

• JOHN BUSKIN •
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
• • MAGAZINE • •



FEBRUARY 1956

"May we not, to begin with, accept this great principle—that as our bodies, to be in health, must be generally exercised, so our minds, to be in health, must be generally cultivated? You would not call a man healthy who had strong arms but was paralytic in his feet; nor one who could walk well, but had no use of his hands; nor one who could not see well, if he could not hear. You would not voluntarily reduce your bodies to any such partially developed state. Much more, then, you would not, if you could help it, reduce your minds to it. Now, your minds are endowed with a vast number of gifts of totally different uses—limbs of mind as it were, which, if you don't exercise, you cripple. One is curiosity; that is a gift, a capacity of pleasure of knowing; which if you destroy, you make yourselves cold and dull. Another is sympathy the power of sharing in the feelings of living creatures; which, if you destroy, you make yourselves hard and cruel. Another of your limbs of mind is admiration; the power of enjoying beauty and ingenuity; which, if you destroy you make yourselves base and irreverent. Another is wit or the power of playing with the lights on the many sides of truth; which, if you destroy, you make yourselves gloomy, and less useful and cheering to others than you might be. So that in choosing your way of work it should be your aim, as far as possible, to bring out all these faculties, as far as they exist in you; not one merely; nor another, but all of them. And the way to bring them out, is simply to concern yourselves attentively with the subjects of each faculty. To cultivate sympathy you must be among living creatures, and thinking about them; and to cultivate admiration, you must be among beautiful things and looking at them.

JOHN RUSKIN: "The Two Paths"

John Ruskin Grammar School Magazine

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Editor : R. B. Matthews

Sub-Editor : P. C. Jeffery

EDITORIAL



OUR new School, tucked away under the heights of Addington, has an inspiring position, but it has been slow to move our contributors, and we have had to wait longer than usual to complete our allotted pages. Finally, however, there was enough material for us to be discriminating, and we would thank several boys for articles and poems we have been unable to include.

The contemporary scene has been the inspiration of many of our contributors. The poets (and there are a goodly number of them this time) have been moved by the Mill, by the weather, by the night—and one by a moss! Jeffery's Spanish song, however, has its origin further afield, as has his lino-cut (another of his commendable pieces of work). But the prose writers have travelled even further—one to the Antarctic and another to outer space. The reader can drop back to earth, how-

ever, to read how a sixth former challenged a redoubtable international cyclist and how a fifth former got into films (if only for a day).

Among the numerous reports there are two of special interest: the one (with photograph) of our Organ Dedication Ceremony; and the one of our School play, "Toad of Toad Hall". Old Boys will also be interested to read that the speaker at Founder's Day was one of their members, the Rev. Norman Baldoek (1941-47).

"Letters from the University" is a new feature we are still one day hoping to start. So those old boys concerned, please note. Similarly, we are anxious to have a new cover design, but that also seems to be tomorrow and not today.

FOREWORD *by the Headmaster*

THE END OF EDUCATION

THE possible closure, by Shropshire Education Committee, of the one-form-entry Grammar School in the little town of Wem is, in itself, hardly an event to arouse much interest among Croydon boys or their parents. Reading about it in a local paper interested me, because Wem happened to be our opponents in the first cricket match I ever played in for my School. What may be of interest to all of us, however, is a remark by the Chairman of the School's Governors in his vigorous letter opposing the closure. After recalling the history of the School over 300 years, deploring the Committee's intention to send boys long distances to reach other and larger schools, and reviewing recent examination successes, he pointed to the many Old Boys who are giving fine service to the neighbourhood and made this remark, which I think worth recording: "At the end of an education is a man, not a certificate".

I hope no one will misunderstand my purpose in drawing attention to these words. I am not underestimating the value of examination successes. There is no reason why, at the end of an education, there should not be a man with a certificate; but if one had to choose between character and qualification as an indication of future usefulness, then I feel that character would be the surer criterion. In practice the distinction seldom needs to be made: one way in which character manifests itself is in perseverance and the mastering of difficult problems, which is the sure way towards academic success.

But if we look at the Chairman's statement a little more widely, it will be apparent that it contains much to make any reflective boy embark on some useful self-examination. Is he still inclined to the view that he comes to School simply to gain General Certificate? A school would be a poor place if all thought and acted thus. Is he conscious of having rights, but never considers that he has obligations to the community which pays for his education? Has he ever regarded education as a privilege? He would soon do so if it were denied him. Has he ever tried to give anything to the School as well as gain from it? Is he, as a result of his membership here, more kindly and tolerant towards others more firm in doing what he knows to be right, more considerate, more courteous and more brave?

It is, of course, only occasionally and unobtrusively that any of us submits himself to such conscious self-analysis. Possibly, many drift through life without ever doing so. But it is distressing to find a boy in this School but, in spirit, not really of it; and conversely it is a splendid and heartening thing when one gives a leaver the final handshake, not knowing, perhaps, his G.C.E. results, but certain that he leaves the School a finer fellow, already endowed with more than a little of the art of living.

NEWS MISCELLANY

WE were pleased to welcome five new members of Staff last September. Mr. D. E. Thomas comes to us from Heath Clark School and is Mr. Chinnoek's successor in the Woodwork and Metalwork centre. In addition he is an expert in italic handwriting and has started lunch-hour classes for those interested. Mr. R. Sharrock, B.Sc., comes to us from Lancaster Royal Grammar School and has taken Mr. Alexander's place in the Mathematics department. He is also a specialist in electronics and has taken charge of the Radio Society. Mr. B. A. Catchpole, B.A., has come to us from the Royal Free School, Windsor, to take junior arts subjects and games and to assist with the Cadet Corps. Mr. K. B. Simpson, B.Sc. (King's College, London) and Mr. S. F. Murray, B.A. (a graduate in Physical Education from Birmingham University) are both first appointments and both eager to serve the School.

Of sixth formers who left last September we understand that—
I. J. Dowie is at Imperial College, London, studying engineering.
G. E. Rosher is at University College, studying biochemistry.
A. D. Purnell is at Selwyn College, Cambridge, studying Mathematics and Physics.
J. Ward is at Chelsea College of Pharmacy.
H. Wood is at the Royal Dick Veterinary College, Edinburgh.
M. P. Huggett is at Loughborough College of Technology.
B. M. Faulkner is at Birmingham University studying biology.



A corner of the Dining Foyer

We are pleased to congratulate M. J. Holden (U.VIa) on gaining a place by competitive examination at Exeter College, Oxford.

Older Old Boys will be pleased to know that an enlarged photograph of Mr. Field (the School's first head master) will shortly be hung in the foyer alongside the portrait of Mr. McLeod.

Ten thousand saw I at a glance Well, 30,000 anyway! This is the estimated number of blooms to be seen in the Spring as a result of our Grand Autumn Bulb Planting. It should indeed be a sight to see and may well give pause to the passer-by in Upper Shirley Road. All parents are cordially invited when the time comes to see the results of their kind labours.

Much other progress has been made in the cultivation and beautifying of the School precincts. Roses and shrubs of many varieties have been planted, mounds have been turfed, undulations levelled, and all the land beyond the Mill grassed. Here we shall be able to have cricket and football practice, but alas! we have no good news of our Sports Field proper in Oaks Road. It seems certain that season 1956-57 will find us improvising again, as this year, to the continued detriment of School sport.

The tuck shop is now doing a steady daily trade thanks chiefly to the backroom work of Mr. Richardson, assisted by Mr. Fisher and Mr. Warne. The latter, with the help of the L.VI Remove, has recently prepared the concrete site on which the permanent lock-up shop will soon be erected.

Fifth Form Folies

"Miss Havisham was jilted by her lover at the eleventh hour, which in her case was twenty minutes to nine".

"Although she loved him . . ." : Adverbial Clause of obsession.

TO THE MILL

Dark, sombre walls, a roof of white,
Tiny windows to let in the light,
A stout old door, four stately arms,
You are our mill, these are your charms.

In days gone by, you fed folk here,
With flour ground from the golden ear,
And though your arms lie now so still,
You are our friend, our own old mill.

T. CRAGGS—IIIu.

THE DEDICATION OF THE SCHOOL ORGAN

"THROUGH efforts and donations made between 1952 and 1955, the Staff, Parents, Pupils, Old Boys and other friends of the School, purchased this organ in anticipation of our entry into a new building, and as a gift to all who will join the School in the coming years."

After interesting weeks when the instrument took shape before our eyes and when the builders' skill became very obvious to us, the organ was completed well in advance of Open Day, July 20th. The pro-



portions, the blending of timber with timber, the plainness of the metal pipework, all conspired to satisfy in the main the aesthetically sensitive, but we awaited the official day before the organ's true purpose was fully exposed to our attentive and very satisfied ears. Ably carried out by the Venerable C. F. Tonks, M.B.E., the Dedication included prayers which stressed the place of music as the handmaiden of religious observance from ancient times and eulogised the solemn and sacred music of the organ as an aid to our School worship; and so the large assembly was directed to the focal point of the service. Majestic lines from Dryden's Ode to the Patron Saint of Music had been effectively recited by Smalley and an extract in similar vein from Milton's "Il Penseroso" were later quoted by the Head Boy, Matthews. The organ was ceremoniously "played-in"—and what could be a more appropriate choice than "Two Trumpet Tunes and Air" by Purcell—by our guest organist, Mr. Alwyn Surplice, B.Mus., F.R.C.O., of Winchester Cathedral, who also accompanied two fine hymns of praise which were efficiently led by the Choir. Alec Rowley's anthem, "Praise", was also fully appreciated by the Choir, proving a notable link in the apostrophising of the "Master of Music and Loveliness".

Superb organ playing was enjoyed later in the evening and details of the recital are appended. High tribute was paid to the quality of the instrument in its present form and reference was made to its future potentialities. The audience remained in large numbers after the official programme was complete, happily interested in the succession of players who followed Mr. Surplice—representatives of Bishop and Son; Mr. Gordon Phillips, a distinguished Church Music composer and much associated with the Royal School of Church Music; and Mr. Gray, Organist of Leicester Cathedral. Such authorities did not hesitate to praise our good fortune, and so a memorable day was at its end.

