

59

The ABINGDONIAN



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in aeternum cantabo*

EASTER TERM, 1946

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Misericordias
Domini



in aeternum
cantabo

THE ABINGDONIAN

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CALENDAR—SUMMER TERM, 1946

Wed.	April 24.	Boarders return.
Thurs.	" 25.	First Day of Term.
Fri.	May 11.	Sports Day.
Sat.	" 15.	1st XI v. Southfield (Away).
Sun.	" 22.	Field Day.
Mon.	" 25.	1st XI v. Wantage (Home).
Tue.	June 1.	1st XI v. City of Oxford School (Home).
Wed.	" 8.	Victory Day.
Thurs.	" 12.	1st XI v. Southfield (Home).
Fri.	" 14.	Founder's Day. Regatta.
Sat.	" 15.	1st XI v. O.A.s.
Sun.	" 19.	Certificate 'A' Examination.
Mon.	" 22.	1st XI v. City of Oxford School (Away).
Tue.	July 1.	Higher and School Certificate Examinations begin.
Wed.	" 18.	Last Day of Term.
Thurs.	" 19.	Boarders return Home.

SCHOOL OFFICERS

Easter Term, 1946

Captain of the School: A. J. Walters.

Head of the House: T. W. Green.

School Prefects:

F. Hesten.	M. J. Green.
D. Beattie.	P. R. Sims.
A. N. James.	M. D. Vickers.
G. L. Sanders.	M. H. Jones.
P. R. Betterton.	J. B. H. Aldiss.
J. L. Platnauer.	M. Chase.

Sub-Prefects:

A. B. Beadle.	V. E. Welsh.
D. J. Leach.	D. H. Wheaton.
J. P. Mortimore.	J. T. Moore.
I. H. McNaughton.	K. J. Weston.
W. S. Ogden.	C. S. Cullen.
Captain of Boats: T. W. Green.	
Captain of Hockey: D. Beattie.	
Hon. Secretary of Games: M. J. Green.	
School Librarians: J. P. Mortimore, D. H. Wheaton.	

Abingdonian Committee:

Editor: Mr. S. Punton-Smith.
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. E. J. P. Ross-Barker.
Hon. Secretary: T. W. Green.
D. Beattie, H. Baecker, C. S. Cullen, D. H. Wheaton.

EDITORIAL

With this first year of peace, we have resumed the peace practice of returning to three issues of the *Abingdonian* a year. Hence this Easter number.

Many events seem to be crowded into the last few days of this term, so that we shall be unable to include accounts of them at the time of going to press. The Editor regrets their omission, which is unavoidable, but the events will be faithfully recorded in the next issue of the Magazine.

Founder's Day will be on Friday, June 14th. Though perforce it will have to be in some ways an 'austerity' Founder's day, yet it is hoped that with an increasing number of O.A.s returning home and being demobilised, a good assembly will gather for the occasion. There will be a Regatta on the afternoon of Friday, and the Old Boys' cricket match on the following day. It is also hoped that the O.A. Club will become active again, as soon as the Committee can arrange a meeting. The Honorary Secretary of the Club is Mr. E. J. P. Ross-Barker and his address is 53 Royds Road, S. Willesborough, Ashford, Kent.

SCHOOL NOTES

The accommodation of the School is now stretched to its utmost, the numbers this term being 237. Under the housemastership of Mr. Gray, Larkhill opened this term as a boarding house with seventeen boarders. Plans have been made for accommodation for a further twenty boarders, as soon as building priorities allow.

Though throughout the term the vagaries of the weather have been remarkable, they have interfered very little with games, while the health bill of the School has been good.

We have had some welcome additions to the Staff this term. Mr. D. O. Willis has rejoined the staff after six years of service with the Royal Artillery. Mr. C. E. T. Moore of Hertford College, Oxford, is with us for a term.

We wish to congratulate T. W. Green on being elected to the Abingdon Scholarship, Pembroke College, Oxford, as a History scholar. D. G. Brown (1935) who gained his blue at Oxford for putting the weight and discus throwing has pre-

sented to the School a handsome challenge cup for putting the weight.

The Headmaster kindly arranged for about hundred boys and a good proportion of the Staff to witness the match between Oxford University and the 'Kiwis' on February 14th. This was much appreciated and proved very instructive.

The December School Certificate results were as follows: Willson 1 gained the Certificate with Very Good in Science: McNaughton obtained Credit in Latin as a supplementary subject. We offer congratulations to A. J. Walters, P. Hayter and E. G. B. Whitfield on being awarded full Colours for Hockey: Half-colours were obtained by K. J. Weston, G. Barrett and A. B. Beadle.

Red House swept the board in the Christmas term House matches, the seniors and juniors winning the Lin and Robinson Cups respectively.

G. Barrett and K. J. Weston gained 2nd XV Colours in December, 1945.

The awards of Rowing Colours will be found in the review of the term's Rowing.

We acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the following contemporaries: *The Aldenhamian*, *The Almedian*, *The Bloxhamist*, *The Chigwellian*, *The City of Oxford School Magazine*, *The 'Do Watch' Worcester Magazine*, *The Laxtonian*, *The Leightonian*, *The Lily*, *The Log of the Nautical College*, *Pangbourne*, *The Monktonian*, *The Recorder*, *The St. Edward's School Chronicle*.

J.T.C.

Training this term has been organized on Platoon and Section basis, there being no Certificate Examination and N.C.O.s have consequently been able to exercise their instructional powers on a progressive scheme with their own sections. More time has been devoted to shooting, as the Drill Hall has been made available to us on Tuesday afternoons, but the weather has made much outdoor tactical work impossible, as well as causing the full-day exercises to be postponed.

Promotions: To be Sgt.—Acting Sgt. Whitfield E.G.B. To be Cpl.: L./Cpls. Cullen 2, D. M. Cullen 3, C. S. To be L./Cpl.: Cds. Chase, M. Barrett 1, G.; Jordan, T. W. J.; Badley, N. C. J.

HOCKEY

In spite of a late start due to bad weather, which caused our first match with Wallingford School to be cancelled, and curtailed practice during the first month of the term, play in games and matches has been of a high standard. The composition of the XI was soon settled and varied little during the season. The chief problem was to find a satisfactory left-wing and half-back. Hesten and Sanders were tried in the latter position, but both were too slow, and could not be relied upon to stop the ball and clear effectively. Betterton was the obvious choice for this position, but he had to be moved into the forward line for most of the matches owing to the absence of Jamieson. The rest of the defence was very steady, and could be relied upon to break up most attacks and get the ball to their forwards. Their chief weakness was a certain lack of co-ordination when hard pressed in their circle.

The forward line in the early practice games gave promise of considerable scoring power. The three insides, Jamieson, Sims, and Weston, were fast, combined well, and pressed home their attacks resolutely; while Beadle on the right wing improved rapidly. But when Jamieson dropped out through illness just before the first match, the balance of the attack was completely upset, as was very obvious in the match, which we won only through our good defence and one or two successful individual efforts in attack. The rearranged forward line, with Sims at centre and Betterton inside-left, improved its combination, and though we missed Jamieson badly in our first match with the Abingdon Hockey Club, we beat Wallingford Schools without his assistance. The latter match was very evenly contested, and it was only the superior combination of our forwards that enabled us to win.

Jamieson was back again for our second meeting with the Abingdon Hockey Club, but our forward line was not at its best in this game, and our defence, weakened by the absence of Barrett, could not quite hold a fast and thrustful attack.

Apart from a weakness on its left flank the team developed into a well-balanced combination, and

played an open, hard-hitting type of game with considerable success.

Full Colours were awarded to: A. J. Walters, P. Hayter, E. G. B. Whitfield. Half Colours to: G. Barrett, K. J. Weston, A. B. Beadle.

The composition of the eleven was as follows: A. J. Walters, P. Hayter, D. Beattie, G. Barrett, E. G. B. Whitfield, P. R. Betterton, A. B. Beadle, K. J. Weston, I. J. M. Jamieson, P. R. Sims, A. V. Crook.

Also played: G. L. Sanders in three matches. P. A. F. Smith and F. Hesten one each.

Characters

D. Beattie (Colours, 1945), Captain. Left-back. A very sound and reliable full-back, whose speed and determination enabled him to retrieve many threatening situations. Hits powerfully and passes judiciously.

I. J. M. Jamieson (Colours, 1945). Centre-forward. A very promising player, he has excellent control of the ball, is very quick to see an opening and exploit it to the full. Combines well and shoots cleverly.

P. R. Sims (Colours, 1945). A dashing attacker who combines well and has a good knowledge of defence. Shoots hard and quickly but misses chances of scoring through over-eagerness in the circle.

A. J. Walters (Colours, 1946). Goalkeeper. Has been much safer this season, and is at his best when hard pressed in the goal-mouth, but is still reluctant to go out to check an unsupported attack. His kicking clearances are whole-hearted and decisive.

P. Hayter (Colours, 1946). Right back. Has shown a great improvement on last year's play. Reliable and clears well.

E. G. B. Whitfield (Colours, 1946). Centre-half. Has a good eye for the ball, is always well up in attack, and positions himself excellently in defence.

G. Barrett (Half-Colours, 1946). Right-half. A very hard hitter who should curb a tendency to hit wildly near the opposing goal line. A great asset to the team in both attack and defence.

K. J. Weston (Half-Colours, 1946). Inside-right. Improved steadily throughout the season. Stick-work now good and combines well with his wing. Shows constructive power, and shoots accurately.

A. B. Beadle (Half-Colours, 1946). Outside-right. Makes full use of his speed. Centres well and has developed a good understanding with his inside.

P. R. Betterton (Left-half). When playing inside-left early in the season he was rather erratic in the circle. Shows more promise as a defensive player. Stick-work rather unreliable.

A. V. Crook (Outside-left). Rather slow and inexperienced for this difficult position, but nevertheless was useful. His stick-work is still shaky but has improved during the season.

v. The Queen's College, Oxford (home). Won, 3-1.

