

THE ABINGDONIAN



JANUARY 1950

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The Abingdonian

Vol. IX. No. 7.

JANUARY, 1950.

Price 1/3.

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CALENDAR FOR LENT TERM

January:

17th, Tuesday	Term begins, 9 a.m.
25th, Wednesday	1st XI v. Culham College (H).
28th, Saturday	1st XI v. Wallingford Grammar School (A).

February:

1st, Wednesday	1st XI v. King Alfred's School, Wantage (H).
4th, Saturday	1st XI v. Abingdon Hockey Club (A).
8th, Wednesday	1st XI v. Radley College 2nd XI (H).
11th, Saturday	1st XI v. Old College, R.M.A., Sandhurst (A).
18th, Saturday	1st XI v. Military College of Science (A).
22nd, Wednesday	1st XI v. Lincoln College (H).
25th, Saturday	1st XI v. Jesus College (A).

March:

1st, Wednesday	1st XI v. Queen's College 2nd XI (A).
4th, Saturday	1st XI v. Old Abingdonians (H).
	1st IV v. Old Abingdonians (H).
8th, Wednesday	1st XI v. Douai School (A).
18th, Saturday	O.A. Sports.
22nd, Wednesday	Berkshire Schools' Tournament at Arborfield.
25th, Saturday	A.S.A.C. v. City of Oxford School (A).
28th, Tuesday	SCHOOL SPORTS
31st, Friday	Term ends at 10.15 a.m.

Summer Term begins 9 a.m. Friday, 28th April. Boarders return Thursday, 27th April.

OFFICERS OF THE SCHOOL

(Michaelmas Term, 1949)

Head of the School: J. T. Cullen

Head of School House: P. R. Lucas

School Prefects:

M. A. C. Heavens

B. H. Wiggins

M. H. Venables

M. D. Millichap

R. F. Hamer

D. E. Allen

R. Klein

A. W. H. Riggott

P. C. Richardson

D. Free

P. F. C. Berry

A. E. Willson

H. B. Stevens

M. Bateman

House Prefects:

School House:

W. L. Wooldridge

A. G. B. King

F. P. Field

B. W. Boddington

Day Boys:

K. A. Fathers

R. D. M. Grant

I. M. Pickford

R. Hobday

John Furby

A. R. Upton

Waste Court:

D. Free

R. S. M. Millard

B. J. Noyce

Larkhill:

R. J. Taylor

D. R. G. Andrews

Captain of Rugby Football: J. T. Cullen.

Secretary of Rugby Football: R. Klein.

Captain of Cross Country: D. E. Allen.

School Librarian: M. H. Venables.

"The Abingdonian"

Editors. M. A. C. Heavens and R. F. Hamer.

Assist. Editors: A. E. Willson and J. T. Cullen.

O. A. Editor and Treasurer: Mr. G. F. Duxbury.

EDITORIAL

Before your Editors begin to think seriously of this Editorial we work steadily at the body of the magazine hoping to put off that painful time for just a little longer. When further delay is impossible, we sit—and unlike the little boy who sat—we begin to think. We think of the holidays, of the School on the last day of term, and of all the great things that happened during the term.

One thing that comes to mind about the early part of last term is a letter we received from a certain Old Boy saying that he agreed with everything we had said in the previous editorial concerning the new format and requesting, at the same time, that we send him a covenant form for the War Memorial Appeal! We not only liked the letter because of its contents, but also because we are always glad to receive letters from Old Boys; the more controversial the better. It gives us something to talk about.

Another important feature of the term which we remember was the exceptionally good season enjoyed by the 1st XV. Full details of this are to be found elsewhere in the magazine.

But perhaps the most outstanding event of the term was the School Play—"Journey's End". In fact it was so outstanding that it overshadowed practically everything else. When production began at the beginning of the term, there were many who doubted that the spirit of this play could ever be caught by the School Dramatic Society. Things seemed to go wrong from the very beginning and the climax was reached the day before the dress rehearsal when the principal character dislocated his arm playing in the Old Boys' Match. However, it all "went right on the night". The production was acclaimed by all who saw it, and it is to be regretted that so few day boys availed themselves of the half-price tickets. Quite apart from the fact that it was a show well worth seeing, we consider that the very small number of day boys who did attend showed a poor spirit, in great contrast to the keenness of all those connected with the play.

Finally we remember a sad and yet, at the same time, rather happy occasion which we witnessed at the end of term. We speak, of course, of the School's farewell to Miss Peach, after many years of long and loyal service. It is fitting that we close our Editorial wishing her every happiness in her life at Lichfield.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of contemporary magazines from the following schools: Aldenham School, City of Oxford High School, Henley Grammar School, King Edward's School, (Stratford), Magdalen College School (Brackley), Newbury Grammar School, School of St. Helen and St. Katharine, Abingdon, and Wallingford Grammar School.

SCHOOL NOTES

It is with regret that we say goodbye to Miss Sheldon Peach, who has been in charge of School musical activities since 1923. An appreciation of her services to the School will be found on another page. Here we would merely wish her many years of happy retirement in Lichfield, whither she goes to join forces with a widowed brother. And may the leather travelling bag which the Head of the School presented to her on behalf of the School often find its way back to Abingdon!

We welcome as new Director of Music Mr. J. F. H. Barker, B.A. Mr. Barker was educated at King Edward's School, Stourbridge, and, after serving during the war as a Sub-Lieutenant (R.N.V.R.) in the Fleet Air Arm, read History at Oriel College, Oxford. After taking his degree in the Summer of 1949, he stayed up at Oxford for an extra term to help Professor Westrup with Oxford University Opera Club's recent production of Gluck's 'Iphigeneia in Tauris'. We are informed that Mr. Barker plays five games and about as many musical instruments, so there will be plenty of scope for his activities.

The School recently sent a telegram of good wishes to Mr. Ross-Barker on the occasion of his eightieth birthday: and he has since written to say that this greeting "warmed his old heart most pleasantly." Those who know 'R.B.' will realise that whatever the calendar may say, his heart, at any rate, does not deserve the epithet.

The number of boys in the School at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term was 338 (Day boys 207, School House 78, Larkhill 19, Waste Court 34). The late arrival of two further day boys subsequently brought the total up to 340.

Term began dramatically with a case of infantile paralysis among the boarders. Fortunately the sufferer was isolated within an hour of his arrival at School. All parents were informed, match fixtures were cancelled, and for the rest—we carried on. It was, of course, a great relief to us to emerge from quarantine without further infection, and we are deeply grateful to all parties concerned (including the staff of the Isolation Hospital) for the help they gave during the crisis.

A little later we were very sorry to hear that Mr. Talbot had been taken to hospital with acute appendicitis. We are very grateful to Mr. H. D. Baecker who came back to school, this time on the other side of the desk, to help with Mr. Talbot's work during his absence.

The Science Block is still steadily taking shape and we hope that the roof will be on before School reassembles for the Lent Term. It is already clear that the fears of the pessimists were unfounded and that the new building will add to, rather than detract from, the appearance of the School.

After long and unavoidable delays, the Charter of 1549 has just been returned to us and we hope to arrange to have it formally handed

into the custody of the School at some convenient date in the Lent Term.

The School Calendar proved a most successful innovation, and has established itself as a terminal fixture. The only inaccuracy so far alleged in its connection is the information about its price which we gave in these columns in our last issue. For economic reasons we had to charge sixpence for it after all: we still consider that it is cheap at the price.

The new temporary blazers seem to have been received with general favour. The question of differencing the pocket, in the heraldic sense of the word, is now being considered. We are sorry that production of the prefects' tie has been held up for so long, but we still hope (though a little less confidently than before), to wear it before we leave the School.

Now that the School has grown so much, a general 'Parents' Evening' would not only tax the accommodation of the Gymnasium, but would also mean that only the strongest and most persistent of parents could get near key members of the staff. It has therefore been decided to have sectional meetings, and the first of these, for parents of boys in the senior forms, was held on Thursday, 6th October. A similar meeting for parents of boys in the lower forms of the School will take place on Thursday, 2nd February.

We congratulate A. E. Willson on being awarded a Lady Wantage Scholarship, the first of its name to be awarded under the new system.

We congratulate all those awarded Colours during the Michaelmas Term. Details will be found in the review of the term's sport.

We are deeply grateful to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Beere for the gift of a further two Lloyd Loom chairs, and the promise of two more pictures, for the School House Reading Room.

We are also very grateful to Mr. S. G. Stevens, who has once again come over on Friday afternoons to conduct a voluntary course in automobile engineering. An additional feature during the term was the voluntary woodwork classes on Wednesday afternoons—an opportunity which has been especially appreciated by those who do not normally get woodwork in class periods.

As a result of the sale of poppies and a chapel collection the School was able to buy two poppy wreaths for the War Memorial Tablets and to contribute £6 15s. 6d. in cash to the Earl Haig Appeal Fund. Once again (alas, for the last time) we thank Miss Peach for her unflagging efforts in this connection.

Film shows have again been a most pleasing feature of Saturday evenings during the term. Main features have been as follows:—15th October "Hue and Cry"; 19th November "The Iron Duke"; 3rd December "The Ghost Train".

