

Misericordias
Domini



in aeternum
cantabo

THE ABINGDONIAN

Vol. X. No. 4

JANUARY, 1954

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CALENDAR, LENT TERM 1954

January

- Fri. 15 Term begins.
Sat. 23 1st XI v. Reading School (a).
Wed. 27 1st XI v. Staff XI (h).
Sat. 30 1st XI v. Abingdon H.C. (h).

February

- Wed. 3 1st XI v. Radley College 2nd XI (h).
Sat. 6 1st XI v. Wallingford Grammar Sch. (a).
Wed. 10 1st XI v. King Alfred's Sch., Wantage (h).
Wed. 17 1st XI v. Solihull School (h).
Sat. 27 1st XI v. Windsor County Sch. (a).

March

- Sat. 6 1st XI v. Old Abingdonians (h).
Wed. 10 1st XI v. Halton R.A.F. (h).
Sat. 13 1st XI v. Old College, Sandhurst (h).
Athletic Match v. City of Oxford Sch. (a).
Thur. 18 Field Day.
Sat. 20 Athletic Match v. Old Abingdonians (h).
Tues. 23 Athletic Match v. Achilles Club (h).
Wed. 24 Athletic Match v. Southfield School (a).
Sat. 27 School Sports, 2 p.m.
Tues. 30 Term ends, 10.15 a.m.

Summer Term begins Tuesday, 27th April, 1954
(Boarders return Monday, 26th April, 1954)

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SCHOOL OFFICERS

SCHOOL PREFECTS

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

D. S. Lloyd (Head of Day Boys)

J. C. Ivatts (S)	E. G. Rockall (D)
D. A. Jones (W)	B. J. Hiscock (S)
H. G. Williams (S)	M. J. Ralfe (S)
R. M. Marchbanks (S)	B. L. O. Walker (S)
P. G. Cope (D)	A. J. Pickford (D)
P. J. Lay (D)	R. N. Paxman (W)
C. J. Lockhart-Smith (C)	J. Blinman (D)
J. F. Heavens (D)	

HOUSE PREFECTS

School House

J. D. Hall	R. J. Banwell
R. E. J. Packer	P. J. Simmonds
R. H. Redknap	J. A. Nichols

Larkhill

K. H. Smith	M. K. C. Grigsby
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Waste Court

A. R. Pezaro

Crescent House

P. W. Kemp

Day Boys

J. M. Pulsford	J. A. Nichol
J. M. Thistlewood	T. R. Lay
J. R. Pratt	T. C. Glucklich
P. Stroud-Viney	K. W. Viney
P. O. Older	B. M. Roberts
D. M. P. Jones	

Captain of Hockey—M. J. Brackley
Secretary of Hockey—B. J. Hiscock
Captain of Athletics—A. J. Pickford
Secretary of Athletics—P. G. Cope
Secretary of Rugger—K. W. Viney
Secretary of G.G.C.—M. J. Brackley
Secretary of Minor Games—J. A. Nichols

EDITORIAL

It never ceases to be a source of wonder that in spite of all the changes that a school undergoes its essential character remains, not static, but in harmony with what has gone before. The Michaelmas term has had its outstanding features; Crescent House was opened, the School play was of a remarkably high standard, and once again the school took a large part in the Remembrance Day parade. It is not however in the more obvious and memorable features of a term that its success should be measured.

The routine business of a school occupies, obviously enough, by far the greater part of its time. The fact, however, that this is so tends to make us disregard its importance. We recollect only the highlights of past terms, and forget that they are the exceptional events. It is only in the day to day life of a school that its real character may be seen.

The Michaelmas Term has shown that this School is able to accept a very large number of new boys and make them part of itself. They have become part of a corporate society that, although it is constantly changing its members, has a long tradition which is always maintained.

And so the Michaelmas term has been successful. No one is going to claim perfection, but as long as there is a tradition of good spirit in the daily routine, we may have no fear for the health of the School.

As this magazine goes to press, the Queen is making a triumphant progress through her countries on the far side of the world. At the time of our last number our thoughts were very much on the solemnity and magnitude of her duty. Now the Queen is devoting herself with unflagging energy to her great task, and we cannot let slip this opportunity of recognising the great example which she sets us, and praying both that she will continue to lead us for many years, and that we shall be able to follow her high pattern.

SCHOOL AND GROUNDS

(A note by the Headmaster)

Inside School House, the new Pantry is now in full use and it has already done much to ease the burden that falls upon the Kitchen staff. Once it got over its growing pains, the new thermostatically controlled Trianco stove produced a copious supply of hot water which has enabled us to make our timetable of hot baths much more flexible. During the current holidays this particular project has been carried one stage further by the installation of an additional shower and by the complete re-decoration of the Bath Room in an attractive shade of light green.

Those who are privileged to look inside the Masters' Common Room will find on their return that it has been repainted by voluntary labour:

it would be ungracious not to say a big thank you to those young members of the staff who have given up a part of their precious holiday to this task. A subsidence in the Chapel floor has been thoroughly investigated and the architects were able to assure us that it was of no account. Opportunity was taken however of resetting the heavy marble steps leading up to the apse. A completely new system of lighting has been installed in Big School: this will be a boon to those who do prep therein and will add much to the dignity of a very fine room. New box desks are on order for the Wantage Room in pursuance of the policy of gradually replacing the old bench-type desks. Two new cycle shed have been constructed, one in the north west corner of Lacies Court, and the other in the grounds of Crescent house. The western half of the Prefects' lawn has been dug up ready for resowing. The teak benches bought to commemorate the Coronation are now in position. Suitably worded commemorative plaques are being prepared for those parts of the School property which were acquired in whole or in part by the generosity of the Old Boys. We may note here how smart Waste Court looks now that the Trustees have very kindly had it repainted.

Turning to major projects we are glad to record that Crescent House opened its doors (though only metaphorically) in September. The extensive work of adaptation took rather longer than we had hoped so for the first half of the term the housemaster and boys fed in School House and slept in Lacies Court (where a flat had been kept empty for just such a contingency). Thanks to the goodwill and co-operation of all concerned, these makeshift arrangements worked well enough: but we were all very pleased when Crescent House could at last move to Crescent House and establish itself in its own domain. Those who have had the pleasure of lunching as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Talbot will know that the boys are in very good hands.

The Pavilion Committee has been active during the past term, and agreed plans have now been submitted to the Council for approval. If all goes well, we can reasonably hope that the new pavilion will be completed in time for the forthcoming cricket season. We owe a big debt to Mr. J. D. Wood, O.A., who has acted as honorary consultant, and to Mr. A. B. West, the school architect, who is taking a great personal interest in the matter. Between them we think they are producing not Just Another Pavilion, but something which while modest in scope can be judged as a real piece of architecture.

The War Memorial Field is now fenced and gated. A row of fastigate hornbeam has been planted along the northern side of it, and a beech hedge to the west. The time has at last arrived when we can safely play on the field; one of the pitches will be used for hockey during the coming term, and the other for junior rugby. It is hoped too that the Athletic Meetings will take place there, on what we are assured is a

full-size AAA track. For the formal opening of the field of course we must wait for Founder's Day.

And now for our next big project. At their recent meeting the Governors agreed that a new block of buildings containing four classrooms, a general science laboratory, and ancillary accommodation, should be constructed as soon as possible in the grounds of Lacies Court. Such a project raises big problems. The preservation of present amenities and the possibility of further expansion in the future are two factors that make the choice of exact site difficult. The financing of the venture is far from easy for a school without large endowments. But these are problems that must and will be tackled; and it is indeed exciting to look forward to this further and much needed extension of our buildings.

Once again I should like to take this opportunity of saying how touched and grateful my wife and I were for the many cards of greeting and good wishes that we received at Christmas time from parents and from boys (past, present and future). In all they amounted to some 500. It would have been quite impracticable to acknowledge them individually but we do want the senders to know how much we appreciated them. At the beginning of the term we shall display all our cards from Old Boys so that the whole School may share in this link with them. They include greetings from Germany, Portugal, Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, Libya, Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Somaliland, India, Singapore, Malaya, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States, as well as from ships of the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy—a geographical record which speaks for itself. Thank you all—very much indeed!

J.M.C.

SCHOOL NOTES

We have heard with regret of the impending departure of two neighbouring Headmasters, the Warden of St. Edward's and the Warden of Radley, each of whom has preached our Founder's Day Sermon in recent years. To both we offer our good wishes for the future.

Congratulations to another good friend and neighbour of ours, Mr. Venables of Culham College, whose services to education will receive fitting recognition on 21st January, when he is awarded an honorary M.A. by Oxford University.

Hard work by Mr. Janes and a first-aid party (which included, we were glad to note, a number of our own boys) enabled the nave of S. Nicolas' Church to be brought into use after the fire much more quickly than anyone had dared to hope. But we were pleased to offer the congregation the hospitality of the Chapel again for three Sundays in the middle of the term. Old Boys all over the world, with memories of the end-of-term service in their minds, will join with us in looking forward to the day when the ruined chancel has been rebuilt,

The curious may be interested to note how strangely appropriate were the Old Testament lessons read to the S. Nicolas' congregation in accordance with the Revised Lectionary on the Sundays immediately before and after the fire. The one, from Ezra, dealt with the rebuilding of the Temple. The other was the well-known story of the burning fiery furnace from Daniel.

It was good of Mr. Bredin, the Bursar of Pembroke, to come over at a busy time of term and on a foggy night to read the "Governors' Lesson" at our Service of Lessons and Carols. We are grateful too to Mr. Pulsford, the representative of the Parents, who has set his successors in office such a high standard.

Congratulations and good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Holloway on the birth of their little son, Simon, (3rd December): and also to Dr. and Mrs. Cherry on the birth of their first child, a daughter, Ann Willoughby (20th November).

We were glad to welcome during the term two German visitors, Herr Jentz of the Kultusministerium (Abt. Hoehereschule), Dusseldorf, and Herr Erwin Meyer of Ganderkesee in Oldenburg; and also two American educationalists, Mr. Messer, of the Horace Mann Junior High School, San Francisco, and his wife, who is Professor of Education at San Francisco State College.

Another welcome visitor, though not from so far afield, was Mr. J. Creemer Clarke, whose family occupied Waste Court for so many years. We were glad to have the opportunity of showing him to what good use the property has been turned.

It was pleasant to see Mr. and Mrs. Fiori over for the Bloxham match and to hear Mr. Fiori tell against himself the story how, at a match between Bloxham and an Oxford school, he had been heard shouting loudly for—Abingdon.

The number of boys on the School Roll at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term was 424 (Dayboys 270, School House 85, Waste Court 34, Larkhill 19, Crescent House 16).

We congratulate T. W. S. Downs on successfully surmounting the written papers of the Sandhurst Examination; and, more recently, on getting over the second hurdle of the Regular Commissions Board.

Congratulations too to P. J. Lay on the award of the Sixth Form Scholarship known, *pro hac vice*, as the Bennett Scholarship.

We are pleased to record that all our eight candidates in the recent music examinations of the Associated Board were successful. Congratulations to the four violinists, C. F. A. Kitching, M. Q. King, R. M. Marchbanks and R. H. Simpson (of whom the first named gained a distinction) and to the four pianists, D. C. Shaw, J. H. Thewlis (both

of whom passed with merit), B. D. Winkett and G. J. Brown: and (not least) to Mr. Fowler and Mrs. Kitching.

