

Misericordias
Domini



in aeternum
cantabo.

THE ABINGDONIAN.

No. 20. Vol. VI.

MAY, 1927.

Price 1s.

CONTENTS.

Notices	296	Rowing	302
School Notes	297	Athletic Sports	303
O.T.C.	299	A.S.A.C. v. O.A.C.	304
Literary, Scientific and Debating Society	299	Correspondence	305
University Life in London	299	O.A. Notes	306
Football	301	Cricket Fixtures	307

BIRTH.

REYNOLDS.—At. St. Helen's Nursing Home, Abingdon, on April 6, to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Reynolds, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

TAME—RICKETTS.—On Tuesday, August 3rd, at the Trinity Wesleyan Church, Abingdon, by the Rev. N. E. Dando, Nan Ricketts, only daughter of Mr. James Ricketts, J.P., and Mrs. Ricketts, of Oxford Road, Abingdon, to Henry Palmer Tame, A.M.I.C.E., A.M. Inst., M. and Cy. E., youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Tame, of The Vineyard, Abingdon.

HUGHES—BOWDEN.—On December 29, 1926, at St. Michael's Church, Mottram-in-Longdendale, by the Rev. T. A. Lacey, D.D., Canon of Worcester, assisted by the Rev. F. M. Etherington, Provost of the Society of SS. Mary and Andrew, Taunton, and the Rev. M. Power (Vicar), the Rev. Harold Hughes, Headmaster of King's College, Taunton, son of the late H. H. Hughes, of Abingdon, Berks, and Mrs. Hughes, of Taunton, to Beatrice Serena Bowden, daughter of the late Dr. W. J. Bowden and Mrs. Bowden, of Glossop, Derbyshire.

LAYNG—HAYWARD.—On February 7, 1927, at Bombay Cathedral, Capt. Thomas Malcolm Layng,

M.B.E., M.C., I.A., second son of the late Dr. Henry Layng, of Swatow, China, and Mrs. Layng, of Cheltenham, to Mabel Kathleen, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hayward, of Colchester.

CULLEN—WALKER.—On February 9, at St. Michael's, Cumnor, by the Rev. A. D. Wilkinson, M.A., Sydney, eldest surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Cullen, Milton Cottage, Berks, to Mary (Mollie), youngest daughter of Mr. P. and the late Mrs. Walker, Rockley Field Farm, Cumnor.

BEVIR—LACOSTE.—On April 20, at Beverley, Yorkshire, William Bevir, youngest son of the late Rev. G. S. Bevir, of Pennington, Hants, to Germaine Lacoste, of Bordeaux, France.

DEATHS.

ROYLANDS-SMITH.—On Feb. 3, 1927, at The Heywoods, Teignmouth, Thomas Roylands-Smith, late Exeter Diocesan Choir Master, in his 81st year.

STANILAND.—On April 8, at his residence, 49 East St. Helen's, Abingdon, George Staniland, in his 73rd year.

PRYCE.—On April 29, at his residence, 32 West St. Helen's Abingdon, Charles Alfred Pryce, aged 75.

SCHOOL NOTES.

We offer our humble congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds on the birth of a second daughter. Likewise to Mr. Bevir on his marriage, and we take this opportunity of extending to Mrs. Bevir a hearty welcome into the circle of our Abingdonian community.

Mr. C. A. Pryce, whose death we record, was for over twenty years a member of our Governing Body and took an active part in its administrative labours. As Clerk to the Abingdon Exhibition Fund (Maintenance Grants) he was especially concerned with the Local Scholarship-holders, many of whom owe much to his kindly interest in their welfare. He had been in failing health for some time past and resigned his position as a Governor a little over two years ago.

In his time, as man of affairs, churchman, and philanthropist, Mr. Pryce had been among the most prominent of Abingdon townsmen. His profound knowledge of law—as a student he had achieved some of the highest honours in his profession—enabled him to discharge with distinction the many public offices which fell to his lot. As a County Court officer (Registrar and High Bailiff), as a Borough Councillor, Mayor ('96-'97), and Alderman, and later as Clerk to the Borough Justices, his services were invaluable. For many years he was a Governor of Christ's Hospital, and on three occasions Master. On two occasions he stood for Parliament in the Liberal interest, and on the first (1892) came very near to victory.

For upwards of forty years he had been a widower, and when his only son, A. O. C. Pryce, O.A., was killed in the war in 1918, there were few who knew better than his old schoolfellows of Royse's how great a loss the father had sustained.

Miss Grundy, whose health, we are glad to state, seems now to be quite restored, returned from Ascension Island in February.

The School Prefects this term are N. V. Pearson (Head of the School), S. R. Hunt, A. M. Thatcher, W. W. Brown (Head of the House), C. R. Hall, E. A. Passam and J. A. Squire. The sub-prefects are (in alphabetical order), T. G. Austin, R. E. Broadbent, S. A. Fabes, J. C. R. Gardner, E. G. Langford, H. R. Lansdown, R. F. Martin and E. P. Rice.

W. W. Brown is Captain of Cricket this term, and T. G. Austin is Hon. Sec. and Treasurer of the Games Club.

A. M. Thatcher has been appointed Librarian.

Rowing colours were awarded last term to J. C. R. Gardner, E. G. Langford, J. W. P. Martin and G. E. Sinclair (cox). W. W. Brown, who coxed the boat in former years, had already gained his colours in that capacity.

Athletic colours were awarded to L. L. Baumann, W. W. Brown, S. E. Clark, J. B. O. Durell, E. G. Langford and J. W. P. Martin.

The following boys were confirmed in the School Chapel on Sunday, March 20, by Bishop Shaw :—A. B. Blackmore, R. L. Dawson, H. F. Good, F. W. Jennings, W. B. Smith, J. A. Squire, D. C. K. Wright.

We congratulate S. E. Clark on his election in February last to the Abingdon School Scholarship at Pembroke College, Oxford.