Programme of the Recital :

1. Toccata and Fugue in D Minor.....Bach
2. (a) Air; (b) Gavotte Samuel Wesley
3. PastoraleCesar Franck
4. (a) Allegretto; (b) Antante Tranquillo Percy Whitlock
5. Chorale Preludes :
 - (a) O God Thou art Faithful
 - (b) How Lovely Shines the Morning Star ... Flor Peeters
6. (a) Prelude; (b) Reverie W. H. Harris
7. Scherzo Gigout
8. Chorale Improvisation on
 " Now Thank we all our God " Karg-Elert
 J.N.H.

MUSIC NOTES

SUMMER Term normally provides a break from intensive musical pursuits, but this year the Choir was kept in special preparation for the Organ Opening, an event reported elsewhere. On July 22nd Mr. Hancock gave a short Organ Recital prior to a joint meeting of old and present boys of the School. At the end of term, Bower and Jones, R. D., gained good passes in G.C.E. Music.

With the new term we were pleased to find much enthusiastic support from the four first forms. The Choir has received an admirable complement of trebles, but support from the Upper School remains woefully limited. Several useful senior pianists, however, have joined us and the tireless work of Shelley in connection with the play deserves great commendation. Perhaps because of so much activity within the School, two outside concert visits with the purpose of hearing Leon Goossens—distinguished oboe soloist—and Jack Brymer, clarinetist, have received scant support. Conversely, several mainstays of the School Orchestra have proved their worth as vocalists in "Toad of Toad Hall", thus widening their musical experience. The Orchestra itself is delighted to welcome Brown, a capable cornet player, and Bayliss, a junior at least who comes to us already able to play the violin. For the future also we hold high hopes that a new violin class of record numbers will ultimately lead the way to a larger Orchestra.

Excellent support was forthcoming for our Recital on October 26th. Mr. Frederic S. Waterman, who has unobtrusively helped the Organ Fund for several years, was at last a star in his own right. His well-chosen items, including excerpts from Widor, Boellmann and Mulet, left the audience longing for more; as did his discreet accompanying of the delightful violin playing of Miss Janet West, particularly in the Handel Sonata in E Major. Messrs. Murray and Hancock played movements from the Bach Concerto in C Minor and the Mozart Sonata in D Major at two pianos.

The Service of Lessons and Carols at the end of term was more ambitious and magnificent than hitherto. Pearsall's setting of "In dulci júbilo" was well rendered as were items from Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" and a six-part arrangement of Michael Head's "The Little Road to Bethlehem". In well-known carols, the whole School, Orchestra and Organ produced an exhilarating sound. And now the musically keen amongst our ranks look forward particularly to our concert on Friday, March 23rd.

J.N.H.

ROUGH WEATHER

My window overlooks the bay,
And as I gaze to sea
The water is storm-tossed and grey
As I sit down to tea.

The wind and rain, the pelting rain,
The hurrying clouds of grey,
I watch them as I sit at tea
And think about the day.

I think of all the splendid folk
Who weather out the storm
And war with elements and winds
While I stay snug and warm.

A. DRAKE—Ig.

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION, 1955

ADVANCED LEVEL

Arnott, P. D. J.	English, History, French.
Borrett, R. P.	Geography.
Holden, M. J.	History, Latin, French.
Matthews, R. B.	English, Geography, History.
Billington, R. J.	English, History, Economics.
Dopson, M. J.	Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Physics.
Dowie, I. J.	Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Physics.
Faulkner, B. M.	Chemistry, Botany, Zoology.
Heather, P. A.	Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Physics.
Huggett, M. P.	Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Physics.
Montague, A. M.	Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Physics.
Rosher, G. E.	Pure Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Zoology.
Ward, J.	Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology.
Willett, J. E.	Applied Mathematics.
Wood, H.	Botany and Zoology.

ORDINARY LEVEL

Va	Vf	VI (additional passes)
Best, E. R. (4)	Anderson, R. E. (5)	Clark, H. (2)
Bird, R. E. (3)	Armson, M. J. (4)	Devitt, A. (1)
Cleary, A. J. (5)	Bell, D. E. W. (2)	Francis, D. W. (3)
Coker, A. C. (4)	Bentley, R. C. (3)	Gorring, C. J. (3)
Coombes, T. A. (2)	Bower, D. M. (7)	Harrison, C. C. (2)
Dale, M. C. (1)	Day, G. G. (7)	Hoskin, M. (3)
Dobinson, J. A. (2)	Dopson, P. A. (7)	Howell, D. (2)
Dowsett, J. A. (5)	Fletcher, L. B. (6)	Lee, J. R. (3)
Edmeads, D. (4)	Gaskin, D. F. (7)	Neale, C. F. (2)
Forbath, R. C. (7)	Gould, B. A. (4)	Pettley, J. W. (2)
Formaggia, R. G. (4)	Hewson, R. A. (5)	Richards, J. K. (2)
Forman, M. (6)	Jones, R. D. (5)	Roderick, A. (2)
Gow, D. T. (2)	Kingston, A. E. R. (2)	Stekley, J. (2)
Greenfield, A. J. (7)	Lambert, D. J. (2)	Taken, E. A. (1)
Hodgson, W. A. H. (1)	Newsome, M. A. (5)	Baird, I. G. (1)
Jeal, A. J. (4)	Reddington, K. R. (1)	Bond, H. M. (2)
Kennedy, R. (2)	Roué, G. (4)	Fenton, R. S. (2)
Lester, D. F. (6)	Saunders, G. (3)	Gasson, E. D. (2)
Marsh, M. J. (5)	Smith, J. B. (5)	Jeffery, P. C. (1)
North, A. J. R. (1)	Telfer, B. G. (3)	Merchant, P. R. (1)
Sageman, R. W. (2)	Thorne, J. V. (4)	Mark, S. A. (1)
Shrimpton, D. W. (2)	Tickle, J. R. W. (1)	Matthews, R. B. (1)
Slade, D. J. (3)	Turner, I. S. (4)	Peacock, I. S. (1)
Spencer, R. A. (4)	Warren, G. D. (5)	Pike, M. F. (1)
Wilson, J. C. (4)	Yates, E. S. (5)	Shelley, R. (1)
Young, R. F. C. (3)		Walker, B. E. (2)
		Willett, J. E. (1)

NOCTURNE

Night;
Refractory, implacable, bleak hours.
Stealing over green lawns, white pillars;
Engulfing city squalor.
Peace-bringer to the weary : tormentor of the wicked :
Consciousness obliterating ; conscience provoking
Night . . . contemplative moments, years.

A thousand and one lights flicker
In its limitless dominion.

Whispers, endearing and evil
Rise, fuse, dissipate
In its limitless forgetfulness.

Eyes, watching, guiding, always waiting;
The crushed cigarettes of the impatient seeing.
They see; Night sees and remains silent.
Ears, mute, merciless in their pity
The unbidden cries of the despondent hearing.
Night hears and sighs.

Night.
Defied hours of conflict and calm.

P. ARNOTT—U.VIa

POEMA DEL CANTE

La guitarra tiembla
en la lejanía;
vibra el llanto la torre
dura en cielo.

El viento fresco callejea
en la noche.

Ay,
O gitanito,
donde un remiendo de candela
rompe la sombra
tu ojo muerto
vierte sollozas.

P. C. JEFFERY—U.VIa.



Serranas

P. C. Jeffrey—U.VIa

WILD WALES

"In one of those excursions (may they ne'er
Fade from remembrance!) through the Northern tracts
Of Cambria . . ."

—Wordsworth—*The Prelude*

THE prospect of Wales now seems rather remote. Last April, the task of completing the journey was even remoter. As might be expected, we started the adventure with youthful exuberance, but at the end the burden of both mind and body was heavy (not to mention the foot!). At the beginning, it was significant that a Yorkshireman and a Physical Training Instructor should be accompanying us! Our most intense and lasting impressions (and for some the only impressions) are of bog and mountain and valley, but for a whole week the freedom of Cambria was ours.

After arrival in Bangor, we set foot in Anglesey, but shuddering a little at the names on the signposts, we left the coast, and made our way into the mountains, to our first hostel. Next morning, a short march brought us to the Bethesda slate quarries. Here we inspected all the workings from a promontory 500 feet from the bottom of the pit. The quarrymen seemed to be cutting away the very mountains. At intervals they would all disappear into small huts while new material and our ears were blasted out. Having lunched beside a pleasant weir, we carried on up the road, leaving several water-trails. Unfortunately, the schoolboy is slow to realise that water makes a poor souvenir! Our route took us over a series of high peaks to the hostel at Llanberis. Only four arrived in time for dinner—the rest were too engaged with the scenic beauty!

On the Sunday we took the Snowdon Ranger track up to the summit of Snowdon. It was hard work but the view was worth the effort, and here we could appreciate much of the wild beauty that was Wales.

We arose from our beds in the hen-house the following day and took the whole route of the Llanberis Pass, right to the summit. While sipping hot tea there, everyone was certain that never again would he forget the appearance of a glaciated valley. We went as a geographical party, and there was no escape—Straight up the valley, was the order. We counted the number of hanging valleys by the blisters on our feet. It was Physical Geography in the truest sense of the word.

From Idwal Cottage Hostel, most of the party went on a circular route over the habitat of the old lords of Snowdonia, to two peaks topping three thousand feet—Carnedd Dafydd and Carnedd Llewelyn, whilst a more energetic group embraced Tryfan.

Next day we had time to admire the products of Welsh craftsmanship at Capel Curig before we proceeded across the Roman Bridge over the river on to the slopes of Moel Siabod. From this point, figures were seen strewn out along the horizon, from the long limbed ones in front to poor Sydney at the back. (Here readers must understand, without detriment to his character, that he was carrying a little more weight than the rest of us.) On the ascent, we thought we heard him reciting Falstaff's piece—"Heaven defend me from that Welsh fairy, lest he transform me to a piece of cheese!" Yet even he agreed it was worth it—at the top.

On the Thursday we decided to follow the quiet scenery of the valleys—to see the tumbling waters and falls of the Fairy Glen, and to forget for a day the gaunt uplands. In the afternoon we crossed the broad and fertile floor of the Conway Valley where the sheep and black cattle were grazing, with the air warm and pleasant in our faces. On the further side we visited the woollen mills at Trefriw, tucked under the hillside, and here we saw for ourselves the skill passed down over many centuries. We left with souvenirs both attractive and durable.

On the last day we all felt that inevitable sadness which must come at the end of all journeys. We had enjoyed the grandeur of the mountains and the quiet warmth of the valleys, as epitomised in its people and in its hostels. These were our first impressions, despite bog and blister. As we left those rocky tracts, we all felt considerable admiration for the people who lived there and some thankfulness that at least we lived on the English Lowland.

