During the season the 1st. XV was unfortunate to lose the services of D. E. Carter, M. J. Rowland and W. Leigh.

The team was even more unfortunate in losing the services of Mr. Cook after a period of fifteen years as Games Master. Mr. Cook's experience and guidance have greatly benefited Rugby at this school.

Team

Hempstead; A. A. Peters, A. F. Hilton, D. M. Kinsley, Durham; A. J. North, West; D. H. Morris (Capt.), T. R. Gillard, Case, Plummer, Ockenden, Galbraith, K. W. Bamber, Gough.

Colours were awarded this season to K. W. Bamber, A. F. Hilton and A. A. Peters, whilst colours were re-awarded to T. R. Gillard, D. M. Kinsley, D. H. Morris, A. J. North and B. W. Mitchell.

2nd XV

Although the amount of illness affected the composition of the team, the standard of play was almost up to that of

previous years. While there were no outstanding players in the side, the general level was good; and this year's 2nd XV compared very favourably in performance with our opponents, as will be seen by the table of results given below.

Weightman was a reliable and efficient captain of the side. It would be invidious to pick out any players as particularly deserving of praise, as the whole team improved in handling, running and especially tackling; and all played cleanly and with keenness. Quite a satisfactory season.

Games : won 9, lost 4, drawn 1.
Points : for 177, against 80.

Colts XV

Although handicapped by a succession of injuries, the Colts have had a moderately successful season. Their play has been marred by poor tackling and an inability to keep the backs moving. The forwards, as a pack, have not been up to standard, wasting breath and time in talking.

Team from:— Hartley, Bird, Ansell, Laming (capt.), Mears, Pearson, Watts, Shulman, Fisher, Stanley, Stuart, Emere, Gillard, Yass, Dummer, Pearce F., Webb, Wright.

Under 14. For the first time there has been a regular junior team, which has performed fairly well and should provide a reasonable nucleus for next year's Colts.

Team from:— Chapman, Bicknell, Howe D., Sullivan, Williams, Henn, Gray, Davies F. (capt.), Gillett, Gough A., Nicholson, Goldney, Daniels, Cannon, Hall, Watts G.

RESULTS

Autumn Term	1st XV	2nd XV	COLTS	Colts (U 14)
BECKENHAM	W 16 — 5	W 9 — 8	W 11 — 3	—
WANDSWORTH	W 9 — 0	W 23 — 0	L 3 — 9	L 3 — 8
WOKING	—	L 5 — 8	—	W 14 — 0
TIFFIN	W 24 — 13	W 39 — 0	W 8 — 6	W 28 — 3 (3rd XV)
SURBITON	W 6 — 3	L 14 — 17	L 9 — 14	W 8 — 3
PURLEY	L 3 — 11	W 10 — 6	D 3 — 3	—
WALLINGTON	L 6 — 14	W 17 — 3	W 11 — 8	W 6 — 0
OLD BOYS	L 0 — 22	—	—	—
SELHURST	W 11 — 3	W 16 — 3	W 12 — 0	L 3 — 6



ST. OLAVE'S	L 3 — 8	—	W 8 — 5	—
BADINGHAM	—	L 3 — 6	—	—
RAYNES PARK	—	—	—	W 16 — 0
SPRING TERM				
WALLINGTON	L 3 — 6	D 14 — 14	W 12 — 9	L 5 — 16
BEC	L 0 — 6	W 9 — 3	W 28 — 0	—
SELHURST	L 3 — 5	W 10 — 0	L 3 — 6	D 6 — 6
WHITGIFT MIDDLE	—	L 0 — 9	W 6 — 3	—
SUTTON	—	—	—	W 9 — 0
SUTTON	W 42 — 0	—	W 48 — 9	D 3 — 3
BADINGHAM	—	W 8 — 0	—	—

CRITIQUES

HEMPSTEAD (Full Back) Brought in the side in the last few matches. Has shown promise of a good attacking full back. Positions well. Needs to practise long kicking.

PETERS (Wing Three-quarter) Injury has handicapped progress. Since return early promise has been fulfilled. Determined wing who is mastering the outward swerve.

KINSLEY (Centre Three-quarter) Has also been handicapped by injury. Very skilful in attack. Distributes ball well. Tackling has improved. Kicks well.

HILTON (Centre Three-quarter) Most improved three-quarter and will play even better when more speedy. Tackling is good. Kicks well in defence. In attack has made good use of cross-kick but needs to improve punt ahead.

DURHAM (Wing Three-quarter) Has a great asset in speed. Must develop natural ability in attack. Defence is poor.

NORTH (Fly Half) A sound fly half. Makes up for lack of speed with good positional play. Kicks well in attack and defence. Cuts through splendidly but fails to link up with rest of threes. Falls on ball well.

