

Misericordias
Domini



in aeternum
cantabo

THE ABINGDONIAN

Vol. X. No. 2.

SEPTEMBER, 1953

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CALENDAR, MICHAELMAS TERM, 1953

September

- F. 18 Term begins.
T. 29 Field Day—C.C.F. and Scouts.
W. 30 1st XV v. D. O. Willis' XV (h).

October

- W. 7 1st XV v. Reading School (a).
S. 10 1st XV v. Newbury Grammar School (a).
W. 14 1st XV v. Pembroke College (a).
W. 21 1st XV v. St. Edward's School 2nd XV (a).
S. 24 1st XV v. Solihull School (a).
W. 28 1st XV v. Radley College 2nd XV (h).
F. 30 to Monday, 2nd November. Half Term.

November

- W. 4 1st XV v. Magdalen College School (h).
S. 7 1st XV v. Southfield School (h).
W. 18 1st XV v. Windsor County School (h).
S. 21 1st XV v. Royal Grammar Sch., High Wycombe (a).
S. 28 1st XV v. City of Oxford School (a).
Su. 29 Confirmation Service, 3 p.m.

December

- S. 5 1st XV v. Old Abingdonians (h).
F. 11 School Play: 'Macbeth'.
S. 12 School Play: 'Macbeth'.
F. 18 Term ends, 10.15 a.m.

Lent Term begins 9 a.m. on Friday, 15th January, 1954 (Boarders return Thursday, 14th January).

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SCHOOL OFFICERS

(Michaelmas Term, 1953)

School Prefects

P. J. Millard (*Head of the School*)

M. J. Brackley (*Head of School House*)

J. C. Ivatts (S)	P. J. Lay (D)
D. A. Jones (W)	M. J. Hudson (D)
B. D. Guimaraens (S)	T. W. S. Downs (L)
D. S. Lloyd (D)	A. C. Marshall (S)
H. G. Williams (S)	C. J. Lockhart-Smith (C)
R. M. Marchbanks (S)	J. F. Heavens (D)
P. G. Cope (D)	E. G. Rockall (D)

House Prefects

School House—B. J. Hiscock, M. J. Ralfe, J. D. Hall, R. E. J. Packer,
R. H. Redknapp.

Larkhill—E. H. Smith.

Waste Court—R. N. Paxman, A. R. Pezaro.

Crescent House—P. W. Kemp.

Dayboy—B. L. O. Walker, A. J. Pickford, J. Blinman, J. M. Pulsford,
M. J. Morris, J. M. Thistlewood, J. R. Pratt,
P. Stroud-Viney, P. O. Older, D. M. P. Jones,
J. A. Nichol.

Captain of Rigger—P. J. Millard.

Vice-Captain of Rigger—M. J. Brackley.

Secretary of Rigger—A. C. Marshall.

Captain of Cross-Country—J. C. Ivatts.

Secretary of G.G.C.—M. J. Brackley.

Secretary of Minor Games—P. J. Millard.

The Abingdonian

Editor—C. J. Lockhart-Smith.

Asst. Editors—P. J. Millard, D. S. Lloyd, R. E. J. Packer.

O. A. Editor and Hon. Treas.—Mr. G. F. Duxbury.

EDITORIAL

The memory of Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in all its splendour and dignity is still fresh in our minds; but, though we shall long remember the pomp of that occasion, let us remember too that the lot of our monarch is far different from the ideal of Homer's younger hero Telemachus:

*It is no evil to be King; his house
Becometh rich, and he the more renowned.*

The past century has seen the decay or overthrow of many a European or Asian dynasty and the substitution, all too often, of a régime grimmer than its predecessor. But the events of Coronation Day have proved—if proof were needed—that the British monarchy is as firmly established as before in the affections of the Commonwealth and the peoples of many other lands. In good measure this happy state can be traced to the essential human sympathy and the outstanding personal integrity of our late rulers.

With the vision of the Abbey ceremony still before us, we can realise that it is indeed a glorious thing to be King; but let us realise too that pageantry is only the facade of a relentless and onerous task. Perhaps it takes conscious effort to realise how often the Queen is in the public eye—and in this she is following the tradition of her father and grandfather who were truly "men of the people". She is ever engaged on an endless routine of ceremonial visits and details of administration, with little time for the rest and recreation which we all enjoy and indeed regard as our right.

The dawn of a new Elizabethan era has been sentimentally greeted in universal chorus; but it still remains for an equally universal effort to convert that sentiment into fact. The Queen in her Coronation dedicated herself to the service of her people, and we know that she will not spare herself in a particularly unenviable service. Let us then not demand too much of her.

Furthermore, there is still room for patriotism in peace, a patriotism that means more than flag-waving and pious platitude on State occasions. In this respect we all can make a full contribution. The Coronation has focussed upon us the attention of a world still uneasy and uncertain of the future. Therefore the example we set, in the early days of the new era, in unity and tolerance, will count for much in the eyes of other men. Queen Elizabeth will be no mere figure-head in this task, but our responsibility is as great.

WORK IN PROGRESS

(A note by the Headmaster)

An expanding school has plenty of difficulties to face in these days. It is all the more satisfactory therefore to consider how much the Governors (with the support of the Old Boys and the generous help of friends of the School) have been able to do in recent years to improve existing amenities and to increase accommodation. The Science Block, Lacies Court and the War Memorial Field are permanent acquisitions the value of which we shall realise more and more as time goes on.

Meanwhile progress continues; and during the past holidays there seems to have been more activity than ever in the School buildings and grounds. Inside School House, the complicated plans for constructing the new Pantry have at last been carried out and boys will return to find the Dining Hall wall broken by the new serving-hatches. Meals will run more smoothly and expeditiously, and the germs and bacilli (which presumably we have eaten without ill-effect for so many years) will stand little chance of survival in the gleaming sterilising sinks.

Consequential alterations include the conversion of the existing pantry into a new boot-room, and a considerable reorganisation of the heating system. A new stokehold has been constructed underneath Study Corridor. Hot water is being laid on to Big Dormitory. Facilities are being provided for super-heating the Wardroom during the holidays so that all the mattresses can be properly aired.

The decoration of the little lobbies outside Big and Upper Dormitories, originally planned for last Christmas holidays, has now been completed. The Tesdale Room has been redecorated in cream and two contrasting shades of blue. A new wooden floor has been laid in the Strange Room. We may add to this list of minor works that the corridor and stairs of the Science Block received their final coat of paint over Easter. A beautifully written note recording the history of its construction has since been hung in the main entrance.

The War Memorial Field is now covered with a really thick carpet of grass. The posts are in position round the field and we await the fencing. We are grateful to Mr. Cooper for designing the wrought-iron gates which are being specially made for the main entrance to the Field.

As these words are being written, Crescent House is alive with workmen who are striving to complete the extensive adaptations in time for the beginning of the term. The two new senior classrooms which Crescent House will provide are being named Godwyn and Lemprière after former headmasters of the School. Dr. Thomas Godwyn (1608-1625), the most important of the seventeenth century headmasters, was a voluminous writer whose works include a Roman History "for the use of Abingdon School", copies of which are in the School Library.

Dr. John Lemprière (1792-1809) attained a wider fame through his classical dictionary which had such a great influence on Keats and the other romantic poets. It may be remembered that the latest edition of it (1949) was, by a happy coincidence, revised and rewritten by the father of an Old Boy of the School. It is fitting that both these names should be commemorated in this way.

The greater part of the house however will be used as accommodation for sixteen senior boarders under the wing of Mr. and Mrs. Talbot. The opening of a new senior boarding house, even on a comparatively small scale, is an event of major importance and we all hope that Crescent House will have before it a long and prosperous history.

The Governors have recently decided that the new Pavilion shall be designed in a modern rather than a traditional style, and detailed plans are now being discussed. In view of the extreme difficulties presented by the site, this is a daring decision; but it does give the architect the opportunity to produce something which is representative of twentieth century design and which can be judged by something more than Tea-Shoppe standards.

And next? New cycle-racks, discreetly hidden in the North-West corner of Lacies Court: to be followed shortly, we hope, by something far more ambitious, a new block of class-rooms. As yet these have not even reached the blue-print stage (whatever that may be). Here again it seems that a corner of the grounds of Lacies Court will provide the only practicable site. In preparing designs for the consideration of the Governors, the School architects are of course bearing in mind the possibilities of further expansion in the future, so that anything we do now will fit in with the probable development of the School in the next fifty or a hundred years. They will do their utmost too to see that this development infringes as little as possible upon the natural amenities of Lacies Court which provide one of the greatest assets the School possesses and which we regard as a trust to be handed down to our successors.

J.M.C.

SCHOOL NOTES

As we go to press we record the disastrous fire which did so much damage to St. Nicolas' Church on the afternoon of Friday, 11th September. The outbreak seems to have occurred in or near the Organ, and quickly spread to the roof of the Chancel which was almost completely destroyed. Fortunately it was brought under control before it spread far along the Nave and Old Boys will be relieved to learn that the Blacknall Tomb and the murals are intact though sadly blackened. But it is estimated that the total cost of repair will be many thousands and it will certainly be some time before services can again

be held in the Church. Meanwhile the use of the School Chapel has been offered to the St. Nicolas' congregation for Sunday morning services (which can conveniently follow our own rather earlier Mattins); and the first of these services took place on 13th September. In view of our historic association with S. Nicolas' Church we are indeed glad to be able to offer hospitality at such a time.

We announce with regret the death of Mr. H. P. Simpson, Old Boy and for many years a Governor of the School, and a former Alderman of the Borough, which occurred on 28th May. The Headmaster and the Bursar represented the School at the Memorial Service in St. Helen's Church on 4th June.

It is pleasant to record that at least one Old Boy of the School, the Rev. T. M. Layng, C.B.E., M.C., walked in the Coronation Procession in Westminster Abbey as one of Her Majesty's Chaplains.

The whole School joins in congratulating Lord Glyn of Farnborough on the high honour bestowed upon him by Her Majesty in the Coronation Honours List: though our pleasure at the news was tempered by the fact that translation to another place inevitably implied his retirement from the Governing Body. At the same time we thank him very warmly for all the help he has given to the School during his period of office as Governor.

We congratulate also two former members of the Governing Body whose names appeared in the same List—Alderman A. E. Tombs, whose long record of public service was recognised by the award of the O.B.E., and Colonel G. Walton, who received the C.M.G.

Sir Ralph Glyn's elevation involved a by-election which added to the excitement of the post-Coronation period. To succeed him as ex-officio Governor of the School—and incidentally as Member of Parliament for Abingdon—the electors chose Mr. Airey Neave, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., to whom we offer our warm congratulations. We were very glad to welcome Mr. Neave to the School on Founder's Day and we hope that some day he will come to talk to us on his own war adventures. We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Neave too on the birth of a second son, which was announced in the month of August.

We offer good wishes to one of the defeated candidates, Mr. Ted Castle, who was a boy at the School for a short time after the First War before his family moved from the district. We appreciated the sporting letter—if we may use the term—that he wrote to us after the election.

We have already offered our good wishes in these pages to Abingdon's Coronation Mayor, Alderman Percy Holmes, J.P., and now we should

like to thank him for his courtesy in entertaining some of those connected with the "Sorcerer" in the Mayor's Parlour after the Saturday night's performance.

We congratulate two other members of the Governing Body on re-election to office—Mr. Thomas as Chairman of the County Council, and Mr. Stow as a member of the Borough Council.

Congratulations too to Mr. R. B. McCallum, Senior Tutor of Pembroke College, on his appointment as Vice-Master, which is to take effect on 1st October: and good wishes to Dr. Holmes Dudden on his retirement from the major cares of office.

Old Boys of Mr. Layng's day will be sorry to learn of the death of Miss Helen Amey Krohn, for many years matron at School House, which took place in North Wales on 24th June.

The improvement in Mr. Grundy's health continues. He has now begun to discard one of his sticks, and we should not be surprised if he soon substituted a golf club for the other.

We were all sorry that Mr. Willis had to go into hospital for an operation on his knee towards the end of term: though if this serves to prolong his active career on the rugger field, it will have been well worth while. We are grateful to Mr. Alan Garner (O.A.) who kindly stepped into the breach during Mr. Willis' absence.

Staff changes this term are so numerous as to call for a special note. Here we must say how pleased we were to see a former student, Mr. Derek Evans, on Founder's Day: and to offer a belated but sincere welcome to Miss Cross, who has succeeded Miss Shedden as Matron at Larkhill. We have since heard with pleasure of Mr. Evans' appointment to take charge of the Classics at Badingham College, near Leatherhead.

Once again we express our thanks to Mr. Bevir, who was back again with us as Invigilator-in-Chief when external examinations threatened.

Report has already reached us of the centuries scored by Mr. Hillary in holiday cricket. We wish him all good fortune, in a future-perfect kind of way, when he makes his first appearance at Lord's, for the Incogniti, on 16th September.

We offer a warm welcome to Dr. Cherry, who has come to provide further support for the school doctors.

Many Old Boys will join in good wishes to Miss Bennell, who has just relinquished control of the flourishing preparatory school, The Abbey Mill House, which she founded when she left us in 1948. We hope she will have a long and happy retirement: and at the same time we welcome to Abingdon her successor, Mr. A. F. M. Robertson, M.A. (Oxon.).

We record with dutiful and sincere gratitude the fact that an Old Boy of the School, the late Rev. E. A. R. Nicholl, sometime Rector of Chettle, Dorset, bequeathed the sum of twenty pounds in his will to the Old Abingdonian Club.

Congratulations and good wishes—from all the elevation of our thousand years of history—to our very good neighbour Culham College, which celebrated its Centenary with seemly ceremony on 4th July. The Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban represented the School at the service in Dorchester Abbey and at the luncheon that followed.

At the beginning of the Summer Term the number of boys on the School Roll was 381 (Dayboys 244, School House 84, Waste Court 34, Larkhill 19).

We congratulate P. J. Downer on the award of a County Scholarship in Science at Reading University. Congratulations also, on County Major awards, to B. W. Boddington (Buckinghamshire, to Keble College, Oxford): P. R. Sale (Berkshire, to Reading University): and C. S. Wiggins (Berkshire, to Pembroke College, Oxford).

We congratulate M. J. Hudson who has successfully surmounted the second hurdle, the Regular Commissions Board, en route for Sandhurst.

School Foundation Scholarships were awarded as follows on the result of the Common Entrance Examination:—

Scholarship—C. T. Denniford (Forres School, Swanage).

Young and Summers Scholarship—H. C. Bowen (Abingdon School).

Exhibition—M. R. Dawn (Oakwood School, Chichester).

J. M. Iredale and W. W. Budden, both of this school, were commended for good work in the examination.

Congratulations to the School First IV, which was so successful in the Oxford Coronation Regatta during half-term. Their prowess was recorded at some length in *The Times*, and our colour blazers achieved a measure of immortality through appearing in an *Oxford Mail* cartoon. Among congratulatory messages received was one from Mr. M. T. Perks, Headmaster of Gillingham Grammar School, Dorset, who was at the School from 1915 to 1920.

Congratulations also to B. A. Whiteford, who played for Berkshire Colts against Buckinghamshire at Marlow on 20th August.