The Young and Summers Scholarship has been awarded this year to R. F. Brown, of West House Preparatory School, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

E. A. Passam and O. T. M. Raymont successfully passed the School Certificate Examination in December.

Arrangements have been made with Mr. A. E. Winter, of the Pavlova Company, to come in daily this term and coach aspiring cricketers at the nets.

Our best thanks are due to Mr. D. H. Brown for presenting a Challenge Cup for the open Half Mile at the sports. Likewise to C. E. H. Dolphin, O.A., and R. L. C. Footitt, O.A., for a Challenge Cup for the Senior Steeplechase. Both these cups have been won for the first time this year by S. E. Clark.

We have also to thank the following donors for the following gifts to the School—all made since our last issue was published :—

To the Library.—The Rev. B. M. Challenor, O.A., for a copy of E. J. Brady's "Australia Unlimited."

To the Museum.—The Rev. B. M. Challenor, O.A., for some geological specimens from the Mareeba district of Australia; Mr. J. H. Viner for a small bronze coin, found locally, of Constantine the Great; and Mr. A. G. Wiblin for the nose of a German shell, which exploded in the ground within twelve yards of him.

On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 13, the Boarders were treated to a most interesting lantern lecture on Architecture by Mr. J. B. Aston. Mr. Aston, as many of our readers will remember, did half

a term's work as a master here in the summer of 1901, immediately after completing his finals at Oxford. Subsequently he became Headmaster of a Preparatory School, but after war-service, in the course of which he received serious injury, he was compelled to give this up, and is now devoting his talents to lecturing on diverse subjects. Last February he happened to be staying with a friend in Marcham, and took the opportunity of revisiting the scene of his early labours. We should like to put on record our sense of gratitude to him for so kindly delivering this excellent lecture to us without remuneration.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contemporaries:—*The Aldenhamian*, *The Alfredian*, *The Aluredian*, *The Chigwellian*, *The Laxtonian*, *The Leightonian*, *The Lily*, *The Limit* (*Magazine of Loughborough College*), *The Liverpool College Magazine*, *The Log of the Nautical College, Pangbourne*, *The Magazine of The City of Oxford School*, *The Monktonian*, *The Totnesian*.

We have noticed this term that the walls of the boarders' reading-room are somewhat denuded of framed photographs of the School athletic teams. There were just on 150 of them. Those which now remain represent the years from 1922 onwards. It was thought that the walls were over-filled and at the same time the photographs themselves, not being permanent, were slightly fading. Further, the majority were 'skied' above the ken of the small boy, and the whole collection was out of bounds for the day-boy. The photographs, which have been removed from the frames, have been covered with celluloid and bound in 'passe partout,' and made secure in book form in wooden boxes, which are stored on shelves in the Pembroke Room and are easily accessible for the enjoyment of all. The discarded glazed oak frames are now on sale at two shillings each, for those who have purchased copies of the groups for their own home use. It is hoped that the proceeds of the sale will cover the expenses of the present form of storage.

Very few of us have full knowledge of the amount of work entailed in producing the termly rag-concerts. The energy and time spent in bringing the performers up to concert pitch can be judged only by those who undertake the work. We have all thoroughly enjoyed these end-of-term efforts, which have always been awarded most hilarious applause. Occasionally we have been favoured by more serious dramatic work, which entailed considerable expense. On these occasions the stage-manager has been very

much handicapped by a 'rocky' stage, and lack of interesting properties; but thanks to a small fund which has recently been started, the stage no longer rocks, but has been made a permanency in the School gymnasium. It has been designed to fill in the entire east end of the room with a sloping floor up to the top of the steps, and to house the properties which we hope will soon be forthcoming.

The date of Founder's Day this year is June 24.

The School Regatta will be held as usual in the Wilsham Reach in the afternoon of June 23, and the Past v. Present Cricket Match is timed to start at 11.15 a.m. on June 25.

The Oxford annual examinations begin on July 12, and term ends (with the usual rag concert in the evening) on July 25. Boarders leave, for the O.T.C. Camp or otherwise, on July 26.

VALETE.

(December, 1926.)

VI. FORM.—E. M. Holbrook (1920, iii). 1st XI. Cricket, 1925. Colours, 1926; 1st XI. Football, 1924, Colours, 1925; Athletic Colours, 1926; 1st Class Shot, 1926; O.S.C. Exam., 1926.

C. F. Baumann (1924, iii). 2nd XI. Cricket, 1926; 1st XI. Football, 1926, Colours, 1926; 1st Class Shot, 1926; O.S.C. Exam., 1926.

V.A. FORM.—G. J. Holmes (1924, iii). 2nd XI. Cricket, 1926; 2nd XI. Football, 1926.

REMOVE FORM.—R. E. Marks (1924, ii).

(March, 1927.)

VI. FORM.—J. B. O. Durell (1922, ii). School Prefect, 1925; Head of the House and Captain of School, 1926; Athletic Colours, 1927; 1st Class Shot, 1924; Q.M. Sergt. O.T.C., 1925; O.S.C. Exam., 1924–5–6 (3rd class honours, 1924–6); Hon. Treas. L.S.D.S., 1926.

S. E. Clark (1922, iii). School Prefect, 1925; 2nd IV. Rowing, 1927; 2nd XI. Cricket, 1926; Athletic Colours, 1927; Certificate 'A,' 1925; Sergt. O.T.C., 1926; O.S.C. Exam., 1924–5 (1st Class honours, 1925; distinction in Greek and French twice and Latin once); H.S.C. Exam, 1926; Pembroke Scholarship, 1927; School Librarian, 1925.

O.T.M. Raymont (1922, iii). School Prefect, 1926; 1st Class Shot, 1926; Sergt. O.T.C., 1926; O.S.C. Exam., 1926; Hon. Sec. and Treas. Games Club, 1926.

J. W. P. Martin (1918, iii). 1st IV. Rowing, 1927; 2nd XI. Cricket, 1925; 2nd XI. Football, 1926; Athletic Colours, 1927; O.S.C. Exam., 1926.

