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THE ABINGDONIAN.

No. 10. Vol. VII.

JANUARY, 1934.

Price 1s.

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SCHOOL NOTES.

We offer our congratulations to Dr. H. E. Salter on being selected as Ford's Lecturer in English History. In the words of a University correspondent—Dr. Salter knows more of the history of Oxford than any other man living: the subject of his lectures, 'The Early History of Oxford' is exactly the subject one would wish him to choose.

We congratulate A. L. Fleet on his election to the Pembroke Scholarship in Classics.

D. G. Brown is Captain of the School and Head of the House.

Other School Prefects are:—P. A. D. Jones (Waste Court), A. L. Fleet, A. J. Turnham, H. Bosley, C. F. Powell and J. Ranger. Sub-prefects are: A. R. M. Adams, R. F. Andrews, D. H. Blake, L. E. Carter, A. N. Elley, R. P. F. Mills, J. S. Randle, and G. E. H. Warrick.

J. Ranger is Captain of Boats for the second year.

1st XV. Colours were awarded last term to G. E. H. Warrick and 2nd XV. colours to A. R. M. Adams, K. G. Corbett, W. F. Wiggins, D. E. Mills, D. H. Blake, G. M. Stevens, L. E. J. Luker, E. S. Willey, O. E. Clarke, L. C. Smallbone, P. V. Collings, P. J. Hill, R. G. James, E. C. Cann.

M. N. Laybourne, R. F. Andrews, and R. G. James were awarded School Certificates in the December examinations.

The "Lin" Cup for Senior House Football was won by Red House, and the Robinson Cup for Junior House Football, by Blue House.

Last term the Guild of Abbey Players produced "The Barretts of Wimpole Street," and most of the School attended the Friday evening performance.

On Sunday, December 3rd, Bishop Shaw confirmed the following boys in the School Chapel:—L. G. Cather, T. H. A. Gill, M. H. Holme, H. L. Jacob, G. F. Rice, E. S. Willey and P. J. Woolf.

On November 23rd members of the three XV's went in to Oxford to watch the match between the University and Major Stanley's XV.

On Saturday, October 14th, Sir R. Kennedy Cox came down to talk about the "Dockland Mission," and gave us a very illuminating account of the excellent work carried on there.

On October 27th, Mr. G. G. Farnfield brought his "talkie" apparatus again and gave us a varied programme to suit all, or rather most, tastes.

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

This term ends on Tuesday, March 27th, boarders leaving on the following day. The Summer term begins on Tuesday, May 1st, boarders returning on the previous day.

VALETE.

VI FORM.—M. N. Laybourne (1930, i), School Prefect, 1933; O.S.C., 1932, 1933; 1st XV Rugger 1931-3, Colours 1932; 1st XI Cricket, 1931; Colours 1932, Captain 1933; 2nd IV Rowing, 1933; Athletic Half Colours, 1932; Sergeant, O.T.C.; Cert. "A," 1933.

VB FORM.—P. V. Collings (1929, i); 2nd XV Rugger 1932, Colours 1933.

SALVETE.

III FORM.—J. Lines, J. Hicks.

II FORM.—B. E. Hillsdon, A. Lines, L. W. Dale

LIBRARY NOTES.

The following books (among others) have been added to the Library:—*Oxford Book of English Prose*; *Europe of To-day*; *Men of Affairs*, Guedalla; *Bridge of San Luis Rey*; *Modern English Prose*: Leonardo da Vinci; *The King of Rome*; *Culture and Environment*; *Rugby Football*, W. J. Davies; *Selected Poems*, Yeats.

SCHOOL CONCERT.

The School Concert took place in the Corn Exchange on Friday, December 8th.

Owing to the bad weather there were not so many visitors present as usual, but those who kindly turned out were very appreciative and we owe them our best thanks for coming and listening to us.

The programme as a whole was very successful.

The Holywell String Quartet was delightful; and we hope to hear them again.

The items given by the Quartet were all very enjoyable.

Those who have heard the Mozart in D Major before, could not wish any better rendering than was given by the String Quartet.

The items in the second half were of an entirely different nature, but were none the less enjoyable.

They were all in the mystical strain. "Les Dunes" being especially delicate and fascinating.

To write at length on these items would take up too much space in the magazine, but one word must be said. They were a perfect Quartet perfectly led by the first violin, Mrs. Gotch.

The School Songs were good on the whole. The part songs by the choir especially should be praised.

The material this year was not so good as we have had, so to render songs such as "Flow not so Fast ye Fountains," "By a Bank as I lay," and "Alistair McAlpine's Lament" was very creditable.

The choir worked together well, and in their rendering was 'life' and warmth of tone, bringing out interpretation, which is so often neglected.

The other part songs were good but the School did not give the same 'team' work as the choir.

Many people just sing, and can only hear themselves. It is very difficult to 'listen' while one is singing, but it can be done, and makes all the difference when there are a number of people singing four-part songs.

Keith Muir accompanied the three-part song "Glorious Apollo" very well.

There was more attention given to the conductor, than at former concerts, for which she was very grateful. It helped to make her feel she had more control over the singers, and that knowing what each song demanded she could handle the choir in the way she wanted them to go; with a few exceptions who still cannot look off their copy.

I.S.P.

To Miss Peach we were indebted for three songs which she gave with the purity of tone and the expression which we have learnt to expect of her. The audience showed unmistakably how much they appreciated her singing.

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

1. Unison Song (a) "The Miller of the Dee" *Traditional*
with descant
Four-part Song (b) "The Sea King" *Smart*
The School.
2. Quartet in D Major *Mozart*
Allegretto Andante
Mennuetto Allegretto
The Holywell String Quartet.
3. Part Songs (a) "Flow not so fast ye fountains" *Peter Warlock*
(b) "By a Bank as I lay" *The Choir.*
4. Recitative and (a) "S'io non vedo Alidoro" *Marcantonio Ceste*
Aria with
Violin Obbligato
Song with (b) "Silent Worship" *Handel*
Violin Obbligato arr. by *Arthur Somervell*
Obbligato by *Mary Gotch*
Miss Ivy Sheldon Peach
Mrs. Gotch.
5. Unison Song "The Poacher" *Traditional*
The School.

PART II.

1. Part Song (a) "Rolling down to Rio" *Edward German*
The School.
Three-part Song (b) "Glorious Apollo" *Webbe*
Altos, Tenors and Basses.
2. Quartet "Serenade" *Hays Wolf*
The Holywell String Quartet.
3. Song "Come let's be merry" *Arne*
Miss Ivy Sheldon Peach
4. Part Song "Alister McAlpine's Lament" *Vaughan Williams*
The Choir.
5. Quartet "Les Dunes" *S. B. McEwen*
"La Racleuse"
The Holywell String Quartet.
6. Carol "Shepherds in the fields abiding" *From*
The School. the Cowley Carol Book
GOD SAVE THE KING.

