

THE ABINGDONIAN

VOL. X. No. 8.

APRIL, 1955

Price 1/6d.

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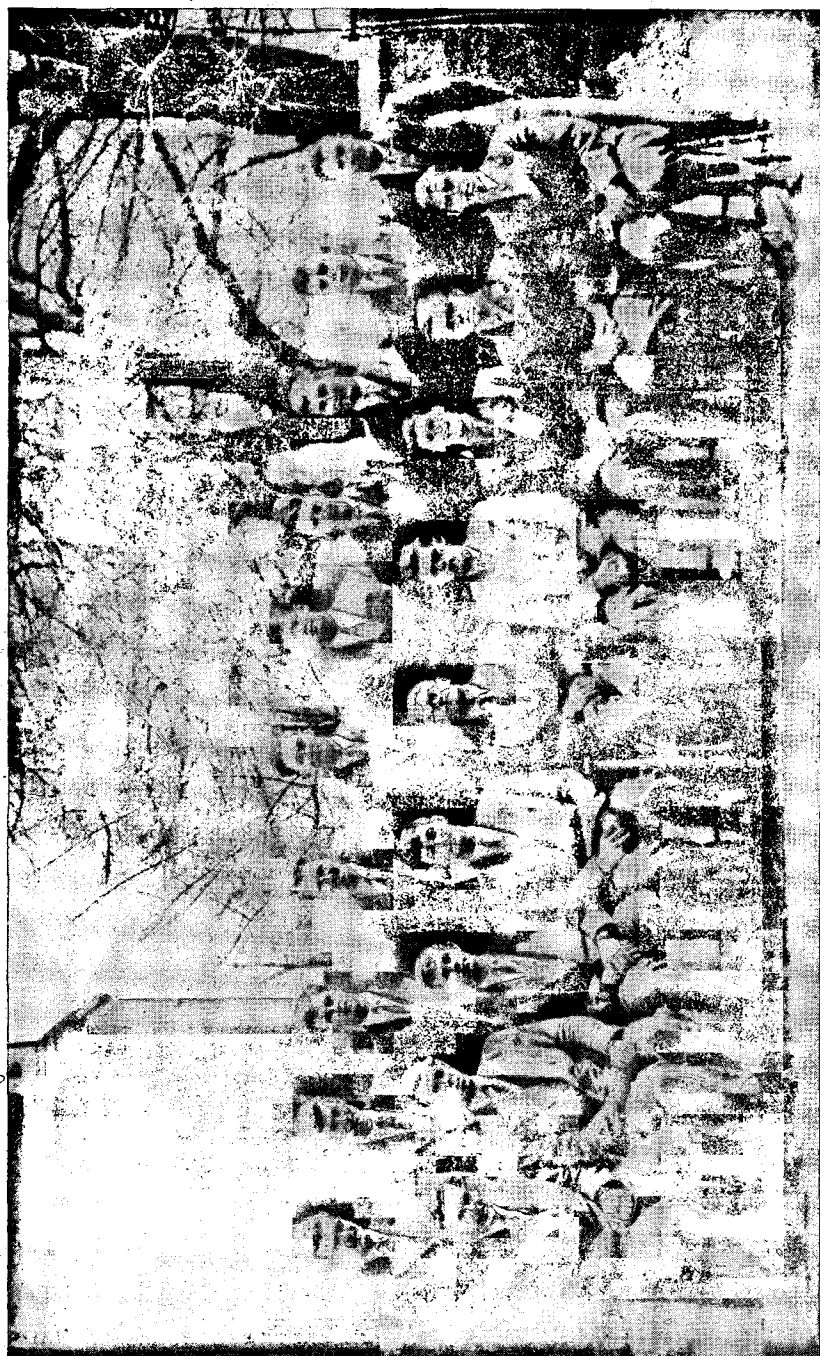
CALENDAR, SUMMER TERM, 1955

April			
Fri.	29	Term begins.	
May			
Sat.	7	1st XI v. Newbury Grammar School (h).	
Tues.	10	Field Day	
Wed.	11	1st XI v. King Alfred's School, Wantage, (h).	
		1st IV v. Culham College (a).	
Sat.	14	1st XI v. R.G.S., High Wycombe (a).	
Wed.	18	1st XI v. St. Edward's School 2nd XI (a).	
		1st XI v. Prince Henry's Grammar Sch., Evesham (a).	
Sat.	21	1st XI v. Oratory School (a).	
		1st IV v. King's School, Worcester (h).	
Wed.	23	1st XI v. Reading School (h).	
		1st IV v. Reading School (a).	
Fri.	27	Half Term begins, 12.30 p.m.	
June			
Wed.	1	School recommences, 9 a.m.	
		1st IV v. Sir Wm. Borlase's Sch., Marlow (a).	
Sat.	4	1st XI v. Parents' XI (h).	
		1st IV at Wallingford Regatta.	
Wed.	8	1st XI v. Staff XI (h).	
Wed.	15	1st XI v. Berkshire Gentlemen (h).	
Sat.	18	1st XI v. City of Oxford Sch. (h).	
		1st IV at Marlow Regatta	
Sat.	25	1st XI v. Old Abingdonians (h).	
		1st IV v. Old Abingdonians (h).	
July			
Sat.	2	1st XI v. Abingdon C.C. (h).	
Wed.	13	1st XI v. Windsor County School (a).	
Fri.	15	Annual Inspection of the C.C.F.	
Sat.	16	1st XI v. Magdalen College School (h).	
Sat.	23	FOUNDER'S DAY.	
Tues.	26	Term ends, 10.15 a.m.	

Michaelmas Term begins Friday, 16th September, 1955.

(Boarders return Thursday, 15th September).

THE SCHOOL PREFECTS, 1955



Misericordias

Domini



in aeternum

cantabo

OFFICERS OF THE SCHOOL

(Summer Term, 1955)

SCHOOL PREFECTS

D. A. Jones (Head of the School)

R. M. Marchbanks (Head of School House)

J. R. Pratt (Head of Day Boys)

B. J. Hiscock (S)

P. J. Simmonds (S)

J. M. Pulsford (D)

J. D. Hall (S)

R. E. J. Packer (W)

M. K. C. Grigsby (L)

C. P. C. Stroud-Viney (D)

T. C. Glucklich (D)

K. W. Viney (D)

D. M. P. Jones (D)

J. J. Swainston (C)

P. O. Older (D)

J. A. Nichols (S)

J. A. Howard (S)

R. D. P. Griffith (S)

HOUSE PREFECTS

School House—R. D. Gammack, P. C. Sarsfield-Hall, T. M. J. Kempinski, M. C. Rallings, G. E. G. Campbell-Dykes, G. R. H. Slack, N. A. Carter, D. J. Langton

Crescent House—R. W. Westcott

Larkhill—A. E. Bush

Waste Court—A. Maxwell, I. W. Trenaman

Day Boys—B. M. Roberts, J. T. Page, G. E. G. Brown, T. A. W. Walker, M. B. Enser, D. G. Dunkley, M. J. Scott-Taggart, I. L. McLoughlin, R. D. Broad, I. J. Parsons, F. Jeal, C. Hiles, N. K. Hammond, A. J. Gardner.

