

Misericordias
Domini



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THE ABINGDONIAN.

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CONTENTS.

School Notes	210	Play Reading	216
School Concert	211	Music Circle	216
Rugger	212	Rag Concert	216
O.T.C.	216	O.A. Notes	218
Library	216	Cricket Fixtures	219

SCHOOL NOTES.

The beginning of this term was marked by the universally deplored death of our King George V. On behalf of the School a wreath was sent to Windsor inscribed "In Loyal and Grateful Remembrance, from Abingdon School." On the day of the King's funeral the greater part of the School assembled in the Chapel and listened to the broadcast account of the procession at Windsor and the Service in Saint George's Chapel. The general effect was most impressive.

F. A. Bennett is Captain of the School and Head of the House. The other School Prefects are: J. A. Fletcher, R. Emmett and O. E. Clarke. The Sub-prefects are: R. E. Bowman, P. J. Hill, L. G. Cather, G. F. Rice (Waste Court), D. R. H. Brown, J. O. Bury, H. L. Jacob, D. Jones and H. H. Whitfield.

F. A. Bennett is Captain of Boats.

First XV. Colours were awarded last term to P. J. Hill, G. V. Bayley and H. A. Lunghi, and Second XV Colours to L. J. D. Hutchinson, A. C. Dean, W. G. Smith, J. A. Fletcher, R. E. Bowman,

E. F. Stevens, R. Emmett, R. Goodey i, H. H. Whitfield, D. Jones, P. A. Wimberley and G. D. Randall.

R. E. Bowman and P. J. Woolf were awarded School Certificates in the December examination.

The 'Lin' Cup for Senior House Football was won by Blue House as also was the Robinson Cup for the Juniors.

The following were confirmed by Bishop Shaw on Sunday, December 8th: R. E. Bowman, G. V. Bayley, C. A. Ronan, M. D. Wells, G. J. James, H. K. Mitchell.

On Thursday, November 7th, most of the School went in to Oxford to see the match between the All Blacks and the University XV. The weather was deplorable and the chief feature of the game was the closeness of the score.

A soccer tournament was held on the last day of term, each House playing two games of 10 minutes each against each of its two opponents. Blue House triumphed with a total of six goals, while Green scored two and Red one.

A permanent site for the jumps and weight-putting is being laid out on the north side of the

Waste Court field. It includes a cinder track and pit for the long jump, twelve-foot pit and levelled take-off for the high jump and a cinder 'circle' for the weight.

The Steeplechases could not be held last term owing to the flooded state of the Common.

This term ends on Tuesday, March 24th, boarders leaving on the following day. The Summer term begins on Tuesday April 28th, boarders returning on the previous day.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contemporaries:—*The Bracklean*, *The Chigwellian*, *The City of Oxford School Magazine*, *The Laxtonian*, *The Leightonian*, *The Lily*, *The Monktonian*, *The St. Edward's School Chronicle*.

VALETE.

VI FORM.—A. N. Elley (1928, iii). School Prefect, 1934; O.S.C., 1932—1935; L.Cpl., O.T.C.; 1st Class shot.

L. E. J. Luker (1929, iii). School Prefect, 1935; O.S.C., 1934, 1935; 1st XV. Colours, 1934; Captain of Rugger XV, 1935; 1st XI Colours, 1935; Full Athletic Colours, 1935; Sergeant, O.T.C.; Cert. "A", 1935.

W. G. Smith (1930, iii). Sub-prefect, 1935; O.S.C., 1935; 2nd XV Colours, 1935; 2nd XI Colours, 1935; L.Cpl., O.T.C.; Cert. "A", 1935.

A. C. Rogers (1930, iii). O.S.C., 1935; 2nd XV 1935.

P. J. Woolf (1932, iii). O.S.C., 1935; 2nd XV, 1934, 1935; 2nd XI, 1935; 1st Class shot.

III FORM.—L. J. Bunford (1933, iii).

SALVETE.

VB. FORM.—T. H. Blundell.

REMOVE FORM.—P. H. E. Bloomer, H. J. Clarke.

III FORM.—H. G. Elphick, J. Richardson, T. J. Foy, G. E. Martin.

SCHOOL CONCERT.

The School Concert was given in the Corn Exchange on Thursday, December 5th. The weather was kinder to us than in the past three years, when we had either gales, fog or rain to contend with and many visitors could not be present.

The fine evening, and perhaps the change of day (the concert formerly being on a Friday) brought a very appreciative audience. We are very grateful to them for coming to hear us.

Mrs. Gotch brought a delightful trio, and all who heard them, will I am sure, agree with me it was a musical treat. Their perfect blending and execution was outstanding. It would be difficult to

speak individually of the items given by this trio, as they were all so good.

The violin solos by Mary Gotch were beautifully and characteristically played, especially the Sonata in D Major (Handel). One never tires of hearing this masterpiece, and when played by Mary Gotch one realizes even more how beautiful it is. The other three violin solos were delicately played and the varied expression we heard from Mary Gotch's handling of these pieces showed us what an artist she is.