At the Schools' Athletics Meeting held at the White City on 18th April, R. D. Gammack came second in the Under Sixteen 440 yards event, returning a time of 54.9 secs. During the Summer Term P. R. Sale gained third place in the Junior Mile event in the Berkshire County Championships at Reading. Later, running for Reading Athletic Club

against Blackheath Harriers and Cambridge A.C. in the Half-mile, he returned a time of 2 mins. 4 secs. (the School record is 2 mins. 9½ secs.). Congratulations to Gammack and Sale on these praiseworthy performances.

We thank the following parents and friends of the School for acts of generosity: Mr. A. C. Hyde-Parker for the presentation of an amplifier and sound mixer: Mrs. Pridham for so kindly making a new chintz cover for the window-seat in the Heylyn Room: Mr. H. J. Milligan for reproducing and presenting for exhibition in Lacies Court two most interesting photographs of the Great Fire of 1934: and Mr. and Mrs. S. C. E. Lewis for the gift of a further hymn-book for the Chapel.

As a result of the fascinating exhibition of historical documents, arranged by Miss A. C. Baker to commemorate the fourth centenary of the foundation of Christ's Hospital, the Master and Governors have kindly offered to present to the School a framed reproduction of a part of a document bearing the signature of Peter Heylyn. This will, appropriately, be displayed in the room that bears his name.

One good turn deserves another. But it was with no thought of requital that a senior boy recently offered to emblazon the faded arms that appear on the Albert Memorial in the Park. Christ's Hospital accepted the offer and after many hours of patient work the task was completed, so that the Monument—if not the statue of Albert himself—now bears a new Coronation look. Our thanks for this public service to artist and to ladderman alike.

Once again we lent some our own archives to the interesting Exhibition organised by Dr. O'Connor in the Roysse Room. This was a favourite venue for itinerant forms during the period of excursions following the examinations.

We were pleased to offer hospitality for the Abingdon Cricket Club cricket week which began on August Bank Holiday. Later we welcomed also the Oxford Diocesan Clergy Cricket Club (17th August).

A Parents' Evening was held on 14th May, for parents of boys in the Third Forms.

We offer our sincere thanks to the following speakers who visited the School during the Summer Term:

8th May—Mr. J. B. Calkin, M.A., who spoke on "Britain Under Roman Rule" (with slides).

26th May—Mr. R. H. Cook, of the Youth Employment Service.

23rd June—Mr. C. A. Newby Robson, of the Public Schools' Appointments Bureau.

On 15th May, the Upper Sixth Form visited the Christ's Hospital Commemorative Exhibition in the Long Alley Almshouses.

On the next day, Mr. Burgess was accompanied by two senior boys to a Coronation Service in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, which was conducted by the Bishop of Oxford.

Once again, Empire Youth Sunday, held on 17th May, found a large contingent of both the Army and Naval Sections in attendance for the Church Service and march-past. The high standard in both quantity and quality of former years was more than maintained.

On 19th May a number of boys attended a concert given by the Abingdon Musical Society in the Corn Exchange.

At the kind invitation of our good friend the Mayor of Abingdon, Form Fourth Science enjoyed a very interesting visit to a meeting of the Borough Council, which was held in the Council Chamber on 20th May.

As recorded elsewhere in this issue, the Abingdon Schools' Pageant was held in the Abbey Grounds on 11th June. But bad weather caused the cancellation of the next night's performance, and finally prevented this performance from being held on a rearranged date.

On 20th June, several members of the Second and Third Elevens played for the Town Clerk's XI against an Esso House Team.

In the evening, a party from school attended a Unicorn Theatre production of "Much Ado About Nothing", which took place in the Checker Hall.

The Balliol Players paid us their now traditional visit—this year on 24th June—to present a topical version of the "Frogs" by Aristophanes, in the alleged translation of Gilbert Murray. Good comedy fully made up for necessary improvisation, though to our delight Charon insisted on rowing his boat over the Stygian depths of the Old Tennis Court! We noted with interest the favourable review of this performance which subsequently appeared in *The Times Educational Supplement*.

On 7th July a large party made up from the different sections of the C.C.F. spent a day at the R.A.F. Stations at Abingdon and Watchfield, where they watched demonstrations of parachute training and the landing of stores.

Two parties visited Messrs. Morland's Brewery during the post-examination period. On 9th July the Upper Sixth Form watched every stage in the brewing of beer; and a few days later the Sixth Form chemists had the process explained to them in more scientific detail. We are grateful to Mr. Stow and to Mr. Myrtle for arranging these popular visits.

On 9th July, too, a large party enjoyed the concert given by the Fitzharrys Singers in the Church Hall in aid of the St. Helen's Church Bells Repair Fund.

Two parties, composed of members of Forms Five General and 3B, visited Newspaper House, Oxford, on 10th July, and spent an interesting afternoon watching a paper being "put to bed". Meanwhile the remaining members of these forms were at the Oxford Gas Works, where aversion to the smell was speedily conquered by interest. On 13th July visits to these two centres were arranged for members of 3B who had missed either on the previous occasion. We are grateful to the Editor of the *Oxford Times* and to the Southern Gas Board for entertaining us so well.

On the evening of the 13th a large number of spectators found enjoyment in the thrills of the Boat Club Regatta.

Both Second Forms had a conducted tour of the M.G. Works, Abingdon, on 14th and 17th July respectively. These stimulating and successful visits were concluded by tea—even for Form 2A which went in the morning! For this we must thank Mr. Brewin and his staff very warmly.

On 15th July, Mr. Johnston very kindly took four boys to watch the Air Review attended by Her Majesty the Queen at Odiham, Hampshire while the choir, also with lofty aspirations, visited London Airport for their annual outing.

Form Five Science wandered afield on 20th July to the Scientific Instruments Museum, Oxford, where they saw a most interesting collection. Members of 3A also visited Morris Motors, Cowley, for a conducted tour of the works, and they were followed on the next day by Form Five Arts and Science. Both parties departed well satisfied and liberally loaded with relevant literature.

The inter-house P.T. Competition was held during the morning of 16th July and again aroused considerable enthusiasm. Only after keen competition did Bennett House win the Viney Challenge Cup for the second successive year.

The War Memorial Fund has benefited since our last issue by the following contributions, which we acknowledge with thanks:—

P. A. D. Jones (sale of clothing) £1 7 6

P. R. Wood £1 1 0

In addition, we hope to receive £120 13. 5. from the Exchequer in repayment of income-tax for the financial year 1952-53.

There has recently been a very vocal addition to the Common-Room in the shape or person of 'Doctor Grundig'—the name popularly applied

to the new Grundig Tape-Recording Machine which has been working overtime in the service of elocution, drama, and entertainment. The Doctor (or should it be Doktor?) is remarkably successful in reproducing everybody else's voice but your own . . . or can it be that we really talk like that?

We have it on the authority of Mr. Geoffrey Trease, the author, that the scene of the first chapter of his latest book, *The Silken Secret*, is laid, under the thinnest of disguises, in the Roysse Room during the early years of the eighteenth century. Mention in the first paragraph of the sixty-three pens scratching in the School Room shows how closely the author sticks to the recorded history of the School.

It is of interest to note too that a whole chapter of the same author's latest volume in the *Young Traveller* series—*The Young Traveller in England and Wales*—is devoted to Abingdon, as a typical English country town. Topical references abound—including a mention of the hubbub outside the Corn Exchange on Founder's Day.

The photograph of the 1st IV in this issue appears by courtesy of Mr. Milligan, Photographer, Abingdon.

The Editor wishes to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of magazines from the following Schools (to 28th July, 1953):—*Aldenham School, Chigwell School (2), City of Oxford School, Henley Grammar School, King Edward's School, Stratford, Newbury Grammar School, Pocklington School, Reading School, Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, St. Edward's School, Southfield School, Windsor County School*; and also from *Culham College* and *R.M.A. Sandhurst*.

We cannot vouch for the accuracy of the following scrap of conversation which is alleged to have been picked up from High Table at breakfast time:—

Mr. A.—"I shall be in Heylyn first period this morning."

Mr. B.—"Not while you're teachin', surely?"

STAFF CHANGES

We say goodbye this term to Mr. Johnston and to Mr. Fiori, who are leaving us to take up appointments at Stourbridge and Bloxham respectively.

Mr. Johnston came to the School from Durham University in 1944, to teach Physics and General Science. He has also acted as Form Master of 3B; and outside school he has had charge of the Scout Troop and has more recently taken over from Mr. Gray the responsibility for the school film projector. Mr. Fiori joined us in the following year from Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he had read Engineering. He

will be remembered not only as the Form Master of Four General but also as a patient and persevering coach on the rugger field and the river, as the master in charge of the Modelling Club, and as the onlie begetter (and first officer in charge) of the R.E. Section of the Corps.

To both of them we offer our very warm thanks for services rendered, together with our good wishes for the future happiness of themselves and their families.

To replace Mr. Johnston and Mr. Fiori and to meet the increasing needs of the School four new masters have been appointed, to all of whom we extend a hearty welcome. Brief biographies follow, from which it will be seen that a nice balance is being preserved between the two older universities:

Mr. J. M. A. Toplis, M.A., of Christ's Hospital and Wadham, read Maths. Mods. and then transferred to the Final Honours School of P.P.E. He played rugger for Wadham 1st XV and served as a captain in the Indian Cavalry (8th K.G.V.O.). More recently he has spent a year in the jungle of Sarawak . . . no bad training, perhaps, for a schoolmaster! He is married and has two children, and has been filling in the Summer Term in a temporary appointment under our friend Mr. Martin at Chipping Norton Grammar School.

Mr. G. M. Helliwell, B.A., was Head of the School at Giggleswick and read English at Corpus (Oxford). He played for his school at rugger and cricket and rowed in his College 1st Boat. He served as a Lieutenant in the R.A.O.C. and has just completed his tour of student practice at Leighton Park.

Mr. J. J. Horrex, B.A., of Kimbolton and Downing, read Mechanical Sciences and did his student practice at Oundle. He rowed for his college at Henley and did his national service in R.E.M.E.

Mr. M. N. Williams, B.A., went up to Corpus (Cambridge) from Westcliff and read Natural Science. He played for his college 1st XV, served in the R.A.S.C., and taught as a student at Haileybury.

Our good friend Miss Etty is very kindly providing hospitality for Mr. Helliwell and Mr. Horrex: Mr. Williams is taking up residence in East St. Helen's Street—the *quartier latin* of Abingdon.

J.M.C.

VALETE ET SALVETE

Valete—Left 31st March, 1953

Form Upper Sixth A: G. N. NICHOLS (Classics) (L, AH), M. 1946;
House Prefect 1952; 3rd XI 1951; 2nd XV 1951; C.C.F. Cert, 'A',
Pt. I, (left 29th July, 1952—*sevo vale!*),

Form 4 General: J. E. DANIELS, M.1952.

Form 3A: M. J. KILLEEN, M.1950 (*left 18th February*).

Salve

Form 1A: P. MASKELL, D. (*came 26th June*).

CHAPEL NOTES

The Bishop of Oxford has kindly consented to hold a Confirmation Service in the Chapel on Advent Sunday (29th November) at 3 p.m.

As Trinity Sunday fell within the half-term holiday, the School brought forward its own service in preparation for the Coronation to Whitsunday. Special lessons were chosen from I. Kings (3. 5-10) and Ephesians (3. 14-21) and the Headmaster preached. The collections over this weekend, amounting to £4. 12. 6., were appropriately given to the Westminster Abbey Appeal Fund.

The Collection taken in St. Helen's Church on Founder's Day, supplemented by the receipts from the alms box for the last two terms, enabled us to send a cheque for £20. 10. 0. to Dr. Barnardo's Homes. The collection at St. Nicolas' Church at the traditional evening service on the last Sunday of term, amounting to close on £5, was devoted to St. Nicolas' Church Funds.

Other collections allotted to outside charities were as follows:

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution	£3 18 0
S. James' Church, Island of Nevis	£3 7 6
The Red Cross Society	£3 7 4
S.P.C.K.	£2 15 0
Berkshire Fund for the Blind	£2 18 4

We are grateful to the outside preachers who visited us during the Summer Term; and we hope that we shall one day have another opportunity of hearing Mr. Baelz who was prevented from coming to us, at the last moment, by illness.

We were also disappointed not to be able to hear Professor Cock; and we have since heard with regret of his death (September 9th).

Visiting preachers for the coming term will include:—

Oct. 4th—Rev. G. Westerdale Bowker, M.A., Vicar of Steventon.

Oct. 11th—Rev. Robert Leaney, M.A., of Ripon Hall.

Oct. 25th—Mr. George Goyder.

Nov. 15th—The Master of Magdalen College School, Oxford.

Nov. 22nd—Rev. Paul Ashwin, M.A., of the S.P.G.

The annual Choir Outing took place on 15th July, when a large party spent a most interesting day at London Airport, by courtesy of a parent, Mr. Meakins, to whom we offer our thanks.

The Chapel Committee continues to devote a large part of its time and energies to improving the amenities of the Chapel. The swinging doors have been re-hung and this has helped to eliminate draught. The front pews have been strengthened to cope with the increased strain caused by the use of the new benches in the centre aisle. We are grateful to Mrs. Burgess for embroidering the two Bible-markers: the differentiation of the two has obviated the confusion which sometimes arose between senior and junior lessons in the morning.

Proper kneelers, appropriate to the different sizes of stall and pew, are now being bought in small batches and we hope it will not be long before the whole Chapel is equipped with them. A generous (and anonymous) donation of £20 covered the first consignment. The remainder will have to be bought out of Chapel Funds. Certain collections during the coming term will be specially devoted to this purpose so that boys may know exactly to what they are contributing.

More important than furnishings—far more important—are the form and content of the Chapel Services. The division into Senior and Junior Chapels, necessitated by the growth of the School, has shown itself in practice to have certain positive advantages. Recently the Committee has been considering the question of the lessons. There is much to be said for the tradition that the prefect should choose his own passages; but in order to obtain greater continuity and to give a more balanced picture of the Church's teaching it has been decided to use, for an experimental period, a special lectionary which is being compiled by the Chaplain.

It may be worth adding that this year, for the first time, a prize was given on Founders' Day for lesson-reading in chapel—an indication of the value which is attached to this part of the service.

Service of Commemoration

Morning Service on Sunday, 28th June, the day after Old Boys' Day, took the form of a special service in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel on Trinity Sunday, 1903. The service opened with a hymn ("Be near, O God") written by Mr. Ross-Barker for the special service for the laying of the foundation-stone of the new East Wing on 30th July, 1901, and subsequently sung at the Dedication Service. The Choir sang an anthem (Brahms' 'How lovely are Thy dwellings') and the lessons were read respectively by the Headmaster (1. Kings 8. 22-30) and Mr. Grundy (1. Corinthians 13).

It was especially appropriate that Mr. Grundy should preach the sermon as he had been Headmaster for over two-thirds of the time that the Chapel has been in use, and the whole congregation will long remember the moving address that he gave.

It was good to see so many Old Boys, of widely different age, among the congregation. We are grateful too to those many Old Boys whose contributions have enabled us to equip the Chapel with new psalters and chant books to mark the occasion. The names of recent donors are recorded in the O.A. Notes.

FOUNDER'S DAY

Founder's Day was held on Saturday, 25th July. The celebrations were once again most successful, though rain marred the latter part of the "At Home".

