

THE ABINGDONIAN



SEPTEMBER, 1950

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THE ABINGDONIAN

VOL. X. No. 9

SEPTEMBER, 1950.

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CALENDAR, MICHAELMAS TERM, 1950.

SEPTEMBER

- 19 Tues. Term begins 9 a.m.
- 23 Sat. 1st XV v. Southfield School (A).
- 26 Tues. FIELD DAY.
- 30 Sat. 1st XV v. Oratory School (A).

OCTOBER

- 4 Wed. 1st XV v. Henley Grammar School (A).
- 11 Wed. 1st XV v. Solihull School (H).
- 14 Sat. 1st XV v. St. Edward's School 2nd XV (H).

NOVEMBER

- 1 Wed. 1st XV v. Pembroke College (H).
- 4 Sat. HALF TERM.
- 8 Wed. 1st XV v. City of Oxford School (H).
- 22 Wed. 1st XV v. Newbury Grammar School (H).
- 25 Sat. 1st XV v. Royal Grammar Sch., High Wycombe (A).
- 29 Wed. 1st XV v. Radley College 2nd XV (A).

DECEMBER

- 2 Sat. 1st XV v. OLD ABINGDONIANS (H).
- 3 Sun. CONFIRMATION SERVICE.
- 9 Sat. 1st XV v. Magdalen College School (A).
- 13 Wed. 1st XV v. Stowe School 2nd XV (A).
- 19 Tues. Term ends 10.15 a.m.

Lent Term begins 9 a.m. on Friday, 19th January, 1951. (Boarders return Thursday, 18th January).

OFFICERS OF THE SCHOOL (SUMMER, 1950)

Head of the School: J. T. Cullen.

Second Prefect: M. A. C. Heavens. #9 DB

Head of School House: M. Bateman.

School Prefects:

B. H. Wiggins	A. E. Willson
R. F. Hamer	H. B. Stevens
R. Klein	W. L. Wooldridge
A. W. H. Riggott	A. G. B. King
P. C. Richardson	D. R. G. Andrews
D. Free	R. D. M. Grant
P. F. C. Berry	P. R. Lucas

House Prefects:

<i>School House:</i>	<i>Dayboy:</i>
Field, F. P.	Pickford, I. M.
Boddington, B. W.	Furby, John
Draisey, J. S.	Heavens, D. J.
Darroch, N. A. C.	Winter, J. A.
Brakspear, J. A. M.	Perry, B. R.
	Jiggins, I.

Waste Court:

Noyce, B. J.
Millard, R. S. M.

Larkhill:

Taylor, R. J.

Captain of Cricket: I. M. Pickford.

Secretary of Cricket: M. Bateman.

Captain of Boats: J. T. Cullen.

Secretary of Boats: J. A. M. Brakspear.

"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

Eighteen months ago the piece of open land to the east of the School was invaded by an army of builders with the clanking weapons of their trade. On that same site, there now stands an imposing new building in modern style with large windows and flat roof. It goes by the unspectacular name of the New Science Block.

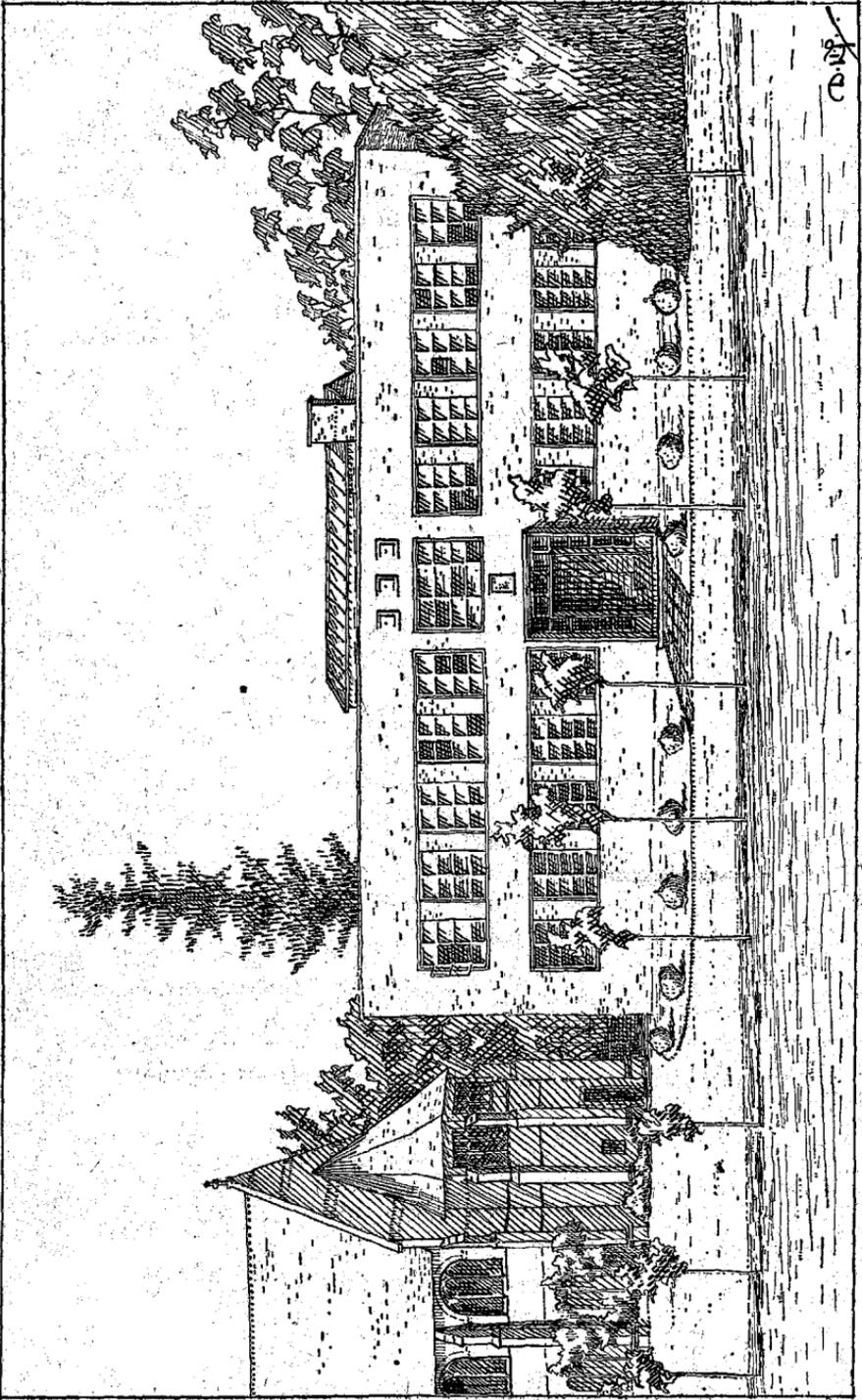
Science today unfortunately conjures up thoughts of learned physicists sitting in deep, concrete caverns, trying to discover the secret of some new phenomenon in order to produce a bigger and better bomb. This is no doubt due to the great publicity that war-time scientific discovery has had during recent years. Yet, as Sir Ben Lockspeiser told us on Founder's Day, the real value of science lies in other things, in its educative function, and its discoveries in medicine and industry. Certainly the new laboratories of the Science Block are very far from the deep, sinister caverns of imagination. The fresh, light and airy rooms of the new building will make all non-scientists green with envy. What is more, there is little danger of the Science Block remaining a block apart, except in the geographical sense, and even in appearance the new brick-work tones very well with the main building especially now that the old building has received a fresh coat of paint.

Altogether the new Block is a source of great satisfaction. Not only will it fulfil a long felt need, but it makes possible more elbow room elsewhere just when the progress of the school makes imperative new classrooms to complete the double stream expansion. Furthermore, the removal of the old Tuck Shop to more convenient quarters in the old Armoury (made possible by the erection of a new Armoury behind the Science Block) enables us to look forward to the pleasing prospect of a garden laid out in front of the new building. This will undoubtedly enhance the already picturesque appearance of the school from Park Rd.

A year ago we announced the resignation from the Governing Body of two very good friends of the School, Mr. R. W. Langford, J.P., and Mr. A. M. Wilson-Green, M.A., J.P., both of them former Mayors of the Borough, who had served the School devotedly for many years.

During the past term we heard with deep regret of the death of Mr. Langford; and, within a fortnight, of the death of Mr. Wilson-Green.

The School joins with the Town in offering its tribute of gratitude and respect to their memory and in extending its deep sympathy to Mrs. Langford and to Mrs. Wilson-Green.



THE NEW SCIENCE BLOCK

LACIES COURT

To the East of the School Grounds, between the Drive and Bath Street, there is a large and attractive house called Lacies Court, which has attached to it about three acres of ground. This property is of the greatest strategic importance for the long-term development of the school, for it provides the only possible outlet for further expansion. In addition, if the house could be made available for school purposes it could with very little adaption be turned to immediate use.

Thanks to the goodwill of Lady Radcliffe, who owns the freehold part of the property and the lease of the remainder, and the generous help of the Old Boys, it is hoped that the property will shortly be purchased for the use of the School. Negotiations are nearing completion and further details must await the next issue of the magazine. Meanwhile this short note provides the opportunity for an interim expression of the School's gratitude to Lady Radcliffe and the Old Boys, but for whom this venture, which is of such tremendous importance for the School, would never have become practicable.

SCHOOL NOTES

The new school flag was flown for the second time on the afternoon of 15th August, in honour of the newly-born Infant Princess—a happy event which will be further commemorated by a half-holiday on the first day of the term (Tuesday, 19th September).

It is with real pleasure that we offer the congratulations of the School to Mrs. Bromley Challenor who has recently become a member of the Governing Body by virtue of her office as Mayor of Abingdon. It is particularly appropriate that the first lady to become a Governor should have such long-standing family connections with the School: and we hope that the association just renewed will be long and happy.

We welcome also Mr. R. B. McCallum, M.A., Senior Tutor of Pembroke College, and Mr. G. R. F. Bredin, M.A., Bursar of Pembroke College, who have recently been elected as the Oxford representatives on the Governing Body. Mr. McCallum we already know as a good friend of the School; and Mr. Bredin, who was formerly the Governor of the Blue Nile Province of the Sudan, will provide an additional link with 'our' College.

We congratulate Mr. H. W. Lake, M.C., and Mr. J. D. Wood (O.A.), upon their re-election, and Mr. H. Booth (the retiring Mayor of Abingdon) upon his election, as co-opted Governors. We heard with regret that the Master of Pembroke College felt unable to let his name go forward again for re-election; but we know that this does not mean any diminution in the keen interest which he has always taken in the School.

We are grateful to the Town Clerk of Abingdon—that very good friend of the School—for passing to us a small sketch book inscribed

'R. E. Coles, 1853'. It contains, besides some very spirited pictures of sea fights (possibly inspired by the Crimean War), some most interesting sketches of the inside and outside of the old School Buildings in which young Coles was working.

It may be added that R. E. Coles, after holding the Abingdon Scholarship at Pembroke College, was ordained and held various livings until his death in 1922.

We say farewell with regret to Colonel S. W. Finnis, D.L., who has for some time been filling in his retirement by working in the Bursar's Office.

An interesting little ceremony took place after the Governors' Meeting on Wednesday, 28th June, when members of the Governing Body and representatives of the Corporation were invited to inspect the 1549 Charter which has now been put on display in the Library. At the same time opportunity was taken of 'unveiling' the School Roll of 1732 which now hangs by the side of the Charter. We repeat our thanks to Miss Baker to whom we are indebted for the return of the Roll: we are very glad she was able to be present at the School on this occasion.

When the School reassembles in September it will be found that the Eastern end of the main building—from the bell tower onwards—has been repainted in green, with the windows picked out in cream. These colours, which in future years will spread over the whole building, were chosen after much deliberation and after some not very successful experiments on the Gym door with battleship-grey. Cerise, unfortunately, was quite out of the question for this purpose!

Apart from this, development and maintenance work during the holidays has mainly been concerned with the adaptation of the old Laboratories. The Strange Lecture Room has been renamed the Music Room and is to become the centre of what is grandiloquently styled aural and visual education. Dr. Strange transfers his patronage to the old Chemistry Laboratory which is being equipped as a form room. A new door is being put into the Chemistry Prep. Room which now becomes a self-contained room for the Head of the School. The old Physics Laboratory is being divided into two rooms—a small book store, and a large form room which will be called the Turnor Room after the distinguished Old Boy who became the Speaker of the House of Commons.