The 'cello solos by Herma Fiedler were very much enjoyed. The beautiful tone which a fine artist gets from a 'cello we had in every mood from the soloist.

The School on the whole were quite good. The trebles were better this year and gave themselves up to their work more than last year. Although they are still inclined to be a little "toneless" on the concert night, they did get more light and shade into their renderings. The tenors and basses made the very best of voices that are not yet matured, and the few altos worked nobly.

The outstanding item given by the School was the Carol; perhaps because it was certainly the best from a musical point of view. They seemed to enjoy it too, and to sing it with understanding.

The four-part songs sung by the double quarteto were quite good but should have been better. All were not working well together, but to musical listeners the quartette gave the impression, I think, that they could do, and had done, better. Perhaps some were nervous which would affect the freedom of rhythm and enunciation.

The accompanying was undertaken by Winifred Dussek and Keith Muir and their handling of the different items very greatly added to the success of the evening.

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

1. Unison Songs
 - (a) "A-hunting we will go" Traditional
 - (b) "Alexander" Herbert Brewer

The School.
2. Trio "Divertimento" Mozart

Andante	Mennetto	
Polonaise	Presto	

Mary Gotch, Herma Fiedler, Cynthia Thompson.
3. Recitative and Aria
 - "See She Appears"
 - "Where'er you walk"

Handel
Ivy Sheldon Peach.

4. Four-part Song "Fairest Isle" *Purcell*
G. J. James, W. H. Beaton, C. G. Carter,
J. W. Greening, R. Emmett, L. E. J. Luker,
P. J. Hill, L. G. Cather.
5. Violin Solo Sonata in D Major *Handel*
Allegro Larghetto Allegro
Mary Gotch.

Interval.

PART II.

1. Four-part Song Arr. by
"Oh the noble Duke of York" *Byng Johnson*
The School.
2. 'Cello Solos Allegro Passionata *Saint Saens*
Sicilienne *Paradis*, arr. by
Herma Fiedler. *Dushkin*
3. Songs
(a) "Memories"
(b) "Bright is the ring of words" *W. H. Hadow*
Ivy Sheldon Peach.
- 4.—Four-part Song
"In these delightful pleasant Groves" *Purcell*
G. J. James, W. H. Beaton, C. G. Carter,
J. W. Greening, R. Emmett, L. E. J. Luker,
P. J. Hill, L. G. Cather.
5. Trio
(a) "Londonderry Air" Arr. *O'Connor Morris*
(b) "Handel in the Strand" *Grainger*
Mary Gotch, Herma Fiedler, Cynthia Thompson.
6. Four-part Song
"To the Audience" *Hamilton Clarke*
The School.
7. Violin Solos
"What you will" *Somerville*
"Bourree Alla Tedesca" *Valentine 1670-1740*
"Sicilienne and Regaindon" *Francoeur Kreisler*
Mary Gotch.
8. Unison Song
"Come lasses and lads" English air, 1672
"Shepherds in the fields abiding" Cowley
The School. Carol Book

God Save the King.

Trio: Violin, Mary Gotch; 'Cello, Herma Fiedler; Pianoforte, Cynthia Thompson.
At the Piano: Winifred Dussek, Keith Muir.
Conductor: Ivy Sheldon Peach.

RUGGER.

With the exception of 1933, this has been the most disappointing season for the 1st XV since the School reverted to rugger. They played nine matches and lost eight, scoring their solitary

victory at the expense of a weak O.A. team. In the first four matches they met with heavy defeats, but then improved somewhat, and in the remaining five matches scored 58 points to their opponents' 64. The early reverses were due, in some measure, to the strength of the opposition; but the team took a long time to settle down, and weaknesses in defence and poor combination in attack made defeat inevitable. Signs of improvement appeared in the match with Bloxham, the first half of which was fairly even. During the early part of their next match, with Magdalen College School, Oxford, the School played as well as at any time during the season. But they failed to keep up the pressure, Magdalen discovered and exploited our weakness at full-back and the match, though a close one, was lost through errors in defence and missed opportunities. The game with the R.A.F. "A" was very close, and the School were unfortunate to lose through a penalty goal kicked on the very stroke of time. Pembroke College were markedly superior in weight and speed, and we did well to keep the scores almost level in the first half. As we have already indicated, circumstances prevented the O.A.'s from fielding a fully representative team, and the School had no difficulty in winning this match.

