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Number 1

JANUARY, 1955

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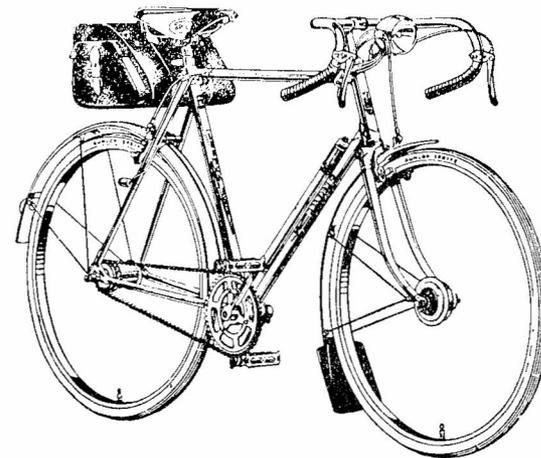
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Full details of these commissions are given in a 24-page illustrated booklet describing the life, pay, etc., of pilots and observers in the Fleet Air Arm. Write to-day for a copy to:—Admiralty, N.C.W. Branch (FO/54), Queen Anne's Mansions, London, S.W.1.

NEW

DARTMOUTH ENTRY

There is now a new scheme of entry and training for permanent commissions (as Executive, Engineering and Supply and Secretariat Officers). Cadets enter the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, between the ages of 17 years 8 months and 19 years. Part of the two years' training is spent at sea.

Entry is by written examination, held in October, February and May, followed by interview and medical examination. The closing date for applications is normally 3 months before date of written examination, which candidates must take between the ages of 17 years 2 months and 18 years 6 months.

Candidates with certain educational qualifications may be exempted from the written examination. Details from the Secretary of the Admiralty, N.C.W. Branch (Cadets 54), Queen Anne's Mansions, London, S.W.1.



A CORNER OF THE SCHOOL.

LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE

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EDITORIAL

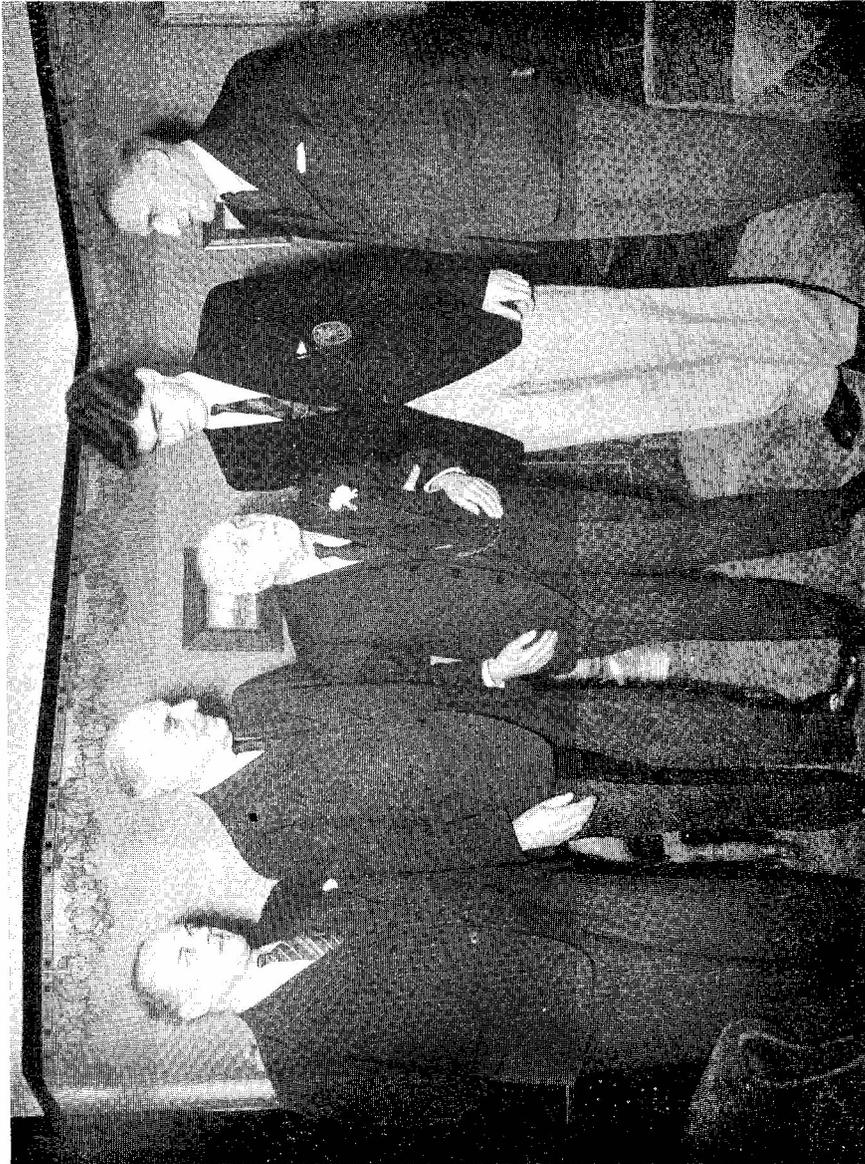
So closely are we associated with the English grammar school that we accept its peculiarities as an integral and acceptable part of the social order. The uninitiated, however, fail to understand this typically British institution. Though theoretically class-conscious, it is, in fact, more socialistic than any "comprehensive" school, and cradles the intelligent leadership of divergent elements of English social society for the future. As a product of English empirical thought, the grammar school is not and never has been an institution created according to educational theory alone—rather the latter has evolved from observation of the grammar school in action.

The foreigner in particular is deeply puzzled by the amazing curiosities of this branch of English education. In France the prefectorial system would be utterly unacceptable to the individualism of the Latin temperament. Distinction between boys would be a direct contravention of the sacred trinity of *liberté, égalité, fraternité*. The American high school pupil in his T-shirt and blue jeans fails to appreciate the intricacies of school uniform. The English house system, and the friendly boy-master relationship which is inherent in it, surprise the German *schüler*. The keen interest in sport and the multitude of school societies also amaze our friends from other lands. An English mind is needed to appreciate the English grammar school system, which is a product of evolution rather than a separate creation. It is as undemocratic and illogical as the English monarchy and the House of Lords—but is that an altogether bad thing?

We feel that a further important curiosity of the English grammar school is its magazine, which contains a compiled record of many of its unusual aspects. The sport, the society activities, the attachment of former scholars to their old school—all these are recorded in a volume such as this. We therefore offer it, not only to entertain the reader, but also to provide a document of that peculiarly English anomaly—the English grammar school.

Mr. G. E. S. NOLAN

We regret to announce the death of Mr. G. E. S. Nolan, a member of the Staff from 1945 to 1949. A product of the Oxford History School, Mr. Nolan ably maintained its humanist ideals. He had a firm belief in historical studies as an instrument for promoting a wide culture, but was also always alive to the need for a spirit of scientific enquiry and method in the conduct of specialised historical research. As a teacher his standards were high and exacting: he never spared himself and demanded from his pupils the same keenness and devotion to the subject that he himself possessed. We are grateful also for the grand work he did for the Library. He left us at the end of December, 1949, to join the University of Durham Institute of Education as Lecturer and Librarian.



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD.

L. Holt.

J. A. Owen.

E. R. Oxburgh.

B. Heathcote.

J. R. Edwards.

CHAT ON THE CORRIDOR

We welcome to the School the following new masters, who joined the Staff in September: Mr. E. P. Dewhurst, B.A. (Liverpool), Mr. A. Evans, B.A. (Cambridge), Mr. E. R. Jones, B.A. (Cambridge), Mr. E. P. Mann, B.A. (Liverpool), Mr. K. W. Moore, B.A. (Wales), Mr. D. Warwick, B.A. (Durham), Mr. H. G. B. Watson, B.Sc. (Liverpool), Mr. J. D. Wray, B.Sc. (Oxford) and Herr Sievers of Hamburg, who will be with us until July. We are also pleased to have with us again Mr. M. Devereux, B.A. (Liverpool).

It is with regret that we announce the death of Sir John Bagnall, a distinguished Old Boy of the School. He died recently in Johannesburg at the age of 66.

Our congratulations are offered to Mr. John Owen, a former mathematics master and vice-principal of the School, on the occasion of his 102nd birthday, which fell on November 7th. He is in excellent health and completes cross-word puzzles daily. We are privileged to reproduce as frontispiece a photograph of Mr. Owen, taken on his one hundredth birthday.

On July 15th a party from the School attended the showing of "Laxdale Hall" at the Philharmonic Hall. Mr. J. Grierson, the director of the film, gave an entertaining account of his experiences in the film world.

Bishop Gresford Jones conducted a service in the School Hall on July 21st. This service was primarily intended for boys who were about to leave school.

A section of the Philharmonic Orchestra gave a short concert to the Junior School on September 30th.

During October School parties attended both the Classical Association Conference and the Student Christian Movement Conference.

Recently parties of Canadian and Malayan students visited the School, and we also had the pleasure of welcoming a headmaster from Sierra Leone.

Mr. A. R. Childs, a former football captain of the School, has recently played for an English Amateur XI. Mr. E. R. Oxburgh and Mr. T. Shaw have enjoyed considerable success in athletics at Oxford.

Speech Day was held on Wednesday, December 15th, in the Philharmonic Hall, when the prizes were distributed by Dr. A. L. Goodhart, K.B.E., Q.C., F.B.A., Master of University College, Oxford.

The Exhibition of Work and Hobbies will take place on the evenings of March 25th and 26th, 1955. It is hoped that the introduction of a new House system will be marked by a record number of entries in every group. Prizes, as well as points, are to be gained.

We are sorry to have to record the illness of Miss M. Spencer, who was appointed to the Office staff in September. Miss Spencer has our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

We congratulate the following on their academic achievements:

H. E. Matthews, an Open Scholarship in Classics at St. John's College, Oxford.

D. Heskeith, an Open Scholarship in Modern Languages at Exeter College, Oxford.

K. Thomson, a Minor Scholarship in Geography at Jesus College, Cambridge.

J. B. Taylor, a Major Scholarship in Classics at Trinity College, Cambridge.

P. L. Taylor, an Open Exhibition in History at Trinity College, Cambridge.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

On the morning of December 17th, the last day of term, a Service of Lessons and Carols was held in the School Hall.

After the singing of "Once in Royal David's City," the Headmaster read the Bidding Prayer, and this was followed by the prophecies of the Incarnation, in Isaiah, read by W. Ferdinand, the Head Boy. The hymn, "O come, O come, Emmanuel!" was sung, and R. A. Hayes read the story of the Annunciation; the Advent theme was concluded when H. M. Duckett sang the Magnificat.

The story of Christ's Nativity was read by S. G. Norris, and the 15th century carol, "Unto us a boy is born" was sung by the School. J. B. Taylor continued with the story of the shepherds, and after this the "Pastoral Symphony," from Handel's "Messiah" was played on the organ. After the singing of the hymn, "Hark! the herald angels sing," P. L. Taylor read the last lesson, in which the mystery of the Incarnation is expounded.

The service ended with the singing of the hymn, "O come, all ye faithful," after which the Headmaster read a Christmas collect, and the Lord's Prayer and Benediction were said.

SPEECH DAY

Speech Day was held on Wednesday, December 15th, 1954, in the Philharmonic Hall, when the prizes were distributed by Dr. A. L. Goodhart, K.B.E., Q.C., F.B.A., Master of University College, Oxford. After the traditional address of welcome, delivered in Latin by J. B. Taylor, Vice-Captain of the School, the Headmaster presented his annual report.

He paid tribute to Mr. Thorpe and Mr. Bartlett, former masters of the School, who had retired after devoted service over a number of years, and drew attention to the grave shortage of well-qualified mathematicians and science masters in the grammar schools. This shortage was aggravated by strong competition from industry, the civil service and the universities, and since the supply of scientists depended upon good teaching in the schools, in the national interest this problem had to be solved. At present, work in the science sixth forms was severely handicapped by the shortage of teachers and inadequate laboratory accommodation.

The curriculum and extraneous activities of the School provided opportunities for an intellectual development that produced the leaders of the future, and if the traditions of the grammar school were lost, the nation would suffer irreparably.

The Headmaster appealed to parents to exercise careful supervision of the magazines and newspapers read by their boys. So-called "horror comics" and thrillers were not only morally and intellectually harmful; they also vitiated good taste.