The School Tuck Shop will have a new home—in the old C.C.F. Clothing Store at the Eastern end of the School. The Store will require some renovation and the new refrigerator which arrived during the Summer Term for the Tuck Shop will have to be re-installed.

The arrival of this refrigerator added a new item, ice cream, to the staple diet of the School, and provided the Tuck Shop with a greatly increased source of income.

The displaced C.C.F. Store will move to a much larger and grander dwelling to the rear of the New Science Block. A 60ft. long Nissen Hut has been erected and should provide much improved accommodation for the stores staff who, with the greatly increased size of the Corps, were finding their old quarters very cramped.

On Founder's Day we were pleased to see the New School Flag flying for the first time. In design it is very different from the old flag, consisting of a white griffin on a cerise ground.

The Flag was not the only thing to make its first appearance on that day. The School Brass Band which had been practising hard since the beginning of term was present to provide music both at the Prize Giving and at the programme of Speeches and Music. They are to be congratulated on a very fine performance.

Earlier in the term the new Prefect's Tie arrived. It is simple and neat in appearance, the design consisting of a series of cerise griffins on a grey ground. The question of a new School Cap is now being discussed and several designs have been suggested and put forward for approval.

The number of boys in the School at the beginning of the Summer Term was 326 (Dayboys 195, School House 78, Waste Court 34, Lark-hill 19).

We again thank the following who gave lectures at the School during the Summer Term:—

Tuesday, 2nd May—S/Ldr. V. G. Hogan on "Careers in the R.A.F."

Tuesday, 6th June—Mr. A. S. White, Superintendent of the Chemical Engineering Division of A.E.R.E. on "Careers in A.E.R.E."

Friday, 9th June—Dr. Finniston, of A.E.R.E., Harwell, on "Metallurgy".

Tuesday, 13th June—Mr. H. A. Hardman, M.A., of the R.S.P.C.A., on "Kindness to Animals".

Tuesday, 25th July—Mr. W. A. Gibson Martin, F.R.G.S., on "This Age of Steel".

We congratulate the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban on the birth of their daughter, Hilary Lorna, on Wednesday, 3rd May. We wish once again to thank The Headmaster for the half-holiday he gave us in honour of the birth.

We congratulate also Mr. and Mrs. C. E. T. Moore and Mr. and Mrs. H. Johnston, whose families have been respectively increased and inaugurated by the birth of a daughter.

On the afternoon of Monday, 8th May, the Ruri-decanal Conference was held in the School Library.

On the evening of Thursday, 11th May, a Parents' Meeting for the parents of boys in Forms 3A and 3B was held in the Gymnasium.

On the evening of Friday, 19th May, a small party of Scouts attended the Annual N. Berks Scout Meeting in the Roysse Room.

On the afternoon of Saturday, 20th May, the School 2nd XI, reinforced by some of the Staff, played a strong team captained by the Town Clerk. At tea we were glad to be able to receive the team and their supporters, many of whom, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Chelsea, had travelled from Chelsea to see the match.

On the evening of Thursday, 25th May, a party of the Staff, their wives, and senior boys attended a performance of Bizet's "Carmen" at the New Theatre, Oxford.

On Thursday, 6th July, a large party attended the third day of the Royal Agricultural Show at Kidlington Airport, Oxford.

On the evening of Friday, 7th July, a Staff XI played a team of local School Masters. The match resulted in a win for the local School Masters, after a thrilling finish, by six runs.

On Saturday, 5th July, the recently formed School P.T. Team gave a demonstration at a Fete at A.E.R.E., Harwell.

On Thursday, 20th July, a party visited Stratford-on-Avon. During the morning they visited places of interest in the town and in the afternoon attended a performance of Henry VIII in the Memorial Theatre.

On the same day the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban attended a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. The School is greatly honoured at this distinction.

On Monday, 24th July, the C.C.F. were granted a half-holiday in recognition of their good turn-out for the Annual Inspection on the previous Friday. The afternoon was warm and saw the inauguration of the "Army v. Navy" match which resulted in a win for the Navy by 3 runs.

On Thursday, 27th July, a party of members of the Fifth and Sixth Forms paid a visit to the Roman Villa at Chedworth.

On the last day of term the School House Supper was held and afterwards the House was entertained in Big School by some of its number. The standard of entertainment was very high, the performance by Mr. Mortimer of a very clever rhyme, written by himself, entitled "The Abingdon Alphabet" being adjudged the best thing of the evening.

On Founder's Day the first edition of the new Literary Magazine appeared. It contains all the personal contributions for which, unfortunately, the Abingdonian cannot find space, and complete reports on the Prize Essays, Reading Competitions, etc. It is similar to the Abingdonian in format and can be obtained from Mr. D. O. Willis, Abingdon School, price 1/3d. post free.

Our thanks go to Mr. Barker and his band of volunteers who repainted the Pavilion just (and only just!) before Founder's Day. We understand Mr. Cooper is emulating this example by re-decorating the Art Room during the last week of the holidays. Thank you, Gentlemen!

We congratulate all those awarded Colours and Awards of the Royal Life Saving Society during the term. Details may be found under the appropriate headings.

We congratulate, too, H. C. A. Armstrong (Connaught House, Taunton) and R. E. J. Packer of this School, on the award of School Foundation Scholarships.

Congratulations go to M. K. C. Grigsby and D. S. Lloyd on obtaining the First and Second Prizes in the Junior Section of a Photographic Competition organised by the Borough of Abingdon.

Congratulations also to A. G. B. King on breaking the County Junior Discus Record with a throw of 141 feet 10½ inches, beating the existing record by 30 feet, at the Berkshire Championships held at Reading in May. At the same meeting D. J. Heavens came third in the mile in a time of 4 mins. 42 secs. (winning time 4 mins. 40 secs.), and N. A. C. Darroch third in the weight with a put of 40 feet 8 inches (winning put 45 feet 6 inches).

We also congratulate A. W. H. Riggott on successfully surmounting the hazards of the Regular Army W.O.S.B. and thus securing admission to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

We congratulate M. A. C. Heavens, P. C. Richardson and A. E. Willson on being granted (substantive or provisional) Major Awards by the Berkshire County Council.

We are very sorry to hear that Mr. Wiblin has been laid up throughout the Summer holidays with duodenal trouble and the School wishes him a speedy and complete recovery.

We offer belated but sincere thanks to Mr. Milligan for generously allowing us the use of the photograph of the Athletics team in our last issue.

The line drawing of the Science Block which appears in this issue is by D. L. Treacher.

The Headmaster has for sale an O.A. Blazer (would fit someone of about 5ft. 6in. and normal build).

CONTEMPORARIES

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the Magazines of the following Schools:—Aldenharn; Henley Grammar; King Alfred's, Wantage; King Edward's, Stratford; Leighton Park; Magdalen College, Oxford; Newbury Grammar; Oundle; City of Oxford High; Reading; Solihull; Southfield, Oxford; St. Edward's, Oxford; St. Helen and St. Katharine, Abingdon; and Wallingford Grammar.

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

We acknowledge gratefully the following contributions to the War Memorial Fund which have been received since our last issue:—

In Memory of P. H. and J. H. E. Morland	£10	0	0
F. A. D. Griffiths	£6	0	8
Capt. R. E. Dancy		10	6
Sir Reader Bullard		10	0
W. S. Ogden (sale of sports clothing)	£2	2	0
L. G. Cather (sale of sports clothing)	£2	2	0

In addition the Fund has benefitted by the receipt of the Collections at the Founder's Day Services (£13 5. 2.), and of the profits of the "Speeches and Music" (£19 8. 3.).

CHAPEL NOTES

The Bishop of Oxford has kindly consented to hold a Confirmation Service in the School Chapel at 3 p.m. on Advent Sunday (Dec. 3rd).

Preachers for the Michaelmas term include the Rev. W. E. Keating, Vicar of Northbourne (Oct. 8th); Mr. E. R. Tucker, Headmaster of the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe (Oct. 22nd); the Rev. J. H. S. Dixon, Vicar of Kennington (26th Nov.), and the Rev. D. E. Nineham, Chaplain of the Queen's College, Oxford (Dec. 10th).

The School extends its best wishes for a happy retirement to Rev. G. R. Palmer, late Vicar of Marcham and formerly for many years Chaplain to the School.

Collections this term, besides those devoted to Chapel Funds, have been allocated as follows:—

St. James' Church, Nevis	£2	0	0
The Dockland Settlement	£3	15	0
Berkshire Fund for the Blind	£2	2	0
The Lord Mayor's Thanksgiving Fund	£2	0	0
Church Missionary Society	£2	15	0

Christening—On 25th June, 1950, Hilary Lorna, infant daughter of James and Lorna Cobban.

Marriage—On 12th September, Dennis, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Richardson of Sturminster Newton, to Joan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Ellis of Billingshurst.

VALETE ET SALVETE

Valeté—left March, 1950.

Upper Sixth Form

M. D. Millichap (i, 1949); (left 18th March 1950); School Prefect 1948; O.S.C. 1946, H.S.C. 1947; 1st XI Hockey 1947, Half Colours 1948, Berks Public Schools XI 1949; 1st XI Cricket 1948; 2nd XV Colours 1948, 1st XV 1948; Athletics Team 1948-9; C.C.F. Cpl., Cert. 'A'; Hon. Sec. Roysse Society; Hon. Sec. Games 1946-7; Hon. Sec. Play Reading Society; G.G.C.; Dramatic Society.

M. H. Venables (iii, 1946); School Prefect 1949; O.S.C. 1947; Pembroke Scholarship 1950; 1st XI Cricket 1947-9, Colours 1947, Captain 1949; 1st XI Hockey 1948-50, Colours 1949, Captain 1949; 1st XV Rugger 1948-9, 2nd Colours 1948; Tennis VI 1948-9; C.C.F., Cert. 'A', Pt. 1, Naval Section; Roysse Society; Chairman Turnor Society; Chairman Debating Society; Hon. Sec. Gramophone Society; Committee Holiday Club; School Librarian.

D. E. Allen (i, 1943); (left 22nd February, 1950); School Prefect 1949; O.S.C. 1948; 1st XI Hockey 1948, Half Colours 1948; 2nd XV Rugger 1949; Athletics Team 1948, Colours 1949, Captain 1949; C.C.F., Cert. 'A', Pt. 1, Naval Section; Roysse Society; Dramatic Society; Committee Holiday Club.

Lower Sixth Form

M. J. Austwick (i, 1944); (left 25th February, 1950); O.S.C. 1949; 2nd XV 1949; C.C.F. Cpl., Cert. 'A'.

A. R. Upton (i, 1943); House Prefect 1949; O.S.C. 1949; Dramatic Society.

Form 5A: P. G. Owens (i, 1945).

Form 5B: B. R. Hebborn (i, 1944).

Form 3B: P. Gurbutt (i, 1946).

Form 1B: T. I. Mundy (i, 1948).

Salvete—came April, 1950.

3B: P. Strodder (Dayboy), (came 27th February).

2B: R. W. Van Rossum du Chattell (Dayboy).

Prep.: R. W. Cowley (Dayboy), C. M. Dunman (Dayboy), D. C. B. Martin (Waste Court).

FOUNDER'S DAY

Following the precedent established last year, Founder's Day was held at the end of the Summer Term on Saturday, 29th July. The programme was a full one and included the opening of the new Science Block in addition to the traditional ceremonies. Fortunately the weather was most kind, and the large number of parents and friends who attended the At Home in the afternoon, enjoyed ideal garden party conditions. Instead of the School Play, which will be produced at the end of Michaelmas Term, a programme of Speeches and Music was devised for the evening. This proved most successful, and will probably become a permanent feature of all future Founder's Day celebrations.

At the morning service held in St. Helen's Church, the address was given by the Warden of St. Edward's School, Oxford (Rev. H. E. Kendall, O.B.E., V.D., M.A.). The Warden opened his talk with the School 'bidding prayer', and then went on to show the importance in our lives of the three words—hope, courage and vocation. We were again indebted to Mrs. Bevir who prepared the wreath for the tomb of John Royse and to the Misses Challenor for decoration of the altar.

