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THE ABINGDONIAN.

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SCHOOL NOTES.

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Abingdon has been elected to the Chairmanship of the Governing Body.

Professor E. C. Titchmarsh of New College, Savilian Professor of Geometry in the University of Oxford and A. Wilson-Green, Esq., have been appointed Governors. H. P. Simpson, Esq., O.A., has also been nominated Governor in the place of Dr. H. S. Challenor, O.A., who has resigned owing to ill-health.

We congratulate D. G. Brown on his election to the Abingdon Scholarship in Classics at Pembroke College, Oxford.

We also offer congratulations to D. C. Woolf on obtaining a Paymaster Cadetship in the Royal Navy. He was placed 16th in the total entry for the Navy.

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

The other School Prefects are: A. R. M. Adams, A. N. Elley, R. P. F. Mills and A. A. Bristow (Waste Court). The Sub-prefects are: D. E. Mills, F. A. Bennett, H. L. G. Livingston and M. R. T. Cooper.

D. G. Brown is Captain of Boats.

1st XI Colours were awarded last term to R. F. W. Andrews, G. M. Stevens, L. E. J. Luker, D. E. Mills, O. E. Clarke and E. F. Pollard, and 2nd XV Colours to M. R. T. Cooper, G. V. Bayley, J. O. Bury, D. R. H. Brown, E. A. Joseph, H. L. G. Livingston, P. A. Town, P. R. Wood and D. C. Woolf.

L. E. J. Luker was awarded a School Certificate in the December examination.

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

Bishop Shaw held a Confirmation in the School Chapel on Sunday, December 9th, when the following boys were confirmed: P. R. Wood, R. Emmett, L. J. D. Hutchinson, R. F. Simmonds, R. E. Brodie, S. R. Ashby, H. B. Bailey and J. O. Bury.

On November 25th the School enjoyed a whole holiday in honour of the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Kent. The morning was spent in diverse manners and in the afternoon the boarders went in to Oxford to see the match between the University XV and Gloucester. After a most satisfactory and satisfying tea at the new Lyons' Restaurant they went on to see "Disraeli" at the "Scala" and concluded a notable day at 9.30 p.m.

An informal Music Circle has been started this term among those specially interested. It meets at various and odd times in Mr. Ingham's room; its main outside activity so far has been to attend Rachmaninoff's Pianoforte Recital in Oxford.

This term ends on Tuesday, March 26th, boarders leaving on the following day. The Summer term begins on Tuesday, April 30th, boarders returning on the previous day.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contemporaries:—*The Bracklean*, *The Bloxhamist*, *The Brighton College Magazine*, *The City of Oxford Magazine*, *The Laxtonian*, *The Leightonian*, *The Lily*, *The Log of the Nautical College*, *Pangbourne*, *The Monktonian*, *The R.M.A. Magazine*, *The St. Edward's School Chronicle*.

VALETE.

VI FORM.—J. Ranger (1928, iii). School Prefect, 1933, 1934; O.S.C., 1934; 1st IV Rowing, 1932—1934; Captain of Boats, 1933, 1934; 1st XV Rugger, 1931—1934; 1st XV Colours, 1932; Full Athletic Colours, 1932; Sergeant, O.T.C., 1934; 1st Class Shot.

D. C. Woolf (1931 ii). Sub-Prefect, 1934; O.S.C., 1933; 2nd XV Rugger, 1933, 1934; Captain and 2nd XV Colours, 1934; 2nd XI Cricket, 1933, 1934; Sergeant, O.T.C.; Cert. "A," 1933; 1st Class Shot.

W. J. Head (1931, i, and 1927, iii—1928, ii). Sub-Prefect, 1934; O.S.C., 1933 (with Distinction in French), 1934 (with Distinctions in Physics and Chemistry).

VA FORM.—E. F. Pollard (1929, iii). 1st XV Rugger, 1934; 1st XV Colours, 1934; 1st Class Shot.

E. A. Joseph (1932, iii). 1st XV Rugger, 1934; 2nd XV Colours, 1934.

VB FORM.—P. J. Wootten (1933, ii).

REMOVE FORM.—J. A. Pressland (1932, iii).

III FORM.—G. W. Catmur (1933, ii).

SALVETE.

VB FORM.—P. A. Wimberley, G. H. Salt.

II FORM.—K. S. Nadin.

SCHOOL CONCERT.

The School Concert took place on Friday, Nov. 30th, in the Corn Exchange.

We are very grateful to all those who came to listen to us and for their appreciation of our efforts.

Owing to a severe chill Miss Waterhouse was unable to play with the orchestra, but Miss Eva Kisch kindly filled her place at the last moment. This necessitated a slight change in the programme. Miss Kisch gave a flute solo "Sicilienne" by Fauré, instead of the Suite by Alec Rowley. Miss Kisch rendered this solo superbly and all who listened to her must have fully enjoyed the rich tone and expression she gave to it.

The pieces given by the orchestra, led most beautifully by Mrs. Gotch, were all worthy of the highest praise.

The trio for flute, oboe and piano was exquisite, and perfectly balanced.

We are most grateful to these talented musicians for their tremendous help to our programme. To write of the items individually would take up too much room, and indeed would be very difficult, for each was so perfect that many of us would like to have heard them again. The School singing was better than usual, the trebles were clearer and kept together well and also kept the pitch which is so important in four-part singing, or any singing for that matter.

The spirit of some of the items was rather disappointing, especially in "Sir Eglamore" and "The Camel's Hump." These should have gone with a swing, and more volume, but the singers seemed to lose atmosphere and allowed the songs to drag.

"As Torrents in Summer" and "A little Carol" were good, but the choir were best in "Fain would I change that note" and "Fairest Isle." The running harmony was perfectly balanced, and

the enunciation was better in this part-song than any of the others. The singers have improved in watching the beat, but there are still a few who will not look up, and so in consequence cause the little mistakes that a musical ear detects at once.