After a musical interlude, during which the Senior Choir sang "Brother James' Air" and "The Farm," the Chairman of the Governors, Mr. Brian Heathcote, M.Sc., expressed satisfaction with the Headmaster's report and paid particular tribute to the quality of the School Play and to the concert given by the Music Club earlier in the year. He then welcomed officially Dr. Goodhart, the distinguished guest of the evening. Mr. Heathcote reminded us that Dr. Goodhart was born in New York City and educated at Yale University. He now had a foot, not only in America and Britain, but also in Oxford and Cambridge.

The School then sang "Drake's Drum" and the "Sergeants' Chorus," from Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance," after which Dr. Goodhart distributed the prizes.

In the course of his stimulating address (which we hope to reproduce in full in the next issue of the magazine) Dr. Goodhart stated that it was not true to say that prize-winning at school was not a fair indication of future success; he wanted to congratulate the prize-winners, because they had shown that they had good memories, that they could put forward the maximum effort at the right time, that they had a firm foundation and that they were intelligent. Great Britain had few physical advantages, when compared with many other of the great countries, but it had one great advantage in the possession of its young men, who had been trained to be independent, courageous and honest. As long as the schools maintained the standards set in the past, a glorious future for this country was assured.

In reply, a comprehensive Vote of Thanks was proposed by W. Ferdinand, the Captain of the School, and seconded by G. V. Cooke, Esq., Assistant Director of Education. These speeches were followed by the Junior Choir's rendering of "As Torrents in Summer," by Elgar, "Merry Christmas," by Martin Shaw, and "The Bells of St. Mary's" by Emmett Adams.

Another memorable Speech Day ended with the singing of the School Hymn, "Lo! the Sound of Youthful Voices," to the tune of *Cwm Rhondda*.

SCHOOL MAGAZINES

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

The Alsopian, Blackburne House Magazine, Calder High School Magazine, Childwall Valley High School Magazine, The Quarry, The Visor, Ruym, The Wallaseyan, The Warrior, Los Angeles, California.

HOUSE NOTES

(Introduction by the Headmaster)

At the beginning of this term the House system was reorganised. The previous arrangement of putting the Classical Forms in one House, the Modern Language forms in another, the Science forms in another, and dividing the non-specialist forms among the three remaining Houses had ceased to work satisfactorily. Similarly the exclusion of the third forms from the main House system robbed the Houses of much useful material and the Third formers themselves of an early opportunity of taking an active part in the social life of the School.

In order to keep the numbers in each House to a reasonable figure, a new House bearing the name of Lawrence Holt has been added to the existing seven, and the whole school redistributed among the eight Houses with just over 120 boys in each. Such evidence as is available shows that already there has been a considerable increase of enthusiasm for the Houses' ordinary competitive activities, and the institution of regular House meetings seems likely to develop still further the corporate loyalty which is the aim and object of the whole system. For the purpose of these meetings each House in turn is exempted from attendance at the full morning assembly of the School in Hall. It holds its own religious service under the guidance of the Housemaster, and then proceeds to a consideration of whatever business the Housemaster and House Captain think fit. The only way to make this or any other House system succeed is for every boy (and the word "every" is the vital one) to take a real interest in his House and determine to make some contribution to its welfare.

ALFRED HOLT

With the complete re-organisation of the House system, it is only to be expected that some time will be needed in which to assess the individual capabilities of House members. We look forward to the future with the confidence that we will form as strong and balanced a team as we have enjoyed in former years.

It is, however, obvious that the enthusiasm shown by the new members of the House augurs well for the future. Basket-ball and chess activities have already commenced, with a view to our being well prepared for the forthcoming competitions, and the House should also gain some success in both football and hockey.

In the immediate future the full support of every member of the House is required to ensure success in the major competitive event of the coming year, the Hobbies Show.

D. L. BYWATER.

COCHRAN

The re-introduction of the original House system has established Cochran as a senior House once more. Two meetings have been held, and the main difficulties entailed in the organisation of a new House have been overcome. Captains have been appointed for the various sports, and the play to be performed at the Hobbies Show has been chosen and cast.

It is to be hoped that the high position attained by the House in the Work Competition will be achieved in other fields throughout the year.

Mr. Brierley and Mr. Devereux are to be thanked for their contribution to the organisation of the House. Their efforts have done much to promote interest.

V. N. COWAN.

DANSON

The new House system provides members of Danson with the opportunity of taking part in all activities. Co-operation is just as important for the Juniors as for the Seniors to ensure the success of their House, and I am sure that their loyalty will be shown in the forthcoming Hobbies Show and House competitions. We welcome Mr. Booth as House Master and Mr. K. W. Moore as Assistant House Master. The House has no past, but it has a future, and the foundations of future distinction are to be laid during the next year.

Further efforts are needed in the Work Competition, and I cannot over-stress the necessity for a continued effort throughout the whole year, if the House is to attain the superiority, of which I am convinced it is worthy.

R. A. HAYES.

HUGHES

The new House system gives Hughes the chance to make itself the most efficient House in the School. Sharing the top place in the Work Competition is encouraging, and the Hobbies Show with its unlimited scope looms large on the horizon. Here every boy should be able to do something to keep the House at the top of the list.

Sports competitions have not yet begun, but here again wholehearted effort and enthusiasm will help to achieve success.

We thank Mr. Edge and Mr. Rogers for their efforts on behalf of the House, and hope to reward their hard work by attaining a large measure of scholastic and sporting distinction in the rest of the School year.

A. E. HEMESLEY.

LAWRENCE HOLT

When the new House system was adopted, Lawrence Holt House was formed, being named after a former Chairman of the Governors. We are proud to be called after one who has done so much for our School. The enthusiasm and readiness, already shown by our members, are most encouraging, and promise success for the future. We hope that all our members will develop a loyalty to each other and to the House, following the example set by our Housemaster, Mr. McDonald, and by Mr. Parker. We have begun on an equal footing with all the other Houses—it is for us to make our House one of which we can be really proud.

J. B. TAYLOR.

OWEN

In the past the name of Owen has always been one of distinction. With the advent of the new House system we have a great opportunity to maintain and enhance the reputation of this name. We must remember, however, that we are now a new House, and we must build up a tradition as such.

Success cannot be achieved, unless every House member enters wholeheartedly into every activity. The Hobbies Show and the coming sporting competitions will give all members an opportunity to show their loyalty and enthusiasm.

If we follow the example of our Housemaster, Mr. Morgan, and of his colleague, Mr. Dewhurst, I feel sure that we shall find ourselves pre-eminent amongst the Houses.

K. L. TAYLOR.

PHILIP HOLT

The enthusiasm shown by members of the House has been most encouraging, but must be maintained.

The Hobbies Show next term will give every member of the House an opportunity to show his ability: it is essential that everyone should submit at least one entry. Rehearsals for the House Play have begun, and an attempt has been made to form a House Choir, though the response has not been very good. All members should consult the notice board to keep in touch with sporting and other House activities.

A united effort by all members of the House is necessary for this to be a year of success.

K. THOMSON.

TATE

As a result of the re-organisation of the House system, we are fortunate to have in Tate some of the best athletes of the School. We hope that the example set by these will instil greater enthusiasm into the younger members of the House.

Our gaining of an equal first place in the House Work Competition for the first half term gave us a very good start to the year, and we hope that this success will be repeated in other competitions.

Finally, we owe our thanks to our Housemaster, Mr. Day, for his keen interest in all our activities.

D. S. WHITING.

SCHOOL 1st XI CRICKET TEAM, 1954

After defeat by a very strong Sefton XI, the School XI, reaping the benefit of wholehearted practices during the holidays, routed Collegiate by nine wickets. This was followed by a resounding seven wickets victory over Wallasey, and vengeance was wreaked on Sefton, who raised only 46 runs in reply to the School's 118, scored on a sporting wicket. Quarry Bank,

University, Cowley, Birkenhead, and Calday failed to check the onslaught. During this period, S. B. Tollett scored a brilliant 127 not out; K. Ruffell, and V. N. Cowan struck top form as bowlers, and the team as a whole was brilliantly conspicuous for its fielding.

Merchant Taylors, however, caused a little deflation, and the Liobians repeated their success of the previous season with the last ball of the match. The Staff XI hoodoo survived, and Cowley were clearly delighted with their three runs victory.

K. Ruffell was an excellent captain, both in success and defeat; he did much to enhance the reputation of the 1st XI as sportsmen. Messrs. E. Wass and F. Brierley spared no effort, and, in D. J. Kenworthy, the XI had a scorer who dazzled more than one notable spectator with his book-keeping and flair for figures.

	P.	W.	D.	L.
1st XI	21	11	4	6
2nd XI	12	8	4	0
Colts	13	6	6	1
Under 13 XI	6	3	1	2

CRITIQUE.

- K. RUFFELL (*Captain*).—A first class captain and all-rounder, who has been particularly successful this season with his slow leg-breaks.
- V. N. COWAN.—A versatile fast-medium seam bowler with remarkable control of swing. His batting has improved very much and is decidedly aggressive.
- S. B. TOLLETT.—He has become a first-class batsman. All his 530 runs have been scored in a polished manner. A good wicket-keeper—caught 19, stumped 12.
- J. C. MORRIS.—A reliable number three batsman, particularly strong at back-play. Excellent fieldsman.
- E. J. WELTON.—A useful off-spin bowler. He is becoming much more confident as a batsman. Keen in the field.
- R. S. WHITING.—A young all-rounder, whose batting is much better than he imagines. A fast bowler with an easy action.
- J. H. GRACE.—A promising batsman who is steadily gaining the necessary confidence. A good in-fieldsman.
- A. G. LAWRENSEN.—Young enough to play for the Colts. He promises to be an opening batsman.

FULL COLOURS.

Re-awards: V. N. Cowan, J. C. Morris, S. B. Tollett, K. Ruffell.
Awards: E. J. Welton, R. S. Whiting.

HALF COLOURS.

Re-awards: G. W. Davidson, R. H. Leech.
Awards: J. H. B. Grace, A. G. Lawrenson, T. P. Matheson, R. R. Arno.

BATTING AVERAGES, 1954.

	Innings	Not		Runs	Highest Score	Avge.
		Out	Out			
S. B. Tollett	21	3	530	127*	29.44	
J. C. Morris	14	2	234	44	19.50	
V. N. Cowan	18	4	261	66*	18.64	
T. P. Matheson	9	0	157	41	17.44	
K. Ruffell	21	0	339	61	16.14	
R. S. Whiting	14	2	144	36*	12.00	
G. W. Davidson	18	4	149	62	10.64	
E. J. Welton	17	2	159	26	10.60	
J. H. B. Grace	19	3	149	43*	9.31	
A. G. Lawrenson	16	3	116	24	8.92	

* Not Out.

BOWLING AVERAGES, 1954.

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Avge.
V. N. Cowan	260.5	80	437	58	7.53
K. Ruffell	162.3	22	530	51	10.39
R. S. Whiting	168.2	39	417	39	10.69
R. R. Arno	33	9	82	5	16.40
E. J. Welton	45.3	5	171	10	17.10

ATHLETICS

Incessant rain once again marred this year's Sports Day, which was held on Saturday, July 17th. Fortunately, in spite of the rain-soaked track, the spectators were rewarded for their attendance under such conditions with many fine performances.

R. H. Leech equalled the senior quarter-mile record in 54 2-5 seconds, V. N. Cowan equalled the senior half-mile record in 2 minutes 6 seconds, and D. G. Langton succeeded in establishing a new record time of 11 3-5 seconds for the 100 yards (Under 13½).

The Senior House Competition was won by Philip Holt House, and the Junior Competition by Tate House. Tate House were also the Aggregate Champions, having 158 points; Philip was second with 148 points.

R. H. Leech was the Victor Ludorum for a second year, having 29 points, and P. Hallam was runner-up with 12 points. J. M. Radcliffe became the Middle Champion, and G. I. Davies the Junior Champion.

Competitors, officials, and all who gave assistance, are to be congratulated on producing a successful Sports Day, despite the unfavourable weather conditions.

Congratulations are also due to Mr. Booth and Mr. Clark, who this season re-introduced weekly training classes and did much to stimulate interest. The large number of Sports Day entries, and the generally increased standard of athletics in the School, owe much to their efforts.