V.B. FORM.—R. N. Trye (1922, ii).

SALVETE.

(January, 1927.)

REMOVE FORM.—P. B. Squire (*iterum*), D. P. Edsall.

III. FORM.—G. A. R. Boyd.

II. FORM.—A. C. Emms.

(April, 1927.)

REMOVE FORM.—E. R. Leslie-Smith, P. O. Darbshire.

II. FORM.—J. H. Bowditch.

O.T.C.

A field-day was held on March 4th, five miles east of Oxford, in the country between Wheatley, Stanton St. John and Islip. The scheme was an Advance Guard, of which we with Wantage School formed the vanguard, the main guard being found by Radley and St. Edward's (Oxford) contingents. The day was somewhat boisterous, but from our point of view it was quite interesting.

A certain amount of the annual musketry course was completed last term, when nine cadets qualified as first-class (Empire Test) and twenty-one as second-class shots. Those entitled to first-class badges are Durell, Broadbent, E. G. Langford, Lansdown, Randall, Short, Stone, A. M. Thatcher, R. N. Trye.

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

The second half of the 1926-7 session was somewhat slack, only three meetings being held. During the session Messrs. E. A. Passam, J. A. Squire, F. W. Jennings and R. S. L. Robinson were elected to the Society, the officers remaining as before.

Our first meeting was held on Saturday, February 5th, with the Vice-President in the chair. The Honorary Treasurer proposed and Mr. S. E. Clark seconded the motion that "In the opinion of this House, respectability is the bane of civilization." The Honorary Secretary and Mr. A. M. Thatcher opposed the motion. Mr. Ingham, Mr. Gardner and the Vice-President spoke for the motion. Mr. O. T. M. Raymont spoke but favoured neither side. The motion was carried by 8 votes to 6.

The next meeting again saw the Vice-President in the chair on February the 12th. In private business the Hon. Treasurer proposed and Mr. S. E. Clark seconded a motion that "in debate, the Proposer of the motion, and not as hitherto the Opposer, shall be the last to sum up." This addition to the rules was carried by 13 votes to 1.

The motion at this meeting, that "in the opinion of this House, the surest way to secure peace is to prepare for war," was proposed by Mr. E. G. Langford, seconded by Mr. C. J. E. Steff, and

The following promotions are made: to be platoon commanders, Sgt. N. V. Pearson and Sgt. A. M. Thatcher; to be corporals W. W. Brown and J. C. R. Gardner. The following are section commanders: Fabes, Hunt, Rice, Hall, E. G. Langford, Ogle, J. A. Squire and Robinson.

We congratulate Sgts. Pearson and Thatcher on passing the Certificate "A" examination held last March.

On July 26 the contingent will go to camp for nine days at Mychett Farm, Aldershot. The War Office is allowing us to take thirty-five to camp this year, and it is hoped that the contingent will march into camp with its full allotted strength.

was opposed by Mr. T. G. Austin and Mr. E. P. Rice. The following members also spoke: *Pro*, Mr. Hillier; *Contra*, Mr. Hall, Mr. Banes, Mr. Clark, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Ingham, Mr. Lansdown, the Hon. Treasurer; *Neutral*, Mr. Thatcher and the Hon. Secretary.

Three members voted for the motion, and twelve against.

Our third and last meeting was held on Saturday, February 26th, with Mr. S. E. Clark in the chair. Mr. A. M. Thatcher proposed that "in the opinion of this House, machinery will eventually entirely supersede manual labour." Mr. D. J. W. Hillier seconded the motion, and the Hon. Sec. and Mr. C. R. Hall opposed. The following members and visitor also spoke: *Pro*, Mr. Rice, Mr. Baumann; *Contra*, the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. E. G. Langford, Mr. Fabes, Mr. P. J. Squire, Mr. K. C. Smith. The motion was lost by 6 votes to 8.

Viewed as a whole, the 1926-7 session may be regarded as fairly successful, consisting as it did of 8 debates and 2 lantern lectures. It must be admitted, however, that the enthusiasm which showed itself in the first half seemed to wane rather rapidly in the second. But such, perhaps, is the way of Debating Societies.

UNIVERSITY LIFE IN LONDON.

My object in constructing this brief article is threefold. (My readers will, I hope, forgive me for

"getting off the mark" without any beating about the bush, or any exhibition of a neat literary style,

which I do not possess).

My aim, then, is, firstly, to record the experience gained in a three (approx.) year course in the University (for what it is worth); secondly, to make known generally what are, in my opinion, the chief advantages and disadvantages attending study at the University as compared with a similar course at Oxford or Cambridge; lastly, to provide, in a word, "fodder for the guns," for in the last few months I have felt *as every O.A. should feel*, that it was about my turn again to provide something for this most excellent magazine.

(I need hardly say that the italics are mine and are not a suggestion of the Editor's!!)

Perhaps before finally getting to work I may be allowed to apologise for selecting a rather uninteresting subject with which to eke out my turn. I can only defend my selection by emphatically denying the possible (??) rumour that I am one of the coming budding poets!

And so to work.

Before attempting to describe the life of an average student of the University, during term, it is necessary to say something about the University itself, and in particular its constitution. The University, of course, is quite unique. It is the largest in the country and possibly in the world, although some of the American universities, if we include their evening technical classes (as at Chicago), run it close in numbers. Many of the students in London are women. In University College alone there are between three and four thousand students, and of these more than one third are women. Contrary to general notions there are two and only two true colleges of the University; namely, University College and King's College. But in addition to these there have been created what are called "Schools to the University"—a most extraordinary institution, to my mind. The Imperial College, (comprising as integral parts the Royal College of Science, the Royal School of Mines, and the City and Guilds College), of which I am proud to have the honour of being a member, is so classed. It, consequently, is of this College that I shall have the most to say.

