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THE ABINGDONIAN.

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SCHOOL NOTES.

With the present number, under new auspices, the "Abingdonian" inaugurates another Volume. Mr. Duxbury takes over the Editorship in succession to Mr. Ross-Barker, who retains for the time being a place upon the Committee. The rest of the staff consists of G. E. Sinclair, L. P. Mosdell, R. F. Brown, D. G. Lovibond and H. B. Healy.

We regret that reasons of health compelled Mr. C. O. Wright to resign, at the end of the Christmas Term, his teaching work at the school. He had been a member of the school staff since September, 1904. In his early days in addition to teaching Art and Mathematics he was a keen Gymnast and organised this part of the school work. As an artist he is well known. His works have been on exhibition in Oxford and his etchings such as those of the Big Schoolroom and the old Bridge over the Ock adorn the walls of many past members of the school. His teaching will be remembered with gratitude by a number of boys artistically inclined. We wish him and Mrs. Wright all happiness in their retirement.

We are pleased to welcome this term three new members on the school staff. Mr. G. F. Duxbury, of Merchant Taylors' School and late Classical Scholar of St. John's College, Oxford, will be taking over Mr. Ross-Barker's classical work when he retires from active teaching at the end of this term. Mr. Duxbury is a good oar and is already assisting in the coaching of the crews.

Mr. H. M. Gray, of Bristol Grammar School and late Science Scholar of Jesus College, Oxford, in addition to his Science and Mathematical work, is taking over command of the Officers Training Corps and assisting in coaching at Football.

Miss M. K. Sturrock does a certain amount of teaching during the week. She takes Art work in the school but is chiefly occupied with the lowest form, where we are finding it desirable that some of the teaching should be taken by a lady.

Our cordial thanks are due to Captain Vernon Bayley, O.A., who is kindly presenting a Challenge Cup for an annual Junior House Rugger competition to be held in the Easter term.

In a recent issue, while thanking Mr. J. B. Reeves, O.A., for his generous gift of a Fives Court, we forgot to thank another O.A., Mr. A. B. West, the Architect, for his kindness in giving his services free of charge. We would now make good the omission, with apologies for our oversight.

On Thursday, Nov. 20, the 1st XV and a few other senior boys went to Oxford to see the match between the Varsity team and Major Stanley's XV.

On Friday evening, Nov. 28, the Boarders (except Lodge Boys) and many of the Day Boys attended a performance of "Tilly of Bloomsbury," given in the Corn Exchange by the Guild of Abbey Players. They greatly enjoyed the evening's recreation, more especially as Miss Grundy was appearing in the cast in the character of "Lady Mainwaring." The Lodge Boys attended the matinée performance on the following day.

A letter has appeared in the *Morning Post* lately, over the signature "S. A. Paige," in commendation of our grey flannel suits. Thank you, Stanley: we quite agree.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following:—*The Aldenhamian, The Bracklean, The Brighton College Magazine, The Chigwellian, Hesperia, The Laxtonian, The Leightonian, The Lily, The Limit, The Log of the Nautical College, Pangbourne, The Magazine of the City of Oxford School, The Monktonian.*

This term ends on Wednesday, March 25, boarders leaving on the following day. Next term begins on Tuesday, April 28, boarders returning on the preceding day.

The following dates have also been fixed—provisionally:—March 4, Boat Race *v.* Magdalen College School; March 9, Steeplechases; March 12, Miles; March 14, School Athletic Sports; March 21, O.A.C. Sports.

VALETE.

VI FORM.—D. S. Kite (1926, iii). School Prefect, 1930; O.S.C., 1929; 1st XV Rugby, 2nd XV Colours, 1930; 1st IV Cox, Colours, 1929–30; Sgt. O.T.C.; Cert. A., 1930; 1st Class Shot.

D. P. Edsall (1926, iii). Sub-prefect, 1930; O.S.C., 1930; 2nd XV Rugby, 1930; Cpl., O.T.C.; Cert. A., 1930; 1st Class Shot.

H. R. Lay (1924, iii). Sub-prefect, 1930; O.S.C. (3rd Class Honours), 1930; 1st Class Shot.

L. J. F. Godwin (1924, iii). O.S.C., 1930.

Vb FORM.—P. E. Wagstaff (1927 iii). 2nd XV Rugby, 1929; 2nd XI Cricket, 1929.

SALVETE.

REMOVE FORM.—H. L. G. Livingston.

III FORM.—J. F. H. Ellis, J. G. Glass, W. J. Head, P. V. Leigh, D. R. Thomas.

II FORM.—G. V. Bayley, H. B. Faulkner, C. Williams.

THE SCHOOL CONCERT.

The annual School Concert took place in the Corn Exchange on Dec. 5th. There were a great many visitors present, and we are very grateful to them for turning out on a cold evening to come and listen to us.

Miss N. Underhill, of Oxford, gave two Violin solos, and two encores.

We have no outstanding voices in the School this year, so we did not attempt to give Quartettes as in previous years, but voices taken from the choir filled the gap very satisfactorily. Their rendering of 'On a bank where I lay' being especially good, both in tone and enunciation. The crisp time was excellently kept up. In the part song 'Since Thou O fondest' they were not so good. The interpretation was a little lacking; but they kept the pitch very well all through, which is always important in unaccompanied singing.

The unison songs were well rendered, and here again the enunciation was good, a great improvement on last year.

The part song 'The Sea Shell' was rendered with a certain amount of interpretation but would have been so much better if *all* had kept their attention on the conductor, instead of a few. In such a difficult piece as this, interpretation is one of the most important things, as Coleridge Taylor has suited the music to the words in that wonderfully descriptive manner so well known in most of his works.

The tenors were a little nervous, and weak, in 'Mannin Veen,' but rallied well in the last verse, and altogether the tone in this part song was fairly good.

'Jockey to the Fair' went in a spirited manner, but here again a tremendous amount of interpretation is needed, and if only *all* would work, as the 'constant few' do, we could render these part songs in the way they should be rendered.

The II and III Forms were a little stiff in their unison song, but kept their voices well modulated and their enunciation was fairly good.