FOOTBALL.

The season opened with two victories over moderate club sides. In their first match the School showed distinct promise, but the second, a victory by the narrowest of margins, showed up the team's weak defence and lack of combination in attack. Although we were leading 11—0 at one time, our opponents, Abingdon Town, nearly drew level towards the end of the second half throughout which they kept us almost continuously on the defensive.

Against Bloxham the team again showed poor defence and, a disinclination to fight back when the game was going against them. At this stage the forwards had not enough liveliness and speed to make up for their lack of weight. They were also, like the three-quarters, slow at covering in defence. Mills, at scrum-half, was greatly handicapped by their slow heeling, and could not get the ball away to Laybourne. This was particularly unfortunate, as Laybourne made the most of his opportunities, handling very well and getting off the mark very quickly. The three-quarter line so far had seldom looked dangerous owing to lack of combination and ideas.

In the next three matches there was a distinct improvement. Ranger, who worked tremendously hard himself, infused some of his vigour into the pack, and as a result they generally held their own in the loose at all events. The outsides, too, were more effective in attack, although many promising movements were spoilt by poor handling and backing-up. Their defence was none too sound, with the exception of Laybourne and Warrick, the former of whom tackled splendidly, especially in the match with Pembroke. Warrick was far more reliable this year, and was seldom caught out of position.

Against a heavy R.A.F. side the School played well in the first half, but their opponents' superior weight and speed was eventually too much for them, while Brown's effectiveness was impaired by an injured ankle. His absence and Mills' early retirement from the match with Leighton Park School were very unfortunate, as our forwards gained an ascendancy in this match which might otherwise have led to victory.

The closing stages of the season were marred by frosty weather and numerous casualties. The former unfortunately necessitated the cancelling of the matches with Magdalen College School, Oxford, and the Old Abingdonians; whilst as a result of the latter we could only include eight of our 1st XV in the team which was beaten by Magdalen College School, Brackley.

The 2nd XV played and lost three matches. Some of the team played well individually, but there was little attempt at combined play. Of the outsides James and Hill were good, and Cooper, Pollard, and Stevens were prominent among the forwards.

FIRST XV CHARACTERS.

D. G. BROWN. Captain. Colours 1932. A powerful centre-three-quarter, whose determination

in attack was of great value to the team though he was inclined to rely too much on his own efforts. A keen captain, he was unlucky to receive an injury half-way through the season, which deprived the team of his leadership just when they most needed it.

M. N. LAYBOURNE. Colours 1932. Stand-off half. Has played consistently well throughout the season. Quick off the mark, receives passes very neatly, and runs with great speed and determination. His tackling at the beginning of the season was not one of his most prominent features, but towards the end he very rarely missed his opponent. His kicking in defence is very sure, and he always finds touch well up the field.

J. RANGER. Colours 1932. Forward. As scrum leader has led the forwards exceedingly well. Displays untiring energy both in the tight and loose scrummages. He makes full use of his speed and weight, combining them with good hands. His place-kicking has been extremely useful to the side.

G. E. H. WARRICK. Colours 1933. Full-back. Shows the virtues of an experienced player who refuses to be hustled. Inclined to be rather slow, but at the same time very sure. Fields the ball excellently and finds a long touch. His tackling has been of the utmost value to the side.

A. J. TURNHAM. 2nd XV Colours 1932. Forward. As a wing forward is very quick off the mark, but occasionally is apt to be a little too quick, not pushing sufficiently in the tight scrummages. Works very hard in the loose and dribbles well. Tackling mediocre.

A. L. FLEET. 2nd XV Colours 1932. Forward. Works hard and keeps up well. Has been very useful also as a three-quarter. A fair tackler and dribbler.

R. F. ANDREWS. 2nd XV Colours 1932. Right wing three-quarter. Rather slow for the wing, but runs with plenty of thrust. Tackles very well and has a safe pair of hands.

K. G. CORBETT. 2nd XV Colours 1933. Left wing three-quarter. Receives his passes well and is very quick off the mark. Runs hard for the line and persists until he is entirely pulled down. Tackles very well.

D. H. BLAKE. 2nd XV Colours 1933. Forward. Pushes hard in the tight scrummages, but is apt to hang about in the rear of the loose. Tackling disappointing.

D. E. MILLS. 2nd XV Colours 1933. Scrum-half. Gets the ball out to the outsides rapidly, and combines well with the stand-off. Falls on the ball very pluckily.

G. STEVENS. 2nd XV Colours 1933. Forward. A good hooker, and very solid worker. Pushes hard in the tight and is always prominent in forward rushes. A good dribbler.

O. E. CLARKE. 2nd XV Colours 1933. Forward. Breaks up quickly from the tight, and shows plenty of thrust. Must learn to tackle low.

L. E. J. LUKER. 2nd XV Colours 1933. Right-inside three-quarter. Runs hard and employs tactics, but must first learn to hold the ball. Tackling sometimes fair.

A. R. M. ADAMS. 2nd XV Colours 1933. Forward. A variable player whose play was often marred by too much "winging." Should keep up with the ball more and show greater determination in tackling.

E. S. WILLEY. 2nd XV Colours 1933. Forward. Sometimes a hard worker, and very useful, but does not keep up well. Tackling must improve.

1ST XV RUGGER MATCHES, 1933.

Sat., Oct. 14th. v. Oxford Exiles "A." Won: 14—6.

The School made a promising start to the season by winning their first match. The Exiles were quicker off the mark than the School, and pressed continually for the first ten minutes but good play by Warrick at full-back, checked them until a good break-away by their forwards was rewarded by an unconverted try. The School forwards then 'took' the ball and, after a good bout of passing, Ranger got over for a try, which he failed to convert. Just before half-time, after a movement by the three-quarters, Luker scored a try under the posts which Ranger converted. The score at half-time was 8—3.

In the second half the School played well together and tries were scored by Laybourne and Luker, both as a result of a cut-through; neither try was converted.

The Exile forwards then broke away and scored another unconverted try, but subsequently the School were pressing for the remainder of the game. Warrick played a very fine game at full-back, his kicking and tackling being equally good. The forwards played quite well together and were ably led by Ranger.

Team :—G. E. H. Warrick : K. G. Corbett, D. G. Brown, L. E. J. Luker, R. F. Andrews : M. N. Laybourne, D. Mills : A. J. Turnham, A. L. Fleet, O. E. Clarke, E. S. Willey, E. H. Pollard, A. R. M. Adams, J. Ranger, D. H. Blake.