The brightest feature of the team was the play of the halves, Hill and Lunghi, who amply fulfilled the promise of the season before last, when they occupied the same positions in the Under 15 team. They combined excellently in attack and their defence was usually very sound. Hill used his powers of penetration judiciously and his defensive kicking was good, while Lunghi's coolness and resource were of great value to the team. Of the three-quarters the centres Luker and Hutchinson, were individually capable of making ground, but their play was not constructive enough and they rarely made openings for their wings. Clarke especially should have been given more opportunities; for though he lacked subtlety, he had pace and thrust. In defence the whole line was apt to hang back and their tackling was usually too high. Jones, who played at full-back during the early part of the season, was handicapped by lack of pace, and the defence of the team was noticeably strengthened when his place was taken by Whitfield.

The form of the forwards was disappointing. It was hoped that they would develop into a speedy, bustling pack, and make up by liveliness for lack of weight. But a tendency to indulge in showy winging, at the expense of solid work, made

them ineffective in the tight, and ragged in the loose, and lured them into costly off-sides. Unfortunately no satisfactory leader emerged, while Bayley and Smith, the two hardest workers, were unable to play in several matches. The pack was considerably below our usual standard, and must be held largely responsible for the poor record of the XV.

v. London O.A.'s. Saturday, Oct. 19th. Home. Lost, 17—3.

The season opened with a keen game in which play was even for the first 15 minutes, superior weight giving the O.A.'s the better of the tight scrums while the School out-sides shewed better combination at this stage. However, Wardlaw was the first to score for the O.A.'s after a good bout of passing, and soon added another try far out, neither being converted. The School forwards, beaten in the tight, were rather ragged in the loose scrums, and before half-time Gould scored again for the O.A.'s, Boyd converting, making the score 11—0. In the second half the School got together better, and after a try by Boyd, the ball came out to Clarke who gave a scoring pass to Bury after a good run. The kick at goal failed and the only other score was an unconverted try by Plummer for the O.A.'s, the final score being 17—3.

Team: Jones, D.; O. E. Clarke, L. E. J. Luker, Hutchinson L. J. D., Bury J. O.; Hill P. J., Lunghi H. A.; Bennett F. A., Smith W. G., Bowman R. E., Dean A. C., Wimberley P. A., Brown D. R. H., Fletcher J. A., Emmett R.

v. Abingdon R.F.C. Saturday, October 19th. Home. Lost, 3—30.

In the first minute Luker cut through and passed to Clarke who scored in the corner. Bowman failed to convert. Abingdon's left-wing fielded a miskick by Bury in our twenty-five and scored far out. Before half-time Abingdon got three more tries, the School defence being very weak. Half-time score: 3—14.

The Abingdon forwards were definitely on top in the second half, and the School defence continued weak, so that Abingdon were able to add two goals and two tries to their score. Their three-quarters combined well, especially prominent being their left-wing, who scored five tries in all. The School gave a poor display and after half-time made very little effort to get on terms with their opponents.

Team: Jones: Clarke, Luker, Hutchinson, Bury; Hill, Lunghi; Smith, Bowman, Dean, Bennett, Wimberley, Brown, Emmett, Fletcher.

v. Radley College 2nd XV. Saturday, October 26th. Away. Lost 4—31.

The Radley forwards were much faster and the defence of the out-sides steadier than the School's. Radley scored four tries in the first half—one being converted—the weakness of the School's tackling being badly shown up. In the second half there were some promising movements by the School backs, but they could not penetrate the defence, and Radley added three more tries—two converted—and a dropped goal before Stevens dropped a neat goal from wide out—this being the only score for the School.

Team: As in previous match except that Bury took Bennett's place in the pack and Stevens E. F. played on the wing.

v. Bloxham School. Wednesday, November 13th. Away. Lost, 8—25.

Play was even but rather slow owing to the heavy ground. The Bloxham out-sides handled a wet ball better than the School and their forwards were more lively, but the School had a fair share of the play and in reply to two converted tries by Bloxham, Clarke scored twice, Luker converting one. In the second half the School forwards went to pieces and with Bloxham keeping up the pressure a further 15 points were added. The out-sides did not handle so well in the second half, but the defeat was undoubtedly due to the forwards' lack of spirit and determination.

Team: As in previous match except that Bennett took the place of Smith who was injured.

v. Magdalen College School, Oxford. Saturday, November 16th. Home. Lost, 10—15.

The School attacked at once and soon opened the scoring with a penalty goal kicked by Luker. Continuing the pressure they threatened the Magdalen line on several occasions before Hill, who had been playing very well, dropped a goal after some neat manoeuvring. Magdalen counter-attacked and one of their forwards, taking advantage of a dropped pass, kicked ahead and outpacing Jones, secured the touch down. Shortly afterwards the Magdalen fly-half dropped a goal. For the remainder of the first half the School were kept on the defensive, chiefly owing to the ineffectiveness of their forwards, but Hill relieved with some splendid kicking. Half-time score, 7—7. The School were penalized several times for off-side, and one penalty goal resulted. Though we attacked again, faulty positioning in the centre stultified our efforts, and we were driven back by judicious kicking. From a line-out well inside our 25 a Magdalen forward forced his way over the

line. The conversion of this try brought the score to 7—15. The School now had a great chance of drawing level, if not of taking the lead. For Hill, securing in our twenty-five, cut through, passed to Luker who beat two men, drew the full-back and passed to Hutchinson, who scored between the posts. Luker failed to convert. A few minutes later a similar movement took place. This time, however, Luker on reaching the full-back, instead of passing kicked ahead but without success. There was no further score although Clarke once nearly got in on the left wing, and Magdalen after kicking over our line just failed to get the touch down.

