

**JOHN RUSKIN
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
.. MAGAZINE ..**



FEBRUARY, 1954

Every school to have garden, playground, and cultivable land round it, or belonging to it, spacious enough to employ the scholars in fine weather mostly out of doors.

Attached to the building, a children's library, in which the scholars who care to read may learn that art as deftly as they like, by themselves, helping each other without troubling the master;—a sufficient laboratory always, in which shall be specimens of all common elements of natural substances, and where simple chemical, optical, and pneumatic experiments may be shown; and according to the size and importance of the school, attached workshops, many or few,—but always a carpenter's, and first of those added in the better schools, a potter's.

In the school itself, the things taught will be music, geometry, astronomy, botany, zoology, to all; drawing, and history, to children who have gift for either. And finally, to all children of whatever gift, grade, or age, the laws of Honour and the habit of Truth.

JOHN RUSKIN: *On Schools of the Future*,
written in 1876, from '*Fors Clavigera*'

EDITORIAL

THIS issue of the Magazine comes, we hope, not as an anti-climax to the June number, with its record of Coronation splendour, but as a worthy successor to it. The activities recorded here certainly show that we are not resting on our laurels, but are continuing to maintain the busy pace of school-life as in former terms. There is also a fair quota and standard of original composition.

Once again prose outnumbers verse. The rhyming Muse seems to be neglecting her pupils of late. We should like to commend Jeffery on his free-verse poem, "The Cathedral," and Harvey's "It's no Postman's Knock," which proves that a temporary postman's lot is not a happy one. These two contributions gain the Verse and Prose prizes. Other praiseworthy entries are Spenser's "The Desert," Bower's "Horizon" and Smyth's interesting account of his visit to Metz. The write-up, with photographs, of "The Merchant of Venice," and the photographs of the new School and the Cadet guard, are amongst other noteworthy features of this issue.

Mr. Cracknell's absence made the collecting and selecting of articles rather more difficult than usual, but thanks to the courier service run by other members of the Staff, we made sure that he was not short of "homework," and he has now returned, in time to supervise printing operations.

Our old cover-design, incorporating cap and satchel, which has served us so well in past years, has now been put permanently on the retired list. We are hoping that our move into the new School will inspire the Art Department to provide us with another hard-wearing cover; meanwhile, a simple crest fills the gap.

CATHEDRAL

Tall and slender, straight and rearing
graceful flutes and fillets soaring
up and up and round and over
dancing, spastic filigree fingers
flying in the sonorous silence.

In the shrines of by-gone learning,
where has swelled in mighty power
the anthem singing voice of Praise,
there dwells among the silent arches
an indestructible, tranquil majesty;
unscathed by Chillenden's screen'd off, noisy rabble,
or even the Cromwellian morons:
De Tracey, De Moreville, Fitzurse, Le Breton,
none could desecrate the Quiet,
none could but bring glory to the cynical, upright pillars.

Fourteen saints have trod the ground
where wanly has smiled down through murder and pillage
"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us,
but unto Thy Name give praise."

P. JEFFERY—Vf.

SPRING

Winter's gone, March is in,
Bringing with it joys of Spring.

Birds are mating, buds are breaking,
Animals from sleep are waking.

Nights are shorter, days are brighter,
Earlier now, the dawn is lighter.

Crocuses in divers shades
Peep from grass's glowing blades.

Another year is well begun
And daily higher rides the sun.

J. CLARKE—IIs.

FOREWORD BY THE HEADMASTER

Il faut cultiver notre jardin. (Voltaire.)

I OFTEN feel that we do insufficient honour to the Old Testament prophets in thinking of them simply as foretellers of the future. The greatest of them do more than foretell; they create the pattern of things to come. To think any less of them, however pious our intention, is to reduce them to the level of a contributor to Old Moore's Almanack.

Nor do I feel that the age of prophecy has ended. In every age there must be men who are ahead of their times, whose light penetrates the darkness and enables humanity to take a step or two further forward. Ruskin was one of these, and particularly in the field of Education. In the first place he insisted that it was the duty of the State to see that everyone **had** an education, a revolutionary step at a time when no State undertook such a responsibility. In the second place he wanted Schools to be stimulating and attractive communities where pupils had opportunity to do creative work in Art and Craft and Music. The very fact that every School now has reprints of famous pictures on its walls is in no small measure due to Ruskin's teaching. Further, as the quotation prefixed to this edition of our Magazine shows, he wanted every school to possess **land**, so that education was never limited to happenings within the four walls of a classroom.

It is this thought that I have in mind, as I consider our new School, now so much further advanced in building than when I last wrote a Magazine Foreword. I have stood on what will be our Library; I have traced much of the Hall and classrooms and corridors. But what of all the land from the Mill to Oaks Road? Surely there, wild and overgrown though it now is, we ought to find possibilities to extend our Education such as we have never known before. And it would be shameful not to make use of them.

Some are obvious enough: the practical Mathematics involved in elementary Surveying, the direct study of Botany, both through what we find and what we plant, Meteorological work, the many-sided activities of Physical Education and Cadet training. But there must be many, many others from sketching to the study of soil strata, and from Astronomy to Bird-Watching. I have myself seen a firecrest there, and heard jays, magpies and woodpeckers; and, as for Astronomy, what better site for a telescope than the top of the Windmill?

Again, although we shall have splendid facilities for Dramatics in our School Hall, would it not be pleasant, in process of time, to make an open-air theatre also?

Already, of course, some of the amenities (e.g., concrete practice-pitches) are planned, but opportunity remains for much further thinking and planning. There may well be many projects which involve no cost, but which would have delighted the heart of Ruskin. He always felt that the human spirit needed the stimulus of practical and creative work. I do not doubt that many in our School community will gain great rewards from their own work and initiative when the time comes for us to "cultivate our garden." Meanwhile, I certainly hope that no good ideas will be wasted by not being made known.

J.C.L.

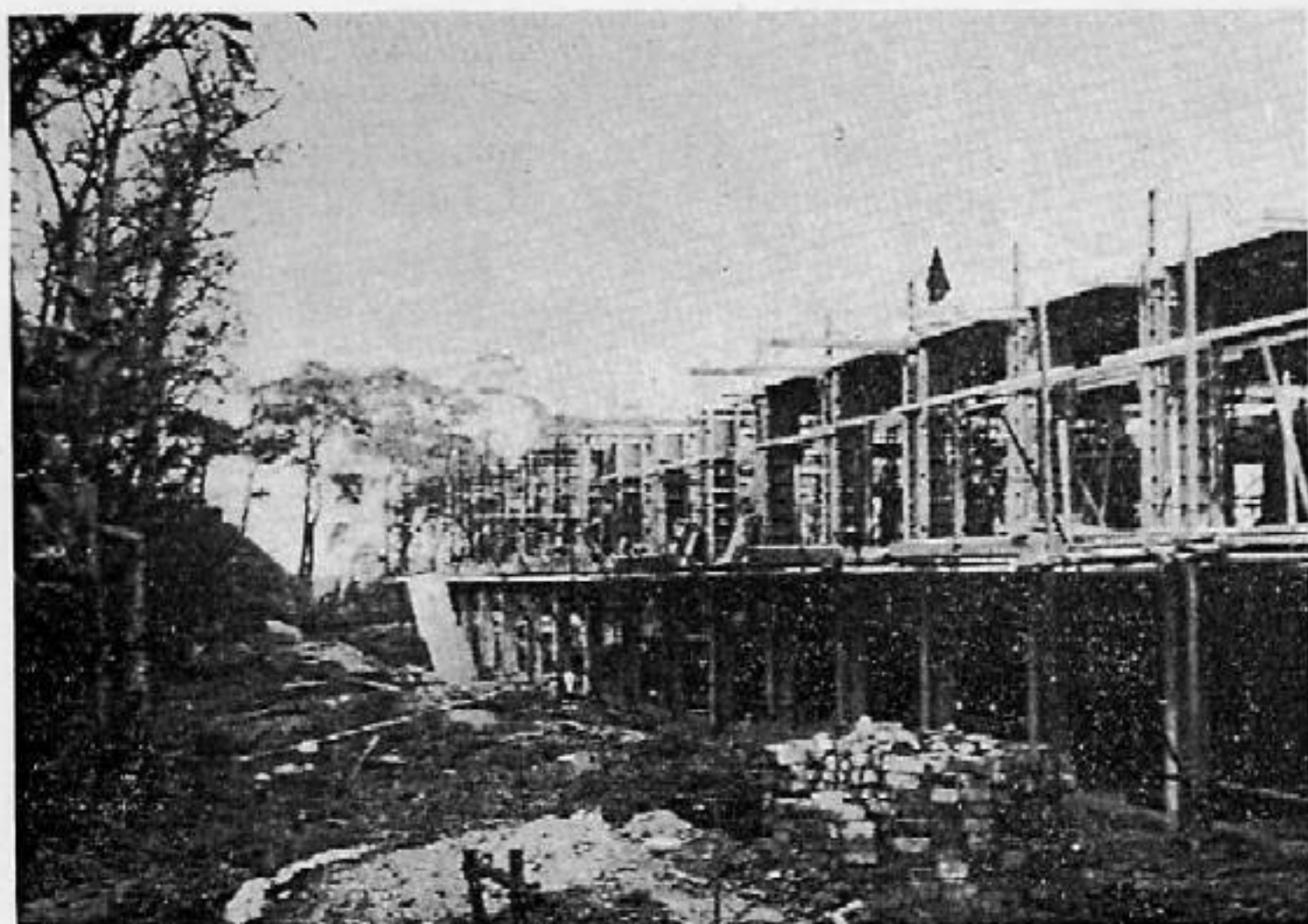
NEWS MISCELLANY

ON January 13th this School, in common with others in Croydon, lost the service and inspiration of a great educationist in the death of Herbert Roberts, M.A., our Chief Education Officer. He had served the cause of Education in Croydon for twenty-five years.