Sat., Oct. 21. v. Abingdon R.F.C. Away.
Won : 11—10.

Abingdon pressed hard at the beginning of the game, but the School retaliated and were awarded a penalty kick, which Ranger converted. The play then became very scrappy and there were no combined movements on either side. The School, however, continued to press and just before half-time Brown went over on the right for a try, which was not converted. On recommencing, the Abingdon forwards pressed hard and the School were kept in their own half continually, except when Brown broke away, and running nearly three-quarters of the length of the field, scored a try under the posts which was converted.

Abingdon then scored two unconverted tries and a drop goal by reason of their continuous pressure.

The School forwards showed little knowledge of combined defensive play, while the three-quarters were too apt to drop their passes.

Warrick again played a good game at back but, although we won this match, the form was disappointing after the promising start in the previous match.

The team was the same as in the previous match.

Wed., Oct. 25th. v. Bloxham School. Away.
Lost : 0—39.

The School were very disappointing in this match, and did not play together as a team.

Bloxham were quick off the mark and scored a fine try on the right, which was converted. They continued to press and scored three more tries before half-time, when the score was 0—16, in their favour.

On restarting, the School combined much better and for fifteen minutes held their opponents well, but when the Bloxham three-quarters again broke through, they seemed to lose heart. They then scored a further four tries.

This match was not so one-sided as the score suggests, but the Bloxham three-quarters always looked dangerous and their whole team showed a good knowledge of combined play, their backing up being especially good. The School forwards were very weak in combined play, and were outclassed in the set-scrums and line-outs, partly due to the superior weight of the Bloxham pack.

A feature of the game was the fine place-kicking of the Bloxham captain.

The tackling of the School outsiders was weak.

Team :—G. E. H. Warrick : K. G. Corbett, D. G. Brown, L. E. J. Luker, R. F. Andrews : M. N. Laybourne, D. Mills : A. J. Turnham, A. L. Fleet, O. E. Clarke, E. S. Willey, L. C. Smallbone, J. Ranger, G. M. Stevens, D. H. Blake.

Wed., Nov. 1. v. Abingdon R.A.F. Home.
Lost : 0—24.

The R.A.F. brought over a strong team and the School played a much better game than in the previous match.

In the first half the R.A.F. kept up a fast pace and scored three unconverted tries as the result of good three-quarter movements. During this period Warrick's kicking was excellent and he played a fine game all through.

After the interval the R.A.F. heeled regularly and scored two more tries, which they failed to convert. The School forwards then showed a great improvement and pressed for some time, until the R.A.F. dropped a very fine goal. The School scrum then got the ball out quickly to the three-quarters, who nearly scored, but in the last few minutes of the game the R.A.F. scored again between the posts and converted the try.

The chief fault of the School was the inability of the three-quarters to finish off their movements well.

The team was the same as in the previous match.

Wed., Nov. 8th. v. Leighton Park School. Home. Lost : 3—12.

This was a fine match and the School played perhaps their best game of the season.

Brown and Clarke were both unable to play and we lost Mills through injury soon after the start.

The first half started at a great pace and a Leighton three-quarter dribbled over the line to score an unconverted try. After this setback the School played much better and it was not till twenty minutes later that the Leighton forwards scored a try, forcing the ball over the line from a five yards scrum.

Immediately afterwards a fine three-quarter movement added another three points to their score, but from then until half-time, the School pressed hard and the forwards carried out some good dribbles. At half-time, Hill took Mills' place at scrum-half and Fleet went to left inside three-quarter from the scrum.

In the second half the School forwards played very well and held the heavier Leighton scrum. The three-quarters were better together and the tackling was quite good. After twenty minutes the School were awarded a penalty kick, which Ranger converted, and it was not until ten minutes from time when Leighton broke through again and scored an unconverted try.

Warrick played his usual good game, but Luker's handling was poor and spoilt several promising movements.

The team was the same as in the previous match, except that P. J. Hill took R. G. James' place in the three-quarter line.

Sat., Nov. 11th. The match with Radley College 2nd XV was scratched by Radley, owing to injuries.

Sat., Nov. 18th. *v.* Pembroke College. Home. Lost : 5—22.

Pembroke did us the honour of bringing over a stronger team than we played last year and a good game resulted. The score by no means shows the trend of the game and the School did as much attacking as did Pembroke. The difference lay in the inability of the School to finish off their movements. The tackling was quite good, Laybourne and Warrick being outstanding in this particular.

The School pressed at the start but the Pembroke three-quarters broke through and scored a good try, which was converted. Play continued very even, but whereas Pembroke finished their movements by scoring two more unconverted tries, the School three-quarters seemed to break down at the critical moment. The score at half-time was 0—11.

On restarting, the forwards played well together and, after heeling near the line, Brown scored a good try which Ranger converted. This seemed to encourage Pembroke to fresh efforts and a further two tries were scored. The School pressed well towards the end and two good forward movements, which should have ended in tries, were spoilt by bad passing at the end. From the last of these, a Pembroke defender in attempting a long kick to touch was unsuccessful, but following up hard, found Warrick out of position for once and scored a try in the corner.

In this match, Brown and Clarke returned to the team, while Cann played at scrum-half. The forwards rarely gave their three-quarters the ball quickly enough to be of any use, while Luker was uncertain with his passes.

Team :—G. E. H. Warrick : K. G. Corbett, D. G. Brown, L. E. J. Luker, R. F. Andrews : M. N. Laybourne, E. C. Cann ; A. J. Turnham, A. L. Fleet, O. E. Clarke, A. R. M. Adams, E. S. Willey, J. Ranger, W. F. Wiggins, D. H. Blake.

Wed., Nov. 29th. *v.* Magdalen College School, Brackley. Played at Brackley. Lost : 0—25.

In this match we had seven of the regular team away as a result of injuries. The forwards were very equally matched but outside the scrum our opponents were much stronger and more effective. Brackley scored very soon after the start and again shortly before half-time. In the second half, though our forwards put in some good rushes and defensive work the superiority of the Brackley three-quarters added four more tries.

Team :—R. F. Cox : K. G. Corbett, R. G. James, R. F. Andrews, A. R. M. Adams : M. N. Laybourne, P. V. Collings : M. R. T. Cooper, J. Ranger, G. M. Stevens, E. S. Willey, L. C. Smallbone, E. H. Pollard, W. F. Wiggins, D. H. Blake.

The matches *v.* Magdalen College School, Oxford, and the Old Abingdonians were scratched owing to frost.

SECOND XV MATCHES.

v. Bloxham School. Home. Lost, 3—26.