Captain of Cricket—D. A. Jones

Secretary of Cricket—B. J. Hiscock

Captain of Boats—P. J. Simmonds

Secretary of Boats—P. C. Sarsfield-Hall

Captain of Tennis—J. A. Nichols

Secretary of Tennis—A. J. Gardner

Secretary of G.G.C.—D. A. Jones

Secretary of Minor Games—J. A. Nichols

'The Abingdonian'

Editor—R. E. J. Packer

Asst. Editors—D. A. Jones, S. C. Woodley, N. J. H. Grant

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

EDITORIAL

The menace of atomic warfare is one of the darkest clouds which have ever hung over the world; and the thought of it has made us all feel that civilization itself may stand on the brink. During the first three months of 1955—a year which opened in an atmosphere of hope—the hydrogen bomb has received much attention. It has been discussed everywhere from (if we may compare great things with small) both Houses of Parliament to sixth form Divinity lessons, quite apart from the views of others which have reached us through the press, the radio and the television. On this matter, leaders of the church and state in countries on both sides of the "Iron curtain" as well as in our own have put forward a diversity of opinion:

Some say that there is absolutely no justification for any country making such a weapon under any circumstances; others think that a balance of power is the solution and one man has even said that the estimated effects of nuclear warfare have been exaggerated out of all proportion. It is quite possible as the Archbishop of York and Sir Richard Acland have shown for sincere and intelligent Christians to differ radically about the policy that our own Government should follow. We can all sympathise with the "agonising reluctance" with which the Archbishop came to the conclusion that the possession of nuclear weapons might not avert another world war but did at any rate present the only possible deterrent to an aggressor who might otherwise destroy those values which we rate higher than life itself.

Therefore it is useless for us to pretend that this is a problem too great for our attention even while we are at school. We must not shirk our responsibility, nor must we fail, after careful consideration of this very grave problem, to play our own individual part, however small, in the banishment of the fear which exists in the world to-day.

The advent of Spring and the message of Easter bring home to us once again the one thing which can yet shine through these black clouds—the message of hope of Him who claimed to be the Way, the Truth and the Life.

* * *

As we go to press, the news that the Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, has resigned provides us with still further food for thought. This is an event of very great importance: it marks the end of an epoch which, in spite of two disastrous wars, saw tremendous changes in social and material progress. What the future holds in store for us no-one can tell, but it is with some trepidation that we look into the years ahead knowing that Churchill can no longer 'step into the breach'. Meanwhile we can all unite, whatever our political colour, in saluting the Happy Warrior and wishing him many happy years of peaceful and well-earned retirement.

EDMUND JOHN PERROTT ROSS BARKER

1869—1955

Many generations of Old Boys will hear with a pang of regret that "R.B." died on Thursday, 17th March at Rye, Sussex. At the funeral on the following Tuesday, Mr. Ingham represented the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban, the School and the Old Boys and among the many wreaths were ones from his friends on the Staff, the O.A. Club and the Waste Court Trustees. A short memorial service had been held in the School Chapel on the previous day.

Born on 15th October, 1869, he was educated at Aldenham School and proceeded to Brasenose College, Oxford as a Hulmeian Exhibitioner. After gaining a 1st Class in Classical Honour Mods. and a 2nd Class in Greats he took a post at Harrison College, Barbados, where he remained 5 years. In 1899 he came to Abingdon School as Senior Classics Master under Mr. Layng and stayed till 1905 when he went to Reading School and two years later to Loretto. There he met Mr. Grundy and a happy partnership was formed, renewed when he returned to Abingdon in 1918, and continued for the next 25 years. As Sixth Form master he used his great gifts to raise the standard of classics and literary appreciation to a high level and many Pembroke scholars have good reason to be grateful to him. When he gave up his teaching work in 1931 he continued as warden of Waste Court boarding house to devote himself to the happiness and welfare of the younger boys in his charge. When he finally severed his official connection with the School in 1943 he settled first at Ashford and latterly at Rye; as long as his health permitted he paid frequent visits to Abingdon and to the last maintained a very real interest in the School's progress.

We are indebted to Mr. Grundy—than whom none is better fitted to speak—for the following memories of a well-loved figure.

"I first knew R.B. on the Staff at Loretto School. He was a man of outstanding character and ability. We at once took to one another and became fast friends. He was some 12 years older than I was, and I always had the highest regard for his judgement. We toured the rough roads of Scotland together on motor-cycles; and he levelled up on the tennis courts the advantage I had over him at golf. He was a delight to play with.

He was asked by the Governors of Abingdon School to stand for the Headmastership, but did not feel up to the work, and suggested me instead. One of the greatest benefits I conferred on Abingdon School was persuading R.B. to join its staff for the second time. He came on the understanding that his position under me should not destroy our friendship, and it never did. We were always straight with one another.

His work was of untold benefit to the boys. He insisted on a high standard, and got it; and he managed by his own intense appreciation of literature to inspire boys so that they caught themselves some reflection of the literary heights to which he climbed. He told me that he could not read some parts of Homer without tears in his eyes.

The quotations that flowed from his lips, as we walked together in the country, were a joy. I can still hear his voice beneath the golden dower of autumn—

'O be less beautiful, or be less brief
Thou tragic splendour, strange and full of fear!
In vain his pageant shall the Summer rear?
At thy mute signal, leaf by golden leaf
Crumbles the gorgeous year.'

He stood out as the thorough gentleman to whom both at Loretto and at Abingdon other members of the Staff would appeal in case of difficulty and be sure of a sympathetic hearing and a sound summing up of the case.

I know some parents feel that their sons owe everything to R.B. You have only to be present among O.A.s of his time, when his name is mentioned, to see how obviously the grateful memory of him strikes straight to the heart.

The great ones of the earth are not always those in high places: and R.B. has gone to his rest as one of the greatest."

W.M.G.

SCHOOL NOTES

We record with regret the death at a cruelly early age of Miss Agnes Baker, who had won more than local recognition as the leading authority on the history of the Borough and of the School, and who as the moving force behind the 'Friends of Abingdon' had made a quite unique contribution to the well-being of her native town. She was in a very real sense too a friend of the School, in which she took such a keen interest even during her last painful illness. The Headmaster, Mr. Ingham, and the Head of the School attended the service held in her memory in St. Helen's Church on 3rd March.