Our forward line was handicapped by the absence of Jamieson at centre, but Sims filled this position well and twice narrowly missed scoring. The first goal came midway through the first half when Betterton flicked in a centre from the right. After the interval the College attacked strongly and scored with a clever shot into the corner of the goal. After continued pressure we broke away and Weston put us ahead with a hard shot from the edge of the circle; and just before the end he added another, tapping the ball through when it came loose from a muddle in front of goal.

v. Abingdon Hockey Club (home). Lost 3-5.

After being in the lead twice in the first twenty minutes we were finally beaten by a team whose greater experience and better control just turned the scales in their favour. Play went from end to end until Betterton scored from a corner by Beadle. Roberts soon equalized from a mêlée in the circle, but Betterton again put us ahead. Before half-time Abingdon scored two more goals, one obtained by their fast left-winger who worked his way in and shot from an oblique angle, the other by their right-wing Penny who gave Walters no chance with a shot just under the bar. In the second half Roberts dashed through and scored

from a partial save by Walters, and Packer put in another from a corner. Weston replied for the School with a well-directed shot from a good pass by Beadle.

v. King Alfred's School, Wantage (home). Won 7-0.

We gained a well-deserved victory in this game and would have won by more if our forwards had made the most of their opportunities in the second half. We did not play as well as in the previous match, but took advantage of Wantage's weaknesses. We opened at a great pace and scored four times extremely quickly. Beadle hit the first from the edge of the circle, Betterton the second after a 'twenty-five' bully, Sims the third off a good shot from a corner and Weston the fourth from a pass by the left-winger, Crook. Later Weston broke through by himself and put in a fifth. Wantage improved greatly in the second half, and only allowed us to score twice after a long period of even play. Sims got the first after some play near the Wantage goal, and straight from the bully-off, dribbled down the field, hit ahead and profiting by a mistake by one of Wantage's back put our seventh and last in the net.

v. Wallingford Grammar School (away). Won 5-2.

We had to play hard to beat Wallingford on rather small and extremely fast pitch. The game was played in a high cross-wind, but this did not seem to affect the play, which, especially in the second half, was of a high standard. The defence among whom one must mention Walters, Hayte Beattie, and Whitfield, served us admirably. The forwards also were lively and gave the Wallingford goal several anxious moments. From the start we attacked and Sims nearly scored in the first minute. Weston scored the first goal after Sims had cleverly changed positions with Beadle on the right wing and centred. The other first-half goal also came from a centre from the right, and was scored by Crook. After half-time Wallingford tested our defence to the full, but we cleared and Weston broke clean away and scored for us, but Wallingford retaliated immediately and netted

from a rebound off Walters' pads through their centre-forward. A triangular movement between Brook, Beadle, and Sims led to the latter putting us ahead 4-1. Wallingford's centre-forward again reduced arrears, but a few seconds before the end Weston put in our fifth. During this half, Walters made a particularly fine save from a very good shot at the foot of the post.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Dec. 5th. *v.* Christ Church and Pembroke Colleges (home). Lost, 9-20

The combined colleges were too strong for us, although we gave them a good fight. We stood a chance of winning in the second half, but did not make the most of our opportunities.

The visitors opened the scoring early, but we quickly equalized through a lightning dash by Samson. After this our opponents resumed the offensive and took their score to 14 points before half-time, while T. W. Green, with a try, and Walters, with a penalty goal, scored for us.

We rather lost control of the game in the latter part of the second half, and the colleges added two more tries.

Dec. 8th. *v.* City of Oxford School (away). Lost, 5-14.

We lost the last game of the season by a goal to goal, two penalty goals and a try. The packs were evenly matched, with ours winning most of the tight scrums and Oxford the loose. Samsworth, whose good kicking was a feature of the game, opened with a penalty goal for Oxford, but Samson went over for Walters to convert and gave us the lead. Soon afterwards Samsworth kicked another penalty, and tries by Taylor and Samson followed in quick succession, the first being converted by Samsworth. There was no scoring in a hard second half. Both full-backs—Samson for them and Weston for us—played very handsomely.

'Under 15' XV

City of Oxford School 'Under 15'. Lost, 3-16.
Team: Millichap, Cullen 4, Tinson, Aldworth, Austin, Cherrill, Brown 2, Olscher (Capt.), Reed, Walters, Dunkley, Aplin, Good, Rich, Lovegrove.

ROWING, 1946

Preparation of the crews was hampered this term even more than usually by bad weather, minor ailments and difficulties over repairs to boats and raft. The 1st and 2nd crews suffered much chopping and changing in their order, and only settled down together in the last fortnight, while the 3rd never rowed in the same order for three days running. Under the circumstances the crews did all that could be expected of them, and in fact the races against Magdalen College School produced two of the most exciting struggles on record. It was unfortunate that the lack of a tub four made it impossible to coach beginners properly and try out new material, and this deficiency must be rectified before next season. Respective Colours were awarded to the crews that raced against Magdalen College School.