The other "Schools" to the University are, briefly, Birkbeck College, Gresham College, East London College, The London School of Economics, Royal Holloway College, Bedford College (for women), Battersea and Chelsea Polytechnics, Finsbury Technical College, The London School of Oriental Studies, the Hospital Medical Schools, and others. This conglomeration is known as the University of London. It is manifestly

ridiculous that such a college as the Imperial College should be classed with this miscellaneous collection. Birkbeck College also is worthy of true College status, and, may be, others.

Now a word as to geographical distribution. The administrative offices are housed in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, and it is a rather ironical fact that the Institute is more or less surrounded by the various buildings and Colleges of the Imperial College with which it was so long "at daggers." In fact, in Imperial Institute Road, described by *The Times* as "that famous street in South Kensington" there is little else besides the Institute on one side and the main building of the Royal College of Science on the other; and for many years these two have glared across at one another. At last, however, an agreement has been reached into which I have not time to enter here.

The two colleges of the University are miles away from the administrative offices. King's is in the Strand and U.C. in Gower Street. Birkbeck in near Holborn, and the rest of the "Schools" are scattered about all over the place. Consequently the discerning reader will at once realise the great difficulties in the way of anything like a corporate University life. The recent troubles at Bloomsbury will indicate that efforts are being made to overcome these difficulties. But the very nature of London will always stand in the way of any such social life in the University as is met with (or supposed to be met with) at Oxford or Cambridge.

It seems to me that the only possible solution is the wholesale shifting of Colleges and Unions, all to one part of London; but the difficulties in the way of such a move, financial and otherwise, seem insurmountable.

Now in addition to this scattering of the Colleges there is very poor provision for residence. Hostels and Halls are known, but they are the exceptions rather than otherwise, and in any case are quite inadequate as regards size. Consequently many of the full time students live in "digs" (uncertified and under no jurisdiction from the College), and an equally large number live at home. It was my misfortune to belong to the latter class. Although it only took me an hour to get to College each day and home again in the evening, it seemed an awful waste of time; but when I considered the plight of the men I knew who came up every day from such places as Brighton, Bedford and Reading, I thought myself lucky.

But it seems to me the chief trouble of living

at home is that of getting the work done. For a fellow who has been a boarder at his public school the endeavour to settle down to work in an atmosphere foreign to any serious study is very difficult. At School one is surrounded by fellows doing the same sort of work at the same time, and the sudden change from such a congenial atmosphere to that of the normal home is very upsetting; especially for the Freshman at the University of London. Of course, in time one should get used to it. Personally I never did, and it is only recently that I have succeeded in analysing my feelings on the subject, and have come to this conclusion.

In spite of these and similar difficulties the University is gradually finding more time for developing its social life. Each College has its Union. In London the Unions serve a fuller purpose than the more elaborate Unions of Oxford and Cambridge. The Union forms the general meeting place for all the students, and in connection with it are run all the clubs of every conceivable branch of athletics and all the various societies and social clubs. In the case of the Imperial College the Union forms the restaurant where all the students lunch, it provides a stationery shop, and is in fact the complete social centre of the College. It also, of course, provides smoking and bridge rooms, gyms, etc., and all the normal social gear.

Every conceivable type of athletic club is run, but in most cases it requires no small amount of courage to become a regular "patron." In

my own case, unbelievable as it may sound, it required on my part a sacrifice of 5 hours of my time in order to get a game of soccer of approximately one hour. The other four hours were occupied in changing and travelling to and from the ground; which in the case of the I.C. is situated at Wembley. When I had the pleasure of belonging to the Boat Club (a pleasure which was abruptly stopped by appendicitis) I was somewhat better served, as I only had to travel to Putney, half the distance of the Wembley journey.

My case will serve to show the difficulties in the way of anything like serious sport. Yet in spite of this the Imperial College Boat Club has six "eights" out every Saturday morning; the Rugger Club runs approximately seven or eight "fifteens," and the Soccer Club a similar number of "elevens"; tennis, golf, boxing, etc., are also represented, and among other scalps the Fencing Club last year obtained those of both Oxford and Cambridge.

What I have said will have shown sufficiently well that the University of London is a University of which any O.A. might be proud to be a member, and I hope that in the future we shall have more representatives of the School up here. During my three years we have had three representatives in the Imperial College alone; R. M. Hodgson, who is now doing the Chemistry Course in the R.C.S.; H. W. Beak, an O.A. of Mr. Layng's time, who was in the R.S.M., and lastly

Yours truly,
W.H.S.

FOOTBALL.

THE O.A. MATCH.

This was played on the School ground on Saturday, December 11th, and proved one of the best matches of the season.

At the start the School attacked strongly, but the O.A. defence was good and the School failed to score. It was then the O.A.s' turn to press, but excellent work by Savage in goal and Holbrook at right back saved the situation. The game continued to be very even—first one side pressed, then the other; but the defence on both sides seemed impenetrable. Shortly before half time, however, Brown managed to score for the School, who thus crossed over with a lead of one to nil. In the second half the O.A.s started with a strong attack. Good work by C. F. Baumann at centre-half and Savage in goal again saved the School, and the attack was frustrated. During this half the game was very keen, the School, perhaps, having a slight advantage.

There was no more scoring and the match thus resulted in a win of one goal to nil for the School. The halves, being the mainstay of the team throughout the season, played well up to their usual form. The backs played a sound game and were excellently supported by Savage in goal. The forwards, though they played a strenuous game, were too slow on the ball to be really effective. The teams were as follows:—Goal, K. R. Savage; backs, L. L. Baumann, E. M. Holbrook; halves, S. A. Fabes, C. F. Baumann, J. G. Waldron; forwards, R. E. Broadbent, G. V. Cook, R. M. Short, W. W. Brown, E. P. Rice. O.A.s: Goal, G. M. G. Macfarlane; backs, R. E. Eason, W. H. Stevens; halves, K. T. Wood, H. V. Stone, G. S. Sturrock; forwards, N. C. Wood, D. M. Brown, H. A. L. Donkin, C. R. Wright, C. Ellis.

JUNIOR HOUSE "SIXES."