The School pressed for the first five minutes, but owing to weak tackling, Bloxham broke through the centre and scored. After this the School seemed to lose heart, and Bloxham, through their better combination, gradually added more tries. However, shortly before the end of the game the School brightened up and Adams was able to obtain a try near the corner flag, which was not converted.

v. Leighton Park School. Away. Lost 5—14.

The School team, although not up to full strength, did not play at all well. The tackling was weak and the scrum seemed unable to keep up with the ball. However, Cooper played well and deserved his try, which was converted by Cox. There was far too much individualism in the School team.

v. Magdalen College School. Away. Lost, 0—19.

Magdalen pressed from the start, the School only occasionally reaching their '25'. The School defence was weak, and the three-quarters did not mark their men well, which perhaps was the chief cause of defeat.

The following played for the 2nd XV: R. G. James (captain), P. V. Collings, P. A. D. Jones, W. F. Wiggins, A. R. M. Adams, L. C. Smallbone, G. M. Stevens, M. R. Cooper, E. A. Joseph, E. H. Pollard, P. J. Hill, C. F. Powell, E. C. Cann, R. F. Cox, P. L. Beckett, A. N. Elley, R. A. Woodley, F. A. Bennett, H. L. Livingstone, J. S. Randle, E. S. Willey, J. A. Fletcher and D. C. Woolf.

UNDER 15 RUGGER.

The Under 15 Team had an interesting and successful season, which was especially satisfactory seeing that only two, Hill and Emmett, were left from last year's all-conquering side. A welcome keenness was shown by all concerned.

Of the three other matches, the first, against Bloxham, was drawn 6—6; the team, after not much more than a week's practice, had not quite settled down. In the last two matches, however, it had got well into its stride; Magdalen College School, Oxford, were beaten 9—0, and Magdalen College School, Brackley, were beaten 26—3, so that the season was ended on a very satisfactory note.

The first match, against Bloxham, came early, and as Bloxham had been easily our most formidable opponents the previous season, there could be no complaints about a draw of 6—6; at the same time Hill had not yet learnt to run with real resolution (a defect which he later remedied well) and might have scored had he done so. Bayley and E. F. Stevens (who ran well) scored tries for us, and victory was within our grasp.

In the later matches Hill went much harder, instead of merely trying to trick his opponents, and this made a great difference to our attack. He scored all three tries against Magdalen, Oxford, who were beaten 9—0, but even with his improved form this would not have been possible without the fine work of the forwards and the smart passing of Lunghi. Bowman had not yet been discovered as a place kicker, or some of the tries might well have been converted.

In the final match, against Magdalen, Brackley, the whole team were at the top of their form, and all by their keen play contributed towards the victory, quite apart from the actual scoring of the tries. Hill certainly had a great field day, as he scored four tries and dropped a very neat penalty goal; Bayley scored the other try, a well-deserved one, as he had twice previously nearly scored by hard bursts for the line. The forwards, who improved greatly during the season, played

splendidly, and dominated their opponents; their combined rushes were most praiseworthy, and they frequently made twenty or thirty yards ground by these. Bayley, Bowman, Smith and Emmett were outstanding, but all played really well. Lunghi was as usual smart and neat at scrum half, and the three-quarters saw to it that their opposite numbers did not have much chance.

As regards the season as a whole, Hill became a tower of strength, once he realised that with his obvious advantages of size and speed he must run with real thrust and resolution; previously he had been apt to fritter away his chances through trying solely to trick his opponent in some way or other. Having largely got out of this habit, he met with much success, which he fully deserved. Lunghi was a great find, and at scrum half played an intelligent game and served Hill well. He should be of great value next year. The three-quarters always played up keenly, though they did not have a great many chances, and their handling was apt to be faulty. This especially applies to E. F. Stevens, who has pace and goes hard, but whose handling at times was most uncertain; this consequently made his play rather disappointing. He should be distinctly good if he can improve his handling. Giles was another find; he made a robust three-quarter, and his kicking was good. D. Jones was rather small for full-back, but he tackled pluckily and was fairly reliable, though he must make more sure of finding touch.

The forwards, after being a little slow at the start to settle down, then began to show a striking improvement, and became better and better, culminating with a really splendid effort in the last match. Emmett was the only forward left from last year, and he led the pack well, besides playing a good winging game. In the first part of the season he was at times apt to get in the way of his scrum-half, but he remedied this, and his spoiling work was good. In the last match especially, he played an invaluable game. Bowman learnt the game quickly, and he and Bayley were two outstanding forwards, who always went hard and made some splendid dashes, both in midfield and for the line. Bowman also developed into a good place-kicker, and in the last match he converted four out of five tries—an excellent achievement. Smith was an exceptionally neat dribbler and controlled the ball well. The whole pack deserves much praise.

As about nine of the team will still be under 15, the prospects of a good season next year are distinctly promising.

The following played for the team :—P. J. Hill (captain), R. Emmett, H. A. Lunghi, R. E. Bowman, W. G. Smith, G. V. Bayley, D. Jones, G. A. D. Baker, H. H. Whitfield, E. F. Stevens, G. W. J. England, R. Goodey, W. Giles, P. H. Wooster, J. O. Bury, D. Pimm.

THE RAG CONCERT.

The programme opened with two cheerful items by our troupe of Youthful Yellers—"Polly Wolly Doodle" and "The Climate," followed by an equally familiar troupe of not so youthful Negro Songsters. (Query: Why are dark skins so grimly responsive to the spotlights of all colours?) Fleet sang the solo in the catchy "So You Say," and Turnham in "Shine, Shine, Moon" assisted by A. R. Adams, P. R. Wood and R. Emmett. A sketch entitled "Lost Property" concerning an umbrella with a handle of strange and varied descriptions, shewed us D. C. Woolf in the rôle of harassed official and A. C. Emms as a particularly exasperating client. The second sketch was a revival of "Rabbits" written by Mr. Alston—and even those few who had seen it before must have been much amused at the antics of the two old maids—H. A. Lunghi and R. F. Simmonds. The other actors were all 'quietly' efficient. G. M. Stevens as the porter, L. G. Cather a quiet young man, P. L. Beckett a ticket collector, and A. L. V. Barnes, who from the little we saw of him, looked every inch a Reading murderer. Interspersed between the items were a broad Berkshire dialogue concerning a bucket by L. E. Carter and E. H. Pollard—and items by the Staff including revivals of "Birds in the Wilderness" and "This Helmet" I suppose (from Princess Ida) by Messrs. Ingham Alston and Bateman, in the latter of which J. N. Andrews, L. B. King and D. G. Carter officiated capably as un-'dressers', and a quartet "Botany Bay" in which Mr. Duxbury joined a villainous-looking crew. Mr. Alston and Mr. Bateman also kept the show running (in) with "The Gendarmes," and Mr. Alston showed with what success he could take his harp to a party. E. A. Joseph's song and dance-turn "Sweep" proved how brushes and artist go together, and was well received. For the final sketch—"The Mystery of the Fourth Floor" we were indebted to the Rev. G. R. Palmer (in collaboration with his brother and Mr. Hugh Chesterman) and would take this opportunity of thanking him for the loan of the realistic apparatus which represented the moving lift. The stage hands are also to be complimented on the efficiency with which the lift made its ascents and descents.