Although there were not so many voices on the platform as usual, the tone and balance was good, and it was evident that the performers realise that a few small voices well produced will carry much better than a large number of voices which shout.

Mr. Bevir was at his best, and gave two very well-deserved encores. He charmed his audience, especially in the little song "A dog's life." We are very grateful to him for his help in livening up our programme. Miss Sheldon Peach also gave us four charming songs, and we are much indebted to her not only for her own refined and artistic renderings, but for all the time and trouble which she devotes each year to bringing our School music generally up to "concert pitch."

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

1. Unison Song "The Agincourt Song"
Old English Melody 15th century, arr. by
The School. *Arthur Goodhart*
2. Violin Solo (a) Andante. *Handel*
(b) Allegro.
Miss N. Underhill.
3. Four-part Song "The Sea Shell." *Coleridge*
The School. *Taylor*
4. Songs. (a) "Over the Sea." *Martin Shaw*
(b) "Hark! now all things in one
sound rejoice." *Purcell*
Miss Ivy Sheldon Peach.
5. Four-part Song "By a Bank as I lay." 1609:
The Choir. arr. by *Peter Warlock*
6. Song. "Down Zummerset Way." *Sterndale*
Mr. Bevir. *Bennett*
7. Song with descant "The miller of the Dee."
School and Audience. 17th Century,
arr. by *Alan Gray*

PART II.

1. Unison Song "The Snail." *F. W. Wadley*
The III and II Form.
2. Four-part Song "Mannin Veen." *Vaughan*
The School. *Williams*
3. Violin Solo (a) "Cherry ripe." *Cyril Scott*
(b) "Admirals' Galliard."
Miss N. Underhill. Old English,
arr. by *Moffat*

4. Four-part "Since Thou O Fondest." *Parry*
Song The Choir.
5. Song "Aylesbury Ducks." *Eric Harding*
Mr. Bevir.
6. Songs (a) "The Spirit Song." *Haydn*
(b) "Heart of my Heart." *Giordani*
Miss Ivy Sheldon Peach.
7. Four-part Song "With Jockey to the Fair." arr.
The School. by *Gordon Jacobs*
8. Unison Song "Jerusalem." *Parry*
The School.

FOOTBALL.

We review the past season with somewhat mixed feelings. For while it had a good beginning and ending, there was a middle period when things went wrong and in three consecutive matches we could only score nine points in reply to sixty. This was disappointing in view of a promising start. The fact was that for various reasons the XV were slow to find their true form. Indeed they did not really show us what they were capable of until the O.A. match, when they gave a first-class display.

We were, it is true, rather unfortunate in the matter of casualties, and at this stage of our rugged career gaps due to casualties are particularly hard to fill, owing to the paucity of talent available. But apart from this there was a very noticeable weakness in handling and tackling, and behind the scrum a lack of combination and constructive play.

The severity of our defeats by Bloxham and Pembroke, Oxford, was due largely to weak tackling. In our review of the football a year ago we laid considerable stress on the importance of this branch of the game, and included some hints thereon. We would again emphasize this point, especially to all members of the junior games, in which the standard of tackling is at present very weak.

The Bloxham match afforded a good illustration of another weakness, viz.: slowness off the mark. We were beaten in the first few minutes of that match because we allowed our opponents to assume the offensive and set the pace.

Against Leighton Park we made a very promising start and were unlucky to lose Sinclair so early in the game.

In the Magdalen match the team gave one of their best displays, the forwards especially playing with great dash. Indeed the forwards were throughout the season the strongest feature of the XV. Under Healy's indefatigable and inspiring leadership they improved greatly, especially in the loose scrums. Clarke's winging was always outstanding.

As we have already indicated, the three-quarter line took a long time to settle down. Mosdell's pace and thrust, and his consistently good play made him the best of the backs. Unfortunately his speed was not exploited as fully as it should have been.

At full back Brown adequately occupied a position entirely new to him at the beginning of the season, and by assiduous practice greatly improved his kicking.

The 2nd XV had rather a moderate record. They beat the Exiles "A" twice and just lost to Magdalen in a very close match, but sustained crushing defeats from Bloxham and Leighton Park. Healy and Wardlaw showed promise as three-quarters and Warriek played soundly at full-back.

FIRST XV MATCHES.

v. Oxford Exiles "A" at home, Oct. 11th. Won : 11—9.

The School forwards showed promise in the tight scrums but lacked cohesion in the loose. In the first half the school had most of the game and Boyd went over for an unconverted try. Taylor then ran right through to score under the posts and converted his own try. Just before half-time Allison touched down after a good forward dribble. The Exiles' weight told in the second half and they pressed hard and got an unconverted try. The School tackling was disappointing.

Team :—Brown, full back : Thomas, Healy (D. E.), G. A. Boyd, L. P. Mosdell, three-quarters F. H. G. Taylor and Kite, half-backs : Clarke, Smith (A. C.), Emmett, Healy (H. B.), Edsall, Ottiker, Squire, Allison, forwards.

v. R. E. Eason's XV at home, Oct. 15th. Lost : 9—21.

At the start the School pressed hard and Taylor cut through to score under the posts. The kick was successful. Soon after Taylor dropped a goal for the School. Our opponents scored twice before half-time making the score 9—8. Soon after half-time the School lost the lead when a try was scored in the corner. After this the School pressed hard but were unable to get through as the three-quarters did not combine. In the last five minutes the School defence rather unaccountably broke down and the visitors scored two converted tries. The forwards played a hard game but their tackling, like that of the rest of the team, was weak.

Team :—Brown, Thomas, G. A. Boyd, G. E. Sinclair, L. P. Mosdell : F. H. G. Taylor and Kite : Quelch, Allison, Clarke, Edsall, Healy (H. B.), Smith, Squire, Ottiker.

v. Magdalen College School. Away, Nov. 1st. Won : 3—0.

The School forwards got command of the scrummages from the start and it was one of their many good dribbling movements that led to the only try, Allison touching down. But even considering the state of the ball the three-quarters' handling and attacking was weak. In the second half the School forwards pressed hard but failed to score. The tackling of the team was much improved. The three bus loads of School supporters did their work admirably.

