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LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE MAGAZINE

VOLUME LIX

Number 2

JULY, 1951

Editor - - G. B. MORRIS
Sub-editors - { E. R. OXBURGH
 { N. J. PAGE

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LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE

VOL. LIX

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EDITORIAL

This year is 1951. Travel back one hundred years into the heart of the Victorian era and you come to the year 1851. Between the present day, predominantly the age of the Atom, the age of unrest, and the days of Queen Victoria, the age of Empire, of security, there are great and obvious differences. Only one thing, indeed, serves to unite these two years; they are both Festival Years.

It is strange, perhaps, that the festival of this year, 1951, staged in the shadow of a war more likely than any of its predecessors to end, not only war, but everything else also, should have been conceived in a spirit of gaiety and lightheartedness, which is held, by the uninitiated, to be foreign to the British nature; quite different from the 1851 Exhibition, which was, by comparison, a much more sober affair, although the people of that time had more reason for gaiety than we have. Is it that we

"sing as one
Who on a tilting deck sings
To keep their courage up, though the wave hangs
That shall cut off their sun?"

It may be hysteria, such as, we are told, motivated the much-publicised "bright young things" of the twenties; if it were, who could blame us? We have more reason for it than they had. It may be that we have ceased to believe in the atom bomb, the great bogey of modern times, that we think it has been puffed up, like a balloon, far beyond its normal size. And so we hide it, together with ghosts and the anonymous fears of our childhood, in a secluded cranny at the back of our minds, and swear it does not exist, in spite of our faint misgivings.

As for the sobriety of the 1851 affair, power and wealth were on show, and power and wealth were the gods of the time. If the Victorians had been as untrammelled in their religion as the Ancient Greeks, they would have built an altar to the steam-engine in the Crystal Palace and made it the Temple of the new religion.

But, let us forget our theories and speculations. The Festival is here, and though it will probably earn large amounts of dollars, let us forget that also. Its main value is that it is a gesture in the grand manner and brings a much needed relief and gaiety into our lives.

MR. S. WORMALD, M.A., M.Ed., B.Sc.

It is with profound regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Stanley Wormald on the 19th of January, 1951. Mr. Wormald joined the Staff of the Institute in 1928, and gave valuable service to the School. Many have benefited from his able French teaching and from his wealth of knowledge on a wide variety of topics. His energy and enthusiasm were unbounded and he was a dauntless fighter for the many causes he had at heart. His sincerity and frankness commanded respect, even among those who disagreed with his views. During the last few years he devoted much of his time to the Mount Street Evening Institute, which under his direction became the largest in Liverpool; in 1947 he became its first Principal.

By his death education in Liverpool has suffered a great loss. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Wormald and her two sons.

THE EPITAPH

"The men who have gone before us have taught us how to live and how to die. We are the heirs of the ages, the ages that have fought against the odds and have not been afraid, who have given their lives for great causes, who, strengthened by Faith, have quit themselves like men."

ALDER, F. D.	FRASER, N. H.	MURRAY, H. H.
BASKERVILLE, J. B.	GREENHALGH, J. H.	MURRAY, W. D.
BERGER, G.	GREENWOOD, A. S.	OWEN, E. T.
BLOWER, F. D.	HAMMOND, C. N.	PAGE, L. H.
BOYD, T. A.	HARDING, G. W. G.	PARRY, R. D. W.
BIGGS, J. C.	HAYCOCKS, J.	PRENDERGAST, L.
BROWN, A. R.	HEALEY, P. J.	PRESTON, R. S.
BURKE, J. D.	HESLOP, W. E.	PUXLEY, W. R.
BUNTON, P.	HIGGIN, L. D.	REED, G. R.
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CAVE, F. N.	HUGHES, K.	SLOBOM, H. L.
CHARNEY, F. R. H.	HUGHES, R. G.	STAFFIERE, A. G.
CHARNOCK, J. F.	HUTCHINSON, R. E. G.	THISTLETHWAITE, J. H.
COLDRICK, L. J. S.	JACKSON, J. R.	THOMAS, K. G.
COOPER, F. W.	JONES, A. S.	THOMAS, K. L.
COOPER, J. O.	KELLY, F.	THORNLEY, F. A.
COOPER, V. L.	KERRUISH, R. W. R.	TUNNINGTON, E.
CORKHILL, W. A.	KILLHAM, E. J. J.	TUSON, J. V. W.
COTTE, W. W.	LEVY, E. L.	VAREY, M. P.
DAVIES, W. C.	LEWIS, S. E.	WATSON, M.
DAVIS, A. L.	MCCALLUM, M.	WATSON, R. F.
DAWES, A. E.	MCDOWELL, W. H.	WEIGHTMAN, G.
DEADMAN, K. D.	MCKENZIE, G. A.	WILLIAMSON, E. S.
EDWARDS, W. S.	MELLORS, F. A.	WILSHAW, N. H.
FAIRLEM, W. H.	MOLYNEUX, C. P. B.	WOOTTON, E.
FAULKNER, T. S.	MUIR, A. G.	

It has become usual to look upon the war of 1939-1945 as a continuation of the war of 1914-1918. Advantage has been taken of this close inter-connection to avoid the multiplication of War Memorials. Following the precedent established by the Cenotaph, many public bodies and societies have perpetuated the memory of those who died in the Second Great War by adding their names to those of their predecessors of the First. It was, therefore, an appropriate decision that the permanent part of the Memorial to the Old Boys who gave their lives in the 1939-45 war should be placed beside the original memorial in the School.

The new memorial has taken the form of two brass tablets closely matching the existing tablets which record the names of the 267 Old Boys who died in action between 1914 and 1918. On them are inscribed the eighty-three names of Old Boys who are known to have made the supreme sacrifice in the second war. The tablets have been placed on the pillars on either side of the main entrance of the Hall. On Monday, May 21st, 1951, these tablets were unveiled and dedicated.

The ceremony was performed by the Dean of Liverpool, assisted by the Chairman of the Governors and the Headmaster. With them on the platform were the President of the Old Boys' Association (Sir Frank Baddeley) and the Vice-Principal. The Hall was filled by a representative gathering of parents and friends of the fallen, Old Boys and senior boys of the School.

The service began with the reading of the Epitaph quoted above, followed by the singing of the hymn, "God who called us to his service." The Chairman then continued with the Bidding, the Lord's Prayer and a prayer for those who "in two wars laid down their lives for us and for all men, for a free world and for the freedom of the human spirit."

After the singing of the National Anthem, the Headmaster read the lesson from II Esdras ii 42-48. All then stood in silence whilst the Headmaster read out the names of the fallen. During the silence which followed, the Dean, with the Chairman, the Headmaster, Sir Frank Baddeley and the Vice-Principal moved in procession through the Hall to the vestibule, where a Guard of Honour provided by the School C.C.F. was drawn up facing the Memorial Tablets. The congregation standing in their places, and wreaths having been placed by the Headmaster, the Chairman unveiled the Tablets, recalling deeds of valour and ending with the words, "They shall not grow old as we who are left grow old."

After a pause, while the Guard remained at the Present, a bugler sounded the Last Post and Reveille. The Headmaster then addressed himself to the Dean, desiring him, on behalf of the School, to dedicate the memorial "to keep ever fresh the memory of those who laid down their lives in the service of their country." The Dean read the Dedication and during the singing of the hymn "Let saints on earth in concert sing," the procession returned to the platform. The Dean then addressed the congregation on the theme, "Quench not the Spirit," which words had formed part of similar ceremonies in classical times. He urged all to guard against quenching, by the careless word, by thoughtless mockery, the spirit of those who live and appealed to the boys present to keep alive the Spirit of those who had died. The service ended with the hymn "O God, our help in ages past," the Foundation Prayer and the Blessing.

Throughout, the service had been simple but dignified, moving yet comforting. It will live in the memories of all who participated in it.

CHAT ON THE CORRIDOR

The Exhibition of Work and Hobbies, which was held in March, was, as usual, a great success. Our thanks are due to the willing co-operation of many parents and boys, and to the enthusiasm and organising ability of Mr. Folland.

On April 24th, a party of Sixth Formers went to the "Odeon" Cinema to see the film, "Henry V." In this way many were able to combine business with pleasure.

On Monday, May, 21st the Dean of Liverpool, after a moving and impressive service, dedicated two plaques bearing the names of those former members of the School who lost their lives during the Second World War. A Guard of Honour was provided by the School Combined Cadet Force.

During the term the School was informed by the Headmaster that, under a Ship Adoption Scheme, the Liverpool Institute had adopted the cargo-liner *Ixion*, of the Blue Funnel Line. Letters have been sent to the Captain and to various members of the crew.

We congratulate R. W. King, B. W. McGuinness, T. W. Shaw and K. D. Pattinson on winning prizes offered by Beck Koller Ltd., for essays dealing with their visit in general and with synthetic resins in particular.

At the end of term we say good bye to Miss Wilson, Mr. Hillman and Mr. Willan. We cannot imagine the Liverpool Institute without Miss Wilson, who has been a member of the Staff for 43 years. Mr. Hillman came to us during the war, and we take this opportunity of thanking him for his splendid work with the School Orchestra. Mr. Willan joined the Staff as recently as 1946. Boys will remember with pleasure the geographical activities and excursions which they enjoyed under his direction.

We wish Miss Wilson and Mr. Hillman a long and happy retirement, and Mr. Willan every success at Birkenhead School.

We welcome Mr. White, who has taken Mr. Stell's place as Physical Training Instructor and Mr. Tait who has succeeded Mr. Cain.

Dr. Hess, who contributes to this issue a stimulating article on school life in Vienna, leaves us at the end of term. We hope that he has enjoyed his stay with us and wish him well in his future career.

SCHOOL MAGAZINES

We acknowledge, with apologies for any omissions, the receipt of the following Magazines:—

The Quarry, St. Francis Xavier's College Magazine, The Wallaseyan, The Alsopian, Essemay, Blackburne House Magazine, Holt High School Magazine, The Warrior, Los Angeles, California.

HOUSE NOTES

TATE

It is gratifying to note that most of the members of Tate House have responded well to the message of the last House Notes. Thanks to the work put in by Mr. Webster, who so brilliantly produced "The Doctor from Dunmore," we were placed first in the House One-Act Play competition. Thus, backed by the rest of the House in the other sections, we won the Cup for the Hobby Show.

We congratulate our Chess team on their victory in the House Tournament, and must sympathise with our Football teams, for they were both knocked out of their competitions in the first round. Our team made a speedy exit from the Hockey Tournament, and we did not excel in the Cross-Country Running competition. We have reached the final of the Basketball Tournament, but were unsuccessful in the School Sports.