Lecturers, during the term, apart from those introduced by societies, have covered many and varied subjects, ranging from Careers to Olympic Champions:

September 22nd—Lieut Commander V. A. J. Marchesi, R.N., on "The Work of the Navy in the Antarctic Regions".

September 30th—General Secretary of the Bible Reading Society.

October 8th—Mr. Guy Butler on "Olympic Champions".

October 19th—Rev. G. Warren on "The Work of the Melanesian Mission".

October 22nd—Mr. Bernard Newman on "Spies in Fact and Fiction".

October 31st—Mr. Norman Challenor on "Law"; and Mr. A. B. West on "Architecture".

November 12th—Captain S. K. Jopp, R.F.C., on "It's There Still".

December 2nd—Monsieur M. Chevalier on "France and Western Union".

We are particularly grateful to the Abingdon Rotary Club for arranging the double-feature programme on 31st October, which will, we hope, have inaugurated a series of talks on their own jobs by local business and professional men. It was a happy coincidence that the first of these programmes should be provided by the school Solicitor and the School Architect, and we thank them for their racy and enlightening talks.

Apart from the lectures on 31st October, two further opportunities for boys trying to find a career were available during the term. The first was on Monday, 14th November, when we received a visit from Mr. D. G. Chambers, the representative of the Public Schools' Employment Bureau. Mr. Chambers gave a short Lecture, after which he was available to answer questions and for private interviews.

The second was on Monday, 5th December, when a team from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, visited us to discuss the Modern Army. The team consisted of Mr. T. S. J. Anderson, C.B.E., M.A., Director of Studies; Colonel Dickson, The A.A. and Q.M.G.; and Captain Parry.

On Monday, 14th November, a small party of Sixth Formers attended a Lecture in the Guildhall, given by Mr. Cyril Bailey, entitled "Youth in Ancient Times".

On Thursday, 17th November, a party of boys from the School teams attended the match between Major Stanley's XV and the Oxford University XV on the Ifley Road Ground, Oxford.

On Wednesday, 23rd November, the Lower Sixth Form attended a meeting of the Borough Council in the Guildhall. Subsequently on Friday, 9th December, they received a visit from Mr. Nicholson, the Town Clerk, who spoke to them on local government, with particular reference to Abingdon. Thank you very much, Mr. Town Clerk!

On the same day, several Forms were entertained by Mr. Hyde-Parker with some films made in the neighbourhood by amateurs.

The customary Boarders' Christmas Dinner was held on the last evening of the term. Afterwards the boarders dispersed to their own houses for fun and games. If noise is an accurate barometer, we can confirm that School House, at least, enjoyed itself.

The following four boys passed the Oxford Higher School Certificate in July, 1949:—

H. D. Baecker in main subjects Physics and Chemistry (good) with subsidiary French and German (good).

M. A. C. Heavens in main Subjects Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

M. D. Millichap in main subjects Latin and History (good) with subsidiary French (very good) and Roman History.

W. G. Olscher in main subjects Applied Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry with subsidiary German (good) and Pure Mathematics.

In the Oxford School Certificate Examination 21 boys passed. Where the distinction mark was obtained the subject is put in brackets after the boy's name: Amey, P. H. B.; Andrews, D. R. G. (History, Gen. Science); Awcock, M. L.; Beasley, J. W. H.; Boddington, B. W. (Eng. Language); Carter, T. M.; Fathers, K. A.; Field, F. P.; Grant, R. D. M.; Greenman, D. A.; Hobday, R. (Gen. Science); Matthews, M. W.; Millard, R. S. M. (Eng. Language, Gen. Science); Mills, S. R. (Eng. Language, Mathematics); Peedell, E. G. R. (French); Penning, J. A.; Shurrock, N. J. (English Language); Wareham, M. J. (Mathematics, Gen. Science); Westall, J.; Wiggins, C. S.; Wooldridge, W. L.

"MISS SHELDON PEACH"

It will be difficult for most readers of *The Abingdonian* to think of the school with Miss Peach no longer a member of the staff, for it is nearly thirty years since she came to us. She came, of course, to take charge of the music, both secular and sacred, and to be organist. Great advances have taken place in all these departments since those days. The year 1932 saw the installation of the Compton organ, and only those who remember its predecessor realise what immediate improvement to the chapel services this made possible. It also enabled Miss Peach to take organ pupils, and though the number of these was never large, there are quite a few O.A.s who will ever be grateful for the start they were given at school on this King of Instruments. It must be a matter of much gratification to Miss Peach to feel that she is leaving the singing in a healthier state than it has ever been. The increase in numbers at the School has, of course, made the number of good voices larger, but what is so pleasing is that the general quality of singing, especially among the Juniors, is so high and full of promise. It is not, however, merely in connexion with music that Miss Peach will be missed. There is scarcely

a branch of our activities in which she has not given a helping hand—in such diverse fields, to mention only a few, as organising Poppy Day or maintaining a semblance of tidiness in the Masters' Common Room. And of her generosity, so that the new biology laboratory may start from the beginning with a skeleton in the family cupboard, she has, jointly with A. J. Kingsley Smith, O.A., bequeathed us a very fine human specimen.

It is pleasant to know that Miss Peach will not be a greater distance away from Abingdon than Lichfield, and we shall look forward to her visiting us on many occasions in the future.

WAR MEMORIAL APPEAL

Negotiations for the purchase of the field proceed. Meanwhile the present state of the Fund is as follows:

Cash Contributions (to 19th December, 1949)	£858 12 1
Covenanted Subscriptions (paid and unpaid)	£1095 17 0
Repayment of Income Tax (to 19th December, 1949)	£73 14 6
Total	£2028 3 7
Less Expenses (including War Memorial Tablet)	£144 10 11
Balance available for War Memorial Field	£1883 12 8

(It is assumed in this statement that further repayment of Income Tax will more than cover any covenants that are broken by death or otherwise).

There follows a list of contributions received or promised since our last issue went to press. While no further appeal will be made for the Fund, the Bursar will continue to be glad to receive contributions.

E. G. Ballard, A. B. West (each)	£10 10 0
E. Price, T. S. Wilding (each)	£7 7 0
J. McPherson	£7 0 0
C. P. B. Montgomery	£5 0 0
Wing Cmdr. G. D. D. Gammack	£2 2 0
P. A. S. Scott	£1 1 0
Mrs. Punton Smith, Anon. (each)	10 0

In addition, the sales of small items of sports kit generously presented by Old Boys have amounted to 18s. 0d.; the Headmaster still holds similar items which will be credited to the Fund as they are sold.

J.M.C.

FOUNDER'S DAY, 1950

Founder's Day will be celebrated on Saturday, 29th July, 1950. The programme will be similar to last year's save in two respects. It is hoped that the formal opening ceremony of the New Science Block

will take place immediately after the Headmaster's 'At Home', and instead of the School Play in the evening, there will be a miscellaneous entertainment in the Corn Exchange.

The opening of the new building will make Founder's Day this year one of especial importance, and we ask parents and Old Boys to 'book the date' now. Further details in our next issue.

CHAPEL NOTES

On Advent Sunday, 27th November, the Bishop of Oxford conducted a Confirmation Service in the School Chapel. After the Service the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban invited all the candidates, with their parents and god parents, to meet the Bishop at tea in the Gymnasium. The Confirmands were:

Mr. G. H. Cooper, and the following boys:—Acklam R., Allen R. W., Banfield D. L., Banwell R. J., Bartlett F. E., Benson J. M., Bloor T. E., Buxton N. F. A., Buzzard M., Candy M. A., Candy D. Y., Creevy M. H., Crockford A. F. R., Downs T. W. S., Edelsten J., Emerton P. J., Exon R. H. F., Gee F. St. L. P., Grant, M. M., Greenaway J. E., Gregory P. R. J., Grigsby M. K. C., Guimaraens J. G., Guimaraens B. D., Hall D. W., Heavens J. F., Islip B. H., James D. J., Jarvis J. R., Keeping J. H. F., Marshall A. C., Millard P. J., Morris M. J., Pulsford J. M., Ralfe M. J., Redknap R. H., Reeve T. S., Rockall E. G., Roff R. H., Shurrock N. J., Stevens P. S. G., Strickland M. J., Stroud-Viney P., Tompson C., Whiteford B. A.

In addition, C. J. Lockhart-Smith was confirmed on Sunday, 11th December, by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Roscow Shedden, D.D., in the Chapel of King Alfred's School, Wantage (by kind invitation of the Headmaster); and M.-J. Adams was confirmed privately by Bishop Shedden on Wednesday, 14th December.

The Chapel Choir has been considerably enlarged during the Christmas Term and it is hoped that it will soon be sufficiently large to be able to fill both centre blocks in the Chapel.

It is with the deepest regret that the Choir and all those connected with the Chapel say goodbye to Miss Sheldon Peach. Miss Peach has been Chapel Organist and Choir Mistress for the past 26 years, a post which she has filled most capably. An appreciation of her work both in the School and in the Chapel will be found elsewhere in this issue.