Team :—Brown : Thomas, G. A. Boyd, G. E. Sinclair, L. P. Mosdell : F. H. G. Taylor and Kite : Emmett, Allison, Cox, Healy (H. B.), Quelch, Squire, Smith, Ottiker.

v. Bloxham School at home, Nov. 8th. Lost : 0—21.

Bloxham scored an unconverted try in the first minute from a good three-quarter movement. They were altogether quicker on the ball and the combination of their three-quarters was excellent. By half-time they had added a further 8 points. After half-time the School played much harder and the hitherto bad defence improved a little. Bloxham scored ten points in the second half. Mosdell who played a splendid game had bad luck not to score on three occasions.

Team :—Brown : Thomas, Wardlaw, G. E. Sinclair, L. P. Mosdell : F. A. G. Taylor and Kite : Allison, G. A. Boyd, Clarke, Healy (H. B.), Quelch, Ottiker, Smith, Squire.

v. Leighton Park School. Played at home. Lost : 9—18.

The School showed much more life than in the previous match and for the first ten minutes kept the game in Leighton's '25.' Then Sinclair went off with a broken collar-bone, and the tables were turned. The score at half-time was 3—13, our score being due to a penalty goal kicked by Taylor.

Play became rather scrappy in the second half. Poor handling and combination again lost us several tries though two were scored by Mosdell and Clarke. The forwards reduced to seven played well although pushed in the tight scrums.

Team :—Brown : Thomas, Engall, Taylor, Mosdell : Kite, Sinclair G. E. : Allison, Emmett, Clarke, Healy, H. B., Quelch, Ottiker, Smith, A. C., Squire.

v. Pembroke College. Played Away. Lost : 0—21.

The School played rather lifelessly and failed to take advantage of the opportunities offered them.

Their defence was poor and their readiness to accept the dummies offered them by the Pembroke outside half enabled him to score several tries. The score at half-time was 0—10.

Team :—Brown : Thomas, Boyd, Taylor, Mosdell ; Plummer, Healy, D. E. ; Clarke, Emmett Allison, Healy, H. B., Quelch, Squire, Smith, A. C., Ottiker.

v. O.A.R.F.C., Dec. 6th. Won : 19—9.

In this match the School played admirably together and with commendable dash. The tackling was good. Against a heavier pack the school eight played splendidly. A. C. Smith managed to hook the ball with gratifying regularity and Healy (D. E.) got away long and accurate passes to Taylor. The three-quarters combined and backed up well. To turn to the game : Soon after the kick off Thomas, following a good three-quarter movement, ran in for the School in the corner. The forwards then began to settle down to a fast and hard game. Ten minutes later Wardlaw gathered the ball in mid field and cut through to score a splendid try under the posts, which Taylor converted. Before half-time Watson ploughed his way through the School defence to score in the corner. Soon after half-time W. W. Brown scored for the O.A.'s making the score 8—6. The School then played hard and asserted their supremacy. Taylor scored two tries, the first from a good cut through and the second after the ball had been handled by Mosdell, Wardlaw and Boyd. The former try Taylor converted. Watson scored another unconverted try for the Old Boys and just before time Mosdell after a good pass from Boyd, scored a speedy try. This was by far the best match of the season.

O.A.R.F.C. Team :—A. F. Hill : W. B. Badcock, M. Ogle, W. E. Steele, H. R. Lansdown : W. W. Brown and A. M. D. Greene : W. R. A. Kettle, A. J. A. Watson, J. C. Toogood, G. A. Wood, P. D. Smith, G. T. Eason, S. F. Thatcher, R. E. Eason.

School Team :—R. F. Brown : Thomas, G. A. Boyd, Wardlaw, L. P. Mosdell : F. H. G. Taylor and Healy (D. E.) : Emmett, Allison, R. C. Clarke, H. B. Healy, Quelch, P. B. Squire, A. C. Smith, J. B. Ottiker.

SECOND XV MATCHES.

School 2nd XV *v.* Bloxham School 2nd XV.

This match was played at Bloxham, on October 11th. The School started well, and scored after the first five minutes. Unfortunately, after this, we were clearly outmatched, and beaten by 31 points—4 points. The following represented the

School :—R. Cox, D. A. Kitto, G. Bosley, P. B. Quelch, R. Triggs, B. Foxwell, K. W. Barr, J. McPherson : L. Sinclair, S. D. Plummer : J. C. T. Jones, C. Spalding, Jacques, J. Ranger : M. Laybourne.

School 2nd XV *v.* Oxford Exiles "Extra A."

This match was played at home, on November 1st. The school played well together, against a heavier side. Wardlaw scored the first try, after an excellent three-quarter movement. Engall scored the second try. This resulted in a win for the School, 6 points—0 points. There were seven changes in the side, which was as follows :—D. A. Kitto, G. Boseley, K. W. Barr, D. P. Edsall, R. Triggs, B. Foxwell, D. G. Lovibond, J. McPherson : L. Sinclair, S. D. Plummer : D. Healy, H. F. D. Smart, J. A. Engall, D. H. Wardlaw : Warrick.

School 2nd XV *v.* Magdalen College School 2nd XV.

On the 5th November, the School played Magdalen at home. This was a very evenly matched game. At half-time there was no score. But soon after the second half had commenced our opponents scored, but failed to convert. This was the only score during the game, which was lost, 3 points—0 points. The team was unchanged.

School 2nd XV *v.* Leighton Park School 2nd XV.

This match was played at Reading, on 12th November. The School were overwhelmed, and beaten, 45 points—0 points. There were two changes in the team, which was as follows :—K. W. Barr, R. Triggs, R. Cox, D. P. Edsall, D. A. Kitto, B. Foxwell, D. G. Lovibond, J. McPherson : L. Sinclair, S. D. Plummer : D. E. Healy, D. H. Wardlaw, H. F. D. Smart, P. B. Pfordten : Warwick.

School 2nd XV *v.* Oxford Exiles Extra "A."

