

The Sweetest



Sweet

LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE
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JULY, 1954

Editors

{ P. L. TAYLOR
T. P. MATHESON

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EDITORIAL

At some undetermined date in the foreseeable future the obituary columns of *The Times* will include the following epitaph . . .

" We regret the passing of The Printed Word. He lived unappreciated by his contemporaries, and dies unmourned by his successors. His life was short but eventful, his death drawn-out, yet full of pathos. Mis-interpreted by some of history's greatest men, he has transformed ploughboys into Miltons. This maltreated fellow will be missed most by those who never knew him."

Perhaps a rather imaginative and, as you will have observed, an initially contradictory prediction, but the possibility is not as remote as its whimsical devotees might suggest. The decline and fall of The Printed Word is a depressing commentary upon present-day society. In these days of radio, television and the cinema we are repeatedly informed by all three media that The Printed Word is now an unnecessary archaism. Accepting this, then the unpalatable fact occurs to us that you, dear sir, are probably the only person who will ever read this Editorial. Every other purchaser of our Magazine will, by now, be using it to prop up one corner of his television set, while he ardently absorbs the latest fantasies from both inner and outer space. If this is all that progress is to achieve, then we feel that science is being a little inconsiderate of, and unfair to Editors, not to mention the aeons of pauper spirits who also, perhaps unaccountably, felt compelled to express their thoughts as words on paper.

If we can avert this untimely demise, then it is up to us to do so. If we fail, then both antiquity and posterity may condemn us for the invertebrates into which these modern artistic (?) forms are moulding us. Even were the sole achievement of The Printed Word the fact that it converted Charles Lamb from a stuttering, incoherent babbling in life, into an eloquent, euphuistic inspiration on paper, then surely it deserves a long reprieve. Each age must establish its own standards in artistic taste and form, so why should not ours heed the words of Conan Doyle—

" Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself, but talent instantly recognises genius."

MISS EDITH ROBERTSON

We learnt with sorrow of Miss Robertson's sudden death on the 4th March, 1954. She was a colleague whom everybody liked and respected, both for her character and personality and for the loyal and devoted service she gave to this school from the day she joined it in 1918 to her retirement in July, 1946.

We remember with special gratitude her self-sacrificing work during the period of the school's evacuation in Bangor. She never grumbled! She was always so sensible, so bright and cheerful, and so pleasant to deal with.

CHAT ON THE CORRIDOR

At the end of this term we shall be saying goodbye to no fewer than seven members of the Staff. Mr. Thorpe, who joined us in 1918, and Mr. Bartlett, who came to the Institute in 1926, are retiring after many years of faithful service to the School. We wish them both a long and happy retirement.

Mr. Bowker is leaving us to become Senior Modern Languages master at King George V School, Southport, and Mr. Buckley has accepted the post of Senior Chemistry master at Chadderton Grammar School; Mr. Haig is going to Poole Grammar School, in Dorset. Mr. Noonan has been appointed Classics master on the staff of Wolstanton Grammar School, Newcastle-under-Lyne, and the Rev. E. J. Turner has accepted an appointment on the staff of Sir Roger Manwood's School, Sandwich. All four leave with our best wishes for success and happiness in the future.

We congratulate the following on their academic achievements:—

D. J. Kenworthy, a Scholarship in Mathematics at Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

P. W. Michaelson, a Scholarship in Classics at University College, Oxford.

On Monday, March 15th, a number of senior boys attended an Orchestral Concert for Schools at the Philharmonic Hall. Mr. James Robertson conducted works of such varied interest as those by Dvorák and Weinburger. The soloist in Mozart's "Clarinet Concerto in A Major" was Mr. Raymond Challinor, a former pupil of the Holt High School.

On May 30th the Sixth Forms attended a film appreciation lecture at the Philharmonic Hall. This lecture was one of the most notable in the series, for, not only did we see the film, "Oliver Twist," but also we were given other indications of Mr. David Lean's technique in excerpts from "Great Expectations". Included in the programme was the television film of the London to Brighton run.

On the last day of the Easter term the Headmaster read out the words of the new School Song, which had been composed by M. F. McNaughton (L5b), and presented the composer with his prize. Mr. Williams has now put the words to music, and the Song will soon have its first public performance.

A flute and a piccolo have been kindly presented to the School Orchestra by Mr. C. Marriott, the father of C. J. Marriott (L5e).

Recently, a School branch of the Scripture Union has been formed, and over forty boys now follow this scheme of daily Bible reading.

On May 10th, Captain Allen explained to the senior boys the rigours and advantages of National Service. He told us that the Army's greatest needs were officers and interpreters, and that anyone who possessed the qualifications could command respect and higher remuneration. The Army, he asserted, was no bed of roses, but we are sure that he left some of us with that impression.

We regret to announce the presumed death of Gordon Allen Naldrett, at the age of 29. He entered the School in 1932, gained the Sir Frederick Radcliffe Prize for Elocution (Junior) in 1938, and left with a good School Certificate in 1941. He was a Flight-Lieutenant in the Royal Air Force, and was flying in a Canberra bomber which is reported to have come down in the sea off New Guinea. We extend our sympathy to his widow and mother.

PORTRAIT IN OILS

On 4th March this year, Mr. Lawrence D. Holt paid what was probably his last official visit to the School, on the occasion of the presentation of his portrait in oils, which will be hung in the Boardroom. Accompanying Mr. Holt were his son, Mr. Julian Holt, and the new Chairman of the Governors, Mr. Brian Heathcote.

After formally presenting the portrait, Mr. Holt addressed the School. He spoke of the importance of example and stressed the inestimable value of character and personality in office. Example, he said, would enable all of us to aim high and live a better life, and one can only appease the conscience by endeavour and service. If service were only represented by the scrubbing of floors, then our ideals would have come a little nearer. None of us, Mr. Holt continued, should forget the heritage into which we had been born as British subjects.

Concluding, the ex-Chairman told us of the changes he had witnessed since he had joined the Governing Body. He could remember the playing fields at Sefton Park and the time when houses in Sandown Terrace were demolished to provide a playground for Institute boys.

The Headmaster, replying on behalf of the School, said that we should long remember the interest which Mr. Holt had always taken in the Liverpool Institute, and that his own example was one which all of us might follow.

The Head Boy, R. H. Leech, then led three cheers from the body of the School.

SCHOOL MAGAZINES

The Editors wish to acknowledge, with apologies for any omissions, the receipt of the following magazines:—

The Alsopian, The Crosbeian, Esmeduna, Holly Lodge Magazine, The Holt School Magazine, The Quarry, The Romford County Technical School Magazine, The Royal Liberty School Magazine, Salfordian, St. Francis Xavier's College Magazine, The Visor, The Wallaseyan, The Warrior, Los Angeles, California.

THE INSTITUTE ON THE AIR

On April 20th at 9-0 p.m. a half-hour programme entitled "The Liverpool Institute," the portrait of a typical English grammar school, was broadcast in German by the European Service of the B.B.C. The narrators were Mr. Lindley Fraser, head of the department and a famous broadcaster to Germany during the war, and Mr. Felix Felten.

The programme opened with the tolling of the School bell, which punctuated the half-hour, as a reminder of the close links between the School and the port of Liverpool, forged by the Holt family of shipowners, who have done so much for the School since its establishment. Mr. Fraser, an Institute Old Boy, commented on life at the School in relation to his own schooldays, whilst Mr. Felten was more interested in a comparison with school life as he knows it in Berlin.

After an account of the School's history and traditions, a description of the building drew particular attention to the School hall and its organ, which was installed while Mr. Fraser was still a member of the School. M. E. Plunkett introduced himself before he was heard playing on the organ Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E minor.

The administration of the School was reviewed in a discussion between Mr. Fraser and the Headmaster, who explained the aims and organisation of the School's curriculum. With a cross-section of the city's population, the Institute caters for all classes and provides the best possible education: hence, a large number of the boys leaving school continue studies at universities, whilst most of the others seek a profession, or find employment in banks or insurance offices.

Naturally, much attention was afforded to the School's German studies. In an interview with Mr. Felten, Mr. Booth outlined the nature and extent of these studies: over 150 boys learn German, with opportunities for senior boys to make trips to the Continent every year. The radio audience was then allowed to eavesdrop on a discussion, held in German on "Germany's contributions to Europe," led by D. Evans, in which a group of Sixth Form students voiced their opinions concerning various aspects of the subject. To illustrate the teaching methods which lead to such results, there followed some excerpts of a grammar lesson conducted by Mr. Bowker.

Sporting activities became a subject for discussion, when Mr. Booth was asked to explain the opportunities for athletic recreation in the school. He drew attention to a trip to Cologne made by R. H. Leech, who, as captain of the Liverpool Grammar Schools' Football Eleven, strengthened the friendly relationship already established between Liverpool and Cologne. Listeners then heard part of the interview recorded by Mr. Felten and the Head Boy.

Before concluding the programme with a verse of "In Silent Night" sung by the School choir, Mr. Felten completed his survey of Institute school life with a brief commentary on a Literary and Debating Society meeting. He was impressed, as at all times during his visit, by the friendship between teacher and student, which is the basis of character building, leading in turn to the realisation of our school motto: "Non nobis solum sed toti mundo nati."

Although the reception was impaired by atmospheric conditions, the programme was a great success with English audiences, especially those who took part in the production, but this is inevitably a prejudiced criticism, and the judgment of German audiences would perhaps be more reliable. Letters from Germany praised the standard of the German spoken by the English participants and the programme was generally well received and regarded as a triumph both by radio officials and the listening public.

The School may therefore recall its efforts of last March with just pride and satisfaction.

D. EVANS.

HOUSE NOTES

PHILIP HOLT

For the past two terms, Philip Holt has been the most successful house. We won the Cross-Country and Junior Football Cups convincingly and were unfortunate in our defeats in the semi-finals of the Hockey and Senior Football Competitions by the eventual winners. In the Chess Competition we reached the final, but lost to Tate. We must endeavour to continue this supremacy in the forthcoming competitions. There is ample opportunity in Fives, Cricket, Swimming, and Sports. We are strong in both Junior and Senior sections of the House. With every boy pulling his full weight, combined with the advice and assistance of our Housemaster, Mr. Booth, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

R. R. ARNO.

DANSON

The Spring Term saw a great improvement in the efforts of Seniors and Juniors alike; and we congratulate the Senior Hockey XI, and the Junior Cross-Country team on their achievements.

Our success in the final of the Boswell Hockey Cup, while anticipated, was a most heartening victory and one that can be repeated next term, if the Juniors maintain the refreshing enthusiasm they have shown in almost every phase of House activities during the last term.