The address in the morning at St. Helen's Church was given by the Lord Bishop of Dorchester, the Rt. Rev. Kenneth Riches, who took as his text a verse from the tenth chapter of St. John's Gospel, "I came that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly". The Bishop spoke of the diverse parts which different members of the Christian body had to play, but emphasised that we were all, in a very real sense, partners in the adventure of life. He declared that there was no place in the true Christian for the "Jack Horner" complex, and that real happiness could only be achieved through co-operation with others. We must learn to put aside self-satisfaction and achieve that fullness of life which was to be obtained in the freedom of God's service.

The wreath which was laid upon the tomb of John Roysse was again beautifully prepared by Mrs. Bevir, and we are most grateful to her, and also to the Misses Challenor for the altar decorations.

In the afternoon the prizes were distributed in the Corn Exchange, and afterwards the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban were "At Home" to the visitors on Upper Field. During tea, the Brass Band braved the rain to give its scheduled entertainment, and a select P.T. team gave a short display. After this the buildings and grounds of the School were opened to the inspection of visitors. Various displays and exhibitions were staged in the different form-rooms, ranging from archives to model railways, and great interest was shown in every one. But the greatest attraction was undoubtedly the School film "Ut Proficias", which was shown several times in the Music Room to capacity crowds.

The celebrations closed with a second performance of "The Sorcerer" by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, which was presented in the Corn Exchange by the Choral and Dramatic Societies. This production is reviewed below.

At 8.15 the next morning a corporate celebration of Holy Communion was held in the Chapel, and the Chaplain gave the address at Morning Service. In the evening the traditional School Service was held in St. Nicolas' Church, at which the Headmaster preached the sermon, in accordance with the terms of the Cheney Bequest. Addressing those who were about to leave school, the Headmaster spoke of the need to live in charity with all men without at the same time abandoning the standards and beliefs which had been inculcated during the formative years of life at School.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES

The School welcomed a very distinguished visitor in Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the County of Berkshire, Mr. H. A. Benyon, who kindly came to present the prizes. He was supported by Mr. H. J. Thomas, J.P., Chairman of the County Council of Berkshire. A Guard of Honour of the School C.C.F., under the command of Major S. C. Parker, was mounted outside the Corn Exchange, and greeted Her Majesty's Lieutenant with a Royal Salute.

The Corn Exchange, once again most beautifully decorated by Mrs. Gray, was full when the Chairman of the Governors, Vice-Admiral F. Clifton-Brown, C.B., rose to open the meeting.

The Headmaster after welcoming Her Majesty's Lieutenant and the visitors, declared that the past year had been so eventful that in his report he must depart from precedent and merely select the more noteworthy of the School's achievements. He stated that the School had enjoyed unusual prosperity, and the policy of expansion had been continued in many directions. When School re-assembled in the autumn, numbers would have increased beyond four hundred, and with this factor in mind, the governors were fully aware of the need for new accommodation. The Headmaster concluded by emphasising the sterling work done by the staff, and by thanking the County Council for the help which had made the burden of routine administration so much lighter.

After Her Majesty's Lieutenant had presented the prizes, the Chairman of the County Council proposed a vote of thanks, declaring that Mr. Benyon's watchword, "Deeds not words," was very necessary in his onerous office. He went on to speak of the close relationship which existed between the School and the County Council.

The Headmaster seconded the vote of thanks, and Her Majesty's Lieutenant spoke of the high reputation that the School enjoyed in the county and the need to honour the School's tradition of hard work.

The Chairman then declared the meeting closed, and cheers were given, followed by the National Anthem.

Award of Prizes

THE ENDOWED PRIZES: The Morland Prize (*presented by Messrs. Morland in memory of W. T. Morland, O.A., and awarded for all-round merit*)—P. J. Millard; The Thomas Layng Reading Prize—D. S. Lloyd, A. J. Gardner; The Smith Chemistry Prizes—R. M. Marchbanks, D. S. Lloyd, J. M. Thistlewood, J. A. Howard; The Ball Science Prize—C. S. Wiggins, R. M. Marchbanks; The Bevan Essay Prize—N. J. Shurrock; The Bevan Scripture Prizes—M. B. Culley, B. D. Winkett, H. C. Bowen, P. M. D. Gray, D. G. Darroch, M. A. C. Stockwell.

THE SCHOOL PRIZES: The Headmaster's Prize for Efficiency in School and House—J. Westall, M. J. Brackley; The Mayor's Prize for History Essay (*presented by Ald P. Holmes, J.P.*)—C. J. Lockhart Smith; The Old Boys' Prize for English Essay—C. J. Lockhart Smith; The Van Wagenen Essay Prize (*presented by Colonel R. W. Van Wagenen of Princeton University, U.S.A.*)—C. J. Lockhart Smith; The Prize for Character (*presented by Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Ellis*)—D. S. Lloyd; C.C.F. Prizes—U/O. H. R. Leach, C.S.M. Brackley M. J., L/S. Wiggins, C. S.; Prize for Reading in Chapel—M. J. Brackley; The Junior Reading Prize (*presented by Mr. C. C. Woodley, O.A.*)—R. S. Green, R. Dickenson; The Music Prizes: Senior (*presented by Mrs. Rayson*)—R. E. J. Packer; Junior (*presented by Miss Sheldon Peach*)—M. Q. King; The Art Prizes—P. Thompson, W. St. A. R. Dady; The Handicraft Prizes—R. Pinniger, A. R. Binning.

THE CRICKET PRIZES: The Lake Bat (*presented by H. W. Lake, Esq., M.C.*)—B. A. Whiteford; The Fletcher Cup—B. A. Whiteford; The Henderson Prizes—M. J. Brackley, S. C. Woodley.

THE TENNIS CHALLENGE CUP (*presented by Major V. C. Buckley*)—J. A. Nichols.

THE FORM PRIZES: Sixth Form (Upper): Classics—N. J. Shurrock; French—E. G. R. Peedell; Mathematics—S. R. Mills; Biology—P. J. Downer; Sixth Form (Lower): Classics—R. E. J. Packer; History and English—B. J. Hiscock; Physics and Mathematics—P. J. Lay; French—J. D. Hall; Form 5 Arts—T. M. J. Kempinski, J. D. Dunkley; Form 5 Science—P. O. Older, M. B. Enser; Form 5 General—B. L. O. Walker; Form 4 Arts—B. D. Winkett, D. J. Langton; Form 4 Science—M. C. Rallings, W. N. R. Stevens, M. J. Scott-Taggart; Form 3A—P. M. D. Gray, W. W. Budden; D. J. Lanham (Languages); Form 3B D. J. Exon, I. R. Peedell; Form 2A—A. P. Haynes, O. M. L. Rhys; Form 2B—N. G. Mackenzie, A. J. Costley; Form 1A—J. A. Longworth, R. C. Watts; Form 1B—J. C. Carr, M. D. Tuck.

THE SORCERER

(We are indebted to the Town Clerk of the Borough of Abingdon, Mr. E. W. J. Nicholson, for the following review).

"The Sorcerer" was the earliest true Gilbert and Sullivan opera ("Trial by Jury" they describe as a 'dramatic cantata') and gives only a few hints of the brilliance to come in the Savoy series. Both story and music are as thin as the blood of Pointdextre and Sangazure, and the improbable denouement has none of the dramatic justification (for example) of the collapse of Jack Point. It is difficult to know why the School Choral Society chose "The Sorcerer" for their second production unless they were following chronological sequence. Admiration for their courage in venturing into the unknown must be tempered by the thought that its perils are mitigated by the assurance of obscurity. We must be grateful, however, for the chance to see one of the rarely-produced works, and, though lacking the comforting yardstick of established opinion, to commend all concerned on an excellent performance. Mr. Cooper is a great source of strength in these productions. He again sang finely and acted with just the degree of over-emphasis Gilbert intended in his favourite subject of caricature—the Guards. Mr. Burgess was a delight as Lady Sangazure, and Mr. Griffin a very good stage Vicar (as well as a successful producer), though his singing was less certain than his acting, and surely added point would be given to the song "I was a pale young curate then" by a more portly make-up? Boys rarely seem to have the vocal power for feminine singing, and David Meakins, as Aline, was no exception, though his voice has a good range and he acted well. Martin King, on the other hand, sang the part of Constance clearly and beautifully, but acted unconvincingly.

David Lloyd played the title part with the right mixture of mystery, villainy and gaiety. His vitality quickened the tempo of the whole production from the moment of his first entry, and stimulated the entire company. Peter Millard gave a robust interpretation of Mrs. Partlett, and Colin Wiggins was a competent notary. Peter Amey made an elegant baronet, but I prefer the memory of his magnificent Richard the Second.

The technical side could hardly be faulted. The setting was adequate, and the costumes well chosen and executed. Special commendation goes to Mr. Hillary for the make-up, which represented a great advance on "Richard II". As in that play, the lighting was again most effective; while the incantation scene was excellently directed.

Mr. Barker is to be congratulated once more on his adaptation of the score and his general control of the performance. But he might train the cast not to fix their gaze so intently on his baton—many seemed quite mesmerised by it. And he would do well to remember that

the conductor commands the company, but not the audience; frequent encores are certainly a nuisance, but the modest demand for one encore of the delicate quintette in Act II ought to have been granted. The choral work throughout was extremely good, and Mrs. Liversidge and Roger Packer at the piano did so well they almost persuaded us that an orchestra is unnecessary, but could they not have been invited to give us a short prelude of some kind? One criticism of the audience—why must they laugh at the entry of a boy correctly and elegantly attired for his part as a girl, and so increase his self-consciousness?

With the brilliant performance of "Trial by Jury" still fresh in memory, we cannot say "The Sorcerer" gave us "unmingled joy". But in the style recommended by Pointdextre we can say the whole company did vastly well. It is understood we are to revert to Speeches and Music for a year or two, and perhaps rightly, though the producers will have to aim high, for audiences who have tasted the sparkling wine of light opera will not easily be satisfied with the table water of "a little Latin and less Greek". So, for the Borough's Fourth Centenary in 1956, will the Choral Society please come out boldly with one of the more colourful and melodious operas such as "The Pirates of Penzance"?

E.N.

Characters in order of appearance

Mrs. Partlett, a Pew-Opener	Peter Millard
Constance, Her Daughter	Martin King
Dr. Daly, Vicar of Ploverliegh	L. C. J. Griffin
Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre, an elderly Baronet	Peter Amey
Alexis, of the Guards, his Son	G. H. Cooper
Aline, Daughter of Lady Sangazure, betrothed to Alexis	David Meakins
Lady Sangazure, a Lady of Ancient Lineage	F. W. Burgess
A Notary	Collin Wiggins
Hercules, a page	Christopher Marchbanks
John Wellington Wells	David Lloyd
(of J. W. Wells & Co., Family Sorcerers)	
Ladies, Friends of Aline	Peter Kibble, John Pridham Tony Smith, David Wiggins
Maidens of the Village	John Barnett, Robert Carter, David Camplin, Chrisopher Cobley, Alan Costley, John Hasthorpe, Colin Kitching, Peter Penney, Derek Privett, Mark Rhys, Colin Scragg, Robert Simpson, John Thewlis

Guardsmen, Friends of Alexis	J. B. E. Alston, C. E. T. Moore Michael Rallings, Ian Trenaman
Villagers	Alan Bush, Tony Gardner, Richard Griffith, Michael Grigsby, John Hall, Jeffrey Heavens, David Langton, Peter Lay, Roger Marchbanks, Kenneth Prentice, Michael Rhys, John Saywell, Peter Simmonds, Harold Williams
At the Piano	Roger Packer, Mrs. U. Liversidge

THE SCHOOL AND THE CORONATION

We all hope it will be very many years before the next Coronation. It may therefore be of interest to future generations of Abingdonians to summarise briefly what part the School took in the recent celebrations.

Like most public schools, we arranged to have an extended half-term weekend; this lasted from lunch time on the Friday before the Coronation to the evening of the Thursday after it. Hence our own private service of thanksgiving and dedication was held a week early, on Whitsunday. Then on the evening before school dispersed the boarders had a 'street tea' on the gravel. A short programme of rather less serious athletic contests—culminating in a staff race 'round the wall'—was followed by a picnic tea and by the presentation of Coronation Mugs to some of the winners.

Once the school had broken up, it was left to the residents and to some of the dayboys to represent the School at the Civic Service on Trinity Sunday and at the bun throwing on the evening of Coronation Day. On the Day itself the School Bell was rung 27 times—once for each year of the Queen's age—so that it too could claim to have joined in the loyal clang and a Commemorative Oak was planted with due ceremony in the Waste Court Field; where we hope it will some day combine with the metasequoia and the ilex to form a beautiful clump of trees. The next day the School provided hospitality for the combined 'street tea' of the Ock Ward of Abingdon. In view of threatening clouds and cold wind it was decided to have tea in the gym, which can never before have seen over three hundred children enjoying a sit down meal. Nor can there be any precedent for the number of perambulators parked in or just outside the main entrance.

The boarders returned on the Thursday evening, some of them just in time for a slice freshly cut from the ox roasted in the Market Place. Historians of the next century may like to note that of the eighty odd boys in Greater School House, only two admitted that they had not seen some part at least of the Coronation either in the round or on the TV screen.

Subsequently our whaler was lent to take part in the procession of illuminated boats on the Saturday evening. The School provided a couple of heralds (H. R. Leach and R. Redknap) for "The Two Angry Women of Abingdon" which was produced by the Abingdon Dramatic Society for the new Unicorn Theatre. The eye of faith may recognise them in the delightful Christmas card that is being prepared by the *Friends of Abingdon*. The last official item of the celebrations was the School Pageant which was presented on the following Wednesday afternoon. Not only did the School portray in it some episodes from its history; it also provided joint pageant-masters in Mr. Griffin and Mr. Barker to whom thanks are due for accepting (at short notice) a difficult and thankless job. It was unfortunate that rain prevented a further performance.

The problem of decoration had exercised our minds much. It was clearly not possible to decorate the whole of the buildings adequately, so we concentrated on the Science Block, the parapet of which lent itself to a display of all the Dominion flags, with a Coronation shield hanging on the wall below and a rather larger Union Jack waving over all. Our own griffin proudly challenged the wind and rain from the school flagstaff until it had to be hauled down at the end of Coronation week for urgent repair. It is a very much larger flag than one would think from ground level, and the wear upon it on a gusty day is very heavy.

Lastly, we must express our very warm thanks to the Corporation for presenting every boy with a specially inscribed copy of the Abingdon Coronation Programme—a programme which both in content and in format reflects high credit upon author and publisher and which forms a fitting souvenir of so great an occasion. We are grateful too to Mr. Hooke for giving us a copy of the programme bound in boards for the School Archives; and also to Alderman Holmes, our new Mayor, for his generous help in the matter of the Coronation cakes for our private street-tea.

J.M.C.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Results at 'Advanced' level of the recent General Certificate Examination were as follows. An asterisk indicates the mark of Distinction introduced this year for the first time. The total number of subject-passes at this level is almost exactly the same as last year. At 'Ordinary' level the number of subject passes was some 200—about thirty more than in the corresponding examination in July, 1952.

Three Subjects: P. G. Cope (Ch, Bot, Zoo); A. F. R. Crockford (Ch, Bot, Zoo); P. J. Downer (Ch, Bot, Zoo); M. J. Hudson (E, H*, Geog); R. M. Marchbanks (Ch, Bot, Zoo); S. R. Mills (Pure M*,

App M*, Higher M); M. J. Morris (Ch, Bot, Zoo); P. R. Sale (Ch, Bot, Zoo); N. J. Shurrock (G, L*, AH*); C. S. Wiggins (Pure M, App M, Ph).