Mr. J. L. Longland, M.A., the well-known broadcaster and Director which this year will take place in the Summer Term, on Thursday, 27th of Education for Derbyshire, will be our Guest Speaker on Speech Day, May.

Next September, in anticipation of entering our new building, we shall be taking, for the first time in the history of the School, a three-form entry of new pupils.

Substantial progress has now been made in the building of our New School. After a period during which the casual passer-by saw little to convince him that any major construction was afoot (the period of ground clearance and excavation), a seemingly sudden change took place during the latter week of the Autumn Term. Most, if not all of the concrete floors were laid, the cycle sheds were well-nigh completed and the Science block, with classroom and Library above it, rose against the trees bordering the golf links as if by magic. While the writer still would not be so foolhardy as to forecast a date of entering the new building, it is obvious that our stay in Tamworth Road is drawing to its close.



We welcome to the School Mr. P. C. Wright, B.Sc., who has replaced Mr. Badcock as a teacher of Science and Mathematics, and Mr. R. A. Lawes, B.A., who comes as an addition to our Staff to teach Latin and Scripture.

Towards the end of the Summer Term Miss G. M. Carter replaced Mrs. Kidd as our School Secretary. She has already shown herself not only most capable in her duties but also most willing to help the School in its wider activities. We wish her a happy and satisfying membership of our School community.

It is with great regret that we record the serious illness of Mr. G. W. Chinnoek, our oldest member of the Staff. He has been in Mayday Hospital for some weeks, but is now making a good recovery. We look forward to having him back with us, perhaps before this magazine reaches our readers.

The Organ Fund, like the New School, made considerable headway during last Term. As a result of direct donations, of regular Whist Drives and of the School Sale on November 28th, the Fund rose to the handsome total of £750. When, in our new building, we are able to hear "the pealing anthem swell the note of praise," we shall look back on many fine efforts in the old, and recall many teachers, parents, Old Boys and others who showed their goodwill to the School by generous gifts and unsparing work.

The Sale itself (together with "after-sales" within the School) realised £210. The Head wishes to express his gratitude to Alderman and Mrs. Cole for opening the Sale, to Mrs. Watkins from Davidson School (who judged the Cake Competition) and to the almost innumerable helpers both within and outside the School who, in one way or another, made possible this most successful venture.

Our examination results are summarised elsewhere in this magazine. Although we have had better, they are still good, and we particularly congratulate P. A. Dean, now at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, who gained a State Scholarship. Others who joined the ranks of those sent by this School to the Universities are as under:—

M. L. Hart	University College of North Staffordshire.
J. P. Jones	University College, London.
C. Patel	Birmingham University.
A. F. S. Childs	Trinity Hall, Cambridge.
R. Wane	Battersea Polytechnic.
J. L. Nimmo	Royal Free Hospital Medical School.
O. N. Everson	(after Military Service) St. John's College, Cambridge.

The following results of Old Boys already at the Universities make inspiring reading. Surely few Schools of our size can have had sent back to them a finer record of achievement by their former students:—

B. L. Harris	General B.Sc. Degree, University College, Hull.
P. A. Funnell	General B.Sc. Degree, University of Reading.

A. P. Turner	B.A. with Second Class Honours in Classics, University of London.
T. Constable	B.A. with Second Class Honours in French, University of London.
P. F. Prevett	B.Sc. (Upper Second Class) in Zoology, Imperial College, London, together with a Colonial Research Studentship.
T. P. Morris	B.Sc. with First Class Honours in Sociology at the London School of Economics, together with a Research Studentship.
A. A. Nye	B.A. with First Class Honours in English, University College, London, together with a Research Studentship.
B. S. Vail	B.A. with First Class Honours in Classics, King's College, London, together with "The Arthur Platt Studentship," the "Warr" Memorial Prize and an A.K.C.
P. Heath	The "Brewer Prize," awarded to the best student of the Second Year in History at King's College, London.
J. D. Rigden	A Prize awarded to best student of the First Year in Sciences, University of Reading.

In addition, J. Prevett has now completed all but the last part of the examinations for the Diploma of Fellowship of the Institute of Actuaries (which requires a standard in Mathematics at least as high as that for a Degree) and V. Carter, who earlier in the year gained a high place in the "passing out" list at Sandhurst, has been chosen to study for a Degree at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham. I. R. Cartwright has also done well at Sandhurst, coming well above the middle in their "passing-out" list.

On Thursday, 17th December, the School went to see a special schools' performance of "The Conquest of Everest" at the Davis Theatre. Both boys and Staff were privileged to see a magnificently-produced film—a memorable record of a very heroic achievement.

On 15th February, Alan Hodgson (4n) was a specially invited guest to the Town Hall, where he was presented with a silver plaque by the Mayor, and with a cup by the Croydon Borough Swimming Association. The presentations were in appreciation of Hodgson's part in the rescue from drowning of two schoolgirls at Eastbourne last August. Hodgson and his elder brother swam about 300 yards fully clothed, and assisted a policeman to bring back the girls who had been swept out to sea by a strong undercurrent. Hodgson is a member of the Amphibians Swimming Club.

Again this year at Easter a party of twelve Sixth and Fifth Formers will be exploring the dales and mountains of the Limestone Pennines of

N.W. Yorkshire. Though the familiar peaks will be climbed and caves explored, new ground will be broken in a visit to Wharfedale and around Ingleborough.

Staff Room Division, or 'Break, Break, Break?'
Sounds the school bell at ten to four?
And is pan. tea to be no more?

IT'S NO POSTMAN'S KNOCK

I thrust my hand into the pouch at my side and wearily searched for the bundle of letters for Lorne Avenue. I was one of the many temporary postmen, helping to deliver the heavy Christmas mail, but unlike most of my fellow workers, I more than regretted the day when I had decided to apply for one of these jobs. For though Lorne Avenue was only the second road on my round, I was tired and dispirited already.

One of the main reasons for this was that I was obliged to use one of the Post Office bicycles, an ancient machine, meaning that I had to push it from door to door and then wrestle with it at the kerb-side to try and balance it, with all the mail on top. I trudged along absent-mindedly delivering the horrible-looking letters, and consequently I again forgot that, thanks to some superstitious person, there was no No. 13 in this road. As a result, four more letters were returned to me by a panting, elderly lady, who obviously thought I would be pleased to find my mistake rectified. She was disappointed though, because I had so grown to dislike letters that having rid myself of them I was not anxious to have them returned.

All went well after that until I reached Gladeside. By now it had grown dark and bitterly cold, and warming my hands as best I could, I put on my gloves. I pulled out my lamp to enable me to read the addresses and again endeavoured to coax a flicker from it. Labouring thus, I reflected with an ironical smile that I had boastingly called it my "searchlight," when on being issued with it I found that it shone far better than anyone else's. Now it needed hearty hanging to encourage a ghostly, candle-like effort, but at last it obliged with a few faint rays. I hated this delivery in the dark more than anything else. Your hands become frozen, holding the ice-cold lamp in one, and the letters in the other. Nevertheless, I resisted the temptation to toss the letters into someone's garden and "hang the consequences," and trudged wearily on my way. At No. 85 there was a dog who would jump up and pull the letters through before I had time to let go of them—most amusing. To-day he was two seconds late—most annoying. At first, I had delivered the parcels addressed to a Miss "Someone" with great hopes of making a good impression, but now these parcels produced no show of emotion, as I had long since learnt that all the Misses on my round were under seven years of age. I came across a letter with just the words "To Auntie Amy and Uncle Edgar" on it, but did not find it amusing—just extra bother. Unfortunately there was no café on my round, in which I might "drink my sorrows away" with tea. The stamp on the next letter being

foreign, I looked at it closely. It had the portrait of a man on it, and as I stared at him, he winked at me, causing me to start back, certain now that I was going mad. A huge feeling of relief swept over me though, when upon investigation I found that a small, black speck of dirt had fallen on the portrait's eye.

Soon after this my lamp went out, and banging it violently on a wall, I dropped the letters I was holding. It took me about ten minutes rounding them up, five more torturing the lamp into submission, and a further fifteen putting the letters in order again. I was now certain that the old saying, "Schooldays are your happiest days," was quite true, and consoled myself with the thought that at least I was being paid for my trouble. Eventually, after doing two hours' overtime, I arrived back at the office, only to find that, on a long table, were hundreds of letters that had been brought in during the day. I was tempted to set fire to the lot, but fortunately my wiser self prevailed and I hastened to clock in. They were paying some of our wages and immediately my flagging spirits revived. As I walked home I felt fine with two new, crisp one pound notes crackling in my hand, but that night in bed though, my mind was flooded with the thought of those hundreds of letters in the sorting office. When at last I fell asleep, I had a terrible nightmare in which I was attacked and buried by millions of letters. That dream decided, without a doubt, that under no circumstances would I ever become a Christmas postman again.

K. HARVEY—U.Via.

THE GERMAN FORTIFICATIONS AT METZ

LAST Summer I stayed for three weeks at Metz, a large city in the wine producing area of Eastern France. One day, with my pen-friend and a relation of his who knew the countryside well, we visited the German fortifications on the hills nearby.

There are two ranges of hills overlooking Metz; one in the last war on which the Americans were encamped, and the other, below which the River Moselle winds its course, which was occupied by the Germans in both World Wars. First we passed through the village of Scy-Chazelles, lying on the slopes of the "German" hills. This village, and others like it, were evacuated during the war, as the German and American troops were firing at each other across the valley.

As we climbed a stony path up the hillside we could see the rusty remains of German armoured cars, half buried on the wooded slopes, where they had been shot off the top of the hill by the American guns across the valley. The top of the hill is fairly flat and seems to extend for miles. The fortifications were begun by Bismarck in 1870 and took thirty years to complete. Some of the barracks are below ground and most of them are about 300 feet long. Others are huge brick buildings, with stone floors and great iron-cased windows and doors. These barracks and store buildings are now filled with rubble and many have been badly damaged by the American guns in the war. Roads run to all parts

of the fortifications, the whole range of hills for miles being lined and reinforced along the upper slopes with the local stone.