In the afternoon, proceedings began with the Prize-Giving in the Corn Exchange at 2.30 p.m. Details of this and of the Opening of the new Science Block which followed the At Home are given overleaf. The Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban were again hosts to a very large gathering in the Upper Field immediately following the Prize-Giving. The guests were even more numerous this year and an additional marquee was erected for the serving of tea and to provide shelter from sun or rain.

After tea, there was the customary display of massed P.T., whilst visitors were invited to tour the School. Apart from the interest provided by an inspection of the new Science Block, parents and friends were able to see a variety of exhibitions—School archives in the Library, a demonstration in the new Biology laboratory, paintings and drawings in the Art Room, a photographic display by the School Photography Club in the Tesdale Room, handicrafts in the Woodwork Shop, Cub and Scouting activities in the Waste Court field. A further innovation was the display of House Cups, decorated with the ribbons of the victorious Houses, in the Entrance Hall.

The day's celebrations came to an end at 7.30 p.m. with Speeches and Music in the Corn Exchange, details of which are given separately. On the following Sunday night, many parents and boys attended evensong at St. Nicolas' Church. The preacher was the Headmaster who spoke, particularly to those boys about to leave school, on the Christian's equipment when entering adult life.

PRIZE GIVING

The guest speaker at the Prize Giving was Mr. J. F. Wolfenden, C.B.E., M.A., Vice-Chancellor of the University of Reading, who also presented the prizes.

The ceremony began with the Headmaster's Annual Report. This was largely taken up by an account of activities and progress during the past year, all of which are reported elsewhere in this magazine.

Following the Report, the Chairman (Admiral Clifton Brown) asked Mr. Wolfenden to present the prizes. In one of the best speeches heard in Abingdon for many a day, Mr. Wolfenden congratulated the Headmaster on his report, praised the progress of the School and the industry of the prize winners. He was most amusing in his references to the life of a modern headmaster, but later, in a more serious vein, he spoke to the parents of the great importance of Direct Grant Schools to the educational health of the country. He showed how they occupied a position half way between the independent Public Schools and the fully controlled schools, a position which, he asserted, must be maintained at all costs. Then, speaking to the boys, he pointed out that responsibility grew throughout life and that the grounding received at School would stand them in good stead in the future.

The ceremony closed by the Chairman thanking Mr. Wolfenden for distributing the prizes.

AWARD OF PRIZES

THE ENDOWED PRIZES: The Thomas Layng Reading Prize—R. F. Hamer; The Smith Chemistry Prizes, Sixth Form (Upper)—P. C. Richardson, Sixth Form (Lower)—N. Purnell, Fifth Forms—(aeq) G. W. Crockford and A. G. B. King; The Ball Science Prize—M. A. C. Heavens; the Bevan Essay Prize—A. W. H. Riggott (*prox. acc.* W. L. Wooldridge); The Bevan Scripture Prizes, Fifth Forms—C. G. Brown, Remove and Fourth—(aeq) J. C. Ivatts and C. J. Lockhart-Smith, Third Forms—(aeq) P. J. Lay and J. M. C. Bishop, Second Forms—J. T. Young, First Forms—B. D. Winkett, Prep. Form—P. M. D. Gray.

THE SCHOOL PRIZES: The Headmaster's Prizes for Efficiency in School and House—J. T. Cullen, M. A. C. Heavens and M. Bateman; The Mayor's Prize for History Essay (*presented by Mrs. Bromley Challenor*)—A. E. Willson; The Old Boys' Prize for English Essay—(not awarded); The Old Boys' Prize for English Verse—J. T. Cullen; The Van Wagenen Essay Prize (*presented by Colonel R. W. Van Wagenen, of Princeton University, U.S.A.*)—J. T. Cullen, (*prox. acc.* M. Bateman); The Prizes for Efficiency in the Corps—A. W. H. Riggott and H. R. Leach; The Junior Reading Prize—1. J. D. Hall, 2. S. C. Woodley; The Music Prizes, Senior (*presented by Mrs. Rayson*)—P. B. H. Amey, Junior (*presented by Miss Sheldon Peach*)—J. A. T. Saywell; The Art Prizes, Senior—D. L. Treacher, Junior—B. K. Hill, The Handicraft Prize—R. Pinniger (*prox. acc.* J. A. Edwards).

THE FORM PRIZES: Sixth Form (Upper), History and English—A. E. Willson, Classics—D. Free, Maths. and Physics—1. B. H. Wiggins, 2. R. Klein; Sixth Form (Lower), Arts—D. R. G. Andrews, Maths. and Physics—S. R. Mills; Form 5A, Languages—P. C. Madley, English Subjects—D. L. Treacher; The Remove—J. C. Ivatts, P. R. Sale; Form 4, (English and Science) L. M. Bolton; Form 3A—T. C. Jones, J. Blinman, Science—R. M. Marchbanks; Form 3B—K. H. Smith; Form 2A—R. E. J. Packer, J. D. Hall; Form 2B—K. J. Beckett, T. A. W. Walker; Form 1A—B. D. Winkett, C. Hiles; Form 1B—R. D. Taylor, P. O. D. Song; Prep. Form—P. M. D. Gray, R. W. Cowley.

OPENING OF THE NEW SCIENCE BLOCK

The row of buildings were officially opened at 5.20 p.m. by Sir Ben Lockspeiser, K.C.B., F.R.A.E.S., formerly Chief Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Supply. For the occasion, a small enclosure had been roped off on either side of the main doors of the new Block and within this were seated the official party and other distinguished guests.

The ceremony began when the Bursar introduced to Sir Ben Lockspeiser and Sir Ralph Glyn, the Architect, Mr. West; the Contractors, Mr. Kinglerlee and Mr. Phillips, and the Foreman, Mr. Gregory. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Lady Lockspeiser by one of the youngest boys in the School, and there then followed a short speech of introduction by Sir Ralph Glyn, after which the Architect presented the key to Sir Ben.

In his speech, Sir Ben had much to say about the value of Science and emphasised the fact that the peaceful application of scientific knowledge was as important as its wartime results. He saw no reason why Science should end in the destruction of civilization and said that the fundamental basis of all scientific enquiry was healthy curiosity.

At the conclusion of the speech, the Headmaster thanked Sir Ben for the honour he had done the School, and the Block was then formally declared open.

SPEECHES AND MUSIC, 1950

'Speeches and Music' was frankly an experiment, devised to meet the requirement of an entertainment that would provide a fitting epilogue to Founder's Day without imposing on the producer and the performers the same strain as a full-scale play. Let me say at once that in my opinion the experiment was a success, and in fact confounded the gloomy forebodings of those who had seen the Dress Rehearsal: and if this is suspect as an *ex parte* judgement, it does seem to reflect the general feeling of the audience. It succeeded largely because the performers themselves gave the impression that they believed in it. They held their heads up, and they seemed to enjoy what they were doing. Such enthusiasm is infectious and can atone even for false quantities and patent promptings. If any further reasons for success are sought, they are to be found in the good sense (and sensibility) of Mr. Griffin and the dynamic energy of Mr. Barker, to both of whom I would offer far more than the conventional thanks. They have the satisfaction of knowing that they have inaugurated what I hope will become a regular feature of our Founder's Day celebrations.

The programme is printed in detail below. To comment on each item would be impracticable. Of the music I will say merely that the Choir, in whole or in part, sang *con brio*, and with a clear-cut precision that made them a delight to hear: that the soloists sang or played with admirable confidence; and that the Abingdon School String Orchestra made a modest but successful debut. Am I forgetting the Brass Band?

No. When I say that it is unforgettable, I intend it as a compliment; and I am grateful to those who helped me to bring them back on to the stage for an unassisted rendering of 'Drink to me only'. By the time they were allowed to depart we had certainly drunk our fill.

If I discuss the Speeches, which made up approximately half the programme, at greater length, it is because they represent, if not a new departure for this School, a welcome revival of an historic but dormant tradition. On the whole, the passages for declamation in the various tongues were well-chosen and competently rendered. The extract from 'Tartarin' was faultless, though a little too fast for those of us who dropped French after School Certificate. In view of the fact that German was re-introduced into the curriculum less than a year ago, the German readings showed remarkable virtuosity and an astonishingly good accent; though the dramatisation of the *Erkönig* was not entirely happy. Of the classical speakers, Lucas was suitably Periclean, and Leech got away with his Homer by sheer personality. To ask The Boy with the Golden Voice to read Juvenal provided a mixture of Arsenic and Old Lace which gave full scope neither to the potency of the former ingredient nor to the charm of the latter; but Field coped admirably with a passage for which he was temperamentally unsuited.

The English readings were good. The opening 'Apologia' was ingenious in conception, but a little disappointing in execution; but Hamer soon afterwards excelled himself with a couple of Wordsworth's sonnets. Cullen was very much at home as Faustus. He painted him more broadly than I should have done, but at all events it was an intelligent, consistent and convincing interpretation. To my mind the extract from 'Samson' was the best thing of the evening (always excepting the Brass Band). There was a statuesque quality about it which I found extraordinarily moving. Of the junior readers Slesser gambolled happily *cum Motore Bo*, and Hall tackled 'Hervé Riel' with vigour: an unfortunate choice, this, I feel, for Browning, even the Browning of 'Hervé Riel', is not an easy author to declaim.

Finally, one or two more general comments. The programme, as presented below, may seem rather scrappy, but strangely enough the performance did give more the impression of an integrated and coherent whole; nor did the juxtaposition of grave and gay seem at all inappropriate. It was perhaps unfortunate that all the fully choral items were in the second half of the programme, but there may have been good reason for this. As the school orchestra develops it will of course give more 'body' to the programme. It may be too that in future years the producers will in their wisdom include a rather larger choral work in the programme. But meanwhile let us be grateful for this year's performance; it was something of which the School as a whole can be justifiably proud. To borrow the jargon of the School Reports—effort and achievement both very satisfactory!

J.M.C.

PROGRAMME

PART I.

- First Verse of National Anthem Brass Band, Choir & Audience
1. Apologia Pro Nobis John Bishop & David Lloyd
 2. Piano Solo. L'Egyptienne—Rameau Brian Winkett
 3. Song. Strange Adventure—Sullivan Male Voice Quartet
 4. Two Sonnets by William Wordsworth Roger Hamer
Westminster Bridge (Layng Prizewinner)
King's College Chapel
 5. A Reading in French Henry Wilson
from Tartarin de Tarascon by Alphonse Daudet
 6. Piano Duet. Duet in D—Mozart F. W. Burgess & J. F. H. Barker
 7. A Reading in Latin Peter Field
from Juvenal's Tenth Satire (x. 147-167)
 8. Motor Bus—A. D. Godley Anthony Slessor
 9. Piano Solo. Pensée—Heller Roger Packer
 10. Two Songs. G. H. Cooper
"The Plough Boy" & "Little Sir William"—arr Benjamin Britten
 11. Final Speech of Faustus Jeremy Cullen
From Dr. Faustus by Christopher Marlowe

PART II.

12. Bourree in D Minor—Handel String Orchestra
13. Song. Oh, No John—arr. Sharp Choir
14. Two Readings in Greek Brian Leech
Homer, Odyssey XI. 582-600 Peter Lucas
The Funeral Speech of Pericles from Thucydides
(ii, 40)
15. Piano Solo Jeremy Cullen
La Fille au Cheveux de Lin—arr Debussy
16. Song. Widdicombe Fair—Traditional Choir
17. Three Poems in German David Andrews, David Free
Erlkönig—Goethe Robin Mills, Brian Boddington
Sehnsucht—J. von Eichendorff David Andrews
Das Verlassene Mägdlein—Eduard Mörike Robin Mills
18. Herve Riel—Robert Browning John Hall
(Junior Reading Prize Winner)
19. Drink to me only—Traditional Brass Band & Choir
20. Rounds and Catches Choir
21. From Samson Agonistes—John Milton Tony Willson, Richard
Millard, Michael Bateman, Roger Hamer
22. Song. Linden Lea—R. Vaughan Williams, arr. Somervell Choir
23. Non Nobis Domine—Byrd Choir

EXAMINATION RESULTS, JULY, 1950

The following have obtained the Higher School Certificate:

D. Free, in main subjects, Latin and Ancient History, with subsidiary Greek.

P. C. Richardson, in main subjects Chemistry (good), Botany (good) and Zoology (good) with subsidiary English.

B. H. Wiggins, in main subjects, Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics (good) and Physics.

A. E. Willson, in main subjects, History (distinction) and English (good), with subsidiary French (good) and Art (good).

Twenty-two boys passed the School Certificate Examination. 'Very Goods' are indicated in parenthesis:—

R. F. Appleton (Gen. Science); C. H. Banwell (Mathematics); G. W. Crockford (Gen. Science, Additional Gen. Science); N. A. C. Darroch; J. S. Draisey; P. H. Frearson; D. J. Heavens (Gen. Science); G. E. Holford (Gen. Science); T. O. Inwood; B. H. Islip (Art); I. Juggins; A. G. B. King (Gen. Science); H. R. Leach (Gen. Science); P. C. Madley (Gen. Science); J. Norman; D. Rabson; H. B. Stevens; P. S. G. Stevens; A. J. Taylor (Gen. Science); D. L. Treacher (English Language, English Literature, Gen. Science, Additional Gen. Science, Art); H. A. Wilson (French, Art); J. A. Winter (Gen. Science).