We are extremely grateful to the Rev. W. E. Henty Summers who has lent us a selection of charming period photographs of his father (Headmaster 1870-1883)—some of them taken, very much *en famille*, in front of the main entrance of the School. From one of these we shall be able to have an enlarged print made to add to our gallery of headmasters.

Our thanks, too, to the Town Clerk for his generous donation to the funds of the Dramatic Society: and to Mr. Hyde Parker for a further gift of useful and interesting items from his vast collection.

Once again the School had the honour of providing the guard of honour and the buglers at the Abingdon Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial. This year, too, our band played for the march past. A large contingent of both army and naval sections of the C.C.F. paraded and the Scouts also were represented. We also provided a bugler (Peter Simmonds) for the Remembrance Day Service at Brightwell.

A programme of films taken at the local Coronation celebrations was shown in the Corn Exchange on Monday, 23rd November. It was good to have pleasant memories revived, and we were pleased that generous acknowledgement was made of the part played by David Lloyd in taking the film. It is hoped to arrange for a repeat performance at the School during the coming term.

One of the most interesting items in the very busy end-of-term programme was the 'ensemble'—if that is the word—which the violin and 'cello classes (supported by Thewlis on the flute) provided for a very select audience in the Gym on the afternoon of Wednesday, 16th December. It will not be long now, we think, before they are ready for a more public performance.

Members of the Corps are attending the usual variety of courses during the Christmas holidays. We wish good fortune (retrospectively) to them all, and especially to G. E. G. Brown who is going on a Naval Aviation Course at H.M.S. *Culdrose*. We shall be interested too to hear how our three representatives, K. P. Painter, J. R. Pratt and T. A. W. Walker, get on in Eskdale where they are breaking new ground (though not, we hope, literally) at the Outward Bound Mountain School.

During the holidays we followed with keen interest the press reports of the progress of John Nichols in the Junior Lawn Tennis Club's Christmas Tournament at Roehampton; and we congratulate him on reaching the semi-finals of the singles (under 18).

Congratulations also to Peter Millard and Michael Brackley who were selected to play for the Berkshire Schools XV during the holidays.

We are always glad to welcome Old Boys back at the School: though not all of them enter into our activities as whole-heartedly as Patrick Sale, who ran round the Cross-Country Course during a recent visit.

The School has this term received visits from representatives of all three services. Lt.-Commander B. E. Boulding, R.N., came on 21st October, Captain T. S. R. Collins, R.A., on 9th November, and Wing Commander Levien, D.S.O., D.F.C., on 4th December.

On 1st December, Mr. E. R. Bowyer, J.P., one of the leading figures of the building industry, gave a talk on the opportunities that the industry provided.

On 8th October Lt.-Colonel Rose came to show some new films illustrating the work of Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

A parents' evening was held on 16th October for the parents of all new boys.

A party of boys, on 5th November, attended a lecture given by Mr. Geoffrey Trease, the well known writer of children's stories. The lecture was given under the auspices of the Friends of Abingdon, and dealt with the problems of an historical novelist.

On 20th November, the School was once again visited by Mr. Cook of the Headmasters' Employment Committee.

The Abingdon Musical Societies' Christmas Concert, given on 1st December, was attended by a school party.

On 7th December a number of boys accompanied Mr. Talbot on a visit to the Dental School of Guy's Hospital.

Once again the generosity of a parent, Mr. Marshall, allowed the 1st XV to visit Twickenham for the Varsity Match on 8th December. Previously, on 11th November, a large party of boys had travelled to Oxford to see the University defeated by the All Blacks.

A most successful Prefects' Dance was held in the Royse Rooms on 14th December. Warm thanks are due to the Ladies of School House for help with the refreshments.

On 15th December, a party of sixth form scientists visited Messrs. Morland's Brewery.

The evening of the same day was marked by the holding, for the first time, in St. Helen's Church of the School Carol Service.

On the 16th December, a party of Carol singers, accompanied by the Brass Band, made a collection in aid of the Church of England Children's Society.

The boarders celebrated the last evening of the term, 17th December, in what has now become the traditional way, with a Christmas supper in School House, followed by party games in their own houses. The programme laid on for School House seemed to be even more strenuous than usual, but all seemed to sleep soundly in spite, or because, of the combination of roast pork, plum pudding, ice-cream, pineapple, and vigorous exercise. Crescent House, of course, had to entertain itself throughout but we gather their entertainment could hold its own with ours.

This term Saturday evening lectures have been:

On October 17th: H. R. Trevor-Roper, Esq., M.A., "The Last Days of Hitler".

On October 24th: H. Eyetts, Esq., "Wild Red Deer".

On November 14th: F. A. Lowe, Esq., "St. Kilda".

The Films shown were:

On October 10th: "Valley of Eagles"

On November 7th: "The Man in the White Suit"

On November 28th: "The Lady with the Lamp".

One further contribution to the War Memorial Fund is recorded with respectful gratitude. Mrs. Holme of Wallingford has very kindly presented £6 to cover the two remaining years of her late husband's covenanted subscription.

The photograph of the 1st XV in this issue appears by courtesy of Mr. Milligan.

We hasten to reassure those who heard the tocsin sound on the School Bell on 30th December. We were not prematurely Ringing the Old Year Out. But the time had come to give the bell a thorough overhaul and Mr. White of Appleton, whose grandfather originally hung the bell, was making a preliminary examination of it. When it has been thoroughly cleaned we hope to be able to read and record the inscription on it.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt (as at 31st December) of contemporary magazines from: Aldenham School; Chigwell School; City of Oxford School; Henley Grammar School; King Alfred's School, Wantage; Magdalen College School, Oxford; Pocklington School; Reading School; Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe; Royal Military Academy; St. Edward's School, Oxford; Solihull School; Southfield School, Oxford; Stratford Grammar School; Wallingford Grammar School; Windsor County Grammar School.

Shortly after "A.B" had paid one of his frequent visits to the School property we saw a big headline in the *Sunday Times* (29th November) "WEST WILL MEET THE RUSSIANS". The architect of a new Europe, perhaps, as someone was heard to suggest in the Common Room?

And here is a scrap of conversation that really was overheard in the corridor.

"Please, sir, the Scouts are having a kind of a treasure hunt. Could you tell us, please, sir, what are the names of your daughters?"

"Euthanasia, Dyspepsia, Neuritis . . ."

"Crumbs! Lend me a pencil somebody."

VALETE—left 28th July, 1953

Upper Sixth Form A:

P. H. B. Amey (Arts) (G.C.E. A Level A.E.H.), M. 1945, School Prefect 1952, 1st IV 1952, Colours 1952, 2nd XV 1951, Captain 1952, Shooting Team 1951, Individual Shooting Cup 1951, Captain Blacknall House, Dramatic Society 1949-53; Roysse Society Secretary 1953, C.C.F. Cert 'A', Sgt., Drum Major, Committee Joint Club.

D. J. James (Modern) (G.C.E. A Level F), M. 1946, House Prefect 1952.

E. G. R. Peedell (Modern) (G.C.E. A Level E.F.), M. 1948, School Prefect 1951, Roysse Society, Chairman Turnor Society 1952, Assistant Editor *Abingdonian* 1952.

N. J. Shurrock (Classics) (G.C.E. A Level G.L.A.H.), School Prefect 1951, 3rd XI 1951, Captain 1953, Roysse Society, Dramatic Society 1952, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', R.E. Section, L/Cpl., State Scholarship in Classics 1952, Committee Turnor Society, School Librarian 1948, Editor *Abingdonian* 1952, Assistant Editor *Literary Magazine* 1952.

Upper Sixth Form B:

D. L. Banfield, R.N.V.R., (Science) (G.C.E. A Level Ch.), L. 1946, House Prefect 1952, C.C.F. Cert 'A', Naval Section A/B.

L. M. Bolton (Maths.), M. 1946, House Prefect 1952.

C. G. Brown (Maths.) (G.C.E. A Level Pure-and-App.M.), M. 1945, House Prefect 1952, 3rd XV 1951, Shooting Team 1951, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', R.A. Section, Bdr.

A. F. R. Crockford (Science) (G.C.E. A Level Ch. Bot. Zoo), M. 1946, House Prefect 1953, 1st XV 1952, Half Colours 1952, 1st XI Hockey 1953, Half Colours 1953, 2nd XI Cricket 1952, C.C.F. Cert. A, R.A. Section, Sgt. i/c.

P. J. Downer (Science) (G.C.E. A Level Ch. Bot. Zoo.), S. 1942, School Prefect 1952, 1st XV 1953, Half Colours 1953, 2nd XI Hockey 1953, Tennis VI 1953, Roysse Society, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', R.A. Section. Cpl., County Scholarship Reading University, Tuckshop Committee.

H. R. Leach (Science), M. 1947, School Prefect 1951, 1st IV Cox 1950, Colours 1950, Vice-Captain and Hon. Sec. Rowing 1952, Roysse Society, Sec. Turnor Society, Sec. Debating Society, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', Under Officer. (*left 13th June*).

S. R. Mills (Maths.) (G.C.E. A Level Pure M., App. M., Higher M. Ph.), M. 1944, School Prefect 1951, Chess VI 1950, Roysse Society, Dramatic Society 1948-52, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', R.E. Section, L/Cpl., Pembroke Scholarship 1952, School Librarian 1949.

P. R. Sale (Science) (G.C.E. A Level Ch. Bot. Zoo), M. 1943, School Prefect 1952, 1st XV 1951, Colours 1952, Secretary 1952, 1st XI Hockey 1952, Half Colours 1952, 1st XI Cricket 1950, Athletics Team 1952, Colours 1953, Captain Cross-Country 1952, Captain Reeves House, Roysse Society, Dramatic Society 1951-52, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', Sgt., G.G.C., Committee Debating Society.

J. Westall (Science) (G.C.E. A Level Ph. Ch.), S. 1943, School Prefect 1950, Head of School 1952, 1st IV 1952, Colours 1952, Captain of Boats 1953, Sec. G.G.C. 1952, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', C.Q.M.S., Dramatic Society 1952, Roysse Society, Asst. Editor *Abingdonian*.

B. A. Whiteford (Science) S. 1946, School Prefect 1952, 1st XV 1952, Half Colours 1953, 1st XI Hockey 1953, Half Colours 1953, 1st XI Cricket 1949, Colours 1951, Hon. Sec. 1952, Vice-Captain 1953, Athletics Team 1951, Treasurer Holiday Club, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', Sgt. G.G.C.

C. S. Wiggins (Maths.) (G.C.E. A Level Pure M., App. M., Ph.), M. 1945, School Prefect 1952, 2nd IV 1952, Half Colours 1952, Shooting Team 1952, Captain and Hon. Sec. Shooting 1953, Roysse Society, Dramatic Society 1952, C.C.F. Cert. 'A' Pt. 1, Leading Seaman 1951, Leading Hand 1952, Pembroke Scholarship 1953.

Lower Sixth Form:

R. H. F. Exon, M. 1949, C.C.F. (*left Dec., 1952*).

G. Round, M. 1948, 2nd XV 1952, 2nd XI Cricket 1953, Shooting Team 1953, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', R.E. Section.

Form Sixth General:

D. R. Ellis, S. 1945, School Prefect 1953, 3rd IV Cox 1949, 1st XV 1952, Half Colours 1952, 2nd XI Hockey 1952, 3rd XI Cricket 1951, Captain 1952, Athletics Team 1952, Hon. Sec. 1953, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', Sgt., G.G.C.