Of the actors G. F. Rice as the liftman, S. K. Muir as a Charwoman, and H. T. Jones as a robust and voluble matron were more than reminiscent of figures we have met in real life—while P. J. Hill, as the man of mystery, R. F. Jackson and P. H. Wooster as two other very presentable ladies, G. V. Bayley the inevitable constable and J. N. Paige (described on the programme as 'boy' but surely deserving a further title) all contributed to a most amusing sketch with a good 'curtain.'

O.T.C.

The early part of last term was fully taken up with the training of candidates for Certificate "A." In this connection it must be mentioned that much valuable help and instruction was given by Sgt. P. A. D. Jones. Six out of seven candidate passed in the Practical Examination and we are now able to congratulate D. C. Woolf and F. A. Bennett on their success in the November Written Examination.

The setting up of the sand table in the armoury proved a very successful experiment and much use was made of it during the spell of cold weather towards the end of the term. This term work is being carried out in the open as far as possible, and the section commanders should have every opportunity of proving their worth. It is hoped that a Field Day will take place in March in co-operation with other contingents.

Promotions: To be L/Cpls: D. C. Woolf; R. P. F. Mills.

L.S.D.S.

The Officers of the Society were the same as for the previous session.

The first meeting was held on September 30th. After the election of ten new members the Secretary was called upon to propose "that in the opinion of this house the Victorian age has done little for the welfare of the world": after a description of the aspidistras and cake factories of Smethwick he relapsed into a long and inconsequential ending. Mr. R. G. James in opposing the motion made a very good speech, which however appeared to bear distinct traces of a University education. Mr. D. C. Woolf seconded the proposition, and Mr. A. R. M. Adams the opposition. On the debate being declared open to the house a lively discussion took place on science, tubular steel chairs, and Sunday observances. The voting, seven votes to eleven against the motion, came as a shock to one after reading so much about the "revolt of the present-day youth against the shibboleths of its Victorian grandparents."

The second meeting was on October 7th, the motion for debate being "that the modern craze for speed is not tending to the world's happiness."

Mr. D. G. Brown, seconded by the Hon. Treasurer proposed, and Mr. A. R. M. Adams, seconded by Mr. R. F. Andrews opposed the motion. Mr. H. B. King put forward the ingenious suggestion that the craze for speed was not modern at all, and cited Julius Cæsar and his forced marches as one of the chief speed kings of the ancient world.

The next meeting, on October 21st, took the form of a number of impromptu debates; the first, "that it is better to read an Edgar Wallace than a P. G. Wodehouse novel" was proposed by Mr. R. Emmett and opposed by Mr. J. A. Fletcher. Mr. Wallace secured two votes, Mr. Wodehouse nine. The next motion was "that in the opinion of this house it is better to keep a dog than a cat," which was proposed and opposed respectively by Messrs. H. L. Jacobs and H. L. G. Livingston; the motion was carried by twelve votes to one. Next, Mr. P. J. Woolf proposed, and the Hon. Treasurer opposed the motion "that in the opinion of this house there is nothing to beat the good old-fashioned coal-fire." One was pleasantly shocked by Mr. A. J. Turnham's remarks on the subject; the motion was lost by three votes to ten. Lastly the motion "that in the opinion of this house the noise produced by a pneumatic drill is to be preferred to an errand-boy whistling" was proposed and opposed by Messrs. H. T. Jones and L. G. Cather respectively; the motion was finally declared lost by one vote to twelve.

The next meeting took place on November 4th, the motion for debate being "that in the opinion of this house the average daily newspaper is not a credit to the British nation." Mr. A. C. Emms seconded by Mr. H. A. Lunghi proposed, and Mr. H. B. King seconded by Mr. H. T. Jones opposed the motion, which was lost by four votes to nine.

On November 18th the last meeting was held, the subject being a debate with the motion "that in the opinion of this house capital punishment ought to be abolished." Mr. J. A. Fletcher proposed and Mr. D. R. Thomas opposed the motion; they were seconded by Messrs. M. H. Holme and L. G. Cather respectively. The house divided against the motion by five votes to six.

It had been intended to hold another debate on the subject of ragging in Public Schools, but three attempts were frustrated by illness, rehearsals, and previous engagements.

G— HITS BACK.

or

THE EDITORIAL LETTER-WRITER'S COMPLETE
ENQUIRE WITHIN.

To the Editor of the Abingdonian.

Sir,—

May I crave sufficient space in your excellent periodical to correct a slight mis-statement which appeared in your last issue. In your report of the activities of the Photographic Society I see that I am reported as having resigned the post of Honorary Treasurer owing to my "finding the task of Treasurer to the Society and Hon. Secretary of the Debating Society too arduous." This, sir, appears to be a piece of over-brilliant conjecture on the part of one of your esteemed contributors; I certainly, never made any such statement. The conditions which brought about my resignation were these: in January, 1932, my name was put forward for the vacant post of Treasurer, but I declined to stand for election. The President, however, pointed out that with the exception of the Hon. Secretary I was the only member of the Society then in the VIth form; I therefore took on the post, but at the same time I made it quite clear that I had not taken a photograph for over a year and had neither the materials for, nor the desire of ever taking a photograph again. Last term, having held the post for five terms, I considered that the Society included a number of photographic enthusiasts of sufficient standing in the School to fill the post of Treasurer far more successfully than I had done, and I therefore tendered my resignation from the Society. It came as a great surprise to me to read in your pages the supposed motive for my resignation, the more so since, in the Summer Term, when I decided to resign, the Debating Society holds no session.

I trust that you will publish this letter in order that any wrong construction placed upon my actions, based on the report to which I allude, may be reconsidered, and wagging tongues may never level the black charge of slander at the fair level head of this mighty safety-valve of the vox populi; but rather that it may continue as the dove which brings the olive branch to the British lion and plants the flag of truce in the most stubborn breast, standing so opaquely in the light of injustice, with the scales of justice in one hand and the angel of peace in the other; its feet ever ringing on the straight and narrow path which as

every schoolboy knows is the shortest distance between two points . . . etc., *ad inf.* . .