CRICKET, 1950

The season as a whole has again been disappointing. At the outset, we had admittedly only one Colour, but the side contained several players who gained experience last year in a number of matches. This core, it was thought, would give to our batting the solidity which has been so sadly lacking since the war.

Such expectations, however, proved unduly sanguine; our besetting weakness of a serious 'rot' in the middle of the batting order has remained. The result is that matches have been lost when they should have been won, or at least drawn with honour. Perhaps the most depressing instance of this occurred in the match—our first ever—against the Berkshire Gentlemen. The School, having scored nearly 100 for 4 at 6 o'clock, were all out by 6.20, for the addition of a mere handful of runs. There was a comparable collapse in the Parents' Match.

The School found in John Furby—the only player to be awarded full Colours during the season—an opening batsman with quick feet, a wide range of strokes and an abounding confidence. Yet with him also there was a defect of temperament—the opposite of the common weakness—which resulted in his never getting out of the thirties, though he was often playing the bowling with complete ease. He pulls most effectively but not always judiciously and bowlers who fed this stroke generally

had their reward. The captain, Ian Pickford, in hitting vein, and M. C. Glassbrook, a strong off-side player who will be available next season, at times stopped a rot effectively.

In bowling, our resources were not great and much depended on the Captain, who unhappily was somewhat uncertain in length, particularly after playing a match-saving innings. Whiteford, handicapped by lack of inches and an exaggerated run, bowled with some fire as the 'speed merchant', but could not last more than a few overs. M. C. Glassbrook took wickets with some innocuous-looking deliveries whose only guile lay in their extreme slowness through the air.

It was as a fielding side that we took the eye. There was no one needed 'hiding'. The picking up and throwing in were generally good, and the catching was sure. Perhaps we may conclude by saying much as General Neville said of the Corps, that the boys in this sphere really looked like cricketers and not like flannels with bodies in them.

During the season the following awards were made:—

The Fletcher Cup—John Furby.

The Lake Bat (*presented by H. W. Lake, Esq., M.C.*)—John Furby.

The Henderson Awards—Senior: I. M. Pickford.

Junior: M. J. Brackley.

FIRST XI CHARACTERS

PICKFORD, I. M. (Capt., Full Colours 1949). Has again been the mainstay of our bowling. The cares of captaincy have at times affected his control of length, but his good ball has been as deadly as ever. Displaying commendable courage with the bat, he has more than once stopped a rot and changed the course of a game. A fine example in the field. As captain, infectiously keen.

FURBY, J. (Full Colours 1950). A good forceful opening bat, with a quick eye and wristy strokes. Our most prolific scorer, but he has often been out just when he appeared set for a really big innings. Also a good bowler who swings the ball well. His alertness in the slips was always noticeable.

INWOOD, T. O. (Half Colours 1949). A batsman with wristy strokes but unsound in defence, he has only found his form during the latter end of the season. He has kept wicket consistently, but he is still rather inclined to be nonchalant about it.

LUCAS, P. R. (Half-colours 1949). Opening bat throughout the season he has experienced exceptionally bad luck, although during the last three matches of the season he has showed that he has the ability to "stay at the wicket" if he wants to. Quite a useful change bowler.

WHITEFORD, B. A. (Half Colours 1950). A very accurate opening shock bowler, who because he is still quite young should prove a great asset to the team in the future. Rather inclined to get depressed after being hit about. A very good 'close in' fielder.

GLASSBROOK, M. C. (Half Colours 1950). A hard-hitting left-hand bat with a partiality for the off-side. Going in number five he was often able to arrest a collapse. He needs to develop his leg-side strokes, and should then be a great asset to the side. A good first-change bowler who makes full use of the seam.

IRELAND, J. R. W. (Half Colours 1950). Although rather nervous during the opening matches this season, he has shown more confidence in his last few innings. Going in first wicket, he showed that he could stay. Next year, when he will be bigger and stronger he should make many runs.

BATEMAN, M. (Half Colours 1950). Veteran of the team he has had rather an "off" season. His batting has been patchy, but his fielding has been consistent throughout, apart from a tendency to throw in wildly in a crisis. He needs to concentrate on throwing the ball straight to the wicket-keeper's gloves, and not to throw quite so hard until he gets his range correct.

RIDOUT, D. W. H. (Half Colours 1950). A third year member of the team, he has batted confidently and with some success. Sound, but slow in the field, although his throwing in is especially good.

FREE, D. (Half Colours 1950). A batsman who is rather inclined to stay immobile at the wicket and needs to get out to the ball more. His fielding was steady except that he must learn to keep his heels together, instead of relying on his hands.

Also batted:—

SALE, P. R. Coming into the team for the last six matches, he batted well at No. 8. His fielding was fairly good.

GLASSBROOK, P. M. In the team as a bowler, he proved to be rather erratic, but occasionally had some good spells. Needs to concentrate on his length before his pace. Fielding steady and confident.

1st XI MATCHES

Wed., 10th May, v. The Staff XI. (Home). Won by 2 runs.

This interesting game provided a most exciting finish. The school batted first and owing to some steady batting by Furby, Ireland and Glassbrook (M. C.), the whole side put 97 on the scoreboard. The running between the wickets was poor and, as a result, three batsmen were run out. L. C. J. Griffin set a firm foundation for the staff with 32, and some bright cricket was displayed by J. F. H. Barker who was caught when the staff were only two short of the school total.

School 97—9 declared. (Furby 31, Ireland 22, Glassbrook (M. C.) 21 not out. R. G. Mortimer 4—22).

Staff 95. (Griffin 32, Barker 22. Glassbrook (M.C.) 4—29).

Wed., 17th May, v. Oratory School. (Home). Drawn.

The School did well to score 140 against the excellent fielding of the visitors. Inwood played a sound innings, and we saw some lusty hitting from Pickford and Glassbrook (M.C.). Taking the field after making a late declaration the school were unable to take all the wickets required, despite good bowling by Pickford and Glassbrook (M.C.) who were hampered by slow fielding.

School: 140—7 declared. (Inwood 29, Pickford 29 not out, Glassbrook (M.C.) 22 not out).

Oratory: 56—9. (Pickford 3—12, Glassbrook (M.C.) 4—8).

Wed., 24th May, v. Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, (Home). Won by five wickets.

This match showed an improvement in the school fielding, but the returns to the wicket were still inaccurate. Many changes of bowling were made, which, though costly, reaped due rewards. Furby was the most effective and took three of the wickets. The school was left with 81 to score, which they made in 52 minutes. This was due to a delightful opening stand by Lucas and Furby, the latter scoring 37 before he was bowled.

R. G. S.: 81. (Furby 3—11).

School: 82—5. (Lucas 22, Furby 37).

Wed., 31st May, v. City of Oxford School. (Away). Lost by 8 wkts.

On a hard but rather uneven pitch the school made a very poor showing at Oxford. After a seemingly confident start by Lucas and Furby, there was a general collapse. Only Glassbrook (M.C.) and Bateman showed any confidence, the latter taking 35 minutes to score 7 runs. The school bowlers were unable to get any life from the pitch, and C.O.S. passed the total of 42 with 8 wickets in hand.

School: 42. (Cripps 5—22, Moore 3—11).

C.O.S.: 43—2.

Sat., 3rd June, v. Abingdon Wanderers. (Home). Won by 4 wkts.

The school did very well to dismiss a fairly strong club XI for 43 runs on a very hard pitch. This was mainly due to a great bowling feat by Pickford, supported by keen fielding. The school had good reason to be optimistic when 5 of the Wanderers' wickets were down for only 13. A grand left-handed catch by Glassbrook (P.M.) ended the Wanderers' innings just before 4 o'clock. Faced with so small a total the school did not bat with the confidence expected, and several of the earlier batsmen fell unsuspecting victims to the cunning bowling of Brooks (E.W.). However the school passed the Wanderers' total with four wickets in hand, ending a very enjoyable game.

Wanderers: 43. (Pickford 5—27, Whiteford 3—8).

School: 44—6. (Brooks (E.W.) 4—23).

Wed., 7th June, v. K.A.S., Wantage. (Away). Won by 9 wkts.

Another victory for the school was gained over King Alfred's School, Wantage. Wantage, winning the toss, batted first and made an unhappy start. Throughout their innings of 50, they were never confident against accurate bowling by I. M. Pickford who took 6 wickets for 19 runs. Abingdon lost an early wicket, but Ireland and Furby passed the Wantage total in an unbroken partnership, the latter scoring 35 not out in aggressive fashion.

K.A.S.: 50, (I. M. Pickford 6—19).

School: 51—1. (Furby 35 not out).

Sat., 10th June, v. A. Parents' XI. (Home). Lost by 12 runs.

For the second year running the parents beat the school. Batting first, the parents lost two early wickets, but Clewley and Edwards put on 34 for the third wicket, and further assistance from Brackley brought the total to 73. Glassbrook (M.C.) bowled very well, taking 3 wickets for 9 runs. When the school batted, nothing was given away by the steady bowling of Brackley and Clewley. Furby played a good opening innings and a last wicket stand by Pickford and Ireland put on 20 runs, the latter returning to the field after being knocked on the head by a bumping ball. The running between the wickets was poor and as a result two people were run out. Credit must be given for the good fielding of the parents.

Parents: 73. (Glassbrook (M.C.) 3—9).

School: 61. (A. W. Brackley 6—26).

Wed., 14th June, v. Berkshire Gentlemen. (Home).

Lost by 53 runs.

Owing to rain there was no play in the morning and the School took the field at 2.30 p.m. The Gentlemen wasted no time and there was some lively play from C. G. Stow, who was unfortunate to be run out. Then followed an entertaining stand from E. W. J. Brooks and C. W. J. Brooks, father and son, the latter scoring 55 before being caught. B. C. Jakeman kept the tail wagging with a stubborn 19 not out. The school bowling was below its usual level, and only Pickford had any success.

Faced with 146 runs to get only Furby showed the necessary punch and drive, and he scored 30 in his usual aggressive style. An excellent stand was made by Glassbrook (M.C.) and Ridout at a crucial time, but on their exit the rot started, and D. P. Carslaw took 6 wickets in two overs, bowling very slowly.

Berkshire Gentlemen: 146 (Stow 26, C. Brooks 55, E. Brooks 30, Pickford 5 for 59).

School: 93. (Furby 30, Glassbrook (M.C.) 23, Carslaw 6—9).

Sat., 17th June, v. Old Abingdonians. (Home). Won by 34 runs.

Batting first, the school made a good start, 50 runs being on the board before the fall of the first wicket. This was due to the sound batting of Lucas and Furby, the latter scoring an energetic 38 before being caught on the boundary. Glassbrook (M.C.) again played a sound innings, and he was joined by Pickford who hit three sixes in a meteoric innings of 33. The only bowler to cause any worry was D. M. Cullen who, at one point, took three wickets in four overs. A. D. Leigh deserves mention for his fine performance behind the stumps. Bradfield and Jakeman fielded well. With 138 to get the Old Boys never seemed in a winning position. Pickford bowled well and took five of the wickets. The Old Boys were saved to a certain extent by A. L. Leigh, who, after an uncertain start scored 47, twenty of which were made in a last wicket stand with Aldworth. The fielding of the school was good and six catches were well taken. The school did well to dismiss the Old Boys for 104.