I.S.P.

The four songs sung by Miss Peach gave great pleasure to the audience and were of the high standard which she sets herself and strives to reach in the singing of the School.

PROGRAMME.

Part I.

1. Four-part Song. (a) "As Torrents in Elgar
Summer" The Choir. 1858—1934
(b) "A little Carol" Henry Hine
The School.
2. Quartet in F for Oboe and William Shield
Strings. Moderato. Allegretto. 1748—1829
3. Song "The Harvest of Sorrow" S. Rachmaninov
Ivy Sheldon Peach.
4. Four-part Song "Sheep Shearing" Arr. by
The School Cecil Sharp
5. Trios for Flute, Oboe and Piano
(a) "Two interlinked French Ethel Smyth
Melodies" b. 1858
(b) Solo "Sicilienne" Faure
Eva Kisch
6. Unison Song "Sir Eglamore" 1615
The School. Arr. by Balfour Gardiner

Part II.

1. Four-part Song "The Camel's Edward
Hump" The School. German
2. Quartet in D for Flute and Strings Mozart
Allegro. Adagio. Rondo. 1756—1791
3. Songs (a) "The Singer" Peter Warlock
(b) Epilogue John Ireland
Ivy Sheldon Peach.
4. Canzonet (a) "Fain would I change that
note" Vaughan Williams
Four-part Song (b) "Fairest Isle" Purcell
The Choir.
5. Song "Caro mio Ben" G. Giordani
Ivy Sheldon Peach. 1753—1794
6. Serenade for Violin, Viola and 'Cello Dohnanyi
Marcia. Romanza. Rondo b. 1877

The Orchestra :

Flute : Eva Kisch. Oboe : Elizabeth Kitson.
Violin : Mary Gotch. Viola : Pompilia Legge.
Violoncello and Accompanist : Herma Fiedler.

At the Piano :

Ruby Williams, L.R.A.M. Keith Muir.

RUGGER, 1934.

It is pleasant to look back upon a season as successful as the one now under review. The pleasure is enhanced by the recollection of the doubts which we felt at the beginning of it. It had then appeared very unlikely that we should be able to build a satisfactory back division round the material available, a scrum half and three three-quarters, which was all we could count upon out of the previous year's teams. Luckily we were able to solve this awkward problem most effectively. Luker moved to full-back, and soon gave proof that he was admirably suited to that position. His safe hands and sound defence gave those in front of him confidence, whilst his experience as a three-quarter enabled him on occasions to turn defence into attack. The withdrawal of Luker left us with only two good three-quarters, and in the early matches the three-quarter line was far from satisfactory. The addition of Ranger and Clarke, who were taken out of the pack, made a tremendous difference, and the three-quarters soon developed into the best attacking line we have yet had. Andrews with his deceptive stride and swerve repeatedly beat the defence completely : his clever interceptions, too, paved the way to a number of tries. He received ample support from Ranger, who exploited the diagonal cut-through and made good use of his pace. Of the wings Clarke could produce a tremendous dash for the corner-flag and was difficult to stop when near the line. Hill had not really sufficient speed for a wing, and would probably have played better in the centre if a place could have been found for him. He was inclined to kick into touch too much, but was good in defence and has rigger sense. He should be very useful next year.

Mills and Brown combined well at half. The former had a hard time playing behind a pack which was not strong enough to give him the ball very often. He saved many an awkward situation and got the ball out to his partner whenever possible. Brown's strong running enabled him to shake off all but the most determined tackling, and if at times he was inclined to attempt too much himself, he was quick off the mark, often got the three-quarters moving well, and always backed up their movements admirably.

The pace and opportunism of the whole back division both in attack and defence was refreshing to watch and a great improvement on the form shown by the 1st XV. outsiders in recent years.

The forwards developed slowly, and until the middle of the season it appeared unlikely that they would be strong enough to give the outsiders a chance to show their powers. Indeed, although they became fairly good in the loose they never learned to scrummage really well, and in the Pembroke, Leighton, and O.A. matches this weakness was very evident. They were handicapped by lack of weight, and Bayley's undoubted ability as a hooker was largely wasted. Pollard alone had weight and height, and used them effectively. Bayley, Adams, Bury and Cooper were good in the open. Stevens led the pack ably, working very hard at all times.

The XV did not really strike their form until the Radley match, but then they won five of the six remaining matches, in the last three of which they scored 86 points to 12—a fitting conclusion to a season which was a vindication of the old adage that attack is the best form of defence.

The following are the results of the 1st XV matches:—

				F. A.
Sat.	Oct. 13	London	Old	
		Abingdonians		H. Won 17 10
Sat.	„ 20	Abingdon R.F.C.		H. Lost 8 15
Sat.	„ 27	Leighton	Park	
		School		A. Lost 8 11
Wed.	Nov. 7	Radley	College	
		2nd XV		H. Won 20 16
Sat.	„ 10	Bloxham School		H. Won 22 8
Sat.	„ 17	Pembroke	Coll.	
		Oxon.		A. Lost 8 34
Sat.	„ 24	Magdalen	C.S.,	
		Oxford		A. Won 25 3
Sat.	Dec. 1	Magdalen	C.S.,	
		Brackley		H. Won 37 0
Sat.	„ 8	Old Abingdonians		H. Won 24 9

FIRST XV MATCHES.

Sat., Oct. 20th. *v.* Abingdon R.F.C. Home.
Lost: 15—8.

For the first ten minutes the Town pressed, but the School held them and some good three-quarter movements took play into the Town "25." As a result of a renewed attack by the Town, Lainchbury scored an unconverted try, and the same player shortly afterwards scored again. The School counter-attacked but the heavier Town forwards broke away and J. M. Allison scored the third try. Soon after the interval the School began to attack more vigorously, and after the Town had lost Morris, owing to injury, Brown ran through and

scored an unconverted try. With this encouragement he soon scored another try, which he himself converted. The Town replied with another try, but the School were pressing strongly in the closing stages.