The headquarters of these fortifications was a building, similar in size to the barracks, but constructed of stone. All around the building there is a 30-foot wide moat, and an iron and steel drawbridge giving access to the inside, the inner door having in front of it a huge iron spiked gate lowered from the room by means of chains. Outside the building about a dozen German vehicles lay broken up, also the remains of a small tank.

The oddly personal touch to all this splendid desolation is given by the numerous hurriedly constructed graves by the roadside. Most of these are of airmen, shot down by the British troops stationed in Metz itself. Some graves have only a rusty helmet on them, others a plain wooden cross with a helmet hanging from one of the arms. On the way back we stopped to climb a stone tower, built in 1820, in the woods on the Moselle hills. Climbing to the top was no easy matter as the iron spiral staircase was rusted away and missing altogether in places. Looking out from the low parapet at the panorama laid out before us we saw the statue of that formidable German statesman—Bismarck.

Even now, eight years after the war, the great damage wrought to the countryside is only just being repaired, as all the bridges in this country were blown up before the Germans retreated. Before I left the district, I learnt that, for the third time, Germany is laying claim to the Moselle part of France again; she considers it belongs to her.

J. G. SMYTHE—U.VI.Sc.

NIGHT

THE city clock strikes six and dusk is beginning to fall. Office workers are hurrying home, lights are flashing on from a million windows. Neon signs are beginning to throw their hard radiance on to the streets. The traffic that has been heavy all day is gradually disappearing. In a few hours the streets will be completely deserted except for the policeman doing his lonely rounds. Silence will fall on the town and all respectable citizens will be in their beds.

Not so in the fields. For here, work is just starting; the myriads of small creatures that have been lying low all day are just coming out in the eternal search for food. A badger emerges cautiously from his home in the sand-bank and goes warily about his business. Rabbits disport themselves in the moonlight. Owls flit noiselessly from tree to tree in search of their prey while the mice in their turn scurry around the rick yard picking up small particles of food. The poacher moves silently setting his traps. Here in the countryside, life is at its busiest between dusk and dawn.

J. GUTHRIE—Vf.

THE HORIZON

UPON ascending a hill your whole personality rises with you; something inexplicable within you leaps with satisfaction, and you feel gayer and lighter than before. You raise the horizon and so lift the world; you signal the distance to stand up just as a conductor calls his players to successive heights of music. You summon the sea and the mountains, and the distances unfold hidden glories beyond; the circle of the world comes up to meet you. The unseen does not unfold itself in parts, but with a complete continuity, forming a strong, regular circumference around you. The world is yours, and all things wait upon your eyes. Objects rise together like flocks of fascinating birds.

It is the horizon, however, that you have come in search of, for that is your chief companion on your way. It is to view the furthest horizon that you go high, since the expanses of this world are only to be seen from heights. The distant horizon is a line so delicate and slender that few things can equal its fineness. There is a light there which enchants the artist's mind—a light sweet and attractive. The bluest sky disappears on that shining edge. The neighbouring hills, woodland, meadowland, the sea in the distance—all these combine to form a dazzling blend of colour, and the pencilled figures of forests afar off acquire a luminous glow. On the horizon, moreover, closes the long perspective of the sky. Banks of clouds grow smaller as they die away in the distance, and you can sense the unity of sky and earth drawn together to some distant goal.

As you descend you experience the same thrill in reverse. The sea gradually dies away and is soon hidden from view, while hill folds down behind hill. The whole world around you pauses, then gradually fades; the flocks of birds flutter in the breeze and go to earth. The music ceases—the conductor has reached the end of his symphony.

What lies beyond the horizon—who knows?

D. M. BOWER—IVn.

SPRING

Spring's arriving, thawed the snow,
Trees with elf-like buds now glow;
All birds have a brighter sheen,
Happy in hearts and eyes agleam.

Flowers from the dark earth peep
Wakened from a dreamless sleep,
Beckoned by the warming sun
From their cold and gloomy home.

H. J. SPALDING—IIIs.

MY FIRST FLIGHT

ONE Saturday morning I met three other Cadets and we got on a bus for Kenley. We left the bus and tramped up the hill to the aerodrome gates. The others were grinning at my excited remarks, but I had my fingers crossed for the weather was not at its best. The N.C.O. in charge asked permission, and we marched up to the hangars. While we were standing there two officers walked past, and as we saluted they turned and asked us if we would like some flying. Would we! Either in a Tiger Moth or an Anson. I chose an Anson, for to me, the frail-looking Tiger seemed unsafe.

As I climbed into the plane I was astonished by the roomy appearance. I sat down, and the pilot showed me how to strap myself in. The plane revved up and the pilot turned and shouted to me, "Have you flown before?" "No." He grinned. The Anson took off and climbed steeply in a banking turn. I looked out of the window at the receding ground, and then quickly looked the other way. Suddenly the plane sank. The pilot turned and shouted "Air pocket." I gave a sickly grin. Frankly, I was still trying to find my stomach.

Again the plane banked steeply and, this time, I looked up the wing. As the plane came back to an even keel, I glanced out, and recognised Kenley from the air. I watched the pilot and saw he was jabbing his thumb downwards. At this moment the nose of the plane tilted downwards at an alarming angle, and I found that my ears were popping. I swallowed, and the sensation disappeared. We touched down with a light bump, and I loosened my safety belt, waiting for the aircraft to stop.

I climbed out with one souvenir of the trip—a paper bag provided in case I was unwell, but also the proud possessor of a log-book of the flight.

A. KINGSTON—IVn.

THE DESERT

FAST trackless wastes of unknown land, extreme temperatures which few can survive, stately names—Colorado, Mohave, Thar, Gobi, Somaliland, Atacama, and, most colourful of all—the Painted Desert of North America. Huge, shapeless piles of red rock, which reflect back at you like the devil's kitchen. In these hot deserts of the world are sights more beautiful than those of the English countryside, or more horrible than those found in Buchenwald. An oasis may be a beautiful sight to thirsty camels, but to me the open desert of never-ending dunes and rain-formed gullies and sharp, flat rocks is merely spoiled by the oasis, like a tea-stain on a clean tablecloth.

The wind is overworked in the rocky desert, but slowly and surely it wears away these rocks like acid on a lump of metal. The sun helps, stretching and shrinking the rocks, a battle which goes on for years, unimaginable years. As fast as the rock is broken up by the sun, and blown away by the wind, new rocks are formed under the surface of loose stone, and the battle begins again.

Generations of desert flowers watch this battle silently. They offer no help, because they themselves are struggling to stay a part of the living community, struggling to gain just those few drains of moisture which will keep them alive to show off their beauty, far more beautiful than the ragged-robin, scarlet pimpernel, or bird's-eye of the British countryside.

"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen
And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

The small whitish mounds of spiky grass, through whose blades the desert dust flies, know of the cold at night when water will freeze. They have seen men, the master-minds of the earth, struggling through the everlasting rock and loose sand, trying to kill their brothers because they both seemed to want the same piece of sand. They have seen these same men burn the skin off their hands on the hot metal of their weapons. Such foolishness, their lives could be much easier than the desert plants, if they chose otherwise.

Each particle of dust and sand has its origin from the hard surface of the earth, perhaps, or from the hair of an Arab trader, or even from the bones which lie along the caravan-route. A skull lies there, crumbling in the heat of the sun. The hard, sharp edge around the eye-socket goes first, the eye-socket which once held an eye, soft, wet, twinkling and watchful, watchful for the desert thieves, thieves of his few skinny catile, or his hard-earned gold, or one of his wives. Crumbled by the sun and blown by the wind, one of these particles is blown along and then stops by a rock, whose dark stains show that it has been used to batter the head of one driven mad by the heat, by lurid, imaginary monsters and cool, welcoming lakes. Such is the desert, quiet and severe, a peaceful world of its own, but lethal to those "who understandeth it not."

D. SPENCER—VI.

THE CREEP

They go to night-clubs dressed in drapes,
Fancy shoes and inch-thick crepes,
And there the compère from his heap
Brings out a record called "The Creep."

Then with partners hand in hand
Dance to the music of the band;
Round and round the floor they sweep
To the rhythm of "The Creep."

The night is late, the music fades,
Back to-morrow to their trades;
So home to bed and home to sleep—
But back they'll be to dance "The Creep"!

G. A. GOWER—III.

WINTER

The sun is low through the trees, casting pale shadows on the snow, which drips from the branches on to the ground, making little bare patches all round. The brown bracken sticks up through the white carpet. Far away, smoke rises straight into the crisp air from a gypsy encampment over the hill. A dog barks and disturbs the silence of the peaceful scene. Its mate answers and together they converse. Gulls wheel and turn, their silver wings flashing against the grey sky. Suddenly one will drop from the sky and pick up some tasty morsel in its beak and rocket skywards with its prize. Boys are smashing the ice on the pond with stones. Overloaded sledges rush down the hill, with crews of yelling schoolboys. Disagreeable neighbours protest but to no avail. Slowly the sun rises higher and the shadows shorten. The snow begins to melt, only to be carpeted over once again.

M. SMALLEY, IIr.

FOUNDERS' DAY SERVICE

OUR Founders' Day Service was held on Tuesday, 12th January, the second day of this term. The address was given by the Rev. J. Neville Ward, M.A., B.D., of West Wickham Methodist Church. Also present was Alderman G. J. Cole, Chairman of the Education Committee. The School Choir sang the anthem, "In Praise of Famous Men," and the lesson, from Ecclesiasticus, was read by the Second Prefect.