It is an unfortunate belief that those who excel in the academic field seldom show any great athletic talent. There are, however, exceptions to every rule, and it must be the aim of the members of Tate House, collectively and individually, to prove that their undoubted ability is not confined to those School activities which demand little physical exertion.

R.B.M.

HUGHES

The main success of the House last term was achieved in the Junior competitions, when the Football team won the Horsfall Cup against more favoured opposition. The Hobby Show brought us fair results, the House play, "The Bureaucrats," being placed second. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking K. D. Pattinson for his work in the production of the play. In the cross-country race which was run at the beginning of the term, we were placed third, M. A. Pearson being second in the individual championship.

If we are to maintain the reputation of the House, there must be a united effort from both Seniors and Juniors in all activities; the House must not leave the burden on the shoulders of one or two people.

I should like to thank Mr. Bowker for his interest and encouragement in all the activities of the House.

K.J.W.

ALFRED HOLT

Since the last issue of the Magazine went to press, the House has competed in many activities. In the Hobby Show we were placed fifth. The House play, however, gained third place, and we congratulate those members who acted in or helped with the production.

The Junior Football team, competing for the Whitehouse Cup, was beaten in the final by Owen House, and the Seniors were defeated in the semi-final of the Horsfall Cup Competition. In the basket ball competition we were beaten in the first round by Tate House. After having reached the final in the competition for the Boswell Hockey Cup we were once again defeated by Danson House.

The House Junior and Senior cross-country teams were placed fifth and fourth respectively in the race held at the beginning of the summer term.

G.C.F.

DANSON

The Hockey team are to be congratulated on their success in winning the Boswell Cup Competition, while the Senior Football team, captained by B. Goodall, also did well, although they were beaten by Owen House in the final.

On the whole, House activities were well supported last term, and the producer, N. J. G. Northey, his cast and assistants in the one-act play, "Elegant Edward," should be highly commended, for, although they did not achieve an award, they gave up much free time and did their best.

The entries for the Hobby Show produced some first-class individual work, but it is a pity that the support necessary to gain for us a higher place was not forthcoming. P. R. F. Smith's Marionette Show was unique, and must surely have inspired us all to greater effort during the summer term.

B.W.McG.

PHILIP HOLT

Last term the House again failed to distinguish itself. The Football and Hockey teams were both narrowly defeated in the semi-final of their respective competitions, while in the Hobby Show we only succeeded in attaining fourth place.

This term, however, has seen a revival of enthusiasm throughout the House. So far, we have the Senior Fives Shield and the Cross-Country Shield to our credit. In the latter event the Juniors were outstanding in gaining first place, the Seniors coming a close second to Owen House. In the new Basketball competition, we have begun well with a sound victory over Hughes House.

If this zeal continues, we should acquit ourselves well in the future.

E.D.

OWEN

Since the publication of the last Magazine, the high standard usually associated with the House has been maintained.

The Seniors won the Whitehouse Football cup, and the Juniors reached the final of their competition, only to be defeated 1-0. We won the Senior section of the cross-country run, but the Juniors could obtain only second place, with the result that we lost to Philip on the aggregate.

The House was second in the Hobby Show. This was due to the fact that the House Play was placed last, with the consequent loss of a considerable number of points. We have reached the second round in both the Fives and Basketball competitions and should do well in the latter.

The Juniors should have been successful in the School sports, but the depleted Senior section could hope for only second or third place.

The past year has been notable for the enthusiasm with which both Seniors and Juniors have supported the House in the various competitions, and there is every indication that this support will continue in the future.

N.J.P.

THE EXHIBITION OF WORK AND HOBBIES

The Exhibition of Work and Hobbies was held on the evenings of the 16th and 17th of March, but for several weeks before the opening, strenuous efforts were being made to ensure a display worthy of its predecessors. Mr. Folland, in proof of his versatility, was to be seen in strange postures and doing strange things. Around him from time to time were groups of scene-painters and scene-erectors, carpenters and joiners, electricians and technicians. Indeed, the setting was Gothic, rather than Classical in quality. Producers and prompters directed their casts; ground plans and elevations were studied and discussed; mysterious packages arrived daily and familiar furniture appeared in unfamiliar places. The result of all this activity was an exhibition which revealed an astonishing variety of talent and which gave infinite pleasure to all those who came to see and listen.

Far away, in Room 39, modern alchemists created smoke fumes, colours, magic properties and explosions. Elsewhere were excellent samples of arts and crafts, photographs which suggested the professional touch, a philatelic display which did great credit to the exhibitors and the marionette shows of P. R. F. Smith, which gained for him high commendation and a special prize. A fascinating collection of model railways brought all the fathers who were present to their knees. For the writer, at least, the exhaustive display of photographs of old tram cars held nostalgic memories.

The Physics Laboratory housed ingenious models of ships, aircraft and radio, while in the basement the biologists presided over an awe-inspiring assortment of skeletons and bones. The Army Section, the Air Section and the Scout Troop supplied between them weapons, complicated apparatus, models and illuminated peep-shows, all of which were well patronised.

We were delighted to welcome as adjudicator of the House Plays Mr. W. H. Doughty, our former Vice-Principal. In his report he praised the general standard of production and saw much to commend even in the play which was placed sixth. "The Doctor from Dunmore," produced by Tate House, proved to be the winner. In Mr. Doughty's opinion, this play gave the actors more scope than did any of the others; not only in action and incident, but in the presentation of real character and the interpretation of human qualities. The outstanding actor was D. J. Pritchard, who played the part of Shaun Mor O'Malley, but the background of the poor folk contributed a great deal to the play on the stage. The grouping was always right, all details were well brought out and the female parts were well played. This was a first-class performance.

Hughes House, who produced "The Bureaucrats," was placed second. The four main parts in this play were all sustained at a very satisfactory level. The outstanding quality of production, in the opinion of the adjudicator, was its smoothness; the actors were full of confidence. Excellent team work characterised "The Dyspeptic Ogre" (Alfred Holt House) which gained third place. C. K. Lavelle, in the title role, lifted the production from a very ordinary performance into something that was well worth seeing. A polished performance by N. J. G. Northey in "Elegant Edward," Eric Davies as the Stoker in the play of that name and the bureaucratic K. D. Pattinson all received particular commendation.

Mr. Doughty also congratulated the Orchestra, which he considered to be the best that he had heard in his time. Nor must we forget to express our indebtedness to the choirs, the soloists and all those who contributed less spectacularly to the success of the Exhibition.

The House Championship was won by Tate House, with Owen House as the runner-up. Form 3F won the Cochran Competition, and special prizes were awarded to P. R. F. Smith (Marionette Show), D. J. Pritchard (Best acting performance) and J. B. and P. L. Taylor (Model Railway).

FOOTBALL

The performances of the First XI were, on the whole, disappointing. With only four of last season's team still at School, experiments had to be made for several weeks, until eleven regular players could be chosen.

The football in mid-field was constructive and clever, but often the forwards failed in front of goal, while the defence made many costly mistakes in our own penalty area. There was, too, an inability to turn defence into attack, a failure which may be partly attributed to the lack of speedy players.

In the period after Christmas the team was seen at its best, and after a drawn game with Bootle, our opponents in the First Round of the Shield, the players became more confident. Bootle, however, eventually gained an easy victory by three goals to nil.

The Second XI was again unfortunate in having to answer the calls of the First XI, but despite this the team enjoyed a fairly successful season. Several young players have acquired valuable experience, and promise well for next season.

The Third XI, which performs the very useful service of bridging the gap between Junior and Senior Football, proved to be an efficient side. During the two terms they won all except three matches out of eleven.

The Under 15 XI was the most successful team of the season. The term opened with a series of notable victories, and except for one defeat, the side continued to be successful until the First Round of the Shield, when it was unexpectedly beaten by Quarry Bank. After this disappointment, the team finished the season without any further losses.

The Under 14 XI and Under 13 XI played with their usual enthusiasm. There is always a keen spirit evident, which, combined with constructive football, is the secret of the team's many successes.

An innovation this year is a competition organised by the Liobians, between four Liobian teams and the School First XI and Second XI. The trophy is a silver cup, which has been presented in memory of J. D. Payne, an old boy of the School. In this competition, the games last thirty minutes, and each team plays the other five in turn. The sides are handicapped, and scoring is on a points basis. In this year's competition held at Easter, the School First XI and the Liobian First XI provided an exciting finish, which resulted in the School being placed second, three points behind.

School football owes much to the members of the Staff, who continually give up their spare time to organise and coach the teams. Mr. Morgan, helped by Mr. Booth, remains with the First XI, and Mr. Bowker continues with the Second XI. The Under 15 XI is managed by Mr. Edge, and Mr. Rowell looks after the Junior teams.

Our thanks are also due to Mr. White for his training routine with all the teams, and to Edwin Wass for his skill in keeping the pitches in good condition.

Full colours were re-awarded to A. B. Goodall and N. Pine.

Full colours were awarded to R. E. Leeming, C. Hedges, D. A. Roberts, and J. Bozman. Half colours were awarded to J. H. Ashby, G. Hamilton, J. Harrison, F. B. Graham, R. Leech, E. G. Jones and W. Turner.

RESULTS

	P.	W.	L.	D.
First XI	19	5	9	5
Second XI	12	6	5	1
Third XI	11	8	3	0
Under 15 XI	15	13	2	0
Under 14 XI	8	5	2	1
Under 13 XI	16	11	3	2

A. GOODALL.

HOCKEY

At Christmas we were unfortunate to lose our goalkeeper and Vice-Captain, F. T. Swallow, who emigrated to Australia. This rather upset the balance of the team, and for the remaining matches of the season several people played in goal, with a view to finding a first team goalkeeper for next season.

Once again members of the School teams have had the opportunity of playing for local clubs, and we are grateful to them for giving us the invaluable experience of playing first-class hockey.

The School has now acquired several additional hockey sticks and it is hoped that there will be a bigger response from boys in the Lower School wishing to play hockey next season.

Again I must thank Messrs. Parker, Rogers and Willott, for their help during the season.

The first team was usually chosen from: Loynes, Bailey, K. J. Warbrick, Evans, G. C. Finch (Captain), E. Davies, Richards, Osbourn, K. R. Jones, Mitchell, Craine and Leadbeater.

Also played: B. L. Jones, Thompson and Makin.

RESULTS

	P.	W.	L.	D.
First XI	19	11	7	1
Goals for 92—against 48.				
Second XI	9	3	6	0
Goals for 15—against 40.				

COLOURS

Full colours were re-awarded to G. C. Finch and K. R. Jones, and awarded to K. J. Warbrick, Craine and Mitchell.

Half colours were awarded to Bailey, E. Davies, Evans, Leadbeater, Osbourn, Richards and Wray.

K. J. WARBRICK.

FIVES

Despite the fact that bad weather has prevented the playing of Fives for almost two terms, there has been no decline in the interest shown by Seniors and Juniors alike. Increased enthusiasm has been displayed by the younger members of the School, giving promise of success in the future.