On Saturday, May 15th, the School was represented in the Northern Schools' Championships held at Manchester. K. Thomson won the ¼-Mile Steeplechase in 3 minutes 43 seconds, but the extremely high standard of athletics at this meeting precluded the School from any further success.

On Tuesday, July 6th, and Thursday, July 8th, the Merseyside Grammar Schools' Sports took place on the Liverpool University track at Wyncote. Here members of the School met with more success than at Manchester. R. H. Leech created a new senior quarter-mile record and won the long jump and K. Thomson gained a third place in the senior mile. Both the senior and junior teams obtained third places in their respective divisions.

During the season the Athletics Club had two matches. The annual fixture with Wallasey Grammar School took place on the evening of June 24th, at Wallasey, and resulted in a defeat for the School.

On Thursday, July 15th, a newly instituted match with the Old Boys was held at Mersey Road and proved most enjoyable. All events were closely contested and the final result was a narrow win for the School by 49 points to 47.

Our thanks are offered to R. N. Dailey, who contributed a great deal to the promotion of this match, and to all other Old Boys who participated. It is to be hoped that this meeting will rapidly establish itself as an annual event.

Full colours were re-awarded to R. H. Leech and K. Thomson, and awarded to V. N. Cowan.

K. THOMSON.

SWIMMING

The past year has seen a marked improvement in the standard of School swimming, due mainly to the enthusiasm of the Junior section.

On September 30th the Swimming Sports were held at Picton Road Baths. Owen House became champions for the fifth consecutive year. Both individual champions were also from Owen House: D. S. Whiting being senior champion and R. D. Lang junior champion.

The increase in the number of entries and spectators this year was encouraging.

Further results were:

Senior: 1st, Owen; 2nd, Philip; 3rd, Tate.

Junior: 1st, Owen and Philip; 3rd, Alfred.

Aggregate: 1st, Owen; 2nd, Philip.

Cochrane: Form 3F.

On September 9th, at the Liverpool City Police Gala, the School repeated its success of 1952 by winning the Grammar Schools' Squadron Race.

At the Grammar Schools' Gala, held on October 1st, at Picton Road Baths, the School senior and junior teams were placed seventh and second in their respective divisions. A. Smith, W. Cotton, and M. Colvin, are to be congratulated on their performances in individual events.

Finally, our thanks are due to Mr. Forbes for his invaluable assistance, and to Mr. Clark for his expert coaching.

D. S. WHITING.

BASKET BALL

Although only in its second season, the team has made considerable progress under the excellent coaching of Mr. Clark, and it distinguished itself in its first fixture by soundly beating Liverpool College. The team for this match was selected from N. W. Fyans, R. S. Whiting, P. J. Armstrong, D. S. Whiting, P. Hallam, R. Bulmer. It is to be hoped that the high standard of play produced can be maintained throughout the season, and that club meetings, which are held every Monday, will continue to be well attended.

A new junior section meets every Thursday at 12-45 and should ensure a strong basis for School teams in the future. All boys in the upper and lower fifths are eligible for this section.

As more schools adopt this increasingly popular sport, it is hoped that it will prove possible to make additions to the limited fixture list the School has at present.

N. FYANS.

LIOBIAN SECTION

Sir Frank M. Baddeley, C.M.G., President of the Association for the past twenty years, celebrated his 80th birthday on November 30th, 1954.

This year the Association is celebrating its 50th anniversary of the first Annual Dinner, which took place at the Rumford Café on January 20th, 1904. Though the present Association was founded in 1902, support at first was disappointing; in the first year of its existence, only forty members paid subscriptions, and of those, twenty-five were committee members!

In 1914 there were still only 12 Life Members, and about 400 others. At present the Association has 631 Life Members, and approximately 190 Annual Members.

Messrs. Ravenscroft and Willis can now supply striped Liobian blazers, scarves, ties, badges and heraldic shields. They would be pleased to supply full details of prices.

LIOBIANS A.F.C.

Another soccer season has commenced, and already it has held its share of interest.

The number of new signings from last year's School teams was disappointingly low, and the return of members who have been doing their National Service is offset by members who have gone, or will be going, into the Forces. This, however, is the black side of the picture; the hard core of regulars still remains with us, and we expect to have at least as successful a season as we enjoyed in 1953-54.

The annual James Deane Payne Memorial Trophy Competition has been held, and once again Liobians 3rd XI was the winner of a most enjoyable series. It was with the greatest of pleasure that we welcomed a representative team of Masters into the fray; its advent added immeasurably to the interest of the Competition, and we trust that this is an innovation which has come to stay.

The Old Boys' Junior Shield team has overcome its first hurdle to the Shield by disposing of Wallasey Grammar School Old Boys, and we have high hopes that it will improve upon the performance which it gave in 1952-53 when it shared the Shield with Essemmay O.B.

Our league performances to date have been very satisfactory, and the 1st XI is about to embark upon its various Cup ventures. Only a brave or foolish man would attempt a prophecy on the outcome of the competitions; our main interest lies in the opportunity they afford us to meet teams against whom we do not normally play.

These notes would be incomplete without a reference to the outstanding performance of A. R. Childs in being selected to play for the England Amateur XI. We feel that this is a fitting honour to one who is an ornament to the game on account of his playing ability and his sportsmanlike conduct, and both School and Old Boys will, we feel certain, be justifiably proud that he learned the rudiments of each at the Liverpool Institute.

We are again indebted to the Headmaster for the use of Mersey Road for our fixtures this season. In these days when so many amateur soccer clubs are experiencing difficulty in obtaining playing accommodation, we feel that we are particularly fortunate in having a benefactor like the Headmaster, and we tender to him our sincere thanks for all he has done for the Club in the past, and is continuing to do.

W. FAIRCLOUGH, (*Hon. Secretary*).

MALTA

A dockyard, a dozen neolithic temples, the Mediterranean Headquarters of N.A.T.O., a language owing much to Phoenician traders, the Christian religion introduced by St. Paul himself, a Turkish cemetery, some lineal descendants of the Knights of St. John, half a dozen airfields, and hundreds of churches of all sizes and ages; scatter all these on a piece of land about seventeen miles long and six wide, and you will have a fairly good impression of the island of Malta.

Clinging on to the island almost by their eyelashes are 320,000 people, about 100,000 too many for the island to support. Every possible inch of this limestone rock is farmed, right up to the tops of the hills, by an ingenious system of terracing and irrigation. It is not only difficult; it is virtually impossible to be quite alone in Malta.

Were it not for its strategic position, between Europe and Africa, between Gibraltar and Suez, Malta would probably have attracted as little attention as our own Lundy Island. As it is, the Maltese archipelago, consisting of Malta and its smaller companions, Comino, Gozo, and uninhabited Filfla, has been fought over for five hundred years, and bears traces of man's work from the Stone Age to the Jet Age.

At Mnejdra, one of the great neolithic temples, Mr. J. D. Evans, of the Liverpool Institute and Cambridge, completed an archaeological survey of the island, and in July he broadcast in the Third Programme a report on his work. (Far from being the bearded old archaeologist of magazine stories, Mr. Evans sports a handsome baseball cap and wind-cheater, and goes armed with only a note-pad and excavating equipment.)

The pattern of life in Malta six thousand years ago may be deduced from the dozen temples, including the famous Hypogeum, an underground temple hewn out of the rock and at present depicted on the 1½d. stamp, from the man-made prehistoric cart-tracks—claimed as the first tramway in the world!—and from the mass of other evidence contained in tools, pottery and decorations of various kinds.

Four thousand years after these temples were built, St. Paul was wrecked on the island on his way to Rome as a prisoner. The legend runs that he was bitten by a snake soon after his landing, recovered miraculously, and decreed that henceforth none of the snakes found on the island should have the power to kill.

High up on the crest of one of the most prominent hills stands Mdina, 'Citta Vecchia,' witness of two thousand years of struggle and victory. The old limestone buildings, including some genuine Norman houses, gleam creamy white in the strong light of the Mediterranean sun, while at night the narrow streets are lit by hanging yellow lanterns, which give to the town an atmosphere of centuries-old charm and mystery. The great bastion of the old capital now looks out across an island where farming is more important than fighting, and where the Catholic religion is more important than anything else, an island peaceful after its many struggles, which culminated in the siege of the Second World War.

In the armoury of the palace in Valetta there stands the gaunt skeleton of a 'Gloster Gladiator.' All around the walls of this great room are the weapons of the knights—there used to be enough kept always ready to equip an army of twenty thousand, but there are now only two thousand pieces left, including some bought with money supplied by King Henry VIII before he broke away from the Roman Church, as well as the magnificent suit of armour which belonged to the great Valette, armour inlaid with gold and fashioned by one of the finest craftsmen of the age. Amid all this magnificence stands the little biplane; below the cockpit is one word, 'Faith,' for this is the only survivor of the three Gladiators Faith, Hope and Charity, which fought off the attacks of the Italian air forces before any help could fight its way through the hostile Mediterranean to the tiny battered island. Had Malta fallen the results in 1942 would also have been as disastrous as in 1565, for there would have been no base in the Mediterranean from which the Allies could have attacked the German and Italian convoys carrying supplies to their armies in North Africa. Once again it may be said that Malta played a vital role in saving Europe.

Malta is a tiny island in a strategic position; an island of tradition, of glorious history, a mixture of the oldest and newest; one hundred square miles of rock, where too many people try to scratch a living; an island which attracts those who visit it and holds those born there, despite the golden prospects offered to try to encourage emigration to the underpopulated vastness of Australia.

Sunlight on yellow stone, on stone buildings and walls, on stone shrines and cemeteries, on stony beaches and hilltops; patches of green and red and brown; blue skies and blue sea! For always there is the sea, the sea which has brought importance and glory, danger and fame.

J. H. EEDLE, (1938-47).

C.C.F. (Army and Basic Sections)

The outstanding event of the year was the Annual Inspection carried out by Major-General Exham, C.B., D.S.O., Chief of Staff, Western Command, assisted by Squadron Leader Grayson. 63 Group R.A.F., Hawarden. On a dull, rainy day, we were fortunate to have half an hour's fine weather for the parade, which was very successful. The turn-out was excellent and the drill had snap and precision. The instructional part of the inspection was also excellent, the instructions being given with confidence and received with interest.

In his address at the end, the General expressed his satisfaction with all he had seen and heard, and emphasised the importance of pre-service training for National Service; it added interest to the period of service, and it developed the powers of leadership required by Officers and N.C.O.s. The success of the Inspection should encourage all cadets to greater efforts.

The Annual Camp, this year held at Colchester, was most successful. In addition to commodious buildings and comfortable beds, the food was of a high standard, while the large parade ground, well used by the contingent, made drill more of a pleasure.

The thickly-wooded training areas, very different from our usual areas, confused us at first, owing to lack of co-ordination and mistakes in field craft. The demonstrations were not up to the usual standard, with one exception—the fire-power of a platoon. The use of "tracer" in this demonstration enabled everybody to see and understand exactly the capabilities of a platoon.

Certificate "A" results have been very pleasing this year, 14 out of 16 cadets being successful in Part II and 44 in Part I.

Field Day and half-term camp were both held at 80 W.E.T.C. (High-town) and both suffered from a continuous downpour of rain. At the camp, morale was very high, in spite of all training being done indoors. The use of the miniature range enabled everyone in camp to put in some useful shooting practice. Musical selections at night by L/Cpl. Rogers on his bagpipes raised morale still higher.

The lack of junior N.C.O.s at the beginning of this term was keenly felt. Cadets who had recently passed Certificate "A," Part II, were employed as Section Leaders in all platoons, and were made responsible to their platoon commanders for the training of their sections in all branches of Corps activities. In all cases their zeal and efficiency have been rewarded by promotion to L/Cpl. To all cadets, however, I must say that the efficiency of the Contingent depends on them. They must be smartly turned out in uniform every week and attend all lunch-time lectures. We would rather have a small Contingent of keen, efficient cadets than one which contained a high percentage of careless, untidy units.

Of ex-cadets now in the Forces, we wish ex-R.S.M. Gillberry success and happiness in his training at Sandhurst for his Service career, and congratulate ex-Sgt. Jones, D.C., on his selection as an officer-cadet, now training at Eaton Hall.

Our thanks are due to our O.C. and his officers for their interest, help and hard work throughout the year, and to Mr. Moy as treasurer of the Contingent.