Two Subjects: P. B. H. Amey (E, H); J. C. Ivatts (L, AH); D. A. Jones (L, AH); D. S. Lloyd (Ph, Ch); J. Lockhart-Smith (E, H); E. G. R. Peedell (E, F).

One Subject: D. L. Banfield (Ch); J. Blinman (L); C. G. Brown (Pure-and-App M); D. J. James (F); J. Westall (Ch).

CRICKET

This has in many respects been a disappointing season. The First XI have often been within reach of their opponent's score, but have failed to make the comparatively few runs needed. They have too often been content with a draw when a more confident side would have gone for victory. Too many batsmen have failed consistently even to reach double figures; some, when set, have proved unable to score quickly and prolong their innings. The problem of an opening pair remained unsolved at the end of the season.

One must, however, keep a sense of proportion, and, while faults were easy to find, there has been much that is encouraging. The First have rarely failed to keep the opposition's score down to very reasonable proportions, and there has been plenty of good bowling. On the whole, fielding has been good, and some excellent catches have been taken, though throwing-in to the wicket-keeper is still woefully inaccurate. There have been signs of determination in practice and improvement in stroke-play by several members of the team. For much of this we are indebted to Mr. W. G. Bett, who has been visiting us as coach this year, and whose advice has been invaluable, and to Mr. Frank Nelson, who has most generously given up his Monday afternoons to coaching the First.

We congratulate D. A. Jones on the award of Full Cricket Colours: also B. J. Hiscock, P. J. Millard, and J. C. Ivatts on the award of Half-Colours.

In ordinary every-day cricket there has been considerable enthusiasm, especially among the Juniors, and the Junior House-League Cup has awakened great rivalry. Reeves 'A' were the ultimate winners, thanks largely to their captain, D. G. Morris, and Tesdale 'B' runners-up. Both Senior and Junior House matches were won by Blacknall, who in each case beat Reeves in the final. The Senior match provided a most exciting finish as Reeves were within four runs of victory with three wickets in hand, and yet were beaten by three runs. All credit to Blacknall, and particularly their captain, P. Stroud-Viney, for tight bowling and keen fielding.

In conclusion a word of thanks is due to several people; to Mr. Thatcher for the way in which he has looked after the pitches and provided such good wickets for us; to M. J. Brackley for the help he has given in the many small tasks connected with the games; and to all those masters and boys who have given up their time to supervising and umpiring, especially Mr. Griffin and Mr. Parker.

FIRST XI CHARACTERS

M. J. BRACKLEY (Captain, Colours 1952). A batsman who had lived down a most discouraging series of l.b.w. decisions. He has a solid defence, but can hit hard when occasion demands and has played several useful innings. As a captain he has led the team quietly but firmly and has handled an embarrassingly crowded bowling side effectively. He has set an excellent example by his keen and plucky fielding.

B. A. WHITEFORD (Secretary and Vice-Captain, Colours 1951). He has been the mainstay of the batting, though he has rather disappointed latterly and has again been a hostile and accurate opening bowler. Always very good, often brilliant, as a close fielder.

D. A. JONES (Colours 1953). Potentially the best medium-paced bowler in the team, he always looked dangerous. He can move the ball both ways off the pitch, but must try to bowl at the wicket more often. As a hard-hitting left-handed batsman he has shown promise and much improved form.

R. J. HINES (Half-Colours 1952). A very useful and thoughtful off-spinner, who has consistently taken wickets. On his day he can bowl exceptionally well, but would be well advised to give the ball more air. He will be a good batsman when he learns to get his foot across for his offside strokes.

B. J. HISCOCK (Half-Colours 1953). A much improved batsman. His defensive play is sound but he often picks the wrong ball to hit. His running between wickets is good though he sometimes fails to take a second run when offered. A good cover-point.

R. J. BANWELL (Half-Colours 1952). A promising batsman who, towards the end of the season, emerged from a bad spell with renewed confidence. He hits the ball hard and crisply and has some lovely strokes, especially in front of the wicket. Usually a good fielder, with an accurate throw, though he sometimes gives away runs by lethargic chasing of the ball.

D. C. W. LEWIS (Half Colours 1952). A very useful left-arm bowler who started the season well. He keeps the ball up to the batsman and uses his common sense. He must not however mind being hit and must not be discouraged by dropped catches, which have lost him many wickets. In the field he is altogether too leisurely and unsafe.

P. STROUD-VINEY (Half-Colours 1952). As a batsman he has shown the ability to concentrate and take infinite pains, but he has too often been let down by over-cautious play and faulty technique. A much-improved fielder who has taken some good catches.

P. J. MILLARD (Half-Colours 1953). An unorthodox but very effective wicket-keeper who has a safe pair of hands. As a batsman he must exercise a little more patience and give himself a chance to show his many excellent strokes. His sportsmanship and cheerful spirit have always been a great asset to the team.

J. C. IVATTS (Half-Colours 1953). An all-rounder who has several times shown sterling qualities in a crisis. He has made himself into a very competent batsman through indefatigable effort and practice and he has been a useful and at times most effective medium-pace change bowler. He must brighten up his fielding, which often appears slovenly.

R. J. PAYNE. A young and fairly recent addition to the side, who promises well for next year. He should develop into a useful bat, if he can learn to keep bat and pad together when playing defensively. He has bowled his leg spinners quite accurately, but has yet to master the googly and top-spinner.

A MAXWELL. A stylish bat who has most of the shots and a sound defence but lacks confidence. With more experience he will make a lot of runs. A keen fielder, but inclined to miss chances through over-eagerness.

1st XI MATCHES

v. A Staff XI (h). Wed., 6th May. Draw.

The season opened with a match against a reinforced Staff XI. The School batted first, and were soon in a good position, with the score at 90 for 2. Brackley was out for 51 with the score still at 90, and wickets fell quickly from then on, until the School declared at 134 for 9.

Jones struck the first blow for the School when he had Mr. Hillary l.b.w. in his first over. Mr. Nelson, with 22, was top scorer for the Staff, who just managed to hold out and force a draw.

School: 134 for 9 dec. (M. J. Brackley 51; J. B. E. Alston 3 for 16).

Staff: 75 for 8 (F. Nelson 22; B. A. Whiteford 4 for 13).

v. Newbury Grammar School (h). Sat., 9th May. Won.

The School easily defeated Newbury, by 8 wickets. Newbury batted first on an easy-paced wicket, but after an opening stand wickets fell quickly. Lewis and Hines bowled well, pitching the ball well up to the batsmen, and the innings closed at 68.

After a shaky start, in which the School lost 2 wickets for 28, Stroud-Viney and Whiteford came together and knocked off the remaining runs. It was a rare pleasure to see such confident batting, even though against somewhat erratic bowling.

Newbury: 68 (Lewis 5 for 6).

School: 70 for 2 (B. A. Whiteford 24 n.o.; Stroud-Viney P, 23 n.o.).

v. Berkshire Gentlemen (h). Wed., 13th May. Lost.

The Berkshire Gentlemen brought a strong side this year, and, batting first, were at one time 167 for 2. Wickets fell regularly after this, and they declared at 245 for 8. With their good start, they could afford to take risks, and the school bowlers received some not altogether deserved punishment from hard-hitting batsmen. Hines bowled particularly well, and was well supported by Jones and Lewis.

The School started their innings badly, and 4 wickets were down for 29, but Hiscock and Whiteford brought the score up to 80 in the next 40 minutes! They were then both out, and although Hines, Emmett and Jones all struck a few vigorous and courageous blows, the School could only muster 132.

Berkshire Gentlemen: 245 for 8 dec. (G. Waikes 67, C. Jennings 53 n.o., A. Hillary 49, C. Brookes 45; Hines J. 5 for 47).

School: 132 (Hiscock B. 30; D. Johnstone 5 for 30, G. Waikes 4 for 42).

v. St. Edward's School 2nd XI (a). Wed., 20th May. Lost

The School won the toss, and put St. Edward's in to bat. The wicket favoured the bowlers, and after being 1 for 2 wickets the home side were all out for 125. Whiteford was the School's most successful bowler, taking 6 for 27.

The School started their innings badly, and lost 4 wickets with only 12 runs on the board. The procession continued, until Ivatts and Lewis came together at 46 for 9, and with 30 minutes left for play. Both batsmen defended stubbornly, but, just when it looked as if they might force a draw, Ivatts was bowled, 4 minutes before time. A fitting end to the match, but the determination of these two tail-enders deserves praise.

St. Edward's: 125 (Gardiner 44; B. A. Whiteford 6 for 27).

School: 64 (Ivatts 24; Latham 5 for 18).

v. Oratory School (a). Sat., 23rd May. Won.

When the School visited Oratory, they were put in to bat on a wet wicket, which was taking spin, though slowly. Maxwell, playing in

his first game, batted well for 29; Hiscock and Whiteford gave him useful support, and pushed the score along quickly.

The Oratory were soon in trouble against accurate and hostile bowling by Jones and Hines. Only Flanagan and Duch batted with any confidence, and, in spite of several missed chances Oratory were all out for 92, after an exciting race with the clock.

School: 127 (Maxwell 29; Hiscock B. 29; B. A. Whiteford 23; Duch 4 for 31).

The Oratory: 92 (Flanagan 30; Duch 21; Hines J. 5 for 18; D. A. Jones 4 for 26).

v. Reading School (h). Wed., 10th June. Lost.

The School were dismissed for 81 with ease by a depleted Reading side. Steward and Howe-Jones bowled accurately, but without any particular venom, and bad batting did the rest. Whiteford and Ivatts were the only batsmen to offer any serious resistance, but even they were unable to press home their advantage.

Reading lost a wicket on the first ball of their innings, but Oster and Evans mastered the bowling and dispelled any hopes of a close fight. Both batsmen scored freely, in spite of keen fielding, and quickly knocked off the necessary runs.

School: 81 (B. A. Whiteford 22, Ivatts J. 14 n.o.).

Reading: 82 for 1 (Evans 47 n.o., Oster 30 n.o.).

v. A Parents' XI (h). Sat., 13th June. Lost.

The Parents, batting first, found difficulty in playing Jones and Whiteford in the opening spell, and lost their first 6 wickets for 23 runs. The change bowlers completed the destruction, though more expensively, for, thanks to a useful knock by Mr. Smith, a dour "captain's innings" by Mr. Brackley, and some hearty slogging by number nine, the Parents managed to reach 89.

Even this total, however, proved beyond the reach of the School, the limitations of whose batting were clearly exposed. After the loss of 2 wickets for 4 runs, a stand of 30 between Hiscock and Whiteford put the School within reach of the Parents' score. These two failed to consolidate their position, and later batsmen were unable to settle down. Credit is due to the steady Parental bowling particularly that of Mr. Brackley, whose medium-paced cutters were highly effective, but the chief cause of the School's collapse was inadequate and timorous batting.

Parents: 87 (Mr. Smith 21; D. A. Jones 3 for 14, B. A. Whiteford 3 for 15).

School: 67 (Mr. Brackley 7 for 17).

v. King Alfred's School, Wantage (h). Sat., 20th June. Draw.

This match resulted in a disappointing draw. Wantage batted first, and lost Stevens with the score at 9, but later batsmen gave adequate support to East, who made 47 before being bowled by Jones. The visitors were able to declare at 128 for 7, largely due to poor fielding and a number of dropped catches.

The School were left 80 minutes in which to get 129, and after losing 3 quick wickets they gave up the attempt. Whiteford and Glenny, a colt whose defensive batting has several times been of value to the side, came together and held the fort until the last over, when Whiteford was out for 41.

Wantage: 128 for 7 dec. (East 47).

School: 84 for 7 (Whiteford 41; Barnard 3 for 31, Abrahams 3 for 23).

v. Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe (a). Wed., 24th June. Draw.

High Wycombe lost 2 quick wickets, but settled down to some steady batting, the best feature of which was Hawkins' 65. The School bowling was good, particularly that of Whiteford, who bowled with real hostility, until he began to tire. At tea, the home side declared at 122 for 6, leaving the School ample time to get the runs.

A bad start however—3 wickets down for 18—put the rate of scoring right down, and in spite of a brisk partnership between Brackley and Whiteford, none of the School's batsmen looked really settled. The most encouraging aspect of the match was Brackley's return to some semblance of form. The remaining batsmen, particularly Hines, defended stubbornly, and stumps were drawn with the School's total at 79 for 8.

High Wycombe: 122 for 6 dec. (Hawkins 65, Walker 21; B. A. Whiteford 3 for 24).

School: 79 for 8 (M. J. Brackley 28, B. A. Whiteford 26; Ashby 3 for 20, Pursey 3 for 28).

v. Old Abingdonians (h). Sat., 27th June. Lost.

The School did well to dismiss a very reasonable O.A. side for just over a hundred. Whiteford gave them a good start by taking two wickets in the first over, and both he and Jones bowled well. A partnership between Bradfield and Furby took the score to 72, but both batsmen were out soon after lunch, and the last wicket fell at 116.

Once again the School batsmen failed to take the advantage which their bowlers had given them. In fact, several of them appeared to be

morally out before they even reached the wicket. Only Hines took his courage in both hands, and offered some resistance, and the innings became a dismal procession. Barrett bowled well, making good use of a rapidly drying wicket, which had the night before been literally under water.

O.A.'s: 116 (Furby 36, Bradfield 34, M. Cullen 20; D. A. Jones 5 for 31, B. A. Whiteford 4 for 36).

School: 42 (G. Barrett 6 for 11).

v. City of Oxford School (h). Wed., 8th July. Lost.

The School batted first and again lost a quick wicket. The other early batsmen found difficulty in playing the bowling, and the School were 17 for 4—by now a not unfamiliar situation for middle batsmen. Hiscock and Brackley pulled things together a little, but both were out with the score at 46. Ivatts was the only other player to trouble the bowlers, and the last wicket fell at 82.

The City of Oxford made a good start, and had 32 on the board before they lost their first wicket. At no stage in the game did they appear to be in any great difficulty, and they passed the School's total with 6 wickets in hand. Inaccurate bowling and very poor fielding—both unusual failings in this year's side—helped them considerably in a task which might have been made much more exacting.

School: 82.

City of Oxford: 83 for 4.

v. Abingdon Cricket Club (h). Sat., 11th July. Lost

The Town brought a very strong batting side this year, and a first wicket partnership between M. Venables and J. Lines put them well on the road to a high score. Free scoring by M. Cullen and A. A. Hillary further strengthened their position, and they declared at tea with 198 for 2.

Except for Banwell and Jones, both of whom used their feet and hit the ball hard, the School batsmen were never comfortable against the off-spinners of S. Hurd. The last half-hour of the game was marred by steady drizzle, and by the final collapse of the School batting.

Abingdon C. C.: 198 for 2 dec. (J. Lines 48, M. Venables 45, M. Cullen 46 not out, A. A. Hillary 58 not out).

School: 113 (R. J. Banwell 26, D. A. Jones 25; S. Hurd 6 for 27).

v. Windsor County School (a). Wed., 15th July. Draw.

This was a new fixture this year, and the home side had rather the better of a draw. Batting first, they found the wicket lively, and were

lucky to have scored 49 before the first wicket fell. After this useful start, they batted confidently, and were able to declare at 156 for 4. The outstanding features of their innings were the batting of Simmonds, and agile wicket-keeping of Millard.