M. M. Grant, M. 1946, School Prefect 1952, 2nd XI Hockey 1952, Captain 1953, Half Colours 1953, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', R.E. Section, Sgt. i/c., Committee Debating Society.

P. R. J. Gregory, M. 1947, House Prefect 1952, C.C.F. Cert. 'A',

Form 5 Science:

R. M. Courtney, L. 1951, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', Pt. 1, Naval Section.

M. H. Creevy, L. 1949, 3rd XV 1952, Athletics Team 1952, Tennis 1952, Tennis VI 1953, Dramatic Society 1951-52, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', R.E. Section.

R. F. Hale, M. 1947, 3rd XI Cricket, C.C.F. Cert. 'A'.

D. M. Jones, S. 1947, 2nd XI Hockey 1953, Shooting VIII 1953, C.C.F., Cert. 'A'.

Form 5 General:

E. L. Brown, S. 1949, House Prefect 1953, 2nd XV 1952, 3rd XI Cricket 1952, Athletics Team 1951, Shooting Team 1953, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', Cpl.

D. Y. Candy, M. 1944, House Prefect 1953, 2nd XV 1951, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', R.A. Section.

J. Carter, M. 1945, U/14 XV 1950, 2nd XI Cricket 1953, Dramatic Society 1950, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', Pt. 1.

M. E. Humby, M. 1947, 2nd XV 1952, 2nd XI Hockey 1953, 2nd XI Cricket 1953, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', R.E. Section, Camera Club Committee.

B. James, M. 1948, C.C.F. Cert. 'A' Pt. 1.

B. J. Le Grys, S. 1952, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', Pt. 1.

D. L. J. Littlewood, M. 1947, House Prefect 1953, Dramatic Society Stage Manager 1952-53, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', R.E. Section, Cpl.

C. R. Lucas, L. 1947, 2nd XI Hockey 1953, 2nd XI Cricket 1953, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', R.E. Section.

J. Tuck, M. 1947, C.C.F. Cert. 'A' Pt. 1.

Form 4 General:

J. A. Battam, S. 1948, C.C.F.

Form 3 B:

A. F. Brown, S. 1949, 'Under 15' XV 1953, C.C.F.

D. Conway, M. 1947.

Form 2 B:

J. F. Farrow, S. 1948, C.C.F. Cert. 'A', Pt. 1. (*left 17th July*).

Form 1 B:

J. C. Bennett, M. 1952 (*left 11th May*).

N. J. Eden, L. 1953 (*left 16th July*).

SALVETE—came 18th September, 1953

Form 4 Arts: K. A. Clark, D.; M. R. Dawn, S.; M. D. Hardy, S.; R. B. Scott-Taggart, D.

Form 4 Sciences: S. H. Freedman, S.; P. M. Watkiss, S.

Form 4 General: I C. Attree, S.; A. K. Fletcher, D.; O. M. Jones, D.; M. D. Shaw, D.

Form 3A: M. Freeman, D.; M. G. Yarkoff, S.

Form 2B: R. Doig, D.

Form 1X: R. J. C. Bampton, W.; R. W. J. Bampton, W.; T. J. Barrett, D.; D. A. Beisly, D.; C. H. Bellinger, D.; M. Bett, W.; A. P. Blythe, D.; P. F. Booth, L.; P. A. Bretscher, D.; J. Brimble, D.; G. Bromley, L.; R. F. Burton, D.; R. G. Cain, D.; R. M. Campbell, D.; R. S. Capstick, D.; M. G. Chambers, W.; G. T. Clayton, D.; G. C. Crow, L.; I. M. Cunningham, D.; R. E. D. Deffee, D.; K. R. Duly, D.; G. R. B. Farrington, D.; P. J. Ford, D.; K. N. Haarhoff, W.; N. C. J. Haines, D.; W. C. Hamilton, D.; F. J. Hatcher, D.; R. G. Havelock, W.; D. W. Haynes, D.; D. P. Heather-Hayes, W.; T. P. Henson, D.; L. G. Hunt, D.; N. K. A. Jamieson, D.; C. T. Johnson, D.

Form 1Y: C. S. Jones, D.; R. J. Keen, D.; R. W. Keep, D.; J. S. Kelly, D.; G. L. Kent, D.; A. J. C. Lansdown, L.; R. E. Leach, D.; B. M. J. Lewis, D.; T. A. Libby, L.; W. G. Marchbanks, D.; M. O. Mogeey, W.; R. T. Moll, W.; T. I. Morgan, L.; F. A. Moyes, D.†; M. J. Neilan, W.; R. A. Newberry, D.; R. W. J. Parsons, D.; D. F. Perkins, D.; C. J. Pickup, W.; C. T. Pollard, D.; A. W. Potter, D.; K. J. Pulley, D.; E. W. Purbrick, D.; R. I. Roberts, W.; A. F. Selwood, D.; T. A. Sewry, D.; G. Sheppard, D.; R. D. Sladden, L.; R. W. Slater, D.; A. H. Smith, D.; D. V. Southern, W.; D. M. Taylor, W.; N. R. M. Viney, D.; P. J. V. Willis, D.; C. H. Woodham, D.

† entered 7th December.

CHAPEL NOTES

On Advent Sunday, 29th November, the Lord Bishop of Oxford conducted a Confirmation Service in the School Chapel at which 32 candidates were presented. After the Service, the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban entertained the candidates, with their parents, to tea in the Gymnasium. General regret that the Bishop's cold prevented him from joining the parents for tea was tempered with admiration for the fortitude with which he had conducted the Service.

The confirmands were:— N. A. J. Antrobus, I. C. Attree, W. C. Broad, M. R. S. Broadway, R. Dickenson, D. C. J. Emmett, P. M. D. Gray, R. S. Green, P. J. Greenman, L. T. Harrington, M. R. Harvey, J. Hasthorpe, P. D. Kibble, M. Q. King, I. J. Kirby, J. P. Lord, D. B. C. Martin, D. J. Meakins, N. G. C. Norman, I. A. Oliver, D. R. Pearce, D. H. Roberts, J. B. Robins, R. T. Russell, J. A. T. Saywell, C. A. Scragg,

J. H. Thewlis, R. J. Trenaman, P. Venvell, P. M. Watkiss, P. W. J. Williams, R. H. Young.

The collections over the weekend of Remembrance Sunday met the cost of two poppy wreaths for the Memorial Tablets and in addition enabled us to send a cheque for £8 4s. 0d. to the British Legion. The collection at the Service of Lessons and Carols, amounting to £11 4s. 6d., was divided between St. Helen's Church Funds and Dr. Barnardo's Children's Home at Oakley House. The boxes that were taken round by the Brass Band Carol Party collected £2 4s. 0d. which when added to the collections of the previous weekend provided a Christmas present of £5 16s. 0d. for the Church of England Children's Society.

Other collections allotted to outside charities were as follows:—Hostel of God £3 15s. 0d.; Greek Earthquake Relief Appeal £4 10s. 0d.; Inter-Church Aid £3 13s. 6d.; S.P.G. £3 11s. 6d.; St. James' Church, Nevis £6 10s. 0d.

The remaining collections were divided between the Chapel Kneeler Fund (£13 14s. 1½d.) and general Chapel funds (£7 5s. 8d.). In addition, it was made known at the end of the term that the contents of the alms box would be sent up as a supplementary contribution to the Westminster Abbey Appeal Fund, and the response was most gratifying. The box attracted such varied contributions as the balance of the funds of the Prefects' Dance and the proceeds of two unofficial carol parties and a form auction, and as a result we were able to send the Dean a cheque for £8 18s. 0d.

The collection for the Greek Earthquake Appeal gave the Classical Sixth an opportunity to write an appropriate covering letter in what we hope was unblemished Greek. His Excellency the Greek Ambassador was good enough to send us a most courteous reply in the same idiom, of which we attach a translation:

"It was with great pleasure that I received the gift from Abingdon School which its members have contributed for the relief of those who suffered in the earthquakes in Greece. I was especially pleased with the letter written in the Greek tongue—living proof of the regard that is paid to Greece and to Greek culture. Britain has ever produced scholars of outstanding ability and there is no one who is not conscious of some debt to you; it was natural then that their successors, sprung from such a noble stock, should carry on the learning of their fathers and should emulate them in their high ideals.

And so I thank you, and in commending you all I pray that good fortune may attend alike those who teach and those who learn.

Written in London, 19th October, 1953."

Visiting preachers for the coming term will include:

Jan. 31st—Rev. L. G. Janes.

Feb. 7th—A. N. Gilkes, M.A., High Master of S. Paul's School,

Feb. 21st—G. Talbot Griffith, M.A., J.P., Headmaster of Oakham School.

Feb. 28th—P. C. Sands, M.A., J.P., former Headmaster of Pocklington School.

The Chapel Committee held two meetings during the past term. At the second meeting it was agreed that the experiment of a special lectionary had been a great success and the Chaplain was invited to compile a similiar lectionary for the next two terms. Now that the project for equipping the whole chapel with kneelers was well under weigh, the Committee felt able to tackle the problem of the East end of the Chapel. It had long been felt that it was unsatisfactory to have boys hidden away in the loose chairs beyond the pews; and plans are now being considered for extending the staging and (though this may have to wait for a later date) for extending the pews to the East wall.

THE CAROL SERVICE

This year the increasing pressure on our accommodation led us (though not without much searching of heart) to transfer the Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols to St. Helen's Church, where it took place at 6.30 p.m. on the evening of Tuesday, 15th December. The fact that so many more parents and friends were able to join us in our worship far outweighed the sentimental regrets that we had in leaving our own Chapel; and we are indeed most grateful to the Vicar of Abingdon for the hospitality he extended to us. We are most grateful too to Mr. Fowler for allowing us the use of the magnificent organ—an instrument worthy of Roger Packer's playing.

A further innovation was the provision of printed programmes containing the words of the carols sung by the congregation.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Introit.	Let all things their Creator bless.	Congregation
	Prayers	
Hymn	Come, thou long expected Jesus.	Congregation
Lesson 1.	God's new Covenant (Jeremiah 31 vv 31-34)	A new boy (R. T. Moll)
Carol	O Come Emmanuel.	Congregation
Lesson 2.	Christ's Kingdom described (Isaiah 2 vv 2-5)	A school scholar (D. S. Lloyd)
Carol	The falcon.	The Choir
Lesson 3.	The office of Christ (Isaiah 42 vv 1, 5-8)	Head of School House (M. J. Brackley)
Carol	Once in royal David's city	Congregation

grim: a pleasant seat enough for those who make a pleasantry of guilt. Yet by contrasted lighting and minor changes of scenery it could be changed from an interior to the battlements, from the banqueting hall to the blasted heath. (In particular the setting of the witches' scenes remains in the memory, with Macbeth framed between black crags, his horns pointing his kinship with the creatures of hell). Carefully planned exits and entrances gave the play continuity, so that the final crescendo of Macbeth's downfall was unbroken and effective. There were times, however, when the imagination refused to convert the solid interior of the castle into the field outside it: the apron could perhaps have been used consistently, to distinguish between the forces of the approaching Malcolm and those of Macbeth, and so to render more effective Siward's "Enter, sir, the castle," through the curtains.