1ST IV

The crews showed much promise in the early stages of training, with quite good balance and bladework and a firm finish, but the loss of more than a fortnight's work put them back a lot, and they had not recovered to reach their best by the time of the last race. They could row a good long stroke, but were not flexible enough to put in a telling burst at a faster rate.

The crew was as follows:

Bow. A. N. James, 9st. 2 lbs. (2nd IV, 1945).

A neat, hardworking oar, rather weak at finish and not as quick as could be desired.

'2.' J. B. H. Aldiss, 11 st. 7 lbs. (2nd IV, 1945).

A lively but impetuous worker. Bladework quite good, but body swing erratic.

'3.' M. J. Green iv, 12 st. 2 lbs. (1st IV, 1945).

Kept a good length and backed up Stroke splendidly. Bladework fair.

Stroke. T. W. Green i, 10 st. 1 lb. (1st IV, 1945).
Captain of Boats.

Steady rhythm, lively, with very good finish, but rather too light to drive a stolid crew.

Cox. R. H. Shaw, 8 st. 12 lbs. (2nd IV Cox, 1945).

Confident and reliable, and showed good judgment in encouraging the crew.

RACES

v. M. J. Cullen's IV. Sat., March 2nd, at Abingdon. Won.

Rowed in wintry conditions, with N.E. wind. After a fairly level start the School pulled ahead slowly to lead by three-quarters of a length at half way. Here they struck a bad patch but pulled themselves together and reached the finish two and a quarter lengths ahead of the Oxford crew, who kept going very well for a scratch crew. The time, 4 minutes 4 seconds was good in the conditions.

v. Magdalen College School. Saturday, March 9th, at Abingdon. Dead heat.

Conditions were excellent, little stream and slight cross wind. Magdalen went off at a much higher rate and had gained half a length after a minute, but rowing very steadily the School gradually drew level, and a ding-dong struggle over the second half of the course ended in a dead heat—the first to be recorded in the races between the two Schools. Time, 3 minutes 44 seconds.

2ND IV

In the early stages of training they looked a raw and energetic lot, but in the last few days they made rapid progress. In practices they rowed quite well for short spells but tended to become ragged when they tired. In the race, however, they confounded the critics by showing surprising stamina and coherence.

Bow. T. W. J. Jordan. 9 st. 9 lbs.

Rather short in his swing, but otherwise a capable bow with a very fair idea of time.

'2.' J. L. Platnauer, 8 st. 12 lbs. (3rd IV, 1945).

Works hard, but owing to a clumsy and awkward finish with shoulders and elbows usually swings out of boat.

'3.' R. J. Pezaro, 10 st. 9 lbs. (3rd IV, 1945).

A fairly powerful oar, can do useful work but is not too reliable with time. Tends to row deep and wash out.

Stroke. C. S. Cullen 3, 9 st. 6 lbs. (1st IV Cox 1945).

A small but neat oar, rather short but lively and can keep the crew going well up to their work.

Cox. P. R. Brown 2, 8 st. 7 lb. (3rd IV Cox 1945).

Steers well and has assurance, but should avoid monotony in his words of advice.

RACE

v. Magdalen College School. Saturday, March 9th, at Abingdon. Won.

After a fairly level start the School gradually gained an advantage of half a length, rowing very steadily. Magdalen then began to reduce the lead but after a good tussle the School got home with three feet to spare. Time, 4 mins. 14 secs.

3RD IV

The crew were severely handicapped by lack of coaching and constant changes of order. The chief failing was lack of body swing with all attendant troubles, and a shorter stroke would probably have suited them better. In the race against Magdalen C.S. they held their own fairly well at first, but found their opponents and also their waterlogged boat too much for them, and had to admit defeat by five lengths. Time, 2 mins. 54 secs.

The crew was:

Bow. J. T. Moore, 9 st. 12 lbs.

'2.' M. D. Vickers, 10 st.

'3.' F. C. Stott, 11 st.

Stroke. N. C. J. Badley, 8 st. 7 lbs.

Cox. R. F. Hamer, 6 st. 5 lbs.

VALETE ET SALVETE**Valete**

Left Christmas, 1945

IIIth Form. M. Lawrence (1941, iii). School Prefect, 1945. O.S.C., 1945; 2nd XV, 1945. J.T.C., Cpl., Cert. 'A,' 1945. A.S.P.R.S., A.S.L.S.D.S.

L. A. Lewis (1942, i). Sub-Prefect. O.S.C., 1944; 1st XV, 1943-45; Colours, 1945. 3rd IV, 1945. Half Athletic Colours, 1944. J.T.C., Sgt., Cert., 'A,' 1944. Games Committee.

A. J. Sansom (1942, i). Sub-Prefect. O.S.C., 1945. 1st XV., 1942-45; Colours, 1944. 2nd IV, 1945; 2nd IV Colours, 1945. Half Athletic Colours, 1944. J.T.C., Cert. 'A' (part i), 1942. A.T.C., First-Class Cadet, 1943. A.S.P.R.S., A.S.L.S.D.S., A.S. Holiday Club Committee.