Team:—Luker, L. E. J.; Stevens, E. F., Hill, P. J., Andrews, R. F. W., Town, P. A.; D. G. Brown, Mills, D. E.; Bury, J. O., Bayley, G. V., Stevens, G. M., Livingston, H. L. G., Pollard, E. F., Brown, D. R. H., Bennett, F. A., Cooper, M. R. T.

Sat., Oct. 27th. *v.* Leighton Park School.
Away. Lost: 11—8.

Both sides pressed in turn during the first quarter of an hour, but dropped passes prevented the School scoring, and Leighton, with a good forward rush, scored a try which was converted. Soon after Leighton again broke through and scored an unconverted try. The School rallied, but Leighton were heeling better, and their wing three-quarter receiving the ball quickly from the scrum, scored near the corner flag, but the kick failed. After the interval the School handling improved, and after D. G. Brown had made a good run he passed to Ranger, who had backed up strongly, and the latter after a fine run from the "25" scored between the posts. This try was converted. Soon after D. G. Brown landed a penalty goal with a good kick. A level game ensued, the School making some good breaks-away and Leighton attacking strongly in the last few minutes.

Team:—Luker, L. E. J.; Stevens, E. F., J. Ranger, Andrews, R. F. W., Hill, P. J., D. G. Brown, Mills, D. E.; Stevens, G. M., Bayley, G. V., Bury, J. O., Livingston, H. L. G., Pollard, E. F., Clarke, O. E., Brown, D. R. H., Cooper, M. R. T.

Wed., Nov. 7th. *v.* Radley College 2nd XV.
Home. Won 20—16.

In this game a fast pace was maintained throughout, and the scoring alternated in a manner thrilling to watch. Radley went ahead almost at once with a try in the centre, where the School defence was at fault. The School quickly drew level through Hill. A neat movement by Radley, which good tackling would have checked, gave them the lead again. A dropped goal by Andrews, and a try which Brown scored and converted, gave the School the useful lead at half-time of 12—8. An even struggle forward continued, but the School for a time gained the ascendancy as a result of superior pace outside, and were able to score two more tries

through Brown and Ranger. Radley were unlucky to lose the race for a touch-down on one occasion by the narrowest of margins. Towards the close of the game the School defence faltered and Radley scored two more tries. Each side scored four tries and converted two, Andrews' dropped goal thus proving to be the deciding factor. This match put fresh life into the XV, who, up to this time, had failed to exploit the pace of the outsides.

Teams:—Same as for the Leighton match except that Adams, A. R. M. took the place of Brown, D. R. H. in the scrum.

Sat., Nov. 10th. *v.* Bloxham School. Home. Won, 22—8.

The School attacked from the kick-off and from a forward rush Stevens got over. The kick failed. Bloxham replied and carrying the play to our '25' their centre intercepted and scored under the posts a try which was converted. Then Mills cleverly worked his way over from a scrum 10 yards from the line, and after some mid-field play Andrews intercepted just outside our '25' and running strongly beat the full-back. Neither try was converted. After a pause Bloxham, who were getting the ball regularly from tight scrums and the line-out, scored through their fast left wing, making the half-time score 9—8. After the interval play was even till Stevens, after dribbling 30 yards passed to Ranger and after Brown, Hill and Brown again had handled the latter scored a beautiful try with a diagonal cut through. Luker converted. The School forwards now began to gain the upper hand and after Hill had nearly scored, Andrews cross-kicked and Clarke scored in the corner. Finally Andrews repeated his first try with an interception and swerving run—Luker again converting. Our victory was principally due to the strong running and opportunism of the outsides, but the forwards deserve full credit for their efforts in the second half.

Andrews and Stevens were awarded their Colours after the match.

Team:—Luker, L. E. J.; Clarke, O. E., J. Ranger, Andrews, R. F. W., Hill, P. T.; D. G. Brown, Mills, D. E.; Stevens, G. M., Bayley, G. V., Joseph, E. A., Pollard, E. F., Livingston, H. L. G., Bury, J. O., Adams, A. R. M., Cooper, M. R. T.

Sat., Nov. 24th. *v.* Magdalen College School, Oxford. Away. Won, 25—3.

At the outset the School outsides attacked and Magdalen replied with a good forward movement up to our '25.' The School recovered and after a

quick heel Brown ran through to score under the posts, the kick succeeding. After some even play the School were penalised for off side and Magdalen scored a penalty goal with a very fine kick. Soon after Andrews broke away and after a good run scored a try which was not converted. After the interval the School outsides kept up the attack and always looked dangerous, though Magdalen forwards made some good rushes. Tries were scored by Brown and Ranger before Mills was carried off injured, and three more tries were added in the last ten minutes. Of the seven tries scored only two were converted.

After the match Colours were awarded to Luker and Mills.

Team:—As in the Bloxham match, except that Livingston, H. L. G. took the place of Brown, D. R. H.

Sat., Dec. 1st. *v.* Magdalen College School, Brackley. Home. Won, 37—0.

The place of Mills, who had not yet fully recovered, was taken by Hill. In the first half the School developed strong attacks on the left wing, and Clarke, running strongly scored three tries in the corner. A good movement led to Ranger scoring in the centre, while Andrews, with a characteristic run, made a splendid opening for Brown who scored between the posts. The score at half-time was 17—0. The School next, by a forward rush, took play up to their opponents' line, and Stevens went over. Soon afterwards a well-placed cross-kick from Brown gave Clarke a clear run in on the left. Brown placed a penalty goal and further tries were added by Brown, Cooper, and Clarke.

Brackley put up a good fight forward, but were out-paced behind the scrum and could not hold the School's left-wing attack.

Team:—As in previous match except that Hill played scrum-half for D. E. Mills, Town on the wing and Brown, D. R. H. for Joseph in the scrum.

Sat., Dec. 8th. *v.* Old Abingdonians. Home. Won, 24—9.