We cannot allow Dr. O'Connor to vacate the office of Mayor of Abingdon without thanking him for the very warm interest he has taken in the affairs of the School during his all-too-short spell of office as a Governor. It is pleasant to think that his association with the School will be recorded by the award that he is presenting for sculling. In any case we hope that he will often jump over his garden wall—metaphorically at least—to join us in our activities.

We welcome as Governor in his stead Councillor H. N. Polley, who will shortly assume office as Mayor. Councillor Polley has a kind of inverted hereditary interest in the School in that his own son, V. G. Polley, who is now working with Messrs. Morland, was a boy here some years ago.

Abingdon is not the kind of place to let an important historical anniversary go unnoticed; and it is pleasant to know that plans are already being discussed for the celebration next year of the quatercentenary of the incorporation of the Borough in 1556. If we learn nothing else next year, we shall learn how to spell one of the trick words of the English language . . . and we shall be able to see the kind of things that we shall have to do in 1963.

The Chaplain represented the Headmaster and the School at the enthronement of the Rt. Rev. Harry Carpenter as Bishop of Oxford in the Cathedral on 9th February.

We congratulate Major Parker on his election as Chairman of the Berkshire County C.C.F. Conference for the year 1955.

Our affectionate sympathy goes out to Mr. Grundy, who went down with his flag flying in the recent County Council elections.

At the end of term we heard with concern that Mrs. Holloway had to undergo an emergency operation for appendicitis. We hope that her convalescence will be smooth and sure.

We wish good fortune to the four student masters, Messrs. Hope-Simpson, Oluyemi, Shaw and Swinton, who have now left us to return to their particular corners of the earth. We hope they enjoyed their stay with us. We certainly enjoyed having them. We are particularly grateful to Mr. Hope-Simpson, who as a resident had a rather better opportunity of sharing our life to the full, and who gave such unstinted help on the river and in the Choir

It is a happy coincidence that a few hours after he has preached our Founders' Day Sermon on 23rd July the Rev. G. R. Dunstan will be installed as a Minor Canon of St. George's, Windsor, an appointment which he will combine with that of clerical secretary of the Church of England Moral Welfare Council. Congratulations are tempered with regret that this will mean translation to the other end of the County. Good wishes are unalloyed.

Those of us who remember when Mr. Robert Ponsonby so kindly 'stood in' for Mr. Barker as Director of Music will be interested to hear of his appointment as artistic administrator of the Edinburgh Festival in succession to Mr. Ian Hunter.

We welcome Miss Mander who has come to fill Miss Birch's place as Lady Cook at School House. It is less pleasant to have to say goodbye

—a very grateful goodbye—to Mrs. Dando, who has become an institution in the kitchens and who now has to leave us because of her family commitments. We shall miss her much; and we look forward to greeting her successor, Miss Ballantyne.

While the School as a whole maintained its unusually good record of health throughout a term of inclement and treacherous weather, the domestic staff were less fortunate; and the least we can do is to offer our sympathy to those who succumbed to the 'flu germ and a special word of appreciation to those who carried on doing far more than their own share of the work. We are especially grateful to Sister Botica who came down at literally half-an-hour's notice to look after the Lodge when Mrs. Lockhart Smith herself was ordered to bed.

We are most grateful to the Rev. T. M. Layng, C.B.E., M.C., (O.A.) for the gift of several books connected with the School, including a set of the earlier volumes of the Abingdonian and a copy of Preston's History of the School which is now so difficult to obtain; and also to Commander J. D. Woolf, R.N. (ret.), (O.A.), whose gift of a school blazer has benefited the Games Fund to the extent of two guineas.

We offer our warm thanks to Mrs. Griffith for the lovely silver challenge cup she has presented for the Junior Mile.

The Dramatic Society, too, records its gratitude to Mr. A. W. Westall, J.P., Headmaster of Abingdon County Secondary School, for the gift of theatrical costumes.

At the beginning of the Lent Term the number of boys on the School Roll was 428 (Dayboys 269, School House 88, Crescent House 18, Waste Court 34 and Larkhill 19).

We offer our very warm congratulations to R. M. Marchbanks on his election to a Junior Demyship in Natural Science at Magdalen College, Oxford. This is our first 'major open' in Science for some years. We hope that the half holiday which will be given to celebrate it next term will encourage others to do likewise.

Congratulations too to the candidates who gave us an unbroken record of success in the recent examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music; and to T. A. Walker on being provisionally accepted for a regular commission in the Royal Marines.

We were glad to welcome Dr. W. D. Allen, who came to talk to the science forms on 25th January about the various possibilities of a career offered by A.E.R.E.

A school party attended the third and last of the special church concerts given in St. Michael's Church on 10th February.

On 11th February Bishop A. M. Hollis, the first Moderator of the Church of South India, gave a most interesting talk to the whole of

Upper School. The best testimony to his address was provided by the barrage of questions that followed it.

A small party of boys attended the Abingdon Drama Club's production of 'The Noble Spaniard' at the Corn Exchange on 18th February.

On 25th February, Mr. E. G. Barber, of Vickers-Armstrong Ltd. (Aircraft Division), visited the School and interviewed a number of senior boys.

A Parents' Evening for parents of boys in the fifth and sixth forms was held on 10th March.

On 11th March members of the Upper Sixth Form joined with their opposite numbers at St. Helen's to hear a fascinating talk by Mr. Airey Neave, M.P., on the traditions and customs of the House of Commons. We are grateful to our hosts, and also to Mr. Dunstan for arranging this very successful experiment in coeducation.

'Evanston, 1954' was the title of an illustrated talk by Dr. John March, Principal of Mansfield College, given at an interdenominational meeting in the Abingdon Congregational Church on 16th March. A school party attended.

The School Choir, under the direction of Mr. Sawbridge, took part, for the first time, in the North Berks Musical Festival, which this year was held in the Corn Exchange on 18th March. Its performance, if a detailed criticism is any criterion, was by no means unsatisfactory.

On 21st March Professor J. M. R. Cormack, of Reading University, gave a well-illustrated lecture to Senior Arts forms on "Roman Provenance".

Mr. Hugh Lyon, Director of the Public Schools Appointment Bureau, visited the School on the following day. After addressing the fifth and sixth forms, Mr. Lyon gave several private interviews.

On 25th March a small party attended a lecture on "Stonehenge", by Dr. Stone, organised by the Friends of Abingdon.

"Saturday lectures" during the past term were as follows:

22nd January: Mr. C. J. Allen on "Renowned Feats of Railway Engineering".

19th February: Lt. Col. Spencer Chapman, D.S.O. on "Three and a half years behind the Japanese lines in Malaya".

12th March: Mr. R. C. Wood on "By Rocket in Space".