The School started their innings slowly, and had lost the first 3 wickets for 24. However, Banwell and Brackley saved the situation with some sound batting, and stumps were drawn at 91 for 6, Brackley having been bowled by the last ball of the match. After their shaky start they were wise to make a draw of it, as an impossible rate of scoring, against accurate bowling, would have been needed for an attempt at victory.

Windsor: 155 for 4 dec. (Simmonds 75, Drewett 31).

School: 91 for 6 (M. J. Brackley 34, Banwell R. J. 21; Hewson 3 for 9).

v. Magdalen College School (h). Sat., 18th July. Abandoned.

Only two overs and one ball had been bowled—in the course of which the School had lost a wicket for 4 runs—when a torrential downpour flooded the wicket and caused the match to be abandoned. A disappointing, but not unsuitable, finish to a very wet season.

SECOND XI

In spite of considerable talent batting has been the major weakness, and bad fielding has often been apparent. But the team has had its successes also and quite a number of its members have played occasionally for the First XI. Again, the strength of the team appears to have been mainly in the bowling, where Marshall (R. G.) and Cowles have done particularly well.

The team was:—Hudson (Capt.), Marshall A. C., Cowles, Clewley, Parsons, Price (G. M.), Bush, Marshall (R. G.), Lucas, Emmett and Lay (T. R.).

Results

v. Newbury Grammar School (a)	Lost	82, 83—5
v. St. Edward's School Colts (a)	Lost	131, 132—5
v. Radley College 3rd XI (h)	Lost	33, 34—3
v. K.A.S., Wantage (h)	Won	78—8, 75
v. Reading School (a)	Won	60—7, 56
v. Windsor County School (a)	Won	53—4, 49
v. Magdalen College School (a)	Lost	27, 121

THIRD XI

The Third XI are reported to have enjoyed their matches under the enthusiastic leadership of N. J. Shurrock. Their great success was the defeat of Newbury by five wickets in the first match, in which the School fielding was excellent. However, the composition of the side was always fluid, and several members were promoted to the Second XI during the season. We hope to add another fixture to the Third XI's list next year.

The team was:—Shurrock (Capt.), Sale (M. J.), Carter (J.), Rawlins, Light, Paxman (R. N.), Redknapp (R. H.), Grigsby, Midwinter, Round and Hale.

Results

v. Newbury Grammar School (h)	Won 71—5, 70
v. Reading School (h)	Lost 41, 63
v. Radley College 4th XI (a)	Lost 60, 125

'UNDER 15' XI

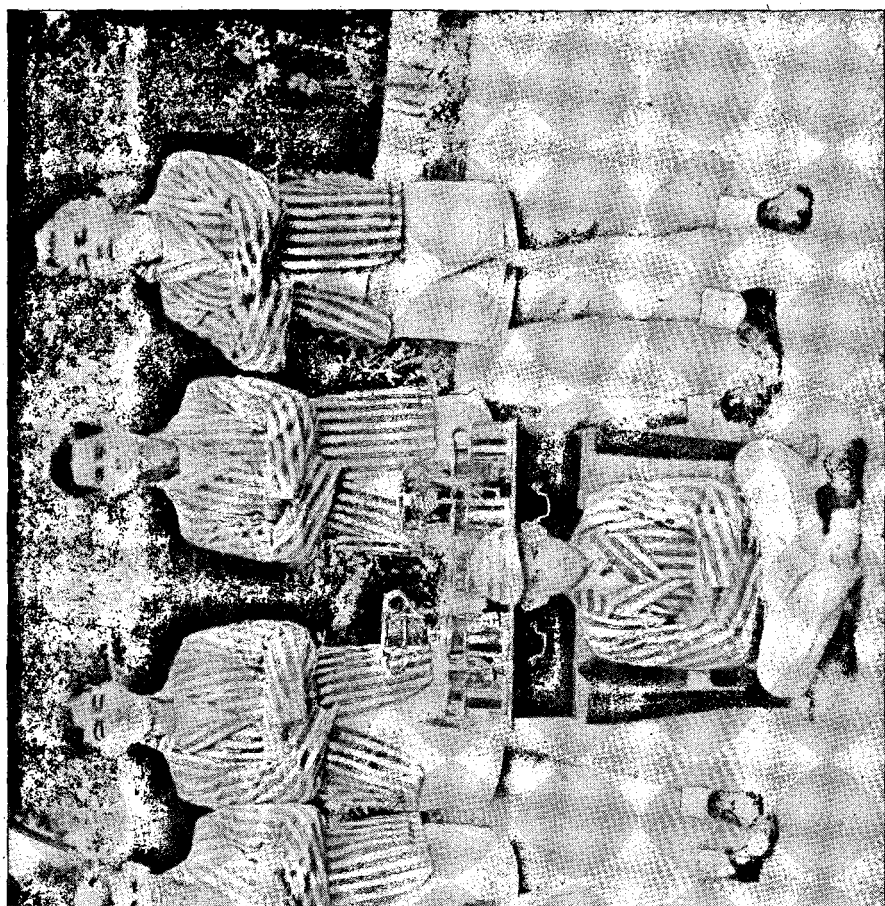
After a poor start, results improved, and the climax came in the match against Radley, for when stumps were drawn, we were in a commanding position, five runs behind with three wickets in hand, thanks mainly to an aggressive 30 by N. A. Carter and a sound 63 not out by S. C. Woodley. The side has always shown the ability to dismiss their opponents and then to hit the ball hard and straight. Of the bowlers the most consistent and successful were G. F. Wastie, P. Fitzsimons, and J. C. Spinks, and of the batsmen, S. C. Woodley, I. J. Glenny and B. Westbrook showed particular promise. Fielding generally has been excellent, especially close to the wicket, but there have been a few lapses. Altogether it has been a satisfying season which excites hope for the future.

The team was:—Woodley (Capt.), Carter (N. A.), Glenny, Trenaman (R. J.), Spinks, Westbrook, Fitzsimons, Tinney, Rallings, Wastie and Penney.

Results

v. Newbury Grammar School (a)	Lost 28, 137
v. St. Edward's School (h)	Won 58—9, 51
v. Reading School (a)	Draw 72-2, 118-9 dec.
v. City of Oxford School (a)	Won 79—8, 78
v. Oratory School (h)	Won 71, 47
v. Radley College (h)	Draw 138-7, 143-8 dec.

A.A.H.



FIRST IV, 1953

ROWING

It is pleasant to be able to record that in Coronation Year the Boat Club has enjoyed one of its most successful seasons. Besides the four regular crews we have been able to muster four crews of novices, although the usual shortage of boats and coaches has prevented the most junior members from having as much practice as we should have liked.

While the success of the First IV at Regattas and in races against other schools, not to mention lowering the home course record again, undoubtedly provided the highlight, perhaps the most remarkable and encouraging feature of the season has been the keenness displayed by all members of the Club, not only when afloat but also when engaged in such tasks as scraping and varnishing boats, painting blades or digging flower-beds. This spirit of ready co-operation is of the utmost value in what is necessarily an expensive sport.

We shall be very sorry indeed to lose the services of Mr. Fiori whose untiring patience and energy have done so much to initiate and encourage beginners. Who but he could have kept the Kingston in service so regularly? It is sad to think that he is moving on to a School that knows no river. Another old friend to whom we must say goodbye at last is Marina. After some eighteen years service with us and at the ripe age of 48 she has gone to join the Tom in the place where old boats go.

Finally, our thanks are due to Wallingford R.C. for the loan of a clinker eight which we were able to use twice at the end of term. These two outings proved convincingly that we can balance and propel an eight and would soon be prepared to challenge serious opposition. It is believed that the last occasion on which an Abingdon School VIII was seen afloat was in 1859. We hope we shall not have to wait another 94 years for the next occasion!

1st IV Characters

P. J. LAY (Bow). A powerful and determined oarsman. When he has overcome a certain amount of clumsiness he should find his rowing easier: he wastes some of his energy at present.

P. B. H. AMEY (No. 2). A very stylish oarsman with an excellent forward swing. It is to be hoped that he will be able to continue his rowing career.

J. WESTALL (No. 3). Always most reliable and cool, he backed up Stroke splendidly. A most mature oarsman.

H. G. WILLIAMS (Stroke). He has stroked the crew extremely well and with the utmost determination. He has developed an excellent style, and gives a great deal of thought to his rowing.

B. J. HEDGES (Cox). He has become an excellent cox, and he has shewn that he can keep his head in a crisis. He has had the crew well under control also!

Undoubtedly one of the best crews and certainly the fastest that the School has had. They took their training seriously and always rowed confidently and cheerfully.

1st IV Races

v. Prince Henry's G.S. Evesham (h). Wed., 13th May.

Won by 3 lengths in 3 mins. 33 secs.

P. W. Kemp from the 4th crew rowed in place of P. J. Lay who was ill, and acquitted himself well. The School led all the way.

v. Culham College (h). Mon., 18th May.

Won by 2 lengths in 3 mins. 35 secs.

In driving rain the crews were level for a minute but two spurts gave the School a winning lead.

v. Sir Wm. Borlase's School, Marlow (h). Wed., 25th May.

Won by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths in 3 mins. 2 secs.

Conditions fast. After a level start a crab put Borlase behind, but they chased the School home with great determination.

v. Wallingford R.C. (h). Sat., 23rd May.

Won by 2 lengths in 3 mins. 12.6 secs (a new record).

A repetition of the previous race, with Wallingford, stroked by I. Juggins, pressing all the way.

v. King Edward VI Sch., Straford-on-Avon (a). Wed., 27th May.

Lost by $\frac{1}{4}$ length.

A poor performance, for which fixed pins and a short course were inadequate excuse.

Oxford Coronation Regatta, Junior Fours Sat., 30th May.

The day was fine but there was a strong head wind blowing down the course. The School won their first three heats, against R.M.C.S. 'A', Falcon R.C. and Hannington R.C. comfortably. In the final, against Evesham R.C., they were a canvas down at the O.U.B.C., but they

kept their stride and drew away to beat their heavier opponents by 1 length.

Wallingford Regatta. Junior Fours. Sat., 6th June.

The only other entry, Reading School, had already rowed two races in an eight, and so the School won with some ease.

v. Reading School (a). Wed., 10th June.

Won by six feet.

The School established an early lead but lost it on hitting a stray sculling-boat. However by striking a high rate they just scraped home in fast time, believed to be a course record.

Marlow Regatta. Public School Fours. Friday, 19th June.

Conditions were quite good with a fairly strong following wind. The School were drawn against Cheltenham and Wallasey G.S. and gained a little at the start. At half-way the crews were nearly level, when Wallasey put in a strong burst and drew ahead. The School replied, but while they gained $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths on Cheltenham they could not overhaul Wallasey who finished a bare length ahead in a good time. Wallasey went on to win a most exciting final by 2 feet.

v. O.A.'s. Sat., 27th June. Won easily in 3 mins. 20 secs.

Conditions were slow but quite a fast time was recorded.

2nd IV

After all the unsuccessful experiments of the Lent term we were fortunate to strike upon a workmanlike combination for the races. Wiggins had to drop out altogether owing to knee trouble and Swainston and Sarsfield-Hall were moved up from the 3rd IV. Until he went down with 'flu, Swainston stroked the crew with rhythm, length and steadiness but he could not produce a real spurt, and lost the race at Wallingford Regatta. Two other races were virtually lost through mechanical breakdowns, two by narrow margins after excellent races, and three were won, a record which hardly does justice to a fast and very enthusiastic crew who should make useful material next year. The order of rowing was.

Bow—P. C. Sarsfield-Hall; '2'—P. J. Simmonds; '3'—T. W. S. Downs; Stroke—J. J. Swainston; Cox—I. W. Trenaman.

In the last two races Simmonds moved to Stroke and J. D. Hall from the 4th crew came in to perform competently at '2'.

2nd IV Races

v. Prince Henry's G.S., Evesham (h). Wed., 13th May.

Won by 2 lengths in 3 mins. 32 secs.

v. Culham College (h). Mon., 18th May.

Won by 3 lengths in 3 mins. 42 secs.

v. Sir Wm. Borlase's Sch., Marlow (h). Wed., 20th May.

Lost by 1½ lengths in 3 mins. 40 secs.

A jammed slide put stroke out of action half the time.

v. Wallingford R.C. (h). Sat., 23rd May.

Lost by ¾ length. Time: 3 mins. 22.6 secs.

An excellent ding dong race. The time constitutes a new 2nd IV record.

v. King Edward VI Sch., Stratford-on-Avon (a). Wed., 27th May.

Won by 3 lengths.

Wallingford Regatta. Maiden Fours. Sat., 6th June.

Lost to Neptune R.C. 'A'.

A slow start and low rating lost far too much ground though they made up a good deal over the latter part of the course.

v. Reading School (a). Wed., 10th June.

Lost by a distance.

The School were leading when a broken slide slowed them down to a stop.

v. O.A.'s. Sat., 27th June.

Lost by 1 foot. Time: 3 mins. 30 secs.

A most exciting and creditable win for the O.A.'s who beat the time of their 1st crew.

3rd IV

Though somewhat rough, they improved considerably and always rowed with great determination. Yet another successful season for the 'Radley'!

Crew: Bow—B. L. Smith; '2'—J. R. Pratt; '3'—E. G. Rockall; Stroke—B. D. Guimaraens; Cox—A. J. Foden.

3rd IV Races

v. Prince Henry's G.S., Evesham (h). Wed., 13th May.

Lost by 1 length in 3 mins. 42 secs.

v. Sir Wm. Borlase's Sch., Marlow (h). Wed., 20th May.

Won by 2 lengths in 3 mins. 40 secs.

v. Reading School (a). Wed., 10th June.

Won easily.

The Regatta

Held on Wilsham Reach at 6.15 on Mon., 13th July, it was proved conclusively that the event could be enjoyed without the liberal 'duckings' of previous years.

Results

House Fours—The Bennett Cup:

Blacknall beat Reeves by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths.

Blacknall Crew: T. W. S. Downs, P. B. H. Amey, P. J. Lay, H. G. Williams, B. J. Hedges (Cox).

Dayboys v. Boarders—The Pierpoint Cup:

Boarders won by 1 length.

The crew was the same as the foregoing except that P. J. Simmonds rowed at '3' vice P. J. Lay.

House Pairs:

Each House entered on 'A' and 'B' crew, and in the Final Reeves 'B' (A. J. Pickford, P. O. Older and I. A. Oliver, Cox) beat Reeves 'A' (B. L. Smith, B. M. Roberts and A. J. Foden, Cox).

Sculls:

There were five entries this year and in the Final R. G. Mortimer beat P. B. H. Amey by 2 lengths.

Staff v. School 4th IV:

Coxed and encouraged by the Headmaster, the Staff IV consisting of J. F. H. Barker (bow), J. V. Fiori, G. F. Duxbury and R. G. Mortimer (Str.), maintained their unbeaten record, winning by 1 length. Their opponents were: Bow—W. St. A. R. Dady; '2'—J. D. Hall; '3'—P. W. Kemp; Stroke—D. Y. Candy; Cox—A. J. Foden.

To conclude the evening Mrs. Fiori kindly gave away the trophies and prizes, and the Captain of Boats presented a suitably inscribed tankard to Mr. Fiori as a token of the Club's sincere appreciation of all that he has done for the School rowing.