A. E. HEMESLEY, C.S.M.

C.C.F. (R.A.F. Section)

At the annual inspection last July, the Unit was complimented on its keenness and efficiency by Major-General Exham, C.B., D.S.O., and Squadron Leader Grayson, the inspecting officers. They were particularly impressed with the high standard of lecturing by N.C.O.s, and in the course of the morning the meteorological enthusiasts set off a large experimental balloon, which eventually landed in East Anglia.

During the summer holidays the Unit went to camp at R.A.F. Aldergrove, Northern Ireland, where, despite the bad weather, we had an enjoyable time. Several cadets went on navigation courses at R.A.F. Halton and flying training courses at R.N.A.S. Stretton, while Sgt. Kaufmann had an overseas flight to Berlin. Flight-Sgt. Bywater and Sgt. Pierce started their Flying Scholarship Training during the holidays, and have since been awarded their Pilot's Licences. Cpl. Barbour took a gliding course at R.A.F. Detling and obtained his "A" and "B" licences.

In the July proficiency examination six cadets gained their ordinary proficiency and three their advanced proficiency certificates.

Field Day, in October, was held at R.A.F. Hawarden, where cadets were flown in Ansons, and several were fortunate enough to be included on a routine flight to R.A.F. Ternhill. In the afternoon the section visited the De Havilland works at Broughton, where many types of aircraft, including three Comets, were being assembled.

During this term two cadets have been undergoing inoculations prior to overseas flights. At half-term a party under Cpl. E. J. Wilson went to R.A.F. Halton, where they distinguished themselves on the navigation course.

Several promotions were made at the beginning of term and a high standard of instruction has been maintained.

Our gratitude is again due to our officers, our C.O., Flight Lieutenant Watson, and Flying Officer Preece for their unfailing interest in the Unit.

D. H. PIERCE.

C.C.F. AIR SECTION—SUMMER CAMP, 1954

Last year's summer camp was held at R.A.F. Aldergrove, Northern Ireland. Having assembled at eight o'clock on Thursday evening, the 22nd July, we embarked on what became eventually a very crowded ship and sailed from Liverpool at 9-30 p.m. After a quiet, but sleepless night aboard the vessel, we reached Belfast at 7-30 a.m. next day. The camp, situated twelve miles from Belfast, was reached in a downpour of rain and no time was lost in availing ourselves of the opportunity provided by a free morning to remedy our lack of sleep. The remainder of the first day was occupied by an introductory lecture explaining the training which was to follow, and in familiarising ourselves with the camp and its immediate surroundings.

Training began on Saturday morning and was both varied and interesting, an emphasis being placed on such activities as would prove most interesting to cadets. Visits were paid to the Station Fire Section for a demonstration of the latest fire drill, and to the safety equipment section, where cadets were measured for parachutes and were given dinghy practice.

On Sunday, the contingent assembled for church parade at 10-30 a.m., and, after an inspection by the senior officers of the individual cadet contingents, marched through the camp to the pretty little parish church of Killead. It was an extremely neat and efficient parade and the contingent was duly congratulated. The service was conducted by the Station Chaplain and the lesson was read by our Commanding Officer, Flight Lieutenant Watson.

Monday and Tuesday were spent in a continuation of the excellent training programme arranged for us. Every cadet received a flight in Hastings aircraft, from which several cadets emerged looking rather greener than previous to their flight. The Hastings aircraft were, in fact, a part of the only R.A.F. meteorological flight in the United Kingdom. One of our cadets, Flight Sergeant Jeffery, was lucky enough to be included in a routine twelve hour Atlantic flight. Many cadets were given a period in Link trainers and others had the opportunity of shooting on the miniature .22, or the .303 ranges. Two visits were also made to the Marine section based on Lough Neagh, which was situated a few miles from the camp itself. A period of physical training was included in each morning's programme and was fully appreciated by the majority of cadets.

The facilities offered by the camp were excellent. Several cadets took the opportunity of testing their equestrian abilities by virtue of the facilities offered by the Station Riding Club, and on returning were thankful that long periods of sitting could be avoided.

An escape and evasion exercise, devised by the C.O., provided an interesting break in the normal scheme of work on Wednesday. Parties of six cadets were deposited at various points some distance from the camp, and were expected to use their intelligence and initiative, in returning by the quickest means possible, after having obtained certain information about the locality in which they had been left. Even such notable people as the Lord Mayor of Belfast, and the Inspector-General of the Ulster Constabulary were not immune, and their signatures were secured by Under Officer Ferdinand's party.

Preparations for the departure occupied most of Thursday morning and the Contingent left camp at 2 o'clock in R.A.F. troop carriers for Belfast. After an interesting tour of the city, we embarked on the "Ulster Prince" and reached Liverpool without incident at 8-0 a.m. next morning.

D. L. BYWATER.

SCOUT NOTES

The past six months have been very eventful and largely successful, despite many changes and the loss of several old friends.

Summer Camp was held in good weather at Rockfield, near Monmouth, and all agreed as to its success; indeed, few present members of the Troop can remember a better one. We were honoured by the presence of Messrs. Moy, Tait and Rogers, and ex-A.S.M.s Oxburgh and Rochester, who stayed with us for varying lengths of time.

Here we must mention that Mr. Haig, our former G.S.M., who devoted himself unsparingly to furthering the interests of the Troop, left us, after a long period of most faithful service. He is now living in Dorset, and we wish him and his family the best of luck in all their enterprises there. Others who left in July were A.S.M.s Gee and Morrell, Officers Grant and Darling, and P.L.s Hill and Harling. To counterbalance these losses, the new School year saw the welcome arrival of two newcomers to the staff, Messrs. Mann and Evans, who have very kindly agreed to give up their leisure time to run the Troop.

We now have a full complement and our future prospects are bright. Unfortunately neither of the patrols entered for the Tilney Colours or the Behn Colours was successful, but the latter competition was lost by only four marks out of some three hundred.

Seniors and others have recently taken part in many hikes, and each patrol held its own Field Day in the half-term holiday. We hope to arrange as usual our Christmas Good Turn Visit to Woolton Remand Home, which, we trust, will be as entertaining as in the past. Providing that sufficient people manage to thaw themselves and their boots out, several hikes should take place during the Christmas Holidays. Regular weekly meetings are now being held, and we are confident of continued support.

We extend a most hearty welcome to our two new Scouters, Mr. Mann and Mr. Evans, and offer to them and to Mr. Smith, our most efficient treasurer, our sincerest thanks for all they have done and are doing for the Troop.

R. J. WALKER.

RUGBY FIVES

Through the departure of R. R. Arno, P. Best and K. Ruffell the School team has lost three of its most experienced members. The weakness should, however, be only temporary, since three of this year's team are promising players and quite young. Prospects for the next two or

three years are therefore good; and our losses against a Manchester University team and Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby, need not be a discouragement.

The general standard of the game in the School has improved considerably this year, as a result of the stimulus provided by the Fives Ladder competition. It is also pleasing to notice that there are a number of keen recruits to the game from the third and fourth forms.

Since there is so much keenness, we hope that something will be done soon to make the covered court watertight and the lighting adequate. It will then be practicable to hold School matches in the evening in the winter terms, and to give senior boys a chance of playing after School.

The Senior House Championship was won by Philip Holt, and the E. Davies Cup for the Singles Championship was shared by R. R. Arno and P. Best, after a contest which lasted for over an hour, and provided the finest exhibition of skill and stamina seen in our courts for many years.

K. THOMSON.

THE GAME OF RUGBY FIVES

We alone of Liverpool schools possess Fives courts. In this we can account ourselves fortunate, since Fives is a very good game indeed. Its origin lies far back in the past. All games now played with rackets were once played with the hand and known as Fives. We may instance the French for tennis: jeu de paume. (Paume means the palm of the hand.) Even up to the beginning of the 19th century 'Tennis' and 'Rackets' were often called Fives. The word 'Fives' probably refers to the fingers of the hand. In 18th century slang a 'Bunch of Fives' meant the fist. The use of rackets in certain games was a development from the wearing of gloves and bindings of skin and cords on the hand.

Nowadays there are two chief varieties of Fives: Eton and Rugby. Our courts are Rugby courts and conform fairly closely to the standard dimensions. The Eton game originated in the bay of Upper Chapel at Eton College next to the Chapel Steps. The front wall was the north wall of the chapel and the side walls two of the buttresses. A step divided the court into an 'inner' and an 'outer' half. The end of a balustrade formed a hazard on the left wall, now known as the Pepper Box, and there were various other irregularities, such as ledges and a drain ("Dead Man's Hole") which are still retained in modern Eton Fives courts. The first block of Fives courts to be constructed on this design was built in 1840.

As you know from our courts, Rugby Fives is a much more straightforward game and, unlike Eton Fives, contains very little of the element of chance. The result depends almost entirely on skill and fitness. In the second half of the 19th century many schools adopted the game as played at Rugby and built courts approximating more or less to the Rugby courts. Inter-school matches became popular and school magazines usually record wins at home and defeats away, together with comments on the peculiar shape of the opponents' courts. Often a match consisted of combined home and away fixtures.

In 1927 Dr. Edgar Cyriax, the greatest of all Rugby Fives players—he was supreme for 35 years—founded the Rugby Fives Association.

About the same time, Singles and Doubles Open Championships and the Public Schools' Championships were inaugurated, and the annual fixture between Oxford and Cambridge first took place.

It is a pity that the game is almost confined to schools. The bending, stretching and running involved and the fact that equal use must be made of both hands make it one of the most strenuous of all games. Few activities are so exhilarating as a closely-contested singles match; indeed, from some points of view I would claim that it is the best game of all.

D. W. R.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

At the beginning of the season we were greatly encouraged, when we noted the improved general fitness of our teams. Our hopes of easy success during the season, however, were dashed, when, in subsequent matches, we discovered that the fitness of other teams had also improved, and we realised that success would not be so lightly ours.

The junior team began the season well with an easy win over Prenton School, but, although they ran well in their next match against Southport Technical College, they lost to the fastest junior team on Merseyside.

The senior team have also run well. They have beaten Chester Training College, H.M.S. Conway, and Quarry Bank High School.

The Under 15 team won against Southport, but lost against Quarry Bank High School.

Mention must be made of our Under 14 team. Although they have lost both their matches, there is much promise for the future, and we are quite confident that several of them will mature into good runners, if they train conscientiously.

Senior and junior teams continued with fair success in the trophy races, which are run annually for Merseyside schools.

In the Memorial Trophy race the junior team was placed third out of eleven schools, and in the senior race for the Cumella Cup, the School was again placed third. The week following, in a much larger field of runners, the junior team was placed fifth in the Booth Cup race, and the senior team third in the Sangster Cup race, in which V. N. Cowan ran very well to finish first.

Thanks are due to K. Thomson for his wisdom in selecting teams, to Mr. Rowell for his untiring enthusiasm and encouragement, and to Mr. T. J. O'Mahoney, who gave us a most helpful lecture.

G. McCULLOCH.

GYMNASTIC CLUB

The Club, now in its second year, has continued to flourish during the past term. Membership, especially among boys of the Lower School, has shown a great improvement, and it is to be hoped that this enthusiasm will not decline in the future. It is thought that the *trampoline*, a recently acquired piece of apparatus, will attract increasing support, for with it considerably more advanced work can be attempted.

The Gymnastic Team, selected from members of the Club, suffered a great disappointment in the summer term, when, after weeks of intensive training, the Sports Day display had to be cancelled because of bad weather. Nevertheless, a display has been planned for the Hobbies Show in March.

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

R. S. WHITING.

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY

The change from one school year to another is reflected in the ranks of the Society, as the older and more experienced debaters take their final leave of the School and are replaced by another generation. This process of revitalisation has occurred, and the Society can happily claim to be as firmly established as ever. The first five meetings of the sixty-fourth year have been well attended and the members of the Society are to be congratulated upon a standard of debate that has improved steadily from the commencement of the session and has on occasion soared to Parnassian heights. Several Old Boys have continued to attend the debates and thus testify to the feeling of loyalty and affection which is a unique characteristic of membership of the Society.

Meetings held so far this term have been:—September 28th: "That the politician is a menace to Society." Pro.: G. Bilson and J. N. Sissons. Con.: J. H. Edwards and E. R. Cregeen. Motion Defeated: For, 6; Against, 11; Abstentions, 6.