The Old Boys pressed at the start but after only ten minutes play Emmett was carried off with an injured knee. However the pressure was maintained and culminated in Sinclair scoring an unconverted try. The School retaliated with a good movement by the outsides ending in Ranger cutting in to score under the posts. The kick failed. The Old Boys' pack was definitely on top at this stage and from loose scrums Paige—who

was clearly the best forward on the field, scored two tries, neither of which was converted, making the score at half-time 9—3. In the second half the School forwards got the ball back quicker and the outsiders gave a sparkling display. First Brown dodged his way through to score a try converted by Ranger, and a few minutes later Ranger himself scored after a good opening by Andrews. The Old Boys came back with some good forward rushers but the handling of their outsiders was at fault—while the School outsiders were continually menacing. In the last quarter of an hour Clarke made two good runs up the left wing to score and finally Luker gathered a loose kick on the half-way line and went right through the opposing team to score a spectacular try near the corner flag.

The School outsiders were at the top of their form and in addition to his strong running Clarke several times made a lot of ground with good kicks to touch.

After the match Colours were awarded to Clarke and Pollard.

Teams:—Old Abingdonians: G. E. H. Warrick; S. A. Fabes, G. E. Sinclair, G. A. R. Boyd, L. P. Mosdell; M. N. Laybourne, D. E. Healy; J. E. Emmett, S. A. Paige, W. R. A. Kettle, H. B. Healy, A. C. Smith, T. H. Hodgson, T. E. Gardiner, M. A. Drewe.

The School: L. E. J. Luker; Clarke, O. E., J. Ranger, R. F. W. Andrews, Hill, P. J.; D. G. Brown, D. E. Mills; G. M. Stevens, Bayley, G. V., Bury, J. O., Pollard, E. F., Livingston, H. L. G., Joseph, E. A., Adams, A. R. M., Cooper, M. R. T.

2ND XV MATCHES.

The following are the results of the 2nd XV matches:—

		F. A.
Sat. Oct. 27	Leighton Park School	H. Lost 3 26
Sat. Nov. 10	Bloxham School	A. Lost 0 35
Sat. „ 17	Magdalen C.S., Oxford	H. Lost 3 19

It is obvious from the above results that the 2nd XV was again weak. We say, again, because it has unfortunately been our lot to pass the same judgment on our 2nd XV for several seasons now. There is no difficulty in discovering the reason for this weakness. After due allowances have been made for the paucity of material, and the youthfulness and inexperience of the players, the fact remains that there is a conspicuous absence of co-ordination and team spirit among the members of the 2nd XV. We feel that the time has come

to appeal strongly to all those, who may in the future play in the 2nd XV, to do their utmost to make good this deficiency, and so put a stop to the development of a tradition of defeat, which causes matches to be lost before they have begun.

The following played for the 2nd XV: Woolf, D. C. (Capt.), Ashby, S. R., Baker, G. A. D., Bennett, F. A., Bowman, R. E., Brown, D. R. H., Burt, S. G., Bristow, A. A., Cather, L. G., Emmett, R., England, G. W. J., Fletcher, J. A., Holme, M. H., Hutchinson, L. J. D., Jones, D., Stevens, E. F., Wood, P. R., Smith, W. G.

“ UNDER 15 ” XV RUGGER.

The “ Under 15 ” again had a most successful season, winning all their matches. That they were able to do so was due mainly to the excellence of the forwards, whose bustling methods and quickness in the open wore down their opponents’ defence, and nipped in the bud almost every attack. Bayley, Bowman, and Smith were always prominent. Lunghi again shone at scrum-half and cleverly adapted his style of play to the circumstances. The outsiders never combined very well, but individually Giles, Whitfield and Wooster did good things, and Jones lived up to expectations at full-back.

The following are the results of the ‘ Under 15 ’ XV matches:—

Wed. Oct. 17	Bloxham School	H. Won 12 0
Wed. „ 24	Leighton Park School	H. Won 24 0
Wed. Nov. 21	Magdalen C.S., Oxford	A. Won 9 3
Wed. Nov. 28	Magdalen C.S., Brackley	A. Won 11 8
Wed. Dec. 5	City of Oxford School	H. Won 41 0

The following played in the ‘ Under 15 ’ XV: H. A. Lunghi (Capt), G. V. Bayley, R. E. Bowman, W. G. Smith, D. Jones, C. G. Carter, P. H. Wooster, L. D. J. Hutchinson, H. H. Whitfield, W. Giles, A. Beaton, R. Goodey (i), H. T. Jones, D. Pimm, S. K. Muir, S. R. Ashby, R. F. Simmonds.

HOUSE MATCHES.

Senior.—The “ Lin ” Cup was won by Blue House who beat Green House 9—6, and Red House 7—0.

Junior.—The Robinson Cup was won by Red House who beat Blue House 11—3, and Green House 6—3,

1ST XV RUGGER CHARACTERS.

D. G. Brown. Captain. Colours 1932. Stand-off half. A capable and inspiring captain. His pace and strength in attack, though they induced him at times to delay his passes too long, undoubtedly brought about many tries. Much improved in kicking and defensive covering.

J. Ranger. Colours 1932. Three-quarters. Formerly a forward, he proved to be a very useful three-quarter. Received and gave passes well; ran hard with penetration, feeding his wing well. Defence rather variable in the earlier part of the season, but improved later. A useful place kicker.

R. F. W. Andrews. Colours 1934. Three-quarters. In the course of the season improved remarkably. Often beat the defence with a deceptive swerve. Quick off the mark, and with a good eye for an opening but inclined to pass a little late. Defence and kicking good.

G. M. Stevens. Colours 1934. Forward. A good scrum leader showing an excellent example. Works hard in tight and loose scrummages, and shows untiring energy in the open field. A very reliable tackler, and skilful dribbler.

L. E. J. Luker. Colours 1934. Full-Back. Filled the position of full-back very satisfactorily. Kicking and fielding good. Defence sure. Good sense of position and always ready to start an attack.