R.G.M., G.F.D., J.W.

TENNIS

This year, for the first time, sixteen boys have played full time tennis and the experiment has proved undoubtedly successful. With an increased number of fixtures, the School showed a corresponding rise in the defeat of a strong Staff VI for the first time.

The weather, although very uncertain, allowed as much tennis as the three grass courts in action could stand, and there is no doubt that this constant practice has accounted for the very satisfactory season. Results on paper look mediocre, but the exhausting task of raising tennis to the status of a School game was successfully accomplished and there is great promise for future seasons. We have joined the Public Schools' L.T.A. and next year we hope to engage the services of the county coach. Indeed, entry for the Youll Cup does not seem so far away.

Tennis VI Characters

J. A. Nichols (Captain). A very promising player, who has been an inspiration to his side and a model for all to emulate. He has a powerful service, fine cross-court drive and an all round knowledge of the game. At present he lacks a winning back-hand passing shot, and a reliable overhead smash from midcourt; he also sometimes fails to produce his best under pressure, but this will come. (H.M.G.)

A. J. Gardner. A very consistent player, who must however develop more punch in his volleying and become more the aggressor. Better in singles than doubles, there is room for improvement in his attitude on the court

A. R. Pezaro. Lack of power and a very weak service and backhand have held him back, but keenness and a fighting spirit have kept him a place in the second pair this season.

M. H. Greevy. A very powerful player, with a good service, who, however, tends to use uncontrolled speed rather than accuracy. He is at the moment too erratic and rather clumsy and slow. His strokes are potentially good; experience should give him confidence.

P. J. Downer. The most improved player in the side with a good forehand drive and a steady service. He has a good temperament and has proved a tower of strength in more than one game.

E. L. Brown. Joining the VI mid-season, he did not fulfil his early promise. However, with a powerful if erratic service and decisive volley he proved himself quite a useful third string.

P. G. Cope. Rather awkward and not making use of his build, he has met with more success in singles than doubles—mainly because of his lack of serving and volleying ability.

Contest for the Buckley Cup was keen this year, and the eventual winner was J. A. Nichols.

Match Results

King Alfred's School, Wantage, 23rd May. Won 4 matches—0.

The Staff, 27th May. Won 5½ matches—4½.

The Old Abingdonians, 13th June. Drew 4½ matches—4½.

Abingdon L.T.C., 20th June. Lost 3 matches—6.

Reading School, 4th July. Lost 1½ matches—7½.

Windsor C.G.S., 15th July. Lost 4 matches—5.

The matches with R.G.S. High Wycombe and Magdalen C.S. were both cancelled, owing to rain.

J.A.N.

SWIMMING

The new Municipal Bathing Pool in the Abbey Meadow, opened during the Coronation festivities, has been a great boon to swimming this term, and we are indeed grateful to the Corporation for the very generous facilities provided for us therein. We were able to use the pool from the beginning of term and in the Gala, which followed the official opening, the School was well represented. Scott-Taggart won the boys' freestyle, Redknap was second in the quarter-mile to the Oxford County and former Army Champion, and the School team won the inter-school relay.

The Swimming Sports were held in the pool in bright sunshine, on Wednesday, 22nd July, and some new events were included in the programme. These were—one length freestyle and breast stroke races for boys who had learnt to swim during the term and also a ten-length race. The Headmaster, Mrs. Cobban, Mrs. Coleman and Mr. Alston judged the Open Diving and at the end of the afternoon Mrs. Gray very kindly presented certificates to winners, and the Green Cup—the House award.

The results were as follows:

Beginners breast stroke, 1 length—Gray (Be) 30.2 secs.

Beginners freestyle, 1 length—Howell (T).

U.14 freestyle, 2 lengths—Kingston (T), 38.3 secs.

U.14 breast stroke, 2 lengths—Smith P. A. (T), 51.6 secs.

U.16 freestyle, 4 lengths—Scott-Taggart (T), 1 min. 28.2 secs.

U.16 back stroke, 2 lengths—Smith B. L. (R), 47.0 secs.

U.16 breast stroke, 4 lengths—Scott-Taggart (T), 1 min. 47.8 secs.

Open back stroke, 4 lengths—Grant M. M. (Bl), 1 min. 53.0 secs.

Open breast stroke, 4 lengths—Rockall (R), 1 min. 37.8 secs.

- Open freestyle, 10 lengths—Redknap (Bl), 4 mins. 27.8 secs.
 Open freestyle, 4 lengths—Redknap (Bl), 1 min. 23.3 secs.
 Obstacle Race—Wiggins C. S. (No points awarded for this event).
 Open Diving—Redknap (Bl).
 Junior (U.15) Relay—Reeves House, 1 min. 26.4 secs.
 Senior Relay—Blacknall House, 1 min. 11.4 secs.

The Green Cup was won by Tesdale House with 42 points, followed by Blacknall with 35 and Reeves third, with 31 points.

C.S.W.

MINOR GAMES

Apart from Tennis and Swimming, Minor Games received very little support this term, a fact due mainly to the large number of out of school activities prominent in the summer. Boxing, Fives, Squash and Basketball have all suffered in this respect, but we look forward to renewed interest in the coming term. Boxing and Basketball only seem to flourish when the evenings are short and lockup early.

The reports of successful Tennis and Swimming are to be found elsewhere.

P.J.M.

C.C.F. NOTES

The Summer term, always a busy one, "began" on 12th May, when the examination was held in both parts of Cert. A. Results in Part I—67 passes out of 72—were satisfactory, but there was a disappointing number of failures—15 out of 63—in Part II. A number, admittedly, failed by only a few marks; but even so it has been decided that a qualifying exam will be needed in future. Two candidates—Cadets McLoughlin and Older—passed with credit and received from the Headmaster a prize of books at a special ceremonial parade.

In the last week of May, we held a successful Field Day in the Cumnor Hurst area. The R.A. Section, for the first time, gave supporting fire to the assault troops. Let us pass lightly over the fact that, in the course of its first experience of "action", the Section contrived to ditch the gun, and was glad to have some assistance from a friendly farmer

On Sunday, 24th May a contingent of 65 all ranks from the Army and Basic Sections and of 10 from the R.N. Section took part with the band in the traditional Service and March Past of Empire Youth Sunday. A week later six senior cadets saw the Coronation procession from the steps of the Victoria Monument.

The month of June passed in routine training, but with the beginning of July came the excitement of first attack upon Bisley. Ashburton day began with fine weather, but with frequent changes of light which tested the competitors; and to this we must attribute the Eight's relatively poor showing at the 200 yard firing point. In the afternoon there was a succession of torrential showers, with short intervals of bright sunshine. In these adverse conditions the team improved on its morning performance coming 30th out of 88. Our final placing, with a score of 463, was 57th—a better result than that of several bigger schools with whom we have some connection. But we were sorry that we did not keep up the fairly close race we had maintained with Bradfield in preliminary matches. We were grateful for the keen interest of a parent—also our Naval Liaison Officer—Lt. Cdr. Crow, and we shall preserve in our records his snapshot of our scoreboard at the close, standing in a pool of water, with the C.O. gazing at it more in sorrow than in anger

Ten days after Bisley we had our Annual Inspection, conducted by Rear-Admiral A. K. Scott-Moncrieff, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., the Admiral Commanding Reserves. He was assisted by Cdr. J. H. Dundas, D.S.C., R.N., and by Lt.-Col. G. I. Hamilton, D.S.O., R.Ir.F., G.I. at Salisbury Plain District. All the Inspecting officers seemed to be well pleased with our showing while those who have watched the parade over the years expressed the view that it was our best ever. Our one regret was that the R.A. Section, on its first Inspection, should have been without Capt. Willis to command it. It is good to know, however, that he has now largely recovered from his cartilage operation.

The R.E. Section held its annual qualifying exam in the last week of term, the work of L/Cpl. Blinman and Cadet Smith K. H. being highly commended by the C.R.E. The Section is most unfortunate in losing Capt. Fiori, and we are most grateful to Col. Sparrow for arranging that his own officers will assume charge of our own Sappers this coming year.

A final excitement came on Founders' Day, when a Guard of Honour was mounted outside the Corn Exchange to receive the Lord Lieutenant of the County on his arrival for the distribution of prizes. It was the first time—but not, we hope, the last—that we have had the chance of giving a Royal Salute.

In mid-June we said good-bye, with pride and regret, to U/O Leach, called from us for two months training, prior to joining his namesake, Leech B. W. T., at Sandhurst. A number of our "serving" soldiers intend to follow in their footsteps, and we look forward to supplying the R.M.A. with a steady flow of future officers.

In the course of the term, the following promotions were made:

To be C.S.M.—Sgt. Brackley, M. J.

To be L/Sgt.—Cpl. Pratt, J. R.

To be Cpls.—L/Cpls. Lloyd, D. S., Roberts, B. M.

S.C.P.

C.C.F. CAMP AT SMALL ARMS SCHOOL, ROYAL MARINES, 1953

A contingent of 6 officers and 95 O.R.s was to have attended Camp at Windmill Hill, Tidworth, from 28th July to 5th August. A week before the end of term news came that it had been necessary to cancel the Camp, because of an outbreak of polio in the Tidworth area, and that it was impossible to make alternative arrangements. At first the situation seemed hopeless and the cancellation had been published to the School before a telephone call to the Commandant, Small Arms School, changed the situation completely. The Small Arms School was to operate a leave-period during our Camp-time, and only a small maintenance party would remain. The Commandant most kindly offered to place the School at our disposal—to house us, feed us, and allow us the use of all training facilities. The only drawback to this offer, accepted with gratitude and alacrity, was that only 50 cadets could go. A ballot was conducted by the Headmaster to decide the lucky ones. Army sanction was obtained for the arrangements proposed and Camp was "on" after all.

For this School to have laid on and run its own private Camp is an historic event; and the Browndown Camp has made history, for the post-war era at least, in another respect—the weather. For no appreciable rain fell from start to finish. Fortune, it seems, still favours the brave!

It was decided before the Camp ballot took place that all senior N.C.O.s on the list had prescriptive right to attend. In consequence, our contingent was organised into 2 small platoons, and a senior N.C.O.s group. The latter was used on training as a separate unit and achieved a notable success over the Assault Course. The group, commanded by the C.S.M., gave a demonstration to each platoon in turn of the way in which a trained section can negotiate a succession of obstacles without losing cohesion and effectiveness as a tactical unit. Afterwards, each section in the platoons was put through the Course with N.C.O.s acting as guides and watch-dogs. This was a valuable, and to most a novel, conclusion to training.

Naturally, much time was spent on the miniature and open ranges. Normally at Camp we get a range allocation which is quite inadequate for the needs of a School which lacks its own open range, and where only the more expert can get adequate practice. It was an added

virtue of Browndown that we were able to restore the balance handsomely in this respect, and to discover among the rank and file some Bisley shots of the future. The work of L/Cpl. Rockall as shepherd of the inexperienced was of great value in this field.

At this private Camp we missed inevitably the excitement of mixing, and being in competition with, other Schools, and we missed, too, the "side shows"—static exhibitions, tank rides, concerts—which make or mar the evening in a full camp. But we were not deprived of any traditional feature that could be inserted. In lieu of Sports we organised a cricket match against a scratch team from H.M.S. *Collingwood*. The game was played on a rubber surface over concrete. On this fast wicket the Contingent made only 50—in spite of a good innings by Millard—in face of good fast bowling. But the sailors found Jones and Hines virtually unplayable and were dismissed for 31. On Sunday we marched to the Station Church, Lee-on-Solent, where we added body and sound to the service; and on our return a successful Contingent photograph was taken. Our one "failure" was the lack of a March Past: for the three high-ranking officers we approached were unable to come, and we had to acknowledge defeat. On Bank Holiday, though there was no guarding to be done we held our own Guard Mounting competition; one guard was entered by each platoon, the junior electing to compete on equal terms with its seniors. It was a creditable performance, therefore, for them to lose the competition by only 5 points. Nor was it discreditable that the C.O., acting Adjt., whose last experience of mounting a Battalion guard was ten years ago, when he was in the desert, made only two errors in procedure. However, it kept the roops amused . . .

The final excitement, on the afternoon of the last day, was a visit to the Light Fleet Carrier *Perseus*: for this S/Lt. Barker arranged that we should have our own M.F.V., and we sailed in dignified comfort almost to the ship's side, to the envy of thousands of civilians as they made the long trek right round the Dockyard. Pleasing too was the unelicited testimonial of one small boy, who was heard to remark in a piercing voice, "Coo, what a smart lot!"

On the 'Q' side, the Camp ran smoothly. The food, always good at Browndown, was supplemented by eggs for breakfast. We had our own dining-hall in the miniature range, and there was none of the queuing which is sometimes trying at Camp. Perhaps because accommodation was good and not crowded there were few difficulties in the early morning and the Contingent was punctual on first parade. Certainly we look back now upon an excellent Camp, the best perhaps that any of us can remember.

S.C.P.

ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

At the beginning of the Summer term we welcomed ten new members to the Section, which made the total number twenty-four. Under L/S. Lay, the section has been working for the Able Seaman qualification. During the term, the Whaler has been overhauled and repainted and is now in good repair.

We spent Field Day at Portsmouth as the guests of H.M.S. *Excellent*. An enjoyable and instructive day was spent touring the close-range weapons firing range and watching a practice shot.

We were particularly pleased to welcome Rear-Admiral Scott-Moncrieff, Admiral Commanding Reserves, and our own admiral, as Inspecting Officer. It is good to record that he was impressed by our showing.

Three members of the Section are leaving us this term: L/S. Wiggins who has done good work—especially in connection with shooting—during his career in the Section, A.B. Banfield, R.N.V.R., who hopes to go into the Navy for his National Service, and O/S. Courtney, who has the distinction of being the only member of the Section to have been on a Cookery Course. Our best wishes for the future go with them.

Summer Camp

It is with some displeasure that we have to record that, because of the large number of cadets who put in to go to Camp at the same period, it was found necessary to cut down the allocation from each School, so that, of the sixteen who applied, only seven of our Section were able to go. These seven, however, had a very good time.

We were fortunate in being allocated to a new ship, H.M.S. *Decoy*—at Plymouth once again—and we spent a most interesting week. We found that the *Decoy* was a member of a new class—the *Daring*—and that most of her equipment was right up-to-date and the details thereof still on the Secret list. Apart from the interest of the ship herself, we also made some unusual visits, to H.M.S. *Fishguard*, a training ground for boys entering the Navy as engineering apprentices; to the dockyard rope-sheds; and to H.M.S. *Eagle*, another fairly new ship. The lighter side was not lacking either—a cricket match, a whaler pulling race, and a picnic at Cawsand via power boat. Our one regret was the absence of sailing.

Altogether, we had a most engrossing and instructive week, and we are indeed grateful to the Commanding Officer and the other officers of H.M.S. *Decoy*, who looked after us so well.

L.C.J.G.

SHOOTING

This term has seen the debut of the Shooting VIII which has been preparing since September for Bisley. There has been some small-bore competition in the past, but this is apparently the first attempt at full-bore match shooting. It is certainly the School's first entry for the Ashburton Shield at Bisley. The major preliminary work was carried out during two weeks at the Royal Marines' Small Arms School at Gosport—one at Christmas and one at Easter—and we are most grateful to C/Sgt. Mortiboys. It was intended that we should shoot in Service Rifle Class (b) Competitions using a service rifle with sling and movable aperture backsight, and the Corps was most generous in fitting us out with equipment; our first match however, was with the rifle as issued, S.R. (a) conditions, at the Salisbury Plain District Rifle Meeting on 16th May. In the C.C.F. Match we were leading at 200 yards, but after shooting at 300 yards we were second with 305 to 308.