While it is most gratifying to see the Juniors taking a share in House responsibilities, the Sixth Form must realise that their support is essential, if we are to improve on our performances.

With whole-hearted support from every member of the House, we can repeat in the School Sports the fine performance of the Juniors in the Cross-Country Competition.

R. H. LEECH.

ALFRED HOLT

The house fared badly in the Spring term. Lack of experience brought about rapid dismissals from Chess and Hockey competitions. Failure in the Cross-Country event was due to the lack of senior competitors and, undistinguished in Senior and Junior Football, Alfred Holt found his only consolation in the success of P. A. Dunn, Junior Cross-Country Champion, to whom we offer hearty congratulations.

The Summer term has begun promisingly, for the Junior Fives team reached the semi-final of its competition. Whether this indicates a general upward trend in Alfred's prospects, is a matter for conjecture, but ample opportunity still remains for the house to assert itself. The Juniors have taken the initiative. A determined effort by all Seniors is long overdue, for it is only by collective endeavour that Alfred can make its presence felt in Inter-House activities.

D. EVANS.

TATE

The Junior team did well in the Cross-Country Championship, but the Senior team, although reaching a high standard, was hampered by lack of support and finished in a low position.

After a close match with Owen House in the final of the Chess Competition the House went on to win the "Silver Knight," as usual.

In the Football Competition both Senior and Junior teams played well, and, although neither won its section, each reached its respective final.

There is little point in adding to these notes the customary exhortation to greater and more intense effort; the House must know by now what is needed to win and how to supply that need.

P. BEST.

HUGHES

Although our sideboard is not yet crowded with trophies, the Hockey Competition illustrates that the House has had its moments of glory this year. A more experienced Danson side could only wrest the victory from our grasp after a replay and extra time in the deciding match. Earlier in the term the Juniors set a fine example by finishing second in their section of the Cross-Country Championship, but the performances of the older boys are best forgotten.

Hopes were high before the Soccer Competition, but they were soon dashed by more confident and competent opposition teams. However, the spirit shown so far has been very encouraging, and if we can see a continuation of that same spirit, there is no reason why at least one of the trophies still at stake should not be claimed by the House. We can but hope for a definite improvement—and indeed better fortunes.

T. P. MATHESON.

OWEN

The House has enjoyed a fair measure of success in recent events. In the Cross-Country Competition, the enthusiastic response to the request for entries resulted in the House being placed close runners-up. We congratulate V. N. Cowan for his deserved success in winning the Under 16 race in record time.

The most notable achievement was the retention of the Horsfall Cup by the Senior football team. The Junior team also played well to reach the semi-final, where they were defeated by the ultimate winners, Philip Holt House. In the Chess and Hockey Competitions the House was eliminated only after closely contested games.

We are fortunate to possess an association of members who consistently endeavour to make the House a worthy opponent. Our thanks are also due to Mr. Morgan for his constant interest and encouragement in House activities.

R. CORCORAN.

SCHOOL PLAY, 1954.

On February 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th, the School play, "She Stoops to Conquer," was performed in the Hall.

The standard of acting was remarkably high, and it is difficult to know which character to praise most. To bring out the varying moods of Mr. Hardcastle, ranging from extreme wrath to high good humour, and the contrast of smug complacency with violent temper in Mrs. Hardcastle, who could have bettered J. B. Taylor and P. A. Kennerley? I mention these two first, for they were indeed outstanding, but in no way do I consider many of the other performances to be below the standard they set. Far from it. H. B. Jones as Tony Lumpkin had the audience shaking with laughter with his portrayal of the ingenuous country bumpkin, and even if the accent did vary occasionally, it did not matter in the least, when the part was played with such enthusiastic and energetic enjoyment.

He did not, however, have such a difficulty to overcome as R. H. Leech. To reconcile the audience to the fact that Mr. Marlow could be the "Admirable Rattle" with a barmaid one moment, and an embarrassed, tongue-tied gentleman with a refined and genteel lady the next, was his task; that the change appeared perfectly natural is a great tribute to his acting powers. But his part was designed to cause laughter. E. M. Darling as Hastings, the fashionable and foppish gentleman from town, and his lover, Miss Neville, played by S. G. Norris, on the other hand, had a thankless task. The audience was far more interested in Tony's intrigues and Marlow's entanglements than in sentimental love affairs. Thankless tasks, however, are often the best done, and these two certainly did not lower the standard of acting.

In Mrs. Hardcastle we saw age and (let it be clear I am referring to the character in the play, and not to the actor) ugliness; in Miss Hardcastle, played by J. E. Sharp, we had youth and beauty, so much so, in fact, that it was hard to believe the part was *not* played by a girl; the acting was so good.

The minor characters, as usual, must be mentioned the last; yet how much depends on them, how much the production would lose if they were badly played. It would be annoying indeed if the audience's enjoyment of the first part of the play were spoiled by bad acting of Marlow senior at the end. But this was not so; E. J. Falding, as Sir Charles, and all the drunkards, the innkeeper, the servants, added to the glory gained by the main characters. For it is true that the play was a great success—a triumph of skill and teamwork both on and back-stage.

D. HESKETH.

"She Stoops to Conquer" is essentially a play of contrasts, of contrasts between broad and refined humour: the task for the actors was to draw this fine distinction. To say that they did this admirably would be an understatement.

Rehearsals began in October and the actors were carefully selected. Indeed, it would appear that the parts had been written for them. Such an impossibility cannot, however, be tolerated, and their performance can be attributed only to sheer hard work and brilliant acting, and, of course, to the expert guidance of Mr. Webster, who deserves especial praise.

Reminiscences have little value, but life without them would probably become intolerable, and it is interesting to remember the varied incidents which gave so much amusement. During the shows, the cast held a meeting on the stage, and everyone endeavoured to be near the set fire, even though it gave out no heat. I remember the rush and terror of the "transformation scenes," when a staircase loomed large, balanced precariously on the seats of the Hall, and threatening to launch itself into the middle of the stage. Yet the inscrutable stagehands assured me that it was quite safe, and at the same time plied me with generous sweets. Visions of someone's being speared with the treacherous pitchfork as it was hurled into the wings by an irate Mr. Hardcastle were enough warning to the unwary call-boys not to cross the paths of temperamental actors.

A very sincere "Thank you" must go to Mr. Webster, who is to be congratulated on his successful production, and who has instilled into that little society of actors careful precedents for future plays in School, or out of it.

P. F. FLEET.

SCHOOL CONCERT, 1954

The School Hall was crowded when, on the evening of March 26th, masters, boys, and old boys of the School gave a concert of music.

After an original and interesting rendering of the National Anthem, transcribed from an eighteenth century barrel-organ version, a chamber orchestra played the "Suite in A minor for flute, strings, and continuo," by Telemann. The haunting French overture was followed by a number of pleasant short pieces based on French and Italian dance tunes. The flute playing by an old boy, D. A. V. Dendy, was charming; sometimes melancholy, and sometimes gay, it dominated the suite.

J. McCabe then played the "Sonatina in C for piano, opus 13, No. 1," by Kabalevsky; this was the most modern music in the concert. Restlessness predominated in the first two movements; the presto was lively, but, one felt, escapist. McCabe played it with great skill and feeling, and he deserved the enthusiastic applause. There followed three pieces sung by the Junior Choir, led by Mr. Williams. First came Lully's "Lonely Woods," and then Morley's canzonet, "Sweet Nymph Come to Thy Lover". This was unaccompanied, and the exciting harmony of the voices was typical of sixteenth century music. It was sung clearly and imaginatively. Last the Choir sang Bach's famous chorale, "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring." This again was sung extremely well, working up to a glorious climax. The skilful accompaniment by Mr. Rowell helped to make this part of the concert memorable.

Before the interval, R. Best and Mr. Rowell played the "Follia con Variazioni" for violin and piano, by Corelli. The alternations of liveliness and sadness and the light and shade of the music were brought out admirably by the soloists, whose technical skill and sensitive interpretation were shown, especially in the bold and exciting finale.

After the interval, there were two German folk songs, Brahms' "In Silent Night," a sad and lovely piece, was sung excellently by the Senior and Junior Choirs. Both this and Möller's "Happy Wanderer" (sung by the Junior Choir) received warm applause.

The suite for two pianos, "Scaramouche," by Milhaud followed. J. R. Parry and Mr. Naylor played together well. The music throughout was lively and happy, while the discords and beating rhythm brought out the delightful Spanish tempo of the music.

R. Best and Mr. Rowell then played a second sonatina for violin and piano, the "Sonatina in G" (opus 100) by Dvorák. The playing of this by both violin and piano was bold and stimulating; vigorous repetition of themes and the riotous ending showed the negro influence in this work.

The slow and charming "Dance of the Blessed Spirit," from Gluck's "Orpheus" was the next item; here too the plaintive flute dominated the strings.

The concert ended with three Country Dances by Mozart, played by a chamber orchestra. The tunes were jolly, and all three dances happy and pleasing. The orchestra played with a skill which characterised the whole concert. It was a fitting end to a most enjoyable evening.

The school owes a great debt of gratitude to all those who worked so hard to produce the concert. Mr. Naylor and the committee of the Music Club made all the many arrangements; Mr. Williams worked with great perseverance and success with both orchestra and choirs. These, and all the performers—masters, boys, and old boys—deserve our thanks for the hard work which resulted in such a delightful concert.

J. B. TAYLOR.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Football this season was marred by bad weather. The elements took toll of six fixtures in all, and at one period dictated four weeks of inactivity for the School teams.

The 1st XI enjoyed a successful season. Earlier games underlined an unsteadiness in defence, but with rearrangements, this was soon remedied. The skill of the forwards is reflected in their average of four goals per match.

The arrival of the Senior Shield Competition found an undefeated and objective 1st XI. Our hopes of retaining the Shield appeared to be well founded when Collegiate was beaten 2-1, and a victory of 5-0 eliminated Prescot Grammar School in the succeeding stage of the Competition. The team's hopes, and their unbeaten run, were terminated by Alsop, who won the semi-final (4-3). One of the highlights of the season was the fixture against Bolton School. The 1st XI was in a particularly resolute mood that afternoon, and scored seven goals without reply.

The School had reason for especial pride at the end of the season, when three members of the 1st XI, R. H. Leech, H. Malabar and K. Ruffell, were invited to represent Lancashire and Cheshire Grammar Schools.

The 1st XI is grateful to Mr. Morgan for his advice and encouragement throughout the year, and to Mr. Clark for maintaining the physical fitness of the side.

The 2nd XI experienced a season of few rebuffs, for a core of keen and constructive footballers ensured a series of creditable performances. Mr. Bowker and Mr. Edge clearly succeeded in infusing some of their own skill and zest into the side.