WEST (Scrum Half) A courageous player. Will do better when physique improves. Strong in defence. Must handle ball quicker when it is heeled. Should learn to vary tactics and positioning for line-out.

MORRIS (Wing Forward) A good all-round forward and captain who has set a good example to his team. Always on the ball, has done good work in dribbling and the line-out. Covers well in defence.

GILLARD (Middle Back Row) Fine back row forward. Corner-flags well. Uses weight and bustles about well. Is

good in line-out. Plays a hard game. Strong tackler.
CASE (Wing Forward) Plays a good game. Needs to be faster on opposing scrum-half. Dribbles well. Needs to practise line-out technique.

OCKENDEN (Second Row) Has been handicapped by injury, but has played some good games. Generally needs more dash, but is quickly round in line-out. Binds and pushes well in set and loose scrums.

PLUMMER (Second Row) Plays a hard game. Tireless in set and loose scrums. Needs line-out practice.

GOUGH (Front Row) A good place kick but must practise more. Needs to be more aggressive. Is still flustered under pressure. Should get down quickly in loose scrums.

BAMBER (Hooker) An aggressive and very much improved forward. Has hooked well. Is good in attack, especially dribbling, and defence. Is quick in line-out.

GALBRAITH (Front Row) Has played better since being moved from wing forward to front row. Must practise keeping ball in set scrums. Has improved in line-out play. An aggressive player.

HOWE (Full Back and Forward) Is too slow for a full back. Has a fine kick. Tackling has improved. Should concentrate on forward play. Is good in line-out.

EMERE (Forward) Has recently been playing for the Colts XV. Plays a hard game. Uses weight in tight and loose scrums. Needs line-out practice. A very promising forward.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

In common with the other school societies, the attendances of the Debating Society have suffered considerably this year, owing to the large number of other activities. The Debating Society is more acutely affected since debating becomes impossible if attendance is reduced too much. It was therefore necessary to cancel a number of debates last term. Those that were held were, however, well attended.

During this term the Society sponsored a musical programme on gramophone records. This was an innovation compared with previous programmes since the music played included not only the works of "serious" composers but also several by Stan Kenton, the leader of Progressive Jazz. The success of this and also of a similar programme originated by the Art Club led to the holding of a formal discussion about music.

It has been customary in past years for the Society to suspend its activities during the summer term, but it is hoped to continue activities throughout next term. It has been suggested that the Art Club and the Society should collaborate in producing debates and discussions on Art and Architecture, an idea with numerous possibilities.

B. R. H.

THE IMPRESSIONS OF A RECRUIT

Call-up for National Service of to-day is like one of those ventures of old in search of fabulous El Dorado. All have heard of army life, and there are many who are more than willing to volunteer information about it. Like the tales of rivers and roads of gold which were narrated to Raleigh, such stories as are told to the potential recruit should be treated with more caution than respect. As with most institutions, the Army is as you find it now, not as others have found it in the past; if you are prepared to adopt its standards, then it will give you, in return, some compensation for the life you have lost. I say compensation advisedly, for I have yet to meet the recruit who prefers his barrack room to his home. Relaxation is impossible in a barracks, and you can never be alone. This enforced comradeship may be of an excellent type, but even the most hardened extrovert has an occasional desire for solitary comfort.

I have said that the Army is as you find it, not as others would like you to find it. There is, however, one aspect of Army life which seems common to all units: the difficulty of spending the evening satisfactorily. Once the training rou-

tine is relaxed or finished, the average soldier may have up to five hours spare time. Study is extremely difficult, and in so compact a community it is hard to avoid adopting other people's ways. As a result, most men pass their time in the Naafi or the cinema, where they can best find the desired change from routine. The Army has yet to find a way of enabling its recruits to pass their spare time satisfactorily.

As against such criticism, one fact in the army's favour must be stated. In a community where a man is judged by the smartness of his bearing and dress, personal smartness is swiftly learnt, and the habit, once formed, stays with the man. If this is all that the army teaches its recruits, then at least the lesson is a good one.

M. J. R.

CHRISTMAS CAROLLERS

Night descending,
Voices blending,
Music to the skies ascending.
Children singing songs of glory,
Telling of the Christmas story.

Lanterns swinging,
Voices ringing,
Priceless treasure they are bringing.
Children's music, sweet and clear,
Carols gay for all to hear.

Cheeks are glowing,
Cattle lowing,
Footsteps gradually slowing.
Once again their tale is told,
Of that glorious night of old.

D.J.M. (1Vb)

HOME THOUGHTS FROM A UNIVERSITY

By the time a student has been at a University for a few weeks he has learnt:—

(1) That his own subject provides the easiest and most interesting degree course.