In his address, Mr. Ward paid tribute to the independence of mind that still existed in the common man despite the overpowering influence of a machine age. The age was often criticised for its artificiality, its mass production, its stifling of the creative spirit, and its threat of the atomic bomb. But these criticisms were silly; praise or blame could only be applied to human behaviour. They were also sinful, because it was God's will that the pursuit of knowledge should not cease. It was man's duty however, said Mr. Ward, to use this knowledge wisely; and this wisdom should be sown in school. The world could only be saved by a community realising the inter-dependence of man and man, and finding its unity in God, the Giver of all our talents.

A pleasant after-glow of the Coronation was felt during the course of the Assembly when Alderman Cole presented the Head Master with a handsome full-length portrait of the Queen, a gift from the Education Committee to the School as a lasting reminder of a great occasion.

MUSIC NOTES

Open Day, on July 15th last, included an informal concert, at which besides individual soloists and orchestral items our Special Singers made their debut. This last group of particularly keen choristers have supplemented the work of the larger numbers in the Choir, and we look forward to hearing their specialised items at the March Musical Evenings. As the result of success in examinations and general keenness, last year's

Music Prize winners were: Senior, Billington and Rosher; Junior, Bird and Jeal.

Billington, Elgar, Batsford, Rosher, Luckins and Sowerby are to be congratulated on G.C.E. successes in Music. Unfortunately, of these most useful vocalists and instrumentalists only Billington and Rosher remain, loss of such veterans being particularly noticed in the Choir, though Messrs. Wright and Lawes have joined Mr. Murray in strongly supporting musical activities. During the Autumn Term, G. Forbath gained an award of free tuition at the Royal Academy of Music. This versatile boy assisted N. Thompson in a musical item during the production of "The Merchant of Venice."

New boys have shown fair support for School musical pursuits, though there has been a lack of numbers for organised visits to concerts. However, a reasonable number enjoyed the playing of Frederick Ginke at the Orchestral Concert in October. This eminent player's Stradivarius excited great interest. From a similar concert in November the oboe solos of Aubrey Johnson still remain in the memory.

After our Sale on behalf of the School Organ Fund, the Autumn Term ended appropriately with our assisting in the Carol Service of the Schools at the Parish Church. It was a privilege for Mr. Hancock at the organ to assist Mr. Alan Kirby, who directed a thousand child choristers and as many parents and friends in seasonable music.

During this Term the School Choir were soon active with their singing of Vaughan Williams' "Let us now praise Famous Men" at Founders' Day. And now we await the Musical Evenings on March 4th and 5th. Because the financial side will concern the Organ Fund, and in order to leave intact our own singers, we hope to have the added attraction of a famous baritone as soloist in Stanford's Songs of the Sea. All our other musical groups will also take part.

J.N.H.

LIBRARY NOTES

AFTER two or more years in the VIth Form there is full appreciation of the use and value of a good reference library. Realising this value, the following, A. G. Sherman, C. Patel, A. S. Childs, B. M. Faulkner and A. H. Webster, have kindly presented to the School Library books of varied and technical interest.

We cannot do better than quote the inscription on one of these books: "Presented to the J.R.G.S. Library in appreciation of the seven enjoyable and profitable years spent at the School."

Our sincere thanks are due to these boys and we hope perhaps that when present VIth Formers make use of these books in the course of their studies they might well consider whether they have not before them an example which could be converted into a School tradition.

R.D.P.

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION, 1953

ADVANCED LEVEL

Passes were gained by the following boys :

- H. W. Bailey in English and History.
 K. Grogan in Pure Mathematics.
 *M. L. Hart in English, Latin and French.
 *J. P. Jones in History, Latin† and French.
 R. J. Wright in English, Latin and French.
 E. Roiser in Economics.
 C. J. Abdey in Applied Mathematics.
 *A. F. S. Childs in Chemistry, Botany and Zoology.
 *P. A. Dean in Pure and Applied Mathematics†, Physics‡ and Chemistry.
 D. Downer in Pure Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.
 *J. L. Nimmo in Physics, Chemistry and Biology.
 C. Patel in Botany and Zoology.
 P. J. Townsend in Physics, Botany and Zoology.
 E. J. Vincent in Pure Mathematics.
 *R. Wane in Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics and Physics.
 *Major Award. ‡Distinction.
 P. A. Dean gained a State Scholarship.

ORDINARY LEVEL

Passes were gained by the following boys :

Vth Form Science

- C. J. Allvey : m, c, by.
 P. W. Arkless : gy, f, m, p, c, by.
 F. Arnold : en, gy, m, p, c, by.
 A. G. Barker : en, gy, f, m, p, c, by.
 A. G. Blundell : gy, m, p, by.
 D. F. Cameron : en, gy, m, by.
 T. Dicker : gy, m, p, by.
 M. J. Dopson : en, gy, f, m, p, c, by.
 I. J. Dowie : en, gy, m, p, c, by.
 M. J. Edwards : en, gy, m, by.
 A. H. Elgar : en, m, mu.
 M. H. F. Garnham : en, m, p, by.
 P. A. Heather : en, gy, f, m, p, c, by.
 M. P. Huggett : en, gy, f, m, p, c, by.
 N. W. Hunt : m, map, p, c.
 M. L. Jenner : en, m, a.
 D. W. J. Luckins : m, mu.
 A. M. Montague : en, gy, f, m, p, by.
 R. G. Neale : m, p, by.
 K. Rimmer : gy, m, by.
 G. D. Rosher : m, c, by, mu.
 J. Schudel : en, f, m, p.
 T. Smith : m.
 T. G. Snell : m, by, a.

Vth Form Arts

- F. Alba : en, el, gy, h, f.
 R. C. Allen : el, h.
 P. D. H. Arnott : en, gy, h, l, f, m.
 N. Batsford : en, gy, h, m, mu.
 R. J. Billington : en, gy, h, f, m, mu.
 J. J. Bishop : en, el, gy.
 I. H. Bosworth : en, gy, l, f, m.
 R. E. Bullock : en, gy, m.
 R. P. Cave : el, gy, m, a.
 A. T. Chiles : el, gy, h, m.
 A. B. Constable : en, el, gy, h, l, f, m.
 A. D. Crouch : el, gy, h.
 R. E. Frenchum : en, el, gy, r, f, m.
 K. Gratton : en, el.
 M. J. Holden : en, el, gy, h, l, f, m.
 M. King : en.
 K. J. Marden : gy, m.
 W. G. Marden : en, gy, h, m, a.
 R. B. Matthews : en, el, gy, h, l, f, m.
 A. V. Pratt : en, gy, m, a.
 M. D. Price : h.
 J. E. Rouse : en, gy, h, m.
 J. C. Simmons : en, gy, h, f, m.
 G. R. Sketchley : en, el, gy, f, m.

G. B. Snelling: m, by.
 M. T. Sawyerby: m, p, by, mu.
 S. Virgo: m, p, c, by.
 J. Ward: en, gy, f, m, p, c, by.
 M. S. Wilson: en, by.
 H. Wood: en, f, m, by, a.

Lower VIth

R. S. Bignell: c.
 C. J. Bromley: en, m.
 J. R. Burnett: en, f, map, c, by.
 R. E. Cansdale: en, m.
 M. Davidov: en, f, map, c, by.
 D. H. Eves: f.
 J. G. Goodman: en, gy, h, l, f, m.
 A. D. Purnell: c.
 J. G. Smyth: en, f, m, map, p, c.

A. G. Stevenson: gy, f, m.
 P. E. Styles: en, el, gy.
 C. N. Turnbull: gy, m.

Upper VIth

H. W. Bailey: f.
 K. Grogan: l.
 R. J. Wright: f.
 E. Roiser: el.
 C. J. Abdey: p.
 D. Downer: c.
 D. I. Harris: c, z.
 J. L. Nimmo: c, b.
 C. Patel: p, c.
 E. J. Vincent: p, c.
 D. E. Wheeler: b, z.
 P. J. Townsend: c.
 B. J. Starkey: en, el, a.

ORGAN FUND—LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS

To the list of direct subscribers published in the last magazine we should like now to add the following to whom the Fund is indebted:—

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 Mr. J. Russell

"THE MERCHANT OF VENICE"

There is much that is seasonable in "The most excellent Tragical-Comical History of the Merchant of Venice"—this year's choice for the Christmas play, which was produced by Mr. Neale assisted by Mr. Cracknell, and performed on five evenings towards the end of term. For the play has something of the quality of a pre-Christmas pantomime, with the fairy-tale atmosphere of Belmont, the buffoonery of the Gobbos, the ogre-like scheming of Shylock, and the romantic stock-in-trade of disguises and elopement, set against a background of moonlight and masquerade. The Elizabethan audience had demanded something in the nature of a variety entertainment, and Shakespeare gave them good measure here. The several stories are so dextrously woven together that there is much to "teach and delight" in the bitter-sweetness of this play that speaks so movingly of man's inhumanity to man, and love that endureth all things.

The play was presented in the Elizabethan manner, and though the stage was not intended to be a reproduction of any particular Elizabethan theatre, in style and general arrangement it was representative of the "unworthy scaffold" on which some of our greatest drama was first enacted, and we tried to follow sixteenth century details as faithfully as possible. The permanent set of gallery, curtained recess and entrances was constructed around tubular scaffolding. Wooden bollards with grommets and ropes attached were fixed to the front of the stage to represent the canal sides of Venice, and the recess, balcony and wings were draped with curtains of maroon, gold and blue to match the general colour scheme. Mr. Gee and Mr. Warne were responsible for the set, and they did most of the painting and construction themselves. Elizabethan costumes for the principal players were hired from a firm of theatrical costumiers in London, and the rest were made from brocade and heavy curtaining material by parents and friends. Mr. Warne put his spare-time hobby of heraldry to good use, and spared no pains in designing the correct coats of arms and insignia for pages. Weeks previously, Mr. Peacock and his team of senior boys had been preparing innumerable stage properties, and much of the success of the show was due to their dexterous and noiseless handling of these behind the scenes. Two boys acted as stage attendants, bringing in the furniture and displaying the card that set the scene. We had one advantage over Shakespeare: with our augmented lighting equipment we were able to suggest that night's candles really were burnt out, and Mr. Alexander devised some subtle effects with his colour-mixing, which did much to capture the right atmosphere of certain scenes.