D. E. Mills. Colours 1934. Scrum-Half. Goes hard, and feeds his three-quarter line well. In defence falls on the ball very pluckily, but a little uncertain in tackling. Touch kicking sure. Might be slightly quicker at seizing his chances.

O. E. Clarke. Colours 1934. Three-quarter. Formerly a forward, latterly a three-quarter. A very fast and determined wing, and quick off the mark. Kicking fair, but defence weak.

E. F. Pollard. Colours 1934. Forward. Has done solid work throughout the season; very useful in the line out: when dribbling keeps the ball well under control: uses his weight in close and loose scrummages most effectively.

A. R. M. Adams. 2nd XV Colours 1933. Forward. Received an injury in the early part of the season and was prevented from playing in half the matches. Works reasonably hard: does useful work in the line out: in close and loose scrums is apt to hang about on the outskirts. Kicking quite good.

P. J. Hill. 2nd XV Colours 1933. Three-quarter. Neat with his hands, but not quite fast enough for a wing. Even so should run more

and make full use of his speed, instead of ending movements by touch kicking. A good tackler.

M. R. T. Cooper. 2nd XV Colours 1934. Forward. Played consistently well throughout the season. Works hard, but apt to break up too soon in light scrummages. Makes plenty of ground, but fails to pass at the right time. A good dribbler and useful in the line-out.

H. L. G. Livingston. 2nd XV Colours 1934. Forward. Works quite hard, but stays on the fringe of the scrum. Has been valuable in the line out.

G. V. Bayley. 2nd XV Colours 1934. Forward. Invaluable as hooker in the tight scrums and a very useful hard worker in the loose.

J. O. Bury. 2nd XV Colours 1934. Forward. A fast forward and frequent participant in rushes. Pushes hard in scrums and keeps up with the game well.

E. A. Joseph. 2nd XV Colours 1934. Forward. Works briskly as a wing forward, and shews plenty of enthusiasm.

PLAY READING.

Last term a Play Reading group was started, consisting of members of the staff and over thirty boys in the School House. Up to the present we have confined ourselves to comedies, thrillers and simple dramas, but as the standard of reading and general appreciation improves—and without undue optimism we may claim that it is improving—we hope to attempt some more advanced work. It is only by practice and painful experience that the technique of conveying sense and situation without action can be mastered. The time for preparation is very limited—there is no time at all for rehearsal and consequently those short lines ending in a question mark will sometimes go wrong, and the voices become monotonous on the long speeches. That, however, only shews the importance and value of reading aloud. Of the plays read, "Loyalties" was the most successful, perhaps because it was the only one for which there was time for some rehearsal, but also no doubt because it depended less than most on action for its effect. "The Ringer" and "The Villa Rose" both seemed to be appreciated by the audience, in spite of being stripped of the breathless helter-skelter which forms the climax of all good "thrillers." "Lord Richard" was quite amusing if unrecognisable as the hilarious stage farce—(vide the serious expression of the readers). Finally "The Forest," the most dramatic play of them all, found favour

with a few, but most of the audience missing the point of the first act must have wondered where the path through the jungle was really leading to.

The readings are compered by Mr. Duxbury and Mr. Alston.

THE JUNIOR STEEPLECHASE.

This event was re-run on Monday, Dec. 3rd. The weather was fine. Pimm led on the way out but Lay gained a lead of a few yards on the run back along the Ock and held it to the finish. The first four home were: 1. J. Lay. 2. D. Pimm. 3. J. M. Wood. 4. W. M. Potter. Time: 6 mins. 55½ secs. The House Placings were:

1. Green House 1, 5, 6, 9, 12 = 33.
2. Blue House 2, 7, 10, 11, 14 = 44.

RAG CONCERT.

The former "Bright Lads of Vb," under their new title of the "Va-et" (Anglice *Quintet*) opened the programme with the popular song, "Tinkle, Tinkle." Although their words were inclined to be inaudible they gave a good send-off to the proceedings.

The "Wonderful Tourist," with its realistic jungle setting, was excellently produced, and well acted by the Lodge. "Keep Calm," was the motto of the Tourist (L. J. Bunford) and his wife Clara (J. H. Hill). With pronounced trembling they managed to adhere to their principle and sit calmly, (or at least so they attempted to convince each other), through the ordeal of being surrounded by various ferocious creatures. Finally their king of the beasts, the lion, (N. H. Kortright) persuades them to leave the luckless couple unharmed.

Mr. Bevir was, as usual, received with great enthusiasm, and was reluctantly released after his song, "In olden days" had been encored twice.

Next D. C. Woolf appeared as a night watchman in an amusing monologue entitled, "When the road's hup it's hup!" His actions were expressive, but his cockney dialect was inclined to lapse into his normal speech.

Following him came a type of play novel to the "Rag" in the form of a short tragedy in blank verse, entitled "Beleaguered Troy." The play was well received generally and the lighting and stage setting, though simple, were very effective. The theme of the play was the futility of war—and the spokesmen were young soldiers in both camps. H. A. Lunghi and R. Emmett as the Greeks spoke their lines well, and Lunghi made the most of his

acting, particularly in the last scene. R. P. F. Mills and S. K. Muir provided a satisfactory contrast, on the Trojan wall, and the latter died quite well. A word of praise should be added for the legs of the Greek servant (M. R. T. Cooper) which made their stately progress to and fro outside the tent.