On Monday, 28th November, the Choir attended Choral Evensong at Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford, after tea at a cafe in Abingdon. It is hoped to make the Choir Outing an annual event.

On Sunday, 11th December a Festival of Lessons and Carols was held in the School Chapel. It was attended by such a large gathering of parents, friends, and boys, that it was only with the greatest difficulty that they were all seated.

The Service was conducted by the Chaplain, and the carols were led by the School Choir. The service also included a short anthem entitled "The little road to Bethlehem" which was sung by Miss I. Sheldon Peach accompanied by the Chaplain.

The nine lessons were read by representatives of all branches of the School. A young new boy, J. D. Hall, read the first lesson. He was followed by three of the senior boys representing boarders and day boys, then followed two masters, a parent (Mr. F. G. Heavens), a governor (Mr. J. L. Etty, J.P.); and finally the Headmaster.

Preachers for next term apart from the Headmaster and the Chaplain include: the Rev. P. J. Bowen, R.A.F.; the Warden of Radley College; Mr. J. Y. Ingham, M.A.; and the Rev. A. V. Billen, D.D., Ph.D., former Headmaster of Ellesmere College.

Chapel Collections this term have been allotted to charities as follows:

St. Nicholas' Church	£5	0	0
Imperial Cancer Research	£2	17	6
St. James' Church, Nevis	£2	0	0
Melanesian Mission	£2	6	0
British Legion Appeal	£2	3	0
British Empire Cancer Campaign	£2	0	0

"JOURNEY'S END"

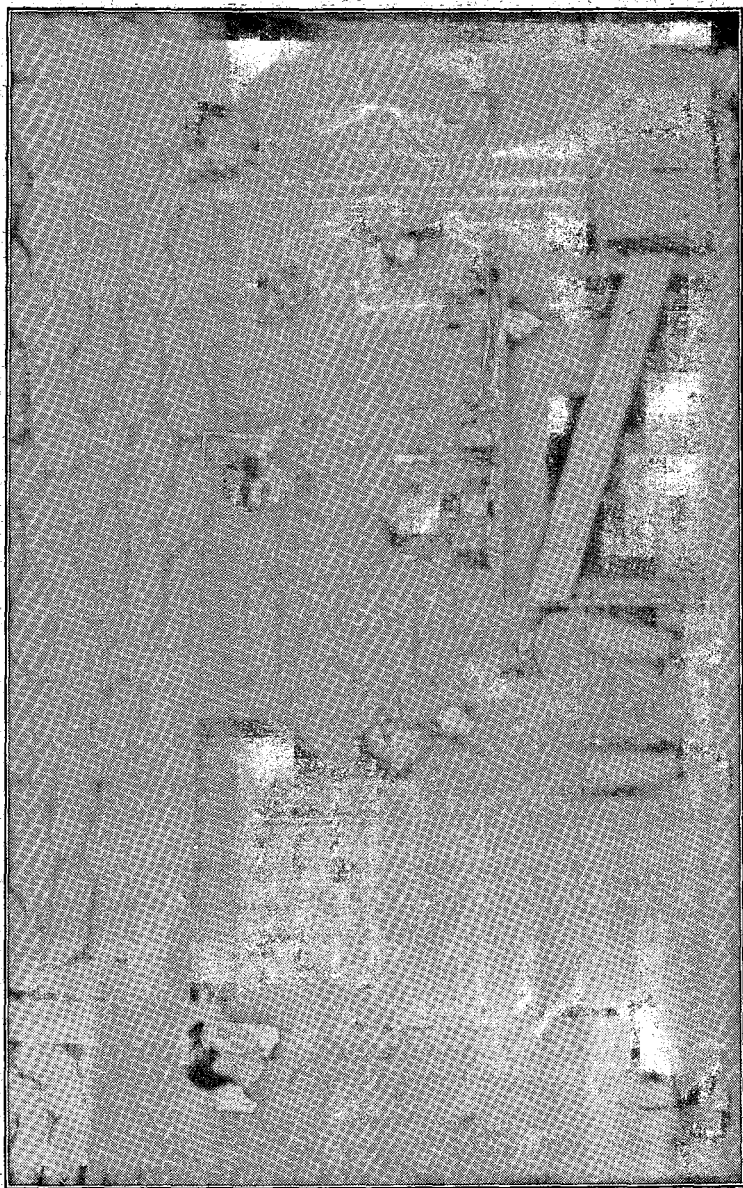
At the end of Michaelmas Term on the evenings of 12th and 13th December, the Dramatic Society produced R. C. Sheriff's 'Journey's End' in the Corn Exchange. This, the Society's third post-war production, was staged in the winter term as part of the general policy to relieve congestion on Founder's Day and to avoid interference with the external examinations of the Summer term. In future years, the major productions of the Society will always take place in the Michaelmas Term.

The play was produced by Mr. C. J. Griffin, once again assisted by Mr. Baynes as Effects Manager, Mr. Sewry as Business Manager, and Mr. Mortimer as Stage Manager. The Society was indebted to Mr. G. H. Cooper for painting the scenery and for designing and building the set with the assistance of Messrs Mortimer and Coleman and the untiring efforts of certain boys. Special thanks are also due to the many folk outside the School who gave invaluable help in the form of properties.

By general opinion the production was a great success, and was perhaps the Society's greatest triumph of the three plays performed since the war.

We are indebted to Miss Meikle for the following critique:—

It was with mixed feelings I went to the Corn Exchange on Tuesday, 13th December, to see 'Journey's End' performed by the Abingdon



December, 1949

'JOURNEY'S END'

School Dramatic Society. I felt this was not a play that could be put over sincerely by boys, but their equally youthful-looking producer had other ideas, and how right he was.

The curtain rose on a beautifully designed set that gave the true atmosphere at once, and, judging by the labels on the beer bottles, one assumed that the battalion concerned was one of our County regiment, and the officers maintained a close link with their home brewery under adverse circumstances!

The Production was smooth and polished, and one felt that the actors were really living their parts. Grouping and timing were, on the whole, good. One or two slow cues were noticeable, and in the first act there was an unfortunate tendency to talk through laughs. There was one very slow prompt, so slow that the actor concerned threw an agonised glance to the prompt corner before he got his line.

Jeremy Cullen in the lead, despite the enormous handicap of a dislocated elbow, showed himself as an actor with plenty of attack. He gave to Stanhope a splendidly contrasted performance and was always in character.

Roger Hamer's brief appearance as Captain Hardy was a capable, finished performance.

Glen Strachan as Lieut. Osborne was at ease all the time, and in spite of his too youthful looking face, he gave the impression always that he was an older man. I liked particularly his passages with 2nd Lieut. Raleigh, when his quiet calmness contrasted so beautifully with the nervous youthfulness of the boy fresh from School. Alan Upton, who took this part, gave a good performance that was maintained throughout. Peter Millard as Private Mason gave a very good study of the Soldier servant, and I liked too Michael Bateman as the German soldier. An excellent piece of acting this.

Michael Heavens as 2nd Lieut. Trotter got all the comedy out of his part as the officer risen from the ranks. Surely his 'stuffing' was in a very odd place? Had it been a little lower, more round the waist-line it would have been more convincing.

Tony Willson tackled the very difficult part of 2nd Lieut. Hibbert well. His make-up and nervous gestures were particularly good.

Tony Riggott as the Colonel (again, a very unlined face under greying hair), spoke far too quickly. He was difficult to follow even from the third row of the stalls!

The effects were most realistic, good work was obviously done by the "back-stage boys".

In conclusion, Mr. Griffin and all who were connected with him are to be congratulated on another excellent production which augurs well for the future of the Abingdon School Dramatic Society.

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Captain Hardy	Roger Hamer
Lieutenant Osborne	Glen Strachan
Private Mason	Peter Millard
Lance-Corporal Broughton	Peter Amey
2nd Lieutenant Raleigh	Alan Upton
Captain Stanhope	Jeremy Cullen
2nd Lieutenant Trotter	Michael Heavens
2nd Lieutenant Hibbert	Tony Willson
The Company Sergeant Major	Ian Pickford
The Colonel	Tony Riggott
A German Soldier	Michael Bateman
A Soldier	William Wooldridge

VALETE ET SALVETE

Valete—Left 26th July, 1949

Upper Sixth Form:

J. L. Wyatt (Science) (iii, '46). School Prefect 1948, Head of the House 1949, O.S.C. 1948, 1st IV 1948-49, Colours 1948, 1st XV 1948, 2nd Colours 1948, Captain and Hon. Sec. Swimming 1948, Bronze Medallion 1949, Minor Games Sub-Committee, Joint Club Committee, Roysse Society, Vice-President Aviation Society

D. M. Aldworth (Modern) (iii, 42). School Prefect 1948, O.S.C. 1947, 1st XV 1947, Colours 1948, 1st XI Hockey 1948-49, Half Colours 1948, 1st XI Cricket 1947-49, 2nd Colours 1948, Athletics Team 1948-49, Athletic Colours, Tennis VI 1948-49, C.C.F., Cert. 'A' Part I, 1st Class Shot, Hon. Sec. Cricket 1949, Hon. Treas. A.S.H.C.