Against this background the players moved and spoke easily. There was some mumbling, some fidgeting, but not much. One can, for instance, excuse both in a drunken porter, if he is funny, and some of his lines came over inescapably. The witches in particular spoke beautifully clearly in their contrasted voices, and the gruesome ultra-violet fluorescence gave the final touch to their concert of gesture and movement. The audience was quite free from that agonising doubt which so often spreads across the footlights in an amateur performance: free, in fact, to attend to the play.

Lady Macbeth's performance was of a high standard. Gardner not only spoke the lines well, but gave an interesting and convincing interpretation of the part. The dominating will, the resource and fearless self-reliance which one expects from the traditional Lady Macbeth were here fused with a paradoxical tenderness and feminine frailty. This adds much, for example, to the close of the banquet scene, where Lady Macbeth, herself broken by physical and mental strain, and no longer able to bear the weight of an unnatural (in the Shakespearean sense) role, becomes again the woman: "You lack the season of all natures, sleep." And the pair climb wearily to bed, covered alike by their royal robe of blood. This line, spoken as it was, leads us on to Lady Macbeth's final scene, in which "Nature" reasserts itself, and the frailty, implicit from the first in Gardner's performance, becomes finally justified. The scene was marred, it must be admitted, by undue prominence of the Doctor and Gentlewoman: they are surely there to speak for the audience, not for themselves; to direct attention to, not from, the principal. Nevertheless it completed a memorable performance, and one no longer wonders why Shakespeare had no fears in making his boy actors play the woman.

In opposition to Glamis and his wife, the thane of Fife was forthright and, at times, very moving. Malcolm spoke his lines well, but lacked the positive authority to balance against Macbeth's negative

evil. The difficult scene in which Malcolm tests the good faith of Macduff fell a little flat, after the murder of Lady Macduff and her son had tuned the audience to the pitch of excitement.

David Lloyd's performance as Macbeth gained in strength as the play proceeded and the issues became clearer. At the beginning the interpretation of the part was a little oversimplified, so that Macbeth seemed closer to Machiavelli than to Lucifer; the intriguer of a state plot rather than the self-doomed hero of a cosmic battle. For example, in the scene which begins with Macbeth's soliloquy "If it were done when 'tis done . . .", Lloyd brought across well Macbeth's fear of temporal justice, his apprehension and hesitancy, and (very effectively) the pathetic weakness of the husband beside the resolved determination of the wife. Yet he limited his voice too much to a monotone, and so did not bring out the deeper significance of the scene. Macbeth is weaker than his wife because he sees more clearly the issues involved. Lady Macbeth is really missing the point: the hope was drunk wherein he dressed himself, and it is the truth of Macbeth's claim "I dare do all that may become a man", which makes him, not his wife, the hero of the play. The spiritual conflict in his mind at this point is what makes the witches a part of the play, not an appendage to it.

To bring this out requires a flexibility of tone which Lloyd lacked, but, once this limitation has been defined, his performance was good. The murder once committed, and Lady Macbeth restored to her subsidiary role by the murder of Banquo ("Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck"), Macbeth took the centre of the stage, and held it, and the audience, until his death. The gradual disintegration of his mind was apparent. The banquet, with Banquo's ghost invisible, was well done (though rather meagre fare, even for a ghost). And in the last act his voice acquired a strength, variety and depth which made us realise again why the play is called by his name. The lines which Macbeth speaks on receiving the news of his wife's death had that unexpected and horrifying tone of insensitive brutality which Shakespeare surely intended, and the incredulous murmur of the audience bore witness to it.

One would like to mention individually all the parts, both on and off the stage, which went to make such a successful "Macbeth" production: from the lords to the messengers, and even to the fearsome clangour of battle offstage. But to do so is unnecessary, for it is the measure of their success that the critic can treat the play, in the words of the programme note, as 'a masterpiece of insight into the psychology of the murderer'."

G.M.H

Characters (in order of appearance)

Three Witches	Michael Sale, Alan Caswell, Neville Grant
Duncan, King of Scotland	John Lockhart-Smith
Malcolm Canmore	Peter Simmonds
Donalbain	Alan Pezaro
Lennox, a Scottish nobleman	John Nichols
A Captain	Ian Trenaman
Ross	Martin Scott-Taggart
Angus	Martin Iredale
Macbeth, thane of Glamis	David Lloyd
Banquo	Kenneth Prentice
Lady Macbeth	Tony Gardner
A Messenger	Thomas Kempinski
Macduff, thane of Fife	Peter Millard
Fleance, son to Banquo	Bryan Winkett
A Porter	Harold Williams
An Old Man	Geoffrey Slack
Servant to Macbeth	David Rawlins
Three Murderers	Ian Trenaman, John Saywell, Paul Lagden
Caithness	John Hall
Menteith	Norman Carter
Another Lord	Paul Older
Lady Macduff	David Meakins
Son to Macduff	Anthony Howell
A Messenger	Nicholas Antrobus
An English Doctor	Tony Maxwell
A Scots Doctor	Michael Brackley
Gentlewoman	Peter Kibble
Seyton, armour bearer to Macbeth	Alan Bush
Siward, Earl of Northumberland	David Emmett
Young Siward, his son	Michael Rallings
An attendant	William Budden
Soldiers	William Dady, John Pratt, Forbes Wastie, Barry Westbrook

RUGBY FOOTBALL

The heaviest scrum and the best back division for many years—such were the main features of this season's Fifteen. Unfortunately, it did not always prove the happiest of combinations, weight too often being counterbalanced by greater speed about the field on the part of our opponents. But, in general, the Fifteen was a good one and won all but three of its matches against other schools.

We again suffered from a crop of injuries, the most serious being that to Marshall, whose energy and thrust were sadly missed in the second half of term. One redeeming feature of these injuries was that

we were able to give games in the Fifteen to deserving players from the 2nd XV. Of these, Parsons was outstanding as wing forward, whilst Pinniger, Taylor, and Griffith showed considerable promise.

Millard captained the Fifteen very well for the second year, but Brackley at stand-off was perhaps this season's 'star' player and his often brilliant play enabled Cope and Pickford to show what good centres they were. Viney at scrum-half justified our hopes of last year. Rockall was the most consistent forward.

So far as matches went, the defeat of a strong Pembroke side was perhaps our most exciting victory and, in spite of defeats by Magdalen College School and High Wycombe, the season was one of achievement. In particular, the backs will long be remembered for their polished attack against Windsor and their grimly excellent defence against High Wycombe. The introduction of a new 1st XV match jersey, in cerise and white, was a fitting reward for a hard-working team.

During the season the following Colours were awarded:

Full Colours—Cope, Pickford, Rockall and Viney K. W.

Half Colours—Austwick, Banwell, Griffith, Hudson, Jones D. A., Lay P. J., Linnegar, Parsons, Pinniger, Taylor K. J. M., Williams H. G.

The final arrangement of the XV was as follows:—Linnegar; Paxman R. N., Cope, Pickford, Banwell; Brackley, Viney; Jones D. A., Austwick, Hudson, Rockall, Stroud-Viney, Lay P. J., Ivatts; Millard.

The touch judge was Lewis.

The following have also played:—Griffith and Pinniger (5 times); Marshall A. C. and Taylor K. J. M. (4 times); Guimaraens, Hiscock and Parsons (3 times); Kemp (twice).

FIRST XV CHARACTERS

P. J. MILLARD (Captain, Colours 1951). Wing forward. An extremely fast forward in the loose, although with a tendency to get off-side. His season was marred by injury and to some extent by the cares of captaincy, but throughout he has been an enthusiastic skipper, both on and off the field. (D.O.W.)

M. J. BRACKLEY (Vice-Captain, Colours 1950). Stand-off half. In both attack and defence his play has been consistently good and sometimes brilliant: he has been the mainstay of the side. Perhaps his one weakness is a tendency to kick too much in attack, although he had largely overcome this by the end of the season.

A. C. MARSHALL (Secretary, Colours 1951). Hooker. Until his knee injury early in the season, his energetic play was an inspiration to all and he was sadly missed.

K. W. VINEY (Colours 1953). Scrum half. He has developed into a very good player, combined effectively with his partner and sent out a fast accurate pass. Defensive kicking must be improved however.

P. G. COPE (Colours 1953). Centre. A greatly improved player whose determined running and intelligent attack show much promise. His tackling and kicking are both very sound.

A. J. PICKFORD (Colours 1953). Centre. A fast, hard running three-quarter with an excellent kick and a good tackle. He makes good use of any gap but is somewhat inclined to hang on to the ball too long and is consequently caught in possession.

E. G. ROCKALL (Colours 1953). Second row forward. A consistently hardworking forward in both tight and loose, where his weight makes him difficult to stop. Line out work is most effective, tackling good but kicking weak.

J. C. IVATTS (Half Colours 1951). Lock forward. A good, fast forward, but inconsistent. In attack, he was most effective, being difficult to stop, but in defence his corner flagging was not good and on occasion he lacked rucker sense.

P. STROUD-VINEY (Half Colours 1952). Second row forward. One of the heavy men of the scrum, he has been disappointing this season. Slowness in the loose was not adequately compensated by line out work or effective tight scrumming whilst his place kicking except in the Radley match was not up to last year's standard.

R. N. PAXMAN (Half Colours 1952). Left wing. A useful player who has played several effective games. He is most reliable in defence, but in attack he needs more determination. Both kicking and handling need care.

R. J. BANWELL (Half Colours 1953). Right wing. Elusive and fast, he began the season well (his second try against Pembroke was most spectacular!) but concussion led to some loss of confidence and his play suffered. At his best, however, he had a fine natural swerve and went hard for the line.

D. A. JONES (Half Colours 1953). Front row forward. A keen and useful player though inexperienced. He needs to jump more in the line out and to cover more ground both in attack and defence.

M. J. HUDSON (Half Colours 1953). Front row forward. Inexperienced and fairly new to the game, he improved steadily and by the end of the season was playing useful rucker, especially in the line out.

S. LINNEGAR (Half Colours 1953). Full back. Full of courage, his very effective tackling often saved the game when a try seemed certain to be scored against us. He takes the ball well, but his kicking is too short. His most serious handicap is bad positioning, however, and he must overcome this.

D. B. AUSTWICK (Half Colours 1953). Hooker. A late comer to the side, he proved to be an effective hooker although inclined to swing. Despite lack of weight, he was always an example of determined, aggressive play.

P. J. LAY (Half Colours 1953). Wing forward. A useful but inconsistent player. His chief virtue lies in his effective tackling, but he is not sufficiently quick in the loose. P.J.M.

MATCH REPORTS

v. D. O. Willis' XV (h), Wed., 30th September. Won 20—0.

This game was largely a forward battle which the School pack, for once as heavy as their opponents, gradually dominated. Half time score was 9—0 and the School attack, consistently maintained in the second half, added two further tries, one of which was converted. Tries were scored by Viney (3), Brackley and Cope. Brackley kicked a penalty goal and also converted one try.

v. Reading School (a). Wed., 7th October. Lost 0—3.

An evenly contested game with no half-time score. In the second half, Reading attacked consistently but were held by good tackling. A penalty, awarded towards the end of the game, gave Reading the victory when it looked like being a pointless draw.

v. Newbury Grammar School (a). Sat., 10th October. Won 16—9

The School began slowly and Newbury scored an unconverted try within the first few minutes. Shortly afterwards, Brackley kicked a good penalty for the School who then went further ahead when Paxman scored following an interception. Neither side played very good football until the second half when the game livened up considerably. Further tries were scored for the School by Viney and Pickford, Brackley converting both. Newbury tried hard to retrieve the day but had to remain content with a further try and a penalty goal.

v. Pembroke College (a). Wed., 14th October. Won 16—9.