After Mr. Alston had enlivened the audience with "I taught her how to play," a sequel to his previous story of musical misfortune, there came the concluding item—an oporetta of topical interest and local vintage called "Shiver me Beacons." The plot followed a winding course involving treasure hunters, international crooks and constables, with a coffee stall and Belisha beacon as rendezvous. The characters, in retrospect fall into pairs of contrasts, R. F. W. Andrews and G. V. Bayley as Constables of the new and old schools; M. H. Wheat as the "bright young thing," and H. T. Jones as the faded old flower-seller; P. J. Hill as the tourist, E. A. Joseph as the guide; H. L. G. Livingston as the dude and R. F. Simmonds as the down-and-out, with G. F. Rice as the coffee-stall proprietor compère-ing the show and keeping the fun, or bun, rolling. Mr. Ingham's music made full use of the ability of each actor, and deftly dished up the lines of the lively lyrics provided by Messrs. Alston and Duxbury. Of the many attractive numbers, the song and dance by Hermann Soderberg (P. J. Hill) and Pigres Q. Keggin (E. A. Joseph) and the final chorus were particularly good.

O.T.C.

We are pleased to record the success of R. F. W. Andrews, D. H. Blake, J. A. Fletcher, H. L. G. Livingston, R. P. F. Mills, G. F. Rice in examination for Certificate "A" held last November. This term 10 candidates out of 11 passed the practical examination for Certificate "A" and it is hoped they will be equally successful in the written examination.

Twenty recruits were enrolled last term and under the vigilance of Sgt. Eyre, made rapid progress with drill and rifle exercises. We now welcome them to the ranks in their full status of cadets. They will shortly have an excellent opportunity of proving themselves, as it is hoped that a field day will take place on March 21st on the Lambourn Downs.

Promotions: To be Sgt.: R. F. W. Andrews. To be Cpls.: J. A. Fletcher, G. F. Rice, H. L. G. Livingston, R. P. F. Mills.

LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

Although it is encouraging to notice that on almost every occasion on which the Society met all the members present spoke, yet it is to be regretted that more members do not attend. The subjects chosen were on the whole interesting and amusing, and provided plenty of material for debate. The Session commenced with the motion that "Life abroad is preferable to life in Great Britain." The motion was proposed by Mr. R. P. F. Mills, who shewed that the country outside Great Britain was not composed merely of impassable forests and boundless stretches of farming land. Mr. H. L. Jacob was seconder. Mr. A. R. M. Adams opposed, and Mr. P. J. Woolf seconded. After the House had dealt with the subject, the motion was lost by 5 votes to 8.

At the next meeting the motion was "That the new Road Regulations will not add to the safety of the public." The Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. F. W. Andrews, and Mr. L. G. Cather proposed; Mr. R. P. F. Mills and Mr. E. A. Joseph formed the opposition. It was generally complained that milk carts rumbling across cobbled squares, and street musicians cawing and rasping, were far more disturbing than motor-horns to the unfortunate who lies in bed vainly seeking repose. The Regulations were finally approved of, and the motion was lost by 7 votes to 11.

At the final debate the motion before the House was "That the Disarming of Great Britain in its present condition is unlikely to lead to Peace." However speakers placed such diverse interpretations upon the meaning of the motion that no clear lines of argument were developed and consequently many members abstained from voting. Finally an appeal is made to all members to be more generous in their suggestions of subjects for debate.

S.O.S.

H.M.S. "Frobisher."
Feb., 1935.

When we were about 400 miles west of the Azores we ran into our first patch of dirty weather. A gale, in the latitude known as the "Roaring Forties" was blowing from the North and raising such a sea that we began to roll like last year's third IV on its first outing in a light boat. It was in this type of weather that early one morning we received an S.O.S. from an oil-tanker, the "Valverda," saying that she was on fire and giving her position as about 400 miles west of us.

We were the nearest ship to her except for a little French tramp which was 100 miles from the "Valverda" but could only manage the colossal speed of seven knots!—so it was clearly up to us to save that ship and the lives on board if we possibly could. Immediately everyone was turned out, decks were cleared, guns locked, boats heaved in-board and water-tight doors clamped. Then the boilers were fired up to give out more power and the order given—"Full Speed Ahead."

When a ship is doing its utmost you first realise the force of the sea and secondly the enormous power of the engines. In a normal sea it is not easy going, but in a sea such as it was it was unimaginable. We were doing an average of 24 knots. The waves were crashing over the whole ship, smashing boats, snapping cables, hurling planks and anything loose overboard, and tearing away guard-rails. As may be imagined, unless you wanted to follow the course of the planks and make a meal for the sharks you did not go above deck. It was bad enough below where tables and chairs were being flung about, while the crew up "foreward" were paddling in flooded compartments. All this was accompanied by the varied music of the waves crashing on the deck, the roar of the engines, the whine of dynamos and the gurgle of oil being pumped through from our auxiliary tanks. I was one of the lucky ones who received all this from the lower bridge. As the ship plunged down into the "trough" one could feel her halt, groan and then proudly plough her way through the next wave which enveloped her upper decks, sending the spray far above our heads. It was a rare sight to behold—a sight that you could never see on a film. It was impossible to sleep through the shaking and groaning of the ship, but anyhow we were turned out again soon after midnight. "Valverda" was in sight, but the fire had burnt itself out and so we stood by until the morning. At dawn she looked a pathetic sight, drifting aimlessly about the ocean, quite out of control. As we drew near we could see that the whole of her after-part was a mass of twisted framework, and it seemed nothing less than a miracle that the crew of 26 men could have kept the flames from the 11,000 tons of petrol in the ship. The crew, five of whom were injured and one killed, were watching us from their foc'sle with tired and haggard eyes,—no sleep, no proper food, worn out with sheer exhaustion. The sea was still very rough and it was only after four days that we were able to send some men and provisions over and bring her injured in to us. After two

attempts—the first time the cable parted and went to the bottom—we took her in tow successfully to Bermuda. The hope of everyone in “Frobisher” now is Salvage money!

D.C.W.

THE JUDGMENT.

Ten more minutes!