This year has been even more unfortunate than last as regards the House "Sixes." The

ground, for days at a time, has been quite unplayable, and it has only been found possible to complete one round and about half of a second.

Points in the first round were gained as follows :

ROWING.

The season has been a disappointing one. Snow, sickness and floods have contributed towards the general discomfort of February rowing. No rowing colours were left from last year, and the nucleus for two crews consisted of the previous "cox." Something had to be done; and tubbing of the most likely candidates was carried on for a period of a fortnight, without bringing to light many 'hopefuls' or even 'possibles.' However, eventually eight sportsmen were selected to fill the various places, but it was very difficult to shape them into anything resembling a crew. No serious work was attempted until they had become accustomed to the light boats, and this was only a week or ten days before the first race.

Of the First Crew "stroke" certainly showed improvement, but the individual faults are too many to enumerate. Unfortunately, it must be confessed that with regard to the others their improvement was retrogressive, and the fact of being in a light boat seemed to exaggerate their difficulties. A fact that is not fully realised by young would-be oarsmen is that there is only one right, but many wrong ways of carrying out the various complicated movements that go to form a complete stroke; and it needs a good deal of perseverance and concentration to overcome the natural tendency to do the thing in the wrong way. Circumstances prevent much individual coaching when once the crews are provisionally selected, and therefore it is all the more necessary to adhere to the advice given during the early stages.

It seems improbable that there will be many left to form material for next year, but it is hoped that some of the younger members will provide more "promise." Adverse conditions—flood and wind—make instruction impossible for the inexperienced, and their opportunities are in consequence somewhat limited; but it is very important to acquire good habits from the start.

The crews were composed as follows :—

FIRST FOUR.

Bow	J. W. P. Martin.
2.	J. C. R. Gardner.
3.	W. W. Brown.
Str.	E. G. Langford.
Cox.	G. E. Sinclair.

—Green House 112, Red House 69, Blue House 54. A total of thirty-eight games was played. Keeness was shown as usual—not to speak of a certain amount of strong feeling.

SECOND FOUR.

Bow.	N. V. Pearson.
2.	D. C. K. Wright.
3.	J. A. Squire.
Str.	S. E. Clark.
Cox.	S. S. Bates.

An account of the races is appended.

THE RACES.

The School versus O.A.s.

This race was rowed on Culham Reach on Saturday, February 26th, conditions being singularly adverse. The river was very high, and there was a strong enough wind to cause a considerable amount of choppiness. The O.A. crew consisted of K. T. Wood (bow), W. G. Cullum, H. D. Stiles, K. C. Smith (str.), and T. Haynes (cox). The School won the toss and chose the Berkshire station, which was the more protected. From the first stroke of the race the School gained, although near the beginning it was thought that the O.A.s. were holding their own. The rowing of neither crew was conspicuously good, but the School maintained a better time, and won easily.

The School versus Magdalen College School, Oxford.

The races were rowed at Abingdon on Saturday, March 5th, under still more unfavourable conditions than prevailed for the O.A. race. Magdalen won the toss in each race, choosing the Berkshire bank, and gaining thereby a considerable advantage. The First Fours rowed first, and the race resulted in an easy victory for Magdalen. Magdalen gained steadily from the start, and at the Minute Tree had got a substantial lead of over a length. Both crews appeared exhausted at half way, though the form of the School Four seemed to improve. The time for the race was 4 min. 16 sec.

In the Second Fours' race the School crew met with much the same fortune as the First Four. The School got a bad start, and Magdalen drew steadily away. They appeared to be in better condition than our crew, and their lead increased till the finish, the final number of lengths not being determined. The time taken was 4 min. 35 4-5th sec., the apparently slow time of both races being accounted for by the bad conditions.

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

The School sports were held in the Upper Field on Saturday, March 19th, in lovely weather. Although a large amount of rain had been experienced, the track had dried surprisingly quickly and was in fairly good condition.

Owing to the heavy losses which our athletic talent has sustained since our last Sports, no extraordinarily good results were obtained, although some of the events reached quite a creditable standard.

The official positions of the Athletic Club were filled as follows:—President, the Headmaster; Chairman of the Committee, W. A. Rudd, Esq.; starter, J. B. E. Alston, Esq.; judges, E. J. P. Ross-Barker, Esq., and J. W. Reynolds, Esq.; timekeepers, W. Bevir, Esq. and C. O. Wright, Esq.; stewards, N. V. Pearson, C. R. Hall, and E. A. Passam.

Results:

1. Long Jump (Open).
(Challenge Cup presented by A. Stockton, Esq., O.A.)
1. W. W. Brown. 2. A. T. Hatfield.
Distance, 18ft. 1in.
2. Long Jump (Under 15).
1. P. D. Smith. 2. L. P. Mosdell.
Distance, 15ft. 8½ins.
3. High Jump (Open).
1. J. W. P. Martin. 2. O. T. M. Raymont.
Height, 4ft. 11ins.
4. High Jump (Under 15).
1. P. D. Smith. 2. G. A. Wood.
Height, 4ft. 4ins.
5. Hurdles (Open).
1. E. G. Langford. 2. O. T. M. Raymont.
Time, 19 secs.
6. Hurdles (Under 16).
1. A. T. Hatfield. 2. W. B. Smith.
Time, 20 secs.
7. 100 Yards (Under 12).
1. G. J. Goodey. 2. G. J. Hedges.
Time, 14 secs.
8. 100 Yards (Under 15).
1. L. P. Mosdell. 2. S. F. Thatcher.
Time, 12 1-5th secs.
9. 100 Yards (Open).
(Challenge Cup presented by Mrs. Price).
1. S. E. Clark. 2. J. B. O. Durell.
Time, 11 4-5th secs.
10. 220 Yards Handicap (Under 13).
1. G. J. Goodey (4 yds.) 2. A. L. Fleet (12 yds.)
Time, 31 3-5th secs.