Team: The same as in the previous match except that Bayley, Smith and Goodey played instead of Wimberley, Bennett and Brown.

v. Abingdon R.A.F. "A". Saturday, November 23rd. Away. Lost, 18—21.

Scoring was high owing to the faulty defence of both teams. The R.A.F. pressed from the start and scored twice through their left wing who was too fast for Stevens. Once Clarke got clear and passed in to Luker who was unmarked, but the pass was forward. After a period of mid-field play Luker cut cleverly through the centre and scored, but failed to convert. Poor tackling let the R.A.F. right-centre through, but the School quickly retaliated through another individual effort by Luker, Bowman converting. Half-time score: 8—9.

After Hill had twice nearly broken through the centre, poor tackling let the R.A.F. right-centre score two more tries, both unconverted. Next a good three-quarter movement led to a fine try by Clarke who shook off a half-tackle. Bowman converted. An R.A.F. movement was rounded off by their right wing, who was checked but not held by Whitfield. In the last five minutes the School attacked strongly and a try by Clarke, converted by Bowman, made the scores level at 18—18. The match was decided by the very last kick, which added a penalty goal to the R.A.F. score.

Team: As in previous match except that Whitfield took the place of Jones D., at full-back, and Rice played for Bayley.

v. M.C.S., Brackley. Wednesday, November 27th. Lost, 3—6.

The School did not take advantage of the many opportunities offered. The outsides were poor with their hands and the forwards again were lacking in keenness and very slow in getting to the ball. Whitfield who was playing full-back for the second time, was the one redeeming player.

He scored a very clever try from a long run with a kick ahead at the end. In the second half the School were kept on the defensive and Brackley scored twice; our defence was very weak at times.

Team: Unchanged.

v. Pembroke College. Saturday, November 30th. Lost, 8—22.

Pembroke scored twice in the first five minutes, taking advantage of the School's slowness in settling down. Play became more even after this, and Stevens scored an unconverted try from a cross kick by Hill. Pembroke again scored from a forward rush but failed to convert. Shortly before half-time Hill scored and Luker converted.

Pembroke's heavier forwards took charge of the second half and the School were forced to play a defensive game. Pembroke pressed and scored two unconverted tries and in the last minute a converted one.

Team: Randall took Clarke's place on the right wing.

v. O.A.'s. Saturday, December 7th. Won, 19—0.

The Old Boys had to raise a scratch side as certain members could not arrive in time for the start. The School pressed most of the time but the standard of play never became very high. Clarke opened the scoring for the School with a good individual run. Boyd was then injured and the O.A.'s had to alter their outsides. Clarke and Bayley then scored two quick tries for the School and at half-time the score was 9—0 to the School. In the second half play was faster and the O.A.'s outsides tackling and kicking improved. However Hill and Bayley scored again, and Luker converted both.

Team: Whitfield; O. E. Clarke, L. E. J. Luker, Hutchinson, Stevens; P. J. Hill, H. A. Lunghi; Bury, G. V. Bayley, Dean, Rice, Emmett, Goodey, Fletcher.

FIRST XV CHARACTERS.

L. E. J. Luker. Captain. Colours 1934. Three-quarter. A strong runner with an individualistic temperament better suited to the position of full-back, which he occupied so successfully in the previous season. Quick off the mark, he was apt to overrun the stand-off half at times. Tackled well but was inclined to lie back too far in defence.

O. E. Clarke. Colours 1934. Three-quarter. A very fast wing who goes hard for the line. Falls on the ball well in defence. Kicking good. Tackling much improved.

P. J. Hill. Colours 1935. Stand-off half. Quick off the mark. Cuts through very cleverly. Inclined to pass a little late. Defence and kicking good.

G. V. Bayley. Colours 1935. Forward. Works very hard both in the tight and loose scrummages. Invaluable as a hooker. Useful in the line out. Tackling and dribbling good.

H. A. Lunghi. Colours 1935. Scrum-half. Feeds his stand-off and three-quarters well with good passes. Falls on the ball well in defence: very sure tackler.

J. O. Bury. Second XV. Colours 1934. Forward. Works hard in the close scrums but does not use his weight enough in the loose. Very useful in the line out.

L. J. D. Hutchinson. Second XV. Colours 1935. Three-quarter. Slow off the mark, but difficult to stop when going full out. Kicking good, but defence uncertain.

A. C. Dean. Second XV. Colours 1935. Forward. Works hard in the close and loose scrummages. Should learn to control the ball more when dribbling. Useful in the line out.