On the 15th November, the School played a return match against the "Exiles," at Oxford. The weather was very unfavourable, but the School forwards played well, Emmett and Lovibond being outstanding. Wardlaw and Thomas played well, each scoring two tries, none of which were converted. Our opponents scored once, by means of a dashing break away. The final score was, 12 points—3 points. There were three changes in the team, J. Emmett replaced McPherson, M. Thomas instead of Smart and J. A. Engall for L. Sinclair.

FIRST FIFTEEN CHARACTERS.

G. E. SINCLAIR, Captain. Colours 1928. Started the season as a three-quarter, but being handicapped in this position by his lack of speed he went to outside-half, where he appeared promising ;

but after having played in only three matches he sustained an injury which put him out of action for the remainder of the season. He was again the best tackler in the team, and set an example of keenness in the practice games which was invaluable.

F. H. G. TAYLOR. Colours 1928. Stand-off half. Has played consistently well. He is very fast off the mark and cuts through with great success and his opportunism has brought the school many tries. He has kicked some splendid goals and finds a long touch in defence, but he must try to come back more often in defence, do more tackling and improve his handling.

L. P. MOSDELL. Colours 1928. R. wing three-quarter. Has improved greatly since last season and has been invaluable to the team. He is really speedy and although having no inside quite fast enough for him, has scored many tries. Kicks well in defence but relies too much on the short kick ahead in attack. Will greatly improve his penetrating powers by introducing more variety into his methods. Should cultivate a swerve.

G. A. BOYD. Colours 1929. Left inside three-quarter. Has not been very happy as a three-quarter but played splendidly in the O.A. match. Works hard and near the end of the season combined fairly well with his wing. Must improve his tackling.

H. B. HEALY. Colours 1930. Leads the scrum and packs down in the second row. He has led his forwards splendidly the whole term and his keenness has permeated all the forwards. He dribbles well and often starts good passing movements. Useful in the line-out and tackles hard and low.

R. F. BROWN. Colours 1930. Full back. Has filled a very difficult position quite well. Kicks a long and reliable touch with either foot and goes down to the ball fearlessly. He must learn to judge his tackles.

A. C. SMITH. Colours 1930. Has hooked well all the season and keeps well up with the game, though not fast. A very hard worker who tackles well. Keen practice has made him a good dribbler.

R. C. CLARKE. Colours 1930. R. wing forward, plays a splendid spoiling game and gives the opposing half very little licence. An untiring winger who dribbles exceedingly well. Although he can cut through well he must learn to pass. Must do more tackling.

P. B. SQUIRE. Colours 1930. Front-row forward. Has helped the hooker considerably. A

solid worker; plays a hard bustling game and tackles hard and dribbles on occasions. He uses his head and is particularly good in the loose.

J. B. OTTIKER. Colours 1930. Front row forward, has played a good hard and strenuous game all the season. Breaks away well with the two wing forwards in their long dribbles and is very good in the line out. Must learn to do much more work in defence.

P. B. QUELCH. 2nd XV Colours 1930. Packs down in the second row and pushes hard. Goes hard with the ball from the line out and plays a good bustling game in the loose. His handling and tackling leave something to be desired. He is very promising for his age.

M. THOMAS. 2nd XV Colours 1930. L. wing three-quarter. His handling is rather weak, but he runs hard and has a very deceptive swerve. Improved greatly during the season and scored some good tries, but his tackling is very weak.

J. M. ALLISON. 2nd XV Colours 1930. Middle back row. Is good in the loose and the best dribbler in the team. Has played a good spoiling game, but must push harder in the scrum and do more in defence.

J. E. EMMETT. 2nd XV Colours 1930. L. wing forward. Dribbles well and plays a hard game. He rarely tackles, but is usually in the van of the forwards in attack. Must push harder in the tight. He is very fast on to the opposing half.

D. S. KITE. 2nd XV Colours 1930. Scrum-half. A very plucky player whose work in defence is very sound. In attack he is not quite nippy enough and he did not fit in very well with Taylor. Cuts through on occasions and backs up well.

ALSO PLAYED.

D. H. WARDLAW is to be congratulated on his performance in the Old Boys match and with experience should develop into a first class three-quarter. Is inclined to snatch at his passes too much.

D. E. HEALY. Scrum half. Combined splendidly with Taylor in the Old Boys Match and ought to be very good next season if he can improve his tackling.

During the term 1st XV Colours were awarded to H. B. Healy, R. C. Clarke, R. F. Brown, A. C. Smith, P. B. Squire, J. B. Ottiker. 2nd XV. Colours were awarded to:—J. M. Allison, P. B. Quelch, D. S. Kite, J. E. Emmett, M. Thomas, S. D. Plummer, D. H. Wardlaw, R. V. Cox.

HOUSE MATCHES.

SENIOR.

Green House v. Blue House. Won by Green
14 points—11 points.

Blue House v. Red House. Won by Red
21 points—6 points.

Green House v. Red House. Won by Red
47 points—0 points.

JUNIOR.

Green House v. Red House. Won by Green
45 points—0 points.

Blue House v. Red House. Won by Blue
3 points—0 points.

Green House v. Blue House. Won by Green
36 points—0 points.

Thus Green House win the Rugger cup with
three victories.

O.T.C.

Those who attended the annual camp at Tidworth Park at the beginning of August had a profitable and enjoyable experience. The training was most efficiently organized and the weather on the whole propitious. The contingent received a good report, G. A. R. Boyd being especially mentioned for his work as C.Q.M.S.

The most interesting feature of last term's training was a field-day held at Churn on November 30th, in which we co-operated with Radley in a defence scheme against St. Edward's and Magdalen College Schools. We were fortunate in the weather, and after taking plenty of exercise up hill and down dale finished up with tea, kindly provided by Radley.

Of the eleven cadets who took Part I of the Certificate 'A' examination nine passed, an achievement on which C.S.M. Eyres is to be congratulated no less than the successful candidates whose names are appended:—M. G. Allison, K. W. Barr, J. E. Emmett, A. F. R. Fisher, J. C. T. Jones, J. B. Ottiker, S. D. Plummer R. L. Triggs.

LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

Officers of the Society, elected at the first general meeting of the present session, are as follows:—President, Mr. W. M. Grundy; Vice-President, Mr. E. J. Ross-Barker; Hon. Secretary, Mr. L. P. Mosdell; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. D. G. Lovibond. Other members of committee (co-opted) are—Mr. J. Y. Ingham and Mr. G. E. Sinclair.

At the first meeting the time remaining after the election of officers was devoted by the House to an impromptu debate—several, in fact,—which proved an amusing prelude to the more serious business of the session. At its second meeting the House discussed (and vindicated) the claims of petrol as an agent in human happiness. Examinations formed the subject of the next debate—that “in the opinion of this House examinations are not true tests of human ability.” But most of us agreed that at least to a great extent they are.

No further debates have yet been held, but at the fourth meeting of the Society Mr. Bateman read an extremely interesting paper on “Oliver Goldsmith,” which we all enjoyed greatly, while at the fifth meeting Mr. A. F. Fisher gave an outline sketch of the history of photography, and answered with much elucidation many questions put to him by enquiring listeners.

At our last meeting, on the evening of the O.A. Rugger Match, Mr. W. H. Stevens, O.A. (A.R.I.Sc., A.I.C.), gave an excellent lantern-lecture on “The Preparation of Plantation Rubber.” His full and instructive description included the methods of tapping the rubber-trees and all processes right up to the exportation of the raw material to this country. We are much indebted to him for his clear presentation of a practical and interesting subject.

Thus ended the first half of the session 1930–31, which, if not quite so full as usual, at least lacked nothing in variety. HON. SEC.

THE RAG CONCERT.

We were introduced to the varied delights of the Rag Concert last term by the individual instruments of the “Five Fatuous Faux Pas,” who at any rate lived up to their title.

Mr. Bateman and Mr. Ingham then took the stage, and as the first of several Gilbert and Sullivan items sang the duet “Tell a tale of Cock and Bull.” We saw these two several times during the evening, either singly or together, or in co-operation with Mr. Alston. Perhaps the most popular of their songs was the trio “This helmet, I suppose,” from which we learnt that “a soldier's life is not a happy one”; and apparently their three retainers, J. N. Paige, R. C. Gould and H. A. Lunghi, thought that this applied to the life of a henchman too.

D. E. Healy revealed to us in unmistakable language that a London bus conductor's job has its amusing side, although at times people are very trying. We should like to compliment our "conductor" on his clever "asides" when (through stress of work, no doubt!) he was at a loss for words.

Miss Peach's two "Christopher Robin" songs were well received, "Buckingham Palace" especially proving popular.

Four Funny Folk in the persons of P. B. Squire, D. E. Healy, A. F. R. Fisher and H. B. Healy gave a very spirited rendering of two folk songs—"Bingo" and "The Farmyard," the varied assortment of creatures in the latter receiving due and vivid presentation.

D. P. Edsall assisted the programme by composing two sketches. The first of these was a modern edition of "Pyramus and Thisbe," in which the title parts were played by the author and S. D. Plummer. In this version the "sweet and lovely Wall" had become a telephone, "Moonshine" an up-to-date street-lamp, and "Lion," "Police Constable" Fisher. As the complete libretto of this playlet is printed on another page of this magazine, we need only say here that it was admirably acted and "got across" with telling effect on the audience.

Edsall's second play was entitled the "Crooked Spook." In this *Mr. Sainsbury* (J. A. Engall) and his wife (A. E. B. Foxwell), a pair of modern crooks, endeavour to relieve *Mr. Barrington* (J. B. Ottiker), when they meet on a stormy night at an inn, of his money. To do this they impose on the waiter (K. W. Barr) and exploit the inn's reputation for being haunted. Dirty work is done during two minutes darkness, but when the conspirators escape with their supposed capture, it is discovered that their villainy has recoiled on their own heads. This piece was capably acted, and proved quite popular.

The final item of the evening was a sketch, "The Hole in the Road." G. A. R. Boyd, who showed his capabilities the previous term in the character of "Mrs. Perkins," found here a part which might have been written for him. As a road man, seated beside his watchman's fire, he was perfection; and he kept everyone in convulsions as he carried on his garrulous altercations with the patient dude (D. G. Lovibond), who provided an ideal foil. The whole proceedings worked up to a high pitch of excellence in the final explosion.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

Since the last record of the Society's activities went to print it has been decided to hold two new Competitions:—

1. The Holiday Competition for those photographs taken in the holidays. There are of course the usual two classes.

The prize for the above Competition is goods to the value of half-a-crown at Mr. Charleton's shop, in addition to the usual post-card enlargement.

2. The "Best Photograph of The Year" Competition.

The prize for this Competition will be of the value of six shillings.

In the Summer Holiday Competition, ending on September 24th, some 22 photographs were entered. In the Professional Class, "Ploughing in the Cotswolds" by P. A. D. Jones was adjudged the winner; in the "Amateur Class," "Ping Pong" by A. F. R. Fisher.

The extra prize for this Competition was awarded to P. A. D. Jones.

On September 5th an exhibition of photographs was held in the Physics Laboratory. Altogether some 123 prints were shown. The exhibition was open to non-Members and proved a popular success.

On October 22nd a lecture-demonstration on "Developing" was given by D. E. Healy. This was specially planned to help beginners, and proved most instructive and useful.

On October 29th a very stimulating paper and some articles on "How To Sell Photographs," were read by A. F. R. Fisher.

On November 5th a very interesting lecture-demonstration on "The Elementary Chemistry of Photography" was given by the Chairman.

On November 26th a most helpful lecture-demonstration on "Gaslight Printing" was given by Mr. Charleton. We were extremely fortunate in having the professional methods made clear to us, and are very grateful to Mr. Charleton for disclosing all the secrets of success—though he averred that there were no secrets!

The subject for the November Competition was "Autumn." "Autumn Sport" by K. W. Barr was adjudged the winner (Amateur Class).

On December 3rd a paper on "Winter Photography" was read by D. E. Healy.

We are glad to see that the number of Members of the Society is increasing. The number at the time of print is 36 Members, to be compared with 26 when the Society was founded. There is no limit to the number of Members admissible and we hope that more recruits will join us this term.

THE TRAGI—COMEDY OF PYRAMUS AND THISBE.