Reviews of the play in the local press, and in educational journals were most favourable and spoke very highly of the production and the standard of acting. The Dramatic Critic of "The Croydon Advertiser" referred to the enthusiasm and imagination which our young actors brought to their playing, and commended especially the general stage business, and the skilful way in which obscure or difficult passages were illuminated with a gesture or an action which made "all things plain." All the acting



The Full Cast



The Trial Scene

had zest, and all the scenes were effectively played—even those interminable casket scenes which often decide the fate of a production.

Another critic said what had impressed him most was the elocution and the good standard of verse speaking; and rightly so, for it is equally important that the poetry should be appreciated in a Shakespearean play as it is, that character should be well played. Antonio, in particular, seemed to get the most out of his lines, and Moruccio's voice had a quality which made quite credible his boast that he would

"Outbrave the heart most daring on the earth."

Bryan Telfer's Antonio was an outstanding performance, especially since he took over the part at very short notice. He was impressively sombre and disconsolate as the dignified man of affairs and generous patron who has lost his friend to a woman's love; and yet not without some suggestion of enjoyment in this extravagant indulgence in self-pity.

The other Venetian gallants, resplendent in the rich colours of their doublets and hose, played their parts well. Gratiano, the garrulous wag who woos Portia's maid, was played with great zest by Reginald Anderson, who made the most of all his opportunities. Salanio (M. Pike) and Salarino (D. Wood) were very good in their little scene where they mock at Shylock's anxiety at the loss of his daughter and his ducats; and Salarino spoke movingly of Antonio's farewell to Bassanio as he embarked for Belmont. A special word of praise is due to Ewart Sturrock for the naturalness and sincerity with which he played the part of the romantic young nobleman, Bassanio. He seemed to slip into the rôle with remarkable ease.

The romantic element in the play is emphasised by the story of Lorenzo and Jessica. Their great scene at the end of the play is a masterful creation of atmosphere. It rounds off the play with music; there is harmony in the spheres. Ronald Bentley (Lorenzo) and Jeffery Stokley (Jessica) spoke their famous lines most effectively in the magic of stage moonlight.

Launcelot Gobbo is a humorous link between the two romances. Joseph Boot seemed very much at home with the audience as he sat on the edge of the stage and held a lively debate between the Fiend and his conscience. He kept up non-stop patter, and delighted us with his capers around his bewildered old father (played by D. Shrimpton).

Naturally all these characters are overshadowed by Shylock. Undoubtedly a weak Shylock would ruin the play, but Peter Jeffery gave a fine performance. In his portrayal he was crafty and evil enough, yet not ignoble, even when the obsession in his brain at last pushed him over the edge of humanity. Here was no cringing shame or petty malice, but angry pride of race and malignant hatred for the Gentiles. Nor was the thick foreign accent assumed for the occasion overdone: every dramatic point was made without wailing or ranting. One of his best scenes was the first meeting with Antonio and Bassanio, where he brought out the strange whimsical touches that are to be found in Shylock's nature. His cajolery gave credence to the fantastic bargain, and contrasted most effectively with the colder Antonio.

But it is the part of Portia which blends together all this difficult mixture of romantic comedy and melodrama, and a very long and exacting part it is too. Alan Hodgson was very good indeed, although some found him too serious in the earlier scenes, as an heiress enduring the boredom of being wooed by unwanted suitors. Clearly this is a matter of taste. He brought a charm and liveliness to the casket scene with Bassanio and to the ring episode, where Michael Hayward, as the more reserved Nerissa, made a suitable foil. In the trial scene Portia was brisk, and made a good advocate engaging in a verbal duel with Shylock. Tension became acute as Shylock fingered his knife, and Antonio prepared to pay his debt; and when Hodgson pointed out that the quality of mercy is not strained, he did not declaim it as so many Portia's do, as a purple passage taken entirely out of context; he spoke the lines as though they meant something.

Finally we must make honourable mention of actors in the several smaller parts. We shall long remember the kindly dignity of the Duke, the foppishness of the Spanish Prince, complete with eye-glass, the song with recorder accompaniment, by Portia's young attendants; and, too, Morocco and his sun-tanned pages, the quiet presence of the Magnificoes, the gay abandon of the Maskers, and the perfect little cameo of Tubal.

This was the first time a full-length play by Shakespeare had been presented in the School, and we feel that it was a very worthwhile experiment, and one that may well lead to more ambitious projects. The Elizabethan set gave the production a slickness that could not have been achieved with the more usual picture-frame presentation; Shakespeare's "two hours' traffic of the stage" became a reality for once.

SIXTH FORM PARTY: CHRISTMAS 1953

On the evening of 17th December the Sixth Form held their Annual Party in the Lower Hall, which was well decorated by the Sixth Form under the guidance of Mr. Gee, the main attraction being a remarkable centre-piece, whose symmetry would have made even Euclid jealous.

Our guests included members of Staff and their wives, and girls from Coloma, Lady Edridge, and Old Palace, as well as others invited by boys who were to bring their own partners. As all boys could not dance, we arranged in a T_{major} programme to suit all tastes—dancing to records alternating with games.

Refreshments were prepared by Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Willoughby and Mrs. Davidov, to whom we are extremely grateful. We are also grateful to Mr. Chaundy who arranged for this catering; and to Mr. Fisher and Mr. Whellock who acted as M.C.'s.

M. DAVIDOV—U.VI.Sc.

"J" COY. I(C) BN. THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGT. A.C.F.

The last year has been one of outstanding success in many fields of Cadet activities but we can only briefly record the main events

A drill squad, trained and commanded by Sgt. Batsford, gave a most impressive display on Open Day—parents still talk about the turn-out, smartness and precision shown on this occasion. Batsford and his men set a standard that will long endure.

Annual Camp at Felixstowe was, according to the "old sweats" in other Companies, "the best ever." The site was good, training areas excellent, recreational facilities adequate and the weather superb—all the ingredients for a successful Cadet camp were to hand in abundance. The Company, as always, performed creditably all that was asked of it—we all remember the very smart Quarter Guard commanded by Sgt. Batsford—the Assault course team which was the best in the entire Surrey Brigade—the ceremonial march through the town—and, above all, the many instructive training schemes. At the end of camp, the Company said "Au revoir" to Capt. Badcock and presented him with several items of photographic equipment.

The Cert. A results last year were exceptional, 45 Cadets passing Part I and 35 Part II. This reflects the greatest credit on the N.C.O.s who were responsible for most of the instruction.

In September the strength of the Company was two Officers and eighty-eight Cadets, of whom twenty were recruits. We hope that at least thirty boys from the present Second Forms will enrol next year. This is the minimum number necessary to maintain an efficient unit. We extend a hearty welcome to Mr. P. C. Wright and trust that he will enjoy his work with the Company.



Quarter Guard — Felixstowe, 1953

At the beginning of the Autumn Term re-organisation made possible the formation of a Signals Platoon. Training under Sgts. Burnett and Willoughby has proceeded steadily and several Cadets are now reasonably adept in the handling of wireless and line equipment. To assist in Cert. A training it is hoped that instructors from the Guards Depot will shortly be available and that No. 7 Travelling Wing H.C.D. will run an N.C.O.'s cadre. Arrangements are being made to send Cadets on Army courses during the Easter holidays.

Shooting is still very popular—the Company team has fixtures with the A.T.C., Old Boys and Staff(?) and eagerly awaits the Bn. Competition which is to be held at the end of March. Opportunity for full-bore shooting is limited but with the coming of Spring a resumption of those enjoyable trips to Ash Ranges will be made. Examination and Homework timetables permitting, it is hoped that some of our marksmen will shoot for the Battalion in County and National competitions at Bisley this Summer.

On Sunday, 8th November, the Company took part in the Remembrance Day service at the Croydon War Memorial.

Once again John Ruskin Cadets have played a worthy part in the Cadet sporting world. Cadets Wood, Hodgson, Warren and Stemp competed in the County Swimming Championships when 1st Queen's won the Junior Trophy. Stemp won the Open 100 yards Championship, beating the record by no less than 14 secs. Cadets Holmes and Warren were members of the Surrey Athletics team and were awarded County colours. C/Sgt. Baker, Cpl. Blundell and Cadet Duckworth were regular members of the Surrey A.C.F. Soccer XI, while Cadet Stringer has been reserve on several occasions.

Lt.-Col. J. M. Goad, the Commanding Officer, who has been appointed Deputy Commandant, paid a farewell visit to the Company in December. Col. Goad has always been very interested in our activities and his help and advice have been much appreciated. We wish both him and Lt.-Col. Hughes of Selhurst Grammar School, who has assumed command of the Battalion, the very best of luck in their new posts.

R.N.A.

A VISIT TO AN EXHIBITION OF ROMAN SCULPTURE

On a Tuesday afternoon, bright and clear, though late in November, the majority of the VIth Form found a new acquaintance with Roman life and art, when they visited the exhibition of Roman sculpture presented by the Arts Council of Great Britain at St. James's Palace.

It would indeed be refreshing to meet the legendary figures that cross the stage of the Roman world in the enduring and, perhaps, more recognisable form of a marble portrait bust. So, with an expectant air, the boys alighted from the coach outside St. James's Palace, and were conducted to the portrait galleries.

There, for the party was large, it was found a more practicable policy to divide into two groups—one under the guidance of Mr. Warne, the other in the care of Mr. Rees. The range of sculpture both in period and style,

was comprehensive enough. Examples of the cruder materials and techniques employed in the nascent stage of Roman history were in evidence in the seventh century B.C. terracotta, and later, in the fourth and third century porous stone and alabaster. Marble reigned supreme as the medium of the art from the first century B.C., with an occasional bronze, and an isolated silver portrait, interspersed.