As I pace despondently to and fro, fearfully awaiting the fatal hour, I gloomily ponder on this great injustice. How many are there, equally deserving of this ruthless punishment, who have escaped by some cleverly contrived ruse, while I, more penitent than any, must pay the penalty in this gruesome manner. These last few minutes of glorious freedom are rushing relentlessly by, and I am powerless to prevent them. Even my friends, from whom I might have expected at least a little sympathy, have turned from me in my hour of need, and are heartlessly scoffing at me. May they be treated in a similar way if ever they suffer a like fate! Only a few more moments remain, and nothing but a miracle can save me from the awful punishment meted out by my callous persecutors. Sitting down, I bury my face in my hands, and, desperately try to think of a final plan by which to preserve my freedom. But it is too late, the fatal bell rings—and I must go to take my place in detention.

R.M.

CAERULEUS RECIDIVUS.

“You are old Father Blue,” the young oarsman complained,

“And your weight is by no means so light;
And yet they have pulled you once more from your bed—

Do you think at your age it is right?”

“In my youth,” Father Blue replied to the lad,

“My hardships reduced me to tears;
But now I am rigged up and decently clad,
Why, I feel I can go on for years.”

“You are old” said the youth, “as I feel you must know,

And have long been exposed to the weather;
Yet they take you and row, in the rain and the snow,

What is it that holds you together?”

“In my youth,” said Old Blue, with a shake of his keel,

“My timbers were graceful and true;
And my ribs are so supple, I honestly feel
They still strengthen my back through and through.”

“You are old,” said the youth, “and your riggers too weak

To stand what they used to of old;
But they’ve not given way, even though they do creak,
How is it they manage to hold?”

“I have answered two questions and that will suffice.

Now kindly be quiet as you oughter.
Be off, and be careful, I won’t say it twice,
But I’ll tip you all out in the water.”

P.R.W.

SUNSET ON THE KARROO.

Picture a flat piece of country, dotted here and there with thorn trees and small kopjies (hills) in the far distance. To east and west rise ranges of mountains—the Tangesburg and Roiberg. It has been a real South African summer day and the long drought has not broken: not a breath of air stirs the tall gum trees round the homestead. Lower and lower the sun sinks towards the far-off mountains, and as it sinks the sky is turned to a golden hue: from gold to copper and from copper to blood-red, until at last, with the sun seeming to rest like a ball of flame on the mountain-top, the whole world seems to have been dipped in blood. As the sun disappears behind the mountains, the red fades out of the sky, and in a few minutes it is dark. With the darkness comes the buzzing of insects—the chirping of crickets and, best of all, a rustling in the trees as a cool breeze stirs the hot and dusty leaves.

C.S.M.

HORS D'ŒUVRES.

“There are more things in Heaven and earth,
Horatio,

Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.”

Hamlet.

I have tried to collect a few facts which I think you will agree are extraordinary, but before appending these facts, I should say that I do not guarantee the truthfulness of any of them.

Remarkable facts about numbers are legion, but space allows me to give only a few. We often speak of a billion, and in doing so we think of a large number, but no one has ever bothered to count to such a number. Of this I am sure, for if Adam had counted at the rate of two hundred a minute, and if we accept as true the statement that Adam was created 5,690 years ago, he would have reached only 598,183,440,000 by September of this year, nor would he reach a billion till the year 5,753 of our era.

While on the subject of counting, I might inform you that by my calculation Col. Lindbergh was the sixty-seventh man to make a non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean. This may be hard to believe yet it is perfectly true.

Reverting from one famous man to another let me tell you a tragic story concerning Napoleon III's coup d'état in 1851. When an aide reported that the mob was facing the Imperial Guard, Count de St. Arnaud, who was troubled with a cough, exclaimed, "Ma sacrée toux." This his aide understood to mean "Massacrez tous." The order to fire was given and thousands of lives were lost.

Going still further back in history we come across this rather amusing story which is recorded by Plutarch. He states that the following riddle caused the death of Homer :

" What we caught
We threw away
What we could not catch
We kept."

I feel I must append the answer lest such a fate as Homer's should fall upon you, and here it is in the shortest poem ever written on the antiquity of microbes :

Adam
Had 'em.

Turning abruptly from the shortest poem to the longest words, many people may recall the famous :

" Hottentottenpotentätenlanlenattenthäter "

but I doubt if so many know its meaning, which is :
" The assassin of the aunt of a Hottentot Potentate."

Now I will end as I began with two remarkable facts concerning numbers. In connection with the invention of chess it is said that an East Indian potentate, being pleased with the game, promised its inventor the fulfilment of any wish. The inventor asked for the number of grains of wheat that would result if one grain were placed on the first square of a chess board, two on the second, four on the third, and so on, each time twice as

many as on the last. Remarkable to state, it was impossible for the king to keep his promise, as the result would have been 18 quintillions, 446 quadrillions, 744 trillions, 73 billions, 709 millions, 551,615 grains. If the king had during the whole of his life grown wheat over all the earth he still could not have produced the required quantity.

Now comes my last case, but not my least by any means. The largest number that can be expressed by three figures is 99⁹. I must apologise for not writing down the number in full to prove it, but the length of tape required for writing the number, allowing five digits to the inch would be 1,164 miles, and I am sure both readers and Editor will be grateful for the omission seeing that the " Abingdonian " takes approximately five years to consume one mile of type. This, like the rest may be hard to believe, but my parting advice is " His crede si vis."

H.L.G.L.

O.A. NOTES.

BIRTHS.

BAUMANN.—In September, 1934, at Wolverhampton, to Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Baumann (1926), a son.

EASON.—On Jan. 20, at Radley College, to Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Eason (1920), a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

BAUMANN—MANNING.—In August, 1933, in Rome, Cyril F. Baumann (1926), to Helen G. Manning.

BAUMANN—WALLEY.—In December, 1934, L. Lee Baumann (1927), to Mary Walley, of Stoke-on-Trent and Milan, Italy.

LAY—PRIOR.—On Dec. 26, 1934, at Steventon, Percival Walter Lay (1930), to Doris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Avery Prior, of Steventon.

EDGINGTON—YOCKNEY.—On Feb. 2, at Marlborough, Edward W. Edgington (1927), to Florrie G. Yockney, of Marlborough.