The School Fives team was successful in its match against Wallasey Grammar School, but rain caused the cancellation of two other fixtures, both against Birkenhead School. The recent weather conditions have stressed, more than ever before, the need for a protective covering over the Fives courts.

This term it is hoped that the competitions mentioned in the last issue of the Magazine will be held. An opportunity will thus be provided for all to display their keenness and skill.

E. DAVIES.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

This season the School team has enjoyed a measure of success. The only disappointing feature has been the poor attendances at Mersey Road for training, and this must be remedied if the sport is to flourish in the future. At a General Meeting at the beginning of the season G. L. Roberts was elected to the vacant post of secretary.

Several fixtures were arranged with other schools, including races for the Junior team against Prenton School. The team recorded many creditable performances and gained second place in the Merseyside Grammar Schools' Competition for the Dan Cumella Cup, being narrowly beaten by Liverpool Collegiate School.

The House Championships were held in April in conditions hardly ideal for a winter sport.

The Senior Championship was won by Owen House, and the Junior by Philip Holt, who became House Champions on the aggregate result. The H. W. Peck Cup, awarded to the winner of the Senior Race, was won by T. W. Shaw; the Orions Cup for the winner of the Junior Race by K. G. S. Burnett and K. Thompson, who tied for first place.

Full colours were re-awarded to T. W. Shaw and M. A. Pearson, and awarded to D. J. Rigg.

Half colours were awarded to W. B. Kendrick, B. Radley and D. Burton.

G. L. ROBERTS.

BOXING

Last season was one of minor achievement for the Boxing Club. This change from previous years was brought about by the inability of various schools to accommodate our team in both weight and age. Despite such a handicap, enthusiasm has never faltered, and, in fact, the club membership has increased since last year and now is over forty.

The majority of the members are boys from the Lower School, who have a keenness which more than makes up for the lack of experience. The Boxing Club, however, has need of older and heavier boys to give the team balance and make it fully representative of the School.

Support of the home contests in the gymnasium is excellent—the School follows the fortunes of the Boxing Club with an intense and extremely noisy interest. It is perhaps hard for most spectators to refrain from audible comment in the excitement of a bout, but silence is essential if the contestants in the ring are to give of their best.

Of the three matches in which the Club took part, two were won and one was drawn, but the little that was seen of the team augurs well for the coming season. As before, Mr. Schofield and Sgt. Highton were in charge of boxing, and all our success can be attributed to their careful supervision.
P. L. PEARSON.

THE SCHOOL SPORTS

Mersey Road seems to bear a charmed life on Sports Day, or perhaps Mr. Booth knows how to turn Fortune's furious fickle wheel! While a depression invariably accompanies County Cricket at Aigburth, the Liverpool Institute Sports Meeting is regularly blessed with warm sunshine and cloudless skies.

Saturday, June 2nd, proved no exception; the sun shone refulgently on the bonnets in the crowded car park, the pavilion stood to advantage against a background of blue, and the line of spectators rivalled in colour the paddock at Ascot, or the Ladies' Enclosure at Lords.

The warm sunshine and long absence of rain produced a hard, fast track, which encouraged good times and notable performances in all divisions of the running events. In the 100 yards (Open), L. E. W. Lewis produced a fine sprint to win from a strong field in eleven seconds. He emphasised his superiority by winning the 220 yards in 24.2/5th seconds, just failing by one-fifth of a second to equal the record. In the 440 yards (Open), however, he was beaten into second place by P. L. Pearson, despite a brilliant burst of speed over the last twenty yards. Pearson's time was 57 seconds. The only record of the afternoon was achieved by K. Thompson of Philip Holt House, who ran a fine 880 yards race to win comfortably in 2 minutes 24 seconds, breaking the existing Junior record by one second.

In the long jump we saw better performances than for many years, and R. H. Leech eventually won with a creditable jump of 18 ft. 9 ins. A notable innovation was the Discus event. Possibly the style was not Grecian in quality, but all enjoyed the event and no one was decapitated!

Half-way through the programme of events the spectators were treated to a magnificent gymnastic display given by a team of boys dressed immaculately in white flannels. Here was the poetry of motion—perfect poise, timing and co-ordination! Hand-springs, head-springs, fly-springs and other hair-raising manoeuvres flowed from their limbs and left the mere layman in such matters amazed. We are all deeply indebted to Mr. White, our Physical Training Instructor, for his guidance, patience and skill in producing this display, and we congratulate the team on its highly creditable achievement.

The meeting ended with the ever-popular Mile (Open) which was won by T. W. Shaw, who led almost all the way round the four interminable laps. Shaw's supremacy was rarely challenged, and he won from D. J. Rigg in 4 minutes 56 seconds.

The winner of the Open Championship was P. L. Pearson (Hughes House) with 20 points. Lewis (Philip Holt) was the runner-up with 16 points. The winner of the Middle School Cup was J. K. Broadbent (Danson), and the Junior Championship went to R. E. Iredale (Alfred Holt).

The tumult and the shouting dies, the lemonade bar has run dry, the dulcet sounds from the broadcasting box are silenced, the spectators and the competitors depart. The sun is still high in the heavens! Mr. Booth is satisfied, and Mr. Folland, a lone figure, caged and confined, wrestles with his last recalcitrant figures. Even he, however, must depart, for another sports meeting is over.

FORM CHAMPIONSHIPS

	Thirds	Fourth	Lower Fifts	Upper Fifts
Winner	3D	4A	L5Sc	U5D
Runner-up	3E	4Sc	L5A	U5Sc

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

	Junior	Senior	Aggregate
Winner	Owen	Hughes	Philip Holt
Runner-up	Philip Holt	Philip Holt	Owen
			R. H. LEECH.

CHESS CLUB

After a successful start to the season, the School team lost two of the three matches played during the Spring term.

Result of matches for the season: Played 8, Won 5, Lost 2, Drawn 1.

As a result, the team was placed third in the Wright Challenge Shield Competition for the fourth season in succession.

The House Knock-out Competition was won by Tate, who beat Owen in the final.

Meetings of the Chess Club have been suspended for the Summer Term, but I hope this will not deter players from keeping in practice for next season.

Thanks are due to Mr. Booth for his continued help to the Senior boys and the School team, and to Mr. Willott for running the Junior Section of the Club.

The following boys have regularly represented the School: C. K. Mackinnon, W. M. Norrie, P. D. Barnes, B. Wolfson, R. Jones, C. J. Morley, E. Curran; also played, D. Canter.

C. K. MACKINNON.

C.C.F. (ARMY AND BASIC SECTIONS)

The Summer term is always the period of greatest activity in the Corps, and this year is no exception. By far the most important event will take place on July 18th, when the Fiftieth Inspection of the School will be carried out by Brigadier Sanders, Deputy Director of Personnel, War Office. The inspection will take place at 10.30 a.m. at School, when, it is hoped, the weather will enable us to make the occasion, in itself well worthy of note, a memorable event.

Every Wednesday a party of thirty cadets has spent several hours at Altcar Rifle Ranges. Many promising marksmen have been discovered, and these are now being trained to enable them to represent the Contingent in the Local, District and Command Competitions, and perhaps, in the near future, to compete for the "Ashburton" at Bisley. Unfortunately, this year the competitions have clashed with the General Certificate of Education, with the result that most of the more experienced cadets have been deprived of the opportunity of representing the Contingent. It is hoped, however, that in future it may be possible to hold these meetings at more convenient times in the academic year.

The Certificate "A" Examination, Parts I and II, will take place on Monday, July 23rd, when about 40 cadets will sit for Part I and 20 for Part II. A high standard of knowledge and efficiency is expected by the Examining Board, and candidates are reminded that this can only be reached by regular attendance at the lectures given by the Officers and N.C.O's.

This year's camp will be held at Kinmel Park, Rhyl, from July 31st to August 8th, when a party of 36 cadets under Capt. J. W. McDonald, will spend eight days under canvas. Three programmes have been arranged, and cadets will be able to follow the training in which they have the greatest interest. Instruction will be given by the officer cadets from Eaton Hall O.C.T.U. All cadets are urged to attend the Annual Camp, as, apart from the excellent training, they have the opportunity of meeting cadets from all parts of the country and from different types of schools.

Those of us who will be leaving School in July will be able to look back on our years in the Corps with pleasure and gratitude. On those who remain, and on future members, the well-being of the Contingent rests. Keeness and efficiency by all are essential; these qualities, together with full support of the Officers, will enable the future to be faced with a confidence that the next fifty years will be as successful as these just completed.

We thank Major Bowen and his Officers for their readiness to help, and for the large amount of time they have devoted to our activities.

W. G. JONES (R.S.M.)

C.C.F. (R.A.F. SECTION)

Since the last issue of the Magazine, the Squadron has lost two of its most enthusiastic members. Last November, F/Sgt. Peterson left in order to enter upon a business career. The Corps owes much to his forceful leadership during the past 18 months and it was good to hear his stentorian tones once again at Easter, when he rejoined the unit for camp.

At the beginning of May, Sgt. Bailey left to take up a Cadetship at the R.A.F. College, Cranwell. Sgt. Bailey, besides obtaining a place at Cranwell, has also gained his pilot's "A" Licence through the Flying Scholarship which he was awarded last year. To both these past members we extend our good wishes, and hope for their continued success in the future.

During the Easter term a field-day was held at Hawarden R.A.F. Station, when most of the cadets were airborne. There have been ample opportunities for shooting this year both .303 and .22 calibre, and it is hoped that more cadets will avail themselves of the facilities provided on Saturday mornings. During this term, additional shooting has been arranged for selected cadets at Altcar on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

At Easter, our O.C., Flt/Lt. Watson, took 26 cadets to camp at the R.A.F. Station, Chivenor, North Devon, and subsequently several cadets went on a week's gliding course at Woodford, when the following obtained their "A" Gliding Licence:—Cpl. Cook, L/Cdt. Pickup, Cdt. Green, Cdt. Lawrence and Cdt. Jeffery.

Under Mr. Hughes' expert tuition, good progress is being made in Morse. Proficiency exams. were held in May and July, and the annual inspection will take place on July 18th. During the summer vacation the squadron will go for training to the R.A.F. Station, Cottesmore.

Finally, we should like to thank our O.C., Flt/Lt. Watson, and F/O Willan, D.F.C., for their unflinching interest in the unit, and it is with great regret that we shall say farewell to the latter, when he leaves us at the end of the term.

C. C. HARRISON, F/Sgt.

SCOUT NOTES

The troop ended 1950 by winning the City Association Camp-Fire Baton for the third time, and by giving a show to the boys of a local remand home as a Christmas Good Turn. During the Christmas holidays one scout carried out a twenty-mile hike to qualify for his Venturer's Badge.