R. B. MATTHEWS—U.Via.

LONDON FOG

I slowly fall
In a misty wall
Covering trees
With effortless ease.

Then as I swirl
And twist and twirl
I swallow St. Paul's
And market-place stalls.

In my murky pall
Buses crawl;
I muffle all sound
As I steal around.

My enveloping clasp
Makes mankind gasp,
For November is here
The month they all fear.

The chimneys that smoke
Strengthen my cloak,
And I chuckle with glee—
Yes, this is the time for me!

D. STREVENS—IIIa.

PIKE v. HARRIS

WHEN, as a timid third former, I read an article in the School Magazine called "Harris Speed", I little thought that one day I would meet personally this great athlete who was the subject of the article. I thought even less that one day I would race against him.

This season has been my first as a track cyclist and I little realised what I was doing as I filled in my first entry form for an "Open" meeting. The meeting at which I chose to start my racing career was the Professional Grand Prix of London meeting at Herne Hill. I entered for the quarter mile open handicap, and hoped for the best.

When I told my cycling friends what I had done they just looked at me pitifully and said "Never mind, you'll soon learn." I did not realise what they meant at the time, but I soon understood when I read the copy of "Cycling" published a few days before the day of the race. For in the advertisement for the coming week-end's sport I read that the competitors for the quarter mile open handicap included Reg Harris, Cyril Peacock and a host of Continental professional riders. It was obvious to me that I would have to race against one of the "stars", but I consoled myself with the thought that the one who was in the same heat as I might do well in the heats of another race and rest himself for the final of the other one.

I must admit I was rather nervous from the time I read the advertisement until after the race and my nerves were not helped at all when my announcement to my School "friends" as to who my opponent could be was met with hilarious laughter. It was a very nervous cyclist indeed who presented his competitor's ticket at the entrance to Herne Hill track and who rushed to a programme seller to see his fate.

I opened the programme—then it hit me straight in the face! Heat 1, Reg Harris (England), then three lesser riders, and on the end of the list—M. Pike, Fountain C.C. From that moment I knew that the possibility of realising one of my greatest ambitions could happen that afternoon.

I carefully watched the heats of the "star" event, the Grand Prix of London, but to my dismay Reg Harris won his way into the final, which was to be run off after the handicap heats. Like most people, I thought that he would rest himself during the handicap heats for the other race.

At last my name was called out. I carefully placed my bicycle on the line way out ahead of the rest of the riders. Before mounting the machine I looked behind, and there he was—Reg Harris, 60 yards behind me!

Soon I was tensed, waiting for the start. A kindly official said that he was so far behind that he did not have a chance. Then the whistle blew, the gun fired, and we were off. The riders just seemed to float past me, but not the great Reg—at least not when I started to go round the final banking. Then it happened. There was a "swish" and a head narrowly missed my right shoulder—Reg Harris had gone past me like a bullet.

Needless to say, I came last, but it was one of the finest experiences I have ever had and the programme for the meeting is one of my most

treasured souvenirs. A word of warning for any budding track riders: do not try and beat Reg Harris for your debut.

M. PIKE—U.VIa.

PROGREDIOR OF MARS

NO matter to what extremes one may go in the Solar System, to Pluto or Mercury, one could not find a man of more singular personality as Progredior, the retired Martian Principal. Just outside the great city, based on the Mare Australis, where the canals converge, he has his magnificent mansion in his own pressure-dome.

His ruddy face stands out boldly against the aquamarine of his tightly-fitting costume, which is braided with light metal of a cobalt blue. On his feet he wears a pair of bagnesium-rubber boots, not unlike a surgeon's; his long, flowing cloak has his personal flash embroidered upon it.

Visitors are always welcome to his palace and during conversation he will introduce his "pet" quotation from Tennyson.

"Hesper—Venus—were we native to the splendour, or in Mars,
We should see the Globe we groan in, fairest of the evening stars."

They are never allowed to leave until they have been taken on a tour (conducted by Progredior himself) of his marvellous museum. Many of his exhibits are live Martian animal and plant specimens, but some are of historical interest, such as a couch taken from the first Earth Space Vehicle to land on Mars. This museum is his sole interest, and in most seasons of the Martian year he will be found somewhere on Mars collecting specimens for his museum.

But sometimes he takes a rest from his labours, to reflect in solitude upon his term of office as Martian Principal.

M. HOWARTH—IIIa.

MY PET

I have a pet who is my very own,
Who greets me wildly when I come home.
He is a budgie, Jack by name;
He likes to play and loves a game
With shiny marbles and buttons bright;
If you give him a mirror he's sure to fight.
His feathers are green and yellow and blue,
He has a sharp beak and a spot or two;
He lives in a cage with a perch that swings
And a small silver bell that he often rings.
He talks quite a lot and always he's plain,
He can say "Merry Christmas" and speaks his own name,
He's a dear little fellow and I think you'll agree
If you had a budgie you'd be as happy as me.

E. BAKER—Ig.

STAR FOR A DAY

IT was a bright, sunny summer morning. I was washing when the telephone rang. It was the call I had been waiting for. It was a theatrical agent. She asked me if I could get to the A.B.C. Studios at Elstree, near Boreham Wood, as quickly as possible that morning. I was wanted to take part in some shots for a film, only as an extra, but it was a chance in a million to see and work in a film studio; and oh! how excited I was. The money I was to be paid seemed like a fortune to me!

At Edgware I met three other boys taking parts as extras and also the theatrical agent's sister who was to be in charge of us. Elstree was a twenty minute bus ride. It was noon and a scorching hot day when we arrived. We entered the studios by the large main entrance and proceeded to the wardrobe rooms through a bustling city of property men, technicians, stage removal men, directors, actors and actresses, and all the other people who together make up the thriving film industry of today. In one of the wardrobe rooms I was measured and fitted with a school uniform. Wearing this I walked along a corridor to the group make-up room. Once made-up I was told to hurry to an awaiting coach that was to take me, the other extras, the wardrobe mistress, the make-up man and two other women in charge of the girls with us, to a location sight near Watford.

In the coach I got to know the other boys and girls with whom I was to work that afternoon. Some were school children like myself, others were students, training to become stage dancers, actors or actresses, and the remainder were children who normally work in their fathers' shops. To most of them this was nothing new.

The location area was a quiet part of the Hertfordshire countryside near a large Victorian school building. The weather was perfect for filming, but before it could begin the director had to wait for the sun to get into a convenient position, which suited us very well. As I said before, it was noon and lunch time; and lunch they gave us. We spent about two hours eating and drinking and talking before the camera-crew and car arrived, followed by a property lorry.

Before starting, the director gave us the gist of the story, what part we played, and what we had to do. The idea was that we were taking food, by bicycle, to some of our school fellows who had locked themselves in the school gym away from their teachers. So, for this reason we were given bicycles and food-parcels and told to follow the camera-car to the first road where the filming was to take place.

After being lined up, we were told to race after the camera-car in a desperate hurry, shouting at the tops of our voices, and waving our food packs. After each take, the director would comment and ask us to repeat it. Each shot or "take" was repeated three times. We were filmed in three different roads, making it about two miles' cycling that afternoon. And was I hot!

After we were finished filming I made the best of my time looking around as much of the studio as possible. I say, as much as possible, because it was like trying to look round London in a day. I looked around one large building that was the home of four huge, hangar-sized studios. In one I saw a realistic set for a futuristic film, "1984", and in another an inside scene from "Moby Dick". The next was empty, while

in the fourth was part of the school mentioned, reconstructed by the studio carpenters. The thing that struck me was that all the scenes were so realistically made.

By six o'clock it was time for me to leave. It had been an unbelievable day.

R. SCOTT—Vw.

THE SONG OF THE MILL

The windmill creaks, it groans along,
You can scarcely hear the miller's song,
It squeaks, it screams, it groans with pain,
As the miller toils to crush his grain.

A jolt, a jerk, and all the dirt,
Comes rushing out from 'neath the girt.
Large stones, and then the grain,
Comes trickling out, like golden rain.

At last the weary task is done,
The sails outstretched towards the sun,
The miller goes his homeward way,
Well content with the work of the day.

S. ATTENBOROUGH—IIIIs.

LIFE-IN-DEATH

Out in the fields the raindrop falls
Low on the swallow's brow,
Calling for his mate
Amongst the hedgerow,
With the buds breaking,
Only watching, only waiting.

Off away his beauty goes
Soft as the pallor of the rose,
His laughing shrill
Crying with the daffodil,
With the foals shying,
Only waiting, only dying.

Like the crocus before it shows
Dead in its cup with the frozen snows:
Panting hare, struck by the hound
Falls bleeding on the ground
Where the snow-drop gently falls . . .

While the poppy red,
Its broken head
Lies on the cenotaph . . .

R. B. MATTHEWS—U.VIa.

FROM EVEREST TO THE ANTARCTIC

IT seems most probable that this is the last generation of terrestrial explorers. For centuries, man has been pushing his boundaries outwards over the continents. In his quest, various obstacles have confronted him, of climate, of hostile people and of ideas—notably a profound conservatism in Europe. But, just as a child overcomes his difficulties on leaving the nursery, so too did man surmount his. From the time of the Renaissance, when the spirit of universal inquiry was set free, he has been slowly completing the map of the world.

Now only one major journey remains: that across the Antarctic. He will begin this with a sense of victory and achievement, for less than three years ago Everest was conquered. But what makes a man climb a mountain like Everest, journey through a dense jungle or trek over a great continent of ice? Does he do it for advancement, for personal pleasure or for knowledge? These physical obstacles exist and until they are overcome, man cannot conceive the whole picture of the world, nor can he be conscious of a sense of fulfilment, of mastery or of human power.

From these conquests men have acquired knowledge and wisdom and charity. They battled against blinding snow, bent in the face of raging winds, and heaved themselves over bare rock. They had little food, few companions and they struggled for air. Yet they arrived in the face of all these difficulties with the will to succeed. They found beauty in an apparent wilderness and truth in a single human struggle.

Today, individualists are not alone in their tasks, for these expeditions have now become international. The present one represents the whole British Commonwealth. On the fringes of the continent are to be found bases established by France, Russia, Chile and the Argentine: the scene is certainly a cosmopolitan one. Thus any sense of frustration or failure is reduced by the sense of companionship.