(as performed at the Rag Concert, Dec. 16th, 1930).

DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

Pyramus Pliers *The hero* (D. P. Edsall).
 Thisbe Thithers *The heroine* (S. D. Plummer).
 P.C. Pinchem (A. F. R. Fisher).

SCENE 1. *A room in the home of Pyramus, in darkness. A table, with telephone, occupies the centre of the stage. Enter Pyramus.*

Pyr. How dark it is, this miserable night.

I do hope soon they will turn on the juice ; if
 Not we'll never get no blooming light,

And I shall then be forced to be abusive.

(*Light goes on*).

And thou, O sweet and lovely telephone,
 That linkest up her father's flat and mine—
 For shortly I will speak unto my own,
 And maybe ask her where she'd like to dine.

(*Goes to 'phone, and rings up.*)

Mayfair one four, double two.

(*Suddenly he hangs up receiver, disgusted.*)

You lifeless thing, you useless instrument,
 Through which I cannot see my Thisbe dear,
 Come ! Come ! I'll ask you now just what you
 meant,

By making me believe that she was there.

(*A ring, he seizes 'phone eagerly, only to throw it back again.*)

How dare you be so sorry I've been
 "t-r-r-r-oubled."

(*Another ring. He lifts receiver.*)

Hallo, hallo ! is that my Thisbe speaking ?

Oh, kiss the mouthpiece ; I will do the same.

(*A squeak is heard.*)

Did you kiss, then ? or was it something creaking ?

I cannot hear, this beastly 'phone's to blame.

What's that you say ?—'twas father eating oysters ?

Ah—when you've dined, let's meet when quiet
 falls.

Let's say ' Westminster Abbey in the cloisters,

Or even 'neath the shadow of St. Paul's.'

What's that you say ? You think they're both
 too solemn ?

You wouldn't like to meet me in Hyde Park ?

But wait,—I have it, just by Nelson's column,
 We'll meet, my dear, this very night so dark.

Now don't be late, I'll only wait an hour,

Just promise to me now, you'll straightway go ;

I've something sweet to tell you, O my flower :

I'll say it when I see you. Cheerio !

(*Hangs up receiver. Curtain.*)

SCENE 2. *At the foot of Nelson's Column ; A gas lamp. The hour is late, and the square is deserted. Enter Thisbe.*

This. This is old Nelson's column. Where is Py. ?

(*Enter P.C. Pinchem.*)

This. Oh—(*runs off, dropping scarf, over which P.C. P. walks, and exit. After some moments enter Pyr. bearing box with label "To Thisbe."*)

Pyr. Street lamp, I thank you for your sunshine
 rays,

(Patent applied for in the British Isles),

For by thy brilliant, blaring, blatant blaze

I trust to see my dearest Thisbe's smiles.

But half-a-tick,

You silly sick,

Just what has happened here ?

Now, am I blind,

Or do I find

A portion of your gear ?

Your silken scarf,

Mud-stained, not 'arf !

(*Lifts scarf, with enormous black foot-print. He is much affected.*)

Approach ye taxis posh,

Take half-a-crown

To run me down ;

And squeeze, scrunch, squelch and squash !

(*Opening box of ju-jubes, with tragic gesture.*)

Tears, fall like rain :

Now ju-jubes, pain (*eats one*)

The tum of Pyramus.

Ay ! That round tum

Where heart doth hum ;

And so, I die, poor cuss !

(*Lies down, with some deliberation.*)

Now I am gone,

My toil is done,

My soul is upward whirring ;

I have no sight,

(*Looking into wings*) Turn off that light (*gas lamp goes out.*)

Now I expire, recurring. (*lies quite still.*)

Re-enter Thisbe, after some moments. She looks round, then sees Pyr., rushes up, and bends over him

This. Love, are you tired ?

What, just expired ?

My love, you might have waited !

If you don't speak

Within the week,

You'll have to be cremated.

This chin so blue,

These whiskers, too,

This corrugated hair ;

Eyes turned to ice,

Which saw things twice,
 Because they weren't a pair.
 O sisters three,
 Come, come to me
 With your anæmic hands ;
 But dye them red,
 Since he is dead,
 And gone to better lands.
 Be not verbose !
 Come, fatal dose,
 (producing bottle from her handbag.)
 My little tum-tum rip.
 (raises bottle to her lips.)
 I'm going now,
 I'll show you how *(lies down beside Pyr.)*
 Pip-pip, pip-pip, pip-pip !
 (Curtain.)

D.P.E.

ZOOLOGICAL.

From a Nature-student's Note-book.

'Tis time, I think, to intercede
 In favour of the Centipede.—
 He is not fairly understood,
 Nor credited with aught that's good :
 His hundred legs promote distrust,
 Which is not altogether just :
 Why should a few legs more or less
 Be counted as unrighteousness ?
 Whatever walks, or flies, or swims,
 Might be endowed with extra limbs,
 And, far from contumely or blame,
 Discover surest roads to fame,
 Contributing refined delights
 To lovers of abnormal sights.

The Centipede is wise and great,
 Fit for a high post in the state :
 How wrong to load a soul sublime
 With false imaginings of crime !
 His hundred legs do not denote
 Malignity however remote.
 Surely there is no further need
 To exonerate the Centipede.

The Woodlouse is an ardent thing
 With all the passion of the Spring :
 Its soft, voluptuous form is clad
 With colours exquisite, though sad :
 There is a fervour in its gaze
 Equivalent to Röntgen rays :
 It loves to cogitate apart,

And commune with its bursting heart,
 While to some quaint, familiar tune
 It serenades the harvest moon.
 Etherial Woodlouse ! who can guess
 The secret of its winsomeness ?
 Or see it dancing in the hall,
 Or curled in a delirious ball,
 Without admitting it to be
 The embodiment of ecstasy ?