J. A. Fletcher. Second XV. Colours 1935. Forward. Works hard as a wing forward, but is apt to break up too soon. A fairly good dribbler. Very useful in forward rushes.

E. F. Stevens. Second XV. Colours 1935. Three-quarter. Takes his passes well, but does not always make full use of his speed. Tackling fair.

R. Emmett. Second XV. Colours 1935. Forward. Rather slow for a wing forward, and too eager to break up from the scrum, frequently gets off-side. Dribbling quite good.

R. E. Bowman. Second XV. Colours 1935. Forward. Works quite hard, but stays on the edge of the scrum. A very useful place kicker.

R. Goodey. Second XV. Colours 1935. Forward. Very useful in the tight and loose scrums. A good dribbler. Valuable in the line out.

H. H. Whitfield. Second XV. Colours 1935. Full-back. Has quite a good sense of position. Kicking and fielding good. Defence fairly sure.

G. F. Rice. Second XV. Colours 1935. Forward. Works hard in the tight and loose scrums, and keeps up with the game well.

P. A. Wimberley. Second XV. Colours 1935. Forward. Rather slow. Pushes hard in the close scrums, but hangs about on the fringe in the loose.

SECOND XV RESULTS.

v. Southfields School First XV. Home. Lost 3—17.

v. Bloxham School. Home. Lost, 3—33.

v. Magdalen C.S., Oxford. Home. Lost, 11—23.

The following played for the Second XV:—
D. R. H. Brown (Captain), D. Jones, F. A. Bennett, W. Giles, H. T. Jones, A. Beaton, P. H. Wooster, L. G. Cather, R. F. Simmonds, M. D. Wells, P. J. Woolf, J. Lines, R. E. Brodie, G. D. Randall, D. Pimm, A. C. Rogers, S. K. Muir.

"UNDER 15" XV RESULTS.

v. Bloxham School. Away. Won, 6—0.

v. Magdalen College School, Oxford. Home. Won, 39—0.

v. Southfields School. Home. Lost, 6—9.

v. Magdalen College School, Brackley. Home. Won, 9—6.

v. City of Oxford School. Away. Lost, 5—8.

As the above results shew the season can be regarded as satisfactory, although the team did not fulfil expectations. The outsides were more effective and shewed more signs of combination than some previous teams but the forwards were disappointing, producing too little dash in the loose and little concerted shove in the tight. The line-out work was very fair, and the tackling of the team in general improved considerably in the course of the season. The junior boys, however, must realize from the start that the foundations of success are a hardworking pack ready to give the backs a quick heel and support attacks by quick following up, as well as getting back quickly in defence—in fact on the move all the time. Of the forwards Faulkner shewed up best as a solid worker—good in the loose and a sound tackler. Pimm was very useful in the line-outs and dribbling, but lacking in dash. Lines i and Hicks i were good at breaking away in the loose and Dean ii and Hedger i were often to the fore, but generally speaking there was little concerted effort by the forwards in the way of rushes or checking opposing forwards. The halves Paige and Aldersley were quite effective in most matches and opened up the game well. Of the three-quarters Randall was obviously the most dangerous and scored several tries by his hard running but he was incapable of giving a reasonable pass to his wing where a score would almost certainly have resulted. His tackling was good. Carter 3 the other centre was an elusive runner quick off the mark and usually made ground. Tackling only fair. The two wings Wood and Bailey had few opportunities but filled the positions adequately. Povey made a very useful full-back—a reliable tackler with a good kick and a very fair sense of position.

The following played for the "Under 15" XV : G. D. Randall (Captain), R. Hedger, A. C. Dean, J. M. Wood, C. G. Carter, J. H. R. Faulkner, G. W. Povey, F. G. D. Dean, D. Pimm, J. N. Paige, J. Hicks, J. Lines, D. T. Nadin, R. Goodey ii, J. P. Aldersley, H. B. Bailey, M. H. Wheat, O. J. Gill, J. Lay.

HOUSE MATCHES.

Senior. Green v. Red. Won by Green, 13—3.
Blue v. Green. Won by Blue, 9—3.
Blue v. Red. Won by Blue, 6—3.
Junior. Blue v. Green. Won by Blue, 15—3.
Blue v. Red. Won by Blue, 6—0.

O.T.C.

We regret that we omitted to record in our last notes that Lieut. J. B. E. Alston resigned his commission and command of the O.T.C. in September last, after some five years' service. Lieut. H. M. Gray takes over the Command and 2nd-Lieut. W. G. Holmes is now second in command.

We must congratulate R. Emmett, P. J. Hill, W. G. Smith, and H. L. Jacob on their success in the November Examination for Certificate "A." We may also mention that this term four cadets out of six passed Certificate "A", Part I (Practical) and we wish them success in Part II (Written).