Men have also learned from the experience of others both on mountains and on ice. They now have modern equipment to combat their difficulties: radar, wireless, special foods, snow ploughs, tractors, better clothing and aircraft—the "Theron" has only just freed herself from thick ice by the assistance of a small reconnaissance plane. But for all these new developments, the struggle is still a human one. The task demands courage, integrity, patience and leadership. The men, however, are warmed by the lustre of such names as Weddell, Ross, Scott and Amundsen, men who succeeded with less than they.

The men are carrying on a tradition, but what can they hope to gain now? Certainly it will not be glory. In their own quiet way, they are completing the map of the world, and contributing important knowledge and data in glaciation, climatology, geology and marine biology. The results are not startling but they are of permanent value. In character, the men have not changed since those who went before them. Adventure such as Everest and Antarctica affords makes great demands on a man. When men no longer journey outwards over land, but downwards into the sea or upwards into space, they will not have altered, but will continue in the same light of confidence and achievement, for in Livy's words, "*nullas terras inexplorabiles humano generi esse*".

R. B. MATTHEWS—U.VIa.

TO A MOSS

When Autumn's tread is heard once more,
Bold Undulatum brings his capsules to the fore.
For 'ere the Winter comes again
He must shed his countless spores—his species to maintain.
What exquisite beauty lies in this humble moss;
Which makes all mankind's wondrous works look just like so much dross!
Every minute leaf is a tracery of cells,
Its whole splendrous symmetry a product of fairy dells,
Where the fungus abides, and mists do rise,
In sylvan hollows, and by quiet lanesides
Here Undulatum reigns supreme,
Affording to the eye what to the stomach does a full tureen.
Standing on a woven carpet silent on the ground,
The capsule-topped brown setae waving all around.
Each capsule bearing hidden underneath its cap
A mechanism of surpassing workmanship—a trap:
A trap for spores, a greenish row of teeth,
Opening only when 'tis moist, above as well as 'neath!
Oh! what joy 't'would be to find a plant as fine as this!
To me, a humble naturalist, 'twould verily be bliss.

J. R. GORDON—IIIa.



"TOAD OF TOAD HALL"

THE Dramatic Society gave three performances of "Toad of Toad Hall", by A. A. Milne, on November 17th, 18th and 19th. The production—the first in the new School Hall—was directed by Mr. Neale; and, as business manager, Mr. Sharrock assured a box-office success by advance publicity. The play is based on Kenneth Grahame's classic, "The Wind in the Willows". All the lovable characters of the book are there—the ebullient Toad; naive young Mole; the resourceful Rat; wise old Badger—and the songs and chorus line of Wild Wooders make it something of a musical comedy for children. But there is more to it than this, and the Dramatic Society found much to enjoy and to tax their histrionic skill.

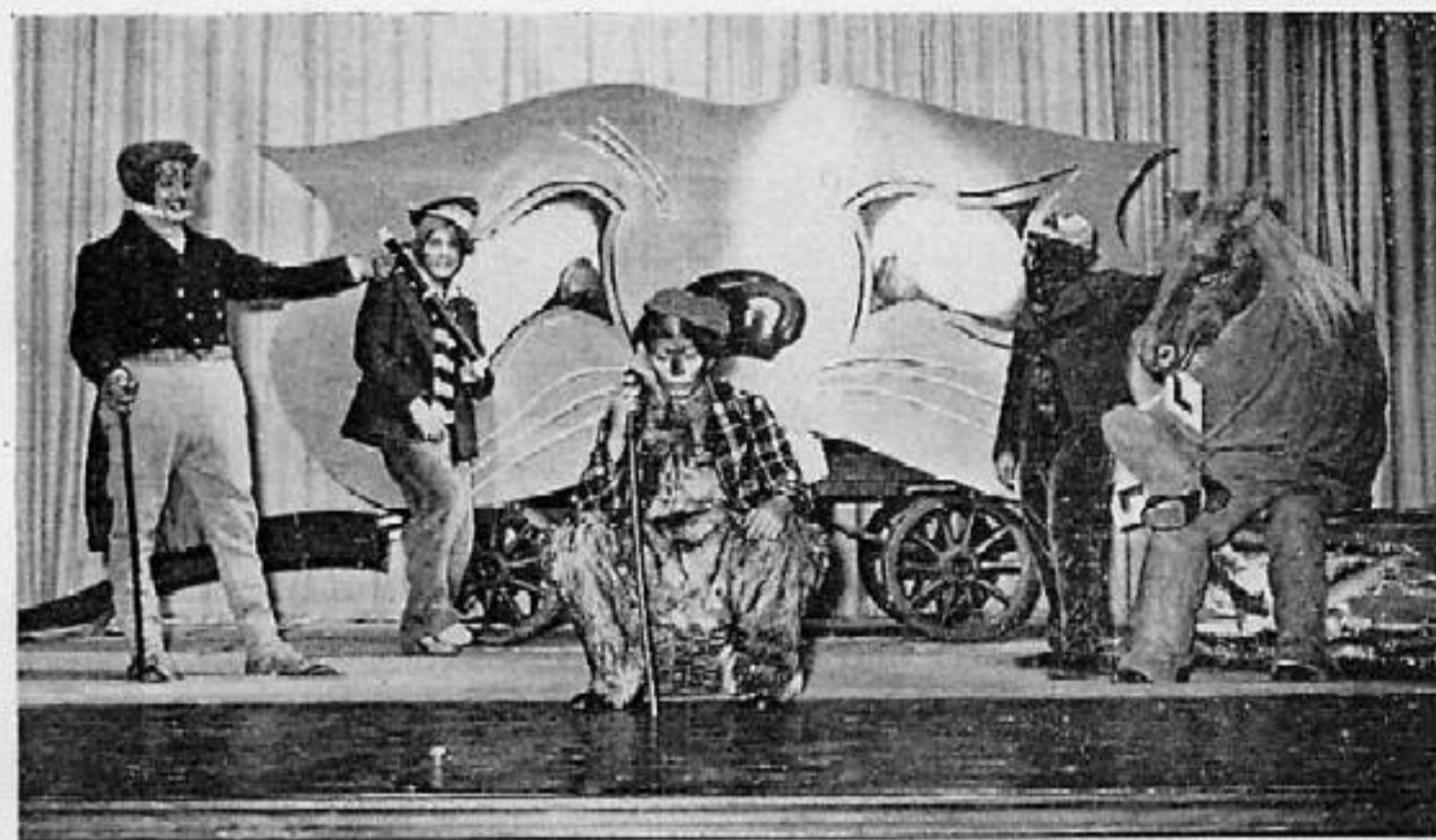
The success of the play was due to the concerted efforts of a large number of people. Richard Shelley acted as musical liaison throughout the rehearsal period, and played the piano accompaniment of H. Fraser-Simson's score. Mr. Hancock trained the principals in the various songs, and Mr. S. E. Murray devised some intriguing dances that were performed with West End aplomb. The Wild Wooders rehearsed their fights with Mr. Smith, and, as usual, Mr. Peacock supervised the construction of the scenery and properties. The zeal with which the stage-crew worked is especially to be commended. For weeks Grunts and Hollands toiled in the workshops, and one of their major achievements was the transformation of a barrow, kindly lent by a Surrey Street merchant, into Toad's gaily-painted caravan; this was hauled from Croydon during a bright interval in our very wet Autumn, and the boys' enthusiasm did not seem at all dampened by the deluge in which they were caught. Peter Jeffery's designs for the sets were very imaginative. His "Wild Wood" was particularly effective and deservedly praised. There are really so many acknowledgements to make—Mr. Richardson's help with the costumes; the most realistic delicacies kindly supplied by Messrs. Fortes of London for our Banqueting Scene; the animal make-up created and applied by Mr. Gee and Mr. Warne; the patient composers who produced the programmes on our own printing-press, in spite of tremendous set-backs—that it is quite impossible to include everyone.

The play itself was very well received in the local press. This year we were privileged in having a reporter from "The Times Educational Supplement" and we achieved even greater publicity by having a photograph in "The Evening Standard". The critic of "The Educational Supplement" had high praise for the boastful and irrepressible Toad (David Rowe): "His alterations between Falstaffian swagger and grovelling servility were the peaks of the evening's acting". The reporter continues: "Badger (Robert Forbath), Rat (Neil Thompson) and Mole (Bevis Kennett) all lent excellent support to the wayward hero, while the Chief Weasel (Frederick Rebello) was outstanding in his own nasty fashion."

But, in retrospect, it is from the small, incidental things that one derives most pleasure. We shall long remember "dear Moley" and his jar of Military Pickles, and the way in which he waved goodbye to the Fieldmice—a most poignant moment in a beautiful performance; Alfred's cavortings; and the really spirited acting of Rebello who danced, in the



The Full Cast



The Principals



"Fat Face!"

by courtesy of the "Croydon Times"

words of one critic, "with almost Gopal splendour". We recall, too, Toad's dexterous replacing of the Washerwoman's wig in one hilarious moment, and the Usher spread-eagled on the floor; the Judge's song, and his plaintive quest for safety-pins before each performance; and the occasion when the Wild Wooders, waiting for their musical cue, refused to budge and had to be pushed on bodily. Then there were the splendid storm-effects obtained by Mr. Murray and his agile assistants; dawn on the river bank and the cry of a bird; and the singing by Robert Johnson with a whisper of the wind in the willows in the organ accompaniment. And Toad triumphant, receiving the adulation of the others.

"J" COY. I (C) BN. THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT

HOW pleasant it is to record that, for the first time, the two highest Surrey A.C.F. awards have been won by members of the John Ruskin Company. For C.S.M. Dowie received the Lord Lieutenant's Badge from General Sir Robert Haining in August, and C/Sgt. Marchant was presented with the County Commandant's Badge by the Headmaster in November. Each award is a mark of appreciation of the service these Cadets have given to the A.C.F. If their precedent of hard work and enthusiasm is maintained, there need be no fear for the future reputation of this Company.