Feature films were:

5th February: "The Card".

26th February: "Where no Vultures Fly".

19th March: "Appointment with Venus".

In addition, two documentary films "Powered Flight" and "Back of Beyond" were shown on 12th February, and on 26th March, at the invitation of the Naval Section, we saw further documentaries concerned with the "Spithead Review" and various other maritime activities.

On Saturday, 5th March, we were indebted for our entertainment to members of the Third Forms who presented very effective excerpts from three Shakespeare plays, "The Merchant of Venice", "As you like It" and "Twelfth Night".

Some senior members of the School took part in an entertainment of a vastly different kind on the afternoon of Sunday, 20th March, when under the tutelage of Mr. Mortimer they provided a fire squad for a Civil Defence Demonstration in Ock Street.

Our youngest School society, the Play Reading Society—which now seems to have established itself as a regular out-of-school activity—read three plays during the Lent Term: "Hassan" by James Elroy Flecker, "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde and "The Dark is Light Enough" by Christopher Fry. Several poetry readings were also held.

Some senior members of the Athletic Club attended the Midland Public Schools' Athletic Meeting at Birmingham on 1st March. We congratulate R. D. Gammack on his outstanding performance in the quarter-mile.

On the same evening the usual informal Boarders' Concert was held in the Gymnasium. This concert was undoubtedly the most successful since the war and we congratulate all those concerned. A full review appears elsewhere in this issue.

Boarders who travelled by the 10.33 on the last morning of term had the unusual experience of walking away from the station before getting into the train. For this the Film Unit, which never ceases to add to our enjoyment of life, was responsible. They were filming the return to school!

Retrospectively, we wish good fortune to all those who, during the Easter Holidays, are going to Paris with Mr. and Mrs. Griffin, to the Lakes with Mr. Helliwell or on courses organised by the Corps.

Conversely, the School itself helped to play the part of host during the holidays to a party of twenty-five students from France, Germany, the U.S.A., and various parts of the British Commonwealth who were spending a week in Abingdon under the auspices of the British Council "to study the problems arising from the impact of industry on a small country town". After being shown round the School on the evening of Thursday, 14th April, our visitors were

entertained by the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban, with the assistance of members of the Staff and three senior prefects. The visit concluded with a gracious speech of thanks from a Nigerian lady and with much exchange of autographs.

On the day the boarders return to School, Thursday, 28th April, the Borough of Abingdon is conferring the Freedom of Entry upon the R.A.F. Abingdon. The School will be represented at the actual ceremony of conferment in the Corn Exchange. The formal parade of the R.A.F. will be held in Lower Field; and a large party of dayboys will be among the spectators.

We record with pleasure that another member of the School is now qualified to wear the attractive badge of the Outward Bound Mountain School, for J. F. Pridham recently returned after 'passing out' at a course at Eskdale.

We have just seen a photograph of one of our first-formers, J. B. Goodman, in a Norwegian newspaper, which included also (so we are credibly informed) a description of the model of the 'Kon-tiki' which he had made.

A recent arrival at the School is a radio-activity meter, for the loan of which we are indebted to our good friend Mr. Pulsford, of A.E.R.E. It made its first public appearance at the Scientific Society's Convezazione on 18th March. Gaping classicists could console themselves with the reflection that their examination syllabuses at any rate were unlikely to have to be amended to cope with modern developments. More seriously, we are glad to think that in a small way we have been able to introduce the atom into our Sixth Form teaching.

The current issue of 'Greece and Rome' contains an article by M. L. Clarke 'In praise of Lempière'. Not unexpectedly, it is as author of the classical dictionary rather than as Headmaster of this School that he receives encomium.

The School certainly cannot complain of the amount of space devoted to it by Mr. S. P. B. Mais in his recent article on Abingdon in the Oxford Mail of 15th April.

Next term we shall be experimenting with a new method of publishing lists of teams, ingeniously devised by Mr. Helliwell. It involves boards, hooks and discs and we are assured that it can be worked even by those who are not mechanically minded.

Naturalists and meteorologists may like to note that spring came unusually late to Abingdon this year. None of our flowering trees was in bloom by Sports Day—not even the very early cherries whose February blossom is so often withered by the frosts of March.

And for the sake of historical record we must add that High Table presented a curious appearance at breakfast time during the last week of term. Once the occupants had exhausted the possibilities of 'Swift' and 'The Nursery World'—on their transient passage to more domestic quarters—they had to fall back on the unaccustomed pleasures of conversation over the tea-cups.

It was especially unfortunate that the newspaper strike should have coincided with a term when the march of civilization had for the first time given the same privilege of reading his paper at breakfast to the Head of School House!

We congratulate the thrush which is at the moment hatching her brood with complete and imperturbable sang-froid in a nest precariously balanced on one of the lowest and least stable branches of the elm tree in front of the Main Entrance. We hope that the return of the natives will not disturb her.

One minor change that may be noted is that Extra Lesson has been renamed Detention in order to make it a little more deterrent: and arrangements have been made for those who slip the net on Wednesday to be caught for extra work over the weekend.

To end these notes in a happier vein we may add a special word of congratulations to the Under 14 XV, who thoroughly deserved their celebration tea at Salter's on 7th March.

* * *

The photographs of the School Prefects, the Athletics Team and the Shooting IV in this issue are reproduced by courtesy of Mr. H. J. Milligan, Photographer, Abingdon.

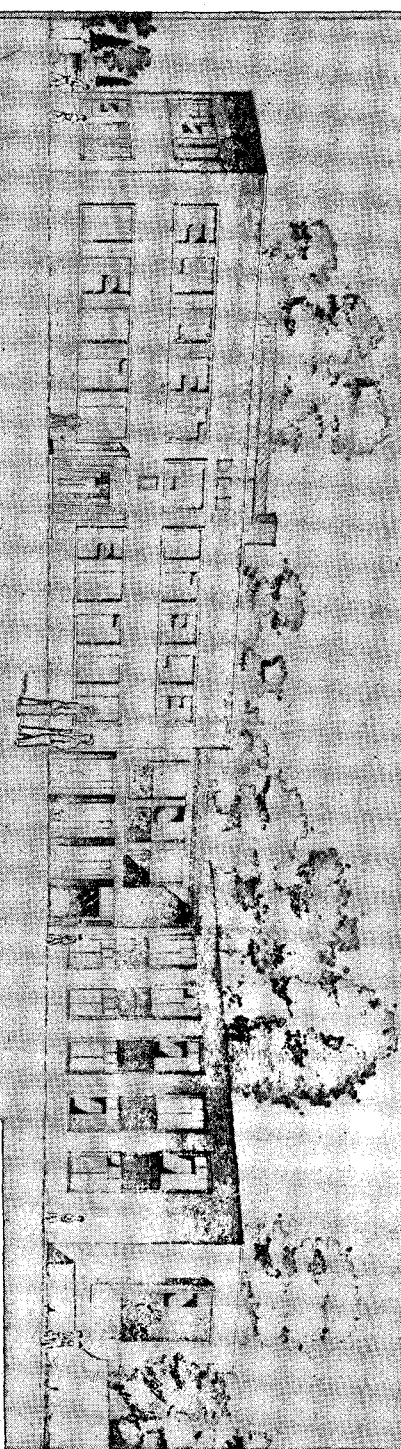
The Editor wishes to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of Magazines from the following schools (to 31st March 1955): Aldenham; Chigwell; Henley Grammar; Magdalen College; Newbury; Prince Henry's, Evesham; Pocklington; Reading; St. Edwards; Southfield; Wallingford Grammar; Stratford and Windsor County.