The 3rd XI, under the supervision of Mr. Lloyd, has been again unfortunate because many schools were unable to field a corresponding team. The bad weather negated the extra fixtures arranged and did little to foster the keenness of the side.

The Under 15 XI gained deserved success. It developed a particularly good team combination, and easily defeated Prescot Grammar School in the first round of the Junior Shield Competition, only to be eliminated in the semi-final by Quarry Bank.

For the Under 14 XI success was variable. The team scored twenty goals in two matches, but, as the season advanced, there was a gradual decline in the standard of play, and further success eluded them. It is pleasing to note that the side acquired some of Mr. Buckley's infectious enthusiasm for the game.

The record of the Under 13 XI was not outstanding, but the players are to be commended on the skilful football which often made up for their lack of inches. The team was unfortunate to lose Mr. Rowell to Cross-Country affairs, but gained ample compensation in the supervision of Mr. Devereux.

The usual attractive tailpiece to the season was provided by the Liobians, with their kind invitation for two senior teams to compete in the Payne Trophy. All the teams are indebted to R. A. Hayes for his good work as secretary.

	Goals					
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.
1st XI	18	15	1	2	70	28
2nd XI	16	12	1	3	90	33
3rd XI	6	3	0	3	18	20
Under 15 XI	15	11	1	3	66	39
Under 14 XI	7	2	2	3	27	17
Under 13 XI	13	5	1	7	34	46

Full Colours were re-awarded to R. Corcoran, R. H. Leech, P. Best, D. Evans, R. A. Hayes, H. Malabar, K. Ruffell, and were awarded to B. I. Hewitt, S. B. Tollett and J. Baker.

Half Colours were re-awarded to N. H. Isbister, Davidson and Hallam, and were awarded to D. J. Hipwood, R. S. Whiting, Fynn, T. P. Matheson and R. F. Quayle.

R. CORCORAN.

HOCKEY

This past season has been the poorest the School has known for many years. Two major factors have contributed towards this failure. The first was the inexperience of both teams—only three regular players from last year's first team remained, and three regular players this year had never touched a hockey stick before in their lives! The second factor was the increased strength of the teams we played. It seemed that our opponents were judging us on previous years' performances and turned out a stronger team than was normal.

Besides this lack of experience there was not always certainty in stopping and hitting. Very few players could use reverse sticks efficiently, and those who could, tended to overwork this feature. There was no enthusiasm wanting in the side, but one or two members might have displayed their undisputed talent to greater effect had they been a little fitter.

Despite their opponents' obvious superiority, the team never failed to fight bravely and kept trying until the final whistle. Every member of the team deserves congratulation. It was unfortunate that some had to be disappointed about colours, but, because of the season's lack of success, it was decided to award the colours strictly.

The second team, following the example of the first, also had a poor season. However, in this side lies the nucleus of a strong team for the future.

Good advice to members of both teams, who will be returning to school next season, would be to practise as much as possible before the season opens just hitting the ball as hard as possible and stopping fast-moving balls.

Full colours are awarded to: R. R. Arno, A. A. L. Rylance, H' B. Jones, J. C. Morris, E. J. Welton. Half colours were re-awarded to Orme. Half colours were awarded to Carney.

RESULTS

	Goals					
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.
1st XI	16	2	11	3	21	53
2nd XI	11	4	6	1	14	55

R. R. ARNO.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

It is hoped that the increased interest shown by all sections of the School will be maintained during the coming season. The Senior team won its race against *H.M.S. Conway* and was runner-up in the Inter-Schools' Road Relay Race, but could only gain fourteenth place in the race for Northern Schools. Unfortunately, the triangular fixture with Quarry Bank and Bolton Grammar School and the fixture with Chester Training College had to be cancelled because of the icy conditions.

The Intermediate and Junior teams showed considerable improvement during the latter half of the season, the former gaining third place in the Inter-Schools' Junior Road Relay Race. We must congratulate V. N. Cowan, who recorded the fastest lap in this event.

Other activities during the season included a two-mile handicap race, which was won by D. O. Lunt, an inter-form race and an Inter-Schools' Road Relay, in which ten schools competed. The season ended with the "Hare and Hounds" meeting, but unfortunately, several of the "hounds" lost the scent.

INTER-HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Junior : P. A. Dunn. House Champions : Danson House. Intermediate : V. N. Cowan (Orlans Cup). House Champions : Owen House. Senior : D. Burton and K. Thomson (H. W. Peck Cup). House Champions : Philip Holt House. Aggregate : Philip Holt House.

Full colours were re-awarded to D. Burton, K. Thomson and V. N. Cowan, and Half colours were awarded to Price, G. McCulloch and D. G. McCulloch.

Finally, our thanks are due to Mr. Rowell, whose enthusiasm has resulted in the increased interest and improvement shown by the teams, to our Secretary, to Messrs. Reece and Wass, and to all the members of the Staff and School, whose efforts resulted in the success of the Road Relay, Inter-House Championships and Handicap Race.

D. BURTON.

RUGBY FIVES

The zeal of the junior members, if sometimes rather embarrassing, in view of the difficulties of replacing equipment, has been most encouraging. There should be a high standard of play for the next few years at least.

No School matches were played last term and so no Colours could be awarded, but the play of K. Ruffell, T. P. Matheson, K. Thomson, Johnson (U5B) and North (U5B) deserves mention. There was, however, a series of competitions within the School. The Junior House and the Junior Singles, the Senior House, and the Open Singles and Doubles Competitions all proved successful features of the term's activities.

The covered court has been improved by the addition of a framed glass shield to prevent rain from being blown into it, and by a better lighting system.

P. BEST.

BASKET-BALL CLUB

The arrival of our new Physical Education Master, Mr. R. A. Clark, has seen the beginning of an official School basket-ball team. Although the membership is at present small, it is hoped that more enthusiasm for this highly entertaining sport will be shown by the younger members of the school. During the winter and spring terms, meetings are held every Wednesday at 4-0 p.m. and every Thursday at 12-45 p.m.

Owing to the limited number of other school basket-ball teams, matches have been few, but the school distinguished itself with the high standard of clean basket-ball produced.

Results : v. Quarry Bank, 101-77.
v. Liverpool University, 27-46.
v. Quarry Bank, 40-60.

The 1st Team was usually chosen from the following : K. Ruffell, T. P. Matheson, R. H. Leech, Henshaw, V. N. Cowan, Fyans.

K. RUFFELL.

OLD BOYS' CRICKET NOTES

Season 1953 was a highly successful one for The Liobians Cricket Club. Statistics show that of 37 matches played, 19 were won, 9 drawn, 6 lost, and 3 abandoned. The season also produced our highest recorded total for a single innings—270 against Egremont St. John's on August Monday. Against this, however, we must report a disturbing tendency for the batting to disintegrate on Competition Clubs' grounds—we could only muster a total of 66 at Bootle, and Sefton, to whom we believe the School side is also allergic, dismissed us for 27.

More pleasant to recall are the two matches against the School : honours were divided, the School winning the first by 27 runs, and ourselves the second by 3 wickets. Another match of particular interest was that against a Staff XI, which we won by 74 runs ; we are looking forward to a return encounter this season, and we hope the match may become an annual event.

We also hope that more members of School and Staff will visit us when the sun shines brightly on Mersey Road. We can, if last season is any criterion, offer you batting, ranging from the mildly classical to the wildly improbable, and bowling varying from the, on-very-rare occasions, almost unemployable to the (also, we hope, on-very-rare occasions) almost unreachable. In general, however, to judge by the promenaders, and allotmentees who pause to gaze and wonder, the cricket is worth watching, even if it is not the main reason why City Tour buses include Mersey Road in their itinerary. Why not come and try it sometimes ?

T.W.S.

PARIS—C'EST FORMIDABLE

At Easter, over 4,000 schoolchildren stayed in Paris. Seventeen of that 4,000, accompanied by two masters, came from the Liverpool Institute, and for the eight days following April 15th those boys spent what must have been their most momentous holiday in that mercurial city.

For the tourist, Paris is ever a city of disappointment ; either he fails to see anything, or he cannot see enough ! The visitor who has not revelled in the remarkable view from the steps of Le Sacre Coeur has missed a great deal. The tall buildings and narrow streets way below the Hill of Montmartre become even more fascinating when cloaked in a purply-grey haze—not the pall which hangs over so many capitals, but a delicate mantle, only becoming visible from such a fine vantage point. When one sees this view, one can understand how it is that artists over many years have been drawn to their own particular village. It is churches and palaces such as Le Sacre Coeur that add so much to the enchantment of Paris.

The Louvre, although a museum, is still the largest palace in Europe. Its construction and contents bear witness to the successive stages in its history, from the Renaissance to Napoleon III. For me, our visit to the Louvre was the highlight of the holiday. The sunlight streamed through the long windows and threw shadows in the great white and fawn stoned galleries, which gave added character to the treasures they house. Those Roman emperors and generals assume a different aspect when one sees their actual likenesses in stone. Their cleanly-carved profiles are perhaps the most awe-inspiring exhibits in all the museum, and there are specimens of all types of art and culture, from the early Egyptian period right up to the days of Marie Antoinette.

A few days later, our party visited the actual home of that unfortunate lady, and what impressed us most was the comparative simplicity of her private apartments, especially the low ceiling of her bedroom. Compared with the magnificence which was still evident at the Palace of Versailles, her abode was humble. Disadvantages which are so emphasised in history text-books become very apparent when one inspects this dominating edifice. It is not difficult to imagine the effects of a harsh winter upon those spacious rooms and tall windows. Versailles, architecturally, was a failure, but the Hôtel des Invalides, so constructed that the visitor cannot regard the tomb of Napoleon without lowering his glance, is characteristic of many of the buildings of Paris, in that it can be admired without losing any of its dignity.

Dignity is not the main consideration of the "anarchists" living alongside the Seine. Many of these people are far from being destitute and in some cases are comparatively rich, but their ideals prevent them taking a normal part in community life. It was interesting to watch one of them, in late afternoon, calmly having a shave in front of a small mirror, which he had hung on a nearby tree. It is character, inevitably, which gives the city its attraction. Indeed, one

evening, coming from a cinema on the Boulevard St. Michel, at what we considered to be a very late hour, it surprised us to see the picturesque neighbourhood just awakening. All of the Latin Quarter, with its own unique atmosphere and its university traditions, being one of the last surviving districts of an older Paris, would intrigue any visitor unfamiliar with it.