Hard work at training has also been well rewarded: in 1955 twenty-eight Cadets passed Certificate A Part I, and twelve Part II; and good marks were obtained by most of those who attended the Methods of Instruction Course run by the No. 7 Travelling Wing at School during October and November. The winners of the full Certificate A were: L/Cpls. Harrison, King, Lane, Sawyer, Ward and Woodcock, and Cadets Frith, Goff, Hayward, Laban, Stephens and Wilkinson; and those who did well on the Methods of Instruction Course were Cpl. Baird, L/Cpls. Harrison, King, Lane, Sawyer, Ward and Woodcock, and Cadets Cowlan and Fletcher. Every instructor must be congratulated on these results; but especially we must thank Mr. Catchpole, who has brought new ideas and drive to the Company, and C/Sgt. Marchant, whose coaching of Part II candidates has been tireless.

In sport the Company has achieved much. The following won County medals for Swimming: L/Cpl. Hodgson (2), Cadets Borrett (3), Rockall (1) and Walters (1); at the Athletics Meeting, medals were won by L/Cpl. King (2), Cadets Rockall (1) and Fuller (1); our Football team, which represents the Battalion, has reached the semi-final of the County Cup; and Cadet Fletcher has represented the Battalion at Table Tennis. There is still nothing to report of .22 shooting as the range is not yet in use. However, we must thank Mr. Thomas for his great help in its construction: without him we should not now be awaiting the issue of its safe's certificate. Cpls. Rosher and Forman and Cadet Hall fired .303 for the Battalion at Hythe in September, and Rosher went on to Bisley, where he just failed to join that select group—the Cadet Hundred.

Two parades stand out clearly in the memory: that in July for the Annual Inspection by Major Clowes, who gave us an excellent report; and that for Remembrance Day on November 6th when we all felt very proud of the fine turn-out and reverent behaviour of the Company, and of the quiet efficiency of C.S.M. Pike. However disturbed he may feel, C.S.M.

Pike always appears controlled, and thus he imparts ease to others. He has always been ready to give of his best to the Company. For these and other qualities the Officers of the Company have awarded him their Stick of Honour for 1955.

It is, however, at Camps that the spirit of the Company most readily reveals itself. We have always been commended for our willingness to perform our duties quickly, cheerfully and well. This reputation was maintained by our fifty-two Cadets in Camp. Although the failure of their wireless severely handicapped them, Marchant's Marauders came a very good second in the Night Patrol and Map Reading exercise. Our Guard started badly, but finished with congratulations from the Brigadier himself. Three of our tents shared the Tent Competition prize. Cpl. Forman won the 303 Shooting Competition. Our cricketers enabled the Brigade to beat everyone. Our N.C.O.s obeyed with alacrity the R.S.M.'s order that they should represent the Battalion at Mackeson's Brewery. Cadet Cowlam's hair was admirably cut by the "Company Barbers". The Company was, undoubtedly, at its best in camp. Yet we should not forget our good fortune in having the assistance of Mr. Collins, an officer of great conscientiousness and experience. Nor do we forget our delight at Mr. Pearce's visit; and we thank him for his prize, which was awarded to the smartest Cadet on the final parade—Cadet Holt.

Now we must look ahead. This year all training will be organised on a Section basis, so that our N.C.O.s will be given every opportunity to lead and to teach. We hope that every Cadet will continue to remember that he should be well-behaved and smartly dressed on parade, and that it is good manners to apologise for absence. For every cadet knows that, above all things, he is expected to be, like Chaucer's knight, a true gentleman.

H.J.C.

PREFECTS' CORNER

AT the end of the Summer Term many colleagues and good friends left our ranks! These were the first prefects in the new building—proud their memory, sad our loss. Ring out the old, ring in the new! The Autumn Term began, as usual, with the inauguration of the new prefects, and for the first time in several years the scientists were in the minority. This fact, however, by no means inferred that prefectorial affairs were devoid of scientific idiosyncrasies, since Division Room A is still noted for ingenious mural designs and irregular activities. Let us pass over the report of the recent locker inspection without comment!

Geological and geographical expeditions seem to be a major activity of a good proportion of our number. If one has the accoutrement—and the inclination—one might be fortunate enough to find the centrum of an ichthyosaurus! Readers will, I am sure, be pleased to know that these are now obtainable in the gault clay at Dunton Green.

Although the sessions of Prefects' Court are infrequent, it is still a working institution. We would thus remind the School of the folly of exorbitant noise, unofficial societies at forbidden times—in general, unprefectorial activities.

M.J.H.

MR. BROOK'S "HAMLET"

[On February 1st a party of 20 sixth formers visited the Phoenix Theatre to see the "Moscow Production" of "Hamlet".]

OF late the permanent and semi-permanent set has enjoyed great popularity on the London stage. Especially is this true of Shakespearian productions. In the last few years the Old Vic has used a permanent set almost exclusively; three years ago Bernard Miles used an Elizabethan permanent set at the Mermaid; and the only departure from this was the farcical effort produced for Gielgud's "Lear" at the Palace last Autumn, which failed completely because it had no affinities with the play.

In the production of "Hamlet" at the Phoenix a semi-permanent set is used and it is definitely the best that I have seen to date. Designed by Georges Wakhevitch, it has four passages which are curtained off to make a closed room; over six exits, and permits the inclusion and removal of a flight of steps with a platform for two thrones. With these advantages the scene changes should be prompt but under the management of Judith Spearman they assume, even if a little noisily, a fantastic speed—the longest change could not have lasted more than fifteen to twenty seconds.

The costumes which Mr. Wakhevitch also designed are not so successful as his set. With the exception of Polonius, Ophelia, Gertrude and some of the extras (which are good), his choice of colours is rather too reminiscent of Turan and not really suited to the play.

The lighting has some poor patches but it generally aids the scene changes by blacking-out the back of the stage, and shows the subtleties of the set.

There is not a great deal of music used but what there is, apart from the fanfares, is actually played on the stage. We have not been treated to live music since the Mermaid production of "As You Like It", which is a pity because the "potted" variety never seems to harmonise well with the play.

The highlight of this production is the way in which it allows many interpretations to be read into it. While I remain more convinced than ever that Ophelia (played by Mary Ure) is not the innocent ingenue, others cling to the reverse theory just as tightly. She gently smoulders her way to the mad scenes, when, instead of the usual dove-cooing, she bawls the songs in a harsh voice which is anything but "pretty". Instead of the usual cold, impersonal Queen, she is rather sensuous, and Diana Wynyard seems to suggest that she was not averse to the "o'er hasty marriage".

The ghost of Hamlet's father (John Phillips) is a little corporeal and chases Hamlet round the stage at arm's length, no doubt to allow Michael Innes's theory that the whole thing is a "put-up job" by Fortinbras and that he is the ghost!

Claudius (Alec Clunes) is kept, rather successfully, in the background, but he retains his air of authority and the pangs of conscience are carefully shown. Ernest Thesiger, now a real veteran of the stage but showing it only by his sureness, gives as nice an interpretation of Polonius as one could wish to see. It is tempting to reduce him to a buffoon to get laughs, but Thesiger plays him as an old statesman who still has his wits even if they are fading somewhat, and who is still wily even though senility has a hold.

Anthony Service plays the difficult part of the Player King well; Michael David makes an able Horatio and Timothy Findley has the audience laughing as Osric. Harry Corbett as the First Gravedigger gradually bends his knees as he digs the earth out of the pit so that he appears to sink lower into the ground. This may or may not be borrowed from the Classical Chinese drama which we saw last year but it is certainly an effective touch.

In view of all the thought put into the other characters it is difficult to see just how Paul Scofield's incomprehensible interpretation of Hamlet was allowed to reach the stage. In spite of the fact that the production breathes a little of the ruggedness which underlies the play, he made Hamlet a rather puny dreamer, and even, after first seeing the ghost, seemed to imply that he really was mad.

The manipulation of figures on the stage is usually well done. The King's "Give me light! Away!" has an effect reminiscent of the ordered chaos in Tintoretto's "Massacre of the Innocents", and Peter Brook (the producer) has Hamlet appearing nightmare-like among the players—goaded the King's conscience. Although Hamlet himself is disappointing, the production as a whole is a great success.

P. C. JEFFERY—U.Via.

HOMER AT THE PAVILION

On Thursday, October 6th, a party of 156 boys and eight members of Staff left School during the afternoon under the direction of Mr. Rees. The object of this excursion was to see "Ulysses", a film of Homer's famous epic poem, showing at the Marble Arch Pavilion. The leading rôle was played by the American actor, Kirk Douglas, while Sylvana Mangano, the Italian actress, took two parts—Circe and Penelope.

The film was an Italian-American co-production, with an American dialogue, which, in the opinion of several members of the party, spoilt the film to no small degree. The performances of the two principals were certainly not without fault; Ulysses was played with great dash, but Kirk Douglas did not reveal his essential cunning, while Sylvana Mangano did not achieve much variation between her two rôles.

Nevertheless, despite the criticisms which the film provoked, no one present could have denied that it had many fine points. The scenery was delightful, which was perhaps due to the fact that the production was filmed in its original setting—the Eastern Mediterranean. One of the most exciting scenes, the cave of the Cyclops, was well handled, with the devouring of two of the Greeks, and the subsequent drugging of Polyphemus, and the loss of his one eye, ending in the escape of the Greeks. Polyphemus was an awesome sight which will hardly yet be forgotten. The climax of the film was the melodramatic scene in which Ulysses, having returned to Ithaca, "disposes" of his wife's suitors, and it provided an exciting finale to a film which, on the whole, was a worthwhile production.

R. E. MELVILLE—U.Via.



SOCIETY NEWS

THE DRAMATIC SOCIETY

PREPARATIONS for "Toad of Toad Hall" began immediately after the Summer examinations, and on Open Day (July 20th), with casting complete, a few scenes from the play were rehearsed in the English Room. Activities during the Autumn term were largely concerned with the production. Members of the Society busied themselves with constructing and painting the scenery in the workshops, and with making innumerable properties, and Mr. Gee gave a series of practical demonstrations in make-up. The appearance of the stage curtains, and fine velvet hangings for the windows, soon gave the proper theatrical atmosphere to the Hall. "Toad of Toad Hall" was successfully presented to full houses in mid-November.

There are several theatre visits to record, and, in the course of the year we have been able to see all the productions at the Old Vic. During March two parties were arranged to see "As You Like It", a set-book for the School Certificate candidates. Robert Helpmann's production as a whole was quite charming; the picturesque backcloth for the court, and the gnarled oaks of the woodland scenes were very pleasing, and the lighting was used with magnificent effect. Virginia McKenna was a graceful, winsome Rosalind, and John Neville brought a welcome nimbleness to the part of Orlando; the quartet—half dance, half madrigal—of protesting lovers in the last Act, was especially delightful. Paul Rogers crowed dolefully in the role of Touchstone, and Eric Porter, as Jaques, sought a way to revivify "All the world's a stage" by breaking it up into short phrases, and deliberately throwing his lines away in utter boredom—and, this time, the trick seemed most effective.