SCHOOL AND GROUNDS

(A note by the Headmaster)

The Pavilion Committee held another very long meeting on 28th March to consider how best to deploy the very limited resources that are available for the erection of a Pavilion on the Upper Field. The plain fact is that it is proving extraordinarily difficult to satisfy both aesthetic and functional requirements within the agreed financial limits. But we still hope that something not entirely unworthy of our lengthy gestation will emerge eventually—and that sooner rather than later. The Committee meets again on 26th April.

ABINGDON SCHOOL
SCIENCE BLOCK WITH NEW TEACHING WING



Architects:

Messrs. West and Pritchard
(with Mr. J. D. Wood).

The new Boat House is now in full use. Its construction, or rather reconstruction, is the result of a heartening 'combined operation' on the part of the builders, the School Staff (both teaching and administrative) and the boys themselves. I am continually being reminded that the Boat House is now large enough to contain eights as well as fours: but it will take some years for the implications of this to penetrate.

Planning for the new class-room block goes on steadily behind the scenes; and we hope that before the end of the year we shall see our dreams being translated into bricks and mortar. We are very happy to be able to reproduce in this magazine the consultant architect's own impression of what the East end of the School will look like once the new wing has been added to the Science Block. Thank you very much, Mr. Wood. We hasten to add that the Prefects' mulberry tree will still be there. It has been omitted from the picture so as not to obstruct the view of the new building.

Meanwhile the Governors, who are very much alive to the necessity of maintaining that balance between boarders and dayboys which is of such vital importance to the School, have already looked beyond the class-room block and have instructed the School Architects to produce plans for another full-size Senior boarding house.

This bold decision provides an exciting prospect for the future, but it does not of course help us with the immediate problem of coping with the quite overwhelming demand for our boarding vacancies. To bridge the gap the Governors have therefore bought another house in Park Crescent, Glyndowr (next door but one to Crescent House), where some twenty additional boarders can be accommodated until the new house is built. For the present Glyndowr will be run as an integral unit with Crescent House by Mr. Talbot but it will have its own resident matron and house-tutor. At a later date it will be possible, if desired, to convert it very easily into flats for members of the teaching or administrative staffs.

The purchase of Glyndowr would not have been possible if the vendor, Mr. Wake, had not gone out of his way to treat the School as a 'most favoured client' and we are indeed grateful to him for his generosity.

The adaptation of the Lodge to serve as a central sick-bay has been a great success. The builders worked wonders during the Christmas holidays and we were ready to receive patients from the day term started—though it is as well, perhaps, that we had a few days' grace before the first one arrived (and he, poor chap, returned for a second visit at the end of the term and thereby missed two days of his holiday!). The remainder of the decoration is being completed over Easter, and we shall then have a sick-bay (we are avoiding the rather pretentious term of sanatorium) of which any school of our size could be proud.

Minor developments call for briefer mention. A system of thermo-static fire alarms has been installed in School House. The knowledge that they are there, the faith that they are in working order, enable us to sleep more easily. We shortly have to face heavy expenditure in making good the roof of Larkhill. This may involve the removal of the parapet, which gives the House what distinction it possesses: architecturally, this will be a regrettable necessity. One form room in the School, the Pembroke Room, is being decorated during the holidays. For the first time we are experimenting with the modern practice of varying the colour of the walls. The blackboard wall will be grey-green, the other three walls a pleasant tan.

* * *

May I add a more personal word? I suggested very hesitantly in my recent 'parents' letter' that if any parent did want to present anything to the School the Chapel badly needed new service books for the altar and for the officiants' stalls: and I added the warning that these were likely to cost two or three pounds apiece. Already six parents have either sent cheques or asked us to put the cost of a book on the bill. We try not to dun parents in the ordinary way: that is why we appreciate such a response all the more. Thank you all very much . . . and of course we shall still be glad to receive further contributions.

By the way, if anyone wants to know the kind of problem that arises in the day-to-day running of a school such as this, I do commend the current radio serial 'The Barlows of Beddington', which gives a remarkably accurate picture. I hasten to add that the resemblance is general rather than particular—though it did come as a shock to hear the local hostelry described as the 'Crown and Thistle'.

J.M.C.

VALETE ET SALVETE

Valete—left 17th December, 1954

Upper Sixth Form A: M. J. Ralfe.

Upper Sixth Form B: D. S. Lloyd.

Form Sixth General: R. P. Clewley; K. H. S. Prentice.

Form 5 Arts: R. D. Taylor.

Form 5 General: A. J. Pickford; P. Vennell.

Form 2Y: F. A. Moyes (left 24th November).

Form 1Y: M. J. Schroder (left 10th December).

Salvete—came 18th January, 1955

Form 4 General: P. B. Butherway (came 7th February).

Form 3X: S. M. Womar (came 28th March).

Form 1Y: B. R. Rosevear.

CHAPEL NOTES

On Wednesday, 2nd March, the Senior Chapel Service took the form of a commemoration of the life of Agnes Baker, historian and friend of the School, whose death had occurred three days before. Representatives of the family were present and also Mr. John Hooke, representing the Governing Body. The Head of the School read the lesson (1 Cor. 15. 51-58) and the Headmaster gave a short address. The Choir sang S. S. Wesley's anthem 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee'.

A similar pattern was followed for the memorial service for Mr. E. J. P. Ross-Barker which was held on Monday, 21st March. On this occasion the service included a hymn 'Be near, O God' written by Mr. Ross-Barker himself for the service to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone of the (then) new buildings in 1901, and sung again at the Dedication of the School Chapel in 1903 and at the Jubilee Service in 1953. The lesson was read by Mr. T. E. Gardiner, the President of the Old Abingdonian Club, and the Headmaster paid a short tribute to the work and character of 'R.B'.

It was recently decided to appeal to parents for help towards the purchase of new service-books for the altar and for the officiants' stalls. We are very grateful indeed to those who so readily responded, and we hope the new books, suitably inscribed, will be in use very soon.