October 12th: "That the law is an ass." Pro.: J. E. Sharp and J. R. Parry. Con.: B. A. Gliston and D. L. Bywater. Motion Defeated: For, 11; Against, 17; Abstentions, 7.

November 2nd: "That this House believes the 'H-Bomb' to be a deterrent to war." Pro.: P. A. Kennerley and D. G. McCulloch, Con.: A. E. Hemesley and P. L. Taylor. Motion Defeated: For, 7; Against, 21; Abstentions, 3.

November 16th: "That this House has no time for the Modern Miss." Pro.: R. A. Hayes and G. Bilson. Con.: M. T. Williams and J. R. Parry. Motion Defeated: For, 11; Against, 16; Abstentions, 1.

November 30th: "That this House will welcome the advent of inter-planetary travel." Pro.: L. Ritchie and P. Smith. Con.: S. G. Norris and A. F. Stokes. Motion Carried: For, 23; Against, 5; Abstentions, 4.

The programme of future debates may be found in the Green Book.

Our most sincere thanks are due once more to Mr. Moore, whose vigour and resourcefulness are indispensable to the Society.

We are grateful, too, for the help and advice of our three Vice-Presidents, and for the support of the committee and of Lord High Poker in Chief, M. T. Williams.

P. SMITH, P. L. TAYLOR.

MACALISTER SOCIETY

There have been four meetings of the Society so far this term. The first paper was read by Mr. J. Webster, who chose as his subject "Comedy in English Literature." Mr. Webster differentiated between satire, parody and burlesque, illustrating his talk with selections from Jane Austen, Sheridan and Lewis Carroll. The paper on "Mithras," by H. E. Matthews, was topical and thought-provoking. Embracing, as it did, six of the ancient mystery religions, it stimulated wide discussion on comparative religion. In his paper on "Archaeology" J. B. Taylor outlined the history and development of that science in Egypt, Mesopotamia and the Aegean, and examined the contributions made by archaeologists to history. Towards the end of term, Mr. R. T. Jones read a paper on "Nature in the Novels of the Brontës," in which he attempted to picture for us the landscape of the Yorkshire moors and to illustrate the fondness of the Brontë sisters for expressing personal feelings and resemblances in terms of natural phenomena.

J. B. TAYLOR, H. E. MATTHEWS.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This term, three meetings have been held. The first, delayed through difficulty in obtaining a functioning projector, was a film show consisting of three films, entitled "England's Wealth in Wool." These films described how woollen manufacturing has affected England's economy.

The next meeting took the form of a debate: "That history, as it is written, leaves out most of what history ought to tell us." The motion, proposed by E. Bramall and K. Crossley and opposed by J. Grace and J. E. Sharp, provided an extremely entertaining debate. It was finally defeated by 5 votes to 9 with 1 abstention.

A talk by Mr. Rogers, entitled "Railways versus Revolution," formed the last meeting. The paper was both informative and interesting, and proved to be most enjoyable.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Rogers and Mr. Edge, our Vice-Presidents, for their assistance and guidance in all activities of the Society.

J. E. SHARP, J. A. STANTON.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

There were two excursions at the end of last term and both were highly successful.

The first, conducted by Mr. Edwards, visited the limestone area of Ingleborough. After exploring some of the more accessible pot-holes and caverns, the party split up; one section led by Leech and Darling climbed to the Yargas Cave, while the other, led by Mr. Edwards, kept to the lower country to see Thornton Force and Kingsdale Gorge.

The second party, under the guidance of Mr. Parker, climbed Cader Idris to examine features of glacial erosion. Despite a few tense moments, they descended the Fox's path to Dolgelly in safety.

We hope to make another excursion in the near future.

A wider choice of films has been made available this term, and Canadian, German and Swedish films have been shown to well attended meetings. The Society's library, open on Tuesdays and Fridays in Room 37, has continued to be well used by members.

Soon the Hobbies Show will be upon us again, and to this the Society intends to make a special contribution. Members are urged to enter exhibits and to make the Geographical Section a success.

We wish to express our thanks to Mr. Hughes for his voluntary services, which help to make our meetings so successful. We must also thank Messrs. Edwards and Parker for their unflagging interest in the Society.

G. BILSON, W. G. DAVIES.

SIXTH FORM SCIENCE SOCIETY

In the Autumn term the Society has been most active. At the first meeting, Dr. H. K. King, M.A., F.R.I.C., gave a lecture on "Science in the Treatment of Disease." Dr. King explained the action of recently discovered drugs, such as sulphanilamide, and showed why other drugs or poisons would not be successful in killing bacteria.

The Society then turned its attention from bacteria to larger things, when Mr. A. Young, B.Sc., F.R.A.S., addressed the Society on "The Rotation of the Earth." The speaker gave much evidence of the deceleration of the earth, and particular interest was shown in the details Mr. Young gave of climatic changes. In one of the demonstrations a member acted as a substitute for the earth, demonstrating the relationship between the disposition of his weight on a turntable and his angular velocity.

Dr. C. A. Clarke, M.A., F.R.C.P., gave an extremely interesting talk on "Some Genetic Principles Exemplified in Butterflies," illustrated by many superb colour slides. Dr. Clarke brought with him live specimens of several types of butterflies, together with an ants' nest, on which the Large Blue caterpillar feeds. The habits of this caterpillar, in particular, aroused a great deal of interest.

An afternoon visit was made to the works of British Insulated Callendar's Cables Limited, at Prescot, where members saw the processing of impure copper and the manufacture of many types of metal articles.

Towards the end of term we were honoured in having Professor Morton and Professor Owen of Liverpool University to lecture on "The Nature and Mode of Action of Vitamins," and the "Principles of Bridge Construction," respectively.

As yet, comparatively few non-science members of the School have joined the Society. Members from the Classical and Modern Sixths will be most welcome, and the meetings arranged for the remainder of the year should be of interest to many of them.

Our thanks are due to all who have assisted the organisation of the Society.

J. V. ROSENHEAD.

CHESS NOTES

This year we welcome Mr. E. R. Jones and Mr. Willott, who have taken charge of the Chess Club in place of Mr. Turner, who left us at the end of last term. We feel sure that under their guidance the Club will continue to flourish.

Early in the term D. J. Kenworthy, an Old Boy of the School, presented the Chess Club with a clock for playing "lightning" chess; through this very generous gift he expressed his gratitude to the Club and to the whole School. Already this clock has timed several interesting games.

This term marked the introduction of a ladder to enable boys to gain recognition of their skill by challenging others. Competition has been very keen, both at the top and at the bottom of the ladder, and there have been some unexpected results.

Finally we should like to thank all members for their support. If there are any other boys interested in chess, who are not yet members of the Club, they are welcome in Room 11 at 4-10 every Tuesday.

C. J. MORLEY.

MUSIC CLUB

The Society's programme last term included a variety of gramophone recitals and one piano recital by a member. The latter was given by J. McCabe, who played three preludes by Kabalevsky and a Mozart sonata. There was a very large attendance at this meeting. Notable amongst the gramophone records heard at other meetings were the popular Fifth Symphony of Beethoven, Schubert's String Quartet, "Death and the Maiden," César Franck's Symphonic Variations for piano and orchestra, and the Alto Rhapsody, by Brahms, in which the soloist was the late Kathleen Ferrier. The Music Club is indebted to Mr. Naylor, Mr. Evans, and D. S. Collens for the loan of these records, which embraced vocal, orchestral, piano and chamber music.

It is hoped that this term Mr. W. H. Jones, Mr. R. Best, a former secretary, and J. R. Parry will give recitals.

On September 20th, the Chamber Group gave a recital at St. Dunstan's Church, Wavertree. Most of the works played were written in the eighteenth century, and included Telemann's Suite in A Minor and works by Corelli, C. P. E. Bach, Gluck, and other composers.

The School Orchestra continues to meet every Friday afternoon at 3-20. Several enthusiastic younger boys have recently joined, and the group is prospering under the guidance of Mr. Williams. Violin and cello classes are still held in the dinner-hours.

Once more, the thanks of the Society are due to Mr. Naylor for his continued help and guidance.

J. R. PARRY.

CHRISTIAN UNION

Most of the meetings, which have been held regularly throughout the term, have been addressed by guest speakers. Our visitors included the Rev. C. P. K. Barnes, who spoke on "Vocation"; the Rev. C. J. Davey, who told us of his experience of the church in India; the Rev. W. J. Bradnock, the translations secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society and an Old Boy of the School, who gave us a fascinating talk on the work of his Society; the Rev. R. Smith, the curate of St. Philemon's; Mr. Crighton and Mr. W. F. Adams, both Liobians. Our own members conducted two meetings.

At the end of the summer term a party attended the S.C.M. conference for sixth forms at the Royal Institution. It was a full-day meeting and proved worthwhile to all who attended. This term a small number of boys shared in the conference at Holly Lodge, and others have taken part in the monthly Scripture Union Rallies.

The Society has recently acquired a notice-board, and we wish to thank Mr. J. W. McDonald and Mr. S. Reed for thus enabling us to make our activities better known. We welcome Mr. E. R. Jones and Mr. C. P. Mann, who have attended our meetings regularly and helped us in arranging our programme. Mr. Jones introduced a most helpful discussion on "Discipleship." Finally, our thanks are due to Mr. J. E. Watson for his chairmanship and his continued support and interest.

J. B. TAYLOR, P. A. KENNERLEY.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The annual Summer Excursion took place on July 9th, when a party of seventy-eight travelled by coach to the Shropshire village of Little Stretton. In sunny weather, we walked up Ashes Hollow, made our way over the Longmynd, and finally descended into Carding Mill Valley to join the coaches at Church Stretton.

Unfortunately, the fine weather experienced on the Society's excursion was by no means typical of the summer of 1954, and it is perhaps the photographer, more than anyone else, who has had cause to bemoan the English climate. The consequent feeling of frustration, however, may well lead us to make more use of our cameras during the winter months, and it was indeed apt that the first meeting of the term should have been a lecture entitled "When Winter Comes." This suggested, and illustrated by means of a film-strip, some of the many subjects suitable for winter photography. We have had, too, a very helpful and interesting lecture by Mr. W. H. Jones on "The After-treatment of the Negative," when he demonstrated several methods of intensification and reduction of negative material. Our most recent lecture, illustrated by a film-strip, was entitled "Making the Most of Your Camera."

At the remaining two meetings of this term, we shall be visited by very distinguished lecturers; Mr. R. M. Fanstone, A.R.P.S., an expert on Colour Photography, will speak on "Ferranicolor," and Mr. Lancelot Vining, F.R.P.S., F.R.S.A., on "Forty Years in Fleet Street."

A full and varied programme has been prepared for the remainder of this session, and among the meetings arranged for next term are lectures by two very eminent photographers; Mr. Donald Allen, F.R.P.S., F.P.S.A., who will give a demonstration of Portraiture, and Mr. Karl Pollak, F.R.P.S. who, for many of our members, needs no introduction.

Tutorial Classes for beginners and less-proficient members are held at 4-15 p.m. on Monday evenings, and the Society's library is open, during the lunch-hour, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is hoped that all members will make full use of the facilities the Society offers, and that our exhibit at the forthcoming Hobbies Show may be even better than in 1952.

S. G. NORRIS.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Society has enjoyed a successful year so far, and we report with pleasure both the participation and attendance of many younger members. The solvency of the Society has enabled us to purchase a 1955 "Stanley Gibbons Catalogue," and to hire a film for the final meeting of last term.

Several meetings have been held: a quiz, which was won by N. Rimmer, 3F, and a debate, the motion of which was "That French Colonials are a hindrance to a good collector." The motion was defeated by 16 votes to 14. A meeting in a lighter vein, a Philatelic "Twenty Questions," was held, with L. Bivon in the chair, and on another occasion there took place an auction of stamps contributed by members of the Society. Our thanks are due to K. Sykes and A. Brignell, who acted as auctioneers.

The library has been open on Friday dinner-hours. The Stamp Pool, too, has been improved and increased. Credit is due to the librarians and treasurer for their good work.

Once again we must acknowledge the help, interest, and encouragement of our Chairman, Mr. Lloyd, who has greatly contributed to the success of the Society.

J. E. SHARP.

MODELS SOCIETY

Last term we said goodbye to many members who had been in the Society since its foundation in 1948. The most sadly missed, and the most irreplaceable, was our Vice-President, Mr. Thorpe, who never tired of giving a word of advice to all. We wish him a long and happy retirement at his new home near Ulverston.