I remain, Sir,

P** A*** D**** J*.

REVIEW.

"SPOILS OF TIME."

(*By Willoughby Weaving.*)

Willoughby Weaving, unlike too many modern poets, does not rely upon shock tactics to break the indifference of the public. In the practice of his art he is no revolutionary: on occasion he essays some metrical experiment, and often very successfully; but he makes no fetish of originality, nor does he mistake indiscipline for power.

In his latest volume of poems, "Spoils of Time," (Basil Blackwell: four shillings and sixpence) we note the same proofs of delicate, diligent workmanship as in his earlier writings; only, if anything, the eye and the ear for the beautiful, and the skill to transmute it into language, have grown more sensitive with the years. A poets' poet perhaps; certainly a nature-poet: with something of the philosopher in him, but more of the artist. If these "Spoils of Time" have little in sympathy with the noisier fashions of our own time, their appeal is the greater to that in us which is beyond time, refining, while it defines, the measure of our humanity.

The book contains upwards of eighty short poems, dedicated to Oswald Couldrey, "their foster-father, whose pro-parental care has improved most of them." The last thirty are sonnets, and these contain much of what is best in the collection: indeed this form seems specially to lend itself to the quiet dignity of Willoughby Weaving's muse. From so much sustained excellence it is hard to make selections, but the nature-sonnets in particular (the first ten) are rich in beautiful imagery; and their music is faultless. The treatment of "Books" too is admirable; and the same may be said of "Mind," save for the strange lapse of rhyme with which the poem opens. (Can it be that "the universe" here is just a usurping gloss? and the true text perhaps "all things that be"—?) "The Body" is almost equally good; while the two *in memoriam* George Eborn contain word-pictures which we feel the old gardener would have loved.

Of poems in the earlier part of the book we would mention especially "The Herons," in an original and arresting metre, well suited to the eerie fancy; "Silvan" for some beautiful lines, though the poem as a whole is uneven; and above all "O

make not your own time for love"—an exquisite little song that waits for its musician; and the three short, sombre stanzas to "The Bell." These last two pieces, it seems to us, are deserving of a place in any lyrical anthology.

Of humour too there is no lack, veiling a deeper significance, as in the poem ("Paradise Regained") about the good lady who "By some mistake in Peter's ministry of transport" got consigned to the wrong place, and there so effectually employed herself as a ministering angel that it turned out after all to be the right place;

"And so the feud 'twixt the good God

And Lucifer was mended";

or in the sonnet with which the collection is well closed—

"I dreamed that the recording angel's book

Was published in fortnightly parts by Benn.

At once it was attacked by decent men,

Which made the rest eager to have a look";

the result being eminently satisfactory to the publisher until, as a not unnatural sequel, "pandemonium broke loose" among the readers and "The publication was suppressed."

Lest we should be thought to praise too much, we would note for criticism, besides the technical flaw in the sonnet mentioned above, two trespasses against good grammar committed in consecutive poems ("The Happy Tree" and "Song from 'Life'"), one of which at least—the former—the plea of poetic licence may hardly excuse. And is it really necessary to write "agen" when one wants the final vowel sound to be short? Rightly or wrongly we so often shorten it in our speech that it seems superfluous in this one little word to adopt a phonetic spelling.

But we are very grateful for this little book of poems. Like most books of true poetry it may have no wide sale; but some of us at least feel the need of such refreshment. In a world of hustle and sensational advertisement, material values and commercial aims, there may yet be room for a poet who, caring for none of these things, has found time to possess his soul.

R.B.

O.A. NOTES.

BIRTHS.

WEST.—On July 5, at The Warren, Abingdon, to Mr. and Mrs. A. B. West, a son.

ROBINSON.—On September 4, at 78, Buckingham Road, Brighton, to May and John D. Lynn Robinson, a son.

COLE.—On November 6, to Jessie and Frank M. Cole, of Smithville, Hamilton, Ontario, a daughter.

MATTHEWS.—On November 10, at The Warren, Abingdon, to Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Matthews, a son.

LAYNG.—On December 12, at Berkeley, Glos., to Mabel Kathleen and the Rev. T. M. Layng, a son.

MARRIAGES.

BARTLETT—EMBERLIN.—On October 21, John H. Bartlett, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Bartlett, of Hampton Gay, Oxford, to Stella, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Emberlin, of Chesterton, Bicester.

BRUCE—PLUMMER.—Recently, at St. James', Sussex Gardens, Capt. Sir Michael W. S. Bruce, of Kenyth, Ascot, Berks, to Elizabeth Constance, younger daughter of the late Mr. Frank Plummer, formerly of Toronto.

DEATH.

CHALLENGOR.—On November 7, at The Anchorage, Abingdon, Edward Marchant Challenor, aged 76.

We have lost a familiar figure from Abingdon by the death of Edward M. Challenor, O.A. He joined the School as a little boy in January, 1868—two years before our present buildings were opened, and the whole of his subsequent career as a solicitor was spent in his home-town of Abingdon. As an Old Boy he always took a keen interest in our doings, and up to his last year he would come on a fine summer afternoon to sit under the elm-trees and watch our cricket matches. For many years past we have been indebted to him as a regular prize-donor at our Athletic Sports, and on occasion he subscribed generously towards larger School objects.

J. H. Bartlett, whose marriage we record above, has settled with his wife upon a farm of his own—Manor Farm—at Little Compton, Moreton-in-the-Marsh, where we hope they will be very happy.

Our good wishes also to Charles S. Morland, of Nigel, Transvaal, of whose forthcoming marriage on February 12th we have received notice in advance.

Congratulations to J. D. Wood, who has passed his final exam. and is now an A.R.I.B.A.

Likewise to E. G. Langford, who has passed the final exam. of Students of the Inns of Court and has been awarded the Buchanan Prize of £75 at

Lincoln's Inn. He was one of thirteen to pass with second class honours, only two candidates gaining first class honours, and headed the list of Lincoln's Inn candidates.

C. E. H. Dolphin has been appointed to the Instruction Staff at Sandhurst.

A. M. Thatcher has secured an appointment as a senior mathematical master at Worksope College.

E. P. Rice has obtained a veterinary post under the Southern Rhodesian Government and has sailed for Bulawayo.

H. M. Insley has been elected Professional Associate of the Chartered Surveyors' Institute and an Associate of the Auctioneers' Institute.

W. G. C. Denny has secured a good appointment in the Wholesale Radio Department of Messrs. Wm. Dibben and Sons and at the time when he wrote (November) was employed as a tester at their factory, "Cromwell (Southampton) Ltd.", where he finds the work most interesting. His address is 12, Archer's Mansions, Archer's Road, Southampton.