The School opened the scoring with an unconverted try by Viney, but this lead was short lived, Pembroke scoring soon afterwards. The School scored again through Banwell and Brackley converted. But Pembroke, whose centres always looked dangerous, replied with two further tries which gave them a half-time lead of 9—8. The School

resumed with 14 men, but played with such good spirit that they ended comfortable winners. The second half tries were scored by Cope and Banwell, Brackley converting one of them.

v. St. Edward's School 2nd XV (a). Wed., 21st October. Won 14—0.

Although their forwards showed up badly against the hard working pack of their opponents, the School deserved this win because of the definite superiority of their outsides. The wet ball was handled with confidence and tries came from Viney, Rockall and Brackley. Stroud-Viney kicked a good penalty goal whilst Brackley converted the first of the School tries.

v. Solihull School (a). Sat., 24th October. Won 10—0.

There was little to choose between the packs in this game but the School backs were obviously superior and were always dangerous. Pickford opened the scoring with a try under the posts which Brackley converted. There followed a ding-dong struggle in which some of the play was perhaps a little too robust, but by the second half the School pack were on top and there followed another try through Viney which Brackley again converted.

v. Radley College 2nd XV (h). Wed., 28th October. Won 22—3.

In an enjoyable game of open rugby, the School won fairly comfortably by two goals, three penalty goals and a try to one try. Tries were scored by Pickford, Griffith and Viney whilst Stroud-Viney converted two of the three and also kicked three penalty goals.

v. Magdalen College School (h). Wed., 4th November. Lost 5—17

The School forwards were not together in this match and undoubtedly missed Millard and Marshall. Magdalen, on the other hand, possessed a lively, well led pack and this was the basis of their success. The School backs saw comparatively little of the ball and Magdalen led 6—0 at half time. A second half rally by the School led to Brackley scoring a good try, which he also converted. The effort was not sustained, however, and Magdalen came back with three tries, one of which was converted.

v. Southfield School (h). Sat., 7th November. Won. 27—3.

The opposition was not very strong in this game, and as a result the School backs saw plenty of the ball and produced some nice movements. Millard opened the scoring after two minutes play and Brackley converted the try. Further tries in the first half came from Brackley and Cope. Brackley converted both of these and also kicked a penalty goal. In the second half, Southfield rallied and scored a try but before the end the School gained three more tries, all unconverted, through Millard, Pickford and Paxman.

v. Windsor County School (h). Wed., 19th November. Won 16—3.

After a ragged start, the School settled down to a good open game, the backs producing some really delightful rugby. Banwell and Pickford scored tries which Stroud-Viney converted. Later Stroud-Viney kicked a penalty goal. In the second half, play evened up, the Windsor pack playing at times a storming game which deserved greater success than the one unconverted try they scored on time.

Prior to this, Pickford had added a further try for the School following a good movement in which Cope predominated.

v. R.G.S., High Wycombe (a). Sat., 21st November. Lost 3—9.

The School forwards were outplayed from the start of this game by an unrelenting and lively Wycombe pack. As a result, the School backs saw comparatively little of the ball although without exception they played a grand defensive game. An early penalty goal by Brackley gave the School a slender lead at half-time, but the consistent Wycombe attack in the second half gave them a well deserved victory at the end. It was a hard fought game.

v. City of Oxford School (a). Sat., 28th November. Won 8—3.

In a hard fought game, the School were perhaps unlucky not to win by a bigger margin. But dropped passes and knocks-on when about to score do not earn much sympathy and C.O.S. were quick to make the most of such foolish mistakes. C.O.S. scored first but later in the first half Brackley went over for a good try which he also converted. In the second half, Cope scored an unconverted try after a grand run for the line.

v. Old Abingdonians (h). Sat., 5th December. Draw 5—5.

A drawn game was in some ways a fitting result to this hard fought match, although the Old Boys, reduced to 14 men, were unlucky not to win since they attacked consistently in the second half. All the scoring came in the first half. Free gave Leech a pass on the line and he scored for the O.A.s, Cherrill converting to give his side a lead. The School soon equalised when Brackley, following a quick heel, scored a nice try which he afterwards converted.

O.A. XV:—Stoppis; Aldworth D. M., Cherrill, Millard R. S. M., Heavens; Aldworth E. H., Free; Reeve, Clay, Pezaro, Emerton, Inwood, Penny, Winter, Leech.

v. Abingdon R.F.C. (h). Sat., 12th December. Lost 0—9.

The School fielded a strong 'A' XV, which included two members of the Staff, Mr. Willis and Mr. Toplis, against the Club. The result was an enjoyable game, which the Club managed to win by virtue of greater speed in the loose. The School backs did not see very much of the ball and were closely marked when they did. P.J.M.

SECOND FIFTEEN

This has been a good season and, although only five out of the ten matches played were victories, the team compared favourably with others of recent years. The match against Henley 1st XV, for instance, was a very creditable one, and in spite of mediocre displays against M.C.S. and High Wycombe, our defeats generally were by no means routs. Individually, many of the players showed promise, some played with credit in the 1st XV and a record number held Half Colours—Williams, Guimaraens, Griffith, Parsons, Pinniger, and Taylor. The team was captained for the second year by Williams, a good leader on the field and no mean forward.

The final arrangement of the team was as follows:—Carter N.A.; Kemp, Page, Griffith, Grigsby; Nichols, Redknap; Pratt, Pinniger, Guimaraens, Hall, Blinman, Parsons, Williams, Taylor K. J. M.

Also played:—Austwick (5 times); Hiscock, Kempinski, Ralfe (4 times); Lay P. J. (3 times); Hudson, Roberts B. M. (twice); Fysh, Lockhart-Smith, Paxman R. N., Song, Stroud-Viney (once).

Results

- v. Thame Grammar School 1st XV (h), Sat., 3rd Oct. Lost 6—19.
- v. Newbury Grammar School (a), Sat., 10th Oct. Won 8—5.
- v. Henley Grammar School 1st XV (h), Sat., 17th Oct. Lost 5—9.
- v. Solihull School (h), Sat., 24th Oct. Won 19—6.
- v. Radley College 3rd XV (h), Wed., 28th Oct. Lost 3—12.
- v. Southfield School (h), Sat., 7th Nov. Won 29—0.
- v. Windsor County School (h), Wed., 18th Nov. Won 17—0.
- v. R.G.S., High Wycombe (a), Sat., 21st Nov. Lost 0—32.
- v. City of Oxford School (h), Wed., 25th Nov. Won 14—0.
- v. Magdalen College School (h), Sat., 28th November. Lost 8—23.

THIRD FIFTEEN

The season has been a successful one, three matches having been won and two lost by reasonably narrow margins. Success has been due in the main to a more regular membership than usual—the bulk of the team has played together in all matches—and to several outstanding players, of whom mention must be made of Young, the full back, and Wastie and Roberts of the forwards. The backs, too, have been strong runners if not always sound in defence. The team was well captained by Pezaro, the final arrangement being as under:—

Young C.; Clewley, Song, Mott, Payne; Scott-Taggart, Pezaro; Hill B. K., Bush, Wastie, Roberts B. M., Broad R. D., Fysh; Older; Campbell-Dykes.

Also played:—Beckett K., Page, Gammack, Shaw (twice); Grigsby, Kempinski, Lockhart-Smith, Marchbanks R.M., Parsons, Pinniger (once).

Results

- v. Reading School (h), Wed., 7th Oct. Lost 3—16.
- v. Newbury Grammar School (h), Sat., 10th October. Won 21—8.
- v. Radley College 4th XV (a), Wed., 28th Oct. Lost 3—12.
- v. Magdalen College School (a), Wed., 4th Nov. Won 9—6.
- v. City of Oxford School (h), Wed., 25th Nov. Won 29—0.

'UNDER 15' FIFTEEN

What looked like being a lean season has produced the best combination for a number of years. Outstanding features have been smooth threequarter passing and hard, low tackling; outstanding players, Knight and Paige for tackling, Langton for tackling and handling, Ashworth for running, Broad and Iredale for open forward play and Buckland and Rallings for good work in the tight; and the outstanding game the one we lost to an unbeaten Magdalen side after leading for a third of the game. Rallings was skipper of the side, the final arrangement of which was as follows:—

Paige; Knight, Langton, Ashworth I.T.S., Antrobus; Spinks, Trenaman R. J.; Kibble B. P., Candy, Grosvenor, Buckland, Rallings, Peedell, Iredale, Broad W. C.

Also played:—Venwell (4 times), Jones A. J. (3 times), Kibble P. D. (twice).

Results

- v. Thame Grammar School (a), Sat., 3rd October. Won 16—9.
- v. Reading School (a), Wed., 7th October. Lost 12—14.
- v. Newbury Grammar School (h), Sat., 10th Oct. Won 26—6.
- v. Henley Grammar School (h), Sat., 17th October. Won. 39—0.
- v. Solihull School (a), Sat., 24th Oct. Lost 3—9.
- v. Southfield School (a), Wed., 4th Nov. Won 39—0.
- v. Bloxham School (h), Sat., 14th Nov. Won 9—5.
- v. Magdalen College School (a), Sat., 28th Nov. Lost 3—11.
- v. City of Oxford School (a), Wed., 2nd Dec. Draw 0—0.

'UNDER 14' FIFTEEN

The Junior XV had a pleasing season. They began rather badly with a fairly heavy defeat at the hands of Reading, but, once settled down, they proved a useful team and won their last three matches well. Dunman was keen and competent as captain and several players showed considerable promise.

The team was as follows:—Baldwin; Thistlewood A. W., Beckett R., Penny, Bragg; Paxman A. P., Wond; Bretscher M. S., Dimond, Scott-Taggart, Dunman, Young R. H., Foden, Barnett, Saywell.

Also played:—Morris D. G. (twice); Costley, Kingston, Hardy, Lord, Longworth, Trenaman R. J. and Trinder (once).

Results

- v. Reading School (h), Wed., 7th October. Lost 0—19.
- v. Solihull School (h), Sat., 24th October. Lost 8—9.
- v. Bloxham School (h), Sat., 14th November. Won 11—0.
- v. Magdalen College School (h), Sat., 28th November. Won 6—3.
- v. City of Oxford School (a), Wed., 2nd December. Won 11—6.

HOUSE MATCHES

Both Junior and Senior competitions provided much excitement this season. In the Junior contest, Blacknall defeated Bennett fairly comfortably 19—6 whilst Tesdale had things even more under control and beat Reeves 28—14. Nevertheless it was Blacknall who won the Robinson Cup when they won the final very easily by 21 points to Tesdale's 6 points.

The Senior competition provided the real thrills. Tesdale disposed of Bennett whom they defeated 6—0 in a good hard game but Reeves and Blacknall fought their battle to a pointless draw. At the replay, both sides scored 3 points (a try to Reeves and a penalty goal to Blacknall) so that a third match became necessary. This second replay was eagerly contested but Reeves, whose team had more 1st XV players, eventually wore their opponents down and won by three tries to a try 9—3.

In the final, played on Wednesday, 2nd December, Reeves defeated Tesdale 14—0 and so secured the Lin Cup for the second year in succession.