We followed the fortunes of Falstaff throughout the season and saw both parts of "King Henry IV" (May 11th and 18th) and "The Merry Wives of Windsor" (October 18th). It was interesting to see "Henry IV" after our own production of Part I of the play last year. There could never be a larger Falstaff than Paul Rogers, and the manner in which he swashbuckled his way through the play, adding ingenious stage-business to the broad humour of the tavern scenes, made it an hilarious evening. In the second part, John Neville's Pistol was a splendid rantipole, and Paul Daneman shrank himself into a Shallow that was a masterpiece of senile decay. The play of "the Fat Knight in love" was also enormously funny and things moved fast on a more-or-less Elizabethan stage. We did not feel that the wives (Wendy Hiller and Margaret Rawlings) were merry enough; but Richard Wordsworth's Ford, heavily moustachioed, and played in the manner of a villain from melodrama—all ogles and hisses—made up for them.

In "The Winter's Tale", which we saw on November 26th, John Neville showed his versatility by taking the part of Autolycus—a "snapper-up of unconsidered trifles". The country scenes were very gay and charming, and in vivid contrast to the mildewed atmosphere of the court of King Leontes.

By way of a change we went to see Goldsmith's comedy, "The Good Natur'd Man", which was presented in the Civic Hall, Croydon, on

September 26th by the Gate Players, a company of very talented local amateurs. Box, pit and gallery were entertained to a delightful evening of 18th century elegance and wit.

The activities of the Society have not been limited to theatricals. On Open Day, at the Service of Dedication of the School Organ, Smalley recited part of Dryden's "Ode for St. Cecilia's Day", and Matthews followed with lines from Milton's "Il Penseroso".

The Annual Carol Service was held at the end of term, and several members of the Society were chosen to read the lessons. The readers of the Nine Lessons were: Mr. Lawes; Drake (I.); Haithwaite (II.); Sayer (III.); Smalley (IV.); Goff (V); Stokley (L.VI); Pike (VI); and the Headmaster. The Animals' Carol from "Toad of Toad Hall", sung by the Fieldmice, was included in the programme of music.

We are always pleased to hear news of old pupils. Reginald Anderson, who left School last year, has been awarded a Scholarship tenable for two years at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Ewart Sturrock has been appearing with the Dundee Repertory Company, and hopes to return to them after his period of National Service. Brian Telfer has had several parts in plays staged by the Croydon Histrionic Society.

F.N.N.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

DURING the term September to December, 1955, the Society held five meetings. The membership this term exceeded seventy boys, mostly from the lower forms of the School.

On 28th December, Mr. D. J. Reed of the Illuminating Engineering Society gave a lecture on "The History of Lighting". The varied forms of lighting invented in the last few decades during the development of modern electric light were described, a discussion of various floodlighting schemes was included, many interesting slides were shown and innumerable experiments demonstrated.

Mr. P. E. A. Brookhouse of Johnson Matthey and Company gave a talk on 19th October on "The Use of Precious Metals in Industry". One gathers that the metal of chief importance to many modern industries is platinum with which metal the lecture was mainly concerned. A description of the remarkable properties of modern alloys and different welding processes were shown and after a period of questioning, books on the subject were distributed.

"Radar" was the subject of the lecture given by Mr. Welsh of the Decca Radar Company on 19th November. However, owing to the late hour at which the lecture commenced only a sketchy outline of the subject was given and most of the available time the members spent in admiring a nugatory set of slides showing radar displays of dock and river areas and in examining radar display equipment brought along by the lecturer. The Society hopes to have a second lecture from Mr. Welsh in the Spring term.

On the 30th November and December 1st three films were shown entitled "The Changing Earth", "The Search for Oil" and "The Wild-

cat". The first film showed how the oil is formed, the second the enormous amount of labour to be achieved before drilling, and the third was a very good film showing the actual drilling operation in detail. The films were supplied by the Petroleum Films Bureau.

The last lecture of the Autumn term was held on December 15th. Mr. W. A. Gibson-Martin of the British Iron and Steel Federation delineated the methods of producing varying quality irons and steels, explained with the help of a short film the action and construction of the open hearth furnace and commented on what future developments would demand of the industry.

The finest lecture of the Spring term, 1956, was on "Jet Engines". Mr. G. Baldwin of Rolls Royce Ltd. gave a witty talk on the functions of the components of the Pure and Prop-jet Engine. Mr. Baldwin expressed an understandable doubt that the speed of 299,790 km./sec. could be attained.

We hope to follow this last lecture by one from Handley Page and Co. on the structure of modern aircraft.

R. S. FENTON—U.VI.Sc. (Secretary).

THE CHESS CLUB

THROUGHOUT the School interest in the Chess Club has grown considerably. One of our major difficulties, however, has been the lack of sets, but soon we hope to be able to buy a few more. Yet even this has not retarded our progress. Last term three of our senior members, Lanch, Payne and Woolford, took part in a simultaneous match at New Addington against an ex-Civil Service champion, and it was creditable that, though one lost, two of them forced draws.

On January 20th we held our first match of the season against the New Addington Chess Club, and lost narrowly by five matches to four (or as the team knows, by the margin of a bishop). To this Club we are grateful both for their sportsmanship and their hospitality. On that occasion, the School was represented by Lanch, Payne, Woolford, R. Forbath, G. Forbath, Corrall, Walker, Deane and Matthews.

For the future, we would still like to see more members, because until we do, we cannot complete a fuller programme—either in House matches or against other Schools.

R. B. MATTHEWS—U.VIa. (Secretary).

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

UNDER the guidance of Mr. Simpson, the Society has made rapid strides. New equipment added to the dark-room includes a Gnome enlarger, a Patterson printing box, a developing tank, masking frame and numerous accessories. At the present time, we are still jostling with the Science department for the use of the dark-room, but rotas will be drawn up. If they wish to carry out their personal work, members have only to see one of the elected officers.

The theoretical aspects of photography like the practical, have not been neglected. Numerous lantern lectures, given during the previous term, have dealt with topics ranging from developing to portraiture. We now have,

too, a small collection of instructive films, generously provided by Ilford Ltd. and Kodak Ltd. Then the Library has been stocked with numerous books covering a wide field of subjects.

During the present term more films will be shown and members are asked to bring their own photographic work for discussion—good or otherwise. The highlight of the weeks ahead will be the lecture given by Mr. Karl Pollak of Ilford Ltd., on March 21st. We hope that he will speak to a very large audience since he is a lecturer of repute, and that his advice will be of permanent value.

Thus, as our resources expand, our membership grows accordingly. The Society has much to offer, so why not join? Should you choose to do so, you should see one of the following—Jeffery (President), Deane (Treasurer) or Matthews (Secretary).

R. B. MATTHEWS—U.VIa.

LE CERCLE FRANCAIS

Les réunions du cercle, je suis heureux de vous annoncer, ont été bien patronnées, non seulement par la classe de philosophie, mais aussi par les classes de première et de deuxième. Encore une fois, le cercle s'est trouvé bien utile dans les examens oraux, auxquels se sont présentés plusieurs d'entre nos membres. Je suis certain que je remercie, de leur part, Messieurs Fisher, Warne et Richardson pour avoir accordé du temps à leur profit.

Au commencement de l'année académique, le Comité a décidé de changer le système des réunions; il fut décidé que la classe de philosophie ne viendrait pas aux réunions du cercle, mais se bornerait aux Thés Français seulement. La classe de première et celle de deuxième assistent toujours aux réunions du cercle. Ce nouveau système se trouve bien satisfaisant. Pendant le trimestre passé, le cercle français de Coloma nous a invités à une soirée où tout le monde s'est bien amusé. Ce trimestre nous avons eu le grand plaisir d'accueillir les jeunes filles de Coloma à notre soirée annuelle, où, après des jeux, nous avons vu des films français, particulièrement un qui était intitulé "Le Goémon", et qui traitait de la vie en Bretagne, d'une façon réaliste. La classe de philosophie est allée à l'Institut Français pour voir la présentation de la célèbre comédie satirique de Molière—"Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme".

Je suis heureux de pouvoir dire que maintenant, par la flexibilité de nos programmes et le patronnage que le cercle a reçu, nous avons surmonté toutes les difficultés du nouveau bâtiment, avec lesquels nous étions confrontés. Et, je terminerai dans l'espoir que le cercle continuera à servir aux besoins et aux plaisirs linguistiques de nos étudiants.

P. ARNOTT—U.VIa. (Secrétaire).

THE RADIO SOCIETY

THE Radio Society which was formed at the beginning of last term is being fairly well supported. The object of the Club is to teach the general principles of radio by short lectures and by making simple receivers at School. During the coming year we will be having films and we hope to be visiting some well-known radio firms

A. JEAL—L.VI.Sc.

THE CHRISTIAN UNION

IT is with no little pleasure that we have been able to revive the Christian Union in the School. Four years ago the Christian Union ceased its activities through lack of support, but now we feel the right moment has come to start it up again.

A preliminary meeting which we held, justified our confidence and we can look forward to considerable support in the future. When our Committee met they decided on a widely varied programme including talks from outside speakers, discussions, brain trusts and films. We also intend to institute a bookstall in the School.

At the opening meeting on Monday, February 6th, Mr. R. T. Bell spoke on the purpose of a School Christian Union.

Our meetings will be held every Monday at 4 p.m. in Room 12. Every meeting will be an open one to which everybody is invited and all are welcome.

R. FORBATH—L.VIa.

FOUNDERS' DAY SERVICE

WE are met here to commemorate the Thirty-sixth Anniversary of our Foundation". These were the first words to be read from the Order of Service leaflet when, on January 12th, 1956, our Founders' Day Service was held in our new School Hall.

After the Opening Sentences, there followed the School Song, Prayers and the Hymn, "Our Father by whose servants". The Lesson from Exodus) was read by Alderman Cole, and the School Choir then gave a beautiful and reverent singing of Vaughan Williams' anthem, "Let us now praise famous Men".

After this came the Address by the Reverend N. Baldock, B.D., who was School Captain from 1945 to 1947 and who was the first Ruskin boy to pass the Higher School Certificate Examination.