H. D. Baecker (Science) (i, 43). School Prefect 1947, O.S.C. 1945, O.S.H.C. 1947-49, 2nd IV Cox 1946. Abingdonian Editorial Com. 1945, Editor 1947, Hon. Sec. Roysse Society 1948, Vice-President Photographic Society 1948.

A. L. G. Milligan (Science) (iii, 42). School Prefect 1948, O.S.C. 1947, 3rd XV 1947, 2nd XI Hockey 1948, C.C.F., L/Cpl., Cert. 'A', Cert. 'T', Chairman Locomotive Club.

W. G. Olscher (Science) (iii, 42). School Prefect 1946, O.S.C. 1946, O.H.S.C. 1949, 1st XV 1947-48, Colours 1948, 1st XI Cricket 1948, 2nd XI Hockey 1948, 3rd IV 1949, Captain of Athletics 1949, Athletic Colours 1946, C.C.F., Sergt., Cert. 'A', 1st Class Shot, G.G.C., Hon. Sec. Photographic Society, A.S.D.S., Roysse Society.

Form 5A: B. M. Crook (iii, 44). 2nd XI Cricket 1948-49, 2nd XV 1948.

Form 5B: A. F. Bastin (ii, 43). School Prefect 1948, 1st XV 1948, 2nd Colours 1948, 1st IV 1948, Colours 1949, Minor Games Com.

J. W. H. Beasley (iii, 43). O.S.C. 1949, 2nd XV 1948, 2nd XI 1949.

E. G. A. Cox (iii, 44). 2nd XV 1948.

A. Morgan (iii, 44). 1st XV, 2nd Colours 1948, C.C.F., Cert. 'A'.

J. A. Penning (ii, 41). O.S.C. 1949, 2nd IV, C.C.F., Cert. 'A'.

R. J. Walters (iii, 45). C.C.F.

Remove: A. G. Eustace (iii, 45). C.C.F., Cert. 'A' Part I. (left 28th May).

W. R. Jackson (iii, 43). C.C.F., Cert. 'A' Part I.

Form 3A:—I. D. Woodmore (i, 48).

Form 3B: D. A. Aston (iii, 47).

Form 2A: W. J. M. Barker (iii, 48). R. J. Flower (iii, 47).

Preparatory Form: T. G. G. Hodges (iii, 46).

Salvete—Came 16th September, 1949.

Lower Sixth Form: N. Purnell (Science).

Form 5B: D. F. Patching, C. Thompson (i).

Form 4: R. H. Roff.

Form 3A: R. H. F. Exon (i), T. C. Jones (i).

Form 2A: P. J. A. Fysh.

Form 2B: K. J. Beckett, J. A. Edwards.

Form 1A: I. S. Baxter, H. C. Bowen, R. D. Broad, J. Budgen, A. E. Bush, S. J. Eustace, A. J. Gardner, N. J. H. Grant (iii), N. K. Hammond, C. Hiles, B. G. Jenkins, J. S. Keene, D. J. Langton, P. H. McPherson, C. J. Marchbanks (ii), K. P. Painter, R. J. Payne, G. Pontecorvo, M. C. Rallings, B. D. Winkett.

Form 1B: C. P. H. Blake, A. F. Brown (v), D. W. Green, R. J. Haines, J. D. Hall (ii), B. J. Hedges, A. M. Messenger, P. H. Mott, J. R. Packer (iii), R. B. Phillips, G. M. Price, B. J. Rogers, M. Ryan, P. O. D. Song, T. W. L. Staniland, R. D. Taylor (iv), C. S. Woodruff, C. Young (ii).

Preparatory Form: J. Fry (came 28th Oct.), P. M. D. Gray, M. Q. King (iii), J. R. Legh Smith, R. K. Le Voi (came 10th Oct.), J. B. Mayo, J. M. Mobbs, C. A. Scragg, P. D. Sheppard.

RUGBY FOOTBALL, 1949.

This has been without doubt our most successful post-war season. The XV is good and every player has been worth his place. For the first time in many years there are reliable signs of a developing tradition of forward play which promises well for the future. Whilst it is true to say that the backs have continued to be our strong feature, the forwards,

most energetically led by Strachan, gave conclusive proof in the second half of term that they were, and intended to remain, the backbone of the side. Our narrow defeat by M.C.S. had shown up weaknesses in the pack. These, however, were rectified by the promotion of King and Stevens from the 2nd XV and in the matches against C.O.S., Wycombe, Solihull and the O.A.s, forward play was undoubtedly the basis of victory. This is a most healthy sign.

Throughout the term, J. T. Cullen has captained the side with marked success, his example and enthusiasm being most praiseworthy. It is much regretted that the dislocation of his elbow in the O.A. match will keep him out of rugby for some time. R. Klein, in addition to playing a grand game at scrum half, has been Secretary. During the season the following colours were awarded:

1st XV—K. A. Fathers, T. O. Inwood, R. Klein, B. W. T. Leech, G. S. Strachan, W. L. Wooldridge.

2nd XV—D. R. G. Andrews, D. Free, F. C. Lucas, A. G. B. King, H. B. Stevens and C. E. Stopps.

The final arrangement of the XV was as follows:—Lucas F. C.; Stopps, Bateman, Lucas P. R., Millichap; Cullen, Klein; Wiggins, Leech, Wooldridge, Strachan, King, Fathers, Inwood and Stevens.

Also played:—Andrews, Free, Grant, Perry, Venables.

1st XV CHARACTERS

J. T. CULLEN (Captain, Colours 1948). Stand-off half. He continues to set a most excellent example, and his leadership on the field shows considerable improvement upon last year. His very great determination, first-class tackling and fine kicking mark him as a centre rather than a fly-half, but he has played stand-off with considerable success. Both tactical kicking for touch and place kicking are exceptionally good. There is still a tendency to attempt a little too much himself especially in a losing game.

P. R. LUCAS (Colours 1948). Right centre. He has fulfilled the promise of last season and is now an experienced centre of considerable ability. His hard running, good football sense and use of the 'dummy' have made him the spear-head of the School attack. His tackling is very good and his place kicking useful.

G. S. STRACHAN (Colours 1949). Second row forward. He has been a tower of strength in the pack, where his weight, skill and courage have made him prominent in every game. His enthusiastic example was responsible for much of the scrum's success, although as scrum-leader he should make his voice heard more.

K. A. FATHERS (Colours 1949). Wing forward. A most intelligent player, who backs up well and is always with the ball. With more practice his place-kicking would be excellent. Line out work and tackling good.

R. KLEIN (Hon. Sec., Colours 1949). Scrum half. Playing for the second season with the same partner, he has improved beyond all expectation and is a plucky and neat half, who possesses a long, accurate pass, a useful kick, and the ability to go for the line himself. His defence, particularly his falling on the ball, is extremely good.

B. W. T. LEECH (Colours 1949). Hooker. A young player with very considerable promise. His lack of experience in hooking was fully compensated by his grand aggressive play in the loose. Invariably up in support, his efforts were rewarded by several tries.

W. L. WOOLDRIDGE (Colours 1949) Front row forward. A newcomer to the pack, he proved an admirable forward in the second half of term. He is an all-round player of determination and, with more experience, should develop considerably.

T. O. INWOOD (Colours 1949). Lock forward. He possesses a good, natural rucker sense and has played consistently well, although he must learn to limit the robustness of his game to that permitted by the Laws. His tackling is very good and he can play a useful game at full back.

M. D. MILLICHAP (2nd Colours 1947). Wing three-quarter. He has improved immensely this term, and in almost every respect has become more decisive and aggressive. With his good positional sense and safe hands, he can play a good game at full-back.

M. D. BATEMAN (2nd Colours 1948). Left centre. He can be relied upon to make full use of his opportunities. With his swerve, dummy and kick ahead he is a potential "try-getter". His tackling is good. He must, however, learn to keep his eye on the ball when taking a pass, and to practice his own passing.

B. H. WIGGINS (2nd Colours 1948). Front-row forward. Except perhaps in the line-out, he has not really improved upon last season. Too slow in backing up loose scrumming. His line out work, however, has been consistently good.

M. H. VENABLES (2nd Colours 1948). Wing forward. He missed most of the games in the second half of term through illness and scholarship work, but when he did play, he played well, particularly in defence.

C. E. STOPPS. (2nd Colours 1949). Wing three-quarter. A young player with plenty of rucker ability. He is exceptionally fast and has a good pair of hands. He kicks intelligently, but must learn to tackle more effectively by tackling low. Has played well at fly-half on occasions.

F. C. LUCAS (2nd Colours 1949). Full-back. His lack of size and weight are no handicap to him at rucker and he tackled magnificently in almost every game. On his day, he is a polished player—positional play, fielding, tackling and kicking being first-class—but he was not always at his best.

A. G. B. KING (2nd Colours 1949). Second row forward. Promoted from the 2nd XV, he deserved his place on line out work alone. His weight was invaluable in a light pack, and he improved with every game. With more vigour and experience he will be good.