Since the last report in the Magazine, our annual excursion has taken place; this year to Merionethshire, where the party visited the Fairbourne Miniature Railway, and also enjoyed a trip on the renowned Tal-y-Llyn Railway.

This term we welcome as Mr. Thorpe's successor Mr. J. D. Wray, an Old Boy of the School and a keen modeller. He has started a "Model Aircraft Section" of the Society, open to members who have paid their subscription. Mr. Wray's report appears below.

This term we have visited the works of the Liverpool Overhead Railway at Seaforth Sands, and a visit to the Model Shops at Cammell Laird and Co.'s yard is envisaged for the near future. As usual the Christmas term ended with the popular social, when members partook of refreshments and enjoyed impromptu entertainment.

Our thanks are due to Messrs. Tait, Durband, Wray, and to Mr. Forbes for the arrangements in connection with the Overhead Railway visit.

MODEL AIRCRAFT SECTION: At the beginning of the year a new Model Aircraft Section was started, affiliated to the Models Society. Regular meetings are held at 4-0 p.m. each Wednesday in the Gymnasium, and it is hoped to hold flying meetings during the summer at Mersey Road on Saturdays and week nights. The purpose of this section is to promote an active interest in all the branches of Model Aircraft construction and flying.

H. W. MOORE.

ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORT SOCIETY

Normal activities continued last term, including a notable series of lectures given by A. R. Phillips and D. Littler on transport systems on and around Merseyside. The Society has been greatly encouraged by the increasing support amongst the junior boys, especially in the attendances at the Society library.

Mr. Forbes kindly consented to lead a party around the Liverpool Overhead Railway works at Seaforth, and also gave a talk to introduce the history and the present details of the Railway to some of the younger members.

Given adequate support by those members of the School who are interested in engineering and transport, the Society hopes to extend its activities in the future, both in and out of School, especially in the form of works visits and half-day excursions.

Once again our thanks are due to Mr. Hosker for his loyal support of the Society's activities.

P. L. TAYLOR, G. P. QUAYLE.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society welcomes Mr. Wray in place of Mr. Noonan, whose valuable work last School year was much appreciated.

Early last term, a film describing the habits of salmon was shown. This, no doubt, helped to increase the support given to subsequent meetings, which have included many interesting talks and discussions on varying topics.

We enjoyed a most successful ornithological and botanical excursion to Delamere Forest, and it is hoped that there will be similar excursions in the near future.

Finally, we wish to thank Mr. Walker for the support he has given to the Society.

I. A. EDWARDS.

SHIP ADOPTION SOCIETY

The Society has been meeting regularly on Fridays for lectures and for the use of the library. We have also added periodicals to the library. The Society maintains frequent contact with a former member of the School, now in South Africa, who visits the *Ixion* when it docks in Cape Town.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. Boote for his regular correspondence with the *Ixion* and for his ever helpful guidance.

P. SWENSSON.

PICTURE GALLERY

During the autumn term, prominence was given to the subject of painting, in the shape of thirteen pictures from the Rutherford Loan Collection, which is housed at Peel Park, Manchester. Schools and other institutions, on payment of a sum which covers transport and insurance, can select thirteen pictures for exhibition each term. Term by term the pictures are changed. It is not always possible to obtain exactly the examples desired because of the great demand from the many schools—and in any case the collection is divided into sets of a dozen pictures each. In addition to a set of twelve, one can choose a single extra picture of higher value from a special pool for exhibition each term. The autumn term "pool" picture was a fine example of the work of Wilson Steer and was placed opposite the art room. Most of the remainder were hung in the dining room. The whole set, representing work in oil, water colour, and line-and-wash was insured for more than a thousand pounds.

Several guide-lectures were given to various forms, and there was evidence that the pictures had aroused much interest from all sections of the School.

S. R.

OXFORD LETTER

Oxford.

The Editor, The Liverpool Institute Magazine.

Sir,—The dreamy spires of Oxford are still trembling from the impact made on them after their sixteen weeks of peace by the reassembled University. The beneficent Ministry of Education have let loose their annual contingent of lost causes to roost, blossom and flourish in their traditional Nirvana. Even if the only bumps made so far this term have been on the persons of the piebald swans of the Isis, Oxford is conscious that the new academic (?) year has begun.

Our venerable dons, Mr. McKie and Mr. Kneale, may view such a scene with a fortitude born of experience. To them it is as inevitable as Hogmanay and, one hopes, as enjoyable.

Our senior graduates are Mr. Bell and Mr. McDowall. Mr. Bell is at Wycliffe Hall, where his tasks are devotional and "devotional," as he is braving the intellectual and moral rigours of Oxford, after some mild and equable years at Cambridge. Mr. McDowall studies Roman coins dating from the time of Nero, a pursuit greatly helped by the munificence of the Oxford motor omnibus conductors. His first discovery was that they were not acceptable to his gas-meter.

Mr. H. S. Dodd of Magdalen may sometimes be seen galumphing around Oxford in a reputedly four-wheeled velocipede dating from the same period as Mr. McDowall's coins. The engine is usually pointing towards London, where one suspects Mr. Dodd's heart interests lie, but this is no guide to the behaviour of the automobile, if such indeed it be. Mr. C. B. Dodd of Merton, one feels, would spurn such mechanical travel. Not for him the carburettored explosions of his brother, but rather the quiet slide into the High, the stealthy pad to Carfax, the elegant lope up the Cornmarket, the embarrassed shuffle back through the Market, the grace of physical movement more than the disgrace of not being able to start one's car.

Mr. Roberts, our senior undergraduate, came to Oxford as a promising young scholar, promising essays here, translations there, even to return the bicycles he borrowed. Not having accomplished the difficult transition from bright young thing to bright not-so-young thing, he can afford to sheath his trail-blazing broly, and brood with patriarchal indifference over the mishaps of us lesser and fresher mortals. His co-collegiate at Jesus, Mr. Owen, has forsaken the vicissitudes of Oxford life for the quieter confines of a hermit's cell on the Banbury Road, but pays fleeting visits to his college in attempts, like us all, to keep, not the wolf or the bailiff, but the big, bad Bursar from the door. The Jesus triumvirate is completed by Mr. Jeffery, who has joined so many societies in his first term that one feels that many would collapse if he withdrew his financial support. Some few threaten to collapse if he attends any more of their meetings. But if a mathematician cannot nicely calculate his club expenditure, who can? Certainly not Mr. Mackinnon of Corpus, who, to prove the point, has had himself elected as our secretary. This skilful handling of the Prefects' Fund in years before drew gasps of admiration for his arrangement of accounts, and of horror for the increased subscriptions thereby necessitated. Perhaps this year he will take to puffing his hashish in the background, and leave the details of the work to his college freshman. Mr. Kenworthy. This gentleman comes here with a reputation as an infant prodigy and a beguilingly honest face. He will need both assets, and several more besides, if he is to straighten Mr. Mackinnon's accounts. Meanwhile these two mathematicians glower at each other over their perpetual games of chess.

Our President, Mr. Morris of Lincoln, may be called in to pour oil on the waters. He was almost burnt as a Guy on November 5th: luckily he had the presence of mind to take off his hat. Mr. Morris is probably an intellectual—he had heard of Toulouse-Lautrec before the film "Moulin Rouge." Mr. Case of New College must be an intellectual—he has never heard of "Moulin Rouge." His two years' experience in the R.A.F. Fighter Control is now timed to the far trickier business of controlling the fiendish fluids in his flasks and test-tubes. Mr. Case is still with us—can there be better proof of his chemical competence?

Mr. Shaw, of St. Peter's Hall, runs; to where, or away from what, is uncertain. He has a reputation for sartorial significance and could be called the Salvador Dali of Savile Row. In Mr. Shaw's attire, the symbolic and the neo-realistic walk hand in hand—the effect is either *avant-garde*, or sans everything.

The University College grows larger. The most senior, Mr. B. L. Jones, basks in the reflected glory of his expression of pleasure when his collections were duly and truly accepted, although it was not the thought of collections that had troubled him, but the danger of despatch. He

expresses doubt at current gossip that the Radcliffe Camera is a Library, and not one of the aspects of "Cherwell's outdoor publicity group." Mr. Oxburgh enters twice as many activities as anyone else with twice as much enthusiasm. For recreation he takes week-end visits to Cambridge, ostensibly to retrieve his far-flung disci but I fear his true intents are obscured by a conveniently typical Stygian-Cantabrigian gloom. His newly-arrived companion, Mr. Page, in all probability could solve this mystery, but he spends much of his time employing his R.A.F. navigational technique in steering the College-Fours to defeat on the Isis. This was through no fault of Mr. Page, however, whose style catches the eye as skilfully as it catches crabs. Mr. Glover, of Oriel, also rows, but not for his College Four, which might perhaps explain their recent defeat. Of Mr. Barnes one sees little. I can only hope he is not one of the one hundred and one Lost Souls of Christchurch, for whom Great Tom shatters the piquant despondency of an Oxford evening. Or perhaps he is the one hundred and second?

Finally there is Mr. G. H. Jones tucked away in the Arab Quarter at B.N.C. over a wine and spirit merchant, who is, appropriately, his namesake. Tunnelling operations, doubtless provided by that love and kindred spirit, are in progress. He is also writing of his two years with the Royal Navy in Scotland, an autobiography provisionally titled "Two Years Before the Mist."

And now, sir, a final scandalous chapter. But, hist! Was that the pitter-patter of tiny eyeballs outside my key-hole? I fear I must sign off, quickly and shrewdly, as

Yours,
BODLEIAMANIA.

CAMBRIDGE LETTER

Cambridge.

The Editor, The Liverpool Institute Magazine.

Sir,—Industrious Cambridge! Not even the stoniest heart on the University Grants' Committee could fail to be stirred at the sight of Cambridge's innocent nurselings, as they stream duffle-coated from the lecture-rooms of Mill Lane to cycle through the thick Anglian fog towards the nearest library. Why comes this Tripos-inspired but premature urge to work? Can it be that the rise of the price of coffee to sevenpence the cup has driven us from "K.P." and "Copper Kettle" to seek the cheaper but more heady stimulation of Mr. Papastavron on "Modern Greek"? Are we less inclined to doze our days away at the pictures, now that the Rex is giving "Genevieve" its SEVENTEENTH Cambridge showing? Or is that the sixteen pert, intelligent, learned young maidens who radiate charm from their New Hall on a backwater by the Millrace have taught us the joys of work? Suffice it to say that Cambridge is full as never before of Captains of Industry and there are few who are, like your correspondent, content to be Sergeants of Sloth.

In this intellectual field Messrs. Pugh and Waddington are keeping up their ends well. Mr. Pugh emerges from research only to chide the "Listener" for its misconceptions of Chekov; Mr. Waddington (surely no-one remembers Mr. Waddington?) has been here since 1949. Mr. Sweeney, too, loves Cambridge: three years as an undergraduate, and two learning Russian as the Navy's guest have not satisfied him: he is here for more. Mr. Hodson is never seen, but then one hears no evil of him, which is a sign of a virtuous life in so gossip-prone a society as ours.

But to the undergraduates. None is more industrious in keeping us together, none more charming in extracting our subscriptions than Mr. Barber at Pembroke, who recently organised his college Poppy-day rag and spent the day ushering round the Rugger club in their gym-slips and pigtails, stopping traffic and picking up coppers (pennies, not P.C.s.).

Coppers, however, pick up Mr. Smith, who has graduated from motor-bikes to Jaguars, to which he now devotes all his energies. Mr. Wilkie acts: he recently had a part in "Zuleika Dobson": your correspondent went to see it, but unfortunately paused to strike a match in the wrong place and missed the whole line. However, the Liobian tie has been seen on the quad, of Judas. Mr. Dailey and Mr. Magnay live together in a room high up in Jonn's—very high up; they grow edelweiss in window-boxes. Mr. Dailey sports a blue, and Mr. Magnay is persistently organising the fifth Rugger XV which is *very* short of players. The Cambridge University branch of the A.E.U. is organised by Messrs. Norris and King, who "wire up" plays and balls—Mr. King is also secretary of the Wireless Society, and will shortly open I.T.A.'s first transmitter from a concealed studio high in King's Chapel. With him at Caius is Mr. Kirby, who disgraced us by taking a first in Tripos, Part I: he now lives in a room in College where he keeps a sheepskin nailed to his sofa—word says he shot it himself on a geological visit to North Wales. Mr. Jacobs at Selwyn is the power behind the throne of the "Taylor and Cutter": he even plays hockey in morning dress. Mr. Bilson is becoming a big man in the Union --or anywhere else for that matter.