School 138. (Furby 38, Pickford 33, D. M. Cullen 3—34).

Old Boys: 104. (A. L. Leigh 47, Pickford 5—53, Whiteford 3—47).

Wed., 24th June, v. St. Edward's School 2nd XI. (Away).

Lost by 39 runs.

Batting first St. Edward's made a bad start, but Neville, the Captain, came in to save a complete collapse. He batted doggedly to score 41, and was bowled by Whiteford. The last few batsmen hit out, and when the last wicket fell their total stood at 112. Pickford and Whiteford shared the wickets between them. The School batted wildly and only Pickford had any measure of success and he hit four boundaries in his 29. St. Edward's fielded well and several good catches were taken.

St. Edward's: 112. (Neville 41, Pickford 5—21, Whiteford 5—41).

School: 76. (Pickford 29, Temple 3—18).

Sat., 1st July, v. Newbury Grammar School. (Away). Drawn.

The hard, dry pitch at Newbury was full of runs and a drawn game resulted. Newbury batted first, and scored quickly from the very beginning. Davis, the Captain, scored 48, most of which were made by admirable back-play. He was well supported by Abbott and Durnford who scored 47 and 38 respectively. Although Newbury scored at a high rate, passing the 100 in an hour and a quarter, they made their declaration too late. Abingdon were faced with 181 to get in little over an hour and a half. After the dismissal of Furby there was no attempt to go for the runs. Lucas batted well and scored 36 in a very confident style. With only 20 minutes left Inwood and Lucas were content to play defensively until the latter was bowled in the last over, attempting a big hit.

The fielding on both sides was of a high standard on the whole, and Furby captained the side capably in the absence of Pickford, whose bowling was seriously missed. Although it was not a bowler's day, Glassbrook (M.C.) must be given credit for taking three of the six Newbury wickets for 60 runs.

Newbury G.S.: 181—6 declared. (Davis 48, Abbott 47, Durnford 38).
Abingdon School: 59—4 (Lucas 36).

Sat., 8th July, v. Magdalen College School. (Away). Tie.

For the second year this match provided an exciting finish. This year the result was a tie, both sides scoring 70. Magdalen College School were grateful to Wright, who scored exactly half of the runs for his side. After his dismissal, however, the wickets fell quickly, which was mainly due to the improved bowling of Furby, Glassbrook (M.C.), and Lucas. Abingdon made a good start and for the first wicket put on 44 runs, Furby scoring 27 and Lucas 16. But when the Magdalen slow left-arm bowlers, Gertner and Gibson, came on, the tempo of the game slowed down. Rows of maiden overs were punctuated with stumpings—impatient efforts to get runs quickly. Only Inwood kept his head, and it was he who hit the final boundary which made the game a tie. In the next over Whiteford was lbw to Gibson. The fielding was keen and Coles stumped three men off the slow bowlers.

Magdalen College School: 70. (Wright 35, Furby 4—14).

School: 70. (Furby 27, Gibson 5—28, Gertner 4—18).

Sat., 15th July, v. Reading School. (Away). Lost by 15 runs.

In one of the best matches of the season, the School lost to Reading School at Reading. The game started in a steady drizzle but this made little difference to the quality of the game, and some very good cricket was seen. Reading School won the toss and elected to bat. The score was carried along slowly and steadily and Digby scored 37 after several early chances. Furby bowled very well in a first spell, and Whiteford bowled his best this season to take the last five wickets for 34 runs. Set with 107 runs to get the school started by scoring at a higher rate than their opponents had done, with Lucas making a quick 13, and Furby 20. Both were caught at silly mid-off trying to drive a full-toss. A lively partnership between Ridout and Glassbrook (M.C.) then followed. They made 13 and 20 respectively. Within sight of victory there was another stand, this time between Sale and Free, the former also scoring 13 before being bowled. A plucky effort by Glassbrook (P.M.) and Whiteford was not enough to save the side and the last wicket fell at 92. On the Reading side Bissolotti must be praised for his accurate slow bowling.

Reading: 107. (Digby 37, Whiteford 5 for 34, Furby 4—35).

School: 92. (Furby 20, Bissolotti 4—20).

2nd XI RESULTS

- v. Wallingford G.S. (Home). Won, 22 for 4 — 21.
 v. City of Oxford School (Away). Draw, 89 for 9 — 99 for 6 dec.
 v. Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe (Away).
 Draw, 113 for 5 — 148 for 5.
 v. Reading School (Home). Lost, 48 — 64.
 v. St. Edward's School Colts (Home). Won, 120 — 72.
 v. Newbury G.S. (Home). Won, 68 for 9 dec. — 65.

'UNDER 15' XI RESULTS

- v. Leighton Park School (Away). Lost 44 — 45 for 1.
 v. City of Oxford School (Away). Lost, 41 — 72.
 v. Oratory School (Away). Won, 52 for 8 — 51 for 9 dec.
 v. Newbury G.S. (Away). Lost, 38 — 164.
 v. Magdalen Coll. Sch. (Home). Draw, 52 for 9 — 121 for 8 dec.
 v. Radley College (Away). Draw, 107 for 4 dec. — 32 for 3.
 (Rain stopped play).

HOUSE MATCHES

Senior:

- Blacknall v. Tesdale. Tesdale won by 6 runs.
 Bennett v. Reeves. Bennett won by 19 runs.
 Bennett v. Tesdale. Tesdale won by 45 runs.
 Carr Cup for Senior Competition—Tesdale House

Junior:

- Bennett v. Blacknall. Bennet won by 29 runs.
 Reeves v. Tesdale. Reeves won by 9 wickets.
 Bennett v. Reeves. Reeves won by 6 wickets.
 Brewer Bowl for Junior Competition—Reeves House.

ROWING, 1950

This has been a most encouraging season for School rowing. Taking into consideration the handicaps of the Lent term mentioned in the last *Abingdonian*, it is good to note that the general standard of rowing has improved. The 1st IV gave King's School Worcester, the eventual finalists, a good race at Marlow, on 23rd June, and in their other races fell only to Magdalen College School. The 2nd IV, although unsuccessful, by no means disgraced themselves and justified their appearance on slides.

The 3rd IV won both their races; and in fact turned out to be a fast and most enthusiastic crew. The 4th crew provided entertainment in their race, and it is unfortunate that speed is not governed by keenness.

The improvement in the standard throughout the Boat Club is due very largely to the 'Hilary', where it has been possible to give individual attention to almost every member of the Club from time to time.

It may be added that the ceremony of naming the 'Hilary', which took place immediately after the House Races, showed that even the Very Senior members of the Boat Club agreed with Horace that it is a good thing to frivol on occasion!

Mention of the 'Hilary' brings to mind the question of equipment. The boats, considering their age, are in reasonable condition, but there are signs that their days are numbered, which is a matter causing grave concern.

Next, it is fitting to record our congratulations to M.C.S. on their 1st and 2nd crews this year. In their race against us, their 1st IV beat their own course record by 6 seconds, and their 2nd IV only failed to do so by 2 seconds. This was an excellent achievement.

Finally it must be noted that if the promise and keenness shown by both seniors and juniors this year can be regarded as an indication of things to come, then we have high hopes for 1951.

1st IV

Although not quite up to last year's standard the crew did very creditably. They matured slowly at first but improved very rapidly in the ten days preceding their visit to Marlow Regatta, becoming much more lively and acquiring a good and steady rhythm.

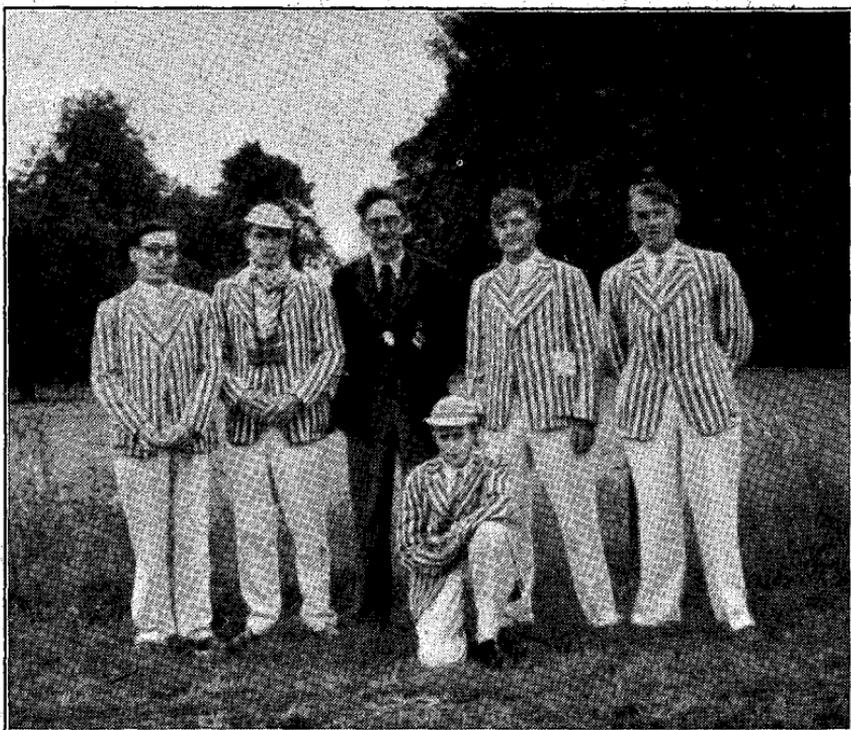
Bow—M. A. C. Heavens. An exceedingly keen and intelligent oar, rather stiff in the body, but improving consistently throughout the season.

'2'—J. A. M. Brakspear. Greatly improved on last year. His blade-work is still a little rough, and he needs to open out his chest more throughout the stroke.

'3'—I. Juggins. A powerful oar, who followed 'stroke' well. Has a slight tendency to swing out at the finish.

Stroke—J. T. Cullen. His style has improved, and he has the right fighting spirit for his position.

Cox—H. R. Leach. Good, with plenty of authority. Tends to shout too much and not crisply enough. Excellent out of the boat.



MARLOW, 1950

M. A. C. Heavens

Mr. R. G. Mortimer

J. A. M. Brakspear

J. T. Cullen

J. Juggins

H. R. Leach

1st IV at Marlow Regatta.

At Marlow the conditions were good with a slight following wind. Our opponents were King's School, Worcester, and Wallasey School. The School had the centre station, and at the start took the lead. After 50 yards King's began to draw up and took the lead. At half way, King's led by a length, and the School were 2 lengths ahead of Wallasey.

Just over half way the School started to spurt and began to draw up on King's who were now only $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths up. The School were rowing very well and in the last 100 yards just failed to overtake King's, who won by $\frac{2}{3}$ of a length.

The School were unlucky to be knocked out in the first heat, their time being third fastest in the event.

This is the first time the School has been to Marlow since the outbreak of War and we hope now to make this an annual fixture.

1st IV RACES

17th May, v. Culham College (Away). Won by 4 lengths.

Time: 3 mins. 43 secs.

The School took the lead at the start, at half way were up by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths and drew away to win comfortably.

24th May, v. Prince Henry's G.S., Evesham (Away). Won by $\frac{1}{2}$ lgh.

The School rowed a good race in a strange boat and against a strong current. Evesham took the lead at the start and kept it for over half the course. The School just managed to win in the last twenty strokes.

3rd June, v. Magdalen College School (Away). Lost by $4\frac{1}{2}$ lengths.

Conditions were good but extremely hot. The School took the lead at the start but could not hold it against their more stylish opponents. At the bend Magdalen, rowing extremely well, were in the lead by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths. The School began to get short and tired, but managed to fight on. They could not, however, hold their better opponents.

The Magdalen crew broke their course record by 6 seconds.

2nd IV

At the beginning of the term, and in spite of the previous term's disorganisation, the crew looked very promising. However, as so often happens in rowing, things just would not go right, in spite of a wealth of good will and effort in the crew. The principal reason was the lack of a stroke who could control the crew in races, as well as work them up to racing pitch in practice. Another fault was very untidy blade-work which lost them a lot of pace. Actually they were by no means a slow crew and lost most of their races by narrow margins, but their speed was the result of 'guts' rather than polish.

The final constitution of the crew was R. S. M. Millard (Stroke), W. L. Wooldridge, B. J. Noyce, G. S. Draisey (bow), A. R. Pezaro (Cox).