Mr. Baldock related his Address very closely to the Lesson which was the story of the "Meeting of Moses with God". He said that Moses was very much a person of the present day world, because he had to make a choice; and sooner or later we would all have to make that choice between an artificial, attractive, well-paid job and a job which we felt was necessary for us to do. Indeed, Mr. Baldock said that it would be nothing short of treachery to God and to ourselves to take an easy, attractive job instead of the one which God meant for us.

The world, he continued, was crying out for men to carry a Cross; for men who believed they were unique men; for men who had been called by God. Sooner or later, we would be faced with the choice of either following our vocation or alternatively running away to join the obscure million who were dissatisfied with life because they were employed in the wrong jobs.

The Address was given in a forceful and earnest manner. The eloquence and quiet confidence shown and the clarity of thought and argument impressed me greatly, and the schoolboy audience listened intently throughout. For me, it was a memorable Address.

Finally, the service ended with a Prayer of Dedication, the Blessing (pronounced by Archdeacon Tonks), and the Dismissal Hymn.

B. GOULD—L.VI.Sc.

HOUSE NOTES

ALPHA

It is unfortunate that Alpha still maintains its position at the bottom of the Points race. The reason, I regret to say, can only be ascribed to the laxity of the Middle and Upper School, who prefer to leave the point-earning to the first, second and third forms. If Alpha is to improve her performance in the Endeavour Cup, in future years, the only remedy is an all-out effort by every member of the House.

To embark on a happier subject, we welcome Mr. S. E. Murray and Mr. K. B. Simpson to the House. We must hope that their enthusiasm in both the academic and sporting fields will inspire the entire House. Congratulations are due to all members, past and present, who were successful in the G.C.E. examinations last June. Peter Jeffery, too, is worthy of congratulatory mention for his splendid décor in this year's production, "Toad of Toad Hall".

In the field of sport, Alpha has revealed some sparks of merit. We ran a very close second to Delta House in the Swimming Gala last year with only a few points separating us. In football we drew with Gamma House last term, but were shown a clean pair of heels by Delta, who succeeded in beating us 6—0. Cricket, owing to poor weather conditions, was non-existent. Last term we said goodbye to Fletcher, our Captain of football and cross-country whose absence, I am sure, will be increasingly felt as the year progresses.

Well, Alpha, let's really show the other Houses what we can achieve during the coming year!

P. ARNOTT—U.VIa. (Captain).

BETA

Firstly, we would like to welcome to the House Mr. Smith, our new House Master, Mr. Sharrock, and all the boys of the first form.

In the Endeavour Cup, efforts have been individual rather than concerted, and again it has been left to the "faithful few" to hand in points, with the result that we have dropped behind in the race. If we are to regain the Cup, then remember, the successful formula is "endeavour by all!"

The House has done well though, in other spheres of School life. Rowe, Thompson and Kennett between them took three out of the four leading rôles in the play and so set a fine example to the House. Arnold, who has now left us, also fostered this spirit by his own achievements.

At sport, we performed moderately. We lost the Junior Cricket and in the Cross Country, though packing well in the first twelve, just failed to win. At Sports Day, as in the Swimming Gala, it was the same story—the work of the few. We left the field without a single trophy! Was this the Champion House of the previous year?

Slowly the House is fighting back. At football we lost to Delta with only ten men—a fine effort by the team. Later we drew with Gamma, and thus took second place in the competition. Thus in all its activities,

the House has the spirit and the example of the few. Let us try to produce more rewarding and definite results in the season ahead.

R. B. MATTHEWS—U.Via. (Captain).

DELTA

The year 1955 has probably been for Delta House the most successful since the war. We won the Senior Football Trophy by beating Beta in the final, the Cross Country Championship, the Athletics Cup, and the Swimming Gala. We were unfortunately unable to repeat our success of the previous year at cricket because of adverse weather. Our academic achievements were no less bright; our five Advanced Level candidates gained a maximum number of passes. Finally the one trophy which we did not manage to secure—the Endeavour Cup—appears now well within our reach.

Can Delta House hope to achieve the successes of last year? Well, we have again won the Senior Football competition by beating all three Houses; we have a substantial but dwindling lead in the Endeavour Cup race; and our chances in the cross country run have been improved by the arrival of Mr. Catchpole, an enthusiast in this line of sport.

So let us not rest on our laurels; we may congratulate ourselves on our success, but must play hard and work hard to achieve yet more.

I hand over the Captaincy to B. S. Walker, hopeful that his term will be successful, and confident that he will do his best to make it so.

M. J. HOLDEN—U.Via. (Captain).

GAMMA

Since the last issue of the School Magazine the House has undergone considerable changes in its leadership. Mr. Cracknell has left us after many years of service as House Master, since his duties as Senior Master make it impossible for him to manage the House also. Our new House Master is Mr. A. L. Murray, to whom we extend a warm welcome. Another member of staff has also recently joined the House—Mr. Lawes—whom we also welcome. Our old House Captain, Purnell, has left to take up his course at Cambridge University.

During the past year the House has played a full part in the life of the School, although it has achieved no spectacular success. Our School play in November had a fair percentage of Gamma House boys taking part; and we must particularly congratulate Rebello on his outstanding performance as Chief Weasel. The House Secretary, P. Marchant, became a Surrey county Commandant Cadet during last term—a very high honour in the Cadet force. M. Pike, the Sports Captain, has also achieved success in the Cadet Corps, being C.S.M. and holder of the Stick of Honour.

The competition for the Endeavour Cup is very close indeed. We are now holding second place to Delta who lead by a small margin. Only a slight increase in pressure is needed for us to challenge for first place. As usual we are able to boast of a low proportion of debits compared with other Houses. Let us hope that for once Gamma will not be beaten by a narrow margin.

R. J. BILLINGTON—U.Via. (Captain).

SPORT

1955 has been most a disappointing year for Senior School sport, but many Juniors show considerable promise and perhaps, within two seasons, results will be a little more encouraging.

It is most regrettable, too, that several Fifth and Sixth Formers, whose ability at Football and Cricket justify inclusion in a 1st or 2nd XI are not playing for the School. Not only does School sport suffer by the fielding of weakened elevens, but it is certain, too, that these boys lose much when their membership of the School stops short of giving their services to the School in Saturday Football or Cricket. A great deal of talent, built up in Lower and Middle School games in past seasons, is being wasted by the non appearance of these players in 1st and 2nd XIs.

An even more frustrating feature is the absence of convenient playing-field facilities. With the ground near the School newly-ploughed and sowed in early summer we were unable to bowl a cricket ball, putt a shot, throw a discus or javelin, or to take part in any of the specialised training that good cricket or athletics require. This state of affairs seems, unfortunately, likely to continue for a while yet.

ATHLETICS

The Inter-House Athletics Meeting was held at the Waddon Ground on Wednesday, 13th July. The competition was not as closely contested as in recent years, for it was apparent early in the afternoon that Delta House was building up a considerable lead. The Delta relay teams proved invincible. Holden, Hoskin and Youldon, all of Delta, each gained two firsts and a second as joint claimants for the Victor Ludorum Cup and these successes contributed largely towards Delta's winning total.

Results:

House Championship Cup—Delta House

Field Events Cup—Delta House

Junior Games Cup—Gamma House

There were no fast times this year and one wonders whether the groundsmen's tape-measure was at fault, or whether our would-be athletes should be reminded that systematic training is needed for first-class performances.

CRICKET

The batting in our Senior XIs during the 1955 season was lamentable. In several matches good bowling performances by F. Arnold, supported by A. Montague and R. Matthews, dismissed our opponents for quite modest totals only to have our own batting collapse, for the games to be lost. Of a dozen matches played, only three were won.

In fairness to our players, however, it must be recorded that there was just no opportunity whatsoever for batting practice. Nowhere at the School could we put a ball down on a reasonable surface for the development of stroke play.

In the match against the Old Boys' XI, S. Frier played a careful and patient innings to score 38, but found no one able to stay with him

against the hostile bowling of J. Birch, whose five wickets for 15 runs was largely responsible for the first victory of the Old Boys over the School XI.

An enjoyable game was played at the end of the season against Mr. A. F. S. Child's XI. A. Langridge batted well for 56 runs, and the match was drawn with the School needing but six runs for victory.

In the Middle School XI, the spin bowling of A. Drain and the batting of A. Langridge were the main features in most of the games. Drain's bowling was made doubly effective by the alert wicket-keeping of Langridge. The team had a good season but was eventually beaten in the semi-final of the competition.

A Junior XI, under the captaincy of J. Oliver, also had a very successful season. There was much keenness and enthusiasm, and the players showed considerable promise. Of nine matches played, only one was lost, and with six victories and two drawn matches to its credit during the season, the team went on to win the final match of the Croydon Schools competition and to be awarded the "Hansford" Cup.

The bowling of K. Penman and of J. Oliver, together with useful batting by M. J. Brooks, J. Oliver and P. A. Chesnutt were encouraging features.

	P	W	D	L
Senior XIs	12	3	2	7
Middle School XI	9	5	2	2
Junior XI	9	6	2	1

Arthur Langridge, aged 15 years, had a very good cricket season. In 1954 he was awarded his Croydon Cap and in the 1955 season was given the captaincy of the Croydon team. His experience with this XI served him in good stead when, awarded his Surrey Cap, he was chosen to captain this XI as well. Following upon some excellent batting performances for Croydon and for Surrey, Langridge was included in the South of England Trial Match at the Oval. A splendid 64 runs in this trial gave him his well-merited place in the South of England XI and with it the honour of captaining his team against the North of England at the County Ground, Northampton.



Langridge thus becomes the first John Ruskin boy to be awarded a Junior International Cap.

His best performances during the season included:

For Croydon v. Trinity—74.

For Croydon v. Mitcham—72.

For Surrey v. Charterhouse—
84 not out.

A. C. Langridge

F. Arnold, who in 1954 played for England v. Wales at Swansea, was again selected for the England XI and played against Warwickshire and against Wales at the County Ground at Edgbaston and against the M.C.C. Young Professionals at Lords.

D. Lambert was awarded his London Cap and had some enjoyable cricket for the London XI against Eton, Harrow, Winchester and Tonbridge.

A. Drain was awarded his Croydon Cap, his slow spin bowling contributing materially to Croydon's several victories throughout the season.

FOOTBALL

The Senior Football results for the first half of this season make even more depressing reading than the cricket record for 1955.