A. N. Tomlin (1940, iii). Sub-Prefect. 2nd XV., 1945. J.T.C., Cert. 'A' (part i), 1945. A.S.P.R.S., A.S.L.S.D.S.

G. H. Willson (1938, iii). Sub-Prefect. O.S.C., 1944. J.T.C., Lance-Cpl., Cert. 'A,' 1945.

Vth Form. J. Pask (1942, iii).

D. A. Pask (1942, iii).

IVth Form. R. L. Pollard (1940, iii).

Salvete

Came Easter Term, 1946

IIb Form. E. D. S. Schwier, B. W. Boddington, R. B. Atkinson, D. Rabson.

Ib Form. R. G. Beere, M. J. Biggs, J. G. Guimaraens 1, J. M. Benson, D. A. Greenman.

z Form. R. H. Redknapp, B. D. Guimaraens 2, D. L. Banfield.

b Form. G. S. A. Dunn, I. S. Baxter, J. A. Nichols.

THE RAG CONCERT**Christmas, 1945**

The Christmas Rag Concert was well up to the usual standard, although it did seem to lack senior items.

The Concert opened on a seasonable note with carol and folk-song by the trebles of the School choir.

The next item could have been more successful had there been more time for rehearsing it. 'The Stolen Plans,' as the sketch was called, was performed by the third form, under Mr. Allen, assisted by J. B. H. J. Aldiss.

In contrast to the previous item we were next entertained by certain members of the notorious Study Corridor who sang us (with gusto if without concord) well known and apparently popular songs including 'The Rio Grand' and 'Clementine.' The chorus was composed of A. N. James, J. B. H. J. Aldiss, J. L. Platnauer, M. J. Green, A. N. Tomlin, J. P. Mortimore, and W. S. Ogden, accompanied by Miss Peach.

L. A. Lewis now appeared in the rôle of the Reverend Blank. He gave us a most enlightening sermon and we conclude that his must indeed be a most delightful parish.

We now returned to the serious and were wafted to the distant lands of the Far East as Miss Peach and W. S. Ogden gave us a piano-forte duet of the Overture to the Mikado, by Sullivan, in which we discerned both feeling and touch.

The dramatic now took the stage with a short play called, 'On Dartmoor,' acted by Langford 2, Wilson 2, Riggott, Draisey, Garrett.

It was with great pleasure that we now welcomed that worthy artist, and I think we may say friend, Mr. Gordon Holdom, who so generously consented to come along and sing to us. He began by singing us a song from the Gilbert and Sullivan opera 'Iolanthe,' 'In good King George's time.'

The curtain now rose on a scene such as may quite frequently be seen in any of the local thoroughfares, for a performance of the popular sketch, 'The 'ole in the road,' acted with vivacity and ease by J. T. Moore and I. J. M. Jamieson.

Mr. Holdom now returned to sing us more songs, ending with the now traditional 'Short'ning bread.' He was accompanied both times by Miss Peach.

The stage was now set for 'In the midst of life,' a sketch acted by D. H. Wheaton and D. Barrett, who appeared to enjoy it as much as we did.

There had been an air of expectancy in the room

all the evening, and the audience now made its desire for 'Bill' raucously known. Mr. Bevir gallantly answered the call and sang us two ballads, 'The vloi be on the turmot' and 'The Derbyshire Ram.' We need not comment on the applause, but might add that serious concern was felt for the roof at this time.

J. M. Ball now gave us a piano solo which, although well suited to some members of the audience, was not well chosen.

The programme was produced in the absence of Mr. Ingham by C. S. Cullen, who also managed the stage, assisted by R. H. Shaw and J. P. N. Langford.

The show was compered by A. J. Walters, who kept the evening going between the scenes.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

As was mentioned in the last issue of the *Abingdonian*, a fund has been started to provide suitable furnishings for the Library, as and when they become available. We are glad to say that over £12 has already been received, the latest contributors being T. B. Reeves (O.A.), W. J. Crudgington (O.A.), and E. P. Rice (O.A.), to all of whom we tender our thanks, hoping that others will be encouraged to follow their lead.

One of our chief worries at the moment is the ban on rebinding. Many books have already had to be withdrawn and many more will shortly have to follow, unless greater care is taken in the handling of books. Additions to the Library will be included in our next Notes.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Since this Magazine was first published more than five years ago, the School has seen many vicissitudes of fortune. After sinking to a low ebb, it has gradually risen to a higher level than it has attained for many years. . . . One of the chief factors of this success has undoubtedly been the drawing closer of the ties that bind together Past and Present. The Old Abingdonian Club is the visible sign of a connection that has become more intimate each successive year. Two members of the Club, an Old Boy and an Old Headmaster have founded entrance scholarships at the school: the Club itself has fitted up Science Rooms.

(From the *Abingdonian*, April, 1896).

OXFORD LETTER

March, 1946.

To the Editor, 'Abingdonian.'