(2) Of all the subjects he is best adapted to his own subject.

(3) There are more jobs available for men with his type of degree than any other degree.

(4) A student's life is exciting and glamorous.

(5) His County grant is enormous.

By the time he enters the second year he has also learnt:—

(1) That his own subject is far worse than any other which can be devised by demoniac lecturers.

(2) He is a round peg in a square hole or at the rosiest he is a square hole surrounding a round peg.

(3) There are no jobs available for men with his degree and, if he is to get a job at all, his qualifications must remain on the secret list.

(4) A student's life is mundane and mediocre.

(5) His County grant is trifling and can be ranked almost as a personal insult.

What a student learns in his third year is still a mystery to me.

I should like to conclude with a few hints to would-be University students:—

(1) It is better to apply early than late, since the student then has ample time to choose between the one University which accepts him and the fifteen which reject him.

(2) All political clubs at a University are social, amusing and useless, thereby following the traditions set by more ornate bodies.

(3) Thinking about work is always worse than doing it. Therefore don't think about it.

F. J. S.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This term saw the birth of a new school society, the Historical Society. There was an enthusiastic response to a notice displayed on the Notice Board at the end of last term, over 60 members being enrolled at the Inaugural Meeting. In spite of several resignations, the society has over 40 active members.

The first lecture this term was a talk by Mr. Madden on "The Tunisian and Italian Campaigns." Although unfinished, this was so popular that the members asked him to continue it at the following meeting in lieu of a second lecture.

At half term an outing was held, led by a qualified Guide Lecturer, to visit "Nooks and Corners of Old London." Although it was not so well attended as we had hoped, those that did attend had an extremely interesting and informative day. We were privileged to see a large portion of the Roman Wall, which is on private property. We toured Billingsgate Fish Market, explored historic parts of Southwark and saw Dr. Johnson's London in the neighbourhood of Fleet Street.

By the time this Magazine is published, our last lecture for this term will have been given by Mr. Law, "Some Tyrants of Antiquity."

The third meeting was a talk by Mr. Larkin on "The Plight of a Buffer State." Our next programme was a film show. The films were not those selected by the Committee and did not reach the standard they had hoped. Nevertheless, interest was maintained throughout.

In conclusion, I should like to express the gratitude of the Society to Mr. Doig, the Vice-Presidents, and to Mr. Madden, without whose interest the formation of this Society would not have been possible.

D. J. S.
(Hon. Sec.)

The School Prospectus for 1934 states:—
"The School possesses a large and well equipped playing field."

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to tell of the activities of the Parents Association during the past year.

The book grant for boys passing on to the University was maintained at five guineas and there is no doubt that the recipients were extremely grateful. A new feature this year has been the exhibition of pictures in the Hall and Library. The School Library received a substantial grant for the purchase of books.

I would like to stress that our success as an association is due to the support which we receive from our members. The Committee's efforts on your behalf depend entirely on the attendance of your parents at our various functions. Another of our assets is the whole-hearted support we receive from Mr. Doig and members of the School Staff.

Financially, the outstanding success of the year was the dance at the Baths Hall last November. Our monthly Whist Drives are very popular. Our "Careers for Boys" evening enables the older boys to obtain some insight into the opportunities which occur in the commercial and professional world. During the year, I think we can claim that we have something for every one of our members.

In the sporting field, our success was limited. The School defeated us at cricket and the weather saved us from another defeat by the Old Mitchamians. On the credit side, we obtained a win against the School at tennis.

To those parents who are not members of the Association, I would like to make this request. Come along and join us and help us to help your boys, during their school careers.

A. Furnish.
(Secretary.)

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CITY

At earliest break of cold and misty dawn,
A cat stole noiselessly across the square;
A sombre chime disturbed the greying morn,
And lingered melancholy in the air.

The milkman yawned and placed a pint upon
The step, a paper fluttered through the door,
A hooter shrilled, and sparrows twittered on
The kerb. The city was awake once more.

Along the lightening streets surged factory hands,
Their faces red where angry flames had hissed,
Some sullen, some chattering in hurrying bands,
And round the sheds hung early morning mist.

The busy housewives formed a queue for meat,
And many shoppers hurried through the town.
The sun smiled down upon the crowded street.
But he was only answered with a frown.

The day crept on and afternoon came round;
Now bustle died and lethargy held reign.
The air, so often full of varied sound,
Was still, and evening shadows fell again.

And then the children, happy back from school,
Chattering as they hurried home to tea.

Then sudden, lamps were circled in a pool
Of light, and book-worn, weary eyes could see.

A plaintive cat was sitting on the fence
And howling like some lost but lusty soul;
The chime again held late folk in suspense,
And o'er the town the misty twilight stole.