2nd IV RACES

17th May, v. Culham College (Away). Lost by 6 ft.

In moderate conditions the School went off well, striking high, and at halfway they were a length up, when a crab lost them $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths. However they recovered and were rowing well at the finish.

24th May, v. Prince Henry's G.S., Evesham (Away). Lost by $\frac{3}{4}$ length.

The School took the lead at the start, but soon began to get short and Evesham went ahead. At half way Evesham were a length up but the School made a great effort to catch up, and only failed by $\frac{3}{4}$ length

3rd June, v. Magdalen College School (Away). Lost by $5\frac{1}{2}$ lengths.

There was little between the Schools at the start, but Magdalen began to draw away and at the bend led by 2 lengths, and thereafter drew away steadily to the finish. Magdalen crew were only 2 seconds outside the course record.

17th June, v. Old Abingdonians (Home). Won by 3 lengths.

Time: 3 mins. $36\frac{3}{4}$ secs.

The School took the lead at the start and were 2 lengths up at half way. The O.A.s kept going very steadily but the School rowed their best race of the season and won comfortably.

O.A. Crew: Bow—J. W. Hullett; '2'—T. W. J. Jordan; '3'—J. L. Wyatt; 'Stroke'—K. Donkin; Cox—T. W. S. Downs.

3rd IV RACES

3rd June, v. Magdalen College School (Away). Won by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths.

The School had a good start and went straight into the lead and at the bend were up by $2\frac{1}{2}$ lengths. Soon after, the crew stopped rowing, owing to a misunderstanding of the starter's instructions, but they pulled themselves together and were rowing well at the finish and returned a fast time for the course.

7th June, v. Wallingford G.S. 1st IV (Home). Won by 5 lengths.

Conditions were good. The School, who were rowing comfortably, were never threatened and won easily in very good time.

The Crew was: J. B. Archer (Stroke); A. J. Taylor, P. H. B. Amey, J. W. Hullett (bow), T. W. S. Downs (Cox).

4th IV

7th June, v. Wallingford G.S. 2nd IV (Home).

Lost by $2\frac{1}{2}$ lengths over a short course.

Wallingford took the lead at the start and rowing nicely drew away to win by $2\frac{1}{2}$ lengths. Conditions were good, but the School were rather raw and very untidy.

The crew was: J. Westall (Stroke); J. H. Light; C. S. Wiggins; G. E. Holford (bow); A. J. Slessor (Cox).

HOUSE RACES (27th July).

In the Senior Race for the Bennett Cup, Tesdale as expected beat Bennett over a course from Corporation farm to Bottrell's Boat house—the race was a good one with $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths difference at the finish.

Crews were: Tesdale: J. T. Cullen (Stroke); W. L. Wooldridge, J. A. M. Brakspear; R. G. Beere (bow); A. R. Pezaro (Cox).

Bennett: M. A. C. Heavens (Stroke); R. S. M. Millard; J. W. Hullett; D. J. Heavens (bow); A. J. Slessor (Cox).

There were no junior races.

SWIMMING

The Swimming Sports

The afternoon of Wednesday, 19th July, saw an experiment; for the first time for many years inter-house swimming sports were held. By kind permission of the Sister Superior we were able to use St. Helen's swimming bath: this however limited the spectators to members of the Staff, their wives, and School Prefects. We were delighted to have as a spectator Mr. Michael Green, the first O.A. to gain a Swimming Blue. At the end of the Sports he presented the certificates and the Green Cup, which he had so kindly given to be awarded to the House gaining the most points. Later he gave a demonstration of the crawl.

The standard of swimming in the Sports was high, especially that of the Under 16s. Amongst a varied programme were displays of life saving by D. J. Heavens and R. G. Beere, diving by Mr. R. H. Coleman, and an obstacle race which was won by J. T. Cullen.

Next year we look forward to a bigger and better gala, with the sun, perhaps, just a little brighter.

The results were as follows:—

(Under 14) 25 yards free style—Nichols, J. A., (Bl.), 18.1 secs.

(Under 14) 50 yards breast stroke—Brown, D. E. (R.), 43.5 secs.

(Under 16) 50 yards back stroke—Hullett (Be.), 34.3 secs.

(Under 16) 100 yards breast stroke—Beere (T.), 83 secs.

(Under 16) 100 yards free style—Redknap (Bl.), 68.6 secs.

(Open) 50 yards back stroke—Inwood (T.) 38.5 secs.

(Open) 100 yards breast stroke—Heavens, D. J. (Be.), 81.1 secs.

(Open) 100 yards free style—Darroch (T.), 67.4 secs.

(Open) Diving—Redknap (Bl.).

Junior (Under 15) Relay—Blacknall House.

Senior Relay—Tesdale House.

The 'Green' Cup was won by Tesdale House with a total of 33 points. Blacknall House had a total of 31 points.

Royal National Life Saving Society Tests

Intermediate—Swainston.

Bronze—Archer, Darroch, Hullett, Noyce, Redknap and Williams.

Bronze Cross—Westall, Wiggins, C. S., and Wooldridge.

TENNIS

The Summer Term was a disappointing one for the Tennis Club. Owing to bad weather it was only possible to play one of the four matches which had been arranged for the Tennis VI. That match, against a Staff VI was an enjoyable one, and although the School was soundly beaten in sets, the games results were more evenly balanced.

During the fine spells a large number of boys enjoyed the Tennis facilities provided for them, and we can hope that the courts will be even better next year, after the application of weed-killer and a re-sowing of bare patches.

BOOK REVIEW

"*The Phantom Waterfall—and Other Illusions*", by Oswald Couldrey; with drawings by the author. Printed and published by the Abbey Press, Abingdon. Price 10/.

Mr. Couldrey has a feeling for the genius of a place; the same sympathy for the Balakrishna laughing on the banks of the Godavery as for the Nymph who dwells on the banks of his native Thames. Without this gift exile must be intolerable. Mr. Couldrey was fortunate that his ready sympathy, and his willingness to allow the Indian students whom he taught to become in turn his teachers, enabled him to make India his second home.

In his introduction to this volume of short stories and sketches the author tells us that some at least are true—though it may be the illusion of truth or the truth of illusion he means. But whatever their truth, each story has about it that quality which is the mark of the story-teller rather than the story-writer; a deceptive simplicity of theme, and a not unattractive suggestion of pompousness and prolixity in the method of narration that recalls the echo of a voice on some far-off verandah in the cool of an Indian evening. In the story that gives the book its title we meet the retired District Judge, Postlethwaite, who "at night, upon his own verandah, was peerless." I should like to think that Postlethwaite at least was more than an illusion. I should like to think that once upon a time he and the author kept each other from their beds until the small hours, with tales of Nandi and Shiva Nata-Raj, of the Tiger that suffered from tooth-ache and the sambhur that died after devouring a Director of Education's minutes. They are good tales to read—but how much better to hear!

R.D.B.

C.C.F.

Exceptionally, the 'excitement' this term has all been crowded together at the end. With public examinations starting so early, it was decided to hold the Annual Inspection in July, while Field Day, scheduled as usual for the first fortnight in May, had to be postponed and was held in fact on the last Wednesday of term. Classes for Cert. 'A', with this term over 40 candidates for Part 2, went on almost to the end. It was found impossible, however, to hold an examination as the military authorities are much taken up in summer with Camp and training commitments. The exam. is to be held in October, the results counting for purposes of promotion as though it had been held during the Summer Term.

The General Inspection—a "Whitehall inspection"—was carried out by Major-General R. A. R. Neville, C.B.E., Royal Marines, vice Lt.-General Sir Leslie Hollis, who was required to attend the Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst on the day fixed for the inspection. The weather was kind to us, and so was the General, who expressed himself more than satisfied with everything that he saw. For the first time in our history, we were able to produce a band for the great occasion; not, alas, our own, but the band of R.N.A.S., Culham. We are most grateful to Captain Grant for his kind help in this matter, and, of course, we are grateful to the band also.

Field Day, held in perfect weather, provided a good 'battle' for the many; a minority unhappily failed to make any contact at all as the result of muddled directions from a guide. That there is need for more training in Verbal Messages is shown by the fact that the self-same person, acting as Bn. Comdr.'s runner in a big exercise at Camp substituted the word 'right' for 'left' in a message to a Coy. Comd.! The results might well have been disastrous had not the officer concerned been sure enough of his ground to disregard the message delivered!

The outflow from our ranks will not be great this year, and we hope for an intake of over 50 and a further increase in our establishment. During the year, Form 3A set a precedent by being the first to join the Corps to a man. We hope that in the new Corps year, BOTH Third Forms will follow this high example, and so lay the foundation of a new tradition—100 per cent. membership of the Corps.

Stop Press:—As we go to Press, the report on our Annual Inspection has come in. General Neville has many gratifying things to say about our efficiency and standard of training, and in particular, has gone out of his way to compliment us on the steadiness of our bearing on parade. Congratulations to all concerned!

BOURLEY CAMP, 1950.

The contingent at camp numbered 63—3 Officers, 1 P.S.I., 59 O.R.s—while 1 Officer and 10 ratings attended Naval camp at Chatham. This was much the strongest representation in our history; nearly 50 per cent. of our strength, it was appreciably higher than that of many larger schools. Congratulations to all who realized that it is right, as well as enjoyable, to go to Camp. We hope that you had a thoroughly enjoyable time, that you learnt a good deal and that you will be with us again next year bringing some of your good friends with you!

Our soldiering began and ended in the rain; this apart, we were singularly fortunate in the weather. In the matter of health, we were less fortunate. On the eve of camp, one N.C.O. fell sick so spoiling our nice round figure of 60 cadets; after four days, Lieut. Baynes, whose labours with the advance party had made the way so plain for us, had to return home suffering from sinus trouble; that same night Cadet Slesser was taken into the Camp hospital a victim to asthma—to recover, however, in time to parade on the last day of training. There was, in

addition, a succession of minor ailments and accidents which made the name, Abingdon, familiar, if not notorious, in the M.I. Room.

It seems a little odd, perhaps, to record immediately after this that by general consent, Bourley, 1950, has been the best Camp since the war. It was less spectacular than Warminster where the demonstrations by regular troops were of the highest order; at Bourley demonstrations were given largely by the cadets themselves. As spectacles, they were thus less impressive but their training value was great. Indeed the emphasis this year has been on doing rather than seeing. Training areas were much more extensive than at Warminster, and each contingent had the full-time assistance of one or more newly commissioned officers from Mons O.C.T.U. The keenness of these officers to tackle anything and everything was a tonic as well as a great help to rather faded schoolmasters, whilst their precise knowledge of training areas and programmes enabled the Commandant to dispense with the long daily Conferences that have been a feature of earlier camps. Smooth administration within the camp, good food and an abundance of entertainment, culminating on the last evening with a fine sing-song concert around a great bonfire with music by the band of the 2nd Bn. Parachute Regt.—all these things contributed to making the week one that will live in our memories.

Competitively speaking, the School was less successful than some: at such things as kit layout and Guard Mounting we could not compete on quite level terms with the larger and more practised schools. Our one recorded success—let us whisper it in Gath!—lay in winning the 'Under 16' six-a-side Soccer Competition and in reaching, with the same young side, the semi-final of the Senior event. This was in competition with such Soccer schools as Repton and Bradfield.

We do not, however, think of Camp as an inter-school competition, but rather as a time when pleasure is combined with profitable training and when we can get to know each other as men and soldiers. On this basis, we may well rest satisfied with our achievements while looking forward—naturally—to even better things next year.

ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

There are no changes to report this term, except that S./Lt. Barker now appears in uniform, but the Summer Term has been an eventful one none the less.

At the beginning of the term, the whaler was successfully launched, after a fifty yard voyage on rollers along the road, without the difficulty which had been anticipated. Her maiden voyage was completed shortly afterwards.

Towards the end of term the Annual Inspection took place and both Major General Neville and Commander Collett expressed themselves pleased with the turn out, and we have since received a good report.

In the following week the whole section went to Chatham for Field Day. We were entertained by the Royal Naval Barracks and shown over H.M.S. Tonbridge, a destroyer, where we learned a great deal. Not the least important lesson, perhaps, came from a practical demonstration by a member of the Section, who shall be nameless, that a chin-stay will not hold a cap on in a high wind, if one faces downwind!