The first activity of 1951 was an expedition by some of the seniors to the summit of Moel Famau. In the Spring term a field day was held, which was spent locating and recording some little known crosses to the north of Liverpool, and ended with games on the sandhills around High-town.

The Troop's activities were well displayed in the scout room at the Hobby Show. Worthy of mention are the extremely good international section and the ingenious signalling machine, while a "peep-show" of a summer camp provided amusement for the younger visitors.

During the Easter holidays the troop was very active. Over the Easter week-end a patrol camped at Tawd Vale, and two scouts attended a pioneer course at Brynbach near Denbigh. Two scouts carried out the tests for their Venturer's Badge in Snowdonia, and two others made their Venturer's journey near Llangollen. A party of scouts under the S.M. cycled to Northumberland to look for a camp site. On St. George's Day, Clarke, whom we congratulate on gaining his King's Scout Badge, took part in a march past at Windsor Castle.

Since the beginning of Summer term, the troop has been holding out-door meetings, and is now practising for the part it will play in the forthcoming Festival of Youth. At the 7th World Jamboree, to be held at Bad Ischl, Austria, the troop will be represented by 2nd D. Gee. Summer Camp will be held at Halewhistle, near the Roman Wall, and a record number of applications has been received.

We must congratulate the many boys who passed their second-class badges last term, and we hope in the near future to have several more King's Scouts. As usual we conclude by thanking our S.M., our Treasurer Mr. Smith, and all other members of the staff who have been of assistance to us.

E. R. OXBURGH.

MACALISTER SOCIETY

A list of the papers which have been read will give the best indication of the Society's activities this season. They were "On Understanding Art," by Mr. McDonald, "The English Novel," by Mr. Tudor Jones, "Evolution," by J. D. Wray, "Genetics," by B. W. McGuinness, "J. S. Bach," by G. L. Roberts, and "The Bab Ballads," by Mr. Hosker.

Although some meetings have been poorly attended, the season has been a successful one. For that success the Society owes a great deal to its Chairmen, Mr. Bentliff and Mr. Tudor Jones.

It is hoped to hold a business meeting later this term, at which next year's officers will be elected.

G. L. ROBERTS.

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY

Debates and main speakers this season have been as follows:—

Nov. 7th—"That this House considers the Festival of Britain an unjustifiable extravagance."

Pro.: G. L. Roberts. Con.: C. C. Harrison. Defeated.

Nov. 21st—"That ability to foretell the future would be a boon."

Pro.: M. V. Kennedy. Con.: B. C. Nickson. Defeated.

Dec. 12th—Impromptu Debates—a very successful meeting.

Jan. 16th—"That History is a distressing chronicle of Man's more far-reaching errors."

Pro.: G. H. Jones. Con.: R. W. Rochester. Carried.

Jan. 30th—"That a policeman's lot is not a happy one."
 Pro.: J. E. W. Morris. Con.: G. L. Roberts. Carried.
 Feb. 13th—"That this House supports the doctrine of Utilitarianism."
 Pro.: P. M. Howlett. Con.: E. Richards. Defeated.
 Feb. 27th—"That this House has lost faith in U.N.O."
 Pro.: G. E. Silverman. Con.: G. F. Bilson. Defeated.
 Mar. 13th—"That this House prefers Pantomime to Grand Opera."
 Pro.: E. R. Oxburgh. Con.: C. K. Mackinnon. Defeated.

The average attendance at debates this season has been smaller than in recent years and the standard of speeches has not been outstandingly high. One of the main causes of this fall in standards has been the inexperience of many members. If more boys in the Removes and Upper Fifts joined the Society, there would not be such a shortage of seasoned debaters later on. This season's "old guard" has spared no effort to maintain the standards of the past. It is, perhaps, invidious to single out certain members, but mention must be made of R. W. Rochester's diligent prodding (he succeeded N. Peterson as Lord High Poker in Chief), and of G. F. Bilson who has come into his own as a delightfully humorous and impromptu speaker. We have seen and heard a great deal of N. Peterson since he left.

Finally, we express our gratitude to Mr. C. H. Moore, our Chairman, and to Mr. D. G. Bentliff, the Vice-President. G.H.J., G.L.R.

MUSIC CLUB

On the whole, we can look back upon the last year with a certain amount of satisfaction. During the Spring term the usual lunch-hour concerts were devoted to works of the more modern composers; we must pay special mention to a particularly fine recording of Gustav Hobt's "Planets" Suite, which was enthusiastically heard by a large number of boys.

To the accompaniment of the tapping of feet, and, in some cases, the tapping of foreheads, records of a lighter nature have been presented by several members of the Club.

By far the most profitable and entertaining events were the concerts given by the members themselves. It is apparent from these concerts that there are in the Society several talented instrumentalists, all of whom show both willingness and enthusiasm in their performances.

Another encouraging point is the increasing interest shown by the junior members of the School, both in the appreciation of music and in the actual performance.

A cordial invitation is extended to anyone interested in music, for a Society of this kind can never be too large. W.J.S.

THE ORCHESTRA

Although our performances at the Hobby Show were both short and few in number, we were well received and earned the praises of Mr. Doughty, who considered us the best orchestra he had known at this School. All three prizes in the Music Section were won by members.

This term opened well with a film-show on "Science in the Orchestra," which was both interesting and instructive.

Two of our members are in the Merseyside Youth Orchestra.

We should welcome volunteers to learn the double-bass, trumpet, violin, violoncello, or instruments of their own.

We regret to announce that Mr. Hillman will be leaving us at the end of this term. We shall lose both a leader and a friend. He has always striven to promote musicianship and the love of music in young people; his efforts have certainly not failed. We shall miss him very much.

D. A. V. DENDY, J. R. PARRY.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Meetings have been held regularly on Tuesdays throughout the winter terms, and have been of two kinds, film shows and talks. The former have drawn the larger attendances, and many films shown have proved themselves to be artistically as well as geographically valuable. The most notable programmes were the showing of Paul Rotha's impressive documentary on world food problems—"The World is Rich," and a composite programme dealing with various aspects of British farming.

Among the many excellent talks were a second hearing of Mr. Parker's lecture on "Prehistoric Britain," two beautifully illustrated talks on Austria by Dr. Hess, and meetings held by the two student teachers who were with us for a short time last term, Mr. A. Bavin and Mr. P. M. Hodgson, one on "Geography and Cricket," the other on the "Dee Estuary." Two especially interesting talks were given by speakers invited from outside School—Mr. P. Crichton, on his work as a government officer in Kenya, and Mr. R. C. Evans, a well-known Liverpool surgeon, on a recent climbing expedition to the Himalayas in which he took part. Both talks had the exciting authenticity that only first-hand experience can supply.

The well-stocked library has been open regularly throughout the winter terms: its numerous magazines and pamphlets cover many aspects of present-day geography.

In conclusion the thanks of the Society are due to the Chairman, Mr. Willan, whose never-flagging zeal has done much to ensure the success of the year's activities.

G. H. JONES, A. HEYES.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A series of "untoward events" has reduced the number of meetings held by the Society since the appearance of the last Magazine. The meetings held however, set a high standard for the future. Outstanding among them was Professor Geoffrey Barraclough's talk on "Writing and the History of Western Civilization." Illustrating his lecture with lantern slides which depicted the various scripts used in the West from Roman times to the Renaissance, Professor Barraclough traced from the standard of the writing the parallel decline, fall and resurgence of civilized life in Western Europe. The Society was greatly honoured by this visit from one of Britain's leading mediaevalists. Jumping ahead in time we come to a most enjoyable talk by Mr. Edge on the "American Frontier in the Nineteenth Century," an able treatment of a fascinating subject. The Society has also seen films illustrating life in a Mediaeval Monastery and Social Life in Elizabethan England. A talk by Sissons of A.C. on "Social life in Rome in the age of Cicero" had unfortunately to be postponed because of the rival claims of summer sunshine and approaching examinations.

N.J.P.

SIXTH FORM SCIENCE SOCIETY

Since the publication of the last Magazine, the Society has been very active. Through the energy of our Treasurer, the membership has now increased to one hundred and ten. This is an encouraging sign and every effort is being made to arrange comprehensive meetings, which the non-scientists, as well as the scientists, will find interesting.

Since Christmas, lectures have been given on a wide variety of subjects, including "Animal Censuses"; "Synthetic Resins"; "The Use of Isotopes in Medicine"; "Pyrotechnics"; "Detergents and Shampoos"; and "Oceanography." At the meeting held on April 28th, we were fortunate enough to receive a most instructive lecture from Professor Morton of Liverpool University on "Food and Calories."

Other activities of the Society comprised visits to places of scientific interest. After one of these visits to the Speke factory of Beck Koller Ltd., the management of the firm presented four members of the Society with handsome prizes for writing essays on the industrial production of synthetic resins.

The Society offers its deep sympathy to one of its committee members, R. Nuttall, who at the present moment is in hospital. We all wish him a speedy recovery from his illness.

During next year it is hoped that the large membership will be maintained, and that the active support and constructive criticism of all Sixth Formers will be forthcoming.

Lastly, I should like to thank our Chairman, Mr. W. H. Jones, for his advice and helpful guidance in all operations of the Society.

K. J. WARBRICK.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Unfortunately the weather this year has remained true to the English tradition, and no one laments this more than the photographer. Indoor activities, however, have been unaffected, and the Society has not been idle.

On February 22nd, a prominent member of the Y.H.A., Mr. E. M. Kirby, presented over two hundred colour-slides taken on his travels, and later in the term another old boy of the School, Mr. Boulton, gave a general talk on photography. Other demonstrations and lectures have been given at various meetings.

The major event of the term was the Hobby Show, at which the Society exhibited over fifty enlargements. The prints were of a remarkably high standard, and proved that much could be achieved, even on a schoolboy's limited allowance.

The Society has lately acquired extra equipment for the benefit of its members. In addition to the fully-equipped darkroom and library, members can now borrow apparatus for use in portraiture, mounting and other aspects of photography.

Perhaps no other medium can surpass photography as a means of keeping a permanent record of places and events, and in this year, 1951, there will be unlimited opportunities to use the camera.

G. A. O. DAVIES.

ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORT SOCIETY

Meetings have been held weekly on Mondays throughout the winter terms, and the high standard of talks, all of which are given by members, has been well maintained.

The outdoor activities of the Society have experienced a noticeable lack of support this winter, and one trip even had to be abandoned. The excursions have included visits to Chat Moss, always to be associated with the building of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, Ashurst Beacon, Crewe, and the impressive Bleasdale Moors, north-east of Preston. During the half-term holiday in November, Mr. Forbes and Dr. Hess led a party of members on a three-day cycling tour in the Peak District.