Newcomers are Mr. Howlett and Mr. Cross. Mr. Cross comes, I hear, straight from School to read mathematics—he may therefore never be heard of again: Mr. Howlett is the only man in Cambridge reading Dutch: this he combines with Russian. So long as Liobians can discourse learnedly on the influence of the revolt of Alva or the poetry of Pushkin, there will be no need for us to bow our head in shame, and there will ever be proud news from

Your Cambridge correspondent,

δx.

THE PREFECTS' LETTER

The Editor, The Liverpool Institute Magazine.

Sir—The discovery in London of the Roman temple of Mithras has revived interest in the ancient mystery cults which flourished two thousand years ago and which, so the authorities conclude, subsequently became extinct. I can dispel this myth by presenting my proof of the existence of one of these cults, whose rites are practised under your very roof. I refer to that remote and unfrequented throne of mystery, the Prefects' Room.

High Priest of the order is one Mr. Ferdinand, who is distinguished by his robe of faded green, which is exchanged on festal occasions for a nightshirt of purest white, finely embroidered with nitric acid stains. This gentleman was reared "in the best R.A.F. tradition," but nevertheless insists upon discipline and efficiency. He is devoted to his books and likes to see them all about him; on the occasions when they are not, it is possible to see the Prefects' Room table.

He is supported in his office by the "terrible Taylor twins," who are so completely identical that they have the same surname. "J.B." commands authority by a simple process of dazzling his victim by the brilliance of his apparel. As a classicist, he has been entrusted with the care of the Household Gods, which he bears for ever at his side in a small leather case, over the contents of which he is observed to gloat in times of mental strain. "P.L.'s" coat is of a similar hue, but double-breasted; and, being familiar with Inquisition practices, he is an expert deviser of detention punishments.

The "Third Man" is Mr. Hayes, whose theme song is "Why am I all of a zither?" In his quest for adventure he has taken to car driving, and the neat row of notches on his front bumper testify to the fate of those lamp-posts that dared to obstruct his progress.

Music and dancing play a great part in the ritual and Mr. Williams may be seen leading an entranced and swaying file to the chant, "Slow, slow, quick, quick, slow." The amusement arcade, which this gentleman brought from the Isle of Man, is reported to be flourishing, as well it may, being subsidised by the Prefects' Fund, of which Mr. Williams is treasurer.

Another musician is Mr. Smith, whose enthusiastic singing in Hall bears a marked relationship to the style of Frankie Laine, and certainly the parallel is extended in the case of his devoted lower-yard "fan club." Mr. Smith is of a quiet disposition and those who know him well interpret his thought as "Lord, what fools these mortals be!"—but those who know him better realise that he is trying to remember the proof of Pythagoras' theorem.

The real voice of the Prefects' Room, however, is that of Mr. Hemesley, whose parade ground repertoire is modelled on that of R.S.M. Brittain. His boots are a joy to behold and, with the advertisement fees received from the Boot Polish manufacturers, he buys hair restorer that is secretly lavished upon his upper lip.

Yet another familiar voice is that of Mr. Dumbill who, it is said, has never been the same since he was refused the solo soprano part with the Luton Girls' Choir. He drowns his sorrows in his mid-morning beverage and has been seen weeping over a beaker of Horlicks, which, having no handle, was burning his hand. His studies proclaim him to be a Classics man, but of what he is a classic example is yet to be discovered.

Little is known of Mr. Fynn's activities, save that his proudest possession is a three-dimensionally powered telescope which enables him to view, not only the constellations of Taurus and Pisces, but also those of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. The secret of his athletic success he refuses to share, but it is obvious to all that it is not unconnected with the brand of toothpaste which he uses.

Appearances are deceptive, and few would suspect that in the breast of Mr. Matthews there dwells a mighty passion; those who have seen him observing the dawn will acknowledge the depth of his feeling. Being a man of great intellect and wit, Mr. Matthews can dispense Plato and ice cream with equal assurance.

Mr. Bywater's fame rests in his aeronautical exploits. As a pilot he has developed a distinctive style, the hallmark of which is the strings of washing inevitably seen trailing from the undercarriage of his aircraft. His ambition is to make a successful landing on the School roof and, entering by way of the chimney, to arrive *Per astra ad arduam*.

Mr. Cowan is famed for his prowess at running, and his hobby is the collection of Press cuttings celebrating his achievements. His favourite one is the headline, *Victor steals the show at Farnborough!* A genial companion when in his cups, coffee or Brit-Vic, Mr. Cowan's supreme care is in attire, his tailor being the Dunlop Rubber Company.

The patience and self-discipline shown by Mr. Thomson in his earnest application to his geographical, mathematical and linguistic studies deserve success, and everyone hopes that his ambition will be achieved, so that he may qualify as a taxi-driver. Mention must be made of his sporting activities; indeed, he hopes to be the first man to run a mile in four minutes, wearing encyclopaedias instead of running shoes, and his energetic attack on the foundations of the fives' court may be viewed daily.

Another sportsman is Mr. Whiting who, as his name implies, has very pronounced aquatic instincts. If his mathematical training is aimed at the evolution of an infallible permutation for the football pools, he may be described as one ever ready to take the plunge. One day, however, he will plunge too far and, his pet trampoline propelling him through the gymnasium roof, he will be seen no more.

Mr. S. Norris is determined to make his mark upon the School and, since his success in the School Play was recognised in the Birthday Honours list, he has carved the legend in various corners, declaring that S. N. has the Order of the Garter.

A second novice to the order is Mr. Hesketh, who maintains a discreet silence, broken only by an occasional expletive in some foreign tongue. Such people have to be watched most carefully, and not a few of his colleagues have noted with alarm his affinity towards house painting, since his visit to Munich.

At this point I must conclude my astonishing revelation, for I catch the scent of burning incense; the rites are about to begin again, so I must conceal myself in the brass vase on the mantel-shelf. I will therefore bid you "arrivederci," or, as they say in Liverpool, "Ta-ran-ta-ra."

Yours,

CANNON FODDER.

A JOURNEY INTO SPAIN

We left Liverpool on Thursday, July 22nd, and, after travelling rapidly through London, and across the Channel, we reached Paris, and boarded the train for Dax, a thermal resort in south-west France. The line ran through much impressive scenery such as the Loire Valley and the extensive, flat, pine forest of the Landes. We spent Friday night at Dax, and the next day's journey lay through Pau and across the Pyrenees into Spain. It seemed that, of the four railway routes into Spain, we had picked the most beautiful and the most interesting, for the line climbs right up into the mountains, passing through the most astonishing mountain scenery of deep gorges and towering peaks, the most impressive of which is, perhaps, the Pic du Midi d'Ossau. Tunnel follows tunnel as the line gets higher, and after passing through a spiral one, both ends of which can be seen from the outside, the train plunges into another, about 4,000 feet above sea level—this is five miles long, and both ends can be seen from the middle, one in France and one in Spain. At the Spanish end is Canfranc station, a vast building used by two trains a day, an excellent example of the Spanish love of the grandiose. The train took us from here to Jaca, a town nestling in the mountains.

A pleasant week was spent here, during which we accustomed ourselves to Spanish food, more extreme types of which we were to come across later. The position of the town was such as to make it ideal for use as a touring centre; we went on two coach trips, one to Ansó, a mountain village where mediaeval costume is still worn, and a second to San Juan de la Peña, a monastery built under an overhanging cliff which serves it as a roof.

From Jaca we went on to pass a night in Zaragoza, visiting the great cathedral shrine of El Pilar. We spent Sunday on a very slow Spanish train, en route for Montserrat. The fantastic outline of this mountain has to be seen to be believed. On top is the Monastery, which is reputed to have the best choir school of its kind in Europe; we were privileged to hear the magnificent singing of the boys and the monks at three services. The next day, descending the mountain by rack and pinion railway, we set off for Barcelona.

Here we could enjoy the beauty of this spacious, modern city, and watch the working of a port on the shores of the Mediterranean. Of the many sights we saw during our few days stay, the two most impressive were the Church of La Sagrada Familia and the Pueblo Español—a full-scale model village in one of the many parks.

Leaving Barcelona, we started on our return journey, passing along the Costa Brava, and through Gerona. Here, we had the memorable experience of dining in the garden of our hotel at nine o'clock in the evening. This was one of our last Spanish meals, however, and the following day we resumed our travels, passing out of Spain and journeying overnight up through Carcassonne, Toulouse and finally to Paris and London.

C. G. E. BERRY, J. R. PARRY, L. RITCHIE.

WHAT IS IT?

This peripatetic page displays the combined cogitations of the academic *élite*.

Nevertheless its journey to its domestic destination is fraught with more misgiving than anticipation.

Being safely delivered to the head of the household, it is given more than a *coup d'oeil*. Its recipient broods upon this strange concatenation of subjects, liberally bespattered with hieroglyphics of Arabian origin calculated with decimal precision. Eagerly he scans it, to discover whether the least glimmer of his own intellect is reflected in his progeny, and is alternately indignant at the ignorance and indulgent of the intelligence of his offspring.

It is returned to the archives, in the hope that its next disinterment will engender less trepidation in the heart of its owner.

J. R. CONDER (L5Sc).

TEN LITTLE INSTITUTES

Ten little Institutes tried 'mensa' to decline;
One forgot the Dative, and then there were nine.

Nine little Institutes came to English late;
One became a Scavenger, and then there were eight.

Eight little Institutes cheered the School 'Eleven';
One came too near the goal, and then there were seven.

Seven little Institutes at Maths. were in a fix;
One solved the ratio, and then there were six.

Six little Institutes at Greek had hoped to thrive;
One forgot his Prose Book, and then there were five.

Five little Institutes sent outside the door;
Along came a master, and then there were four.

Four little Institutes in detention for a Pre;
One upset the ink-pot, and then there were three.

Three little Institutes eating Irish Stew;
One dropped a dinner-plate, and then there were two.

Two little Institutes thought they'd have some fun;
One ran down the staircase, and then there was one.

One little Institute work completely done,
Expired upon the corridor, and then there was none.

S. C. E. RICHARDSON (L5A).

THREE DAYS BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

I entered the Russian sector of Austria on the back of a motor-cycle. It was actually in Munich two days before that I was advised to visit Vienna: an entry permit is officially necessary, but I was assured that I could manage without one. So it was that I was clinging to this motor-cycle, driven by a very friendly young man, who lived near St. Pölten, about 40 miles west of Vienna. He had picked me up six miles out of Salzburg and was taking me to St. Pölten, a distance of about 150 miles.

We were passing Linz on our left; quite an industrial town, I thought, observing the smoking chimneys of factories. Some miles further on we came to the border between the American and Russian sectors, with open road-barriers on either side. Russian army lorries started passing us. We overtook one and I had a good view of its passengers. There were three or four men on the back—probably private soldiers and an N.C.O. The privates wore forage caps and capes; the N.C.O. wore a peaked cap of the flat Russian type, with a red band, and his tunic of bright khaki had red epaulettes and a high collar. All looked thoroughly miserable, for the lorry was open at the back and it was raining at the time.

After following the Danube for some 50 miles, we reached St. Pölten in the afternoon, and I said goodbye to my benefactor. I walked through the town, and, after accidentally thumbing a Russian army lorry, to the chagrin of its passengers, I succeeded in entering Vienna in the back of a Morris Minor. As we approached the suburbs I saw a sign at the roadside, "Check Point Ahead." My heart leapt to my mouth and remained there, until I discovered that this applied to American vehicles only.

I saw much of Vienna during my stay, and came to the conclusion that the old-world gaiety of the city is far from dead. There are, of course, the four zones, British, American, French, and Russian; but it is almost impossible to know which zone is which, apart from the nationality of the soldiers you see in the street. There is little or no remaining evidence of damage by bombing. Gardens, parks, and fountains are in abundance. The Danube at Vienna, I found to my disappointment, is a pale, muddy grey. There are many impressive buildings, including the famous church of St. Stephen, the Town Hall, the Opera House the Parliament building of dazzling marble, and the Russian Embassy. The latter is a fine, tall edifice, fronted by four marble statues of goddesses, above which is a colossal red star.