At the end of term, ten cadets went to Chatham for summer training, which was spent in H.M.S. Gabbard, a Battle Class Destroyer where we had a very enjoyable and very instructive week. Activities included a day at sea in H.M.S. Skomer, a wreck disposal Ship, (during which we sighted a yacht that had broken down and towed her back), visits to a Submarine, an M.G.B., a Survey ship and a Minesweeper, a tour of the Gunnery School at Chatham, and the older part of the Dockyard, as well as pulling and sailing in the basin. Altogether it was voted "better than last year."

Throughout the term we have been greatly indebted once more to P.O. Beathan of R.N.A.S., Culham, who has given up a great deal of time to instruction and generally helping with the Section. We are very grateful to him.

We are losing several members of the Section this term, and we wish them all the best of luck in their new life.

SCOUT TROOP

At the beginning of Summer Term, a new Cup was presented by Mr. H. P. Light to be awarded each term for general proficiency in Scouting. The first recipient to whom we give our heartiest congratulations was G. R. H. Slack. Congratulations must also go to P. O. Older who gained his Second Class Badge a little later in the term.

The highlights of the Summer Term were, of course, Founders' Day and the first Troop camp which took place immediately after the end of term from 1st to 8th August. The last few weeks of term saw hectic arrangements for Founder's Day, the erection of mysterious gadgets on Waste Court field and furious 'swotting' in preparation for questions from parents. On the day itself, the item which attracted most attention was cooking of 'drop-scones'. These were sampled enthusiastically not only by the cooks themselves but by non-scout members of the School and even by a few parents. Another popular exhibit was the shower bath which, however, showered the spectators as much as the bathers.

The first annual camp, held at Youlbury, Boar's Hill, was attended by seven scouts, several of whom were under canvas for the first time. We also welcomed at camp an old friend, Mr. Sturby, better known as 'Ron', of Culham College. Too much tribute cannot be paid to the gallant way in which he tackled the transportation of all the equipment and all the odd jobs that fell to his lot. We were pleased to number

Mr. and Mrs. Cobban and Mr. Ingham among our visitors at camp. During the camp, a two-day hike was made to Hill End Farm, a former open air school, where the night was spent under the stars. A visit was also paid to the annual canoe cruise organised by the 'Scout' at Clifton Hampden, one of their overnight camping places. The departure of the cruise from this place was televised the following day.

Finally, may we give thanks to all the friends and parents, too numerous to mention, who gave or lent food and equipment and so helped to make the camp such a success.

ROYSSSE SOCIETY

The Society, owing to the Certificate Examinations, held its two meetings of the Summer term late in July.

At the first meeting members read pieces of prose or verse, which they had selected themselves, and gave reasons for their choice. Each piece was then discussed by the Society, and there was in most cases plenty to discuss. Selections ranged from Nash to Kipling, from Dickens to Chesterton, and this was one of the best meetings the Society has enjoyed.

The second meeting took the form of a paper on "Russia" read by M. Bateman. The paper dealt with all sides of the Soviet life and ideology, and in the discussion that followed red herrings abounded.

Again the Society is indebted to the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban for their hospitality, and to the readers and writers who supplied two most enjoyable evenings.

DEBATING SOCIETY

During the Summer term the Debating Society was only able to hold three meetings owing to the pressure of other activities.

At the first meeting of the term the school decided by a narrow majority that National Service should be abolished. This debate was more lively than usual and provoked a large number of members to speak. Unfortunately the debate was cut short by lack of time.

The second debate was rather less serious in tone, although the subject was a serious one. The motion before the House was, "That Jazz is a debased form of art", and there was strong feeling over the question. The House, however, on hearing that a certain High Priest of Jazz had managed to produce a growl from a cornet, was generally in support of the aspirations of Jazz towards a higher sphere of art. The motion was defeated and the Jazz-men retired victorious.

The last meeting of the Summer term took the form of a 'hat debate'. The subjects ranged from "Rambling" to "Prussian Apothecaries", and there was, generally, a high standard of speaking. This interlude gave members who did not usually speak the opportunity of expressing themselves before the Society.

Although few in number the debates were of a higher standard than usual, and we can hope for even better things next term.

TURNOR SOCIETY

This term there were only three meetings. This was because of the Certificate examinations which raged in mid-term with intermittent fervour and left precious little time for extra cultural activities. The meetings that we had, however, were all enjoyable, and the first was of a novel kind; in it Mr. D. O. Willis read sundry fables from Robert Louis Stevenson which appealed as their eerie or humourous flavour varied and it varied with the fable.

The next meeting dealt with a more tangible form of the arts, with buildings; it was called "Georgian Architecture" and was delivered by Mr. G. H. Cooper. This talk was specially interesting to us because we live in a town which owes its architectural allegiance to the Georgian style—amongst others. The subject of the next talk was "Malaya" and the speaker, Mr. Innes Miller, M.A., spoke from first-hand experience since he was once British adviser at Perak. He dealt fully with Malaya's chequered history and with the ethnological problem, though we could have wished that more time had been spent upon the more consequential political situation. In all, however, we had a most edifying series of talks and all of us profitted something from each one.

A.E.W.

GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

Four meetings were held during the term which saw the election of a new Hon. Sec., P. C. Richardson.

At the first meeting, Mr. J. F. H. Barker introduced Beethoven's 6th Symphony (The Pastoral).

The second programme was made up of two works, the Symphony No. 94 in G major by Haydn, and the Overture, Fingal's Cave, Opus 20, by Mendelsshon.

At the third meeting we heard the Symphonic Study, Falstaff, Opus 68, by Elgar. The work, although new to many of us, proved to be most amusing and enjoyable.

The last meeting of the term consisted of a miscellany of records and included two dances from the Bartered Bride by Smetana, two Neapolitan folk tunes—Torno-a-Sorrénto and Matinatta, Panis Angelicus by César Frank, and a selection of arias from Saint Saens' opera Samson and Delilah. This programme was introduced by M. W. Mathews and P. C. Richardson.

So ended a most enjoyable series of meetings. We are most grateful to Mr. J. I. Taylor for his generous gift of ten guineas, thus laying the foundations of the Abingdon School Record Library.

P.C.R.

JOINT CLUB

The Club held two meetings in the Summer term.

The first took the form of a tennis evening; and although it had been raining, the play was generally good.

For the second meeting the Club went to an O.U.D.S. production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". This was a delightful occasion, and because of the fine acting it was possible to enjoy oneself under cramped conditions.

LIBRARY NOTES

Last term the Library staff were busily employed in completing the Author Index in addition to their routine work, and can now look forward to tackling the Subject Index.

It is a great pleasure to have so many gifts and 'Leaving Books' to acknowledge and to all the donors we offer our sincere thanks. From Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Cooper we have received *Poetry and Prose of John Donne and Collected Poems of A. E. Housman*: from Miss V. Shurrock *Horace, translated by various hands*: and from P. R. Lucas *Pericles and Athens*. As 'Leaving Books' we have received *Poems of T. S. Eliot* from M. H. Venables: *The Story of Art* from D. E. Allen: *Modern Physics* from R. Klein: *Letters of Cicero* from P. R. Lucas: *The Kon-Tiki Expedition* from J. H. Light: and books, whose titles will be given in our next issue, from P. F. C. Berry, M. Buzzard, J. S. Draisey, P. H. Frearson, F. T. Garrett, F. S. P. Gee, T. W. Packer, I. M. Pickford, D. Rabson, D. W. H. Ridout and D. L. Treacher. In addition some forty books have been added to the Library during the term by purchase. But the Library staff are very seriously concerned at the slackness of borrowers, both in registering withdrawals and returning books, as revealed in the terminal check. No doubt most of the 70 odd missing books will reappear next term, but such behaviour is, to put it mildly, unsocial, and more frankly dishonest, since other readers are being deprived of their share of the books. Rather than threaten, we appeal for a stricter observance of the rules.

Lastly we have to thank H. B. Stevens and B. H. Islip for completing the Albums of Team photographs up-to-date. Stripping, mounting and lettering some 65 prints was a very considerable task excellently done, and posterity will be duly grateful.

G.F.D.

THE OXFORD LETTER

Sir.

Eights Week, the Cherwell and "School"—such varied attractions—produce upon the individual a like effect, if one is to judge from Abingdonians in this "city of screaming tyres:" one of somnolence. Only M. J. Green, following up his success in the freshmen's swimming event, has had the energy to evade the serried ranks of tutors, tourists and undergraduettes to gain the coveted Blue—on which we heartily congratulate him.

For the rest, your correspondents have had to pursue them either into the murky depths of the now recognised "King's Arms" or into the equally murky recesses of the upper Cherwell. All however would appear to have taken honours degrees in P.P.E., i.e. Punting, Politesse and Etiquette, whilst Jim Betterton, Tim Moore, Mark Hedger and Mike Green have also pulled an oar to some effect upon the Isis.

In addition to these activities we must congratulate two of our number, A. J. Betterton and G. H. Willson, on their respective marriages. It is obvious that in contrast to the pre-war student the present-day undergrad, is serious in more ways than one. At this juncture it becomes us to point out that although no Abingdonian has scaled the heights of the Martyrs' Memorial,—a useless prank,—two of our more "Intelligent" members have at least scaled the walls of Worcester in search of coffee.

As most O.A.s are in their first year they have had the hurdles of "Mods" to overcome, and this must account for the worried looks of Sanders, Garner and Wheaton, whilst the shadow of "Schools" drove Moore and Hedger from their customary retreats into the unaccustomed light of the Camera. However, Tim's farewell party was adjudged by that competent critic, the Isis, to be one of the best of the term.

A happy omen was the reappearance in our midst of Mr. Duxbury. A malicious rumour that he had mistaken the date of responsions was rapidly proved false by his elevation to the dizzy heights of a Master of Arts—Congratulations.

To all others involved in this search for knowledge—or perhaps for an easy way of acquiring it—we wish joy in their quest wherever they may be and thus remain, Sir,

Your Oxford Correspondents.

(J.A.G. & D.H.W.)

O.A. NOTES

BIRTHS

BLACKMORE. On 22nd May, 1950, to Margaret, wife of John C. Blackmore (1933) a son, brother to Peter and Jennifer.

KILLBOURN. On 16th April, 1950, to Dorothy, wife of Bernard C. Killbourn (1926) a second son, Michael Edwin.

LACEY JOHNSON. On 16th June, to Corinne, wife of Capt. Lionel Lacey Johnson (1944) a daughter, Hilary.

LEFTWICH. On 23rd July, at Portway Hospital, Weymouth, to Wendy (nee Arundale) wife of Capt. J. M. Leftwich (1942), 3rd Carabiniers, a son and daughter.

LIVINGSTON. On 25th July, at Harwell House, Hartfield, Sussex, to Mary, wife of Major Guy Livingston (1935), R.A., a daughter, Anne, sister for Michael.

MILLS. On 23rd May, 1950, to Norma, wife of Alan M. Mills, (1939) a son, Barry Michael.

NEWMAN. On 7th August, at Wimbledon, to Jane, wife of Durnford F. W. Newman (1935) a son, James Richard Wyndham.

STEFF. On 28th April, 1950, at Oxford, to Edna, wife of Bernard Steff (1931) a daughter, Alison Claire, a sister for Rosemary.

MOORE. On 24th July, at St. Anne's Nursing Home, Headington, to Jean, wife of Mr. C. E. T. Moore, a daughter.

MARRIAGES

ALLUM—BEASLEY. On 8th April, 1950, at St. Helen's Church, Abingdon, Philip R. Allum (1943) to Eugenie F. Beasley.

CUTTERIDGE—LOVATT. On 10th June, at St. Andrew's Church, Chesterton, Cambridge, John E. Cutteridge (1942) to Daphne Lovatt, of Cambridge.

JAMIESON—BRAY. On 19th August, at St. Helen's Church, Abingdon, Ian J. Macdonald Jamieson (1946) to Miss T. M. L. Bray of Abingdon.

LIDSEY—HERRING. On 12th August, at Wantage Parish Church, John Edward Lidsey (1941) to Miss M. E. Herring.

ROGERS—HATHAWAY. On 3rd August, 1950, at St. Nicolas' Church, Abingdon, Arthur Conrad Rogers (1935) to Beryl Hathaway.