The library, under the new management of P. Ritchie and J. M. Learmont, has continued to be well patronised by many members, but it is increasingly obvious that the cupboard in Room 15 is too small to accommodate all the books and magazines owned by the library.

The E.T.S. exhibition at the Hobby Show was a most successful feature. Organised by A. S. McIndoe and D. H. Clarke, it comprised photographs of many aspects of local transport, some of which were kindly loaned by Wallasey and Birkenhead Corporations.

We conclude by thanking Mr. Forbes and Mr. Hosker for the enthusiastic interest they have continued to show in the activities of the Society, and remind prospective members that they are always most welcome at our meetings.

G. H. JONES, A. S. McINDOE.

MODELS SOCIETY

This is only the second occasion in the short history of the Models Society that its affairs have been brought to public notice. On the previous occasion the aims of the Society were stated to be the fostering and improving of the art of model-making generally.

The steadily increasing membership, and the continued interest being shown, is very gratifying and should encourage all concerned to further efforts in this direction.

The Society is greatly indebted to its officers, to those in particular who have made possible the highly successful visits to factories, etc., and to those responsible for the many excellent lectures and film displays.

H. W. MOORE (L5A), C. K. LAVELLE (R.A.).

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The first meeting of the autumn term took the form of an interesting and lively debate on the motion: "This House prefers Colonial Stamps to those of Foreign Countries." At the second meeting a competition was held, the winner being N. P. Eyre, and this was followed by the showing of a film strip entitled, "Famous Stamps." Mr. J. W. McDonald, who has taken a keen interest in the Society since the beginning of the year, was unanimously elected Vice-President.

A talk on "Watermarks and Colours" was given by S. Christie at a meeting held during the spring term, and the remainder of the programme was devoted to preparations for the Hobby Show. We were able to present an attractive display of stamps and coins, which reflected great credit on the Society, especially since the majority of the entries submitted belong to the members themselves. The subjects chosen ranged from Wild Animals to Sport, and from The History of World War II to the current issues of foreign states. P. M. Howlett, our Treasurer, and W. L. Pugh are both to be congratulated, the former for his fine display of stamps, well meriting the prize for this section, and the latter for winning the Stamp Competition.

Our thanks are due, as ever, to Mr. R. T. Jones for his encouragement, and also to Mr. Folland for his great help in making our success possible.

G. E. SILVERMAN.

THE CHRISTIAN UNION

Since our last report meetings have been held regularly every Wednesday. This year, visits of outside speakers have been less frequent, as our experiments in conducting our own Bible study have proved helpful and interesting. During the term various members of the group have given dissertations on the Letters to the Seven Churches, in the "Book of Revelation."

The visits of the Rev. E. M. T. McLellan, Mr. Montague Goodman and Mr. Branse Burbridge were very much appreciated and enjoyed by all, and later in the term Major Ian Thomas is to address us again. A number of us attended a most profitable conference at Barnston, Cheshire, during the Whitsuntide holiday, when talks were given and a Brains Trust held.

Finally, our thanks are due to Mr. Watson for the keen and efficient way in which he has led the group.

T. W. SHAW, G. L. ROBERTS, W. G. JONES.

IDWAL COTTAGE YOUTH HOSTEL

On this our first visit we approached Idwal Cottage with curiosity and apprehension. We had heard of its fame and feared that we might feel out of place amidst its climbers and their daring deeds. For in it the elite of the climbing fraternity find temporary residence, and we were mere "fell-walkers" and "scramblers." Our fears, as it proved, were groundless. There was no room for disdain or unfriendliness in that cheerful place.

We arrived early enough to secure beds in the dormitory. Later arrivals were housed in a sort of converted hen-coop some distance from the building, containing three-tier bunks and a door which, when its occupants are sleeping, is held shut from within by a boulder. Five more bunks are situated on a verandah at the side of the hostel, open to the cool night winds; curious sheep inspect the sleeping climbers, and if they succeed in rousing them, rush wildly away bleating their alarm. The latest arrivals of all snatch such sleep as they can on the common-room floor. Our dormitory was a small one, but contained twelve bunks, so that on a cold night the temperature soon rises to a comfortable level and in the morning you will probably step into the next man's trousers before discovering your own. At the time of our stay a loose brick amused the frivolous. They placed it in the beds of others, where it was calculated to strike them in the small of the back. On the last night we were there it was laid in a bunk whose occupant we had not yet seen. Eleven pairs of eyes surveyed the unknown victim as he entered, and at once eleven people shuddered. For our latest victim was a stern-visaged giant of a man who, saying no word to any one, slowly undressed, put out the light and climbed into bed. We covered beneath our blankets as affording some protection against the impact of a flying brick. There was a grunt of pain, the brick thundered on the floor, the victim uttered a few random oaths—and took his revenge by devouring a whole packet of Ryvita biscuits with a remorseless crunch, crunch, crunch, guaranteed to keep sleep at bay. I removed the brick from the precincts next day—unwittingly, in the bottom of my rucksack.

Washing facilities are few, but adequate to the demands made upon them. Hardy spirits pretend to enjoy washing in the stream. For the rest there is one wash-basin and one foot-bath. One hosteller attempted to immerse himself in the foot-bath. He gingerly lowered himself into it and as he did so most of the water flowed over the floor. He then tried to wash himself, but, finding that his body was tightly wedged, gave up the attempt.

The food at the Hostel is good; there is even cocoa at 10 p.m. The dining-room is adorned with a mural painting on three of its walls, depicting climbers about their various occasions: some are setting off up Tryfan, others balance delicately on the slabs. In every corner of the Hostel one sees ropes and carabiners and climbing boots. In the late evening the returning climbers foregather in the Common Room to talk and sing, and as you drift off into the delicious sleep of bodily well-being, the tune of "John Brown's Body" rings in your ears, but the words are strange:—"We'll scrape him off the Glyders like a blob of strawberry jam" and "We'll pack him in his rucksack and we'll send him home to ma."

Idwal has an atmosphere all its own. To stay there is a great experience, one that, speaking for ourselves, we hope to repeat on many future occasions.

CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte

On Boxing Night, 1950, four enterprising spirits—two masters and two boys—met at the Pier Head to set off on a most daring adventure: a cycle tour of Northern Ireland and part of Éire, or Poblacht na h-Éireann, as the latter is now officially called.

The crossing was uneventful and quite smooth. We were aroused from our slumbers about 6-30 a.m. to see the approach to Belfast Lough and hail the dawn. We could see the dark coastline and the flashing lighthouse beams across the Lough. The only sign of life, apart from the boat, was the flurry of smoke as an early morning train went down from Belfast to Bangor. Even the seagulls were silent.

We spent the first day in Belfast, visiting the chief sights of the city; in the evening we set off on our cycles for the Youth Hostel at Killynether Castle. With the aid of diagrams we at last discovered it, tucked away in the woods near Newtownards, County Down. After being shown to our dormitory, we went to the kitchen, where we attempted to boil cans on Primus stoves. All we succeeded in obtaining were flames which reached the ceiling. A bucket of water extinguished the flames, but the excessive heat melted the solder on the stove, and one of the legs fell off. But when we reported the matter to the warden the next morning he said this was quite a usual occurrence!

From Newtownards we rode to Downpatrick, where St. Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, is buried. Soon after leaving there we encountered icebound roads, and had to ride with great caution in the darkness to Newry, and from there to the Border, where we were merely waved through by a Customs official. Another mile brought us to our first "An Oige" hostel at Omearh, County Louth. Rising before daybreak the following morning, we later saw the celebrated Mountains of Mourne across the Carlingford Lough. We crossed a desolate stretch of mountain and came to Dundalk, where we bought coupon-free chocolate and also received our first Irish money; all the coins have animals on them. From Dundalk, after hard riding on a good road, we reached Dublin, passing through Drogheda, where we saw the Boyne viaduct of the Great Northern Railway, the largest engineering work of its kind in Ireland. On this road, too, we had our first encounter with Irish gypsies, who demanded various sums from a penny to the price of a packet of cigarettes.

We had two whole days in the Dublin area. On the first afternoon we went to the scenic Hill of Howth, and rode to the summit on the electric tramway, which still has open-topped cars; it is now the only tramway in Éire. The following day we saw the principal sights of the city, including O'Connell Bridge, which is wider than it is long, and Phoenix Park, the name of which is a corruption of the Irish "Fáirc an Fionn Uisce" (field of the fair water); later we rode to Dún Laoghaire and Bray, the leading Éireann seaside town.

From Dublin we struck inland, to Cavan, and beheld some of the beautiful Irish countryside and picturesque loughs. When darkness fell we again found ourselves on icy roads, and several times narrowly escaped colliding with other cyclists, most of whom, in Irish country districts, ride without lights, front and rear. Donkeys wandering at the roadside added to the hazards. On this road we passed through Ceanannus Mór (Kells), the home of the famous Book of Kells, of which there is a facsimile in the Liverpool Reference Library. At Kells there is one of the famous Irish round towers, with its doorway a considerable distance above the ground.

From Cavan we rode the next day in brilliant sunshine to Ballinamore, on roads which became more and more slippery. At a small café in Ballinamore, which has about 900 inhabitants, a prodigious meal was produced as if by magic in a few seconds. Then on via Drumshanbo to Sligo; for the first ten miles a narrow-gauge railway runs at the roadside. This line serves the Arigna coal-field, and has one passenger train daily. After Arigna, road conditions became still worse, and one member of the party, who had prided himself on not crashing previously, fell off his cycle in trying to avoid a colleen. Two other members had run into each other on several occasions, the most noteworthy being in Drumshanbo, where a resounding crash brought villagers rushing to their doors. However, we reached Sligo at last, more or less intact.

After looking at the quays of Sligo, we rode via Bundoran to Donegal; the last twelve miles of the ride were covered in a blizzard. Obtaining provisions in Donegal town for the night, we made our way to the remote hostel at Cnoc na Liathróide, reaching it by a track which ran along the shore amongst sea-weed. In the morning we awoke to find an amazing vista of islands before us, in an arm of the Atlantic Ocean.

During the night the snow had melted and then frozen again, making the track and roads a virtual skating rink. Unable to ride, we tried to wheel our bicycles; at one moment all four of us were lying on the road, with our steeds, also in a horizontal position, a few feet away from us. We managed to reach Donegal town, less than three miles, in about an hour; then conditions improved a little, and it became possible to ride for five minutes or so without falling off. We climbed through the desolate Barnesmore gap and went via Stranorlar to Letterkenny, where we spent the night; unfortunately the road conditions prevented us from visiting the hostel at Tra na Rossan, which is in the heart of a Gaeltacht—an area in which the Irish language still flourishes.