P. M. Lane is working with "Touch and Go" (Furnishings and Decorations) at 13, Beauchamp Place, S.W.3.

P. H. Gould is in a stockbroker's office.

J. Lay is a pupil in the office of Messrs. Adkin, Belcher and Bowen, Auctioneers and Valuers, of Abingdon.

Pat. V. Collings has been accepted for the Mercantile Marine, which he is to join in March.

H. F. D. Smart is now learning the art of sheep-farming on one of Sir Abe Bailey's farms in South Africa. Incidentally he enjoys the opportunity of helping with the management of Sir Abe's race-horses.

J. F. Sinclair, who has returned to India after six months' leave, is now posted to the Burmah-Shell depôt in New Delhi after barely three weeks at Karachi—a stay which he found all too short. Actually when he wrote he was at Alwar, "traveling" for the firm. While on a visit to Lahore recently he came across F. G. H. Allen and R. F. L. Thomas; and Cory Wright, he says, is at Peshawar, but he was not able to arrange a meeting.

D. M. Brown is treasurer of the British Sports Club in Lima, which has a membership of nearly 250. J. B. Ottiker is a member, and a leading light in the Rugger XV, while Brown has been Captain of Hockey. The latter hopes to return to

England in April, 1935, and to be married before he comes.

We congratulate R. F. Brown on his "Blue" for Golf. He seems to be maintaining his good and generally victorious form in the O.U.G.C. matches, and we wish him all good luck in the forthcoming inter-Varsity contest. In *The Daily Telegraph* we read that "Knox and Brown form one of the happiest, and, consequently, one of the strongest foursomes partnerships seen in Varsity golf for some time."

In another column we publish a letter (or the bulk of it) from Shaw Brown in Australia, describing a long and arduous cattle-droving journey through the "Never-Never" lands of the North and West.

The London Dinner of the O.A.C. was held last term on November 3. The members present were:—E. J. P. Ross-Barker (President) in the Chair, J. B. Reeves, T. F. Bowman, N. Duncan, J. F. C. Hertslet, T. S. Wilding, E. A. Mortleman, E. H. Blacknell, G. S. Sturrock, K. Cleave, H. D. Stiles, A. F. James, E. G. Langford, S. E. Clark, R. S. L. Robinson, A. C. Smith, F. W. Jennings, P. E. Wagstaff, and W. H. Stevens (London Secretary). The meeting, like its predecessors, proved an unqualified success. The dinner was excellent and the company, from the point of view of age and "period," very happily representative. It is hoped that in future years a yet larger number of O.A.s will turn up, and we can assure those who do that they will not be likely to regret it. The Club is again indebted to J. B. Reeves for securing as a rendezvous the beautiful City Livery Club's premises in St. Paul's Churchyard.

WANDERING THROUGH THE "NEVER-NEVER."

(A letter from Shaw Brown.)

I left Sydney in the middle of February and journeyed by rail 2,050 miles to Mt. Isa in North Queensland. From there I got a lift 140 miles to Camooweal by car, where I met the boss, Mr. D'Archy, the contract drover. Camooweal is only nine miles from the Northern Territory border, and is the head-quarters of all Territory drovers. It is also the absolute end of all civilization, as we travelled from East to West right across the N.T. into Western Australia without going near a town of any description. I spent 10 days in Camooweal altogether, and was very glad when we finally started, as it was sweltering hot weather

and absolutely nothing to do in a one-horse town like that. Mr. D'Archy had an old "Dodge" car, and six of us were crammed into it and the running-boards loaded with our swags.

When we started off, the Wet (the monsoonal rains they get every year in the North) was not yet over, and we were the first to try and cross the Barkly Tablelands this year. Mr. D'Archy will never try it again before the Wet's over. We had a terrible time with one bog after another, and a starving for five days into the bargain, before we finally got to Newcastle Waters. It took us three weeks to do the 450 miles. It's wonderful country that, across the Barkly Tablelands—that is unless you're in a car in the wet. Great rolling plains, mile after mile, with green grass feet high, waving in the breezes like a field of wheat. Every few miles there were flooded creeks, and the whole country was a real paradise for stock. Except for the bit of a starving we had once, our larder was pretty well stocked, as there were any amount of plain turkeys, ducks, and geese to be had in the different water-holes.

The Newcastle Creek was as wide as a river and we had to construct a boat to get our gear over, and then submarine the car across with the aid of the store-keeper, who gave us a pull with his truck. After passing Newcastle Waters the travelling was fairly good as we were then off the black-soil plains, and it only took us a couple of days to do the 240 miles to Wave Hill. The first 120 miles was through dense Bulwaddy scrub. Then, quite suddenly and most unexpectedly to me, we came to an opening with miles and miles of open mountain range country ahead of us. So it was all the way to our destination, except that the further we got into W.A. the rougher and more mountainous the country became.

On this stretch of our journey we passed through about 150 miles of the biggest cattle station in Australia, (and also the world), namely Victoria River Downs, owned by Bovrils, Ltd. It lies between the Bulwaddy scrub and Wave Hill. It is very pretty country—well grassed flats between stony ranges, with lagoons here and there and plenty of creeks and permanent springs. Wild cattle and wild horses (or brumbies) abound in the ranges and we saw quite a lot of each. (Over in the Kimberleys wild donkeys were very common.) V.R. Downs comprises 11,288 square miles, the next biggest station being Alexandria on the Barkly Tablelands, 10,188 square miles. We passed through about 120 miles of the latter in the "Dodge."

We stopped a day at Wave Hill (head-quarters of Lord Vestey's stations—Vesteys own most of the northern N.T.) fixing up some engine troubles before we continued on our way. About 150 miles further on we got word of the plant (comprising over 100 horses, 20 pack-saddles, etc., in charge of two men, that had been travelling from Alice Springs since Christmas) and heard that they were to camp the following night at a bore just on the boundary of the N.T. and W.A. Then just as we expected to overtake them within a couple of hours we came to a big black-soil plain, knee-deep in bog. There was no way round it, and it was impassable for two weeks at least; so another chap and I volunteered to walk on the 30 miles to the bore where the plant was expected to be that night. We left at mid-day and arrived at the bore about 8.30 p.m. thoroughly knocked up, and to our disgust found no one there. Next morn we saw by the tracks that the plant had passed, so we walked another six miles to Nicholson Station, where we borrowed horses, on which we rode another 17 miles before we caught the plant and stopped them. Then we returned with spare riding-horses and packs for the others in the car, and all the men transferred from the car to the horses, while the boss went back to Wave Hill for more men.