Training this term has been largely devoted to field work and the control of platoons and sections in extended order. No. 1 Platoon under Sergt. Fletcher has so far shown the better grasp of the principles of fire and movement and credit is due to the section commanders for carrying through successfully a small tactical scheme. It is hoped that both platoons will give a good account of themselves on the Field Day to take place over the Lambourn Downs on March 5th. Sergt. Cather has now assumed command of No. 2 Platoon. Cpl. Hill is in charge of the armoury and has been ably assisted by Cadets Jones and Longford.

Promotions :—To be Sergt. : L. G. Cather.
To be L.-Cpls. : H. L. Jacob, H. H. Whitfield.

LIBRARY.

We acknowledge with many thanks the presentation of Vol. III. of *Modern European History* (H. A. L. Fisher), and *The Personality of Napoleon* (Holland Rose), by the brothers D. C. and P. J. Woolf. Among recent acquisitions are : *Victorian England*, *Oliver Cromwell*, (Buchan), *Napoleon and his Marshals*, *History of the Great War* (Crutt-

well), *The Kingdom of the Camera* (Baker), *Tarka the Otter*, *An Anthology of Modern Poetry*, *Everyday Things in Greece*.

PLAY READING SOCIETY.

Five meetings were held last term and though, owing to unavoidable difficulties, some of the plays procured were of mediocre merit, most of them were quite enjoyable. "The Ghost Train" was certainly the best performance and the noises off were a notable addition. Some of the new readers are becoming seasoned and the Society's production of "Mr. Pim" at the Rag Concert shewed that there is profit as well as pleasure to be gained from the readings. This term we have a well balanced programme and an increased membership which bodes well for the future.

MUSIC CIRCLE.

The activities of the music circle have included an attendance at a symphony concert in the Sheldonian Theatre given by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Malcolm Sargent on November 28th. *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (The Choral)* was the great item of the evening, and was given a magnificent performance.

On February 2nd a number of people were privileged to be present at the music given by the Oxford Bach Choir and Orchestra in memory of his late Majesty George V. A vital performance of *Brahms' Requiem*, under the direction of Sir Hugh Allen, was the main feature.

THE RAG CONCERT.

As a musical apéritif to the dramatic fare that was to follow, Mr. Bevir opened the proceedings with two songs about his car and his dog—both, apparently, diverting possessions.

Then came the Lodge play, "Down the Crocus Tunnel." This was about two mortals, *Molly* and *Robin* (P. Hicks and G. J. Bowman), who, travelling on their midget motor, visited the particular bit of fairyland that was to be found at the end of the Crocus Tunnel. Here the court was in session, *The King* (B. E. Hillsdon) and *Queen* (G. M. Mundy) exhibiting some very human foibles and weaknesses. The elfin atmosphere was well maintained by the antics of the gnomes—particularly the tumbler, R. E. Dew—and the music of one of the sprites, J. W. Rayson, who performed attractive tunes on his home-made pipe. The setting and lighting were a particularly attractive feature of the piece.

Next came Mr. Duxbury's production of "Mr. Pim," given by prominent members of the Play Reading Society. The action of this play arises from the pot of bother that is stirred up in the respectable household of the *Mardens*, when *Mr. Pim*, quite a stranger to the family, pays a call and innocently drops a few remarks which ostensibly bear most devastating implications. Thrice more in the course of the day and the three acts of the play does he wander in and give a further stir to the seething situation. Among the *dramatis personae* of this harried household, the personality of *Mrs. Marden* stands out as the one most capable of keeping a grip on the situation, and this part was very ably acted by H. A. Lunghi. She is able to humour, yet manage, her rather intractable husband—a character portrayed very convincingly by G. F. Rice. J. A. Fletcher and R. Emmett as *Brian Strange* and *Dinah Marden* easily and amusingly maintained their parts in the sentimental counterpoint that fell to them; whilst S. K. Muir as *Lady Marden* made a successful female dragon. M. H. Wheat, as the maid *Anne*, did the necessary announcings and usherings with dainty mien and firm foot. The action of this play was wholly in the drawing-room of an English country-house, charmingly staged in a pleasant room from which a french window led into the garden. Through this did the scatter-brained *Mr. Pim* essay to deliver his final *motto theme*; but such was the hilarity of the audience at the climax that his appearance alone had to suffice. It was a tribute to the acting of C. A. Ronan.