And for the Earwig, ere we go,
 We fain would add a word or so.—
 So quaint and coy, you'd hardly guess
 What sympathies his soul possess.
 A model of parental love,
 Yet hath he set his heart above
 The limitations of his kind,
 With more than half a human mind,
 And, finding avenues of attack,
 Or up your legs, or down your back,
 Will practice with what art he can
 To cultivate the love of man.
 Yea, I have even heard it said
 That in your garments or your bed
 He has been known to lie in wait,
 His philanthropic zeal to sate :
 And O ! those amorous lips, that sip
 The sweets of human fellowship !
 Those curving tentacles, that lend
 Distinction to his latter end !
 Sure he will grip and hold you tight
 In the long watches of the night,
 Or whisper his enchantments dear
 Within the embrasure of your ear.
 Ear-wingèd Earwig ! If indeed
 There's virtue in the Centipede,
 If the wan Woodlouse in the Spring
 Can be a bold, ecstatic thing,
 The essence of all ecstasies
 Your evanescent Earwig is :
 In fact, the consummation he
 And crown of entomology !

DESOLATION.

Involved in depths of Latin Prose
 On wooden bench I make low moan.
 I'm falling into sluggish doze
 Involved in depths of Latin Prose ;
 And yet the Prose no progress knows ;
 The Muse that did me prompt is flown,
 Involved in depths of Latin Prose
 On wooden bench :—I make low moan.

L.

OXFORD LETTER.

Oxford,
January, 1931.

To the Editor of "The Abingdonian."

Sir,

Our contingent in Oxford has been somewhat depleted during the past year, for two of our number have left us, while we have not received any further swelling of our ranks from the School, which we have come to expect as our due every October. Of those who have gone down, J. B. O. Durell is reported to have removed himself to "that other place," whence he is expected to return in the summer to put the generosity of our examiners to the test,—an ordeal which he felt himself unable to face last year. A wholly unaccountable lack of appreciation on the part of the examiners has had the unfortunate result of causing S. S. Bates to retire in high dudgeon,—and we greatly miss the inexplicability of his absence from our midst.

In spite, however, of these defections, Oxford is still glad that Abingdon is not indifferent to her welfare, and the latest mark of her appreciation has been the conferment of a golf "blue" on E. G. Langford, an achievement upon which we heartily congratulate him, and wish him every success at Sandwich, in March. In consideration of his having missed a whole round of golf in order to work for "Divvers," the moderators, realising also his indispensability to Oxford golf, were tactful enough to pass him at his first attempt, last summer.

Of O. T. M. Raymont we see but little, for we hear that he has just remembered his finals next term, and that, when he can tear himself away from his kennel and his stable, he employs his time in working.

S. E. Clark is still living in seclusion and Summer-town, whence he occasionally emerges to sleep through a lecture or pretend that he likes helping to pull a boat up and down the river.

A. M. Thatcher justified his decision to postpone his encounter with "Maths. Mods." by taking a first last Easter, as has already been recorded in your pages. In his spare time he still endeavours to lower the course record at Southfields, and is one of the most regular aspirants for that honour.

A. J. K. Smith gets what exercise he can by pedalling a bicycle furiously through the crowded streets of Oxford, and, when not so engaged, has found time to work his way through "Divvers" and his first group.

R. A. Langford, having found his previous rooms too far from Oxford, has moved to a set nearer civilisation; he has further reduced his exercise by almost restricting it to golf, with the result that he has twice compelled the examiners to keep him out of the list of "also rans."

M. Ogle has been disporting himself on the rugger field and also in the Examination Schools, where he induced the examiners to reverse their decision upon his first set of "Divvers" papers, and to acknowledge his prowess in military matters by passing him through "Cert. B."

As our numbers will be greatly reduced next year, may we hope for a large contingent from School to bring up our strength, and may we also take this opportunity of extending a hearty welcome to those who are coming up, and of wishing them a successful career while here?

We remain, Sir,

O.A. (Oxon).

O.A. NOTES.

BIRTHS.

CLARK.—On June 4, at St. Helen's Mill House, Abingdon, to Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Clark, a daughter (Ann Sheila).

CHALLENGOR.—On December 21, at The Vicarage, Sutton-in-Holderness, to the Rev. B. M. and Mrs. Challenor, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

MEMORY—WRIGHT.—on April 26, at Pinner Parish Church by the Rev. Hamilton Fox, William Memory to Pamela, only daughter of Mr. J. Wright, Registrar at Brentford County Court, and Mrs. Wright, of Pinner Hill, Middlesex.

THEOPHILUS—ELWELL.—On October 16, at Great Barr, near Birmingham, Thomas Tristram Theophilus, Paymaster-Lieutenant R.N., to Margaret, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Elwell, of Inglewood, Great Barr.

WILLIAMS—SPEARING.—On October 20, at Sandown, Isle-of-Wight, Ivan, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Williams, of Newport, Isle of Wight, to Edna Maud, daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. G. F. Spearing, of Sandown.

NEWBURY—DALES.—On January 10, at All Souls' Church, Hampstead, A. J. Newbury to Constance May Dales, of 24 Compayne Gardens, Hampstead.

DEATHS.

SIMPSON.—On November 23, at 52 Ock Street, Abingdon, Thomas Smith Simpson, aged 88.

LAYNG.—On November 28, at 3 Spring Terrace, Abingdon, Lydia Martha Layng, aged 63.

PITT.—On December 13, at 9 Exbourne Road, Abingdon, J. G. K. Pitt, aged 80.

CRUDGINGTON.—On January 19, at Kendal, Henry Leonard Crudginton, late Nigerian Civil Service, aged 45.

Miss Layng, whose connection with the School began with her brother's Headmastership, has survived him by little more than eight weeks. For seventeen years at the School House she was mainly responsible for its domestic welfare. Retiring in 1910 she continued to make her home in Abingdon, maintaining for a further two years her voluntary work on the teaching side, where she took a Division in German. Her interest in the School she maintained to the end, supplementing it, when occasion offered and her health permitted, with valuable practical help. In another sphere of action, for six years as a member of the Board of Guardians and for a short time as Hon. Secretary of the Abingdon and District Nursing Association, she gave her services to the needs of the town and neighbourhood. She leaves many friends to mourn her loss and many whom she befriended, and her name will live with her brother's in the grateful remembrance of many Old Abingdonians.