Determined to secure a snapshot of Russian soldiers at this spot, on my first day I waited here, pretending to examine a display of pictures of all the good things the Russians had done and were doing for the Eastern Germans and the Eastern Austrians. Soon two Russians came along, marching, as usual, their rifles slung reversed across their shoulders. As they passed me to enter the embassy, I turned and photographed them from behind. I should explain that in the Soviet sector there is a strong aversion to cameras, especially when directed at the troops of the Red Army.

The next evening, I was passing the Russian Embassy again and noticed a lone soldier guarding two jeeps outside. He looked about eighteen years of age, as did all the Russian private soldiers I saw. I decided to try to engage him in conversation. I walked up to him and spoke: "Sprechen Sie Deutsch?" He blushed, shrugged, and looked away. I repeated the question: whereupon he replied: "Nicht verstehen," and his embarrassment grew worse. For something to say, I said, "Ich bin ein Engländer." He looked interested, tapped himself on the chest and exclaimed, "Ja Russ." This he reiterated each time I attempted to open my mouth. I laughed and clapped him on the shoulder; terror-stricken, he pushed me away. I retired to the opposite side of the road. Immediately, a jeep drew up and a Russian naval officer resplendent in blue and gold stepped out and entered the building. A few minutes later he emerged and called the sentry over, presumably reprimanding him. Whether he was deported to Siberia or not, I had no means of knowing.

Vienna is a huge place and it took me some time to get out of the city on to the road south-west to Italy and Yugoslavia. As it was, I was fortunate and hitched a car outside Vienna to Klagenfurt, in the British sector. Before leaving the Soviet sector, however, I was pleased to see a young Russian soldier travelling the same way as I was—hitch-hiking!

J. N. SISSONS,

UPPER FIFTH LAKE DISTRICT TOUR, 1954

A bright August morning saw us setting off from Coniston Far End Youth Hostel for the real start of our Lake District Holiday. Our week's tour gave us so many glimpses of natural wonders and beauty, that a detailed account would not fit into these pages. I shall outline a few events.

Monday was Scafell day. We approached the mountain by the beautiful route up the Esk valley, with its lovely falls. We had little breath to spare as we plodded upwards, alongside Cam Spout, to Mickledore. From here, we made the ascent of a rather slippery Broad Stand. Our only casualty was a light rucksack, which was not, apparently, much worse for its fall of about a hundred and fifty feet. We slept well on Monday night, having enjoyed the overture to the Lakeland Fells.

Our "day off" was Thursday. We spent it in a leisurely fashion, boating on Derwentwater, and sightseeing in Keswick. The little islets, which make Derwentwater so interesting, had to be thoroughly explored, and in keeping with tradition, we failed to locate St. Herbert's Hermitage.

Friday morning witnessed our toiling up Sour Milk Gill towards the Gables. We looked questioningly at the slight suspicion of mist. The sky was dull, and perhaps threatening. So far, we had seen the hills sparkling in the sunshine each morning, and the air had resounded to the bleating of lambs. Perhaps the Lake District was going to put on a demonstration of its other mood.

As we crossed the summit of Green Gable, the thickening white mist descended on us. We watched it creeping, obscuring the valleys below, enveloping everything. Our plans had been to skirt around Great Gable by the famous Climber's Traverse, and then to visit the summit. By half past eleven, however, visibility was scarcely fifteen yards, and a cold wind was cutting across the mountain side. We went straight to the summit, carefully keeping together, and checking our route by compass. Soon after mid-day we leapt with eager shouts of joy into the shelter below the summit cairn.

The day before, we had dropped on to purple heather, and quenched our thirst from the tumbling gurgling stream. Now we huddled close, and listened to the wind howling across that bleak mountain top.

The rain started as we left the summit, and we were forced to pick our way down the West Screes, hampered by capes and oilskins. Seven wet figures eventually emerged from the mist and trudged silently to Honister Head. During the long tramp down the Pass, we looked hopefully at the sun, which had shyly appeared, wondering whether it would have the good grace to dry us out. Some of us looked with a similar expression at passing motorists, but sun and motorists alike were equally unimpressed. We arrived, wet but happy, in time for supper at Longthwaite Youth Hostel.

What a splendid finale it had been. It was well worthwhile braving the elements, for the sheer exhilaration it had brought us.

Finally, I should like to thank Mr. Tait, on behalf of all concerned, for the time he spent in making the tour a great success.

T. A. JONES.

AFRICA CONFERENCE

On the 15th and 16th of October, in the School Hall, the Royal African Society organised a conference for sixth form students. The conference was opened by Bishop Gresford-Jones, who emphasised the importance of Africa today.

Mr. C. R. Niven, C.M.G., spoke to the meeting about Nigeria. He stressed the influence of geographical factors, and told of the complications that arise in the administration of the various tribes, with their 400

dialects. South Nigeria, he revealed, had been opened up at the beginning of the century, and education was becoming increasingly widespread through the influence of missions. But here, and more especially in the North, lack of money was proving an obstacle to further development.

Sir Gilbert Rennie, K.C.M.G., M.C., who was the next speaker, addressed the meeting on "The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland." Consultative machinery, he said, had been set up in 1939, and improved to meet new requirements, until it emerged as the present-day Federation. This Federation was necessary, because the individual territories were not self-sufficient. Sir Gilbert concluded by detailing the country's natural resources, and discussing its present financial situation.

On Saturday morning, Major Kendall Ward, M.B.E., addressed the Conference on the "Significance of Mau Mau." Kenya, he explained, was the size of France and had a population of six millions, 50,000 of whom were Europeans. Fortunately only 2½ per cent. of the country was affected by Mau Mau, and only the Kikuyu tribe supported the Society.

The Kikuyu, Major Ward said, had a history of their own. They had had contact with Arab slave-traders, but it was only 60 years ago that they really came into contact with Western civilisation, and the effect of education, Christianity and medicine on them was described as "explosive." Europeans had rapidly exploited the Kikuyu land and established themselves as the backbone of the area's economy. This provided new problems for the Kikuyu and others, as Kenya's economy was improved, while other aspects of the country's development were overlooked. The old Kikuyu culture proved insufficient to meet new demands.

It was the lack of understanding apparent in both the government and the missions, that had provoked unrest. Major Ward described the exploitation of this unrest by the more educated Kikuyu, such as Kenyatta, and their forming of the new society of Mau Mau, as "satanical."

The significance of the future was that the European was being challenged to share his civilisation, and it was his duty to promote mutual respect and love in Kenya between black and white.

Mau Mau had been caused by the collapse of a simple culture and had had terrible consequences but it could also be of some use if it were to make the European more conscious of the mistakes he himself had made.

Major Ward concluded with an appropriate quotation from G. K. Chesterton: "Out of hell and hate we shall make a thing to love."

The showing of a film about the Gold Coast provided a suitable finish to a complete and informative Conference.

We offer our thanks to the Royal African Society and hope that a similar meeting can be arranged in the near future.

PERILS OF PORLOCK

When the average, unsuspecting motorist sees *Porlock* on his route along the north Somerset coast, he does not take much notice of it. It reminds him of a hill he thinks he has seen recorded in the R.A.C. book, but there are hills and hills, and this one need not worry him any more than any other. So on he goes.

Arriving at the town of Porlock, he sees a busy main street with two large and prosperous-looking garages. "Strange," he muses, but drives on.

At the edge of the town there is a fork in the road; one way indicates *Lynmouth via Porlock Hill*; the other says, *Lynmouth—list of tolls*. He reads no further and takes the left fork to the Hill. That poor, unsuspecting motorist—little does he know what awaits him on the Hill!

One hundred yards farther on there is another notice which reads: "*Porlock Hill, Apply Bottom Gear NOW!*" Mystified, the wise motorist changes gear, while the foolish one does not, and thus loses all his chances of reaching the top. Perhaps he may be excused, however, for he still cannot see where the highway leads. On one side of the road there is a steep bank, which hides the sharp turn to the hill, and, unless the motorist has the accelerator pressed well down when he is on the corner, his car will stall on the long 1 in $3\frac{1}{2}$ stretch. The bank offers an admirable grandstand for the local yokels, who watch nearly every small car and light motor-cycle break down, only to be towed to one or other of the prosperous garages.

Later, the unfortunate motorist leaves Porlock by the other route, knowing full-well that touring broadens the mind and lightens the pocket.

W. J. RIGBY (L5Sc.).

FREEDOM

Oh! to be a sea bird,
On the wintry waves,
To hear the sound of the waters swirling
In the depths of the echoing caves.

Oh! to be a sea bird,
To follow the whalers far,
Out in to the cold grey wastes,
Towards the Polar Star.

Oh! to be a sea bird,
To live a life so free,
To scream and dart, to wheel and turn
Over the mighty sea.

Oh! to be a sea bird,
When the storm is raging high,
When it wrestles and tosses the mighty ships,
And the clouds go racing by.

Oh! to be a sea bird,
To dive and screech o'erhead,
As the fishing-boats enter the harbour,
And the sun sets fiery red.

D. STIRLING (L5Sc.).

Careers in Coalmining

Careers in the Coal Industry.—Modern Coalmining is very largely a new industry. More accurately, it is an old and vital industry which is being reconstructed to serve the present and future needs of the nation. While other forms of energy will help, the main source of power in the foreseeable future will continue to be coal.

Technical Careers.—Many well-paid and absorbing jobs are available and the Coal Board are ready to train you for them, either through a University Scholarship or—if you prefer to earn and learn at the same time—by taking you into the industry straight from school and providing technical training without loss of pay.

University Scholarships.—Highly-trained mining engineers are urgently needed. The National Coal Board offer a hundred University Scholarships a year: most are in Mining Engineering, but some are available in Mechanical, Electrical and Chemical Engineering and in Fuel Technology. They are worth about the same as State Scholarships and successful candidates receive them in full—parents' financial position makes no difference to the value of the awards.

Practical Training.—When you have qualified—either through the University or through technical college while working—you are eligible for a two or three year course under the Coal Board's management training scheme. Each trainee has a course mapped out for him personally and a senior engineer gives him individual supervision. If you come in to the industry on the mining engineering side, you have a very good chance of becoming, between the ages of 25 and 30, a colliery undermanager at a salary between £900 and £1,200 a year—or even a colliery manager with a salary in the range £950 to £1,650.

Other Careers.—There are also good careers in the Board's Scientific Department and in administrative posts. Young men and women of good educational standard (who have preferably spent some time in the sixth form or have attended a university) are also needed in such fields as marketing, finance and labour relations.

Full details can be obtained from any Divisional Headquarters of the Board or from the National Coal Board, Hobart House, London, S.W. 1.



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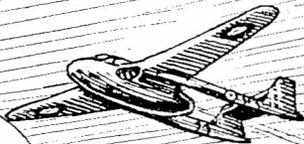
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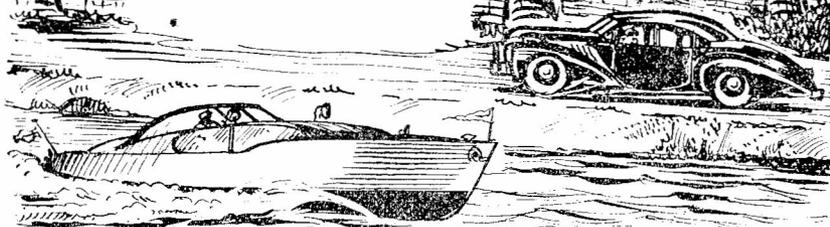
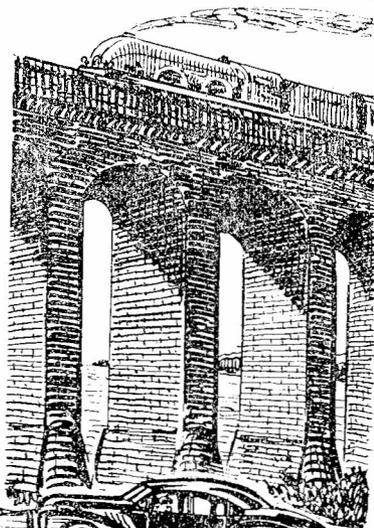
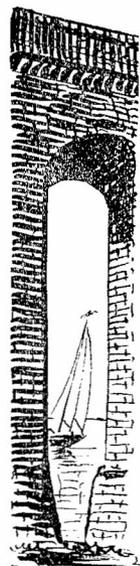
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