The next morning we left the Republic and reached Londonderry, where we spent a few hours; after dark we rode on to Tamnagh Lodge, a *cherie* deserted hostel which had had no visitor for at least a fortnight. It was infested with rats, which consumed most of our food during the night. From there we rode through the Sperrin Mountains to Newtonstewart, whence we took a train to Fintona, Co. Tyrone, covering the remarkable half-mile branch line which is served by a double-deck car hauled by a horse. The "engine" has a small shed at each end of the line, and retires into one or the other of them after each trip.

The following day brought us to Portrush and the Giant's Causeway, that most fascinating natural formation of stones of regular shape descending into the sea. Unfortunately we saw it in semi-darkness and pouring rain. Then we rode on along the coast to our last hostel, Ballyvooy, where we were greeted by a very large rat which walked out from under one of the mattresses when we entered the dormitory.

Our last day's ride was along the famous Antrim Coast Road, on a morning of perfect visibility; the Mull of Kintyre, at least a dozen miles away, could be seen just across the water. At Belfast we embarked on the "Ulster Prince" for Liverpool, after a most exciting holiday. Despite the snow and ice we felt that Ireland fully deserves her title of land of "Céad Míle Fáilte"—a hundred thousand welcomes.

H. A. SHIELDS, 6BC, J. M. LEARMONT, USA.

VIENNESE SCHOOL LIFE

Let me introduce to you a Viennese school-boy who, at the age of 10, is about to enter the *Mittelschule*, which is the Austrian equivalent of your English grammar school. Let me tell you a little about his life and work, his successes and his failures. His name is Franz. The time is September 5th.

Another scholastic year begins. Hundreds of schoolboys in the streets of Vienna, the boys mostly wearing leather shorts with leather braces, the girls in gay *Dirndl* dresses, make their way to the *Mittelschulen*.

Franz is one of them. Life in a *Mittelschule* is most strange to him after four years in an elementary school (*Volksschule*). But this year everything is different, for, having passed his entrance examinations last spring, he finds himself in the first form of a *Mittelschule*.

Although Franz has passed an entrance examination, his parents must pay something towards his education, according to their means. They must pay for all his books, papers, and any materials that Franz is going to use at school. So he takes very great care of these. He does not

use a school-bag or an *attache-case* to carry his books, for the Austrian boys buy a good brief-case at the beginning of their grammar-school career and this will last them right the way through.

School caps, school ties and badges are not worn in Austrian schools. Every boy wears what he likes. A boy under the age of 15 or 16 does not normally wear long trousers, as Austrians think that long trousers suit adults perfectly well, but not young people. These wear *plus-fours* in winter.

Franz now finds that he has to work much harder than before. He has to get up at 6-45 a.m. every day, because all the Austrian schools start at 8 o'clock in the morning and it takes Franz 25 minutes by tram to get there. He cannot go by bus, as there are only a few bus routes in the city and going by bus is more expensive than going by tram.

The school hours are 8 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. or 8 a.m. to 1-15 p.m., including Saturday. There is no afternoon school! The periods are 45 minutes each, with five minutes break between two periods and one big break of 15 minutes. Well, that sounds very nice and Franz likes it very much, although getting up so early is not pleasant in winter. Franz has now responsibilities—Homework! Well, you may say, how about not doing the homework? But to make you understand why our boys have got to do their homework, I must tell you a little more about our school system.

It is quite easy to understand. Franz will stay in a *Mittelschule* for eight years. He starts at the age of 10 in Form 1 and finishes after eight years at the age of 18 in Form 8. At the end of the eighth year he passes the leaving examination (*Reifeprüfung*), which entitles him, if successful, to matriculate without any further test at any Austrian university.

Each school year is divided into two terms, at the end of which Franz gets a report, which is clear enough. It is a mere sheet of paper with the names of the subjects on the left and the comments on the right side. There are no actual marks. But it is a momentous document, as you will see in a minute. There are only these five comments: very good (*sehr gut*), good (*gut*), satisfactory (*befriedigend*), sufficient (*genügend*), insufficient (*nicht genügend*). A poor report at the end of the first term is only a warning, but when Franz receives his report at the end of the school year, his eyes run quickly over the report and he takes a deep breath of relief when it shows no 'nicht genügend'! He can have as many 'genügend' as he likes, but two 'nicht genügend' means staying down in the same form for another year or even expulsion, when it happens twice, for poor work and bad behaviour are not tolerated in Austrian *Mittelschulen*! In the case of one 'nicht genügend' at the end of the school year the unlucky boy is given a last chance; he must pass an exam. after the summer holidays (*Wiederholungsprüfung*), which invariably spoils his vacation for that year. This happens to four or five boys in each Form most years.

But Franz has no difficulties this first year in a grammar school. He does his homework regularly and his behaviour is so good that he is hardly ever punished. His mark in behaviour is 'sehr gut,' but other boys whose marks are not so good get additional homework or are kept in for two or three hours. Franz' parents go and see all his masters about once every two months. Then they hear all about Franz' progress and his conduct in school. If this is not good, a 'nicht genügend' in a report will not come as such a surprise to the parents. The teachers also find it very useful and necessary to know something of their pupil's surroundings and their mode of life, when they are not at school. Co-operation between teachers and parents makes education very successful.

But now the school year comes to an end. Franz is very much looking forward to eleven weeks summer holidays—a marvellous time for the pupils—and for the masters!

K. HESS.

BRITAIN KHAN

(with apologies to Samuel Taylor Coleridge)

In Battersea did Morrison
 A stately pleasure dome decree,
 Where Thames, the ancient river, ran
 Past taverns numberless to man
 Down to the Northern Sea.
 So many miles of bulldozed ground
 With barricades were girdled round :
 And there were gardens rife with numerous thrills,
 Where rattled many a ticket-punch machine ;
 And here were harassed parents paying bills,
 Scanning with anxious eyes the frantic scene.
 But O, that tall romantic skyron which glittered
 Bright as a blade athwart the whole caboodle !
 An arty place ! where days were gaily frittered,
 And e'er neath neon light the dancers jittered,
 The noble lord, the merchant, or the hoodlum.
 A fireman with extinguisher
 In a vision once I saw :
 It was the British Fire Brigade,
 And on the flames his hose he played,
 Roaring " Rule Britannia."
 Could I revive within me
 That energetic song,
 To such a deep delight 'twould win me
 I would take you all along—
 That gleaming dome ! that skyron bright !
 And all who heard should hurry there,
 And all should cry, A Festive Fair !
 For Britisher and foreigner !
 Fill the form and fill it thrice,
 And close your eyes with dizzy dread,
 For he upon The Dip is sped
 Who sucked the orange and the ice !

J. d'A. JEFFERY.

CAMBRIDGE LETTER

Cambridge.

The Editor, The Liverpool Institute Magazine.

Sir,—As Spring returns to the Backs, and the punts glide up to Grantchester, the "young gentlemen" are torn between the joys of outdoor life and belated preparations for the Tripos. The iniquity of the latter can be forgotten in May Week, but its presence has a sobering influence in an otherwise golden existence.

The Lent Term brought our reunion at the Old Boys' dinner, when the Headmaster came up and, not only furnished us with a full report of School activities, in these dark ages of education, but gave us a warning and a message. He exhorted us to uphold our traditions and loyalties in the face of those influences seeking to undermine the nation's prestige and prosperity. The foundations of those traditions were laid in our loyalty to the Institute and what it has given us.

Meanwhile, the Freshmen have settled down in the undergraduate community, and their failings are exposed beside those of their more experienced fellows. Some may conceal their nefarious activities, but I shall strive to lay them bare before the eyes of the curious.

Age cannot wither nor Cambridge impair the elegant figure of Mr. Durband, our banquet organiser and chairman, who may be occasionally glimpsed threading the crowds of Petty Cury in feminine company. His companion at Downing, the sadistic Mr. Eedle, has reluctantly put away his hockey stick and returned to his study of uncouth tongues. He remains cheerful throughout these hardships. Mr. Bootle's interest in figures flourishes undiminished by paternal cares. He would appear to have struck against the rise in hair-cutting costs, and by withdrawing his personal custom hopes for the disestablishment of all barbers. Mr. Williams's less respectable pursuits are as mysterious as that gentleman himself.

Our sole representative at Magdalene, Mr. Boss, is a rowing man, and his religion is shared at St. Catherine's by Mr. Blackstock, who also does daily penance at the end of an oar. Their desire for self-mortification does not agree with Mr. Sharpe, who serves his country in the Air Squadron, although his motives may not be altogether altruistic. Mr. Nott joyfully concurs in the habit of viewing life through a glass, and his "Memoirs of an Infantry Officer" : or "How I Climbed the Bridge of Sighs," may be heard from manuscript at "The Volunteer."

The School's Trinity at the Hall continue to lead blameless lives. Mr. Sweeney lives next door to a busy colony of pneumatic drills, but he assures us that their clatter is as nothing, after the clangour of trams in the Cannebière. In his efforts to further the quest for health and beauty, Mr. Craig issues invitations to us to join him in jolly rambles and cycle trips into the wilderness beyond Castle Hill. A sinister touch is discernible in the invariable warning to "bring lamps," as the party may find itself benighted. These invitations, I feel sure, would be spurned by the decorous Mr. Barter, whose neatly furled umbrella, lawyer's smile and polished manners turn a chance encounter on K.P. into a social pleasure.

Rumour has it that Mr. Pugh, in his enthusiasm for stark realism, collaborated with the Government in a Census. He subsequently went into hiding, but emerged with a fund of continental wit and topical impersonations, which make him an asset to the scholars of Pembroke, in whose garrets lives Mr. Bell. This gentleman's vocal exertions echo up and down the Cam, whither he goes to mortify the flesh ; the scarf, usually knotted about his neck, would suggest that he has been successful. Mr. Hodson is generally seen in his company, which proves that the latter's seeming innocence is deceptive. Enough to say that his window overlooks the road to Newnham, and he is frequently caught leaning out, supposedly in search of camera subjects.

The luxury flat inhabited by Mr. Waddington on Market Hill has its disadvantages. He is gravely disturbed in his researches by small children who leer at him, from passing buses, through his window. Remote from these nervous worries, in the pseudo-Gothic, turreted austerity of Selwyn, live Messrs. Hechle and P. Jacob. The former champions the silver-voiced aesthete against the muddied oaf, while the latter bewilders us by trying to learn economics in this paradise for profiteers, the City of Cambridge.

Finally, with graver mien I turn to contemplate our elders; Messrs. Jacob and Leak live monastic lives in quiet self-effacement, but what of Mr. Evans? Reliable news is scarce, but the Franco regime is shattered by industrial disorders, and the Catalonian strike leaders remain anonymous . . .

In the faint hope that I have satisfied the curiosity of those who seek to pry into our academic way of life, and perhaps aspire to a study in our midst,

I remain, Sir, Yours faithfully,

JEDEDIAH CLEISHBOTHAM.