Several practice shoots were arranged this term at Churn and Otmoor, and we are most grateful to those officers of the Corps and members of the butt party who accompanied us throughout the term. The first Ashburton Conditions match was organised by the Oxfordshire R.A. at Otmoor, with 6 schools competing. Packer R. J. and Bush won the "Cadet Pair" competition, while the VIII were 4th in the "Ashburton", with 463—only 2 points separating 3rd and 5th. At Bisley we spent a night under canvas, having left early with Major Parker and C.S.M. Wiblin. The Ashburton Shield Competition started at 200 yards on Thursday morning when our scores were below the practice average. At 500 yards in the afternoon, scoring was still low, partly because of a thunderstorm which interrupted shooting 3 times. Our score was again 463—we were 56th out of the 87 schools competing. In the *Country Life* shot concurrently, we were 32nd out of 87.

This was not as good as we had hoped, but it is encouraging for a first attempt. In the following week, 3 members of the team returned to shoot in the "Queen's Prize"—Brown C. G., Rockall and the Captain. Brown and Rockall had bad luck to start with 27 and 35 at 200 yards. The Captain, with 34, 32, 27, at 200; 500 and 600 yards; missed the shoot-off for the next round by 2 points—as did Rockall by 4 points.

We must thank Major Parker for his great help and interest, and C.S.M. Wiblin for the work he has put in—especially in the butts; with this encouragement in our first season we hope to see greater success in future years.

VIII—C. S. Wiggins (Captain); Brown C. G., Rockall, Amey, Jones D. M., Brown E. L., Brodrick, Round. (Reserve: Jones D. M. P.).

C.S.W.

SCOUT TROOP

Summer term this year was notable for several reasons,—some happy ones, but some otherwise. At the beginning of the term the Bob-a-Job result again broke its previous record, and soon afterwards we were fortunate in acquiring a very keen and energetic Assistant Scoutmaster. Next we were visited by Mr. Methuen, Assistant District Commissioner, who seemed pleased with the Troop on the whole but discovered lamentable deficiencies in the Patrols' knowledge of the habits of their namesakes. Later in the term, however, we had to cancel the Annual Camp owing to lack of support and at the end of the term I regretfully said goodbye to the Troop. I wish the Troop Good Scouting.

H.J.

LIBRARY NOTES

Our thanks are due to the following for gifts to the Library: Mrs. David Green (*The Silent World*), Miss S. Shedden (2 novels by Hugh Walpole); A. C. Hyde Parker, Esq. (*Diodori Historia: an interesting copy dated 1568*) and the Corporation of Abingdon for a special Souvenir Coronation Programme; to the following also for "Leaving Books": D. Y. Candy (*Ghost Stories of M. R. James*); J. Carter (*The Dam Busters*); D. J. James (*Astronomy*); B. James (*Anthology of English Prose*); D. J. Littlewood (*My India*) and C. R. Lucas (*Jan Smuts*).

Regretfully we say goodbye to Robin Mills and Norman Shurrock who have so long maintained the Library records with great efficiency.

G.F.D.

REVIEW

"Ut Proficias": made by the Abingdon School Camera Club, directed by M. K. C. Grigsby.

With the production of "Ut Proficias", the Abingdon School Camera Club has made a brave and highly successful incursion into the complicated realms of the cinema. The film, in the space of twenty minutes, sets out to follow a typical boarder through the routine of the school day. Therefore, with such an ambitious object, and with so little time, it is not surprising that sins of omission loom large in the critic's mind.

One of the most impressive things about this film was the unflinching excellence of the general shots of the school itself, both outside and within; the cameramen must have taken no little care in finding the best positions, with the result that many of the shots would not have disgraced a professional studio. Much more difficulty was experienced, it seems, in close-ups, where treatment appears to have been hurried. Occasionally, too, the commentary, usually in impeccable time with the film, lagged behind, most noticeably in the Chapel scene.

Lack of balance was most obvious in the scant regard paid to working periods, but when the cameras were installed in the Chemistry Lab., they seemed loth to leave it, and wasted much valuable time in shots of little significance. Superimposition to denote the passage of time was not a success, and here the company have more to learn. The producer seemed to be running into trouble in attempting to shoot rowing scenes; and although the results generally do credit to all concerned, the total disregard of cricket was inexplicable, since cricket, above all games, lends itself most successfully to filming. One good shot of a 1st Eleven match from the top of the Science Block could have improved this film tremendously.

However, personal preference is hardly a valid basis for criticism, and there was much in the film to delight the most critical. It must be agreed, surely, that if a film is to be limited to twenty minutes, lack of balance is preferable to disjointedness. If this is accepted, the Club can be congratulated on a fine first effort, and encouraged to continue. For there were many signs in this film that talent and skill are there, and needs but experience to bring them out. A delightful touch was the cunning synchronisation to denote the coming (and going) of lunch. And there are two horrible warnings to be remembered by the Club for their next film. First, the roar of laughter which will greet, whenever this film is shown, the commentator's prim remark, "Now they're shooting the Brass Band", should remind the script-writers to purge unconscious humour from their scripts; and secondly, the look of supreme boredom and contempt on the leading star's face as he listens to a homily from the Headmaster should remind the producer forcibly that the camera's all-seeing eye records everything faithfully, sometimes all too faithfully!

Finally congratulations to all the stars and extras who proved themselves almost "naturals" in their screen debut, to the producer and technicians, and especially to the Music director whose choice of composition was throughout admirable and harmonious.

N.J.S.

(In fairness to the 'leading star' we should perhaps add that this particular sequence was filmed four days after the preceding shot of the homily, and after a gruelling half-hour of 'duff takes'. But it is a fair comment.—Ed.).

SCHOOL SOCIETIES

ROYASSE SOCIETY

The summer term proved an eventful one for the Society. Our first meeting took place on Wednesday, 20th May, when R. M. Marchbanks read an extremely well written paper entitled "An Analysis of Personality". With so unassuming a title, most of us were unprepared for a

paper of a highly scientific nature. We were agreeably surprised, however, for the reader had obviously taken care that his subject—the effect of the human glands upon the formation of character and temperament—should be intelligible to even our least scientific members. The discussion which followed clearly revealed that Marchbanks had an exceptional command of his subject.

A week later, on 28th May, we were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Cobban at a performance of "Iolanthe" given by the D'oyly Carte Opera Company in the New Theatre, Oxford. For Coronation time, no visit could have been chosen more appropriately. It was a delightful excursion into a Gilbert and Sullivan Arcady which all enjoyed. We are most grateful for a gay, memorable evening.

The final meeting of the term was held on Wednesday, 15th July. Mr. K. M. D. Holloway, with the assistance of the now celebrated Herr Grundig, submitted the arguments for and against "A Reform of the English Spelling". Dr. Grundig, a professor of Heidelberg, is a German of the mystic school. He is incredibly shy,—so shy in fact, that he passed his evening beneath a sofa, as one member, who had been sitting upon him for half an hour, discovered to his horror. Our good friend decried our insular mode of spelling with a continental exuberance, but Mr. Holloway surmounted his opposition quietly and comprehensively. The ensuing discussion was lively,—but once defeated, Herr Grundig declined to reassert himself. We are glad to have made this brief acquaintance and thank the Doctor and his creator for a meeting of an original kind.

Our thanks are due to all who have contributed to the success of our meetings during the year, and we are especially indebted to the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban for their kind, unflinching hospitality which we most sincerely appreciate.

P.B.H.A.

DEBATING SOCIETY

The summer term has seen only two meetings of the Debating Society.

Debating remains of a particularly high order, but the excitement of the Coronation, the Certificate Examinations and a Comic Opera,—a rare combination,—have absorbed the energies of even the most eloquent amongst us.

At the first meeting of the Term, the House debated whether one might reach the peak of success by merely mountaineering. J. C. Ivatts and N. K. Hammond proposed the motion that "the endeavour to conquer Mount Everest is both futile and pointless", which was opposed by M. M. Grant and B. D. Guimaraens. Patriotic feeling ran high and overcame the reasoning of those content to stay at the foot

of the mountain. The motion was defeated by an overwhelming majority, and our faith was justified a few weeks later when news was brought of the ultimate success of the Everest Expedition. Then of course, all hostile convictions were forgotten, and opponents and advocates alike were on top of the world!

Yet another stage in the old conflict of Classicism and the Romantic School was witnessed at our second debate. Musicians rallied in force to hear R. E. J. Packer and P. C. Shaw propose that "this House regrets the introduction of jazz", a motion which was opposed by T. M. J. Kempinski and P. J. Simmonds. Discord was inevitable, and the Moderns carried the field with a substantial majority which will enable them to enjoy, unmolested, the complexities of their "debased form of art" for a long time to come. The gramophones of School House are not after all, to be silenced; there is security in the citadel.

An admirable tendency of younger members to take an active part in all debates, has been observed. We hope that this support will be maintained, for it promises well for debating in future years.

CAMERA CLUB

The Summer term has proved both historical and exceptionally busy; the nine meetings which we held were of small importance beside the climax of months of hard work—the première of "Ut Proficias" which was held before a select audience on 21st July. This twenty-minute film, our first venture into the ciné world, has been acclaimed a great success, and we have had requests to make other documentaries. It was seen by about four hundred visitors on Founder's Day, who have the thanks of the Club for their generosity. Mention must also be made of the production staff for their unfailing assistance, especially D. S. Lloyd, the chief cameraman.

Our Exhibition and competition were of a high standard, and we congratulate the two prize-winners. Thanks are also due to those who planned the Exhibition, and those who completely overhauled the dark room.

We must, however, conclude on a sorrowful note, for this term Mr. Johnston is leaving us. All members join in thanking him for his invaluable services to the Club and his experienced advice during the filming. We do wish both Mr. and Mrs. Johnston all good fortune in their new home.

M. K. C. G.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

During the Summer Term the Society held four meetings. At the first, we saw two films, "Radar goes to sea" and "M.A.C. Ships". The former described the use of radar by ships during the war, and the

latter showed how an oil-tanker was converted into a Merchant Aircraft Carrier by means of a moveable steel flight-deck.

Later, we were pleased to welcome Mr. W. T. Spragg, who introduced a film describing the care with which radio-active materials are handled at Harwell and the precautions which are taken when substances are sent to the outside world. Mr. Spragg kindly answered questions about the film afterwards..

At our third meeting we saw "The Oxo Story", a coloured film showing the stages in the production of the famous beef-cube. We were transported from the huge cattle-ranches of South America to the kitchens where the final dehydration takes place.

The Society is most grateful to Mr. Belcher, who at our last meeting introduced a Civil Service film called "The Atom Bomb". This described the precautionary measures which have been gradually evolved from practice to save lives after an atom-bomb explosion. The film went through each effect of the bomb and showed clearly how these effects can be countered by treatment and prompt action.

R.W.W.

GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

The first of seven meetings during the Summer was introduced by D. S. Lloyd, who presented an abridged version of "The Sorcerer" by Gilbert and Sullivan. M. B. Culley, returning to a more serious vein, then introduced Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony.

The third meeting, presented by H. R. Leach, consisted of Vaughan Williams' Symphony No. 5 in D major, and at the fourth meeting D. Shaw presented Tchaikovsky's overture "Romeo and Juliet" and the ever-popular "Till Eugenspiegel" of Richard Strauss.

The Secretary subsequently introduced Brahms' First Symphony, which was followed, at the next meeting, by Mozart's Overture "The Marriage of Figaro", Max Bruch's Violin Concerto in G minor, and the Finale from Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto, presented by P. J. Millard.

C. S. Wiggins concluded this very enjoyable series of programmes with Sullivan's Overture to "Iolanthe", and the Piano Concerto in A Minor by Grieg.

R.E.J.P.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

A number of meetings were held during the Summer Term. Our activities in the earlier part of the term took the form of general meetings, in the course of which members "swapped" or simply "talked" stamps. For the most part, however, our energies were directed to

the preparation of the Founder's Day Exhibition and Competition; both proved successful—the latter being won by D. T. L. Eke, who set out his stamps and commented upon them very neatly.

Membership continues to increase steadily; it was claimed by 45 boys at the census taken in July. Membership does, however, entail a termly subscription of 6d. payable to the Treasurer or Secretary, and it is hoped that all who are interested in stamps will pay their subscription in the Winter Term.

In the coming term we plan to broaden our activities; it is hoped to arrange talks by outside speakers, and possibly a "quiz".

H.G.W.

MODELLING CLUB

Only three meetings were held during the Summer Term because of the pressure of other activities. But the Michaelmas Term will, we hope, find the Club more active.

Some excellent models were completed during the term, and were on view on Founder's day. Once again we were able to interest younger visitors by running a model electric railway.

We are unfortunate to be losing our Sponsor, Mr. Fiori, who has put in some very hard work, often in the small hours, on our behalf. Our best wishes go with him for the future.

H.G.W.

THE SCHOOL BAND

In spite of a small membership at the beginning of the year, the Band has made excellent progress. This is mainly due to the enthusiasm shown by all, and particularly by the new players, those who joined us in the Lent Term: J. E. Cowles, W. H. Ashworth—trombonists; and S. R. Mills, playing the Tuba.

Upon the two occasions when the Band paraded in public—Empire Youth Sunday, and the Annual Inspection of the C.C.F.—results were satisfactory. The Inspection was particularly rewarding as, for the first time, we were able to boast four drummers; and here we must thank the Corps for providing us with two new drums.

As in previous terms, our warmest thanks go to Mr. Clack for his patience and understanding.

R.H.R.

O.A. NOTES

Births

ALDWORTH. On 21st April, 1953, to Monica, wife of Ernest H. Aldworth (1942) a daughter (Kathryn), a sister for Jane.

BEADLE. On 28th June, 1953, to Mary, wife of Mervyn G. Beadle (1944), a son, Michael Julian.

BURBOROUGH. On 28th June, 1953, to Doris, wife of Clive Burborough (1944), a son, Stephen John.

BURY. On 12th May, 1953, to Mary, wife of John Bury (1937), a daughter.

BUTTERFIELD. On 2nd August, 1953, to Pearl, wife of F. M. Butterfield (1927), a daughter

CLARKE. On 13th June, 1953, to Marie, wife of Owen E. Clarke (1936), a son (Owen Walter), a brother for Caroline and Melita.

OGLE. On 10th July, to Judy, wife of Martin Ogle (1929), a second son.

SAYER. On 3rd May, 1953, to Nina, wife of Kenneth T. B. Sayer (1940), a son.

SQUIRE. On 18th June, 1953, to Rosemary, wife of Dr. J. A. Squire (1927), a daughter, Caroline.

WALTERS. On 10th June, 1953, to Iris, wife of A. J. Walters (1946), a son.

Marriages

HEDGER—SHEPHERD. On 2nd April, 1953, Rupert Hedger, M. C. (1940) to Anne Shepherd.

LEACH—EDE. On 8th July, 1953, at St. James' Church, Muswell Hill, David John Leach (1948) to Joyce Winifred Ede.