DEAR SIR,

Pembroke in particular and Oxford as a whole are fast becoming their old selves. The form is now no longer dominated by the politically minded book-worm who frowsts over his fire and a volume of Louis McNiece all the afternoon. The beer-swilling sportsman is back into his own again.

Pembroke, with the smallest numbers in the University, is now a sporting entity on its own again. Although the Togger went down six places and the Rugger XV was knocked out of Cuppers in the first round, Pembroke has at last found its feet in the sporting world.

Doyen of Abingdonians here is 'Taffy' (E. O. Jones) just returned from the R.A.F. He is in lodgings in Headington, and in spite of its obvious disadvantages, its redeeming feature is that the 'Progs' do not reach Headington. Seeing no future in classics, he has wisely, I think, turned to P.P.F. Michael Brook is his usual languid self, dispensing the latest politics straight from the Leftist press: morning, noon, and night. He finds it hard to breathe in the hearty open-air atmosphere which now pervades the J.C.R. Nevertheless, with diminishing following, he still manages to ignore the existence of the Boat Club.

Peter Jones lived a busy life of Rowing and Medicine until an experiment in the latter caused a broken collar-bone to the detriment of the former. He was able, nevertheless, to fire off the guns on the tow-path with great relish during Toggery and may rest assured that he has contributed worthily to the revival of the Boat Club.

Michael Cullen stroked the ill-fated eight which had three casualties a week before Toggery. In his usual lurid language he cursed the recalcitrant fates and set about trying to get the eight past the 'Gut.' He was successful in passing last term the first part of Law Moderations, and his studies are fast making him an expert on homicide, assault, bribery, and corruption.

Hugh Tompsett is to be congratulated on

roking the Keble Torpid which made four
umps. Fortunately it was much farther down
ie river than Pembroke and so occasioned no
atricidal strife between strokes.

Malcolm Waterfall distinguishes himself in
ss energetic ways, perhaps wisely, since on two
casions Toggors were rowed in a howling bliz-
rd. Still, it is a pity he was not able to row in the
Jniv.' Torpid.

I hear that Geoffrey Hill is coming back to
orpus. May it be soon; and may all other
bingdonians coming up return soon.

And so, Sir, with the end of this letter another
rm nears its end, and by the next Oxford Letter
ay the world and Pembroke sausages greatly
mprove.

I remain, Sir,

Your Oxford Correspondent.

A ROWER'S IDEAL

'Oh, for the warmth and calmer days!'
I've often heard it said,
But give to me the wildest wind
And waves that spray the head—
In the 'reach' that spells sensation
Near the 'cut' that's ease at last,
Where the waves are oft white horses
And the boat is running fast.
We do not care for safety,
My four staunch friends and I.
We only crave for lashing waves
When the bows are heaving high;
We'll be content in the summer time,
When the 'reach' is smooth as glass;
But we'll yearn again for wild March winds
When the winter days are past.
The sticky air in summer's heat
Is not for the type of chap
Who curses, aye, a sphinx-like cox,
Who calls for the final lap.
So, when the hush and the heat are nigh
On the shimmering ghastly moat;
Have thought for the five who are not alive
Till the waves are heaving the boat!

T. W. G.

ON THE TOP OF AFRICA

Every one has his hobby, and mine has been travel
or, as the Yanks say, 'going places.' It has been fun
seeing Malta, Mauritius, and Montreal, and it is
interesting to think back and decide which places
have provided most amusement and experience. One
was Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest point in Africa.
Seldom does one get the chance to walk in four days
from the greatest tropical heat to conditions of ice
and snow.

I set out from the plains, two thousand feet above
sea level. We were a party of five men and had more
than a dozen natives carrying our necessities. Each
managed a load of thirty pounds on his head, cheerfully
singing as he walked along. The slope was gradual. At
first we went through banana farms, then after well
over an hour we came upon the forest line (five
thousand feet). It was no gradual penetration but
bang into the thickest mass of undergrowth and huge
trees covered with dripping moss and lichen. Occa-
sionally, after two hours of the forest, we came upon
clearings with heather eight feet high.

Having started at 8 a.m., we arrived at a stone hut in
the forest at 1.30 p.m., and at once prepared for lunch,
after which we rested the remainder of the day. We
had seen no wild life other than exciting birds, but
elephants had crossed our path not long before, as we
could see by their great footmarks and fresh dung.
That evening I wandered alone into the forest above
the hut and saw a large ape besporting himself
in a distant tree. Seeing me he was overcome with
curiosity, so that very soon he approached to within
fifty yards, peering at me nervously and wondering
what I was doing in his domain and why on earth
couldn't I mind my own business. That night the
forest was alive with screeches and calls.

Starting off at the same time next day we soon came
to the top of the forest (ten thousand feet) and saw a
most wonderful sight. There before us, across miles
of open grassland dotted with copses, towering above,
was the summit of Kilimanjaro, called Kibo. A huge
ice dome it was, and the blend of blue sky, very light-
blue ice, white snow, and cloud, and in the fore-
ground sweeping up towards it green grassland, was
one of the most beautiful pictures I ever expect to see.