The collection, derived from various museums of Italy, illustrated faithfully, yet distinctly, the development of style in this fertile art. The original primitive "death-mask" type of effigy, which seldom aimed at depicting an individual with any personal likeness, moved to the rigidly "veristic" or exaggerated true-to-life style of the latter-day Republic. Tempered by Greek influence, with its stress on the pathetic, by the close of the Republic this realistic style had yielded to the classical, which tended to glorify and beautify the person. Under the Empire, the pendulum swung to and fro between these opposing views, with an increasing emphasis on lavish feminine hair-styles. Finally, the mask-like effect gained prevalence and the latest models of all wore an other-worldly expression.

The boys followed the changes intently, and found the historical allusions of the Latin and History Class looming suddenly large and life-like. Yes! there was Pompey—Cicero—Augustus—Nero. Above all, great Julius Caesar, mighty yet!

D.J.R.

FROM THE PREFECTS' ROOM

Once again the lords of Ruskin Castle take respite from their perpetual and ever-increasing toils to commend to paper interesting incidents from the annals of M.I.6½.

Since the scientists are now in the majority, the tranquillity of Room 6½—so characteristic of previous reigns—has at last been broken and our erstwhile peaceful domain has been transformed into a miniature Harwell. Experiments to discover the behaviour of projectiles during flight appear to be the vogue and among our "scientists" there is an eccentric being who endeavours to increase his knowledge of stable equilibrium by balancing chairs on one another! The differentiation and integration of logarithmic and exponential functions has replaced the more profitable pastime of contract bridge, and the "well-thumbed copy of Cicero" has given way to "Interplanetary Flight."

The Central Court of Criminal Appeal—more vulgarly known as "Prefects' Court"—has commenced its Hilary sittings and many a hardened criminal has learnt to his cost the meaning of the line:—

"Double, double toil and trouble."

Would-be offenders please note that, although we have had some late sittings, we have not yet reached that stage of frustration where:—

"The hungry Judges soon the sentence sign,
And wretches hang, that Jury-men may dine."

R. J. WRIGHT—U.VI.Sc.

SOCIETY NEWS

THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

The Society, continuing to meet fortnightly on Wednesdays, met for the first time this session on 7th October when an Old Boy, P. Preveit, spoke on "The Collection, Classification and Mounting of Insects" (or "Entomology") and showed us some of the more interesting items of his own collection.

We were indeed fortunate to obtain the services of Dr. R. A. Allen of the A.E.R.E., Harwell, who, on October 21st, spoke on the industrial uses of Atomic Energy in the form of radioactive isotopes. He explained the source of the nuclear energy and used slides to illustrate its uses in industry. He also gave us a practical demonstration of some modern instruments, which are used for detecting harmful radiation, including a Geiger counter and a radiation monitor, which looks rather like an over-size ray-gun.

On November 4th an excellent and instructive lecture on Science and the Search for Oil was given by Mr. Gunther of the Shell Petroleum Company. He described the formation of the oil, how it collects and the steps taken to find it. Films were shown to illustrate the drilling of the wells and the processes of refinery.

Another Old Boy, Alan Webster, described, on November 18th, from his own first-hand experience, "The Modern Power Station," giving us a complete, detailed and very informative talk on the whole Station.

"Space Travel" was the title of our last lecture, on December 2nd, in this Autumn series, given by a member of the British Interplanetary Society, Mr. Shendge. He illustrated his talk with a film strip and pictures and diagrams from some books on Astronautics.

During the Christmas holidays a party of ten members, led by Mr. Chaundy, visited the workshops of Johnson, Matthey and Company, of Hatton Garden. We thoroughly enjoyed a most interesting afternoon, being shown round the bullion refinery and seeing almost a million pounds' worth of solid and liquid gold, silver, platinum and other precious metals within the space of two hours. We all handled a solid rod of platinum weighing a few pounds and worth £3,000 and saw liquid gold and silver being handled by the hundredweight. We were very grateful for the tea and refreshments they provided for us after the visit.

A. D. PURNELL—U.VISc., Secretary.

CERCLE FRANÇAIS

A la première réunion du Cercle Français furent élus membres du Comité les suivants; de la classe de Philosophie Arnott, Holden et Wright et de la classe de première Wood, Seaman et Waghorn.

Le comité avait projeté une série de films français, ceux-ci ayant toujours été très populaires, mais malheureusement le projecteur ne marchait pas et on a dû abandonner ce projet pour le moment. Néanmoins,

malgré ce coup inattendu, le Cercle s'est réuni toutes les quinzaines, les autres jeudis étant consacrés aux Thés Français. Ceux-ci sont devenus si populaires qu'au mois d'octobre on a dû partager les membres en deux groupes—ceux de la classe de Philosophie sous la présidence de M. Fisher et ceux de la classe de première sous celle de M. Warne.

Aux réunions du Cercle proprement dit on a joué au "J'ai un nom célèbre," à "Quel est mon Métier," à des charades, au jeu de Kim, à Vingt Questions, et aux Mots Croisés. En plus, il y a eu la lecture d'une pièce comique et des sessions de chant.

Le 15 décembre a eu lieu notre Fête de Noël, à laquelle ont assisté une vingtaine de jeunes filles du Cercle Français du lycée de Coloma. Après avoir bien goûté, nous avons joué aux charades et à J'ai un nom célèbre, à la suite desquels quelques-unes des jeunes filles nous ont chanté des chansons françaises populaires.

Puis on a organisé une "chasse au Trésor," et pour terminer nous avons vu un film documentaire français. Selon toutes les indications tout le monde s'est vraiment bien amusé.

Le Cercle continue à se réunir tous les jeudis pendant l'année scolaire, et le comité espère que ces réunions seront de plus en plus suivies.

R. J. WRIGHT—U.VI.Sc., Secrétaire.

THE JUNIOR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Most of the Summer Term was taken up preparing for Open Day (July 15th) when the Junior Dramatic Society, under the direction of Mr. Neale, presented three short scenes from Shakespeare. The plays were performed in Elizabethan fashion, and a simplified form of the sixteenth century stage was constructed for the occasion, with balcony, curtained recess, and stage strewn with rushes. The scenes chosen were the Forest episodes from Act II of "As You Like It"; the quarrel between Brutus and Cassius in "Julius Caesar"; and the baiting of Malvolio from "Twelfth Night." A prologue, specially written for the occasion, linked the three scenes together and was spoken by Harold Bailey, the only senior member of the cast.

In the Forest of Arden scenes, Bryan Telfer did well in the part of Jaques and brought out the humour of this singular, melancholy gentleman. Robin Bird, as Amiens, sang the two songs, "Blow, blow, thou winter wind," and "Under the greenwood tree," very pleasantly. Others taking part were: David Gow, David Shrimpton, Robert Forbath, David Wood, Paul Rayner, Graham Warren.

The part of Brutus in the quarrel scene from Act IV of "Julius Caesar," was played by Peter Jeffery, and Cassius was taken by Ewart Sturrock. They delivered their long speeches with a good deal of gusto and verve which well belied their age. Derek Rittman, Brian Smith, Ian Turner, John Willett, and Robin Bird were supporting characters.

The "Twelfth Night" scenes told of the way Sir Toby and his friends hoodwinked Malvolio. Reginald Anderson gave a spirited interpretation of Malvolio. Peter Marchant and Errol Treseder obviously enjoyed

their parts of the robust Sir Toby and the foppish Sir Andrew Aguecheek, and Alan Hodgson and Montague Forman were very convincing in their parts as Olivia and Maria. Hodgson has a fine voice which he used to great advantage, bringing the requisite charm and dignity to the part of Olivia; he is to be especially complimented on his dexterous use of the fan. Brian Gould played Fabian, and John Wilson was Feste, Olivia's Jester.

The production was notable because it was the first time Shakespeare had been presented in School. The three scenes selected did much to show the infinite variety of the bard: "tragical—comical—historical—pastoral, scene indivisible, or poem unlimited." Despite some embarrassment at finding themselves so close to the audience, the actors acquitted themselves well, and learnt a good deal about the art of posture and gesture, and of the speaking of blank verse. One general fault, however, was that speeches were delivered too fast, thus rendering, if not the actual words, the meaning unintelligible to anyone hearing the words for the first time. In many ways the plays of Shakespeare are the most difficult to act and interpret, and the production was a very useful experiment.

There are two theatre visits to West End productions of Shakespeare to record. On July 6th members of the society went to see "Macbeth" at the Mermaid Theatre. The great quadrangle of the Royal Exchange had been transformed into an Elizabethan playhouse, and from our seats around the stage we had the rare experience of seeing the actors not set flatly away beyond a picture frame but moving among us in three dimensions. In this play of "vaulting ambition that o'erleaps itself," Bernard Miles was a rugged, brooding Macbeth. Lady Macbeth (played by Miss Josephine Wilson) was purposeful and bold, and her pathetic out-pourings in the sleep-walking scene were most movingly and realistically portrayed.

We went to the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, on October 8th, to see "As You Like It," presented by Donald Wolfit. Mr. Wolfit played the part of Touchstone with obvious relish, and his amusing and pointed interpretation of the text did much to illuminate obscure lines. Rosalind is one of Shakespeare's best Principal Boy parts, and Miss Iden was very lively and debonaire in her doublet and hose.

The election of new officers was held on September 24th, and the following have been appointed to the Committee for the next twelve months: Telfer (Secretary); Thorne (Publicity); Form Representatives—Hodgson, Forbath (IVp.), Scott, Goff (III m.), Holt, Rittman (III s.).

An Inter-House Drama Quiz took place on January 20th, with teams from each House competing. Questions were set on the contemporary theatre, the history of drama, Shakespeare, music and opera. Beta was the winning House, and gained 12 points through the efforts of Telfer, Forman and Cowlam. This proved a most popular contest, and it is hoped we shall be able to hold another one in the near future.