OXFORD LETTER

The Aviary, Cloudecuckootown.

The Editor, The Liverpool Institute Magazine.

Sir,—Once again the demand for some scandal about our members in Oxford comes to us, and once again we must draw aside the veil from the little knowledge which we have of our friends and acquaintances and their doings, and lay bare that knowledge to the gaze of the School. We are not inquisitive about our contemporaries, but from time to time we are enjoined to send back our bundle of dirty washing to be laundered in public, as if in one of the windows of dry-cleaning establishments.

However, the job must be done, and we must write what we know, without fear or favour. No trepidation attends our efforts to describe our Senior Members' doings, for Messrs. McKie and Kneale pursue the even and philosophic tenor of their ways. Of them we have nothing new or exciting to say, except that Mr. McKie has returned to the rooms whence he was driven by fire last year. Mr. Kneale, we are sure, nothing could disturb.

B.N.C. still has the lion's share of our members. Mr. Chalmers, suave and smiling as ever, has just taken Schools and is about to leave us. Mr. Gallimore is also about to leave us, though for another reason. At any rate, that is what we think, since his progress on his motor-velocipede has led many people to imagine that the Oxford Speedway had changed its place. Mr. Bardsley has returned from wherever it was that he was last term, with as much charm as ever, and perhaps even more. Mr. Cass was last seen descending into a hole. He used to apprehend one on the slightest pretext and produce small and grubby pieces of pottery which he would expound upon—but, alas, sir, *facilis descensus Averno*.

The heavenly twins of St. Edmund Hall, Messrs. Strapps and Pierce may be seen around Oxford at times. They seem to be flourishing. Mr. Willcox of Merton has become notorious. He has gained a first in Classical Moderations. We trust that this feat may be repeated by others in time to come. Mr. Hugill of Worcester has come out of his converted riding-stable and may be seen at times putting on the nose-bag at the Continental Café. In fact, many of the clients of that particular café have a Worcester-source—I beg your pardon, sir; let us change the subject.

To turn south of the High Street, we must compliment Mr. MacDowall on gaining a Senior Scholarship. He also has just taken Schools, but this award means that we shall not lose him just yet. Also at Corpus is Mr. Cashdan, junior, who coxes a Corpus boat, and who narrowly escaped unscorched when a boat was burnt at the end of Eights Week. The laddie, apparently, was not for burning. Possibly his talent at bar-billiards saved him.

At Oriel, Mr. Kennett dispenses tea and cakes, with a benevolent air, and the help of his room-mate. The books on his table seem to indicate that he reads Modern Languages. His presence at dances argues otherwise. Mr. Shaw-Smith of University may no longer be seen at the Stowaway. Rumours that the café will have to close from lack of his patronage are false. Messrs. Gallimore and Cass have taken over that responsibility. He also has recently taken Schools—an ominous portent for those who follow him. He is accompanied by Mr. Noonan of New College, who used to be concerned with O.U.D.S., but has now retired to contemplate the drama of ancient history.

Mr. Topp of Jesus is a geographer, and consequently can never be found. Mr. Jones of Wadham is the invisible man; he has been seen once in the Parks—that is all. We close on a note of mystery.

There is on sale in Oxford a booklet entitled "Picturesque Oxford"—with a photograph of the highly unpicturesque New Bodleian on the cover. We fear that this letter may be similar. The Old Boys at Oxford are much the same as any other people. We bring you news of some of their foibles and some of their achievements, but any glamour which they may have is like floodlighting on the Liver Building—entirely external. Here it is, sir, here is the letter; we hope you like it.

KNOXCLAVE.

PREFECTS' LETTER

The Editor, The Liverpool Institute Magazine.

Sir,—Once again you command me to divulge publicly the secrets I have so hardly gleaned from the archives of the Prefects' Room. With quivering quill I rashly follow in the hoofmarks of my predecessors, already foreseeing that awful day when retribution will be exacted. Yet, fearing your wrath with equal feeling, what can I do but put my observations to paper?

The Head-Boy, Mr. R. B. Morris, is a well-known gargoyle and apprentice campanologist. His normal residence is near Hooton, a fact which is reflected in his singing—he is a true basso profundo, meaning that he thinks deeply before doing anything naughty. Most of his working hours are spent compounding prefects' duty rotas by differential calculus: his calculus is different from any others yet devised—so also are his results. His right-hand man is Mr. McGuinness, who is more used to tow-ropes than bell-ropes. Indeed his gliding exploits prove quite as startling news as the results of his latest biological experiments. This innate daring is generally somewhat hidden by his case, the receptacle for a bewildering array of dissecting instruments, over which their owner broods with a loving care. The sound of swishing scalpels is often heard in the Prefects' Room, as Mr. McGuinness sharpens them on his grindstone.

Mr. Davies has many athletic and gymnastic talents—a full list can be had on application to him. More artistic traits are evidenced by his learning the cello while sitting under his portable hair-curling machine, although he insists on holding the bow with fives gloves. Mr. Davies, however, has more than one string to his bow and is very adept at wire-pulling. It is strange he has not become a saxophonist as he assures everyone he cuts a fine figure in tights. The capabilities of Mr. Finch range from secreting the Prefectorial milk supply in the most inaccessible corners of the room to being the only person who can ever retrieve the perilously-perched containers. His requirements of milk for adequate sustenance may seem inordinately large, but everyone yields to his desires with squeals of delight. He gives up his pursuit of milk long enough to go shooting at Altcar on Wednesday evenings. In these escapades he is accompanied by Mr. Harrison, who is a most assured shot, although the justification for all the assurances heaped on him is hard to find. He often leaves the company of his fellow-prefects for hours on end and retires to the darkest corners of the locker, ostensibly to study but actually to devour his month's supply of chocolate. He is also a mine of information concerning the Festival of Britain, which probably accounts for the numerous digs he gets from Mr. Roberts. This gentleman is said to have inspired the Skylon—of a startling height and apparently unsupported—but he never gets lit up at night. His essays in scene-painting have been hailed widely by Festival organisers as a superb example of decadent surrealism. Yet his most interesting exhibits are photographs of himself, club in hand and quoting Shakespeare, outside his ancestral cave in the centre of the mountains of Portmadoc.

Mr. Oxburgh, despite his studiously bespectacled appearance, is likewise of the caveman type and lives with a pair of gym shorts and a pullover in a barrel near Huyton Station. His habits are unusual—he eats dinner off his discus and plays ping-pong with a shot, but everyone finds them most endearing. They are convinced that such evidences of aboriginality are the outward manifestations of genius. Mr. Oxburgh always has his wits about him—these being none other than Messrs. Norrie and Page. Their common interests are philosophy and gymnastics, and alternately they tie each other in physical and metaphysical knots, or hurl weighty syllogisms or even heavier medicine balls to and fro. Mr. Page lives on toast, which must be very uncomfortable for him, and certainly makes life very slippery for the rest of the prefects. He can always be found by following the trail of butter and crumbs that invariably leads to his whereabouts: this easily-observed evidence of his passing has been noticed as far afield as the mountaineering haunts of the Lake District and North Wales. Mr. Norrie practices actively both hypnotism and yoga,

besides his other activities. His perpetually worried look is caused by his inability to decide what should be done next—it is invariably a game of table-tennis. After spending all day in a state of indecision, Mr. Norrie goes home to ponder over the way he should spend his leisure hours—and as a result finds he has no leisure hours to spend.

The forte (one might almost say fortissimo) of Mr. G. B. Morris is his voice. During C.C.F. parades on Wednesday afternoons, all neighbouring windows are closed and tightly shuttered, and fresh young trees have been observed to wilt noticeably under the intense verbal battery they undergo. He originated the famous cry "My kingdom for a horse- whip," but has never been known to use one, because beneath his rugged and forbidding exterior there beats a heart of solid gold. The evil genius of the Prefects' Room is their Secretary, Mr. Mackinnon. In his official capacity he confiscates all the milk that Mr. Finch is unable to consume, restricts the supply of table-tennis balls, and collects money to finance an unsound scheme he calls the Prefects' Fund. His sole attempt to cook a balance sheet resulted in a school fire-drill: since then he has literally turned over a new leaf, and has confounded extremely accurate accounts by using trigonometry and solid geometry.

Mr. G. H. Jones is more solid than geometric. His seraphic smile, however, conceals the soul of a dreamer whose fantastic world is peopled with strange nightmarish characters—all portrayed of course by Mr. G. H. Jones. He is indeed a man of many parts and will take on anything from Othello to Jimmy Durante, although he always maintains that he could find the best outlet for his talents in the chorus of an Edwardian musical. With the coming of summer and the cricket season, his namesake Mr. K. R. Jones has come out of hibernation. This entails an increase in milk consumption, as he stocks up for next winter and a decrease in the number of table-tennis balls as he improves his fielding ability. His ability as an extra-cover occasioned some zealots to attempt to lay him along the pitch during a break because of rainy weather in a recent match. Luckily he awoke out of his hammock in time to avert their intents. His second-in-command on the field is Mr. Ashby, an accomplished and elegant figure in his off-white flannels. He spends much of his free time editing fan-mail and signing pictures of himself in various victorious attitudes both on and off the cricket field. He is very distressed by the number of people who have returned photos, demanding pictures of the real Harvey, the big white rabbit, and not of the ridiculous mammal of which he had sent them photographs.

His cricketing associate, Mr. Shaw, does everything at the double—he even comes to school at a sprint, using his bicycle to set the pace. This machine is painted in a terrifying orange colour: it is the envy of the Third Forms and the scourge of Allerton. In contrast, its owner is a quiet gentle person liking nothing so much as a good five miles run on a blisteringly hot day or repainting his velocipede in an even more vivid shade of orange. Mr. Warbrick on the other hand prefers the pastel to the vivid and pastry to almost anything else one cares to imagine. This mighty man wields his own private table-tennis bat, a fearsome weapon which can only be lifted by the united strength of six ordinary mortals. His tremendous physique is due to his practising two "build your body" courses at the same time. The strength which he has gained in this way makes him pre-eminent in the athletic field. His favourite sports are putting the shot, throwing the discus and swinging the lead.

Mr. B. L. Jones' usual occupation is practising the flick with a hockey stick and a frown of concentration. In default of a ball he will use anything from a milk bottle to a shell-case, causing great carnage in the process. One of his more amiable habits is that of making a written record of any ill-considered remarks his friends may make. His "little book" has gained him great respect and greater wealth.

And now, Sir, the die is cast. It only remains for me, without hope of reprieve, to sign myself,

Κακομυχανος.

THE FUND

This is supposed to be an age of selfishness and tight-fistedness, of frenzied seeking after "something for nothing"; an age when philanthropy and disinterestedness are regarded with cynical amusement, if not with open derision.