On Wednesday, 9th December, the Boarders, captained by Millard, played the Dayboys led by Cope. The game was a good one and provided a grim tussle and the result, a 6—5 win to the Boarders, was indicative of the very close play.

D.O.W.

INTER-HOUSE CROSS-COUNTRY

It was hoped this year to begin running on a new course as the old one suffers the double handicap of starting and finishing away from the School grounds. Unfortunately it proved impossible to find a suitable alternative and, although exploration for a new course continues, cross country running started over the old course after half-term. The runs were arranged on last year's system of house runs, senior and junior, in fast and slow groups.

These runs went on continuously until two days before the actual races on Wednesday, 16th December. Conditions then were not so good as during the training runs because the 'going' had become extremely slippery and sticky. However, more boys than ever before took part—each house was represented by 15 seniors and 12 juniors. R. D. Gammack completed the senior course to win in 21 mins. 3.6 secs. This was not quite so fast a time as was recorded last year, but all in all this year's senior race was considerably faster and all runners scored. The Junior race was also fast and was well contested. Robertson won in 13 mins. 24.7 secs., a few yards ahead of A. J. Jones.

Points in the House Competitions were as follows:—

Senior: Reeves 517½, Bennett 463, Tesdale 448½, Blacknall 391.

Junior: Bennett 316, Tesdale 306, Blacknall 287, Reeves 264.

Reeves House secured the Reeves Bowl with an overall score of 781½ being followed by Bennett (779), Tesdale (754½), and Blacknall (678).

The first 20 placings in the Senior race were:—Gammack (Bl.), Griffith (R.), Parsons (T.), Marchbanks R. M. (T.), Eustace (R.), Budgen (B.), Campbell-Dykes (B.), Sarsfield-Hall (R.), Crawley (T.), Culley (Bl.), Lockhart-Smith (B.), Miell-Ingram (T.), Gardner A. J. (Bl.), Clewley (R.), Broad R. D. (T.), Grigsby (B.), Hiles (R.), Ivatts (B.) and Cope (T.), Brackley (B), Hall J. D. (T.).

The first 20 placings in the Junior race were:—Robertson (B.), Jones A. J. (Bl.), Nichol (Bl.), Becker (T.), Saywell (T.), Bretscher (Bl.), Broad W. C. (R.), Walker (R.), Langton (B.), Cooper (R.), Grosvenor (B.), Rallings (Bl.), Lanham (B), Broadway (Bl.), Mobbs (B.), Barnett (B.), Peedell (R.), Scott-Taggart (T.), Bowen (T.), Thistlewood A. M. (R.).

We were once again indebted to Miss Cullen who so generously put her land at our disposal.

J.C.I.

MINOR GAMES

Minor Games this term have consisted mainly of fives, basketball and boxing. Fives received a fillip when Mr. Helliwell offered his assistance and his enthusiasm and coaching were greatly appreciated. It was hoped to arrange basketball matches against the R.A.F. and Staff but the idea fell through because of a shortage of time. Boxing still receives the support of many juniors but seniors find the demands upon their time too great to attend regularly.

P.J.M.

C.C.F. NOTES

The Michaelmas Term began this year with an unaccustomed flourish: a token contingent of 20 day boys represented the Corps, within 48 hours of our having reassembled after the holidays, at the Service and March Past on Battle of Britain Sunday. This parade was followed a week later by Field Day. The battles took place over ground new to us, near Shotover. The morning was devoted to patrol exercises which, in theory at least, provided the necessary information for the Platoon attacks launched in the afternoon. These were further assisted, in theory still, by the R.A. Section, giving supporting fire. The week-old recruits did not take part in the exercise but even so we found that the area, while providing good ground for minor tactics, was somewhat restricted.

The next big event was the parade on Remembrance Sunday. For this we were invited to provide the Guard of Honour and the Buglers at the Cenotaph, and also the only band available for the March Past. This last request, made at short notice, imposed some strain on our resources and deprived the Guard, three of whom are members of the band, of the "traditional" privilege of marching past as a separate unit, after the Church Service. Still, we were glad to be able to oblige and it is gratifying to be able to record that the turn-out and performance on the occasion earned us the formal congratulations of the Mayor and of Mr. Airey Neave, M.P.

This year again we have entered a team in the Abingdon and District .22 League. We have this time been promoted to 'A' League, in which, at the end of the 3rd round, we stand at present leaders. We look forward to rounding off this matter satisfactorily in the course of the Lent Term . . .

Numbers have increased to a "new high"—242 cadets. It is anticipated that, with the continued growth of the School, we shall, in '54, be some 260 strong. Because of this, we shall be forming, in the coming summer, an additional section for Post-Cert. 'A' cadets—a Signal Platoon. Command of the platoon will devolve upon Capt. J. M. A. Toplis whose appointment to the contingent—alas, in the humbler rank of Lieutenant—is expected to be gazetted soon. We welcome also 2nd Lieut. G. M. Helliwell who, from the beginning of the Lent Term, will assume charge of recruit training.

We owe our grateful thanks to many people who have assisted with the training in the Michaelmas Term—to O.C., P.C.A.U., who has provided two Sergeants to take charge of the N.C.O.'s cadre; to Col. Sparrow and Major Sackett who, since Capt. Fiori left us, have "taken over" the R.E. Section; and to O.C. 299 Fd. Bty., R.A., who has sent over an A.I.G. to assist Capt. Willis with the training of the R.A. Section.

The tradition that Abingdon is a "course-going" unit has again been well-maintained: during the Christmas holidays, a party of 30 cadets attended a Platoon Weapons Course at the Small Arms School, R.M.; Sgt. Roberts attended a War Office course on Field Artillery and L/Cpl. Brown, besides going to Browndown, went to a Naval Aviation Course at Culdrose, in Cornwall. After this exciting "leave period", we look forward to the visit, early in the Lent Term, of the Deputy Comd., Salisbury Plain District, Brigadier Poole, who has promised to visit us at training.

During the Michaelmas Term the following promotions were made:—

To be C.S.M.:—C.Q.M.S. Downs T. W. S.

To be C.Q.M.S.:—Sgt. Heavens J. F., Sgt. Jones D. A.

To be Sgt.:—Cpl. Lloyd D. S., Cpl. Marchbanks R. M., Cpl. Pratt J. R., Cpl. Rockall E. G., Cpl. Roberts B. M.

We have said goodbye, with proud regret, to C.S.M. Downs and L/Cpl. Hudson who are joining the Regular forces—Cpl. Hudson, the Army, through Sandhurst, and C.S.M. Downs, the Royal Marines. He will be the first officer we have provided since the war for the "Royals", to whom we owe so much.

The Guard of Honour was composed of: Sgt. Rockall E. G., Cpl. Jones D. M. P., L/Cpl. Brown G. E. G., L/Cpl. Pickford A. J.

The Buglers were: L/Cpl. Griffith R. D. P., L/Cp. Redknap R. H.

S.C.P.

R.N. Section

The Michaelmas term has been one of hard work, and of some achievement. Examinations were held for Petty Officer, Leading Seaman, and Able Seaman, and every member of the Section was a candidate for one or other. L/S. Lay was successful in the Petty Officer's Exam. and we hope to have official confirmation of his promotion by next term. A.B.'s Grigsby, Hall and Beckett passed the written and oral parts of the Leading Seaman's Exam. (but have yet to take the Signals exam.) while five cadets have fully qualified as A.B.'s, and the remainder have only to pass in Signals.

The Section was again represented at the Remembrance Sunday Parade at the Cenotaph, and took part in the march past after the Service at St. Helen's Church.

New ground was explored for Field Day this term, and a most enjoyable day was spent at H.M.S. *Flying Fox* at Bristol. We were given the freedom of the ship and made use of its most adequate seamanship equipment for instruction in the forenoon, while the afternoon was

spent in whalers on the river. For some of us it was the first introduction to the pleasure of manning a boat from the boom. Altogether a very good day.

A little later we joined the army for night operations; and some of us spent an amusing time trying to distinguish between cows and cadets.

L.C.J.G.

SCOUT TROOP

The Michaelmas Term has been a period of marking time. Kemp has been valiantly keeping things going by taking all the troop meetings. New ground was trodden on Field Day by going to Cothill and a representative group took part in the Remembrance Day parade at the War Memorial. At the end of term the District Commissioner paid us a welcome visit primarily to invest several new scouts. During the Lent Term it is hoped to begin to move forward again for there are a number of juniors waiting to join and all present members are to be re-tested. At present, our most pressing need is for several keen seniors to rejoin the Troop to help instruct Patrol leaders.

M.N.W.

LIBRARY NOTES

We are very grateful to the Master and Governors of Christ's Hospital for defraying the cost of a framed photographic copy of an old bond bearing the signature of Peter Heylyn, D.D., which has been hung in the Heylyn Room; and to Mr. W. A. Rudd for two old itinerary maps executed by John Oqilby c. 1675 on both of which appear Abingdon and neighbouring places; and Peaks of Hazard by Michael Bruce, O.A. R. V. Cox, O.A., has kindly given us the Coronation Number of *Country Life*. We also acknowledge with many thanks the following presentations: Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey (*The Story of the Abbey*); Shell Petroleum Co. (Oil); W. H. Stevens, O.A., (*Synthetic Resins*), English Electric Co. (*Sir Charles Siemens*); and the following leaving books: N. J. Shurrock (*Winston Churchill*), S. R. Mills (*To Teach Their Senators Wisdom*); J. Westall (*Ascent of Everest*).

We welcome to the Library Staff T. C. Glucklich and T. M. J. Kempinski.

G.F.D.

SCHOOL SOCIETIES

ROYSSSE SOCIETY

The Society held three meetings during the Michaelmas Term and welcomed the following new members: D. A. Jones, D. S. Lloyd, P. G. Cope, M. J. Hudson, B. J. Hiscock, R. E. J. Packer, A. R. Pizaro, P. W. Kemp and J. Blinman.

At the first meeting P. J. Millard read a paper entitled "The Brandy of the Damned", which was not concerned with alcohol in any form but dealt comprehensively with the beginnings and growth of music and the origins of tonality and form. The paper was interesting and well read; subsequent discussion, though confined to a clique, was vigorous, centering on the controversial topic of realism in music.

At the second meeting P. W. Kemp read a paper on Trades Unions in which he dealt historically with the growth of Trades Unions and their effect on the political life of the country. Subsequent discussion covered such controversial topics as restrictive practices and the political levy; but may have given some members a rather more sympathetic insight into the problems of the modern Trades Union leader.

The liveliest meeting of the term proved to be the last at which M. J. Hudson read a paper on Interplanetary Travel. The paper was interesting and well read. In it the author said that travel to the neighbouring planets was difficult more from financial than technical reasons. He then described the difficulties which would be encountered and the possibility of life as we know it on various planets. The discussion afterwards was vigorous and sweeping, if a trifle discursive. Among subjects discussed were flying saucers, holiday trips to the moon, the space time continuum and the possibility of embarking on a hyperbolic course and never coming back.

We wish those members who have left us the best of luck and we should like to thank the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban, for their gracious hospitality throughout the term, and also Mr. Ingham, whose unflinching attendance has enlivened our meetings.

R.M.M.

TURNOR SOCIETY

At the Annual General Meeting the following officers were either elected or re-elected: President, The Headmaster; Chairman, P. J. Millard; Hon. Treasurer, D. O. Willis, Esq.; Hon. Secretary, J. Blinman; Committee, J. C. Ivatts, D. A. Jones, B. D. Guimaraens.