Mr. T. S. Simpson was probably at the time of his death our oldest surviving Old Boy. In a long life of public usefulness he had filled for thirty-three years the office of Reader at Christ's Hospital, while for over forty years, as an auditor for the Borough of Abingdon and as Registrar of Births and Deaths, he had rendered good service to his native town. His many active interests, religious, political and philanthropic, won for him many friends and the high esteem of his fellow-townsmen.

Mr. J. G. K. Pitt, another very old Abingdonian, was likewise for some years a pupil in the old Grammar School buildings, which he left in 1865. He too spent a long and useful life in his native town, giving much good voluntary help as a Sunday school teacher and sidesman at St. Helen's Church, while for fifty-seven years he was a member of the Ivey Lodge of Oddfellows.

Henry Leonard Crudginton—"Ranji," as his school-fellows affectionately called him—joined the School in April 1897. In due course a member of the football team and head-boy of the Classical

Vith, he matriculated in October 1904 as an unattached student at Oxford, where in the following year he won an open Exhibition (Leather-sellers') and took his degree in 1908. After a few years spent in teaching, first at Worcester Grammar School and later at Weybridge Preparatory School, in 1913 he joined the Colonial Service, proceeding to Nigeria in January 1914. At first in Northern Nigeria, he was transferred from the Treasury to be Chief Accountant, P.W.D., at Lagos; but with health undermined by the heavy extra strain of war-time work without the normal respite of a furlough, in 1929, within two years of his retirement, he contracted the malady from which he died. Invalided from the service he had planned to live at Kendal, whither he repaired last October with his wife, whom he married in 1916. To her and to his parents, who are still living in Bath, we offer our sincere condolences—and to his younger brother Wilfrid, who is a partner in Gregory's Bookstore in Bath.

It is good to learn from Lloyd's Shipping Gazette (Nov. 20) that T. S. Wilding has received a handsome presentation from the Underwriters of Lloyd's, in recognition of his services to them in the recent famous Hoff case. Wilding, who is a partner in Messrs. William A. Crump & Son, was the solicitor in charge of the case, in which the matter in dispute was an alleged loss of shares on the continent, resulting in a bogus claim against Lloyd's for nearly £500,000. The trial itself lasted seven weeks and involved the calling of over forty witnesses, evidence being given in no fewer than seven languages. The claim, fortunately, did not succeed, "but this" (to quote the words of Mr. A. B. Stewart, who made the presentation for the Underwriters) "was only because of the expenditure of a tremendous amount of hard work and skill on the part of Mr. Wilding. The investigation," he said, "lasted over three years; and it was felt that no mere professional fee to his firm could adequately express the Underwriters' appreciation."

To D. S. Kite, who left us at the end of last term, we offer our most hearty congratulations. In the exam held in November for entry into the R.A.F. College, Cranwell, he gained first place on the list of successful candidates, and has been awarded a Prize Cadetship of the value of a hundred guineas per annum for two years.

Congratulations also to E. G. Langford, who was last term awarded his Half-Blue for Golf at Oxford. We wish him success in the forthcoming Varsity match.

H. L. Neligan has removed from Kells in County Kerry to Herbert Cottage, Bray, in County Wicklow, where he is still engaged in his former occupation of poultry-farming.

C. S. Morland, who is still at Cathcart in the Cape Province, has recently been in for "a sort of exam," in which twenty-five neighbouring farmers participated, "to qualify as wool-classers for the Wool-growers Association." This involved a two-day test by a Government sheep-drover expert, and ended up with a paper. Apparently it was quite a stiff affair, for only six of the twenty-five got through; but Morland "somehow or other" was placed top of the list. Bravo!—He hopes that any O.A. who thinks of emigrating to South Africa to farm will drop him a line, when he will be only too pleased to give him some idea of what sort of a life to expect.

The address of R. C. W. Waterhouse is c/o Iraq Petroleum Company, Kir-kuk, Iraq. He has been with this company now since the end of 1929, with a contract for three years, to be followed by a further contract for three years (after five months leave of absence), if both parties are satisfied with the arrangement. He is getting some polo and more hockey, playing for the Company hockey team. He is well and enjoys the work, in spite of summer heat ("127° in the shade, there being no shade!") and extreme cold in winter; and he looks forward to his leave in 1933.

J. C. R. Gardner, who holds a commission in the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, after being stationed at Lichfield for a year proceeded with his regiment in October to Ismailia, Egypt.

A. J. A. Watson has been playing Rugger regularly for Sandhurst, in whose team he is one of "the pack." He was specially complimented by the *Times* correspondent for his play in the match v. R.M.A., Woolwich.

R. F. L. Thomas was gazetted last April to the Indian Army, and sailed for Quetta in September.

K. W. Ewing has accepted a post with the Chloride Electrical Storage Company, of Manchester and London.

O.A.'s of the E.T.C. appear to do well at Carcavellos. P. H. Barwell has recently won the Station Golf Cup, with H. S. Bartlett as runner up, while the latter has again, in partnership, assisted in winning the Men's Doubles at Lawn Tennis. He has also distinguished himself at Cricket, making 104 not out and 64 not out in the match for the Lisbon Cup.

A. F. James, of the Home Civil Service, has accepted an appointment in the General Post Office.

J. B. O. Durell, who is now reading for Holy Orders at Westcott House, has passed Part I of the General Ordination Examination held in October.

N. C. Wood sailed for South Africa on January 8. His exact destination when he gets there remains at present for the Standard Bank authorities to decide.

B. V. Edsall has gone back to America, this time to Atlanta in Georgia, where he hopes to find more outlets for his energies than he does in the old country. We commend his adventurous spirit and shall be glad to hear further from him.

¶ The second London dinner of O.A.C. Members was, by kind permission of the City Livery Club, held at the Chapter House, St. Paul's Churchyard. This was on November 14. In the unavoidable absence of the President (Col. A. Stockton), the Chair was taken by last year's President, J. B. Reeves. Seventeen members were present and a most enjoyable evening was spent. The two toasts of The King and The School were proposed by the Chairman, and the London Secretary, W. H. Stevens, replied. It was decided to hold the next dinner, if possible, on November 4, 1931, and it is hoped that all O.A.'s will make a note of that date.