A special Celebration of the Holy Communion took place on Ash Wednesday. Despite the earliness of the hour there was a most encouraging attendance.

Every Thursday evening during the season of Lent, the usual voluntary mid-week Service was held in the Chapel. This year the theme of the series was "The Christian Secret".

We are grateful to the outside preachers who visited us during the past term and also to Mr. Ingham who preached to us at short notice in place of Mr. H. B. Hitchens, the Headmaster of Solihull, who was unavoidably prevented from visiting us. We look forward, however, to hearing Mr. Hitchens on 8th May.

Other visiting preachers for the Summer Term will include:—

May 22nd: C. R. Allison, Esq., M.A., Headmaster of Brentwood School.

June 5th: Rt. Rev. G. F. Allen, M.A., formerly Bishop in Egypt.

July 3rd: Rev. M. B. Hall, Rector of St. Luke's Church, Montclair, N.J., U.S.A.

July 11th: D. Wheaton, Esq., M.A. (O.A.).

The outside charities to which collections were allotted during the Lent Term were as follows:—

Antigua Grammar School Chapel Fund	£4 17 0
The British Council of Churches	£4 9 0
Royal School of Church Music	£4 3 0
Student Christian Movement	£4 13 6

The remaining six collections were divided equally between Chapel Funds, the Chapel Seating Fund and the Organ Fund. In addition, the contents of the Alms Box were devoted to the Organ Fund.

At the last meeting of the term, the Chapel Committee, which has long felt the need of a new notice board for the Chapel Notices, approved a design which will provide a new notice board near the Reeves Room. We look forward, therefore, to the time when we can make full use of this new amenity.

During the course of the term the choir sang the following anthems at Morning Service on Sundays:—

"Rejoice in the Lord alway"	Purcell
"Lift Thine eyes"	Mendelssohn
"Ave Verum"	Mozart

Christening

On 18th February, by the Rev. F. W. Burgess, Fiona Jane, daughter of John and Patricia Toplis.

GOOD FRIDAY

Our "Easter Offering" this year took the form of a reading of John Masfield's "Good Friday" in the Chapel on the last Sunday evening of term. The production was by Mr. Griffin and the cast was as follows:—

Pilate	P. J. SIMMONDS
Longinus	T. M. J. KEMPINSKI
Procula	R. S. GREEN
Chief Citizen	J. D. HALL
A Madman	A. J. GARDNER
Peter	J. A. NICHOLS
Joseph of Arimathea	N. J. H. GRANT
Herod	M. F. L. RHYS
Sentry	J. M. FOSTER
Voices of the Crowd	J. M. IREDALE, R. B. SCOTT-TAGGART, I. W. TRENAMAN, J. A. LONGWORTH, P. J. D. ANDERSON
Servant	A. M. WALLEN

While it is undesirable to pick out individual performances for special mention, it may be said that the general effect was extremely moving. Only occasionally did the forced rhyme obtrude and all the readers played their parts intelligently and sensitively.

FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Founder's Day this year will be celebrated on Saturday, 23rd July. The provisional programme is as follows:—

- 11.30 a.m. Service in St. Helen's Church, Abingdon. Address by the Rev. G. R. Dunstan, M.A., Vicar of Sutton Courtenay, Berkshire.
- 2.30 p.m. Distribution of Prizes in the Corn Exchange by the Rt. Hon. Earl Winterton, P.C., former Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.
- 4.30 p.m. The Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban will be 'At Home' at the School House to Parents, Old Boys, and friends of the School.
- 5.30 p.m. The School and the grounds will be open for inspection and there will be displays of various School activities.
- 8.00 p.m. An Evening Entertainment in the Corn Exchange.

On Sunday, 24th July, the Chaplain will preach at Morning Service in the School Chapel (10 a.m.): and the Headmaster will preach at 6.30 p.m. at the Annual School Service in St. Nicolas' Church.

Invitations to Founder's Day will be sent to all parents and to friends of the School: but Old Boys are asked to regard this note as a personal invitation. Any Old Boy who would like to attend the Prizegiving or the 'At Home' is asked to write to Mr. F. J. Sewry at the School.

There will be an additional performance of the Evening Entertainment at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 22nd July. Tickets for either performance can be obtained from Mr. Sewry, price 3/6 and 2/6. Parents who live locally are asked to come, if possible, to the performance on Friday.

The O.A. Cricket Match, the Annual General Meeting of the Club, and the O.A. Dinner will be held on Saturday, 25th June. Details of these events will be circulated later to all members of the O.A. Club. Old Boys are also specially invited to attend Morning Service in the School Chapel on the following day, Sunday, 26th June, when the address will be given by Mr. D. O. Willis; and subsequently to take coffee with the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban in the garden of the School House.

BOARDERS' CONCERT

The concert opened with two songs from Gilbert and Sullivan, the "Policeman's Song" and the "Sentries' Song", given by several members of the choir. Their performance was clear and accurate but lacking in spirit. Then came "Teleview", the contribution of Crescent House, which was produced by Mr. Horrex and which, not unexpectedly, was delightfully original and very amusing. The audience found themselves "looking in" at the commercial television production of "Macbeth" and then, when that had broken down, at the interlude relayed from the auxiliary station at Crescent House. However, with Freedman and Foster's medley of popular tunes we returned to the present day in time to see the first play, "A Lady from abroad". Unfortunately this was a poor play and rather unsuitable for members of Hall Dormitory but nevertheless it was a credit to its producer, Peter Simmonds.

Then Mr. Burgess, after an admirable performance of Chopin's Nocturne in F sharp, delighted us with some of his impeccable character sketches. Michael Grigsby and Thomas Kempinski, alias the "Northern Brothers", came next, and the first half of the concert ended with Charles Wood's "Full Fathom Five".

The second half began with Larkhill's production "Kaleidoscope" which, in the absence of the morning paper, kept us in touch with current events. Messrs. Bush, Trenaman and Sarsfield-Hall, introduced and accompanied by Kempinski, then sang two negro spirituals. They were followed by one of the best items in the whole concert.

Christopher Wray, assisted by Peter North, proved himself to be no mere amateur conjurer and with his magic wand he entertained us with the artistry and skill of one several times his age. In due course the spell was broken by two movements from Grieg's Holberg Suite played by Mr. Sawbridge and R. E. J. Packer. After them members of Waste Court appeared in "Noises Off" which, though not a very inspiring play, was well acted. Next came "Roissey and his Rhythm" and, after their usual competent performance, their new instrumentalist, the versatile Mr. Sawbridge, could be seen hurriedly putting down his double bass and taking up a position at the piano to accompany three senior prefects in their hilarious, if not altogether accurate, rendering of "Three little maids from school". Finally there came "Keep Calm", presented by the Saywell Dramatic Company. This amusing play in which an extremely good cast acted very well provided a fitting climax to this most successful concert.