Further meetings will be held on alternate Wednesdays during the Spring and Summer Terms. We plan to hold a Prose and Poetry Reading Competition this Term, in addition to frequent play-readings of modern and vintage drama.

DEBATING SOCIETY

Owing to the great number of functions which have been taking place during the Autumn Term, there have only been two meetings of the Society. Our first meeting took the form of a Balloon Debate, which was very popular. The second meeting was not so well attended, but was extremely hilarious, the motion before the house being "That there should be censorship of the Press."

It is hoped to hold more meetings this term, and that more people will join the Society and attend its meetings.

R. S. BIGNELL, U.VI.Sc., Secretary.

WHAT IS THE C.E.W.C.?

The Council for Education in World Citizenship—and organisation of the United Nations Association—is a body concerned with the promotion of international understanding and the study of home and world affairs among young people.

Amongst its other activities, the Council holds holiday courses for senior boys and girls from the public, grammar and secondary modern schools. Such courses are designed to give information, to introduce members to different—and often conflicting—social, economic and political theories, and above all, to provide some training in the methods of study, discussion and clear thinking. Such a course was held at the Central Hall, Westminster, this Christmas on the subject of "The Challenge of Africa," and was attended by about 2,000 boys and girls from all over the British Isles, as well as by many foreign students.

This School is a member of Croydon Inter-Schools Committee of the C.E.W.C. The purpose of this Committee is the encouragement of inter-school discussions and conferences, in the Croydon area, on World affairs. The School representatives would like to see more boys of this School taking advantage of this opportunity to improve their general education and to discuss World problems with young people of their own age, by giving the C.E.W.C. their support and attending its meetings.

B. M. FALKNER—U.VI.Sc.

HOUSE NOTES

ALPHA

Last year's cricket season was not a lucky one for Alpha. We lost to Beta in the final of the junior competition, and lost to Gamma in the first round of the senior one. This latter result was, I feel, partly due to lack of support from the House.

However, we did better than expected in the School Swimming Gala, only losing to Delta by a very small margin. In fact, we were level, on points, with Delta up to the last race of the evening. I must congratulate N. Batsford, in his absence, on captaining the swimming team so well, and in gaining the Perry Cup and retaining the Senior Diving Cup. M. Newsome must also be congratulated on gaining the Junior Diving Cup.

This season's football results have been most gratifying. We won both Junior and Senior matches played during the Autumn Term against Beta—quite unexpectedly.

Last year we managed to win the Endeavour Cup, but only just. This year we have not much hope of gaining even third place! There seems to be no effort on the part of the members of the House to gain points, although they can lose them at a surprising rate. Wake up, Alpha!

R. S. BIGNELL, U.VI.Sc., Captain.

BETA

Once again it appears that we are going to allow the Endeavour Cup to slip through our fingers. At the end of July we had a considerable lead of approximately 40 points, but during the first few weeks of the Autumn Term this lead was allowed to dwindle away with the result that now we are 20 points behind the leading House. This gap will probably increase when the points awarded for examination results are included in the totals. Although we gain the highest number of points, the gradual decline in our position was not even arrested when a new system of recording late boys reduced our losses by half. An all-out effort is required from every boy during the three remaining months of the competition, if we are to win the Cup.

In a hard-fought contest we were beaten by Alpha House in the first round of the Football Competition, but as there are other matches to be played, we can still come top of the league. Our team in the Junior League were even more unfortunate and were severely trounced by Gamma, but, not in the least disheartened, they are thirsting for revenge. In the Swimming Gala held last July, we only managed to obtain third place, but hope for better luck next time.

The Dramatic Society still draws many of its members from Beta House and in their Christmas production of "The Merchant of Venice" we were well represented. Our congratulations go to Brian Telfer, for a fine portrayal of Antonio, to Trevor Snell, a magnificent Prince of Morocco, and to his two pages—Phimister and Till—who, although they did not have speaking parts, provided many worried moments for the producer and comic relief for the cast behind the scenes!

R. J. WRIGHT—U.VIa., Captain.

GAMMA

I would like to start by welcoming all newcomers to the House and hope that once they have accustomed themselves to their new surroundings they will really do their best to contribute to the House competitions.

The most notable competition is naturally the Endeavour Cup. At the moment, we are still lying third but now a larger number of points separates us from the leaders. I am sure that it is still possible for us to win the ~~one~~ cup which still eludes us by a little extra effort on the part of every boy in the House.

I wish to congratulate all the members of the Senior cricket team which won the Cup, convincingly beating our opponents, Beta, by ten wickets in the final. The Senior and Junior football teams both deserve congratulations for fine performances in their matches at the start of term when they beat Delta 7—2 and 8—1 respectively. This is a fine start, so keep it up!

Finally, a comment on the Swimming Gala held last July. We finished fourth in what was one of the finest competitions witnessed since the war. This was unfortunate, but perhaps next time we shall be more successful, for Willoughby, our swimming captain, has already started training the Junior members of the team.

R. B. PAGDEN—U.VI.Sc., Captain.

DELTA

This term sees the entrance to the House of many new faces to whom I should like to extend a hearty welcome.

Our swimming news is extremely good, thanks to the efforts of Stemp, whose work last Summer training our swimmers led to our victory in the School Swimming Gala. Thanks must also be given to R. Smith, Walters, Rockall and Blackwell, who all served their House well on this occasion.

Cricket results were not so good, although K. Baker and his team did well in only just losing to Beta in an eliminating round.

Nor has football been our strong suit so far this season, both Seniors and Juniors losing to Gamma earlier on. I hope our new footballers will be duly warned.

Sports Day will be upon us before long and I do urge all accomplished and budding athletes to begin training very soon. Last time we just lost to Alpha, and this year I think we can win.

News of the Endeavour Cup is very pleasing. At the moment we are in front with a fairly substantial lead, although this could soon dwindle if good work does not continue and lateness becomes prevalent again.

Examination results, last June, were very gratifying. P. A. Dean won a State Scholarship and J. Jones and J. L. Nimmo, Major Awards—these and others collecting valuable House points.

Finally, I should like to congratulate E. Sturrock for his good performance in the School play.

M. DAVIDOV—U.VI.Sc., Captain.

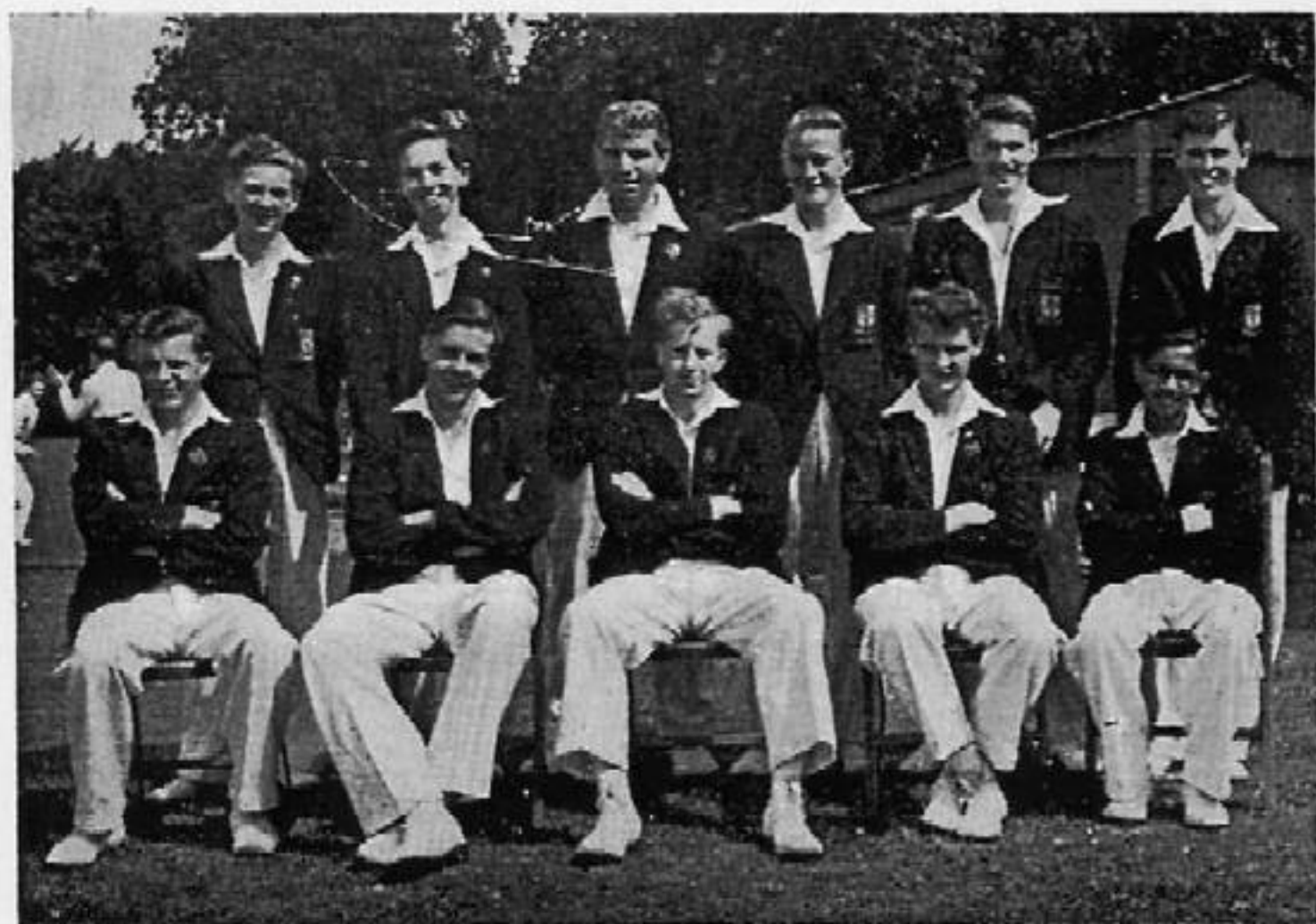
SPORT

CRICKET

In the June 1953 issue of the Magazine we wrote that the 1st XI should prove a useful batting side and this estimate was fully justified. Of thirteen matches played, only one, that against a Thornton Heath C.C. XI, was lost. The scores for each innings in the matches throughout the season were consistently good, and seldom was it necessary to bat through the full XI. We are still waiting, however, for a quick, individual century. The highest personal score this season was 64 from M. Hart, whilst other good performances were by Childs, with 51 and 61 not out, and Baker, 50.