11. Quarter Mile (Under 15).
1. S. F. Thatcher. 2. L. P. Mosdell.
Time, 65 secs..
12. Quarter Mile (Open).
(Challenge Cup presented by W. Pierpoint, Esq.)
1. E. G. Langford. 2. J. B. O. Durell.
Time, 61 3-5th secs.
13. Throwing the Cricket Ball (Open).
1. W. W. Brown. 2. A. T. Hatfield.
Distance, 79yds. 1ft. 3ins.
14. Half Mile (Open).
(Challenge Cup presented by D. H. Brown, Esq.)
1. S. E. Clark. 2. E. G. Langford.
Time, 2 mins. 22 secs.
15. Half Mile (Under 15).
1. S. F. Thatcher. 2. G. A. R. Boyd.
Time, 2 mins. 29 4-5th secs.
16. Putting the Weight (Open).
1. L. L. Baumann. 2. R. N. Trye.
Distance, 25ft. 11ins.
17. Relay Race (Junior).
1. Green House. 2. Red House.
Time, 3 mins. 9 4-5th secs.
18. Relay Race (Senior).
1. Green House. 2. Red House.
Time, 2 mins. 52 2-5th secs.

The results of the Mile races, run on Tuesday, March 15th, were as follows:—

- One Mile (Open).
(Challenge Cup presented by Mrs. Burkett.)
1. E. G. Langford. 2. S. A. Fabes.
Time, 5 mins. 28 1-5th secs.
- One Mile (Under 15).
1. S. F. Thatcher. 2. G. A. Wood.
Time, 6 mins. 36 4-5th secs.

The prizes were distributed outside the Pavilion, immediately after the last event, by Mrs. Morland.

The Heber Clarke Challenge Cup, awarded for the largest number of points gained by any individual competitor in the Senior events, went to E. G. Langford, with 34 points.

The Shallard Cup, a corresponding cup for Junior events, went to S. F. Thatcher, also with 34 points.

The House Cup (presented by the Ladies of Abingdon) was won, for the first time, by Red House, with 215 points, Green House being second with 156 points.

The prize-donors were as follows:—Mrs. H. Donkin, Miss Grundy, Lady Norman, Miss Sandys, Mrs. Sturrock, Mrs. Tatham, and Messrs. B. Challenor, E. M. Challenor, H. S. Challenor.

H. G. W. d'Almaine, H. Donkin, J. F. Downing, W. M. Grundy, A. P. Iliffe, J. H. Kirkby, R. W. Langford, A. W. Morland, W. T. Morland, A. E. Preston, E. J. P. Ross-Barker, W. A. Rudd, G. Saxby, H. P. Simpson, T. Skurray, G. S. Sturrock, M. T. Tatham, J. G. T. West; also the following ladies, who subscribed for prizes for the Quarter Mile Races, junior and open:—Mrs. Barge, Mrs. Budgett, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Challenor (The Firs), Mrs. Challenor (Waysmeet), Miss B. Challenor, Miss P. Challenor, Miss Childs, Miss Clarke, Miss Cope, Mrs. Cornish, Mrs. Dawson Clark, Miss Edwards, Miss Florey, Mrs. Gardner, Miss Harris, Mrs. Hayward, Miss Hugh Smith, Miss Isaac, Mrs. Kirkby, Mrs. Mainwaring, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Piers, Mrs. Preston, Mrs. Reynolds (The Gables), Mrs. Reynolds (Wootton Road), Mrs. Rudd, Mrs. Scott, Lady Laeta Shirley, Miss Watts, Mrs. Woodford, Mrs. Wright.

We wish to extend our best thanks to all the prize donors, and to all those, and especially Mr. Alston, who contributed by their efforts to make the meeting a success.

THE STEEPLECHASES.

The Steeplechases, which were to have been run on Thursday, March 10th, but which had to be postponed owing to the flooded state of the Common, were run on Tuesday, March 22nd,

instead. The day was almost ideal, the Common being drier than it has been for some years, but a strong wind prevailed, which checked the runners somewhat at the outset.

The Junior Steeplechase (under 14) was run first. The event was won fairly comfortably by E. F. Slatter, D. P. Edsall gaining second place. G. J. Goodey, who was third, was unfortunate in being beaten at the tape by a matter of inches. The time was 7 mins. 20 2-5th secs. Red House gained the greatest number of points, Green House being second.

The Senior Steeplechase was run immediately after the Junior. S. E. Clark, W. W. Brown, and J. W. P. Martin got well away at the start, thus avoiding being hampered by the field at the first ditch, and were bunched well to the front throughout the race. These three runners had strung out a little by the water jump, the order of crossing being S. E. Clark, W. W. Brown, J. W. P. Martin, S. A. Fabes, E. G. Langford. This order was retained until the finish, S. E. Clark winning from W. W. Brown by five or six yards. S. E. Clark's time of 12 mins. 10 1-5th secs. is one of the best times run since the record was established in 1922. As was the case in the Junior Steeplechase, Red House scored the most points and Green House won the second place.

A.S.A.C. v. O.A.C. (28TH MEETING.)

The twenty-eighth School v. O.A.C. Athletic Meeting was held in the Upper Field on Saturday, March 26th. There was a strong and cold wind, but fortunately no rain. There had been a good deal of rain on the preceding days, and the track, in places, resembled a suet-pudding. This was not calculated to produce any broken records, and, in fact, no record-breaking occurred. This meeting was remarkable for the fact that the School failed to win a single event.

Results:—

1. 100 Yards.

1. G. F. Powell (O.A.C.).
2. J. G. Brewerton (O.A.C.).

Time, 10 2-5th secs.

Powell ran well, with Brewerton a good second. There was a strong wind behind, which may have contributed towards the excellent time.

2. High Jump.

1. N. A. Carr (O.A.C.).
2. J. W. P. Martin (A.S.A.C.) and O. T. M. Raymont (A.S.A.C.).

Height, 5ft. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.

3. Quarter Mile.

1. J. G. Brewerton (O.A.C.).
2. J. B. O. Durell (A.S.A.C.). Time, 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ secs.