We trudged on until a late lunch at another stone
hut (fourteen thousand feet) where we spent the rest
of the day and night and were amused by ravens which
seemed to discourage us by croaking 'Nevermore'! It
was cold out of the sun and at night the temperature

was well below freezing point. We slept little. The height affected some of us though we retained our appetites. I had a throbbing headache which aspirins failed to remove.

As we toiled up the third day the grass became shorter and coarse. Then suddenly we came over a ridge, and there before us across a saddle of five miles was Kibo. The scene was grim. Nothing grew. We walked across parched volcanic ash caked hard and with cracks caused by the sun. Like a great saucer, the plain was slightly downhill and then up to a hut we could see all the way. The ascent to the hut was painful because of the powdery scree. This is the ash from the volcano. The whole of Kibo is scree with rock outcrop, and of course, ice—great cliffs of ice—at the top. Most curious phenomenon was the sun. We had to take more care of it than of the cold, yet if we were in the shade it was too cold to sit on rock. We could not expose our heads to the sun for fear of sunstroke, so strong are the rays at that great height. As soon as we arrived at the hut we all flopped on the bunks and wrapped up, trying to sleep in order to escape from our misery. Gone were appetites, to be replaced by severe headaches, and one or two of us were vomiting. One of the party was too ill to go on.

(To be concluded.) C. E. T. MOORE.

SUNDAY MORNING IN OXFORD

The foggy blanket, which at break of day
Spread over all the meadows by the way,
Has lifted; now the air is clear and dry,
And now the sun shines from a cloudless sky
Over all England, where, from breakfast some,
And others from the altar, now are come
Into the country lane or village street,
Or town or city where the great roads meet.
Of all the scenes this morning sun surveys,
Most gracious is the subject of our lays;
The city, unperturbed by shock or crisis,
Where Cherwell joins the broadly-flowing Isis.
The bells are ringing; let none ask the reason,
For peals unceasing, in and out of season,
Have floated in the Oxford Sunday air
Since Government again allowed 'em there.
Saturday's crowded horror put to flight,
The sleepy city breathes in golden light;
Dons, lawyers, doctors, in the lazy forenoon,
Walk slowly towards the river, gently borne on
By the same tide of Oxford's gracious heart
That draws her pilgrim youth with all her wisest art.

D. J. ALLEN.

O.A. NOTES

Births

BOSLEY—December 3, 1945, to Lilian, wife of Captain Bryan N. J. Bosley, R.A. (1937), a son Nigel Allan Holmes.

TARRAN JONES—December 1, 1945, to Marger, wife of First Officer Hugh Tarran Jones, D.F.C. B.O.A.C. (1935), a son, Martin Hugh.

Marriages

HICKS-MACKENZIE—At St. Michael's Church Cumnor, Petty Officer John Hicks, R.N. (1936) to Nan Mackenzie, W.R.N.S.

SANDERCOCK-ALLEN—January 26, 1946, at the Methodist Church, Petersfield, Desmond C. Sandercock, Lt. Royal Signals (1939) to Rald Muriel Allen.

CROASDELL-LISNEY—June 2, 1945, at Knightsbridge, A. C. Croasdell (1935) to Amy Lisney of Dublin.

LIVINGSTON-CLAYTON—On October 20, 1945, at the Church of St. Thomas, St. Anne's-on-Sea, Lancashire, by the Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Blackburn, D.D., assisted by the Rev. Gordon O. Clayton, M.A., and the Rev. S. M. Davis, Major Harold Leonard Guy Livingston, Royal Artillery, only son of Mrs. M. J. Livingston and the late Mr. W. L. Livingston, of Richmond, Surrey, to Mary, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Clayton, of St. Anne's-on-Sea.

Deaths

BETTS—On December 7, 1945, William Orr Betts (1905), sometime Rector of South Moreton Berks.

GRAHAM—On April 27, 1945, Charles Thomas Graham (1892), eldest son of the late Thomas Edward Graham of Abingdon, at Bournemouth aged 69.

PAUL—On January 8, 1945, suddenly, Lou William Paul, of Caterham. L. W. Paul was the Mathematical Master under the head-mastership of the Rev. Cam.

Visitors—H. L. G. Livingston (1935), J. N. Midge (1938), D. G. Brown (1935), K. P. Woodward (1944), J. H. Luker (1944), R. J. Frearson (1941), J. H. Hill (1944), K. G. Prior (1933), P. L. Howard (1917), M. E. Faulkner (1944), P. M. King (1945), J. D. Wood (1926), R. S. Barnes (1944), J. E. Emmett (1932), K. G. Walker (1942), L. G. H. Holt (1943).

Letters, etc.—P. H. Harris (1943), P. Carter (1941), G. E. T. Trudgian (1942), C. B. F. Milne (1943), G. J. Bowman (1939), W. M. Potter (1938), R. Hedger (1940), C. F. Baumann (1926), N. Mantel (1939), W. R. A. Kettle (1930), J. R. Sims (1943), R. D. Gibaud (1942), P. L. Eckett (1935), E. H. Holland (1939), W. Memory (1922), F. M. Cole (1926), E. F. Parks (1933).