H. B. STEVENS (2nd Colours 1949). Wing forward. Promoted from the 2nd XV, he proved an energetic and sensible forward, particularly useful in the loose and in forward rushes. His defence needs practice.

D. R. ANDREWS (2nd Colours 1949). Front-row forward. He began the season well, but subsequently fell off considerably. Towards the end of term, however, he showed plenty of spirit and effort in the 2nd XV and he should regain his place next season without difficulty.

1st XV MATCHES

v. D. O. Willis' XV (H). Wednesday, 28th September. Won 18—14.

The School played well to beat a considerably heavier side comprised of staff and O.A.s. It was an open game on a dry pitch and there was plenty of scoring. The opposition were unfortunate to lose Mr. Willis through a leg injury in the first few minutes of the game.

v. Geo. Dixon Grammar School, Egbaston (H). Saturday, 15th October. Won 25—0.

This proved an easy win, Geo. Dixon having little or no answer to the strong running of Cullen. There was plenty of liveliness in the School pack, and tries were scored by Cullen 3, Fathers 1, and Stopps 1, the extra points being added in each case.

v. Pembroke College (A). Saturday, 22nd October. Lost 3—13.

It says much for the defensive play of the School that all the Pembroke points were scored in the first ten minutes. Outweighed in the scrum, the School relied upon keen tackling until, near the end of the second half, Pembroke tired and Leech scored a fine try following one of the few School movements. The tackling in this game was of a high quality.

v. St. Edward's School 2nd XV (A). Wednesday, 2nd November. Won 21—3.

In this game, St. Edward's School were 3 points up soon after the start. Although they were a long time settling down, the School had, however, established a decisive superiority by half-time, and in spite of hard work by St. Edward's forwards there was nothing to stop the School backs. Tries were scored by Cullen 2, Bateman 2, and Inwood 1, four being converted. In the second half the School were without Millichap who retired injured.

v. Magdalen College School (H). Saturday, 12th November. Lost 5—6.

This was a fast, open and very even game, the defensive play on both sides being very good. The School scored first through Cullen, who also kicked the goal, but Magdalen soon replied with a try by their right centre, the kick failing. Later, in the second half, the deciding try was scored by Magdalen. Thereafter the game was a desperate one, the very fine M.C.S. pack showing a decided superiority in the loose.

v. Henley Grammar School (H). Wednesday, 16th November.

Won 59—3.

The School learned a lot from this game against a plainly inferior team. Certain changes were made in the scrum, and for the first time, the pack played as a pack should play, finding out for themselves the advantages of concerted action. The School backs wasted few chances and tries were scored by Lucas 2, Stopps 3, Cullen 6, Fathers 1, and Bateman 2.

v. Newbury Grammar Sch. (A). Saturday, 19th November. Lost 0—5.

Played in fog with a wet ball, this game was not perhaps the best of football. Newbury possessed the heavier pack and were good at their forward rushes, from one of which they scored early in the game. The School backs saw little of the ball, but given better conditions would probably have swayed the balance in our favour. As it was, we lost a good, hard fight.

v. City of Oxford Sch. (A). Wednesday, 23rd November. Won 17—0.

This was a good game with the School pack playing well from the start. Lucas scored first as a result of an orthodox move from the tight, the kick failing. Millichap then scored a very fine try when he broke through the defence to score under the posts. Cullen added the points.

In the second half, the School pack had some fine rushes but all the scoring came from Cullen, who went over for two blind side tries and one following a run. All the kicks failed.

v. Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe (H).

Saturday, 26th November. Won. 9—0.

This game was perhaps a little too robust at times, but it was fast and open and both teams displayed plenty of spirit. The School scrum was outweighed and in the second half played only 6 men, Klein and Free having been injured. Nevertheless, they played magnificently throughout, giving and asking no quarter. The scoring opened with a quick try from Stopps in the first few minutes, Lucas having made the opening. Later Lucas scored from an inside pass by Cullen. In the second half, Wycombe pressed vigorously, but good tackling kept them out and victory was assured when Leech scored after a forward rush.

v. Solihull School (A). Wed, 7th December. Won 6—3.

This was a good, vigorous game somewhat spoilt by a high wind and a wet ball, which confined much of the game to the forwards. Once again the School pack played well, Wooldridge scoring an unconverted try in the first half, and Fathers another in the second half.

v. Old Abingdonians (H). Saturday, 10th December. Lost 3—6.

This was the best O.A. match for many years. The game was played vigorously throughout, the O.A. backs proving particularly strong in attack. The School were beaten in the tight scrums and only fine tackling by the backs and good, loose scrumming prevented the Old Boys scoring more often. The School opened the scoring with a fine penalty kick by Fathers, but the O.A.s soon replied with a try from Betterton after Jamieson had made the opening. Later D. Hayter scored another unconverted try for the Old Boys. The School were unlucky to lose Cullen with a dislocated elbow in the second half.

HOUSE MATCHES

The rugger House matches this year were played with the traditional fury and disregard for the finer points of rugger that we have come to associate with them. Perhaps the exception to this was the Senior Final between Tesdale and Reeves. This was a very fine game, full of vigorous but good quality rugger, an example of the type of House match we hope to see in the future. The Senior competition was won by Tesdale House who gain the Lin Cup, and the Junior by Bennett House who gain the Robinson Cup.

Results were:—

Senior: Reeves v. Bennett 9—3.
 Tesdale v. Blacknall 30—0.
 Tesdale v. Reeves (Final) 12—3.
 Junior: Bennett v. Reeves 19—3.
 Blacknall v. Tesdale 3—0.
 Bennett v. Blacknall (Final) 6—3.

2nd XV

The 2nd XV has been reasonably successful this year, and it contains much promising material for the future. Many of the team have played once or twice for the 1st XV, and several players have been quite outstanding. Free has proved a good captain, and the spirit of the team generally has shown a decided improvement upon last year.

The team was as follows:—Grant; Millard R. S., Perry, Riggott, Heavens D. J.; Free, Ireland; Andrews, Winter, Crockford G. W., Berry, Field, Darroch, Austwick, Allen D. E.

Results:—

- v. Radley College 3rd XV (H). Wed., 12th Oct. Won 12—6.
- v. St. Edward's Sch. 3rd XV (A). Wed., 19th Oct. Lost 0—17.
- v. Lord William's Sch., Thame, 1st XV (H). Sat., 22nd Oct.
Draw 3—3.
- v. Magdalen College School (H). Wed., 2nd Nov. Lost 3—5.
- v. Leighton Park School (A). Wed., 9th Nov. Won 11—9.
- v. Southfield School (A). Wed., 23rd Nov. Draw 3—3.
- v. Royal Grammar Sch., High Wycombe (A). Sat. 26th Nov.
Lost 0—8.
- v. Solihull School (H). Wed., 7th Dec. Won 21—8.

3rd XV

The 3rd XV has played only three matches. The team has varied considerably, and on occasion has included some 'Under 15' players.

Results were:

- v. Radley College 4th XV (A). Wed. 19th Oct. Lost 0—34.
- v. City of Oxford School (H). Sat. 29th Oct. Won 42—0.
- v. Radley College 4th XV (H). Wed. 3rd Nov. Lost 10—11.

'UNDER 15' XV

The Colts have had an exceptionally good season and have produced a few outstanding players. The two Glassbrook brothers, Brackley, Beere, Archer, Ivatts and Millard P., are all deserving of special praise, whilst others have had their moments. It is an encouraging thought, too, that many of the team will still be 'Under 15' next season. As a team, however, the Colts still have much to learn. In particular, they must learn the value of consistent backing up by the forwards, of straight running by the backs, and of effective low tackling. There are still perhaps too many passengers.

The team was as follows:—Pickford A. J.; Allen R. W., Glassbrook P., Glassbrook M. (Capt.), Marshall A. C.; Whiteford, Brackley; Beere, Islip, Cogwles, Emerton, Crockford A. F., Amey, Ivatts, Garrett.

Also played—Archer, who was kept out of the team with a broken wrist, Sale and O'Brien.

Results:—

- v. City of Oxford School (A). Sat. 8th Oct. Won 14—0.
- v. Newbury Grammar School (H). Wed. 19th Oct. Lost 3—8.
- v. Southfield School (A). Sat., 22nd Oct. Won 33—0.
- v. Magdalen College School (H). Wed. 9th Nov. Won 46—0.
- v. Lord William's Sch., Thame, (H). Sat. 12th Nov. Won. 33—0.
- v. Reading School (H). Sat. 19th Nov. Draw 6—6.
- v. Stowe School (A). Sat., 3rd Dec. Lost 3—6.

INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

There was not very much enthusiasm for cross-country running in the second half of Michaelmas Term and so far as the Senior House race was concerned the entry was most disappointing. More interest was shown by the Juniors, however, and the Junior race had a reasonably large field. The course was the same one that was run over last year, and we are grateful to Miss Cullen and to Mr. Hedges for their hospitality in this connection. The inter-House races took place on the afternoon of Wednesday, 14th December, conditions being very wet underfoot but otherwise showing an improvement on those of last year.

Details of the House competitions were as follows:—

Senior: Bennett 87 pts.; Reeves 68 pts.; Blacknall 22 pts.;
Tesdaie 18 pts.