This race was closer than most, but Brewerton's pace was too much for the School representatives, and Durell was beaten by several yards.

4. Half Mile.

1. C. Ellis (O.A.C.).
 2. S. E. Clark (A.S.A.C.).
- Time, 2 mins. 19 2-5th secs.

In this race both the second strings found things too strenuous for them, and left their first strings to finish.

5. Hurdles.

1. N. A. Carr (O.A.C.).
2. E. G. Langford (A.S.A.C.).

Time, 17 3-5th secs.

Langford ran well, although Carr was a hurdle and a half ahead at the finish.

6. Long Jump.

1. N. A. Carr (O.A.C.).
2. G. F. Powell (O.A.C.).

Distance, 19ft. 8in.

Carr did two no jumps, and it was his final jump that won.

7. Mile.

1. C. Ellis (O.A.C.).
2. H. W. Hooke (O.A.C.).

Time, 5 mins. 25 3-5th secs.

E. G. Langford, the School first string, allowed himself to get too far behind, and could not pick up. There was a good race in the last lap between Ellis and Hooke, who both tried to win, and thus made a very fast finish.

8. Putting the Weight.

1. G. F. Powell (O.A.C.).
2. N. A. Carr (O.A.C.).

Distance, 31ft. 9in.

9. Relay Race.

1. O.A.C.
2. A.S.A.C.

Time, 2 mins. 6 3-5th secs.

Teams :—

A.S.A.C.	O.A.C.
A. T. Hatfield.	H. A. L. Donkin.
S. E. Clark.	C. Ellis.
W. B. Smith.	J. F. Sinclair.
J. B. O. Durell.	G. F. Powell.
O. T. M. Raymont.	N. A. Carr.
M. Ogle.	J. G. Brewerton.

The School seemed likely to win this race, and led for some time. There was no-one, however, capable of neutralising the effect of Powell, and the event was lost.

In the other events the School representatives were :—100 yards : S. E. Clark and J. B. O. Durell ; High Jump : J. W. P. Martin and O. T. M. Raymont ; Quarter Mile : J. B. O. Durell and A. T. Hatfield ; Half Mile : S. E. Clark and W. W. Brown ; Hurdles : E. G. Langford and O. T. M. Raymont ; Long Jump : W. W. Brown and A. T. Hatfield ; Mile : E. G. Langford, S. A. Fabes and J. W. P. Martin ; Putting the Weight : L. L. Baumann and R. N. Trye.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SIR,

I should be obliged if you would allow me a small portion of your valuable space (one should always start off like this when addressing an Editor !) to correct an entirely erroneous impression that I fear I created during the short talk on Radioactivity that I recently had the honour to deliver to the School Literary, Scientific and Debating Society.

A question was put to me by Mr. J. F. Sinclair, which, if I remember correctly, had the following purport : "Has any actual transmutation of one element into another been accomplished, and if not, is there any probability of any such change being accomplished in the near future ?"

I regret that I made the entirely incorrect reply that no such change had been achieved.

Mr. Ingham was kind enough to correct me at once, with facts with which, as a matter of fact, I was acquainted, but which had escaped my memory. Since then I have re-read the literature on the point and I find the following facts :—

In June, 1919, Sir Ernest Rutherford published results of experiments he had just completed. He described how, by the projection of *alpha* particles from a radioactive source through Nitrogen gas, particles of smaller mass than Nitrogen atoms were expelled from the latter and were identified as Hydrogen nuclei. Thus we have the artificial decomposition of Nitrogen atoms, i.e. the change of

Nitrogen to Hydrogen. This is in fact the first proved case of transmutation, the change that has been occupying mankind since a time which was certainly hundreds of years B.C. Following on with this work Hydrogen particles were obtained from Boron (a solid), Fluorine (gas), Sodium, Aluminium and Phosphorus (solid), by similar methods of treatment.

It will thus be seen that it is not merely the heavy radioactive atoms that are built up of simpler atoms (a view long held owing to their disintegration), but also the simpler light atoms of such a gas as Nitrogen (atomic weight 14) that are composite. We are thus thrown back on the hypothesis of Prout enunciated over 100 years ago that the atoms of all the elements are built up of Hydrogen atoms. But the Hydrogen atom is itself complex, being built up of one charge of positive electricity (called a Proton) and one charge of negative electricity (called an Electron). "Electricity then is the long sought for primoidal matter of which all elements, and consequently the whole material world, are constructed."

Lastly, Sir, it is interesting to note that this transmutation has resulted in no world-shattering explosion, earthquake or other picturesque catastrophe, as is so frequently forecast by the "ignorami," if I may coin a word, of a certain section of the press. Also that in the transmutations thus brought about there occur no noble

metals. In fact, although dozens of elements have been subjected to this method of attack, only in the six cases enumerated have successful results been obtained. We need therefore have no fear for the present of any wholesale transmutation of base metals into gold, with its consequent

result, the disappearance of the existing currency. This, however, is an interesting situation to contemplate, and I will leave it to my readers.

Mr. Editor, I have the honour to be

Yours, etc.,

W. H. STEVENS.

O.A. NOTES.

Following the excellent precedent of the last two years, the O.A.C. again proposes to hold a Reception in the Council Chamber at 8 o'clock in the evening of Founder's Day, June 24. The price of tickets will be five shillings each.

The O.A.C. annual General Meeting will be held in the Masters' Common Room after the Past v. Present Cricket Match on June 25, and the Annual Dinner will take place the same evening in the Lion Hotel at 7.30. (Tickets, 10s. 6d.)

Mr. G. Staniland, a notice of whose death we print elsewhere, was the younger of two brothers who were educated at the School in the early 'sixties. This, of course, was at the old School buildings down in the town. Throughout the long remainder of his life Mr. Staniland was connected with the firm of Messrs. C. A. and F. H. Pryce and their predecessors; but he was very far from confining his activities to his purely professional duties. As a Borough Auditor, as Secretary to the Abingdon Provident Institution, to the Abingdon Philanthropic Society, to the local Church Council, and in many other positions of public importance, he rendered long and invaluable service to his fellow townfolk, and his loss will be keenly felt.