WIGGINS—WANT.—On Feb. 9, at St. Helen's Church, Abingdon, Arthur Edward (1919), second son of Mr. and Mrs. Wiggins, of Ock Street, to Jennie, eldest daughter of Mrs. Jane Want and the late Mr. Want, of Ock Street.

DEATH.

SARGEAUNT.—On Nov. 5, 1934, George M. Sargeaunt, assistant master at Marlborough College.

Mr. Sargeaunt, whose death we deplore, was a member of the School staff during the Easter Term of 1914 before transferring to Marlborough College.

Our news of the Baumann brothers is welcome though somewhat belated. As appears from the above notices, they are both now married, and the elder one is a father. He (C. F.) has returned to the old country—he had been for a few years with Dunlops in Rome—and is now settled at Wolverhampton, where he has an appointment with Goodyears. His address is "Appledore," Stafford Road, Oxley, Wolverhampton. L. L. is still in Milan, working for the firm of Coats, and his address is Via Pagliano 33.

C. S. Morland (1921), who, by the way, has given up sheep-farming for poultry, has gone into partnership with a man in the gold-mining area of South Africa, about 60 miles from Johannesburg. Here they have secured some land of their own and may already be said to be poultry-farming on a large scale. Address:—P.O. Box 52, Nigel, Transvaal.

P. G. A. Kennington (1924) has said good-bye to Western Australia and returned to England last July.

W. G. Hancock (1926) has passed his Law Finals and is at present working in London.

S. A. Fabes (1928) and S. P. Austin (1929) have passed the Final Examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, and P. B. Squire (1931) has passed the Intermediate.

L. S. Bailey (1930) has passed the Final Examination of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors.

E. A. N. Robinson (1932) is on the staff of the Westminster Bank at Newbury.

E. F. Parks (1933) is in the Estate Office of Mr. A. T. Loyd of Lockinge.

L. E. Carter (1934) is teaching in Great Haseley Senior School, Oxon.

D. R. Thomas (1934) is in his father's business—Woodfield Bros. of Birmingham.

R. F. Cox (1934) is Market Gardening.

A. L. Fleet (1934) is rowing at "7" in the Pembroke College Torpid.

D. C. Woolf (1934) has secured a Paymaster-Cadetship in the Royal Navy, and we congratulate him on taking 16th place in the full list of the R.N. Entrance Exam. His "initial career" (as he calls it), in the "Frobisher," has not been without excitement, and we print in another column some extracts from his account of it.

E. F. Pollard (1934) has an apprenticeship in the R.A.F.

W. J. Head (1934) is studying dentistry at Guy's Hospital,

E. A. Joseph (1934) is with the Gaumont British Film Company.

R. F. W. Andrews, who left in the early part of this term, is in the Head Office of Lloyds' Bank in London.

Mr. C. O. Wright, who is now living at Bishop's Stortford, has been busy, as ever, in the interests of art. A newspaper account has reached us of a highly successful Art Exhibition recently given in Bishop's Stortford, and we were interested though not surprised to read that a large share of the work of preparation had devolved upon Mr. Wright as organizing secretary. He was also an exhibitor, and two large oil-paintings of his, of local interest, met with especial commendation.

OLD ABINGDONIAN CLUB.

A Committee Meeting of the Club was held after the Past v. Present Rucker match.

A suggestion was put forward that an O.A. Sports Section should be formed in London.

This was unanimously agreed and in order to facilitate Secretarial work, R. E. Eason resigned his position as Joint Hon. Secretary and Treasurer and G. A. R. Boyd was appointed in his place.

An account of the inauguration of the above Section appears below.

OLD ABINGDONIAN RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB.

On Thursday, 20th December, 1934, an informal meeting of O.A.'s was held at the Pickwick Tea Rooms, Whitcombe Court, W.C. Considering the difficulty of finding this meeting place, the number of O.A.'s who attended was gratifying.

Business opened with the election of officers.

Chairman: J. D. Wood. *Honorary Secretary*: G. A. R. Boyd. *Treasurer*: H. B. Healy. *Social Secretary*: S. A. Fabes. *Captain*, S. A. Paige. *Vice-Captain*: D. E. Healy.

The first item on the agenda was the proposal and fixing of subscriptions. It was decided for the first year the subscription should be 10s. per annum, with a supplementary fee of 1s. per match. Until our funds increase the Club will be a "roving" one.

Our playing colours next received our attention. It was suggested that the jersey should be black with a white collar, and a cerise Griffin worked on the left breast. Shorts to be black, and the stockings cerise with white tops. The Committee were asked to go into the question of price and any further details. At the same time the Honorary

Secretary was asked to take the necessary steps to affiliate the Club to the Rugby Union.

It was decided to play no matches this season, but members were asked to advise the Secretary of any possible fixtures for next season 1935-36.

Mr. S. A. Fabes, the Social Secretary, then proposed a Grand Boat Race Ball to inaugurate the Club and to bring together as many people as possible interested in the Club. This was carried unanimously. We wish to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Fabes, senior, for placing the Burlington Galleries at our disposal on April 6th. Further particulars were left to the Social Secretary and the Committee.

It was also left to the Committee to draft a set of rules for the Club.

The next General Meeting was fixed for 14th February, 1935, at the City Electric Light Company, 33, Ludgate Hill.

After a very pleasant evening, the meeting—which we may mention was a very enthusiastic

one—closed. We hope that at the next general meeting we shall see an even larger attendance than last time. We hope that all O.A.'s who possibly can will support us.

GEORGE A. R. BOYD.

Terms of Subscription to the "Abingdonian" for O.A.s are:—

For seven years (21 numbers) .. ten shillings.

For fifteen years (45 numbers) .. one guinea.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer at the School.

Back numbers may be obtained at half the published price.

The Editor will always be glad to receive contributions from, and news of, O.A.'s in all parts of the world.