The last item was a musical extravaganza written, composed and produced by Mr. Ingham, entitled "Stocks and Shocks" or "Shares and Scares." In a business-like office of Battye, Belfry and Battye, Stockbrokers, we find a shady partnership composed of *Plimsoll* (R. F. Simmonds) posing as a clerk and *Mrs. Squibbs* (G. V. Bayley) giving a very good imitation of a charwoman, but past experience has shewn that they cannot be honest on the stage. At the moment they are planning to attack the safe. Then appears *Boyle* (P. J. Hill) the senior clerk, who proves a model of clerical efficiency, zeal and integrity. *Belfry* himself (L. J. D. Hutchinson) next arrives with a business-like air and a flow of financial idiom. Presently a friend of his is announced—a *Mr. Vansittart* (H. T. Jones) an enthusiastic student of the occult just returned from the East. He begs leave to deposit in the office safe some rare powders he has acquired on his travels, which are alleged to produce visible materialisations on the near ap-

proach of evil influences. Behold then in the final scene, the night-watchman, *Fawkes* (H. B. Bailey) on his rounds—the attack on the safe by the criminals and their complete discomfiture at the appearance of a genuine materialisation—*Ghost* (D. B. West). Belfry and his friend return to witness a triumph of science and to point a moral, and with everyone in good humour again the ghost finally goes west, after a performance in which all the actors gave us a neat blending of action and song and Belfry's prosperous appearance left a lasting impression.

The musical numbers started with a song by Mrs. Squibbs, who held the stage *solo* for the first five minutes. Boyle sang of the joys of a stockbroker's office, percussion during the various interludes being aptly provided by Plimsoll as the type-writer. Belfry showed his versatility as a broker by conducting business in an *arioso* over the telephone, with office noises as an integral part of the accompaniment. The dramatic situation at the end of Act I was tersely treated in a tuneful trio, whilst Act II opened with low lights in which the night-watchman declaimed his devotion to duty. In an appropriate part of the spectrum a *pas seul* was perkily performed by the phantom; and the finale, starting in the grand style, graded gradually to that of comic opera, and the curtain fell on the usual scene of song and dance.

OXFORD LETTER.

Dear Sir,

It would be difficult to tell your readers anything of the doings of old boys at this university. They always know all, and more, already. What they have not heard is unlikely to be of any interest to them. The writer has caught only whispers and vague rumours of the doings of his fellow old boys.

If we were looking for signs we would suggest that this was the sign of a good tendency. Our members have come up with an independent spirit and followed each his particular interest.

Of detailed information we can offer only these few scraps. Coulson seems to be leading a varied and busy life. He has been seen taking exercise (on a bicycle); studying films (at the Super); music and the world (at Ellistons); and avoiding the usual pastimes (everywhere).

Arthur Fleet after giving invaluable aid to the successful Pembroke 1st VIII in the summer, retired to work. He is lately back from the Berkshire Downs which have revived a right sense of proportion in so many about to deal with

Honour Mods. Till work became too urgent he had been reading plays and things.

David Brown has found the weather damp or chilly for running. However, he went over to Cambridge and ran faster than the two Tabs in the Freshmen's Quarter-mile. Hot from the press comes the news that he has thrown a weight of sixteen pounds a distance of 37 feet 7½ inches and is likely to throw against Cambridge.

The only place where he is normal in the disposition of his energy is at Blackwells. There he crawls with the slowest and trails his long hair.

It is said that old Mumbo-Jumbo is off to West Africa this summer. In the New Year he took several fantastic crashes on the Swiss mountains and can now play no games. So what news should there be?

Except that, he remains,

Yours, —,

MUMBO-JUMBO.

Oxford, March 3rd, 1936.

O.A. NOTES.

MARRIAGES.

EASON—BOWDEN.—On June 24, at the Parish Church of Emmanuel, Compton Gifford, Plymouth, Geoffrey Tom Eason (1921), to Patricia Bowden.

LAY—RANDALL.—On November 30, at St. Nicholas' Church, Abingdon, Cyril George Lay (1927), of 17, Linwood Terrace, Abingdon, to Joan Mary Randall, of 111, Swinburne Road, Abingdon.

HANCOCK—MACPHERSON.—On December 7, at St. John's (Parish) Church, Hampstead, Wilfrid Gerald (1926), son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Wilfrid Hancock, of Perranporth, Cornwall, to Lesley Barbara, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Macpherson, of Eton Villas, Hampstead.

WRIGHT—STAPYLTON.—On December 21, at St. Luke's Church, Parkstone, Dorset, David Charles Kinsey (1927), son of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wright, of Bishop's Stortford, to Joan Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Stapylton, of Parkstone.

LUCAS—WHITE.—On Dec. 26, at Milton Church, Berks, William H. W. Lucas (1921), of 81, Ock Street, Abingdon, to Joan White, of The Croft, Milton Hill.

DEATH.

SQUIRE.—On November 29, at his home, 63, Cranbourne Gardens, Golder's Green, Peter Blake Squire (1931), youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. J. Squire, in his twenty-first year.

The news of Peter Squire's untimely death must have come as a shock to many friends, though it had been known for some time that he was suffering from an incurable malady. It was the express wish of his parents that those who desired to honour his memory should send a donation to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and we are pleased to learn that their suggestion provoked a generous response.