Three meetings in all were held during the Michaelmas Term. At the first, we were fortunate in having Mr. E. Richards, B.Sc. to talk to us. Inadvertently swept on to Oxford on his way down from London, he yet managed to reach us in time to present a lively talk entitled, "Growing Wool—from Pasture to Port", which, illustrated with film-strips, proved most interesting.

To mark United Nations Week it was fitting that, on 23rd October, Mr. D. O. Willis should give a talk dealing with some of the problems and achievements of the U.N. Organisation. Illustrated with slides his talk traced the growth of U.N.O. from the League of Nations to the present day and emphasised its importance in developing backward

countries. We are indeed grateful to Mr. Willis for presenting such an interesting and illuminating talk at such short notice.

In lighter vein was the last meeting of the term, when Mr. J. M. A. Toplis gave us some of his "Impressions of Sarawak". In a most witty and fascinating manner he described the hazardous journey by river through the jungle of Borneo to a lumber camp, how he and his wife set up house there, and his adventures with primitive Dyaks, leeches, and crates of Scotch.

Forthcoming attractions for the Lent Term include: Mr. Airey Neave, M.P., on "Escaping"; Graham Hutton, the well-known economist; Major Lunghi (O.A.), recently a Military Attaché in Moscow, on "Impressions of Moscow and the Russian People"; and Mr. Roberts of St. John's College, Oxford, on "Greek Papyri".

J.B.

DEBATING SOCIETY

Four meetings were held in the Michaelmas Term and the average attendance at each was over fifty; a fact which reveals the ever increasing popularity of the society. Many young members were prominent at the debates and consequently the 'Old Guard' was not called upon to speak as often as in the past.

The first meeting was a business one and saw the election of the following officers for the coming year: President—the Headmaster; Hon. Treasurer—D. O. Willis, Esq.; Committee—B. D. Guimaraens, D. A. Jones and P. J. Millard, while J. C. Ivatts was elected to the office of Secretary. At the second meeting, B. D. Guimaraens and D. A. Jones proposed the motion—"National Service is worth looking forward to"—and B. P. Kibble and W. W. Budden opposed. The debate was a hard fought one although when put to the vote the motion was carried by a large majority.

At the following meeting the motion before the house was: "This house considers that Motor Cycle Speedway should be abolished". M. G. Nichol and C. M. Dunman proposed the motion while J. M. Mobbs and R. P. Warren successfully opposed it. The majority of those who spoke from the floor of the house appeared to have no interest in Motor Cycle Speedway but did not see why others should not enjoy the sport. The motion was, in consequence, defeated by 26 votes to 18.

At the final meeting B. D. Guimaraens, seconded by J. Blinman, proposed the motion, "This house deplores the decline in Chivalry", while R. M. Marchbanks and J. C. Ivatts opposed. It was an interesting and well fought debate, illustrated by references ranging from the Knight in shining armour to the modern spiv and cosh gangs. The motion was carried by 27 votes to 19. Thus ended a most successful and gratifying term for the society.

J.C.I.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

During the Michaelmas Term only three meetings were held, two lectures and a film. At the first meeting, Mr. G. L. Sanders (O.A.), delivered an extremely interesting lecture on "The Approach to Absolute Zero", in which he explained some of the various modern methods by which extremely low temperatures are obtained. The highlight of the lecture was the splintering of a piece of rubber tubing, which had been dipped in oxygen, by a hammer. We were delighted to have Mrs. Cobban at this meeting.

This was followed, at the next meeting, by a film, "Power for Ships", which showed the working and construction of the famous "Crasley-Harris" diesel engine. The diagrams in the film were good but tended to be repeated rather too often. At the third meeting, D. Lloyd gave a talk on "Plastics", in which he explained the chemistry and the uses of the various plastics. The theory was very useful to sixth form chemists, but was rather too advanced for the other members.

In the Lent Term several more lectures by boys of the school will be given on subjects ranging from "Beer" to "The economic importance of parasites". It is also hoped to arrange for some outside speakers to visit us.

R.W.

CAMERA CLUB

At the A.G.M. it was decided that owing to large membership it was necessary to split the society into two sections, the Camera Club and the Film Society, the latter concerned solely with photographic interest in films. This has proved to be most successful. We also welcomed our new vice-president, Mr. Toplis, who has admirably filled the place of Mr. Johnston.

During the Michaelmas Term the most interesting meetings were lectures, and we are most grateful to Mr. Richards (Reading Camera Club) and Mr. Rose (Oxford Photographic Society) for lecturing to us. Mr. Richards illustrated his lecture, "Camera and Caravan", with some excellent Kodachrome slides. Mr. Rose also gave a detailed talk with slides, on "With Cycle and Camera". We hope that they are the first of many to visit us in connection with the Royal Photographic Society.

The films during the term included a Polish documentary, "The Game of the Capital is Warsaw", and the great Russian classic, "The Battleship Potemkin", produced in 1925. We ourselves had intended to produce a "short" and a newsreel, but unforeseen circumstances prevented us, and we do thank J. D. Hall for his script and assure him that it was not in vain. It has been decided, however, to produce a comedy in the near future for which preparations have already begun.

M.K.C.G.

GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

The very enjoyable series of programmes during the Michaelmas Term began with a programme introduced by the Vice-President, Mr Barker, which consisted of the Serenade in E minor by Elgar and the Symphonic Poem. "Don Juan", by Richard Strauss. At the second meeting, each member present chose and played a favourite record provided that it was of reasonable length. This programme, which was experimental, proved to be a great success and we hope that there will be many more like it.

The third meeting, introduced by R. M. Marchbanks, consisted of Beethoven's Overture, Leonora No. 3, Brahms' Variations on the St. Antony Chorale and the slow movement from Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony. This was followed, at the next meeting, by Symphony No 6 in B. minor by Tchaikovsky, introduced by M. J. Ralfe.

The two final meetings consisted of Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 in E flat ("Eroica"), presented by B. J. Hiscock, and Symphony No. 5 in G, by Dvorak, presented by P. J. Millard. R.E.J.P

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

During the Michaelmas Term six meetings were held. Membership has declined slightly, but the meetings have been far more enjoyable than in recent terms.

The first meeting was devoted to discussing suggestions for future meetings; the main topic being the possibilities of a quiz. At the next meeting Mr. L. C. J. Griffin gave a very interesting talk to junior collector on "Having fun with common stamps". He spoke of different postmark and colour variations and boys spent much time looking at his collection.

It was suggested that the Society should purchase a large parcel of stamps. This done, the stamps were distributed amongst the members who spent an enjoyable afternoon sorting them out. For the other meetings members brought their collections and "swapped" or simply "talked" stamps.

It is hoped that in the Lent Term, when keenness is always high, more meetings and talks by outside speakers may be arranged. H.G.W

CHESS CLUB

During the Michaelmas Term, the Chess Club met every Friday with excellent attendances, the number sometimes reaching fifty. An encouraging feature was the appearance of many juniors. Chess has now gained so much popularity, that it was not unusual to see enthusiasts squeezing a game into the lunch-hour.

A tournament was organised, and after many keen matches M. J. Hudson beat G. E. G. Brown in the final round. As a result a junior competition, as well as a senior one, will be held during the Lent Term.

In the near future we are hoping to organise fixtures with other schools. P.S.-V.

MODELLING CLUB

The Michaelmas Term began with the A.G.M. at which we welcomed our new sponsor, Mr. Horrex, who has kindly agreed to take the place of Mr. Fiori. It was decided that a model of the Corn Exchange stage should be built. This project has already been started and, when complete, will be of great assistance to the Dramatic Society.

At the remaining meetings members occupied themselves with their own models.

H.G.W.

JOINT CLUB

During the Michaelmas Term membership was limited and we were able to organise the meetings with more success than in the past. Of the two meetings held during the term the first was held at School when the club attended the lecture by H. R. Trevor-Roper, Esq. The second meeting was held at St. Helen's School and was one of the most enjoyable meetings ever held. The boys showed real enthusiasm to learn to dance and although a little heavy of foot successfully managed some exhausting Scottish dances.

The club looks forward to its future meetings and hopes that those in the Lent Term will be as enjoyable, for both sides, as the previous term.

M.J.B.

O.A. NOTES

IN DARKER NEW GUINEA

(Extracts from a recent letter from Cadet Patrol Officer G. H. Brown, Southern Highlands District, Papua, New Guinea).

I was fortunate in being one of 34 out of 600 applicants selected as cadets for 2 years with the Department of District Services and Native Affairs run by the Australian Government. I arrived in Port Moresby in April and there together with the other cadets I went through a course of 6 weeks intensive training in Native Administration. We were then posted to different areas in the Territory. My first step was to Lae where I spent three days; then on to Madang where I helped out with the Coronation festivities. I was on duty at 7.30 a.m. on Coronation Day and my spell ended at 9 a.m. next morning. For weeks beforehand the Administration had been inviting the natives of the District to come in,

and on the day an estimated total of 10,000 turned up. In the evening the flag-bedecked sports arena was given up to the natives to display their various dances. It was a wonderful sight, each tribe having its own headdresses and paint colourings, and the general effect was most impressive. During the night we patrolled the area to see that no trouble arose, aided by native police shepherding the various tribes away from each other, since in the main they are all enemies. So the night passed with drums never ceasing their deafening roar, the dancers becoming more excited as they chewed more and more betel nut. The amount of food consumed was enormous—native sweet potatoes, bananas and coconuts by the ton, with pigs by the score.

The main job of the Administration is to stop internecine warfare, which has been going on for years, teach new methods of agriculture and establish hospitals and schools and so forth. There is also exploration work, mapping, looking for airstrip sites and estimating population density, together with reports on timber and mineral deposits.

BIRTHS

BRAILSFORD. On 10th September, 1953, at 41 Blythe Street, Mapperley, Nottingham, to Beatrice, wife of Thomas Wynne Brailsford (Smith) (1943), a son.

HEDGER. On 22nd September, 1953, to Helena Rosalie, wife of Mark Hedger (1942), a daughter.

MARRIAGES

ANAG-MORGAN. On 5th September, 1953, at St. James' Church, Gerrards Cross, Peter David Anag (1940) to Gillian Grace Morgan.

HILL-SMITH. On 17th October, 1953 at St. Peter's, Stapen Hill, Burton-on-Trent, Geoffrey Hill (1942) to Stella Vida Smith of 493 Stanton Road, Burton-on-Trent.

GREEN-WRAGG. On 22nd December, 1953 at St. Peter's, Furze Platt, Maidenhead, Michael John Green, B.A., (1947) to Joyce Valerie Wragg, A.R.I.B.A.

DEATHS

ANDREWS. On 13th October at Birmingham, after a serious operation, Percy Edgar Andrews (1904-08) aged 62.

BRUCE. On 8th October 1953 at Santa Monica, California, William Nigel Ernle Bruce (1908-12), aged 58.

PAXMAN. On 4th November, 1953 at Waterside, Lucerne Road Oxford, James Latham Paxman (1883-85) aged 82.

P. E. Andrews was a School Prefect and on leaving went to the then Reading University College where he took a B.Sc.(Lond.) degree. In World War I he joined the R.N. Division and was later commissioned in the Oxf. & Bucks. L.I. After the war he returned to teaching, and at the time of his death he was Senior Science Master at Moseley Grammar School. He was author of several science text books in collaboration with Mr. Lambert.