What emerges from this maze of experience and enjoyment? Standing on the Pont d'Jena with the Eiffel Tower to the right, and the wonderful Palais de Chaillot on the left? Perhaps it was a late supper of saucissons et frites at a Hungarian restaurant in Montparnasse? Or maybe potage à l'oignon gratinée after watching "Carmen" at L'Opera-Comique? It may just have been the sight of the gendarmes combating the fearsome traffic, armed only with puny whistles. However seemingly insignificant those memories may seem, I know that the seventeen boys who took this trip will agree, when I say that Paris—C'est formidable!

T. P. MATHESON.

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

The progress of the Contingent, on which we remarked in the last edition of these notes, has been steadily maintained during the past term.

Two short camps have been held at 80 W.E.T.C., Hightown, during the school holidays and both were attended to capacity.

Much valuable work for Certificate "A" was carried out. In addition, some cadets received instructions in the M.M.G. from an officer of the Manchester Regiment.

A number of N.C.O.'s and senior cadets have recently attended courses at various military establishments. These courses, the majority of which are open to all members of the Contingent in possession of Certificate "A", Part 1, range from the Weapon Training Instructors' Course held at the Small Arms Wing of the School of Infantry at Hythe, to the Cookery course held at Lichfield, and from how to run a military railway (including engine driving) at Longmoor, to a study of mines and booby traps at either Malvern or Chatham.

Unfortunately, the suggestion of re-forming the Contingent Band has not materialised, but our shooting team has practised continuously throughout the past term. Members have been shooting with the Altcar Rifle Club each week-end this term.

Although the results at the County of Lancaster Rifle Association meeting at the end of May were not as good as we had hoped, the Contingent's "A" team (consisting of R.S.M. Gillberry, C.S.M. Sykes, Cpl. Butlin, and L/Cpl. Richards) in the competition for the Freeman Challenge Cup were unlucky to lose in the semi-final of that competition to Wrekin School. On the same day, Private L. E. Smith obtained a good score in the Cadet Pairs Competition. We look forward, however, to more success in the Public Schools' Competition at Bisley next July.

Field day last term was held at 80 W.E.T.C. Through the courtesy of the Officer Commanding 40th (The King's) Royal Tank Regiment (T.A.), a party of Senior Cadets was able to spend the day under instruction, both in the organisation of armoured troops, and also on the Centurion Tank. As it is our policy in the C.C.F. to show senior cadets as many branches of the Army as possible, such co-operation by units of the Regular and Territorial Armies is greatly appreciated and most beneficial to the cadets. The remainder of the Contingent spent the day on field-training for Certificate "A".

At the end of the last term, 23 cadets of the Basic Section passed Certificate "A", Part 1, and about equal numbers have transferred to the Army and R.A.F. Sections of the Contingent. A further three members of the Contingent have been awarded Certificate "T".

The next important date in the Contingent diary besides the Bisley Meeting, is 15th July, when Major-General W. H. Stratton, C.B., M.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding North West District, will inspect the Contingent.

It is pleasing to see that two more former members of the Contingent have received National Service Commissions—D. Vickers, and P. R. Lunt. The latter has just sailed with his regiment (1st Bn. Royal Irish Fusiliers) to Korea.

W. R. Sefton is now at R.M.A., Sandhurst, and the Contingent Regimental Sergeant-Major, G. K. Gillberry, has just been accepted by the Regular Commissions Board for entry to Sandhurst next March.

Summer Camp this year will be held at Roman Way Camp, Colchester. We feel sure that a most enjoyable camp will be had by all in this ancient and most interesting town.

G.K.G., R.S.M.

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

Since the last edition of the School Magazine was published, the Royal Air Force section of the C.C.F. has not been idle.

During the Christmas holidays a party of fifteen cadets attended the now well-established technical courses at R.A.F., Halton, in Buckinghamshire.

At the beginning of the Spring Term, Sgt. Flood unfortunately left us. Despite this loss, however, a training programme was started early and continued throughout the term. Four proficient cadets studied for an Advanced Proficiency examination, which was held in March: three of the four passed with very good percentages. During the term the normal training course was supplemented by monthly visits to Cornwallis Street Public Baths, where all cadets were instructed in the use of R.A.F. rubber dinghies. An aeromodelling section was inaugurated early in the term, and its members have made good progress on the solid model kits provided by the unit.

Field Day was spent at R.A.F., Hawarden. There, while a party of nineteen cadets, led by F/O Buckley visited the De Havilland aircraft factory, the rest of the unit spent the morning on the morning on the station shooting range. Afternoon flying, which had been arranged, was prohibited by bad weather, so the unit was shown instructional films at the station cinema.

Easter, always a busy time for the unit, proved no exception this year. Shortly before the end of the term it was learned that Cpl. Pierce had been awarded a Flying Scholarship. Encouraged by this success, four more cadets were sent to the Aircrews Selection Centre at R.A.F., Hornchurch, in Essex, to undergo medical and aptitude tests. The results of these are not yet known. Another party of cadets visited R.A.F., Halton, while L/Cdt. Taggart underwent a week of training for a Royal Aero Club "B" Gliding certificate in obtaining which he was successful.

Six members of the unit have been fortunate in being granted overseas flights. Three cadets flew to Gibraltar, one to Egypt, one to Iraq, and one to Singapore.

The loss of Sgt. Rowland late in the term, together with the increased complement of the unit, necessitated several promotions during the Spring term and early in the Summer term. Cpl. Jeffery was promoted to Sgt., and Cdts. Wilson, Bywater, Pierce, Isbister and Cregeen were promoted to the rank of Cpls.

The annual summer camp is to be held this year at R.A.F., Aldegrove, in Northern Ireland. The unit hopes to have several more proficient cadets by the time the camp is held, and a very enjoyable time is forecast.

Our deep gratitude is extended to our officers, our C.O., Flight-Lieutenant Watson, and Flying-Officers Buckley and Preece. But for their unfailing interest we could have achieved little this year.

W. FERDINAND, Under Officer.

A GLIMPSE OF R.A.F., NEGOMBO

On a flight to Singapore, I stopped at Negombo, an R.A.F. Station on the coast of Ceylon, about twenty miles north of Colombo. Approaching from the sea, one flies over several small islands, then over a lagoon; the single concrete runway is hidden away amid a waving sea of palms.

On landing, the Hastings was taxied to the apron, where the orderly officer welcomed us. Then, after reporting the meteorological conditions over India, we boarded the white-topped crew bus, which took the officers and N.C.O.'s to their billets.

Our billet was a long single-storey building with overhanging eaves, which formed a long porch; the billet was divided into rooms each having several beds with mosquito nets. There was no glass in the windows—just wooden bars—but each night venetian-type shutters were put up. The billet was surrounded by a monsoon ditch, in which the navigator spent the night after a merry evening.

The station teemed with wild life; small squirrels abounded, and even came into the billets along the rafters; I saw several large lizards which were poisonous, but, fortunately, these were not numerous. There were many species of birds, perhaps the most striking being a variety of thrush having pale blue and yellow plumage. Throughout the night the buzz of the insects went on incessantly.

The whole camp was well planned, having every amenity—even a cinema and an excellent swimming pool. During the day the palms afforded plenty of shade from the blistering heat of the sun.

Negombo was certainly the best transit stop I had seen on my flight.

D. H. PIERCE (6BM2).

SCOUT NOTES

Once again the Troop can announce changes in the ranks of its members. Acting A.S.M.'s Gee and Morrell have been now fully warranted; Second Jack, of the Curlews, and Second Ewart, of the Peewits have been promoted to the rank of P.L. in their respective patrols, the former P.L.'s taking senior positions in the troop.

Meetings during the last two terms have been regular, though varied in their nature. The most noticeable change has been the keen competitive attitude shown in the Glistar Inter-patrol Shield Competition, and the rejuvenation of the Spirit who traditionally inhabits Patrol Corners.

The words of the ex-Chairman of the Governing Body were not wasted upon the Troop, for service, in various forms, has been rendered. The Annual Good-Turn Show, given at Christmas to the Woolton Vale Remand Home, was particularly lively and successful, drawing from the Warden a sincerely appreciative letter. At the School Play and the Orchestral Concert the Troop supplied the necessary cloakroom stewards, ever-obliging and efficient. Even Mr. Rowell has received an idea from the Troop's pioneer "Hare and Hounds" venture, which was hastily copied to provide original and entertaining training for the School's Cross-Country enthusiasts. Most notable of all, however, was the Troop's participation in the "Bob-a-Job Week."

Outdoor activities have, as usual, flourished. Rivington Pike was climbed in blinding rain, black clouds, and mist, during the Christmas Hike, while Tawd Vale was again visited for the Easter Term Field Day. During the Easter Holidays the Troop sent two Youth Hostel hiking parties, this time to Wales. The Junior party, under G.S.M. Haig, hiked around the Berwyns, Bala, Corwen, and Llangollen, while the Senior party, under A.S.M.'s Oxburgh and Rochester, hiked and scrambled through the Conway, Carnedd, Tryfan, and Nant Francon regions.

Competitively, the year has been fairly successful for the Troop. It gained the much coveted Behn Colours, but unsuccessfully contested the City Association Camp Fire Baton Competition. The Snipe and Woodpecker Patrols both gained the nation-wide Coronation Year Progress Certificates, and were presented with them on the visit of the lately appointed District Commissioner.

In the future, shining with golden promises, lies the Summer Camp, this year to be held near Monmouth. Once again, between shaking the moths out of tents and sleeping-bags, the Troop re-awakened to the call of the wild, and in parting gives "clarion-tongued" thanks to all who further its interests.

E. M. DARLING.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society met twice after the last issue of the magazine went to press; once, to hear a talk on Scottish history by S. A. Munro and again to see two historical films. During the Easter Term the Society's officers and several of its more faithful members became so immersed in eighteenth century comedy that the Society's activities were strictly curtailed. Mr. Rogers, however, gave a talk on the French landing at Fishguard in 1797, showing its place in the overall French strategic plans of that time and its effects on Britain's attitude to the war.

It is hoped that when the Society resumes its meetings next term, we shall hear more talks from members, new and old, on their own favourite fields of historical research.

E. M. DARLING, H. B. JONES.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

A combination of circumstances restricted the number of meetings during the Easter term. The supply of films, which prove the most suitable basis for meetings, is gradually decreasing, and the difficulty of catering for so wide a range of ages makes lectures by outside speakers impracticable. However, the interest shown by large numbers of boys has been very encouraging and the Library, open every Tuesday and Friday, has been very well attended throughout the year.