The youngest of the three brothers educated here he joined the School in January, 1926. Here his many fine qualities soon earned the esteem and affection of his contemporaries. He entered fully into the life of the School, and before he left, in the summer of 1931, he had passed the O.S.C. exam. with honours and won School prizes for mathematics and science, while in the sphere of athletic achievement he had gained his First XV colours for Rugger and rowed for two seasons in the Second IV. Subsequently he was articled to a firm of Chartered Accountants in London, and was working for his Finals up to a short time before his death.

A. J. Turnham (1934²) has passed out of Woolwich and taken a commission in the R.A.

H. W. Short (1911, i) has a commission in the Royal Navy.

R. E. G. Morewood (1933²) has been accepted for a six months' probationary course of training with the R.A.F., preparatory to taking a short-term commission.

D. H. Blake (1934²) has been gazetted 2nd-Lieutenant in the R.A.

W. S. T. Hale (1928²) is now at Cranwell, taking a course as Wireless Operator in the R.A.F.

Lieut. A. J. A. Watson (1925²) has been playing Rugger for the Army.

R. J. Lay, of Radley (1925²), has won the Professionals' Senior Rackets Handicap at Queen's Club, London. Receiving 6 he beat A. H. Whetton, the Haileybury professional, by 17—14, 15—7, 15—9 in the final. "It is safe to say" (we quote from a Press report) "that there are very few rackets players who could have given Lay the odds on the form which he showed in this match."

Congratulations to D. G. Brown (1935²), who has been awarded his half-blue at Oxford for Putting the Weight. He was second in the O.U. Athletic Sports with a put of 37 ft. 4½ ins.

We much regret to report that A. C. Smith (1931²), is a prisoner in the Royal Sea-bathing

Hospital in Margate, condemned to a year on his back as a sequel to an accident received while playing Rugger for the H.A.C.—after which the doctors promise him a complete cure. Otherwise, he says, he feels fitter than he has done for years, and for his own part he hopes confidently for an earlier release from durance. But in the meanwhile he would, no doubt, be grateful for a visit from any O.A. who may find himself within visiting distance of Margate.

Another O.A. on the sick-list is W. H. Stevens (1923²), who has been ordered by his doctor to take a two months' rest at the seaside. We offer him our sincere condolences. At the same time, by way of consolation, we would congratulate him on the success of the little book on "Rubber Latex" (Pitmans, 1930) which he wrote in collaboration with his father. We note that this has lately gone to press for the issue of a fourth edition.

H. F. D. Smart (1931³), writes happily from South Africa. He has relinquished farming for gold-mining, which he likes better and hopes to find more profitable. He has got a job on the Mamre Mine in the Eastern Transvaal.

Myer Thomas (1932³), who has now finished his articles with Messrs. Haylock and Inchley (Auctioneers, Estate Agents, etc.), in Birmingham, is intending shortly to set up in business on his own account.

R. A. Witham (1925²) has passed the Final Examination for Associate Membership of the Institute of Civil Engineers. He is Deputy Surveyor to the Deal and Walmer Borough Council.

R. G. Sandercock (1932³), has passed in the First Division in the Final Examination at Faraday House.

J. M. Viney (1935²) has gone into the Furnishing business and is serving his apprenticeship with the well-known firm of Handleys of Southsea.

M. H. Holme (1935²) has obtained an appointment at the Head Office of the Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation, in their foreign department.

L. E. J. Luker (1935³) is an articled pupil under the Abingdon Rural District Council.

A. C. Rogers and W. G. Smith (1935³) have clerical appointments in the G.P.O., at Abingdon.

R. P. F. Mills (1935²) is working as a Builder's clerk at the new Chilton Aerodrome.

P. J. Woolf (1935³) has obtained an appointment with the Prudential Assurance Company.

CRICKET FIXTURES TO DATE.

FIRST XI.

Date.	Opponents.	Ground.
Wed. May 20	Pembroke Coll., Oxon	Home
Wed. „ 27	Lincoln College	Away
Sat. „ 30	Bloxham School	Away
Wed. June 3	Magdalen C.S., Oxford	Home
Sat. „ 6	R.M. Salberg's XI	Home
Wed. „ 10	Wantage School	Home
Wed. „ 17	Leighton Park School	Home
Sat. „ 20	Old Abingdonians	Home
Wed. „ 24	City of Oxford School	Home
Sat. „ 27	Captain G. Payne's XI	Home
Wed. July 1	Magdalen C.S., Brackley	Away

SECOND XI.

Sat. May 30	Bloxham School	Home
Wed. June 3	Magdalen C.S., Oxford	Away
Sat. „ 6	Dorchester College	Away
Wed. „ 17	Leighton Park School	Away

“UNDER 15” XI.

Sat. May 23	Magdalen C.S., Brackley	Home
Wed. „ 27	City of Oxford School	Home
Wed. June 10	Wantage School	Away
Sat. „ 13	City of Oxford School	Away
Wed. „ 24	Bloxham School	Away
Sat. „ 27	St. Edward's School	Home
Sat. July 4	Leighton Park School	Away