After this we travelled 100 miles to Hall's Creek, passing through very rough, mountainous, barren country, where the plant was split up into two sections, one going 200 miles west to Fossils Downs for 1,350 bullocks, and our section going 200 miles north-west through the West Kimberleys before we reached Glemoy, our destination, and started 'paint' with the cattle. Here we had two weeks' wait before the mustering was finally completed and the cattle ready for the road. None of us was sorry for the spell, as we'd had no easy time travelling with the plant, as all our spare time was spent shoeing the horses. We had an ideal camp, under a huge Bo-ab tree (a species of giant bottle-tree that only grows in the north-western corner of Australia) and on the bank of a very deep water-hole in a creek teeming with fish, turtles, and not a few crocodiles. The creek was running along a very well grassed flat, and at the foot of a huge, towering mountain range. It was a charming spot, and we had a delightful time there, swimming and fishing. I might mention that the fresh-water crocodiles are perfectly harmless—it's the alligators in the salt rivers that go for men and animals.

We took delivery of the cattle on May 1st, the

outfit consisting of 1,554 head of cattle, 60 horses, 10 packs, and eight men (six with the cattle, the cook, and black-boy horse-tailer). The first few days of our return journey it was not bad going, along well grassed flats between stony ranges; but when we struck the Ord River at its head and started to follow it down, we went over the roughest country imaginable for 300 miles. For the most part the only way we could travel at all was to let the cattle string out in single file for miles. We were in and out of gullies, down gorges and up over mountain-tops, or travelling along the steep sides of a mountain, and all the time over cruel, razor-sharp stones. We travelled for days over country where no beast had ever trod (except a few wallaroos) and it was heart-breaking work for men, horses and cattle. Some of the cattle had a penchant for climbing up the roughest and most inaccessible mountain-sides; so to spare my horse I'd dismount and take after them over the jagged rocks on foot (I wore out three pair of riding-boots in the first 10 weeks) pelting a few rocks at them the while.

No man who was in the plant then will forget that trip down the Ord River, and they all swore they'd never go back again as long as they lived. It was a month before we reached Ord River Station and finally left the Ord. We had another six weeks' travel over mountain ranges but nothing in comparison to the Ord country. Two weeks after passing Ord River Station (where our black-boy cleared out) we came to the Swan River and out on to the road that runs from Wave Hill to Hall's Creek. There the boss was waiting for us in the "Dodge" with stores, and three of the men gave a week's notice. The cattle had had a gruelling time over the stones and were frightfully dead. Within the next two or three weeks men were coming and going (chance travellers picked up along with their pack-horses) all the time, none stopping more than a few days. So for three-quarters of the whole trip there were only six of us in the plant, or only four with the cattle, which was far too short-handed and made a terrible lot of work for the rest of us. By the time we reached Newcastle Waters, Walter Foote, the second in charge (he's the drover boss, as Mr. D'Archy spends his time running from one plant to the other with stores), and I, were the only ones left of the original complement.

We were very thankful when we finally got off stone on to flat, soft country in the Bulwaddy scrub, though this was dense enough to give us a pretty arduous time. When we left the scrub at

Newcastle Waters we had a great time on the open plain country for a week or so, before we turned south and struck the Overland Telegraph Line, which we then followed all the rest of our way. There is a car road that also follows the line, and wells every 30 or 35 miles for travellers and travelling stock. After a few days we came to desert country—not the sort of desert you'd imagine, but sandy, spinifex country, very scantily grassed, except in patches, and over it all desert scrubs (or you might say shrubs) of every description. These shrubs are for a great part edible, which is a great asset to the country, and it was surprising how well the cattle did, passing through all that desert. We passed through Tennant's Creek when all the men round about had the gold-fever (there was a bit of a find there just then, and they were all talking of its being a second Coolgardie; but it came to nothing), and then passed by Barrow Creek and 22 miles further on finally delivered the cattle on September 8th on Sterling Station, the property of Sir Sidney Kidman. We had been just 20 weeks on the road with the cattle and covered 1,200 miles.

I can't say that anyone was sorry when the work was over. It's a very hard life, droving, especially when you strike a bad mob of mixed cattle such as we had; strong bullocks trying to race away and weak cows and young stuff on the tail being pushed along to do the necessary long stages. In the first place we are all up with the Morning Star (watches are set by it), roll our swags, have breakfast, catch our horses and saddle them in the dark, and then wait for daylight so that we can see to let the cattle off camp. We take turns to mind the cattle during the mid-day camp, so that if it's your watch you're in the saddle solid from daylight till dark, except for about 15 minutes while you eat your lunch, plus two hours at least at night. The rest of the men usually sleep at lunch-time, unless camped on water, when they take the opportunity to have a bath and do some washing. That mid-day camp is the only time during the 24 hours that a drover has to himself, and very often this is cut short, as when the cattle are thirsty and have to be started early to reach water. At night each man does a watch (except the cook), so that with five of us on watch we did two hours each. But sometimes it was necessary to double-watch the cattle, as for instance when they were fresh during the first 10 nights, and later when they were thirsty, and this of course meant more work per man per night. On long dry stages the cattle would often have to do three days without water, and on the third

night they would usually be restless. Some nights two men would have to be round them all the time, as they'd smell the water in the canteens and some would be constantly sneaking into the camp, at sight of which the entire mob would be on its feet and on the move towards the water. We had several rushes during the trip (or stampedes as they call them in U.S.A.) but we got them in hand all right on each occasion, and none were seriously hurt.

After delivering the cattle the party split up, two of the men returning to Camooweal with the plant, the boss in the car, others going back with their pack-horses to Tennant's Creek for gold, and myself for Sydney. I waited in Barrow Creek for a couple of days and then got a lift to Alice Springs in a truck. Alice Springs was nothing like what I had expected. Instead of being in the midst of a desert it is very prettily set on the bank of a creek amid some big mountain ranges. The creek seldom runs and there's not a vestige of anything green outside the township, except the gum-trees; but for all that it's a very pretty spot. The nights, they say, are always cool even in summer, and it is certainly nowhere so hot as any of the surrounding country 100 miles on any side. I had a week's wait for a train: they only run fortnightly: then had a most interesting rail journey of 1,000 miles to Adelaide. Once out of the ranges surrounding Alice Springs we travelled through true desert country—great sandy wastes—for two days and nights before getting to Quorn, where the closer settlement begins. We woke up to a different scene there, the emerald green of the wheat-fields being a striking contrast to the glaring red sand-hills we'd been across the previous day. For they'd had rain there not long before, and though the crops were doomed to failure, they were delightfully green and good to gaze upon after so much desert.

I spent a night at Adelaide, then went on to Melbourne, and finally arrived in Sydney after five days and nights in the train, during which we travelled well over 2,000 miles.

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