J. T.

C. C. F.

This term has not been entirely satisfactory. Against good work by the N. C. O.'s (Cpls. Harris and Gingell,

L-Cpls. Blatch and Lewis), and enthusiastic efforts by recruits, must be set slackness by older members.

Work for Certificate "A" Parts I and II has continued. An inter-section competition was held in Drill, Weapon Training and Message Writing. This was won by Cpl. Gingell's section.

R. A. F. SECTION

Study for Proficiency and Advanced Examinations, to be taken in June, 1951, has continued.

Cadet A. F. Hilton has played regularly in the Surrey Wing A. T. C. Rugby team, and is to play in a trial game from which the A. T. C. team to play Scotland will be picked.

OLD MITCHAMIANS R. F. C.

For the second year running we have enjoyed a very successful season, notable victories being successes over Old Walcountians, Staines, and St. Thomas's Hospital.

Our playing strength has decreased since last Season owing mainly to National Service and one or two of the older members retiring temporarily from the active list for domestic reasons! National Service has also deprived us of several members of the School fifteens who would probably have joined us, but we were pleased to welcome G. Embleton and W. Leigh into the Club. We hope to increase our strength by next Season as we are attempting to run three regular fifteens. Len Glover and Brian Goldney are expected back from the Army and Bob Brett is expected home from Zanzibar.

We ran an Extra XV during the Christmas holidays and several members of the School turned out in this team. A. North and D. H. Morris played for the 1st XV on two occasions.

Next Season it is hoped to run a Colts XV during the holidays and matches will be played during mid-week. Also the Club will be on tour in Wales over Easter 1952, an entirely new venture for the Club.

Subscription to the Old Boys' R. F. C. is as follows:

Ten shillings and sixpence per annum to all members except to those in their first year of leaving School, and University and Forces members, who shall pay five shillings per annum.

RESULTS TO DATE

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against
1st XV	21	16	2	3	352	75
'A' XV	17	11	1	5	172	73

 SPEECH NIGHT

Speech Night this year was held at the Baths Hall on Wednesday, 14th March. The School was honoured by the presence of General Sir Robert Haining, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, who came to distribute the prizes.

The Junior School opened the programme with a group of three songs, which fully deserved the applause they received. Then came a group of five part-songs by the School Choir. More knowledgeable members of the audience might have said that the Choir did not fully justify itself, but nevertheless the songs had a good reception. This was followed by the Headmaster's Report in which Mr. Doig said that the work for the year had been satisfactory, but not exceptional, apart from the noteworthy achievement of the School Captain in gaining a State Scholarship. Too many boys with ability, he said, were content to accept a place at the bottom of the form as their natural position. He pointed out that Mitcham boys had done almost as well at the universities as had Rhodes Scholars, the pick of the Empire, and he was sure that with some effort, they would continue to do so. He did not deal at length with out-of-school activities preferring to leave those to the School Captain's report.

Distribution of prizes followed and then Sir Robert addressed the school. He dealt first with the effect of modern life on Education, saying that specialisation, although very necessary in the swift march of world events today, would have a bad effect unless the specialist made it his hobby to broaden his mind by investigating spheres of

knowledge outside his own. He finished by exhorting the boys to foster that spirit of adventure and unselfishness which he feared the modern world was killing.

It was unfortunate that the School Captain could not be present to make his Report, but the Vice-Captain proved an able deputy. He mentioned all the School Societies, the Parents' and Old Boys' Associations and also the performance of "The Yeomen of the Guard," now fast fading from memory.

The evening ended with the School, led by the prefects, giving three cheers for the Governors, the Staff, and finally the School.

T. R. G.

SCHOOL NOTES

¶ Mr. C. W. Ayerst left the School at the end of the Christmas term. During most of the six years he was at Mitcham he kept Black House to the fore in House activities in a way which earned the often envious admiration of the other Houses. It was a task which demanded time and enthusiasm — he was sparing of neither.

¶ We welcome to the School Mr. A. J. Norton (B.A., London) as English Master and Monsieur Benac as temporary French Assistant. We are glad to have Mr. Samuel back with us almost completely recovered after his long absence.

¶ The net profits from the performances of "Ruddigore" were £151. 5s. 7d.

¶ The cross country team has competed with five other schools and Mitcham A. C. during the year with fair success.

Team:— Bird, Bryant, Carter, Clifton, Durham, Goodge, Hodges, Meadows, Phillpot (capt.), Plummer, Rance, Rowland, Weightman, Yates.

¶ The Harvest Camp last summer made a profit of £52. 17s. 8d. to be divided between the workers.

¶ The School Savings Group has so far this year raised £393. 3s. 6d.

Printed by the School.