The annual excursion will take place on July 9th, and because so many boys, especially senior boys, have expressed a wish to travel on the trip, it has been decided to run two coaches this year. Mr. Edwards will lead a party to the limestone district of Ingleton—for the benefit of those members who did not go on the Society's previous excursions. For those members who have been to Ingleton with the Society, Mr. Parker's group will visit Cader Idris. It is anticipated that both these trips will be very successful, and once again the secretaries would like to thank Messrs. Edwards and Parker for their unflinching interest in this, as in all other branches of Society activity.

T. P. MATHESON, H. B. JONES.

SCHOOL VISIT TO SWITZERLAND—APRIL, 1954

At 11-30 p.m. on April 13th, the School party assembled at Lime Street Station and boarded the midnight train for London. After travelling for thirty-four hours through Belgium, Luxembourg, and France, we crossed the Swiss frontier at Basle, and, after a welcome breakfast, set out on the final stage of the journey to Brunnen, a small holiday resort on the shores of the Vierwaldstättersee in the Canton of Schwyz, known as the "Cradle of Switzerland."

On the Saturday we journeyed by lake steamer to Lucerne, a town which holds much of interest both for the historian and for the geographer. Spanning the River Reuss is the fourteenth-century Chapel Bridge, with its numerous paintings depicting episodes of Swiss history, while on the left bank stands the famous Franciscan Church, constructed in 1300. In another part of the town is the "Monument du Lion," hewn out of the natural sandstone rock, as a memorial to the valour shown by those of Louis XVI's Swiss guard, who fell while defending the Tuileries in 1792. Nearby is the Gletschergarten, a natural museum of glacial phenomena.

Easter day was celebrated in the morning by a service held in the German Lutheran Church, which the pastor kindly loaned to us. This was followed by an afternoon excursion, again by lake steamer, to the William Tell country, in which a monument at Aldorf, the town traditionally associated with Tell's famous feat of archery, and a chapel at Telskapelle commemorate that Swiss patriot.

On Easter Monday we travelled by motor-coach to Einsiedeln, where we first visited the Panorama, a large painting which took eight years to complete and which depicts the Crucifixion, creating an illusion of the third dimension. We then proceeded to the magnificent Benedictine Abbey. Here the architecture is of the Baroque style, and the roof is adorned by a number of paintings, each one being the work of a particular Roman Catholic country. Housed in the Abbey are many interesting relics, including the "Black Madonna," the charred remains of a fire. We were fortunate enough in being able to hear the monks of the abbey chanting "Salve Regina!" In the evening we heard a most interesting and informative lantern lecture on the flora of Central Switzerland, illustrated by excellent photographs, by Herr Zimmermann, who is an international authority on Swiss natural life.

The remaining two days were devoted to making the ascent (by mountain railway) of two mountains in the neighbourhood—Stoos, where, at a height of four thousand feet, many of us enjoyed our first experience of winter-sports, and Rigi, the "Queen of Swiss Mountains," which, standing five thousand, nine hundred and six feet high, afforded an excellent view of the surrounding landscape.

The journey home was comfortable and uneventful, the party leaving Brunnen during the late evening of April 22nd and arriving at Lime Street about twenty-five hours later. We extend our thanks to Messrs. L. N. Williams and N. Lloyd, whose excellent organisation made the visit possible.

S. A. MUNRO (6AM2).

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY

Fulfilling the promise shown in the first three meetings of the 1953-54 season with consistently good attendances and a standard of debate that did credit to all concerned, the Society concluded a most successful and memorable season. A most gratifying feature of the season was the large number of younger boys who attended the meetings and who, gaining confidence in their ability to speak in public, promise to maintain the high standard of debate, thereby ensuring a successful future for the Society.

On November 1st the Society debated the motion: "That U.N.O., like its predecessors, is a failure," J. H. Edwards proposing and G. Bilson opposing the motion. The subject was accorded due seriousness and the main tendency of the speeches from the floor was to urge moderation in one's judgment of the Organisation. The motion was defeated, the voting being: For, 3; Against, 18; Abstentions, 4.

On December 1st the Society debated the motion: "That this house has no confidence in the future," and proposer P. Dumbill found himself faced with the impossible task of convincing a house determined to reject his claims, while opposer, W. Ferdinand was borne on to an overwhelming victory, the voting being: For, 3; Against, 21; Abstentions, 3.

The winter term was concluded on December 15th in a seasonably festive mood. The debate consisted of a series of highly entertaining impromptu speeches and, the meeting adjourned, the Society gathered in the dining hall to enjoy the now traditional Christmas feast.

The new year began with a lively debate on the motion: "That a general election is long overdue." The motion was proposed by P. Smith and opposed by M. T. Williams, and proved to be a very keen debate. The motion was eventually defeated, and the result records the revival of a strong "abstinent" party, the voting being: For, 4; Against, 11; Abstentions, 10.

The second debate of the year, held on February 2nd, was quite different in tone, the motion being: "That this house disapproves of hitch-hiking." G. Bilson proposed the motion and J. R. Parry opposed. The debate proved interesting, enlightening, and entertaining, on account of the many amusing personal experiences recounted by the participants. The motion was defeated as follows: For, 9; Against, 17; Abstentions, 6.

The debate held on February 16th was of a serious nature, the motion being: "That racial segregation is to be condemned." E. M. Darling proposed and P. Best opposed in a fiercely contested debate, there being considerable divergence of opinion on the subject. The motion was eventually carried, the voting being: For, 9; Against, 7; Abstentions, 5.

On March 2nd, the Society debated the motion: "That fanatics have done more for the world than the broadminded." The main speakers were two of our younger members and each gave a most creditable performance. The motion was won, the voting being: For, 14; Against, 6; Abstentions, 3.

The debate held on March 16th was to have been the last of the session, and the Board Room was filled almost to capacity by a distinguished gathering, including a number of old boys. The motion for debate was: "That Columbus should have stayed at home." H. B. Jones proposed and P. Smith opposed the motion. The debate proved to be the most enjoyable of the season. The motion was finally defeated as follows: For, 11; Against, 29; Abstentions, 6.

On March 30th a special meeting of the Society was held, at short notice, in conjunction with the B.B.C. broadcast to Germany about the School. P. Smith opposed H. B. Jones' proposal of the motion: "That the age of chivalry is dead." The speakers from the floor included many hopeful, would-be broadcasters, and the debate proved most successful. The motion was defeated, the voting being: For, 6; Against, 25; Abstentions, 5.

A record of the Society cannot be complete without an expression of gratitude from all members of the Society to our Chairman, Mr. Moore, for his generous service which, we hope, will be continued for many years to come. Our thanks go, too, to the Vice-Presidents, Messrs. Bentliff and R. T. Jones for their unflinching support, and to Mr. Durband for the ready interest he has shown in the Society.

P. SMITH, H. B. JONES.

MACALISTER SOCIETY

There were four meetings of the Society last term and four papers were read. They were: "The History of the Supernatural," by P. W. Michaelson; "Psychology," by D. Evans; "Astrology," by A. Cross; and "The Future of Human Relations in an Atomic Age," by R. H. Leech.

At the discussions which followed these papers many highly interesting and often original opinions were expressed. The success of the Society owes much to its chairmen, Messrs. D. G. Bentliff and R. Tudor Jones.

The membership of the Society has been widened during the last year, and more and more have been taking advantage of the superiority of informal discussion, and the tolerance it requires, over all other methods of acquiring an informed opinion.

P. BEST, J. d'A. JEFFERY.

MUSIC CLUB

The outstanding feature of the Society's activities this year was a Concert of Chamber Music given by members of the School, old boys and staff to their parents and friends. It was undoubtedly a triumph of organisation for the Chairman of the Society, Mr. Naylor, who arranged the programme. Altogether it was a successful and happy achievement.

The proceeds from the Concert have enabled the Society to realise its hopes of buying modern gramophone equipment which will probably be installed before the end of the Summer Term.

During the Spring Term the Society heard live Recitals given by the Rowald String Trio and Record Recitals given by Mr. Noonan, Mr. Bowker, Mr. Durband and R. A. F. Ellis.

The Summer Term programme included live Recitals by J. R. Parry, R. Best and J. S. Comaish and Record Recitals by Mr. Naylor, Mr. Bowker and Mr. Noonan.

The Society expresses its regret at the forthcoming departure of the Treasurer, Mr. Noonan. During his brief stay he has taken a keen interest in the Music Club and has generously loaned records from his extensive collection. We wish him well in his future post.

We are greatly indebted to the members of the Music Club for their active participation, and grateful to the School for its enthusiastic support.

R. BEST.

CHESS CLUB

The School Chess team completed its fixtures last term very successfully. For the second consecutive year we finished runners-up in the competition for the Wright Challenge Shield, in spite of the loss of last year's four leading players. The new members of the team lived up to their early promise, and by drawing with Calday Grange, the eventual winners, we robbed them of a one hundred per cent. record. Out of the eight games played, the team won four, lost two, and drew two.

The School representatives were also very successful in the third Liverpool Chess Congress, which was held at the Collegiate School during the Easter holidays. In the Senior division, C. J. Morley was placed fourth in the first section, while M. Goll won first prize in the second section. D. J. Kenworthy gained the first prize in section six, and R. Ellis was runner-up in section seven. R. Ellis was also runner-up in the "best move" competition held at the Congress.

In the Junior division of the Congress, we had a prizewinner in M. G. Sholl, who won section eight, while W. Hailwood gave a very creditable performance in finishing runner-up in the first section; A. Smith gained third place in section eight.

In the inter-house competition for the Paul Limerick Trophy, Tate defeated Philip Holt in the final, and so retained the trophy for the seventh successive year.

The School Team regularly consisted of the following players: Morley, Goll, Canter, P. Best, Siddall, Kenworthy, and E. A. Morrell. Ellis and Crighton also played.

Finally, on behalf of the team, and the members who have attended the Club's meetings, our sincere thanks are offered to Messrs. Turner and Willott for their guidance of both sections of the Club.

C. J. MORLEY.

ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORT SOCIETY

Attempting to emulate the many mountaineering enthusiasts in the School, sixteen members of the Society, accompanied by Mr. Forbes, ascended Mool Fammau in a snowstorm, much to the delight of those who had not previously been there. This sole outing of the term was noteworthy in that it is the first for almost two years. The Secretaries are grateful to Mr. Forbes for his assistance.

The indoor activities have been more flourishing—G. P. Quayle, A. R. Phillips, D. Littler, D. Hesketh, and F. P. Lamkin have given lectures on shipping, railways, tramways, and bus operation. Mr. Hosker has continued to help the Society invaluable with his support and advice.

On Tuesdays and Fridays the library, which has assumed the position of a social centre, is open in Room 15 in the dinner hour, and to it, as to the Monday meetings, all members of the School are welcome.