Mr. T. Roylands Smith was music master at the School in the late 'sixties and early 'seventies. Contemporaries will remember him as a keen oarsman as well as a keen musician. Subsequently, and for a period of twenty-two years, he held the position of conductor of the Exeter Diocesan Choral Society. He was a Life Member of the O.A. Club.

Congratulations to T. P. R. Layng on his engagement to Miss Betty Colebrooke, of Tunbridge Wells, and to R. E. Eason on his engagement to Miss Ena Williams, a sister of Ivan Williams, O.A., of Newport, Isle of Wight.

We learn with much regret that the Rev. T. Layng is still feeling the effects of the operation which he underwent in the winter. His doctors have ordered him a period of rest, and he is now staying at the Victoria and Albert Hotel, Torquay,

where we trust that he will soon be restored to complete health.

H. W. Charleton has secured a First Class Army Certificate with Distinction in History (of which only two were given), and is now acting as Schoolmaster in his depot of the Tank Corps.

A. F. James has been awarded Second Class Honours by the Classical Moderators at Oxford.

W. H. Stevens, after being twice prevented by illness from taking the regular A.R.C.S. Exam., was given a special exam, all to himself, by the R.C.S. authorities in March. We are glad to learn that he has emerged with credit from this searching scrutiny, being awarded Second Class Honours.

J. F. Sinclair is now Hon. Sec. and acting Captain of the Pembroke College Cricket Club.

C. R. Wright and G. F. Powell rowed at stroke and "4" respectively in the Pembroke College First Torpid Boat last term. The boat made three bumps. They are now being tried at stroke and "5" respectively in the College Eight.

Congratulations to O. J. Couldrey on getting a picture—"Coverack, Cornwall"—accepted by the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours and hung at their exhibition this year.

The Rev. A. W. Stevens has been transferred from Stone (Staffs.) to Aberdeen, where his address is 104 King's Gate.

Nigel Bruce is playing an important part in *The Letter* at the London Playhouse.

We have heard from H. P. Tame, who sends us the notice of his marriage which we print elsewhere. He has left the office of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor of Paddington and is now at Leek in Staffordshire, where he is principally engaged upon the branch of his profession known as Town Planning. On this subject we hope to hear more from him in the near future.

E. O. Hills, we hear, is in Colombo, "doing something or other to improve the state of the roads." (We have no more definite information

at present). He has been seen by P. E. Rowlandson, "very full of beans, and doing a lot of dashing around in a car."

J. Harding is again at Geneva, doing secretarial work under the League of Nations in connection with the World Economic Conference.

R. G. Spencer, who is in the Midland Bank, has been transferred from Birmingham to Lymington, Hants.

L. D. Hutchison has passed out of the "Worcester," and has now gone to sea as a seaman-cadet on the s.s. "Wongerata" of the British India Line.

F. G. H. Allen has left the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in Penang and is now back in Singapore, where he holds the post of Secretary to the Singapore (Far East) Branch of Godwin, Holgate and Co., Ltd. The address is 9 De Souza Street, Singapore.

W. D. Shallard has now left his school at New Plymouth in New Zealand and has taken up farming, like his brothers. They all seem to like the life and would recommend others to come and try it.

T. T. Theophilus is still in H.M.S. "Malaya." He writes from Malta, where he was in training for the ship's athletic sports, and entered for the mile and the half-mile. They had been at Gibraltar in March for the annual combined exercises with the Atlantic Fleet, and had subsequently paid visits to Toulon, where they were royally entertained by the French Navy, and to Villefranche.

G. R. D. Estcourt has secured a position in the laboratories of the Shell Oil Company at Martinez, about thirty-five miles north of San Francisco. The family has moved to Alameda, and his home address is 1222 Grand Street, Alameda, California, U.S.A.

C. F. Baumann is at a school in Basel, where he is studying French and German and other subjects, including Handelsrecht, Wechselrecht, and Betriebsrecht, which we do not aspire to teach at Abingdon: likewise Arithmetic, with the yards divided into "quarters" and "nails," and, lastly, "office jobs"—a general term, we presume. Discipline at the school appears to be enforced by fines, "tick" being allowed in certain cases (we gather that the pupils have mostly reached years of discretion); but it seems to be possible to learn quite a lot, if one has the will.

CRICKET FIXTURES.

1ST XI.			2ND XI.		
Wed. 11 May			Sat. 14 May	Abingdon Imperial C.C.	Away.
Sat. 14 "	Reading Schoolmasters C.C.	Home.	Wed. 18 "	City of Oxford School	Home.
Wed. 18 "	City of Oxford School.	Away.	Sat. 21 "	Leighton Park School.	Away.
Sat. 21 "	Brightwell C.C.	Home.	Wed. 1 June	Dorchester College.	Home.
Wed. 25 "	Culham College.	Home.	Sat. 4 "	Magdalen College School.	Home.
Sat. 28 "	Abingdon Town C.C.	Home.	Sat. 18 June	City of Oxford School.	Away.
Wed. 1 June			Wed. 6 July	Leighton Park School.	Home.
Sat. 4 "	Magdalen College School.	Away.	Sat. 9 July	King Alfred's School, Wantage.	Home.
Wed. 8 "	Pembroke College.	Away.			
Sat. 11 "	Brightwell C.C.	Away.			
Wed. 15 "					
Sat. 18 "	City of Oxford School.	Home.			
Wed. 22 "	Pembroke College.	Away.			
Sat. 25 "	O.A.C.C.	Home.			
Wed. 29 "					
Wed. 6 July	Leighton Park School	Away.			
Sat. 9 "	King Alfred's Sch., Wantage	Away.			

"UNDER 15" XI.

Wed. 8 June	City of Oxford School.	Away.
Wed. 22 "	City of Oxford School.	Home.