RAYSON—GIBAUD. On 18th April, 1953, at St. Peter's Church, Henleaze, Bristol, John W. Rayson (1942) to Pamela, daughter of Mrs. Gibaud of Oaklands, Park Grove, Henleaze.

STIMPSON—LAWFORD. On 4th April, 1953, at Charlbury Methodist Church, Trevor S. Stimpson (1946) to Audrey Jean Lawford.

Deaths

BATE-PRESTON. In April, 1953, at Huntingdon, Long Island, U.S.A., Henry Wheeler Bate-Preston (1900—03), aged 68.

MIDWINTER. On 22nd June, 1952, William Ernest Midwinter (1887—92), of The Cleeve, Stratton, Cirencester.

SIMPSON. On 28th May, 1953, at Wallingford Hospital, Herbert Percival Simpson (1882—87), aged 84.

STONE. On 28th June, 1953, at Oxford, Frederick Homer Stone (1880—85), aged 84.

WIGGINS. On 20th June, 1953, at 39 Ock Street, Abingdon, Norman Philip Wiggins (1919—25), aged 44.

Henry Bate-Preston, a nephew of Arthur Preston, O.A., whose name he adopted, went up to Brasenose College, Oxford, and after graduating was for a time a research student at the British Museum. He then entered Colonial Service and served as magistrate in North Borneo. He was commissioned in King Edward's Horse in 1915 and at the time of the Armistice was Capt. in the Nigeria Regt. After farming in Kenya for some years he went to U.S.A., where the rest of his life was spent. In 1928 he published American Biographies, and was for many years on the staff of the Encyclopaedia Americana.

H. P. Simpson, younger son of Alderman A. H. Simpson, was himself an Alderman of the Borough, and throughout his life took an active part in many organisations in the town. He was first elected to the Council in 1919 and served continuously for 30 years. He was a member of the Abbey Lodge of Freemasons, for many years a Borough representative on the Governing Body of the School and in 1920 was President of the O.A. Club.

A contemporary of his, Frederick Stone was for many years in partnership with W. D. Duke, electrical engineer, of St. Michael's Street, Oxford. He was well-known in Oxford and the neighbourhood as an entertainer, having adopted the hobby of ventriloquism, conjuring and Punch and Judy playing.

Norman Wiggins, fifth of seven brothers at the School, joined his father in the building business and, apart from service in a naval shipyard during the last war, remained with the firm till his death. He had for a long time suffered ill-health with great patience and fortitude.

From Rev. W. E. Henty-Summers, elder son of the Headmaster, who resigned in 1882, we have received some very interesting and varied memories—he was only 5 at the time—of Abingdon and the School 70 years ago. Founders' Day lunch in a huge marquee, with a large silver Loving-Cup being passed round: Jack-in-the-Green with his company appearing outside the Headmaster's house on May Day: a boy arriving at school on a penny-farthing bicycle: the School rugby football team (note the date) playing in black and yellow striped jerseys, and inevitably known as the Wasps, though the official school colours were cerise and white. In those days the present Tesdale Room served as the Chapel and Mrs. Summers played the harmonium at services. Most amusing was the story of the boy, suspected of having pneumonia and sent to bed with a bread poultice on his chest, later discovered by the

matron trying to remove the poultice from the ceiling with a very inadequate poker.

Television viewers of the Coronation had a very clear view of Rev. T. M. Layng (1906) one of Her Majesty's Chaplains in the Royal Procession in the Abbey.

In the Military Procession Peter Lucas (1950) carried the Colour of his regiment; while Roy Gibaud (1942), in command of a detachment lining the route, had the misfortune to suffer a nasty bayonet wound in the head from a rifle that went astray on the command 'Present Arms'.

R. L. C. Footit (1923) has won favourable comment from the critics on his book 'The Instrument at the Door', published by Skeffington, in which he deals with various aspects of modern life.

Shaw Brown (1925) who was over here on a visit in the spring, is a wool expert known in Australia as a 'Woolclasser'. He was returning to his home in Sydney via Western Australia, a part of the continent he had not visited since his trip to the 'Never Never' in 1933. (See Abingdonian Vol. VII, No. 10).

A. M. Greenwood (1929) a civil and municipal engineer, has been for the last four years Deputy Borough Engineer and Surveyor at Acton.

R. J. Longford (1936) left the Merchant Navy, in which he was a Wireless Operator, in 1948 and is working with Regent Oil Co. in charge of the Accounts Dept. Western Branch. The area which he has to cover stretches from Mid-Wales to Worcester and from Lyme Regis to Banbury. He lives at Bristol and has two boys, 8½ and 5½ years old.

R. G. Sandercock (1932) is an engineer with British Electricity Authority at Hayle Power Station, Cornwall. His brother, Desmond (1939) is a sub-editor of Western Morning News and lives at Truro.

B. G. Steff (1931) now lives at Moseley, Birmingham. He is in the motor trade, being Wholesale Sales Manager in the Braid Group.

P. A. D. Jones (1934) is a Press Officer at the Board of Trade. During the war he was an R.E. Officer in Singapore and consequently spent 3½ years in Japanese P.O.W. camps. He was lucky to survive a spell on the Thailand—Burma railway.

Rupert Hedger (1940) whose marriage we are pleased to record elsewhere, is teaching in a Primary School at Hainault. He is living in the new town of Harlow and watching its development with interest. His two brothers are also teaching, Peter (1932) in a Modern School at Solihull, and Mark (1942) still at King's College School, Cambridge.

Kenneth Walker (1942) is engaged in a two-year course at the Hospital Administrative Staff College, Bayswater, opened two years ago. He is one of seven middle-grade officers selected for this, the first course of its kind, from hospitals all over the country.

Jeremy Cullen (1950) is mastering the intricacies of the printing business under the tutelage of John Hooke.

Ian Crudgington (1943) is doing quite well with his gunsmith's business in Bath.

Peter Chamberlin (1948) after a year at Newton Rigg Farm School is going to King's College, Newcastle, to read for B.Sc. (Agr.) degree.

David Wheaton (1948) and John Mortimore (1948) gained 2nd Classes in Greats and P.P.E. respectively. David is proposing to read for a B.D. degree at London University, while John has joined Barclay's Bank and is starting work at Wokingham.

Michael Jones (1948) gained a 3rd Class in History.

Alan Garner (1948) who acted as locum tenens for Mr. Willis at the end of last term, has been appointed a housemaster at Ruthin School.

J. A. Penning (1949) was home in June and on his way to Belfast to join a new ship just built for the Anglo Saxon Petroleum fleet.

Philip Strodder (1952) has gone to Canada and is working with the Bank of Nova Scotia in Toronto.

Trevor Thomas (1947) is now living at Maidenhead, on the estimating staff of J. M. Jones, Builders Ltd.

R. D. M. Grant (1950) is now learning the intricacies of paint manufacture with Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson.

Service News

Cmdr. Douglas Woolf (1934) whose name appeared in a recent promotion list, is now with the Naval Staff at the Admiralty—his first shore appointment at home since he joined 18 years ago. He is Secretary to the Director of the Intelligence Service.

J. R. W. Ireland (1951) has been commissioned in the Army Catering Corps. He has been posted to R.E.M.E. at Bordon.

A. H. Cherrill (1948) and Derek Aldworth (1949) both of R.A.P.C. have been accepted for Regular Commissions and are proceeding to Mons. B. C. Jakeman (1945) and J. M. Benson (1951) are also in the Corps at Devizes.

Richard Millard (1952) in R. Berks. at Reading spends much time on tour with Interview Boards.

Spr. A. D. Burton (1952) writes cheerfully from Fanara, E. where one of the few diversions has been bathing in the Great E Lake.

A. Morgan (1949) has signed on for 20 years in Oxf. and Bucks.

Neil Cox (1952), in R.A.F. is at the Radar School, Yatesbury.

John Edelsten (1952) is in R.A. at Oswestry.

John Hullett (1952) revisited the School early in September leave from the Canal Zone where he is serving in R.A.

Welcome visitors last term, who have not been seen at the Sc for many years, were Rev. C. W. Downer (1906) now living in Br Columbia; K. Howes (1922) who is settled in Kenya after his rement from the Army; C. M. Nowill (1910) who now lives at Ayles Kent, after many years spent in Greece; and R. M. Robinson (1922- now Sales Manager of the Gillette Company.

Psalters.

The most generous response of 93 contributors has furnished Chapel with some 150 Psalters, suitably inscribed. We are truly g ful both for the gifts themselves and for the kindly feelings evoked the Appeal. We acknowledge with thanks contributions from following since the last list was published: G. A. H. Bosley, G Bayley, T. F. Bowman, L. G. Cather, J. A. D. Cox, A. C. Dean F. Fisher. Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Fowler, J. G. Guimaraens, K. Ho B. W. T. Leech, H. A. Lunghi, R. S. M. Millard, S. D. Plumme W. Rayson, K. G. Walker, D. B. West; and our apologies to F Ranger for an error in the previous list.

Though the Appeal is now officially closed if there are still any Boys who would like to 'leave their mark' in the Chapel their will be as welcome as ever.

OLD BOYS' DAY

Old Boys' Day was celebrated at Abingdon School on Saturday, 2 June. After the torrential rains of Friday evening, the weather for ately cleared and enabled the traditional cricket match to be pla on Upper Field. Batting first, the Old Abingdonians scored 64 fo by lunch. After lunch wickets fell fairly quickly and the tenth wi fell for 116, Prospects of an even match soon disappeared howe as the school were dismissed for 42 runs, G. Barrett taking six wic for 11.

On the river the School 1st IV won its race by a comfortable dista while the 2nd IV lost to the O.A.C. 2nd IV by a fraction of a foo

During the afternoon an unusually large number of Old Boys, covering many generations of school life, revisited the School and joined the others for tea under the trees on Upper Field. After the Cricket Match came the Annual General Meeting of the Old Boys' Club in the Pemmette Room with the retiring President, Mr. John Hooke, in the chair.

After there followed the Annual Dinner which was held in the Council Chamber—a break with tradition rendered necessary by the temporary closure of the Roysse Room. No less than 106 members and guests, a record number, sat down to dinner under the chairmanship of the President, who was supported by the President-Elect (Mr. H. Insley, F.R.I.C.S., F.A.I.), the Headmaster and Mr. W. M. Grundy. The guests included the Mayor of Abingdon, Governors of the School, and two senior prefects of the School.

After the loyal toast the President formally asked the company to drink to the memory of John Roysse, who re-endowed the School in 1833. He then proposed the health of the School in a felicitous speech which stressed the importance of maintaining traditions in an era of change and progress. The Headmaster in replying to the toast mentioned some of the events of the past year which he considered to be especially memorable and emphasised his confidence in the future prosperity of the School.

The toast of the Club was entrusted to Sir Reader Bullard who outlined the criteria by which in his opinion a school could be judged and reminded his hearers of the importance of having a vigorous and well-organised Old Boys Club. In response, the President-Elect assured members of his determination to forward the interests of the School and of the Club during his year of office.

Mr. S. Cullen proposed the health of the guests, each of whom he mentioned for special mention. The privilege of replying was shared by Mr. Cavill, former Headmaster of Hymer's College, Hull, and John Wall, the Head of the School, who spoke modestly of the School's achievements in the new boat presented to them last year under the auspices of the Club.

Before the formal part of the proceedings came to a somewhat belated conclusion with the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne', the President installed his successor by investing him with the badge of office which he himself had so generously presented to the Club as a parting gesture. There is no doubt that this little ceremony will now become a part of the tradition of the Club.

Much of the credit for this eminently successful function must go to the indefatigable Dinner Secretary, Mr. Duncan West. The floral

decorations by Mrs. Bevir were once more admired. The Club deeply appreciated the courtesy of the Mayor in putting his Parlour at the President's disposal for the reception of official guests.

The special service on the Sunday morning is reported more fully under 'Chapel Notes'. Upwards of one hundred Old Boys and former masters joined with the present staff and boys to fill the Chapel, and the new psalters, presented by Old Boys to mark the occasion, were for the first time in use. Subsequently the visitors were entertained to coffee by Mrs. Cobban at the School House before dispersing. There was general agreement that the Service had been a deeply moving experience.

J.M.C.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Old Abingdonian Club was held at the School on Saturday, 27th June, at 5.45 p.m. The President, Mr. John Hooke, was in the Chair, and was supported by 58 members.

The Meeting was remarkable on two accounts. At the outset the President was invested by Mr. Cullen with a fine enamel badge of office, presented to the Club by Mr. Hooke himself to commemorate his tenure of the Presidency. The Club showed its appreciation of this gesture in no uncertain manner. And—what was even more remarkable—the President proceeded to conduct the meeting with such celerity that it ended in time for all to change for the dinner in reasonable leisure.

After the minutes had been read, approved and signed the Secretary reported that 38 new members had joined the Club during the year.

In the absence of the London Secretary the President referred to the outstanding success of the first post-war London Dinner of the Club held on 9th March. A vote of thanks to Mr. Paige, who was so largely responsible for this fine effort, was carried by acclamation, and was accompanied by the request that he would organise a similar function next year.

The Sports Secretary was happy to record that the Athletics Meeting had provided the keenest tussle for many years.

The Treasurer's report was adopted with a vote of thanks to Mr. Bevir and to our auditor Mr. Snell. The balances on 27th June were: at the Westminster Bank £20 3s. 9d., in hand £5 11s. 9d. The Magazine Account had now reached a total of £462 5s. 7d. The Treasurer recorded the receipt of a legacy of £20 from the Rev. E. A. R. Nicholl (O.A.) (included in the above figures). It was agreed that the suitable disposal of this bequest should be left to the Committee.

The Vice-President gave a brief report on the proposed New Pavilion, the cost of which, some £1,200, would, it was hoped, be defrayed jointly by the War Memorial Fund and the O.A. Trust Fund.

It was agreed that the Constitution should be amended so as to allow the immediate Past-President to remain on the Committee, ex-officio, for one year, with power to take the Chair in the absence of the President.

The Officers elected for 1953-54 were as follows.

President—Hugh Insley-Fox.

Vice-President—J. M. Cobban.

Hon. Secretary—N. J. Holmes.

Asst. Secretaries—J. O Bury, D. B. West.

Hon. Treasurer—W. Bevir.

Sports Secretary—E. H. Aldworth.

London Secretary—S. A. Paige.

R. F. Jackson and D. J. Heavens were re-elected to the Committee for a further four years. J. W. Rayson was elected to the Committee in place of J. A. D. Cox who was unable to offer himself for re-election.

Other matters discussed at the meeting once again ranged from the quality of the O.A. tie (and here we were informed that a better tie was now available) to the date of Founder's Day and the right dress for an Old Boys' Dinner.

Old Abingdonian Trust Fund

We print below the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March, 1953, duly audited through the good services of R. W. Snell (O.A.). As will be seen the build-up of the Fund from almost ground level is proceeding steadily in preparation for the next call which will soon be made—the Pavilion. We are very grateful to the ten Subscribers who have renewed their covenants—some for the second time—namely. J. B. E. Alston, R. E. Eason, J. Y. Ingham, A. J. James, E. G. Langford, W. Memory, S. A. Paige, S. D. Plummer, E. J. P. Ross-Barker and J. N. Sanders; to N. J. Holmes for a new Covenant and to O. E. Clarke and R. B. Langford for Bankers Orders.

During the year we have lost two faithful supporters, A. E. Cannon, and E. A. R. Nicholl and we should welcome any newcomers to take up their mantle,