J. M. LEARMONT, P. L. TAYLOR.

GYMNASTIC CLUB

Meetings of the Club continued regularly throughout last term on Tuesday evenings and during Thursday dinner hours. This term, however, we are to meet on Monday evenings. Unfortunately, owing to the gymnasium being used for examinations, practices will be interrupted for about five weeks immediately preceding the display on Sports Day. Preparation for this event has been proceeding satisfactorily, but the final touches and the essential polish are at present missing. Regular attendance and keenness are therefore of great importance.

Finally, our thanks are due to Mr. Clark for his patience and invaluable instruction.

R. S. WHITING.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

We are pleased to record that, since Christmas, there has been a marked increase in the interest shown towards the Society and its activities, particularly from the Third forms. The Library, which is open during the Dinner Hour on Mondays and Thursdays in Room 1, has been very well attended, and the catalogues are in constant demand. The meetings, too, have shown a considerable increase in attendances, and it is hoped that this pleasing state of affairs will continue.

Our programme for last term was varied and interesting. The first meeting took the form of a Debate, the motion being that "This House deplores the Monotony in the Designs of the Coronation Issues," which was carried by eight votes to two. The next was devoted entirely to the second part of a quiz by L. Bivon, the eventual prize-winners being A. Capstick (USB), A. Graham (LSA), R. C. Ledgard (LSB), and P. Pyrovolikos (3E). The Auction, however, which constituted the third meeting, did not prove as successful as its predecessor earlier in the school year, but the discussion on the subject, "The Stamps of Great Britain are Uninteresting," was very popular. There was a talk by the Secretary on "The Importance of Condition," and the term ended with a highly entertaining session of "One Minute, Please!"

Once again we should like to express our sincere thanks to Mr. N. Lloyd for his invaluable help and guidance, which have contributed greatly to the success of the Society.

G. E. GILROY.

SIXTH FORM SCIENCE SOCIETY

The Autumn programme was opened by Dr. S. J. Kennett, Lecturer in Metallurgy at Liverpool University. In his address to the Society on "Metals and Man," Dr. Kennett stressed the extensive use of metals over the last half century. The rapidity of the expansion was brought home by the speaker's remark, that when he was a boy, the idea of producing such metals as aluminium on a vast scale, would have seemed a fantasy. Aluminium and magnesium were regarded then as chemical curiosities.

The prevailing belief that the advent of D.D.T. and co-insecticides has completely solved the problem of pest control, was commented upon by Dr. M. M. J. Lavoipierre, in his Lecture on "The Role Played by Insects in the Carriage of Human Diseases."

Dr. Lavoipierre, who is Lecturer in Medical Entomology at the School of Tropical Medicine, expressed doubts about this presumption. He cited the example of species of lice in Korea, which have become resistant to D.D.T., and

continue to thrive, despite repeated attacks with this insecticide. The implied disruption of pest control has been promptly realised by the World Health Organisation, and a meeting has been convened in Rome to discuss the situation.

The importance of using a handkerchief when coughing or sneezing was emphasised by Dr. K. R. Dumbell, Lecturer in Bacteriology at Liverpool University, in his talk to the Society on "The Common Cold."

Bacteria do not fly off of their own accord, Dr. Dumbell explained. They are more like the warhead of a guided missile. The microbes become enclosed in droplets, which serve as conveyances in the spread of the malady.

Speaking on "Age and Intellect," Mr. H. B. Bromley, B.A., Lecturer in Psychology at Liverpool University, told the Society that contrary to popular opinion, children are more intelligent than their parents. Intelligence increases to the age of twenty, after which there is a gradual decline, the decrease being rapid after a person's sixtieth year.

Abilities which are largely inherited—memory, speed of mental work, and ability to reason logically—are fluid, and also decline with age: abilities which depend on experience, practice, and acquired information, are crystallised, and do not decline.

The remarkable variety of foodstuffs and other commodities which are investigated in his department, was discussed by the City Analyst, Mr. J. F. Clarke, M.Sc., F.R.I.C., in a lecture to the Society on his work at the City Laboratories.

Mr. Clarke told the members of a sample of chocolate sent to him, with a complaint from the purchaser that it had been adulterated with the few small pieces of metal which were enclosed. The speaker analysed the assumed adulterant and found the metal to consist of pure silver with a little mercury. In his reply, Mr. Clarke suggested to the purchaser that he should visit his dentist. The person acted upon Mr. Clarke's advice, only to discover the loss of one of his fillings.

In the final talk on "The Measurement and Prediction of Tides," Mr. L. A. Fairbairn, B.Sc., Lecturer in Oceanography at Liverpool University, directed attention to the difficulty of forecasting the storm surges which brought disaster to the east coast of England early last year. The regular raising of the tides dependent on the relative positions of the sun, moon, and earth, can be calculated well in advance. The problem of foretelling the abnormal tide, resides in predicting the causal meteorological disturbances.

To the preceding résumé of the Society's activities must be added a visit to the School of Tropical Medicine. For humour and profound interest, the visit was surpassed only by the lecture of our host, Dr. Lavoipierre.

The gratitude of the members, as always, is conveyed to our Chairman, Mr. W. H. Jones, for the time and energy he constantly expends on Society affairs, to Mr. Naylor for the keen interest he shows in the Society, and to the many prefects and senior members who so willingly assist at meetings.

R. CORCORAN.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

During the winter, the Dark Room has been heavily booked, and the Society's library well patronised. Many excellent new books have been bought for the library this term, and the Society now affords members ample facilities to learn, not only the fundamentals, but also the intricacies of some more advanced techniques.

S. G. Norris demonstrated "Fine Grain Development" in January and Mr. W. H. Jones has continued with his tutorial classes, but meetings have recently been arranged to provide general interest, rather than detailed instruction.

Lancelot Vining, the retired Fleet Street photographer, visited us in February, and showed a selection of superb slides. The only *general* advice he could offer was to "expose correctly, and develop correctly," but he gladly answered questions on *particular* problems.

Another memorable occasion was Mr. Karl Pollak's visit. A portrait must show personality as well as mere physical features, and Mr. Pollak analysed and discussed some of the problems of recording personality photographically. The lecture was illustrated with excellent slides and large prints. The eminence of Mr. Pollak's subjects added incidental interest to the lecture, which was pervaded throughout by the speaker's forceful personality.

Summer is here, and the amateur photographer will emerge from the Dark Room, setting out into the countryside in search of pictures. The Society's annual excursion, this year to Shropshire, will be on July 9th.

Next March there will be a Hobby Show. Though March seems far away, it is only one summer distant, and members are encouraged to prepare now, so that the Society may at least maintain the high standard of previous exhibitions.

J. d'A. JEFFERY, S. G. NORRIS.

CHRISTIAN UNION

An encouraging development during the spring term has been the large number of Upper Fifth Form boys who have attended our meetings. We take this opportunity of welcoming them and all other boys who wish to consider thoughtfully the Christian faith.

During last term the meetings were varied. The last few clauses in the creed were taken, the Rev. W. H. Wade, Vicar of Childwall, speaking on "The Life Everlasting." In a less theological vein we studied a short series concerning the relevance of Christianity today. In the course of this, the Rev. R. A. J. Martineau, Vicar of Allerton, and an ex-R.A.F. chaplain, spoke on "Christianity and War," and Mr. H. King, Lecturer in Biochemistry at Liverpool University, on "Christianity and Science." Both gave most stimulating addresses. Some of our own members also spoke, for it is an aim of the society to encourage deeper thought and more thorough biblical research among its members.

A "Fact and Faith" film was also shown, but the sound-track was unfortunately poor. It was our best attended meeting, with over eighty present, including girls from Blackburne House, who were unexpectedly able to join us.

The last meeting of the term was addressed by the Rev. C. V. Sproxton. His subject was "Easter—Dare we believe it?"

Once again we acknowledge our indebtedness to Mr. Watson for his interest and guidance at all times.

J. B. TAYLOR.

TWILIGHT IN THE BERWYNS

We had, in fact, spent too much time on our outward journey, and only about two hours of light remained for our return over the rough moorland terrain. However, we resolved to press on as quickly as possible towards the ancient pack-road, Fforydd Gamelin.

As we trudged along, we began to notice the lengthening shadows, heralding the brief twilight of the short October day. We quickened our pace and, although we were caught in a sudden shower of rain, we did not stop to admire the beautiful double rainbow which followed the storm.

Now we noticed with growing concern that the great rifts and corries across the sides of the Berwyn ridge were beginning to darken, as the shadows crept slowly but irresistibly over the rugged slopes. The sun, by now a lurid blur of light on the distant horizon, was bathing the jagged crags and pinnacles of Moel Sych and Cader Berwyn with its soft rays. The darkness deepened, but these peaks still stood out like sentinels guarding the high moorlands against the darkening sky.

Our way now lay along the base of the towering cliffs which flank the Berwyn ridge: and the silence assumed an eerie stillness. The sun disappeared, and all that was left of its reassuring rays was absorbed in the ragged clouds of the western sky. Even this light was dying, and the stars were starting to pulse their messages through the twilight into the solitude that reigned over the lonely hills.

We hurried on, startled occasionally by the low bleating of sheep stumbling along the boulder-strewn track. At last, with the remaining light very nearly gone, we saw before us the welcome line of the old pack-road, barely distinguishable against the steep, darkening hillside. It was with a great sense of relief that we reached the top of the pass and stood on the track along which we had come that morning. Although still many miles from our destination, we felt secure in the knowledge that our way lay along a well-defined path, which would lead us through the lonely Berwyn night towards—civilization.

R.J.W.

THE VISITORS' BOOK

Not every Old Boy knows of the Liobian Visitors' Book, although it has been in existence several years now. The School secretary, Miss Murphy, began it in 1950 because she was impressed by the number of Old Boys who returned—sometimes after absences of half a century or more—to look over the building and to recall the masters, scholars and customs which meant so much to them in their youth. Now in its fourth year, the book provides fascinating evidence of two things: of the astounding ability Old Boys have to spread themselves about the world, and of the indelible impression the school has made on the minds of several generations.

The first few entries speak for themselves. Gilbert Kingan, now of Connecticut, U.S.A., visited England in 1950 after 30 years abroad, and brought his daughter with him to see the school. To him fell the privilege of completing the first of the forty thousand lines that the handsome Visitors' Book contains. R. G. Hoare (1922-30), on leave from Hong Kong, came the following week for a nostalgic glimpse of the haunts of his youth, and a month later F. J. Beckett, of Vancouver Island, B.C., dropped in to report, "the place is still the same after 60 years." Curiously, this view that age cannot wither the Institute's infinite variety is a common feature of most remarks. J. E. Bissett, of Hollywood, California, who left in 1911, observed that "it is still the same old school: hasn't changed," but G. E. Owen (1912) of Yellow Spring, Ohio added, somewhat ambiguously perhaps, a cryptic "As it was in the beginning!" E. E. Smith, who left in 1909, was reassuring and unequivocal, "Better than ever!" is his enthusiastic comment.