Junior: Tesdale 81 pts.; Reeves 65 pts.; Bennett 43 pts.;
Blacknall 23 pts.

The over-all winner was Reeves House with 133 pts. against Bennett House with 130 pts.

Those gaining points in the Senior Race were:

Heavens D. J., Be., 20 mins. 15 secs.; Allen D. E., R.; Biggs, Be.; Draisey, R.; Winter, Bl.; Riggott, Be.; Holford, Be.; Hobday, R.; Perry, R.; Crockford G. W., Be.; Porter, T.; Millard R. S. M., Be.; Taylor R., T.; Brown C., R.; Leach H., Bl.

Those gaining points in the Junior Race were:

Carter D. R., R., 13 mins. 2.5 secs.; Sale, R.; Whiteford, Be.; Reeve, T.; Allen R. W., R.; Fay, Be.; Amey, Bl.; Bloor, T.; Miell-Ingram, T.; Allsworth, T.; Marchbanks R., T.; Hawtin, Bl.; Pinniger J., T.; Cope, T.; Cullen D., Be.; Banwell R., R.; Clewley, R.; Keeping, T.; Shurrock, Be.; Ivatts, Be., and Lay T. R., R.

Both senior and junior times were considerably faster than last year. D. J. Heavens, who won the Senior event, beat the Captain of Cross Country a few yards from the tape in the excellent time of 20 mins. 15 secs. He was subsequently awarded full Athletic Colours.

C.C.F. NOTES

We have seen this term more fruit of the expansion that has taken place in the School; our numbers increased in September from 105 to 151 cadets. It is anticipated that there will be a further increase next year when we look forward—while still working on our traditional principle of voluntary recruitment—to having a Corps three times as strong as the two platoons we mustered on parade in 1946.

This increase, actual and probable, has raised administrative problems of considerable magnitude; we can no longer expect to run ourselves

as in the past by boy-labour in the quartermaster's field. For this and other reasons we hope to engage a full-time P.S.I., whose services should be of very great value.

On the training side, happily, we have not suffered much from 'growing-pains'. C.S.M. Flitney of 4 Oxf. and Bucks. L.I. has continued to assist regularly with weapon training and our cadet N.C.O.s have proved themselves as instructors of junior squads. The needs of the future, meanwhile, have been in the capable hands of Mr. Baynes, who has organised and run a cadre for Junior N.C.O.s. The team's work in this field is to be rounded off, in the holidays, on a course which has been specially laid on for us by O.C., Small Arms School, Royal Marines. It will be attended by all N.C.O.s. Half-a-dozen senior cadets will, at the same time, be attending the Technical Courses organized by Southern Command. This, we think, is a creditable state of affairs.

Field Day this term was held on Tuesday, 4th October, in summer-like weather—and shirt-sleeve order! The exercise was directed, for the first time in recent years, by an "outsider"—Capt. P. H. S. Borwick, O.C. 15 Cadet Travelling Wing, who was assisted by a team of Regular Officers and W.O.s in addition to the Officers of the contingent. Such a wealth of umpiring talent has not been seen before. Certainly it made it much easier to control the exercise effectively. This was in three phases—an approach march, an encounter battle, and a set company attack. The last of these was less 'murderous'—in terms of explosions!—than many earlier efforts, principally because the attackers were being worried along so closely and at such a pace by the many sheepdogs on parade that in some cases they could not find breath to loose off their blanks in time! For all ranks it was an instructive day; and our best thanks are due to the officers who made it possible.

At the end of term, a Cert 'A', exam was held, in which the following results were obtained:—

Part I—31 examined; all passed.

Part 2—14 examined; 13 passed including one with Distinction.

The successful candidates were:—Appleton, Bartlett, Brown D.P., Frearson, Glassbrook P. M., Ireland, Leach H. R. (passed 'V'), Leech B. W. T., Packer, Stevens B. H., Taylor R. J., Wareham, and Westall.

For the last parade of term, exam candidates—fairly hard driven until then—had the pleasure and relaxation of hearing a lecture by Lt. Col. S. W. Finnis, O.B.E., D.L., late Indian Army, on "Armies in India". We are most grateful to him for an interesting and instructive talk.

We are also most grateful to the two cadets who, displaying notable industry and the highest sense of public spirit, have spent much of their holiday over Christmas in rebuilding the miniature range.

R.N. Section Notes

At the beginning of the Michaelmas Term we welcomed nine new members to the Section, bringing our total to twenty-four. In view, however, of the present policy of the Admiralty regarding the number of National Service men allowed to do their service in the Navy, it seems likely that our numbers will fall again as Part II of Cert. 'A' becomes a necessary qualification for entry.

Field Day was spent this term at Portsmouth where a visit to the Gunnery School at Whale Island was much enjoyed despite its brevity.

Towards the end of the term nine members of the Section passed the examination for A.B. Congratulations to them and commiserations to those who failed.

MINOR GAMES

Minor Games are all in a reasonably healthy state. Apart from those already established, Michaelmas Term saw the inauguration of two new games—Squash for the senior boys and Basket-ball as an indoor sport in the Gymnasium. Squash has been made possible by the kindness of the Officer Commanding Abingdon R.A.F. Station who allows the School to use the Officers' Mess Court. It has already attracted much interest and a number of senior boys have been coached in the game by J. M. Brakspear, who was appointed Secretary of Squash. Basket-ball on the other hand, owes much to the enthusiasm of Mr. Coleman, who has been responsible for the construction of the pitch and apparatus, and for initial coaching and refereeing. This game, too, has attracted a considerable following.

The long standing game of fives continues to flourish and the comparatively recent sport of boxing has developed well. The Boxing Club has devoted much of its time in Michaelmas Term to the acquisition of equipment and to a general improvement in the standard of school fisticuffs, but there are high hopes of a ring and, perhaps, a match against another school. N. A. Darroch has continued to handle most of the Boxing Club's affairs.

R.F.H.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

It is a great pleasure first to express our thanks to several benefactors, to Mrs. F. L. Banfield and Miss Sheldon Peach who have both given a goodly number of books: to R. E. Eason, O.A., for another early copy of Godwin's *Res Romanae* and to M. H. Venables for *Cricket Dialogue*. We are also delighted to receive two handsome 'Leaving Books'—*Old English Furniture* from A. R. Upton and *Opera Nights* from R. Hobday.

Thanks to the increased grant considerable additions have been made during the term—over 30 to the 'Serious Fiction' section alone—including the published volumes of the new *Everyman's Encyclopaedia*, which

should relieve some of the pressure on the *Britannica*. Among many other books purchased are *Rural Crafts in England*, Woods; *Animal Farm*, Orwell; *The British Commonwealth*, Elton; *The Congress of Vienna*, Nicolson; *A Dictionary of Clichés*, Partridge; *The Shakespeare Allusion Book*, Ingleby; *War and Peace*, Tolstoy; *Autobiography*, Lord Herbert; *Economic History of England*, Clapham; *Hockey Practice & Tactics*, Milford; *Ballet, Then and Now*, Lynham; *Pillar to Post and Homes*, Sweet Homes, Lancaster; *Piers Plowman*, ed. Coghill; *The Farming Ladder*, Henderson; *Partners for Progress*, Jeffries.

ROYSSÉ SOCIETY

There have been two meetings this term, at both of which the Society was again indebted to Mr. & Mrs. Cobban for their hospitality.

On Wednesday, 2nd November, A. E. Willson read a most interesting and comprehensive paper on 'Yugo-slavia'. This was the first political paper the Society has had and it certainly set a high standard. Discussion afterwards was largely on the personality of Tito.

On Wednesday, 30th November, the Society was regaled at some length by P. C. Richardson's account of "An Innocent in France." This paper was based upon a recent holiday on the continent and gave rise to a discussion ranging from snails to the Cathédrale de Sacré Coeur.

M.D.M.

TURNOR SOCIETY

President—The Headmaster.

Chairman—M. A. C. Heavens.

Hon. Sec.—A. E. Willson.

Hon. Treas.—Mr. D. O. Willis.

This term we have had five speakers. The first was Sir Reader Bullard who had been, for some time, British Ambassador in Teheran.

He spoke, aptly enough, upon "Persia" and he gave an interesting and instructive account of the customs, history and policies of that country.

The second meeting was addressed by Mr. P. A. Warner, who chose for his subject "Commonwealth Relations". Mr. Warner dealt with this vast subject succinctly yet clearly and he greatly amused us with humorous anecdotes illustrating his points.

At the next meeting Mr. W. A. Rudd continued with the narration of his American adventures. This time he dealt with his Shipwreck in the Caribbean and the voyage home. He gave us a very good picture of the hazards which imperil the tourist on the high seas.

The fourth lecture was entrusted to the capable hands of Mr. Willis who spoke on his 'Sicilian Landing' during the last war. His talk was interesting and very amusing and it showed us the more pleasant side of an invasion and of war in general.