'Willie' Bruce and his elder brother Michael, now 11th Baronet, were at the School together, and while Willie was the better athlete both were gifted with considerable charm and personality. When war broke out in 1914 he joined the H.A.C., was severely wounded in 1915 in France, spent many months in hospital, and in fact never completely recovered from the effects. In 1918 he was commissioned in the Somerset L.I. After the war he made his first appearance on the London stage in 1921 in *Quality Street*, and after his performances in *Bulldog Drummond* and the *Ringer* with Sir Gerald du Maurier he entered on a long succession of supporting roles in West End productions. In 1931 he made his greatest success in *Lean Harvest* as Philip Downes and after playing the same part in New York he attracted the attention of film producers and in consequence made his home in U.S.A. from 1934 onwards. In the cinema he is probably best known for his portrayal of Dr. Watson in many Sherlock Holmes films, while his last work was done with Charles Chaplin in *Limelight* as recently as last year. Though his health had for some years been causing anxiety the sudden end of a talented, cheerful and generous life is to be deeply regretted.

The many Old Boys who remember the devoted attentions of Miss Florey when she was Matron in School House will be interested to learn that in response to family calls she has left her happy retreat in N. Wales and returned to Australia. Her address is: Miss Florey, 132 Riverside Road, Hawthorne, Victoria, Australia, and we are sure that she will be more pleased than ever to hear from old friends.

A. F. R. Fisher (1931) is Vice-Principal of the Devon Farm Institute at Bicton, East Budleigh. With 20 students doing horticulture in his charge, out of a total of 60, and evening lectures two or three times a week to Gardening and Growing Associations, he is kept very busy, and happy.

S. M. B. Lane (1939) is now flying on the North Atlantic route with B.O.A.C. but is soon to be grounded for 4 months to take a Flight Navigator's course—back to school once more! He has a 2 year old son, Christopher Martin,

Long Service Medals of the British Fire Service were recently presented to Sub-Officer E. G. Ballard (1917) for 30 years' service with the Abingdon Section and to C. F. Fisher (1925) for 15 years'.

Peter J. Hill (1936) from being hotelier has transferred his energies to wholesale hosiery. He is still living at Burbage. Another who is interested in hosiery is Tom Brailsford (1943) who is working with the firm of Charnos at Mapperley.

R. M. Reed (1948) is now a Management Trainee with Hugh Baird and Sons, Maltsters.

D. J. Leach (1948) is in the laboratories of Hadfields Paint Manufacturers, at Mitcham. Robin Grant (1950) is also concerned with paint and varnish in the firm of Jenson & Nicholson.

Congratulations to C. S. Cullen (1947) on negotiating his Animal Pathology exam—the last serious obstacle before his M.R.C.V.S.

Jeremy Cullen (1950) is doing a 2 year course at the London School of Printing and is happy to be sharing a flat in W. Kensington with brother Michael.

David Wheaton (1948) having negotiated Greats at Oxford is now reading for a B.D.(Lond.) at the London Bible College, Marylebone Rd.

A. J. Walters (1946) has secured a post at St. Jude's C. of E. Primary School, Southsea, specialising in P.T. He is fortunate in having secured a house at Milton nearby—only 10 minutes walk from the sea.

Gordon Brown (1947) is very happy in his new job with Australian Government Native Affairs Service in New Guinea. Earlier in this issue we have printed extracts from a recent letter which give some idea of life among primitive people. We hope to publish a fuller account later.

His brother D. P. Brown (1949) has completed his National Service in the R.A.F. and is working with National Benzole Co., at Littlemore, Oxford.

G. H. Willson (1943) is now with General Assurance Co., at Kidderminster.

F. C. Lucas (1949) after his spell in the R.A.F., has abandoned banking to become assistant professional at Fulwell Park Golf Club, under the renowned George Cox.

Aubrey Taylor (1951) has joined the College of Aeronautical and Automobile Engineering, Chelsea.

Michael Penn (1949) is working with Nestlè.

Clive Burborough (1944) is in Westminster Bank, Leamington Spa. and P. F. C. Berry (1950) is to be seen in the National Provincial Bank at Abingdon.

M. G. Ryman (1952) is with the firm of Hedges, Solicitors, Wallingford.

Alan Garner (1948) is enjoying his new post as Senior History Master at Ruthin School, North Wales.

The Services

Col. H. L. G. Livingston (1935) 28 Coast Regt. R.A. is in Gibraltar.

Capt. K. R. Sims (1943) 21 Fd. Regt. R.A. is in M.E.L.F. and Lieut. P. R. Sims (1946) R.A.C. left recently for Korea.

Capt. D. W. Olliffe (1942) R.A.O.C. has returned home from Korea.

D. M. Aldworth (1949), just promoted Lieut. R.A.P.C., is leaving for Eritrea.

Lt. Ian Jamieson (1946) R. Berks. is in Somaliland.

Sqdn. Ldr. D. F. Newman (1935) has completed his tour of duty in Germany and is home again.

Congratulations to N. A. Parker (1948) on winning the gold medal for the best Officer Cadet passing out of Cranwell.

Fl-Lt. C. G. Rowe (1937) is at Yatesbury Radar School training boy entrants.

K A. Fathers (1949) 2nd Lt. R. Corps of Signals, will shortly be returning to Cables & Wireless.

R. F. Hamer (1950), Lt. R.A., has been granted a regular Commission.

B. W. T. Leech (1952) and H. R. Leach (1953) are in residence at R.M.A. Sandhurst, to be joined in due course by M. J. Hudson and T. W. S. Downs.

A. E. Reeve (1948) Sgt. R.A.M.C. has signed on for a long term. His brother T. S. (1951) is a cadet with Anglo Saxon Petroleum Co.

C. G. Brown (1953) is in R.A.F. at Yatesbury, D. R. Ellis (1953) in 11th Hussars, C. W. Robbins (1952) in R.A.C., G. W. Crockford (1952) in R.E.M.E. and N.A.C. Darroch (1952) in R. Berks.

Of others who left last July; P. B. H. Amey is in R.A., N. J. Shurrock in R.A.O.C., A. F. R. Crockford in R.A.M.C., John Westall in R.A. M. Grant, P. R. J. Gregory, D. J. Littlewood and B. A. Whiteford are also in khaki, while D. L. Banfield is serving in the Navy.

Universities and Hospitals

The following, to the best of our knowledge, are in residence.
Oxford University:

Pembroke—M. D. Millichap, G. S. Strachan, M. H. Venables, S. R. Mills, M. Bateman, C. S. Wiggins, D. R. G. Andrews.

Balliol—G. L. Sanders.

Keble—C. V. Davidge (Fellow), B. W. Boddington.

Lincoln—A. E. Willson.

St. Catharine's Society—I. H. McNaughton.

Cambridge University:

Jesus—H. D. Baecker.

Reading University—M. J. Wareham, R. J. Taylor, D. Free, P. J. Downer, P. R. Sale.

Bristol University—J. B. Rich.

St. Andrew's University—M. A. C. Heavens.

Univ. College, Southampton—B. H. Wiggins.

Univ. College, Newcastle—P. J. Chamberlin.

Loughborough College—R. Klein, G. Round.

Hospitals

London—P. C. Richardson

St. Bartholomew's—W. S. Ogden.

Middlesex—E. S. N. Hazel.

Royal Veterinary—C. S. Cullen.

We can add the following brief notes on others who have left recently.

N. F. A. Buxton is articulated to a firm of Solicitors in London.

N. G. Nicholls is taking the course in Hospital Administration with Middlesex United Hospitals.

E. G. R. Peedell is assistant to the Librarian at Brasenose College.

R. M. Courtney is an apprentice in the Morris Combine.

E. L. Brown is farming at Morwenstow, Devon; D. Conway and J. Tuck are also farming.

J. S. Williamson is articulated to Messrs. Cowley & Allen of Abingdon.

A. F. Brown is an assistant at the Agricultural Department of Oxford University.

M. E. Humby is with a motor-engineering firm at Banstead; M. H. Creevy is also learning motor-engineering.

D. M. Jones and J. Cooper are at A.E.R.E., Harwell.

J. Carter has joined his father's business at Faringdon.

B. J. Le Grys is a probationary trainee with Kerry's Tool Manufactory at Oxford.

P. Thompson and A. C. Brodrick have followed several other O.A.s to the Oxford School of Architecture.

A. C. Marshall is studying accountancy with his father.

THE OXFORD LETTER

Pembroke College,
Oxford.

3rd December, 1953.

Dear Sir,

The Abingdon contingent at the University is growing, but after all it is quality that counts. As for Oxford itself it is much the same: the same curiosities of speech, and dress and behaviour. But it is a quieter place, and there is less of what Arnold termed Barbarianism. Guy Fawke's night was a timid mockery of last year. On the other hand membership of cultural societies has greatly increased this term. Oxford, Sir, is looking up.

Each to his place. Ian McNaughton is still at St. Catherine's Society working hard, although taking time off to play rugger. At Pembroke there are Michael Millichap studying law, and Morris Venables, who has captained the hockey side, and also played for the O.U. Occasionals, and Glen Strachan who is seldom seen except when heavily muffled from head to foot on a motorbike. Of those who have come into residence this term there is, at Lincoln, Tony Willson reading history, also pursuing his interests in Russian, painting and horses. In the icy wastes of North Oxford, Brian Boddington shivers in his Keble home. He reads English and you may bump into him on the High any day. Also at Pembroke is Michael Bateman who has become secretary of the O.U. Heretics Club and plays hockey for the college. David Andrews who is reading history, is another regular member of the hockey team. Colin Wiggins has excelled himself on the river, and has allied himself to the Conservative Club. Robin Mills busies himself with mathematical problems and Telegraph crossword puzzles.

John Mortimore and Michael Jones were seen when they came up to receive their degrees, the latter in some consternation over acquiring the requisite bow tie.

Eheu. I struggle for a Latin quotation, but classicism is so out of fashion these days. James Joyce or T. S. Eliot would really be more appropriate.

I am, Sir,

Your Oxford Correspondent.

O.A. Club Dance

The Annual Dance held on the evening of Saturday, 5th December, after the O.A. Rugger match, must be voted an even greater success than usual. At the preliminary reception the President of

the Club, Mr. Hugh Insley-Fox, and Mrs. Insley-Fox welcomed a record number of guests — actually 153 tickets were sold — supported by the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban and Mr. and Miss Grundy. The band was good, the floor was good, the decorations were as attractive as ever thanks to Mrs. Bevir, and if the supper-room was too small for the large company the fault lay not with the Committee but with the fact that a wedding reception was being held in the Roysse Room. However next year the extra accommodation will be secured and we hope that future Dances will be as well attended and thoroughly enjoyable as this last was.

Many Old Boys attended the Service in the School Chapel on Sunday morning and were afterwards entertained to coffee by Mrs. Cobban in School House. These morning gatherings are becoming increasingly popular, and our warmest thanks are offered to Mrs. Cobban for her hospitality.

London Dinner

Thanks to the energy and foresight of Stanley Paige the London Dinner will be held on Friday, 12th March, at Simpson's Restaurant in the Strand. All members of the Club who can possibly attend are asked to notify S. A. Paige, 77 Watling Street, E.C.4., as soon as possible in order to lighten his labours and ease his anxiety. Cost of tickets 20/- including gratuities but excluding drinks.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

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

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

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

"THE ABINGDONIAN"

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

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

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