Five hundred and ninety seven pages of the Visitors' Book remain at present empty. If all Old Boys who visit the school register their names and addresses in it, in years to come it should be a very impressive volume, and a source of permanent geographical interest. (The Secretary, by the way, is always glad to hear from Liobians who cannot visit the school—particularly from those whose addresses have changed since the publication of the last Members' List).

OXFORD LETTER

Oxford.

The Editor, The Liverpool Institute Magazine.

Sir.—Once more I encounter the difficulty of beginning yet another Oxford letter. How to say what about whom has always been the problem of the various scribes who have attempted this task, and the present writer is no exception. However, part of this difficulty has been removed by the fact that the Oxford summer is not really living up to its best traditions. This means that the older members are very particular about their rare outings, and when they do appear, are so well wrapped up as to be unrecognisable. Indeed, our secretary is at present enforcing a levy in order to keep them in woollies. Of the elders, Mr.

Bell is the only one who is seen, and he doesn't count, as he is only just learning what life at a university really means. He has taken to coxing, and with Eights Week now upon us, it gives us a thrill of almost paternal pride just to see his excitement. Mr. Bell apart, I had thought that only the younger members were displaying signs of activity, but a phantom of the past has appeared in the shape of Mr. Strapps, whom every glimmer of sunshine brings out into the Parks. He may be up here doing a post-graduate course. He may just like watching cricket.

Mr. G. Jones and Mr. Thomas arouse our sympathy and no further comment to disturb their studious calm. Mr. Wray may be in the same state, but as he has not been seen since the Old Boys' dinner last term, I can tell you nothing of his affairs, which is probably a good thing for Mr. Wray's peace of mind. Mr. Cashdan also has Schools ahead of him, but is adopting a more devil-may-care attitude to the whole business—he, too, is coxing an eight. He disguises himself in dark glasses to walk down to the river, and it would probably increase his ability to judge the distance between boats, were he to remove them before each outing. I believe Mr. H. S. Dodd is also working for something at the moment, and Mr. Roberts is seldom seen, but then I have not been out on the river very frequently, and in any case it is difficult to see in the dark.

I must apologise for burdening Mr. Owen with the position of secretary to the Old Boys, as I did in my last letter, but his skill at demanding subscriptions is so great that I never imagined for one moment he had no authority for so doing. Even Mr. Owen, however, will find it hard to get anything out of Mr. B. L. Jones, who has finished with Honour Moderations and is now having a Great life. At the moment he is experiencing difficulty in persuading his tutors that industry and application are not the two most desirable qualities in an undergraduate. Mr. Jones' difficulties are increased by the presence in the same college of Mr. Oxburgh, who works very hard. Mr. Oxburgh pulls a very strong oar in his college First Eight, which means he is something of a masochist, but he is still human enough to be looking forward to the Summer Dance, when he intends to break his present rigorous routine in every way imaginable.

Mr. Glover has not allowed his experience in last term's Torpids to deter him from his chosen pastime, but his classical contemporaries, Mr. Barnes and Mr. C. G. Dodd, lead a more tranquil existence. Mr. Barnes leaves his basement room to attend lectures, but Mr. Dodd ventures farther afield, and has been seen engaged in an unequal struggle with a singularly obstreperous punt pole. Of the other two youngsters, Mr. Mackinnon and Mr. Cook, the latter is by far the more active. He is ready to try any sport, and his uniform varies between a duffel coat and an elegant track-suit. Recently, however, the track-suit has gained steadily in popularity, ever since he was told that standing sideways in the half-light he looks just like Roger Bannister. Mr. Mackinnon, I believe, still dissipates all his energy on chess.

Little is seen of the three older freshmen. Mr. Morris, to whom I offer my apologies, holds the position with which I credited Mr. Owen, and seems to have instituted a terminal subscription which certainly did not exist before he came up. If he succeeds in producing a valid reason for collecting it, then I say good luck to him. Mr. Case, like Mr. Wray, has disappeared into the obscurity which seems natural to scientists. The last sight of him was at the Old Boys' dinner, but nobody else seems to have been similarly affected. Certainly Mr. Shaw's athletic qualities have not been impaired in any way, for on days when the running-track is closed he trots around the city in a track-suit scarcely less distinguished than Mr. Cook's. It is somewhat unnerving to hold a conversation with a man who is running on the spot, but he appears fit and well.

This term we do not have the pleasure of visits from members of the staff, which removes the main topic for my closing paragraph. Since this is so, I shall merely remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ALFREDUS REX.

CAMBRIDGE LETTER

Cambridge.

The Editor, The Liverpool Institute Magazine.

Dear Sir,—The time has come for the truth concerning the Liobians in Cambridge to be divulged. Such revelations as ensue may be tragic, banal, or, occasionally, even amusing, but since the personalities involved share a common status, the findings of this court of inquiry are purely arbitrary.

Nothing could be more arbitrary than Mr. Wilkie, who, to our great relief, has survived drinking the cup of Cambridge life at its fullest. Despite his long association with the Theatre, we are convinced that age cannot whither nor custom stale his infinite variety.

At the other extreme is Mr. Barber, who has recently shown interest in the Colonial Service. Can it be that he desires to add a bush hat to his already impressive collection of "caps"? For him, too, life is varied. His new thirst for speed, as evidenced by the motor cycle he owns, is insatiable, but to his eternal shame he has recently failed his driving test. This he tacitly attributes to Mr. Smith's tuition, even though the latter is reputed to have ridden a motor-cycle before being able to walk.

In the natural order of things, Mr. Smith has progressed from motor-cycles to cars. He explains, with characteristic logic, that he cannot possibly afford to run a car, and this makes it so much more interesting. He has, however, an alternative form of transport, which is considerably cheaper; he reclines in a boat and is firmly rowed by seven men in the best Cambridge tradition.

Misunderstanding has arisen regarding the presence of a "heel" among Liobians here. It must be emphasised that in respect of Mr. Dailey the reference is only to be associated with Achilles. We have suspicions that his speed on the track is born of necessity in other spheres. This may be due partly to the influence of Mr. Magnay, who shares with him a room in a tower. Under such circumstances it is not surprising that the tower has become almost as infamous in name and nature as the Tower of London. Both these gentlemen were seen last term in a Lady Margaret eight of doubtful pedigree. Naturally, they were together at bow and two; inseparable to the last. Further information may be obtained, upon application, from the Proctors.

At last Mr. Pugh's claim to genius is being borne out by facts. Though success attends him, he remains as affable as ever, and will accept tea invitations from almost anyone. Even higher in the constellation of deities is Mr. Waddington, to whom the National Anthem is still an enigma. It is not known in how many *Cambridge Letters* he has figured, but rumour has it that he has witnessed several generations of Liobians pass through the University, all of whom have, no doubt, received his sage advice. His benign features belie his age, which must be considerable.

More recently graduated is Mr. Hechle, who is being consumed visibly by the intensive course in education. To add weight to his words he has grown a moustache, which makes him almost unrecognisable. As he is now invisible to the human eye in side elevation, his disguise may be said to be complete. Among the educated is Mr. Hodson, who, to prolong his stay at the University, has imperiously devised a course in archaeology. Though now separate from the inner sanctity of Queens', he used his prestige and position as a graduate to obtain unlicensed lodgings which lack the amenity of a bath. This, he assures us, is very much to his liking, though the College authorities are deeply concerned.

Mr. Morris has developed his *forte* for stage lighting and has been involved in productions of a high standard. He informs us that light has changed very little since his first preoccupation with it at the Institute, a contribution to scientific knowledge which cannot fail to be recognised. In the mathematical sphere, Mr. Morris's ability makes him the envy of all his lecturers.

Remote from the world in the ancient cloistered courts of Wesley House abides one who is the answer to all his country's social problems; whose days are spent in meditation and melancholy, and in whom there is no guile—Mr.

Donald Henry. His acceptance on graduating of an academic position was a grievous blow to London's East End, to Tower Hill, and to Dr. Soper, whose mantle he was destined to inherit. Occasionally, he leaves his precincts, and when he does so, the impact on the elegant, civilised society of Cambridge is considerable.

Within this society there exists a small barbaric community, which perform vociferous rituals in a foreign tongue and stretch to the limit the tolerance of the University. Leading the incantations of this, the Welsh Society, is Mr. Evans, who will undoubtedly rise, by virtue of his Celtic eloquence and Socialist convictions, to prominence in the T.U.C.

Reference has previously been made to the very private life of Mr. King. We must reluctantly assume that his absence from the Cambridge scene is the result of indulging in a morbid fascination for work. If this is so, it is a matter for the Liobian Executive, being contrary to our finest traditions, as laid down in a manifesto by Mr. Bootle. Few, I fear, will remember this gentleman—a regrettable fact, for in his University career he has maintained and even developed the uniqueness for which he was justly famous at school. Apparently, Mr. Bilson is coming rapidly under his influence, being at the same college—a college once famous for the presence of peacocks upon its lawns. Mr. Bilson provides an equally colourful, though increasingly more terrestrial, alternative to these birds.

Somehow Mr. Kirkby has evaded the piercing eye of the betrayer. All enquiries concerning him brought the same answer, "was last seen in the Market Place," and on failing to find him there we must sadly conclude that upon the removal of the once impressive fountain, he, with the other birds, has flown.

Of the many traditions in Cambridge there is one which is generally termed "the Jacob's Ladder." At last in Mr. Jacob we reach the end of this distinguished, almost interminable, line. He has come to us this year after a distinguished military career in Northern Ireland.

It remains only to mention three diverse characters, who are all reading for the ministry, Messrs. Marsden, Little, and Perry. Eye has not seen nor ear heard any of these gentlemen for some considerable time. Possibly they have found some desert in which to meditate, or perhaps they pass unrecognised in clerical collars. We may only hope that they will return with the Spring.

As these revelations will inevitably lead to an enquiry into the University system at the very highest level, it is expedient that the writer remain anonymous.

Yours, etc.,

VITRUVIUS.

PREFECTS' LETTER

The Editor, The Liverpool Institute Magazine.

Dear Sir,—I hereby apply for political asylum. In coming from behind the Iron Curtain, which has been drawn across the topmost corridor of the school, I leave behind me a Head Boy and seventeen subordinates, whose subversive ring has restricted the progress of democracy throughout the Liverpool Institute. Here then is my dossier.