				P	W	D	L
1st XI	...	...	...	11	3	1	7
2nd XI	...	...	...	10	2	0	8

In these teams we have players individually quite as good as any we have had in the past. Defeats have been largely due to sheer laziness on the field of play. Moving with the game, coming back to meet the ball, challenging immediately for possession and not letting up have been conspicuously absent. A few players seem to think that wearing a pretty shirt is all that is required. Yet each player selected for a team most certainly has the ability, in my considered opinion, to be a competent member of that team if he used to the full his undoubted football ability.

R. Matthews, Captain of Football, at centre-half, and Spencer at wing-half have been consistently whole-hearted players and these two have been awarded Football Colours for 1955-56. Other members of the 1st XI will need to play more forceful and effective football to qualify for Colours by the end of the season.

The 3rd XI was entered for the Croydon Schools Cup Competition and reached the Final. This match was played at Selhurst Park where in a keenly-contested game this team lost to Ashburton by 2 goals to 1. A feature of this game was the powerful play of I. Allen, A. Drain and A. Langridge in defence, although the whole XI must be congratulated on providing an exciting and enjoyable game. Our congratulations to the Ashburton team, worthy winners of the competition.

The 4th and 5th XIs have a full programme of fixtures and, to the time of going to press, are doing quite well. The 4th XI has frequently fielded several reserves in order to release players to the Croydon XI. The 5th XI, playing in the Croydon Schools Competition, lost only two games of eight played in the preliminary grouping.

From Middle and Lower School teams, Langridge, O'dell, Dobbs, Wilkins, Burrows, Newton, Chesnutt and Taylor have played at the appropriate age-levels for Croydon in Surrey and London Competitions.

Our grateful thanks to those many parents who, by arranging for the laundering of kit, ensure the immaculate turn-out of our various XIs.

LAWN TENNIS

During the Summer, Senior Forms were able to have Tennis practice under first-class conditions at the Shirley Park Tennis Club. These excellent

facilities were a welcome addition to our sports programme.

In an Open Tournament at the end of the Summer Term, M. Denning beat S. Frier in the Final, the winner being presented with a box of tennis balls given by Mr. Murray.

SWIMMING

The School Gala was held at the Central Baths on Monday, 23rd May. The competition was, as ever, keen and exciting and the result in doubt until the relays towards the end of the programme of events.

Results —

“Blackwell” Cup for House Championship—Delta House.

“Perry” Cup for 100 yds. Championship—A. Newsome.

Senior Diving Cup—A. Hodgson.

Junior Diving Cup—P. Walters.

Senior Relay Shield—Alpha House.

Junior Relay Shield—Delta House.

The School Relay team beat an Old Boys' team and at Water Polo the School defeated Selhurst in a friendly match.

In open competition the School team did well to be placed fourth at the Surrey Grammar Schools Gala at Kingston. At the London Schools Gala, I. Turner won a place-medal in the Davenport Shield competition. Friendly matches were enjoyed during the season with Trinity and Selhurst Grammar Schools.

* * * *

We continue to use the Playing Field at Waddon for Saturday Football and Cricket, and must do so until another ground is ready for us. Our cricketers past and present will know the excellence of the wicket at Waddon, and how much our batsmen owe to the groundsman, Mr. Allsopp, for producing such splendid pitches. It was with great regret that we learned of his departure to another situation and we record our gratitude to him for his valuable services for so many seasons.

SIXTH FORM SOCIAL — CHRISTMAS, 1955

ON Friday, December 16th, of last year, we held our first dance at the new School. We decorated the School Hall as befitted the season, and a large Christmas tree was the centre of attraction. Our guests included members of staff and their wives, and pupils from neighbouring grammar schools and every one had an enjoyable time.

We are indeed grateful to many for the organisation of such a successful evening—to the band and to the dance formation team, to the cook and Mrs. Matthews for preparing the refreshments, to Mr. Fisher and Mr. Smith who acted as M.C.s, and to the organiser-in-chief, Mr. Chaundy.

R. B. MATTHEWS (School Captain).

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

- President:* J. C. Lowe, Esq., M.A.
Chairman: Mr. A. E. Hunt, 3, Eldon Avenue, Shirley.
Secretary: Mr. M. E. Stretton, 15, Dalmally Road, Addiscombe.
Treasurer: Mr. J. K. E. Bell, 3, Earlswood Road, Thornton Heath.
Committee: Messrs. D. Howes, R. Montague, J. Rickard, H. White, J. Youé and R. Young.
Hon. Auditors: E. Harding, Esq., A.S.A.A., and F. R. Porter, Esq., F.C.A.

IN the last issue of our Notes we appealed for a record attendance at the Annual General Meeting and we gratefully record that there was a good response to this appeal and our meeting was well attended. A number of changes were made in the officers elected for this year and the names of those appointed appear above. It is with profound regret that we have to report that our immediate past Chairman, Mr. F. H. Clements, has for personal reasons been unable to accept office this year. "Fred" has held office continuously for the past nine years and on behalf of the Association we record our grateful thanks for all the time and hard work he has freely given during this period.

It was reported that paid-up membership had risen to just over one hundred during the 1954/55 year. Our Treasurer informs us that since the Annual General Meeting we have enrolled nearly thirty new members and it is hoped that all other members intend to renew subscriptions were due in September last) and so maintain the growing membership of the Association.

We would stress our desire to make good any omissions in the names recorded on the War Memorial Plaque which is in the School Assembly Hall. The War Memorial Fund is perpetually open and all donations will be gratefully received by our Treasurer.

Most, if not all, Old Boys will be aware that the School's annual Founder's Day service was held recently. We proudly record that this year's memorable address to the boys was given by one of our members, the Rev. Norman Baldock. Many will recall that Norman was Captain of John Ruskin School for two years—1945/47.

Our President has again been kind enough to invite Old Boys and their ladies to an "At Home" to be held at the School on Saturday, March 17th. As we go to press, final arrangements are being made to ensure that this event is as successful as that held last year. Further details will be published in due course.

We regret that the Reunion Dinner is not being held until Saturday, 28th April, this year, but we trust that we shall still have a record gathering. The venue is the Shirley Poppy Hotel, Wickham Road, Shirley, and the reception is at 7.15 p.m. We undersand that the last bus from the Hotel to Croydon is 11.20 p.m. and we are arranging for transport to East Croydon Station for any who miss the bus. Dress is informal and applications for tickets—price 12/6—should be made to the Secretary without delay.

It is with pleasure that we confirm that weekly meetings have been resumed at the School each Thursday from 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Football

training is a regular feature but there are facilities for badminton, chess, darts, and table tennis, which are played according to the numbers who desire to play.

On the football field we are experiencing our best post-war season and are eagerly awaiting our fixture against the School eleven on March 10th when we hope to have our first post-war win. To date the team has lost only one game and we are proud to publish its record:

	Goals					
P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Against	
18	14	3	1	115	34	

Ron Montague says that the success of the team is due to the grand team spirit but worthy of special mention is the effort of Fred Drain, the team's centre-forward, who has so far scored 48 goals. John Smith, our goalkeeper, whom we welcomed this year from the School, is also in brilliant form. Montague points out that next year no fewer than seven of the present team will be in the Forces and we must have good players to take their places if we are to continue the present progress. Your Secretary will be pleased to forward the name of anyone interested to the Soccer Secretary.

Another sporting fixture with the School is arranged for Saturday, 17th March, 1956. This is the cross-country run. We won this event last year, and hope to repeat our success. John Youé who is responsible for the Old Boys' Team would like to hear as soon as possible from those who wish to run. Youé's address is 31, Tevan Road, Addiscombe (phone: ADD 6474).

During the year we hope to arrange basket-ball, cricket and table tennis fixtures against the School and details will be circularised. In this connection it has been agreed that the Association should provide a suitable trophy to be held for a year by the overall winners of five fixtures to be previously decided. This year the events which will count for this competition are Cross-Country, Soccer, Cricket, Basket-Ball and Table Tennis.

It is regretted that we have been unable to arrange a .22 shoot against the School Cadet Corps, but as soon as the new School range is ready for use we are assured that such a match will take place.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

Your Secretary appeals to all who have such news to pass it to him so that this important section of the notes may not be neglected

Allen, Robert (left 1953), is now with the Royal Engineers in the Cyprus "trouble spot".

Bath, C. F. (A.M.E.Struct.E., M.Ins.W.), is now a consulting engineer with offices in Harley Street.

Bell, John (our Treasurer), and his wife are expecting their first baby in the very near future.

Bailey, Harold (left 1953), Clark, Donald (left 1949), recently married. Don has moved to Birmingham and we now see little of him, but Harold is still playing regularly for the soccer eleven.

Forrester, Rev. K. N., has been appointed Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, Inverness, as from April next.

Goodenough, Peter, M.S.S.Ch. (left 1944), is now a chiropodist practising in South Norwood.

- Nye, Anthony, M.A. (left 1950), has now entered a seminary prior to ultimate Roman Catholic Priesthood.
- Rigden, James, B.Sc. (left 1952), has recently obtained his B.Sc. (1st Class Honours), and is continuing his studies at Reading University for his Ph.D.
- Warren, Alan (left 1948), recently met another emigrant Old Boy, Bob Sivyer, in Ontario, Canada.
- Warren, John, B.Sc. (left 1952), has recently obtained his B.Sc. (1st Class Honours) and is all set to become a boffin. He is at present working on the electrical research side of guided missiles at Stanmore.
- Woodward, Kenneth (left 1935), has recently been appointed headmaster of the Bordon County Junior School (300 pupils) in Hampshire.
- J. H. Prevett (left 1949) has become a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries.
- R. A. Mort (left 1952), has gained his B.A. in History at King's College, London.
- A. M. Scott (left 1951), has gained his B.Sc. in Geography and Economics at the University of North Staffordshire.

OBITUARY

With the deepest regret, we have to announce the sudden death of W. A. Cormack, on January 7th, at Shirley. "Bill" or "Wac", as he was variously and affectionately known to a wide circle of pre-war Old Boys, was 46, having left the School in 1925. One of the earliest members of the Association, "Bill" took an active part in all its affairs, and was for several years a most hardworking and efficient Secretary.

In putting on record our indebtedness to Bill Cormack for his part in building up the Association, we should, at the same time, like to extend to his widow and family our sincerest sympathy in their loss.

M.E.S.

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