At the last meeting this term, Major Duckham spoke on "The work of a District Commissioner in Nigeria." His talk, which was clear and interesting, was illustrated by some beautiful photographic studies of Nigerian life. This ended the Society's activities for this term. We have had a very good programme this term and we hope to have an even better one in the next.

A.E.W.

DEBATING SOCIETY

President—The Headmaster.

Vice-Presidents—M. A. C. Heavens, F. P. Field, J. T. Cullen.

Hon. Secretary—R. F. Hamer. Hon. Treasurer—W. L. Wooldridge.

During the Michaelmas Term the Society held four meetings, two of which were debates.

At the first meeting M. A. C. Heavens was elected Chairman, and R. F. Hamer was elected Hon. Secretary. After this was done the House moved to Public business, the motion before the House being: "That Communism has no future in great Britain." J. T. Cullen proposed the motion, being seconded by K. A. Fathers; the opposition was led by A. W. H. Riggott, and seconded by R. S. M. Millard. After a very one-sided debate, the motion was carried by 34 votes to 4.

The motion before the House at the second meeting was: "That the United Nations Organization is ineffectual for the promotion of World Peace." The motion was proposed by B. H. Wiggins and was seconded by A. W. H. Riggott; R. F. Hamer opposed the motion, being seconded by A. G. B. King. The motion was eventually defeated by 26 votes to 18.

At the third meeting the Society drew up a new Constitution, and ceased to exist in its old form. It was agreed that the new Society should consist of a nucleus of members who had already spoken, and who should elect further members as they thought fit. It was hoped that this would eliminate the juvenile frivolity which had marred the debates up to this time.

At the fourth meeting two Vice-Presidents were elected to serve in the Chair for the Lent and Summer Terms, and also an Hon. Treasurer. The nucleus of members of the Society then elected twenty-four further members thereby bringing the Society's numbers up to thirty-eight members.

We hope that next term the Society will be reformed in its attitude to debate, as well as in its Constitution, and that we shall hear many new speakers of worth in the ensuing debates.

R.F.H.

JOINT CLUB

The Joint Club held two meetings in the Michaelmas Term, at both of which we welcomed many new members.

The first meeting on Saturday, 12th November, began with a lecture, on our home ground, entitled "It's Still There" by Captain S. K. Jopp. Afterwards we went over to St. Helen's School to round off the evening with food and dance. The second meeting was a dance in the Royse Room, which was decorated in true Christmas style—there was even a sprig of mistletoe, although Nature as though she knew it was for Joint Club use had deprived it of berries! Refreshments were eaten half way through the evening, after which the Headmaster gave us an interesting account of the past of the Royse Room. We then continued the dance until ten o'clock, when the St. Helen's girls departed. And so ended a most cheerful evening and the Club's most successful Michaelmas session.

R.F.H.

OXFORD LETTER

To the Editor of 'The Abingdonian',

December, 1949.

Dear Sir,

'Within a quadrate structure tall
Muster the many pleasures all'

(Ode to Sycharth).

With the beginning of another academic year, Oxford has welcomed the usual large body of Freshmen who have come up eager to learn—among other things: and the six O.A.s who came into residence are all, true to the tradition of post-war Oxford, serious-minded ex-Service students.

However, in attempting to compile sufficient items of interest for this letter, your correspondent was confirmed in his belief that men, and O.A.s in particular, only confess their small faults in an endeavour to suggest that they have no great ones. When confronted, they maintain a sheepish reticence and only after much persuasion will one admit that he has forsaken all sport and another, blushing a delicate clove, confess that he plays rugger. The following details therefore probably cover only a fraction of the activities of resident O.A.s.

Starting at Pembroke, which is still an Abingdonian stronghold, we found that J. T. Moore has moved out into digs, but as energetic Athletics Secretary (and with the more or less willing co-operation of Garner and Trevor) he helped Pembroke to 3rd place in the Cross-Country 'Cuppers'. He is also occupied with Schools and dramatic existentialism and is trying to live up to the various rumours he seems to have inspired. Little has been seen of Peter King, now in his second year, but apparently he thought the second week of the vac. would be a

moment of economic wisdom for his *tour de force*—marriage. Congratulations, Peter. Michael Green, who is reading law, started the term with a combined programme of rowing and swimming, but after serving his purpose in the long distance eight, he abandoned the river for the bath to such purpose that he won the 'Brewer' trophy. He has also attended a record number of political dinners and dances. Garner and Trevor, apart from their prowess across country, are both historians, smarting under the imposition of compulsory lectures. The latter is rumoured to be a stalwart member of the Boat Club. G. H. Willson is to be seen any day on the Abingdon road as he is in the unfortunate position of having to live in Abingdon and work in Oxford. Among the Council of Elders, Peter Hedger is read for a 'Dip. Ed', while his brother Mark emerges periodically from his 'sub flumine' lodgings, murmurs "Schools June", and then withdraws to give Mole a hand with the whitewashing.

Of those at other Colleges, A. J. Betterton is to be seen frequently on the rugger pitches in the Parks, but in his more sedate moments holds sway as President of the J.C.R. in the Holywell Manor annexe to Balliol. He also proudly conducts visitors round the Manor Art Collection. G. L. Sanders, a mathematician, also of Balliol, was at first in some doubt as to whether he was coming-up or going-down, owing to Ministerial confusion about his grant: which may account for his getting in the way of flying bottles. Last but by no means least D. H. Wheaton, a classicist hibernating at St. John's, emerges to play rugger and attend obscure lectures on classical subjects. When not otherwise engaged he dabbles in drama, investigates the ancient history of Mr. Duxbury and entertains V.I.P.s to tea.

And now, Sir, as I am exhausted, and doubtless you also, it remains for me only to send to you and your readers our greetings for the coming year, and our commiserations to any Old Boy so unfortunate as to be located at 'the other place'.

I remain, Sir,

Your Oxford Correspondent.

O.A. NOTES

Births

JAMES. On 26th October, to Beryl, wife of George J. James (1937) a daughter (Pauline Mary), a sister for Peter.

JARVIS. On 3rd December, at Warren Hospital, Abingdon, to the wife of D. E. Jarvis (1938) a son (Colin Eric).

MAYHEAD. On 23rd November, at Poltimore House, Exeter, to Molly, wife of W. H. C. (Bill) Mayhead (1928), a daughter (Jennifer Mary).

Marriages

ALDWORTH-SIMS. On 8th October, at Bicester, Ernest Harold Aldworth (1942) only son of Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Aldworth of Abingdon, to Monica, elder daughter of Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Sims of Bicester.

CROWE-MILLS. On 8th October, at St. Helen's Church, Abingdon, Alan L. Crowe (1940) son of Mr. & Mrs. L. Crowe, The Square, Abingdon, to Sheila, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. P. T. Mills, Caer Glow, Radley Road, Abingdon.

HARFIELD-ROBERTSON. On 20th August, at St. Stephen's Church, London, S.W.8., Victor A. Harfield (1937) to Margaret L. Robertson.

KING-WOODBRIDGE. On 7th December, at St. Peter's Church, Vere St., London, Peter M. King (1945) to Phyllis Betty Woodbridge.

MANTEL-SUTTON. On 29th October, 1949, at Christ Church, Kenilworth, S. Africa, John N. Mantel (1939) to Joan, daughter of the Hon. G. G. Sutton and Mrs. Sutton.

WHIDBORNE-SHEFFIELD. On 19th February, 1949, at St. Andrew's Church, Kingswood, Surrey, Dennis R. A. Whidborne (1940) of Fawley, Nr. Henley-on-Thames, to Evelyn M. Sheffield of Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey.

Vernon Bayley, whose sudden death on 7th July, we reported in our last issue, was at School House from 1898 till 1902, being the second of three brothers at the School. At the outbreak of World War I he joined the King's Regt., was commissioned and later transferred to the Royal Flying Corps. He was twice wounded. After the war he rejoined his old regiment and finally retired with the rank of Captain in 1927. During his 13 years in the Army he served in France, India and Iraq. Since 1927 he had been proprietor of the White Hart Hotel, Burton-on-Trent, where he was a prominent member of many local organisations. At the School his name is perpetuated by the 'Bayley Cup' for Junior House Rugger, which he presented shortly after his only son, Gordon, came to Abingdon in 1931.

His elder brother Leonard (1898-1900) was Traffic Manager of the Sudan Govt. Railways for over 20 years retiring in 1932 in which year

he received the O.B.E. During the last war after acting as Regional Supply Transport Officer from 1940 till 1944, he was transferred to M.O.S. Headquarters to act as Inland Transport Officer for the whole country. He resigned in 1947, since when he has been able to give more time to Church affairs in the Amersham Deanery.

The youngest brother, Reginald (1901-05) has spent his life in the textile industry, specialising in Calico printing for the W. African trade. He is now living at Mere, near Knutsford, Cheshire.

Finally, Gordon Bayley (1931-38) is now Assistant Actuary to the Equitable Life Assurance Co.

Rev. F. L. Mitchell (1931) has been appointed Vicar of Borstal, Kent. After leaving School he was at St. Catherine's, Oxford, and for some time was on the staff of the Bodleian Library. During the war he served for six years in the Royal Marines, reaching the rank of Captain. In 1946, having decided to take Holy Orders he entered Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, was ordained in 1948, and became curate of Rainham, Kent. He married in 1937 and has three sons.