Their leader, Mr. Leech, is out of our reach. Indeed, if he can run as fast as he says he can, he is out of anyone's reach. Yet it is rumoured that the long arm of the Royal Pioneer Corps will soon encircle this gentleman, as he sings his theme song, "I love you, a shovel and a pick. . . ." Some people suggest that Mr. Best uses his pick instead of a clothes-brush, but Mr. Leech's deputy protests that, when he wears his best suits, the strings of his pet double bass wear out the fronts more quickly than Mr. Best can wear out the backs. His only difficulty when playing first bass for the Orchestra is that he is never able to strike the right pitch. Mr. Arno has two pitches—one on which he scored four consecutive fours, and the other on which he practises escaping from mail-bags. Mr. Arno is a would-be knight since he heard the title of the film, "Sir Arno D. Burgerack."

On such occasions Mr. Evans can be, and invariably is, remarkably slow. His versatility is such that, to our knowledge, he is living at least five different lives, in at least three different nationalities at the present moment. How he reconciles himself to commercial television in the most popular of these makes us think he is playing some sort of game.

Mr. Cross is very often plied with the question as to what *his* game is, but, whatever it is, he certainly plays to his own rules. Indeed, Mr. Cross makes his own rules for almost everything—the rest of the Prefects do as well—something which cannot be said of Mr. Ferdinand, who disregards unconcernedly every rule. He recently made a trip to Gibraltar for peace-talks with the apes. "Barbary Bill" has had no mean success in this enterprise, so he tells us, as he swings from the beam munching peanuts. Mr. Ferdinand is a keen marksman, but, if he shoots anything, it is likely to be Mr. Jeffery, who persists in washing his face with cornflakes. He also consumes these, partly for nourishment and partly to stave off his craving for dolly mixtures, a forbidden commodity in the P.R. since Mr. Jeffery was subpoenaed for operating a goodies ring . . .

This was a blow to his vanity, a fault which cannot be attributed to Mr. Fleet. In his abstract work, "Bigthinkmanship," our tame philosopher informs us that, since the beginning of history, civilisation has passed through several phases. His colleagues are at present deciding to which of these this "cyclist-cum-bus conductor" belongs. When Mr. Fleet is not practising yoga, he is thinking of it.

Another erstwhile thinker is Mr. Gee who gave up when he discovered the necessary qualifications. That he is a man of action the Prefects' Room knows to its cost. We say "Room" advisedly, for it is only as a result of a momentary lapse that Mr. Gee interests himself in human affairs. This explains his partiality for the company of Mr. Morrell, whose character is beyond comprehension; indeed he has yet to reveal it. His whole being is inclined to one extremity—his head, in which all manner of things revolve. This has given rise to his pseudonym of "Spin-head."

Mr. Molyneux, on the other hand, is extremely level-headed. On his accidental visits, an atmosphere of uncertainty surrounds all his activities—one of which is analysing weather forecasts, for he only arrives when there is a deep depression over the north-west (whether this is cause or effect we will not say). One gentleman, who also seems destined for the north-west, is our "tree-feller," Mr. Burton. Personally, however, we feel there might be greater opportunities for him in the "silent service." He is a man of great potential energy; indeed he must be, for no one has yet seen him expend any.

This cannot be said of Mr. Rylance, who removes his tartan racoon overcoat, even when filling his pen. He claims that the consequent freedom of movement gives him a few extra seconds in which he can dash down to Oxford and back. With Mr. Rylance peculiarity breeds contempt, a highly inappropriate description of the attitude of Mr. J. B. Taylor towards the frivolities of lesser men. Inside information prompts the suggestion, however, that his glance is rather one of anguish provoked by the gout which he contracted on a reckless safari through the gym.

Gymnastics, or any form of physical exercise, are repulsive to Mr. Corcoran in the summer months. As his favourite society has also gone into hibernation, there is little he can do, other than eat, sleep and blow up footballs for the winter season. Such is his vigilance that few have ever seen him do any of these. Another winter sportsman, Mr. Hayes, is not so vigilant, for he is frequently caught unawares. Mr. Hayes can only dance with one partner, but perhaps that is normal after all. As a result of this distraction he has developed a "divine insouciance" which he takes with him into every examination—unfortunately, his results remain the same.

I have left Messrs. P. L. Taylor and Matheson to the last, as it is possible that this incriminating document may yet pass before their devastating scrutiny, and its ultimate destiny depends upon them. I will not stoop to flattery. In the case of Mr. P. L. Taylor that is impossible, for he walks with his cap in the clouds.

Suggestions that he might change his barber are met with a stern rebuff from his stentorian bellow—and indeed are likely to meet with an even sterner one from the less abstract attributes of this heart of oak.

We are left only with Mr. Matheson, a gentleman of refined literary taste, if not style. In fact, on one of his critical works it was observed that he might do better if he used a pen instead of a "hammer dipt in blood"! That there has been a return to sanity in the newspaper world is reflected by the fact that all his contributions meet with one fate.

The dossier now draws to its close. I have revealed many state secrets, and at any moment expect to be hustled into an out-of-date plane, accompanied by two burly, inscrutable agents. I visualise now their cigarette cases at the ready, but until my moment comes, I remain, Yours etc.,

IMA PUSHINOV.

HYDRATOMBUS

A petrified globe, overgrown with smouldering wrecks,
Seared earth, ruined cities, skeletons stark and still!
I met a traveller from this bygone sphere
Who said: "Two vast and deadly puffs of smoke
Hung in the air; all that remained of Man's
Ambitious world, but for the devastated shell
Strewn with Gorgonian horrors lying there,
Mere crumbling cases, monuments to those who spoke
Of culture, learning, and all that once was Man's.
From this world, the home of first created Life,
Crumbling, a cosmos now chaotic, brought to dust,
I brought this message, dictatorial in its tone,
Which threatened danger to us, far beyond repair.
'We are the human race, the apex of creation.
Think of our might, you others, and despair!'"

E.M.D., V.N.C.

DEJECTION

He has forsaken me; now I am
A lonely stranger on the long ribbon
Of life that stretches into eternity.
Darkness falls; memories are fainter.
Soon night will come, bringing with her
New fears and terrors.
How much I fear the night with her
Blood-stained dreams.
The clouds chase across the sky, afraid
Of night; a timid moon looks darkly
On a forgotten world, now tired
Of hatred and strife.
A deserted soul on the abyss of
Death.
Now the night of my soul softens to
A hopeful dawn, and the mists of
Grim recollection disappear from the hills
Of memory.
The promise of a new day.

P. F. FLEET (6AM2)

THE JOYS OF PUNT CAMPING

The weather was against us from the start. Wind and rain lashed the canvas cover of the punt in which we were to spend the next week of our holidays, and the rocking of the frail craft increased as, one by one, we stowed our luggage, bent low beneath the canvas cover, and tumbled on board.

When the rain eased off, we raised the canvas sides and attempted to paddle downstream; but the wind, in a fit of perversity, caught the canvas roof, and we executed a gay pirouette in the middle of the river. There was no remedy but the tow-rope, and by this means we travelled far enough for our first night to be spent out of sight of the College Barges.

A tin of baked beans warmed over our primus stove, followed by a pound of pears and a smoky cup of tea, sufficed for supper. We then erected the awning, laced up the flaps, and settled down for the night on a few totally inadequate cushions. The free board was scarcely three inches, and, each time one of us turned over, our blankets dipped into the water and siphoned the Isis into the *Mary Jane*.

We survived this, however, and even managed to deprive the swans of our breakfast. By means of an improvised sail we made some progress during the next six days. We were, however, heartily glad when at last we reached Windsor, and were able to leave our cramped quarters tied up in the Eton College Boat-house.

M. A. FOLLAND (4Sc).

WHAT IS IT?

There is a garment worn on week-days only, by certain gentlemen, as an outward symbol of their authority.

Whenever the young males see it appearing round a corner, they hastily consider whether their present occupation is appropriate to the particular time and place. If so, they continue the even tenor of their way. If it should not be the right occupation in the right place, they endeavour to make themselves scarce as quickly as possible, or try to look cherubically innocent.

Some people think that to double the length of this article would make it a more dignified piece of workaday apparel. I would opine that the present garment is most eminently suitable for one clothed in a little, brief authority.

J. R. CONDER (4Sc).

LEISURE

(with apologies to W. H. Davies)

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to pause outside the gate,
Breathless with fear of being late.

No time to stare around the class,
Or idly gaze out through the glass.
No time to linger at the tuck-shop door,
Ignoring the set prefect's jaw.

No time to loiter at the "iron gate"—
Such action makes the "pre's" irate.
No time to slack in C.C.F.,
When Sergeant cries, "Are you all deaf?"

No time at Mersey Road to dream,
Or future victories to scheme.
A poor life this, if full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

P. J. DALTON (3c).

SCHOOLBOYS' NIGHTMARE

We dream about Culloeden's date;
Is it cosine plus atomic weight?
a plus b, times x plus y,
Is surely in the Isle of Skye.

We decline the Wooden Horse,
Invented by King John, of course.
The only principle we know,
Is that of Archipelago.

Caxton first invented dramas,
Tin is found in the Bahamas.
To find the capital of Pi,
Add sixteen grams to the River Wye.

Add two to the flat wash and square the joint,
Be sure to plane to the vanishing point.
Good-bye! We feel we should like to say,
But is it adieu, adios or vale?

R. C. LEDGARD (LSB).

EVEREST

Two figures, small against the mountainside,
Toiling their upward path through snow and ice:
Two men, who climb the route where none can guide,
Willing to make the supreme sacrifice
To achieve the mighty object of their quest—
The defeat of proud, unconquered Everest!

Slowly they ascend the hazardous slope,
Losing amidst the snows all track of time;
But in their hearts there rests eternal hope,
For they are near the zenith of their climb.
They reach the top and stand upon its crest,
The first to conquer lofty Everest.

D. ALTSUL (LSB).

INSPIRATION

At last a chance to please myself,
My homework for tonight;
An item for our magazine
I have been asked to write.

Oh, shall I write about the hol's,
The fun we had at camp,
The night the tent began to leak
And all our clothes got damp?

A character from history—
Would anyone like that?
Oh, no, that's not original;
This poem's falling flat.

There must be something I can do,
It's hard, I must be frank:
It's getting near my bedtime too,
And still my paper's blank.

I hold my pen, I scratch my head;
I sit, and think, and stare;
It's getting late: I'm going to bed,
I give up in despair.

N. HILL (LSB).



*The
Sweetest
Sweet*

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