J. N. Mantel (1939) took his degree in 1943 for Political Science at Lausanne University. He worked with an international shipping firm in Amsterdam for one year and then joined the Netherlands Forces.

Rev. H. S. Mathias (1904), Vicar of Alfriston, became Rural Dean of Seaford.

Rev. W. T. Taylor (1924) has accepted the living of Combe St. Nicholas, Somerset. When he lived in Berkshire Mr. Taylor was well known for his sporting activities and for some years held the mile championship of Berkshire. He won the London University Mile and Cross Country Championships and was placed third in the British Universities Championships.

We are most grateful to Captain D. G. Brown (1935) for presenting a Challenge Cup for Putting the Weight.

R. E. Eason (1920) has been coaching the Oxford crew for the past month—partly at Henley, owing to the flooded state of the river at Oxford. Another reason why we should hope that Oxford wins the Boat Race!

We have heard from A. F. James (1925) who has joined the recently-formed Ministry of National Insurance. He is on the staffing side, engaged in building up the staff to run the regional and local offices of the Ministry. He has had

varied experience of the Civil Service, having been successively in the Post Office Dept. (3 years), the Treasury (9 years), and the Ministry of Fuel and Power (3 years), before taking on his present job. He was married in 1939 to a daughter of Mr. C. E. Vulliamy and they have three children—two girls and a boy. They live at Golders Green—115 Corringham Road.

Tony (G. A.) Wood (1929) is now back in England with his wife and family and has taken on the management of a hotel near Ramsgate. His address is—'Braeside,' The Grove, Cliffend, nr. Ramsgate. His wife's twin brother, John Emmett (1932), late P.O.W. in Singapore, has also returned safe and sound to this country.

Guy Livingston (1935) has been home on leave from India after six years overseas. As will appear from the notice above he has improved the shining hour by getting married. For the last two and a half years in India he has been Assistant Superintendent of the Proof and Experimental Establishment at Balasore, Orissa, where, as second in command, he has been working on Armaments Research. Thither he returned at the end of his leave, and his wife has now joined him there after no long separation. We wish them every happiness together.

Colin Milne (1943), another Anglo-Indian (*pro tem.*), has enjoyed his Christmas in Delhi as the guest of Brigadier and Mrs. Woolfe, the parents of Brian Woolfe, O.A. (1940), who was home on leave at the time. On Christmas morning they came across another O.A., Jimmy Cox (1941); so it was quite an Abingdonian reunion.

John Rayson, R.A.F. (1942), has been on a course at Hereford, but he seems to have spent some part of his spare time in Devonshire, paying week-end visits to Dennis Whidiborne (1940), who now lives at Chagford, and riding about Dartmoor on a horse.

We may include among others who have now been demobbed the names of the two Foxwells, A. W. R. (1926) and A. E. B. (1931), A. J. Newbury (1921), and Paulin Rowlandson (1922).

ROLL OF SERVICE

Blake, D. H. (1934), Staff Capt. H.Q. Land Forces, Greece.

Beckett, P. L. (1935), Cpl. Mobile Workshops W.A.E.M.E.

Bowman, G. J. (1939), Tpr. R.T.R.

Cantell, W. J. (1910), Colonel R.E., M.B.E.

Deval, R. (1945), Army P.T.W.

Dew, R. E. (1941), Cpl. I.T.W.

Gibaud, R. D. (1942), Lt. R.A.C.

Glenny, F. B. (1919), Captain R.A.S.C.

Hicks, J. (1936), P./O. R.N.

Jones, H. T. (1935), First Officer B.O.A.C., D.F.C.

Kettle, W. R. A. (1930), Major Devonshire Regt., M.C.

Leftwich, J. M. (1942), Lt. R.A.

Lewis, L. A. (1916), R.A.F.

Livingston, H. L. G. (1935), Major R.A.

Luker, J. H. (1944), R.N.

Mantel, J. N. (1939), Sgt. Netherland Forces.

Memory, W. (1922), Captain R.A.S.C.

Mosdell, J. P. (1939), F./O. R.A.F.

Palmer, N. A. (1943), R.A.C.

Parks, E. F. (1933), Captain attached A.E. 12th L. of C. Signals.

Potter, W. M. (1938), Captain 16th Parachute Br India.

Ranger, J. (1935), Captain R.I.A.S.C.

Ronan, C. A. (1937), Captain R.A.

Sandercock, D. G. (1939), Lt. R. Corps of Signal Sitch, P. A. (1942), R.M.

Wells, M. D. (1937), Captain Indian Army.

Wimberley, P. A. (1936), S./Ldr. R.A.F.

Woodward, K. P. (1944), R.N.

Carter, P. (1941), Battery Sgt.-Major, R.A.

DECORATIONS

Cantell, W. J. (1910), Colonel R.E., M.B.E.

Harfield, V. A. (1937), Lt. R.N.V.R., Mentioned in Despatches.

Kettle, W. R. A. (1930), Major Devonshire Regt M.C.