Whether or not this is really the case, it is pleasant to be able to record that the Liverpool Institute Fund, built up from the purely voluntary donations of the boys each Monday morning, shows no decline in generosity on the part of its subscribers. In fact last term's aggregate of £43 19s. 10d., collected in ten weeks, shows an increase of ten per cent. over the normal average of £4 per week.

The aims and objects of this benevolent scheme are set forth in our Green Book, and need not be repeated here; but readers may care to be informed of some of the charitable organisations that have received substantial financial assistance from the Liverpool Institute Fund during 1951. Here they are to date:—

The Florence Institute for Boys, Liverpool; The Friends of the Liverpool Radium Institute; The Police Court and Prison Gate Mission; The Liverpool Seamen's Friend Society; St. Dunstan's, South Audley Street, London. A.H.

SUBURBAN GARDEN

The sun shines brilliantly down from the bright blue sky,
 Whilst the lazy dog sleeps in the shade of a tree,
 And the drowsy cat pettishly flicks at a fly,
 Or dreamily watches some birds or a bee.
 All the birds twitter gaily in the fresh green trees;
 A bee buries itself in a thick bed of flowers;
 The ferns under the apple-tree stir in the breeze,
 And two men lie dozing in deck chairs for hours.
 A clump of lupins stand by the mellow brick wall
 And a group of white iris rear themselves proudly;
 The smell of new-cut grass and privet pervades all,
 And a decrepit tram rattles by loudly.

J.B.T. (U5a).

THE TRIUMPH OF AUTUMN

The autumn of life has come silently on us;
 Everywhere fall the leaves of civilisation.
 In that glorious summer we saw it far off,
 Waiting to snatch from us the glory of culture.
 Then, one day, Autumn had descended upon us,
 As in a former age the Greeks fell on and crushed
 The city of Troy; the beauty of our heritage
 Buried in an avalanche of innovations.
 Autumn has triumphed; and in my soul I feel
 The approach of winter, which, like an immense shroud,
 Covers the body of a civilisation,
 Lying under the engulfing carpet of snow. S. SHIEBERT (Am1).

PORT ERIN, 1951

The party of eleven which met at the Prince's Landing Stage on the morning of May the twelfth consisted of Mr. R. G. Walker, nine members of 6BSc, J. L. Canter, D. Edwards, G. D. Hurst, M. H. Lader, H. Martin, S. H. Orlans, K. D. Pattinson, D. Ridley, M. Weinrook and one from ASc, R. S. Prico. The object of our week's stay in the Isle of Man, was to study the fauna and flora of the sea-shore.

During the journey we met the party from Seafield Grammar School which was to work with us at the Marine Biological Station, Port Erin. The crossing was smooth, and we arrived at Douglas early on Saturday afternoon, only to pass straight through, for we were anxious to reach our destination.

On arrival we found that other schools were present. They were Aigburth Vale High School, Pinner County School, and Manchester Grammar School. Those who were fortunate enough to obtain a front room had a glorious view across Port Erin bay to Bradda Head and the Biological Station.

After tea Mr. Walker took us round the station, showing us our laboratory, the excellent, though specialised library, aquaria and the fish hatchery. The aquaria were very well stocked with local marine life, including an octopus, a spider crab and a large variety of sea anemones. After dinner we felt energetic and walked through Bradda Glen to climb the monument on Bradda Head.

Certain gentlemen displayed exuberance at 6-30 a.m. on Sunday when they went roaming. Others stayed in bed.

Our first practical introduction to the zonation of the sea-shore was made that morning, when a strangely garbed party, wearing anything from ancient shorts to school uniform, clambered over, round and through rocks and rock-pools in search of specimens.

Each new seaweed that we found was taken back to the laboratory; there it was identified and mounted in note books; notes of zone of discovery on the sea-shore and methods of reproduction were then added. Mollusca could not be mounted, so drawings took their place. Some specimens proved hard to identify and our thanks are due to those members of the permanent staff of the Station who helped us over our difficulties. Some enthusiasts returned in the evening to continue their studies and make use of the library.

Monday morning was spent on the shelf at Port St. Mary, where some visitors expressed their interest in our specimens and asked us to explain our activities.

During a moorland ramble that afternoon, our party spent some time on Bradda Head watching seals.

On our excursion the following afternoon past the Druid's Circle to the Chasms, we saw an old Manxman's cottage, but were unable to enter it. We looked through the windows and saw that it contained only two rooms. From the Chasms we made our way across Spanish Head to the Sound, accompanied by a hideous cacophony provided by one member using a tin and a piece of slate.

Wednesday afternoon found us at Fleshwick Bay, where we explored some caves without a great deal of success. Examples of moorland flora were also collected.

Low tide was suitable for a visit to the breakwater which runs half way across the mouth of Port Erin bay. This we did on Thursday afternoon, when many starfish, sea urchins and dead-men's fingers were collected. One of our number volunteered to go in and gather specimens from the sea floor: another one did not volunteer—he fell in.

The last afternoon of our stay was one of the most enjoyable. The whole party caught a bus of 1927 vintage, whose chief characteristics were innumerable holes in the floor and a speedometer which registered zero when moving at twenty miles per hour and forty miles per hour when stationary. This finally deposited us at Derby Haven, where we found some new mollusca and a butter fish. The party were surprised to see three of their colleagues depart in a large Rolls Royce, while they waited for the old bus.

Next morning, Saturday, we all rose early and caught the 7-20 a.m. train to Douglas. Here the party split up, three returning to Liverpool on the 9 a.m. boat, the remainder staying in Douglas to return in the afternoon.

For those who stayed, a visit to the Manx museum took up most of the morning. The exhibits ranged from ancient pottery to modern painting. The sections on Manx culture and natural history were of the greatest interest.

Throughout the whole of our stay the weather remained unchanged, being so clear that often we saw the mountains of Mourne in Northern Ireland. The trip was voted a complete success. We feel that this was due to Mr. Walker's enthusiasm and his ability to combine work with play. For this we thank him.

R. S. PRICE and K. D. PATTINSON.

THE VISIT TO BECK KOLLER & CO. (ENGLAND) LTD., SPEKE

The visit to the factory of Beck Koller Limited, with its preceding lecture, was indeed a revelation. In the world today, where so many things are taken for granted, few people outside the trade know or care anything about the research and technique which go into the manufacture of a pot of paint, provided that it does its job well.

To most of the party, paint was just paint, to be bought, thinned if necessary, brushed on and left to dry with no thought of its manufacture. The lecture before the visit, however, lifted the veil, and showed us the many kinds of natural and synthetic resins used in the paint industry. We learned of rosin, copal and shellac; of phenolic, cresylic, alkyd and urea-formaldehyde resins and of their uses: for spar varnishes and motor finishes, for waterproofing and plywood bonding, for "shoes and ships and sealing wax, and cabbages and kings." We were told of the many difficulties encountered and how they were overcome; of how rosin could be introduced into the manufacture of normally inert phenol-formaldehyde resin to give a reduced phenolic resin soluble in xylol, and of how oil is used to transform the intractable glycerol-phthalic anhydride ester into the useful alkyd resin.

The aim of the synthetic resin industry is not, as many people suppose, to produce substitutes for natural resins in all fields, but is to evolve entirely new products with distinctive and often unique properties. Although synthetic resins, being of uniform quality, are nearly always better than the natural resins used for the same purposes, in some classes of work natural resins are still used; for example, shellac is used for French polishing, as no synthetic resin has yet been made which is better than this expensive substance. The lecture had shown us some of the many facets of the synthetic resin industry, but it was left to the visit to bring a full understanding of the technical skill which goes to make a synthetic resin.

The first impression gained of the factory was of its relatively small size. While other establishments cover large areas of ground, this factory was seen to be compact and well planned, with no space wasted and yet with a surprising amount of plant fitted into the available space without appearing cramped.

A small exhibition had been arranged in the canteen, which we visited on arrival, consisting of a model of a 'kettle' used in the works, and some interesting specimens, including resin-bonded cloth, plywood, building boards and glass fibre, and various paints and varnishes made from synthetic resins.

After seeing these exhibits, the party then visited the brain of the factory, the laboratory. There, new reactions are tried out on a small scale, and the products tested for acidity, colour, viscosity, resistance to water and brine and, when in the form of paint, are subjected to a drying test. For this test a most ingenious device is used, in which a board coated with paint is placed on a table and a loaded needle drawn over it at a slow constant speed, and from the appearance of the groove made by the needle

the drying qualities of the paint is found. In the laboratory the raw materials are also tested, any doubtful batch of material being tried by a sample cooking, the reaction being observed and the products examined to find out whether the material may be relied upon to produce a resin of the high quality required. Routine tests are also carried out on all raw materials; they are tested for colour by comparison with standard tints, for viscosity by Ostwald and disc viscometers, for acidity by the delicate pH meter and, in the case of solvents, for flash-point. The finished products are also tested in the same way as those of the experimental reactions to check their quality.

Leaving the laboratory, the party went to the rosin stores and the solvent pump house, being regaled on the way with stories of the frequent occurrence of stones, layers of earth and old boots in the Spanish rosin, and thence to the kettlerooms, the heart of the factory. In the kettlerooms the main reactions are carried out in large stainless steel or glass-lined 'kettles,' heated by furnaces below and fitted with large electrically-driven stirrers, with condensers, thermometers, carbon dioxide pipes, evacuating apparatus and inspection windows through which could be seen clouds of swirling vapour. The process is here translated from the laboratory to the factory, the kettles taking the place of the laboratory three litre flasks, and the cresol-formaldehyde kettles, swirling maelstroms of red caustic fluid from which rise blinding vapours, that of the laboratory beakers. In these kettles takes place the fantastic dance of the molecules; rings join into pairs, the pairs form chains, the chains lengthening and interweaving, twisting and twining, form the complex final resin.

When the reaction is complete the molten resin is pressed out by carbon dioxide, obtained by evaporating the solid in a confined space, into drums or into flat pans, where it solidifies and is broken up and packed into bags for despatch. Some of the resin is sent out as a solution in xylol or white spirit, and for this it is pressed into thinning kettles, large vessels fitted with heating jackets and condensers, where the resin is dissolved by the action of heat. The resulting solution is then filtered and run into drums for transport.

The visit to the thinning kettles terminated our tour of the factory, a place of strange, clinging resinous odours which, when smelt again, will bring back pleasant memories both of the visit to the works and of the excellent tea which was served in the canteen afterwards. The factory as a whole gave an impression of smooth efficiency and harmony which would be hard to better anywhere, for the employees were most helpful and obliging, being always ready to answer the questions which were put by members of the party. This, with everything else in the factory, made the tour a most memorable occasion, and left the party much food for thought concerning this most pleasant and interesting visit.

R. W. KING.

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