His brother, Kenneth (1938) who served in the R.A.F. during the war, is now managing a hotel in Ontario.

A. L. Edwards (1909) is now Headmaster of the Secondary Modern School, Sparkbrook, near Birmingham.

News comes from Jim McPherson (1933) now stationed at Homs, Syria, with the Iraq Petroleum Co. The climate is pleasant and the place a great improvement on the strained atmosphere of Haifa.

A. N. Tomlin (1945) busy farming at Eastchurch, Kent, sends us news of his engagement to Miss Mary Elizabeth Barnes of Eastchurch. His fiancée conducts a flourishing School of Ballet Dancing.

Rodney Deval (1945) having passed Inter. in July is now reading for B.Sc. Finals at London University.

M. A. Drewe (1929) has been transferred from the Swindon to the Chipping Norton Branch of Barclays Bank, where he finds himself working alongside G. E. H. Warrick (1934).

D. B. Ker (1943) who paid us a visit last term, is now a student at St. Thomas' Hospital, London.

The 'Abingdon Group' at the Oxford School of Art and Architecture has been further enlarged and now consists of J. A. D. Cox (1941), D. B. West (1939), P. A. S. Scott (1943), and J. A. Hill (1944).

O. J. Couldrey's latest volume 'The Phantom Waterfall', delightfully illustrated by the author, and published by our good friend John Hooke at The Abbey Press, merits all the praises the critics have bestowed on its predecessors. We hope to publish a review in our next issue.

T. D. Thomas (1947) recently demobbed is working with Hinkins & Brewin of Oxford, learning the mysteries of Quantitative Surveying.

C. S. Cullen (1947) proceeded straight from the R.A.V.C. to the Royal Veterinary College, London.

To J. H. Bartlett (1926) and his brother, H. S. (1925), we offer our sympathy in the recent death of their mother. The former has moved now from Manor Farm, Little Compton, to his old home at Hampton Gay, Oxon.

Services News

Brigadier C. E. H. Dolphin (1922) is at present stationed in Germany. His address is H.Q. 31 Lorried Infantry Bde, B.A.O.R. II.

B. N. Margrave (1947) and M. J. Aplin (1948) have both been commissioned in the R.A.S.C. The latter is being posted to Bicester in the new year.

R. J. Pezaro (1947) started his Army career in the Life Guards at Windsor, where he spent some happy evenings with Michael Green. Since then, however, he has moved to Mons O.C.T.U., where he has Rob Reed (1948) for company.

B. J. Budden (1948) Survey Section, R.A., was stationed last Summer in Anglesey where he enjoyed some good cricket and made his first century.

C. G. W. Pulford (1947) is with R.A. in Hong Kong.

Of more recent recruits, D. M. Aldworth (1949) R.A.P.C., Devizes, has one stripe and is awaiting W.O.S.B.

A. H. Cherrill (1948) is shortly following his example.

W. G. Olscher (1949) is in R.E.M.E.; A. L. G. Milligan (1949) in R.E.; and A. H. Garrett (1947), A. F. Bastin (1949) and P. R. Little (1947) are in the R.A.F.

The name of Raymond Stross (1933) has figured recently in the National Press in connection with the negotiations between British and American Film magnates. He already controls a chain of theatres, and we can only hope that his project proves the exception to the rule in the Film industry.

V. A. Harfield (1937) whose marriage we announce elsewhere is now a master at Malmesbury Grammar School, where he is responsible for the games and P.T.

Geoff. Hill (1942) and T. W. Green (1946) having taken their degrees at Oxford and are living in London articulated to (different) firms of Solicitors.

A. J. Penning (1949) is at a Nautical Training College in London, and E. G. Cox (1949) with Nielsen's, Oxford, a firm specialising in Marketing Research.

OLD ABINGDONIAN CLUB

Committee Meeting, 12th October, 1949

A Committee Meeting was held at 7 p.m. on 12th October, 1949, in the School House. The President took the chair and the following were present:—The Vice-President, J. B. E. Alston, J. H. Bartlett, W. Bevir, J. O. Bury, G. F. Duxbury, N. J. Holmes, J. H. Hooke, and R. F. Jackson.

Apologies for absence were received from E. H. Aldworth and S. A. Paige.

1. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed.

2. The Secretary read the minute from the A.G.M. regarding the proposed new tie. It was the general feeling of the meeting that discussion on the subject should be postponed until the next meeting when they would have samples before them.

3. Addressing of envelopes. It was agreed that the Secretary should co-operate with the Vice-President in evolving a system of addressing envelopes and that any payment should be of the order of £2 for each batch; all arrangements to be subject to review at the next meeting.

4. The Secretary reported that arrangements for the coming Dance were in hand.

5. The report on the last Annual Dinner and consideration of proposals for the next were held over to the next meeting as all the facts were not yet available.

6. The President, in introducing the next item, "Structure of O.A.C. finances" made it quite clear that it was time for a revision and that no criticisms were involved whatsoever. It was the war years that were mainly to blame for the present state of affairs. After much discussion the Committee unanimously decided to appoint a sub-committee to consider the present executive and financial organisation of the O.A.T.F., the Trustees, the Trust Committee, and the O.A.C. Committee, and the relation between these respective bodies, and to bring forward recommendations thereon to the Committee of the Club at its next meeting.

The following were elected to serve on the sub-committee:—Messrs. Sydney Cullen, J. M. Cobban, G. F. Duxbury and R. E. Eason, with powers to co-opt.

7. Mr. Hooke suggested that consideration should be given to implementing the Group System whereby one of the leaving boys should be appointed as contact man with boys leaving in his year and pass on any news to the appropriate person. This question is also to be discussed at a later date.

There being no other business the President proposed a vote of thanks to the Vice-President for his hospitality and declared the meeting closed.

Club Dance

The Club Dance, held on Saturday, 10th December, 1949, though slightly lacking in numbers remained one of the Club's most successful gatherings. About 80 attended.

The following new members have been elected to the Club:

- D. M. Aldworth, 7/49, 187 Ock Street, Abingdon.
- H. D. Baecker, 7/49, 35 Oxford Road, Abingdon.
- A. F. Bastin, 7/49, 9 Officers' Married Quarters, R.A.F. Station, Bicester.
- P. A. Dexter, 12/44, 18 Beaufort Road, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey.
- D. B. Ker, 3/43, 163a, Manchester Road, Burnley, Lancs.
- P. R. Little, 7/47, 2, W.O. Married Quarters, R.A.F. Station, Abingdon.
- A. L. G. Milligan, 7/49, 21 Radley Road, Abingdon.
- J. E. Mobbs, 3/29, 'Bibury', Northcourt, Abingdon.
- W. G. Olscher, 7/49, 5 The Abbey, Abingdon.
- J. A. Penning, 7/49, Rose Hill, Montague Road, Berkhamsted, Herts.
- L. C. Smallbone, 7/34, 222 Broadway, Didcot.
- J. L. Wyatt, 7/49, c/o 16 Norman Avenue, Abingdon.

Changes of Address (since the Supplement to O.A. Club List):

- E. C. Beaven, 7/21, School House, Hadleigh, Essex.
- R. L. C. Foottit, 7/23, The Old Vicarage, Patricbourne, Canterbury.
- J. N. Mantel, 7/39, c/o. Woodside, Tennant Road, Wynberg, S. Africa.
- P. M. King, 12/45, 7 Southmoor Road, Oxford.
- G. S. Moss, 7/39, Farm Lodge, Island of St. Helena, S. Atlantic.
- D. R. A. Whidborne, 7/40, Coxlease Farm, Fawley, Henley-on-Thames.
- G. E. T. Trudgian, 7/42, 21 Swaffield Road, Sevenoaks, Kent.
- F. L. Kitto, 7/20, 206 Third Ave. North, Port Alberni, B.C., Canada.

O.A. Trust Fund

The following have signed Banker's Orders since our last issue:—
Miss E. Bennell, Cmdr. R. I. Hoyle, S. C. Parker, C. E. T. Moore, J. N. Paige, and R. J. Pezaro.

Life Membership Subscription to the Old Abingdonian Club is One Guinea, which should be sent to the Treasurer, W. Bevir, Esq., 36 Park Road, Abingdon. This includes all the privileges of the Club and also THREE issues of 'The Abingdonian'.

'The Abingdonian' is also sent without further charge to all subscribers of a MINIMUM of Five Shillings to the Old Abingdonian Trust Fund. Banker's Orders (and Forms of Covenant to pay One Pound or more per annum for seven years, bringing nearly double their value to the O.A.T.F. by recovery of Income Tax) may be obtained from F. F. Duxbury, Abingdon School, or E. J. P. Ross Barker, 16 Eagle Road, Rye, Sussex, to whom all subscriptions and queries relating thereto should be addressed.

Single copies of 'The Abingdonian', if available, may be obtained price 1/4½d. post free, from the Editor.

Any items of news relating to O.A.s will be gladly received by G. F. Duxbury, Abingdon School, Berks.