The forecast that our bowling would not prove sufficiently hostile was borne out by the number of matches drawn. More than once at close of play, only two or three "tail-end" wickets stood between us and a comfortable victory. R. Pagden had a good season with the ball, topping the averages with 31 wickets for 192 runs. F. Arnold, 29 for 267, and A. Montague, 20 for 227, shared the attack with Pagden.

The 2nd XI did well, winning five and drawing two of eight matches played. H. Blundell had a good season both with the bat and as wicket-keeper, whilst Matthews, 34 wickets for 199, and Stringer, 17 wickets for



First XI, 1953

112, were the most successful bowlers. Best individual scores were by R. Smith, 62, and Stringer, 54.

The Junior XI matches were, on the whole, very disappointing. Of eleven matches played, only two were won and the batting was, to say the least, uninspiring. Only Lambert, who also played usefully in some 2nd XI games, batted with any confidence, whilst the bowling was, in general, ineffective.

Figures for the season were as follows:—

		Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
1st XI	...	13	7	5	1
2nd XI	...	8	5	2	1
3rd XI	...	11	2	3	6

Representative honours were gained by Childs, Hart, Pagden, Bailey and Arnold who played for the Surrey Grammar Schools XI against Sussex at Chichester, and against Hampshire at Woking. Childs again captained the Surrey XI.

M. Hart, who last season played at Swansea, again played this year in the England v. Wales match at Worcester.

P. Duckworth gained a London cap this season and played for the London Schools XI in matches against Eton, Harrow, Winchester and Tonbridge.

ATHLETICS

The 1953 Sports Day was fully reported in the June issue of the Magazine. Later in the season, J. P. Jones, M. Hart and R. W. Jones were members of a successful Croydon Schools Athletics team to compete in the Surrey Championships at Motspur Park, and J. P. Jones went on to the National Championships for the second successive year.

At the County Grammar Schools Athletics Meeting a limited entry was made and the School team finished 10th in the Senior Competition and 8th in the Junior, of 17 competing Schools. Points were scored by:—

J. P. Jones (Shot and Discus)

M. Hart (220 yards)

P. Duckworth (220 yards)

and the Under 14 Relay Team.

SWIMMING

The School Gala proved to be a most exciting competition. Alpha and Delta were on level terms for the Championship when but one event remained to be swum. By winning this, the Medley Relay, Delta won the competition.

Individual championship winners were N. Batsford, 100 yards and Senior Diving; and M. Newsome, Junior Diving.

Although the School has shields and cups for these individual championships and for the Senior and Junior Relay events, there has, until now, been no trophy for the Champion House at Swimming.

We are deeply indebted to Mr. Blackwell, a parent of one of our present pupils, for very kindly donating a handsome cup to be awarded at subsequent annual galas, to the winning House.

Relay teams chosen from F. Willoughby, F. Arnold, N. Batsford, J. Stemp and M. Newsome, competed in invitation relay events at various outside Galas, and informal and enjoyable matches were held with Whitgift Middle and Selhurst Grammar Schools.

In a talent-spotting competition at a Gala held by the Triton S.C., R. Reader, of our present First Year, swam well and was beaten only by a touch into second place.

J. Stemp and M. Newsome were selected as members of the Surrey and Kent team for a Divisional Gala at Marshall Street Baths, and also for the Surrey/Kent Divisional team to compete in the English Schools National Gala at Bournemouth.

FOOTBALL

Results for the first half of the season, to December, are not very good. Frequently the 1st XI has conceded three or four goals a match, and missed many scoring chances. With the loss, at Christmas, of both full-backs, Blundell and Duckworth, the re-organised team will need to play harder and better football to make a success of the season.

The 2nd XI started disastrously, but has recovered well, although now will have to give some of the stronger players to the 1st XI. The Middle School XIs have had a lean time, but the 5th XI have been winning steadily.

Figures to December are:—

		Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
1st XI	...	13	6	—	7
2nd XI	...	11	6	2	3
3rd XI	...	7	3	2	2
4th XI	...	12	1	3	8
5th XI	...	9	8	—	1

In Representative Matches, K. Baker, the School Football Captain, was selected for the Surrey Grammar Schools XI which defeated a Corinthian-Casuals XI by 1—0.

Of the Juniors, Bivand, Langridge and Harding played for Croydon Under-14 and Under-13 XIs in London and Surrey competitions.

RUGBY

In October our 1st XI became a 1st XV to enjoy a good game with the Oxted County School and was narrowly beaten by 11 points to 9. We hope again to enter a team in the Surrey Seven-a-side Competition to be held at Hampton Court in March.

LAWN TENNIS

Enough enthusiasts were forthcoming during the Summer Term to make Monday evenings on the Park Hill Courts very enjoyable. The playground court was also frequently in use. The season ended happily with the usual fixture against the Staff, when we were privileged, through the good offices of Mrs. Childs, to have the use of the grass courts of the Norbury Park Club. We should also record that the boys won for the second season running. But then, their running is faster.

We are all looking forward to our imminent removal to Shirley when, with our own courts on the doorstep, we shall be able to take our tennis really seriously.

FOR YOUR DIARY

March	4, 5	Musical Evenings.
March	27	Jumble Sale.
April	9	Spring Term ends.
May	4	Summer Term begins.
May	19	Sports Day.
May	27	Speech Day.
June	14	G.C.E. begins.
July	23	Summer Term ends.
Sept.	7	Autumn Term begins.

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

President : Mr. J. C. Lowe, M.A.

Chairman : Mr. F. H. Clements.

Secretary : Mr. M. E. Stretton, 15, Dalmally Road, Croydon.

Treasurer : Mr. J. K. Bell, 191, Silverleigh Road, Thornton Heath.

Committee : Messrs. D. W. Clark, P. Goodenough, D. Johnston, D. Kerr,
J. Rickard, D. T. Watson.

In the last Old Boys' Association notes we appealed for a record attendance at our A.G.M. but we have to record that there was very little response to this appeal and once again our Meeting was sparsely attended. Nevertheless, those present looked forward to 1954 with the hope that the Association's activities would be better supported than in the past year.

In response to a request by the Committee, your Chairman, Mr. F. H. Clements, presented a design for an Old Boys' blazer badge and this was duly approved by all those present at the A.G.M. Mr. Clements is to be congratulated on the simplicity and effectiveness of the design which is based on John Ruskin's own coat-of-arms. The badges are at the moment being manufactured for Messrs. Hewitt's, and will be in two qualities. An all-silk badge will cost 7s. 3d., expected to be available from March 1st, and a more elaborate one in gold will cost 37s. 6d., but will not be on sale until 10th April. This should suit all pockets and we hope that the badge will be proudly worn on many blazers during the forthcoming Summer. We would stress that it is not now necessary to obtain a permit to purchase any Old Boys' items.

As we go to press, final arrangements are being made for the holding of the Old Boys' Dinner at the Cafe Royal, Croydon. This annual event is always a great success but we hope to have the pleasure of welcoming a few more Old Boys this year. We hope for a capacity crowd, especially as we expect to be entertained by two of "the clan."

Final arrangements are also being made for our first shooting match against the School. We are providing a team of eight (we trust, all marksmen!) to shoot against the School Cadet Corps. This contest has been made possible by the enthusiastic help given to the Association by Mr. Alexander, and as we look forward to a most enjoyable evening we wish to express our sincere thanks to him.

We had also hoped to be able to announce a Soccer match against a School eleven this season. However, once again the School appears to be overloaded with fixtures and the prospect of a match seems very remote. Our Soccer eleven has so far had a very poor season as far as wins are concerned. Handicapped by the absence of three of last season's regular players we lost the first four league games and so far have only three wins to our credit. Ron Montague, however, has worked very hard to get a winning team together and at long last is being rewarded by more successful results. He still has difficulty in fielding a regular eleven

owing to the lack of players and he will be very pleased to hear from any Old Boy who wishes to play.

From last year's School team we welcomed Martyn Hart, Harold Bailey and Dennis Harris. Hart is now at North Staffs. University and Harris is with the R.A.F. We wish them both every success and hope that when on leave they will be playing with Bailey who turns out regularly for us. Another "regular" who is in the Forces is ex-Croydon Schoolboy boxer Pat Mackleworth. All the best, Mackleworth, and we hope to see you too when you're on leave. The Soccer team still have a few fixtures and for the benefit of those Old Boys who might want to play or cheer, details are given below :—

Date	Opponent	Ground
Mar. 6.	Old Tenisonians	To be arranged
" 13.	Norbury Celtic	South Norwood Rec.
Apr. 3.	Camco	Wandle Park
" 10.	South Norwood Social	New Addington
To be arranged versus Southern Railway		

At long last an attempt is being made to revive the Dramatic Section of the Association. Derek Howes, who many will remember for his performances in School productions, is trying to organise this Section under the name of "The Ruskin Players," and circulars will shortly be sent out giving full details. We would appeal to all Old Boys who are interested in dramatics to give us their support as this is the only way in which we can achieve success.

It is with pleasure that we report the continued success of our weekly meetings. The School has been booked for each Thursday in 1954 and we shall be pleased to see any Old Boy who cares to look in.

Your Committee are anxious to organise further successful activities but would remind you that these cannot be undertaken without adequate funds. Subscriptions for the 1953-54 year have been due since September and we ask those who have been meaning to send "to-morrow" to let the Treasurer have their remittances "to-day."

M.E.S.