From the beginning it was clear that much hard work had gone into this production and our warmest thanks go to the performers, the stagehands and above all to the producer, Roger Marchbanks, for this first-rate entertainment.

R.E.J.P.

(May I add a special word of thanks to the stage hands who got up incredibly early on the last morning of the term and returned the platform to its home in the town, long before most of us were awake? A good job, done quietly, efficiently, and anonymously. J.M.C.).

PARIS, 1955

At a little before seven o'clock in the evening of 14th April, a motor coach drew up in front of a small Hotel in a narrow street near to the left hand bank of the Seine, and deposited its load of forty-four boys and staff, many of them rather tired after having risen at four o'clock that morning. The party had arrived without mishap in Paris.

Paris is a city of contrasts—the unceasing roar of traffic in the Place de la Concorde, and quiet calm of the garden of the Palais Royal only a few minutes walk away,—the elegance of the clothes in shop windows and the dowdiness of many of the passengers in the metro—the dustiness of the Tuileries and the Luxembourg, and the shining waters of the river,—the grace and majesty of the churches and public buildings and the shabbiness of many of the houses. Yet it retains its own particular and very individual charm, a charm which it is very difficult to analyse or to account for.

For those whose interests lie in the past Paris has much to offer, although the turbulence of its history in the last two hundred years has left more historical sites than buildings, and the Frenchman's love of order has caused to be restored some things which would have been better left untouched. Nevertheless it was interesting to see, in the Conciergerie, the prisons where the victims of the Revolution were kept, scarcely changed since their day, and in the Sainte Chappelle, the staircase up which Saint Louis used to mount to unlock the casket containing the Crown of Thorns, for which the Chapel was originally built. At Versailles, too, it was rather thrilling to stand in Louis XIV's bedroom and look out on to the balcony where later Marie Antoinette had stood, her child in her arms, and appealed to the mob in the courtyard below, and it was delightful to walk through the grounds of the Palace to the Trianons and imagine the Royal party playing at farmers in the little village which Marie Antoinette had built.

The artistically minded among us found much to admire in the galleries of the Louvre, so well arranged that one came away with the impression of having had a brief glimpse of the whole history of painting from the fourteenth century almost to the present, in the Sculptures of Rodin, with their astonishing power and life, and perhaps most of all in the sheer wonder of the stained glass in the Cathedral at Chartres, the dome windows especially looking like gleaming gems patterned on black velvet.

A visit to 'Le Misanthrope' at the Comédie Française provided some of the party with the chance to see some fine acting, while those who went to the opera were struck by the magnificence of the settings and production, although the singing did not reach the same high standard.

There were some disappointments—gardens with no flowers in them, fountains which were not playing, the faint atmosphere of decay at Versailles. These were small things, however beside the thrill of being abroad, many of the party for the first time, the fun of walking along the boulevards or sitting at a café and watching Paris go past, of trying to understand and make oneself understood in French. So it was with regret that, when the week had passed, we said goodbye and boarded the coach which took us to the station, and so eventually home, knowing that we should often talk over the experiences of this visit to the fine city of France.

L.C.J.G.

HOCKEY

Despite interference from snow, all the matches except one were played. Many practice games, however were affected by the weather. In consequence, time which could have been used, by many members of both the 1st and 2nd elevens, to gain valuable experience was lost.

Potentially, the team was an excellent one, with just the right blending of youth and experience. On days when everything went right, the defence was extremely sound and the attack penetrative. Unfortunately we lost on several occasions, even when we had the better of the play, because the forwards failed to realise that their primary duty was to score goals.

During the season the following colours were awarded:

Full Colours—Campbell-Dykes, Glenny, Maxwell.

Half Colours—Jones, D. A., Carter, N. A., Rallings, Rawlins, Langton, Caswell, Page, J. T.

The final arrangement of the team was as follows: Carter, N. A.; Campbell-Dykes, Rallings; Maxwell, Jones, D. A., Hiscock; Caswell, Langton, Rawlins, Glenny, Page, J. T.

Also played: Song (4 times); Bush, Marchbanks, R. M. and Freedman (once).

FIRST XI CHARACTERS

B. J. HISCOCK (Captain, Colours 1953). Left Half. A very enthusiastic and efficient Captain, who has been an inspiration to his team, both on and off the field. As a half-back his play has been very sound in all aspects of the game,

G. E. G. CAMPBELL-DYKES (Vice-Captain, Hon. Sec., Colours 1955). Right Back. A fast full back whose stopping, stickwork and anticipation are excellent. He has shown intelligence in starting many attacking movements, and has covered very well in defence.

I. J. GLENNY (Colours 1955). Inside Right. He has good stickwork and is constructive and thoughtful. He has combined well with his centre forward, and fed his winger generously. His chief need is to develop quicker shooting when in the circle.

A. MAXWELL (Colours 1955). Right Half. A player with a sound sense of position, excellent stickwork and a good clearance. He must recover more quickly in defence.

D. A. JONES (Half Colours 1955). Centre Half. He keeps a tight watch on the centre forward and distributes the ball excellently, though he has a tendency to rely too much on the first time hit.

M. C. RALLINGS (Half Colours 1955). Left Back. His stickwork is good, his clearance accurate and his sense of position sound.

N. A. CARTER (Half Colours 1955). Goalkeeper. An extremely courageous player. His kicking is good but his positioning is inclined to be shaky.

D. P. RAWLINS (Half Colours 1955). Centre Forward. His approach work and stick play is good, but he must be more determined in his attitude to the game.

J. T. PAGE (Half Colours 1955). Left Wing. He has played well in a most difficult position. He knows when to cut in but must improve his passing.

D. J. LANGTON (Half Colours 1955). Inside Right. A most energetic player with good stickwork and a powerful shot who must, however, pay more attention to the tactics of forward play.

A. G. CASWELL (Half Colours 1955). Right Wing. He has combined well with his partner. His centre is powerful but he must be quicker in anticipation.

FIRST XI MATCHES

v. K.A.S. Wantage (a), Wed., 26th January. Lost 2—3.

In the first match of the season the School narrowly lost. At half-time the School were leading 2—1. In the second-half Wantage added two further goals.

Scorers: Rawlins and Marchbanks, R. M.

v. Reading (h), Sat., 29th January. Won 7—0.

The team improved considerably in this match, leading by 2—0 at the interval. In the second half Abingdon were continually on the offensive, adding five further goals.

Scorers: Rawlins 5, Glenny 1, Page, J. T. 1.

v. Staff XI (h), Wed., 2nd February. Won 10—1.