WHITFIELD—PAGE. On 8th April, at Sutton Courtenay Church, Edward G. B. Whitfield (1946) to Kathleen Page.

WILLSON—WARWICK. On 10th July, 1950, at St. James' Church, Cowley, Guy Hubert Willson (1945) of 30 Park Road, Abingdon to Betty Warwick, of Cowley, Oxford.

DEATHS

GARRETT. On Sunday, 16th July, as the result of an accident at Northleach, Anthony Horace Garrett (1947) aged 19 years.

LEONARD. In June, 1950, accidentally killed by the overturning of his car, Harry Augustus Leonard (1906) of Winchester, aged 61.

It is always grievous to record the untimely cutting-short of a young life, but particularly so when, as in the case of Tony Garrett the future appeared so full of useful service. During his 5 years at the school, from 1942 to 1947, he took an enthusiastic part in all activities, and his cheerful disposition and readiness to lend a hand wherever it was wanted, betokened qualities of character which he was already turning to good account before he left school. After taking a two-year course in bakery at the London Polytechnic he joined the R.A.F. in 1949. He was unfortunate enough to suffer a severe injury during P.T. but had made a good recovery and at the time of his death was stationed at the R.A.F. School of Cookery, Innsworth. He had for some time been deputy organist and a Sunday School teacher at Southmoor Methodist Church and was preparing himself to become a local preacher. To his parents and younger brother we offer our sincere sympathy.

We have also received belated news of the death in 1947, of Rev. Ernest Wright Johnson (1882) who was an Abingdon Scholar of Pembroke College, Oxford and subsequently a lecturer at Cheshunt College: and of Mr. H. H. Gibson, a member of the Staff 1903—1912. He went on to Rossall School and was a housemaster there for many years.

We congratulate G. E. Sinclair (1931), Assistant at the Secretariat, Accra, Gold Coast, on the award of the O.B.E. in the recent Honours List, and also on the recent gift of Twins; and Michael Green (1947) on winning his Blue for Swimming at Oxford.

R. L. Triggs (1931) is now living in Lisbon with an engineering job. We were glad to see him, after many years' absence, at the O.A. functions:

Another unexpected visitor was H. A. Lunghi (1939) who after some six years in Moscow has a post in the Foreign Office in London.

Alan Mills (1939) now living at Curridge, near Newbury, and lately presented with a son, is the District Organiser for the National Society for the Blind.

Maurice Packer (1943) is at the Aeronautical Experimental Establishment, Farnborough, and A. L. Shepherd (1935) is working with Nuffield Exports branch at Oxford.

Rupert Hedger (1940) after taking his degree and prior to taking up a post in the Sudan Civil Service is doing some teaching at a Preparatory School.

M. D. Wells (1937) now working with Tsetse Survey and Control in Kenya, has had some varied experiences since leaving School. Joining the R. Berks Regt. in 1937, he was at Dunkirk and in 1940 was

commissioned into the Indian Army, with the Gurkhas. He served on the N.W. Frontier and in Burma, where he was severely wounded, and after the war was seconded to the Police for service in Malaya. Finally, after commanding a mobile column during the disturbed period of Partition, he was 'pensioned off' and proceeded to join his elder brother in Kenya, where he is very well satisfied with his lot.

His younger brother Gerald (1940) has also done well. After winning the 'Belt of Honour' at Sandhurst in 1942 he served in Normandy and Germany and later on in Italy. He then resigned his commission, took a degree in Economics at London University, married and is now Personnel Manager with a large firm in Stockport.

An O.A. of 150 years ago was the subject of a talk by Mr. A. C. Longland, K.C., to the Abingdon Rotary Club in April. He was Sir William Boxall, R.A., who was born in 1800, was exhibiting pictures in 1823 and later became Director of the National Gallery. He was knighted in 1871 and died in 1879. In the course of his talk, Mr. Longland, a collateral descendant of Boxall, quoted from letters—many in caustic vein—written to the painter by noted contemporaries including Wordsworth, Keats, Ruskin and Tennyson.

Listeners to the B.B.C. European Service may, or may not, have recognised the voice of Lionel Cather (1936) giving one or two talks in French on various aspects of life in England (Bill Bevir please note!). This does not mean that he has given up banking, and he may still be found at the Westminster, St. James' Street.

Elwyn Jones (1941) after a near-miss for a First in P.P.E. joined the Ministry of Works and was recently engaged on a survey of the stone industry in the Cotswolds.

R. G. Sprules (1938) is a P.T. Instructor with the Royal Mail Line, at present on the 'Andes'.

J. A. Penning (1949) who 'signed on' in March with the Anglo Saxon Petroleum Co., has already travelled far on the M.V. 'Naninia'. After a trip to Rotterdam and Poland, he crossed the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico, travelling up the Mississippi as far as Baton Rouge. By the time this is printed he has probably traversed several more of the Seven Seas.

John Cowling (1944) now in residence at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he gained an Open Scholarship in History, hopes to be returning to this part of the country again from the North, and we also hope to see more of him.

A. H. Morser (1940) now married and with one child and living at Twickenham is working on the electrical side with the Shell Oil Company.

A. C. Dean (1940) now has a post with the famous Heinz firm, and Alan Upton (1950) has embarked upon a 3 years training course in London with Heals, the well known furnishing establishment.

C. C. Woodley (1942) is now Vice-Principal of Culham College, and was to be seen at the Church of England Pavilion at the Royal Show at Oxford.

Peter Hayter (1946) is working with the Abingdon firm of solicitors D'Almaïne & Cockeram, and J. S. T. Mills (1938) now married and living in London, is frequently to be seen in Abingdon as his firm, Laings, has many big contracts in hand in these parts, notably the Drayton Road building estate.

Services News.

Major A. J. Turnham, R.A., (1934) has returned to this country from U.S.A. but for how long we cannot say.

R. A. Clay (1948) passed out from the R.M.A. in June and hoped to be posted to R.A.

Rob Reed (1948) is a 2nd Lt. in the Glósters, stationed at Colchester, and R. J. Pezaro (1947), also commissioned, was last heard of with a Parachute Unit in N. Wales.

Brian Jakeman (1945) after leave in the summer returned to the 1st Oxf. & Bucks. in Cyprus.

G. S. Strachan (1949) has been at Mons O.C.T.U.

D. M. Aldworth (1949) has been joined at R.A.P.C. Depot, Devizes, by A. H. Cherrill (1948) and W. J. Dunkley (1948).

M. H. Venables (1950) has been doing his 3 months sea training in the destroyer 'Bleasdale', which has been on a cruise to Hamburg and elsewhere. Life is not without interest for him.

Tony Bastin (1949) has been posted to Benson R.A.F. Station where he found another O.A., T. L. Nudds (1944).

Another chance meeting, this time in Eritrea, occurred when Tony Jordan (1948), now demobbed, found A. M. Strong (1944) a sergeant in the same unit, the 1st R. Berks.

O.A. CLUB NOTES

For the benefit of those members who were unable to be present we give here the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the Old Abingdonian Club was held in the School Library on Saturday, 17th June, at 5.45 p.m. The President was in the Chair, and forty-seven members were present.

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

2. The Secretary's Report showed that the Club had had a successful year, the Committee a busy one, and that membership of the Club had increased by twenty-three during the year. The report was adopted.

3. The Treasurer's report showed a bank balance on 17th June of £130 10s. 3d. This report was also adopted with thanks to those concerned.

4. Proposals for Re-organisation (as already circulated to Club). The President outlined them as a whole and then took each proposal in turn and put it to the meeting. After much serious discussion on each point they were all approved. These proposals are detailed in the minute book together with the names of proposers and seconders to each, and with Mr. G. V. Bayley's rider attached to Proposal 8, namely, "that the Committee should realise the liability it has placed upon itself of seeing that the money is safe-guarded and wisely spent." 106 members of the Club who were not present conveyed in writing their approval of the proposals and 4 their disapproval.

5. The Committee, as instructed by the previous A.G.M. put before the meeting a sample of the proposed new tie. A proposition, proposed by Mr. J. A. D. Cox, seconded by Mr. R. D. Gibaud that this sample should be adopted for the new tie was carried unanimously.

6. The Officers elected for 1950-51 were as follows:—

President: S. Cullen; Vice President: J. M. Cobban, Treasurer: W. Bevir; Secretary: N. J. Holmes; Ass. Secretary: J. O. Bury; Sports Secretary: E. H. Aldworth; London Secretary: (left to the Committee to select a suitable person). Committee (Retiring 1951) G. F. Duxbury, J. M. Viney, W. G. Bradfield; (Retiring 1952) J. B. Alston, S. A. Paige, R. E. Eason; (Retiring 1953) John Hooke, R. F. Jackson, W. H. Stevens; (Retiring 1954) J. H. Bartlett, J. D. Wood, M. J. Cullen.

Mr. H. Donkin proposed that the Committee should appoint a Sub-Committee under the Sports Secretary to help him in his arduous task. This was carried.

7. The meeting unanimously agreed to present the School Boat Club with £50 to cover their purchase of a tub-pair.

8. The President told the meeting of the Committee's proposal to have a portrait of Mr. Grundy painted and presented to him on his seventieth birthday. The meeting gave whole-hearted support to this proposal.

9. There being no further business the President thanked all for their indulgence and declared the meeting closed.

O.A. DINNER

The Annual Dinner which took place after the meeting was attended by some seventy members and guests, including, for the first time in our history, a Lady Mayor of Abingdon. Needless to say the Dinner, enlivened by some excellent speeches, was a great success.

The Club Dance will be held on Saturday, 2nd December, following the Rugger match. It is hoped, now that petrol is unrationed, that we shall see more members present this year. Therefore, please, keep this date in mind.

The Secretary is always pleased to answer any queries and particularly to receive notice of changes of address.

N. J. HOLMES (Hon. Sec.),
19 Victoria Road, Abingdon, Berks.

The following new members have been elected since April, 1950:—

- D. E. ALLEN, 2/50, 94 High Street, Sutton Courtenay, Berks.
- M. J. AUSTWICK, 2/50, 98 South Avenue, Abingdon.
- D. P. BROWN, 12/49, 35 Caldecott Gardens, Abingdon.
- G. H. BROWN, 7/47, 35 Caldecott Gardens, Abingdon.
- J. COWLING, 7/44, Magdalen College, Oxford.
- P. GURBUTT, 3/50, 6 Marcham Road, Drayton, Berks.
- M. D. MILLICHAP, 3/50, 21 Baronsmere Road, East Finchley, N.13.
- A. M. MILLS, 12/39, Old Pond Cottage, Curridge, Nr. Newbury.
- A. R. UPTON, 4/50, Lenthalls, Dry Sandford, Nr. Abingdon.
- M. H. VENABLES, 3/50, Culham College, Abingdon, Berks.

The number of changes of address is too great for them to be given here, but will be sent out in a supplement to the List of Members.

OLD ABINGDONIAN TRUST FUND

Since our last report, forms of Covenant have been signed by L. G. Cather, R. C. Clarke and C. E. T. Moore, and Bankers' Orders by J. W. G. Freeston, J. H. Hill, H. A. Lunghi, H. D. S. Stiles, J. L. Taylor and M. D. Well, to all of whom we say 'Thank you very much indeed!'

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

The Life Membership Subscription to the Old Abingdonian Club is Six Guineas, which covers all the privileges of the Club and receipt of 'The Abingdonian' for life.

The Subscription is proportionately reduced for those who have left the School ten or more years ago, and may also be paid by annual instalments of One Guinea.

All Subscriptions to the Club or enquiries relating thereto should be sent to the Treasurer, W. Bevir, Esq., 36 Park Road, Abingdon, Berks.

"THE ABINGDONIAN"

Existing Members of the Club and others can obtain the Magazine in three ways:

1. *By Banker's Order for a minimum of 5/- p.a. payable to the Old Abingdonian Trust Fund. (Forms of Covenant are available which will nearly double the value of all annual subscriptions to the Fund of One pound or more).*
2. *By compounding for Life Subscription on a sliding scale according to age.*
3. *By subscription to the Magazine at current price—at present 4/- per annum.*

All subscriptions to the O.A.T.F. and 'The Abingdonian' or queries relating to them should be sent to G. P. Duxbury, Abingdon School, Berks, who will also be glad at all times to receive news from and concerning O.A.s.