At half-time the School were leading by 5 goals to 1, Mr. Sawbridge having scored for the Staff. After the interval the School added five further goals.

Scorers: Glenny 5, Rawlins 3, Langton 1, Page, J. T. 1.

v. Wallingford (a), Sat., 5th February. Lost 1—3.

Having had the greater measure of play the School should have won, but the forwards failed to combine.

Scorer: Langton.

v. Solihull (a), Wed., 16th February, Lost 1—3.

In snowy conditions, both forward lines had an equal share of the ball, the School only failing to equalise because of inept play in the circle.

Scorer: Glenny.

v. Old Abingdonians (h), Sat., 19th February. Lost 2—3

The Old Boys scored first but the School soon added two goals. In the second half the School pressed strongly but were prevented from scoring by a strong O.A. defence. In this half the Old Boys scored two further goals.

Scorers: Langton and Rawlins.

v. Abingdon Town (h), Sat, 26th February. Lost 1—3.

The Town quickly scored two goals. Attempts by the School to score were abortive, the forward line again failing to perform its duty adequately.

Scorer: Glenny.

v. Windsor County School (h), Wed., 2nd March. Won 1—0.

There was a distinct improvement in this match. The game was played at a fast pace throughout. Windsor pressed hard but failed to score owing to an excellent display by the School defence.

Scorer: Page, J. T.

v. Old College (h), Sat., 12th March. Won 6—0.

The team continued its late revival in this match. The total should have been greater but for poor shooting.

Scorers: Glenny 3, Rawlins 2, Page, J. T. 1.

SECOND XI

The side, led by Marchbanks, R. M. had a most unfortunate season, only three matches being played. Despite this, several players were outstanding, namely, Roberts, B. M., Westbrook, Bush and Howard, J. A. in defence, and Wastie and Marchbanks, R. M. in attack. Now that many young players have been "blooded" the side should be successful next year.

The final arrangement of the team was: Howard, J. A.; Bush, Westbrook; Hardy, Dunkley, Roberts, B. M.; Freedman, Marchbanks, R. M., Ryan, Wastie, Grigsby.

Also played: Song, Page, J. T. Caswell, Langton, Kibble, P. D. and Gardner, A. J. (once).

Results

v. K.A.S. Wantage (a), Wed., 26th January.	Won 3—1
v. Solihull (a), Wed., 16th February.	Lost 1—8
v. Windsor County School (h), Wed., 2nd March.	Lost 2—5

In addition, a joint 1st and 2nd XI team played a Radley 2nd and 3rd XI team, defeating them 4—2.

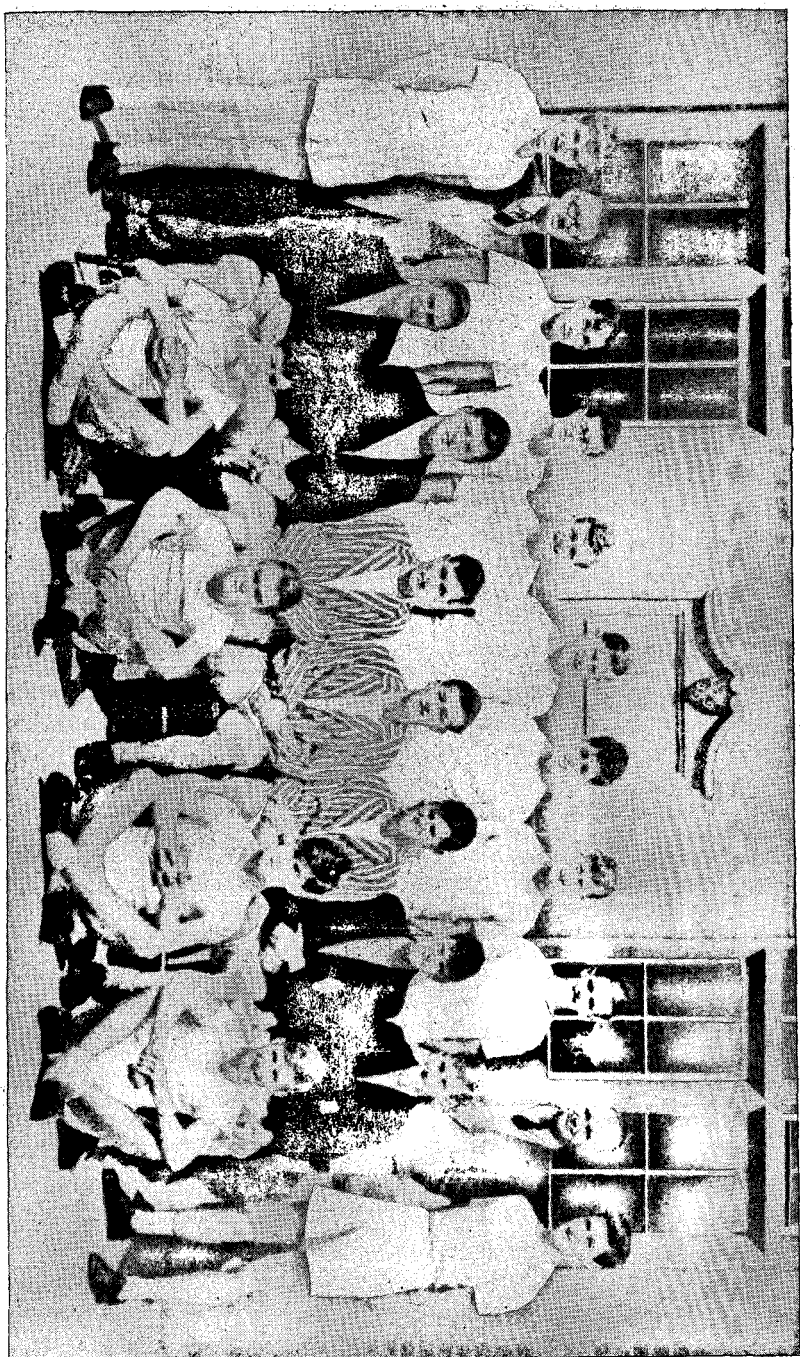
Scorers: Rawlins 3, Glenny 1.

HOUSE MATCHES

This year Bennett won the inter-House competition. The competition elicited an excellent game from Reeves and Tesdale in the first round.
B.J.H.

ATHLETICS

The season has been a moderately successful one and a number of outstanding performances have been recorded. The continuance of wintry conditions into March gave us almost no time to train adequately, whilst the heats and standards, so necessary for the selection of teams and Sports Day finalists, had to be crowded into a mere seven days. Nonetheless, the first match against the Old Abingdonians on 19th March found us in good form, even though we had to acknowledge defeat.



The sun shone for this first meeting, and the War Memorial Field, again carefully prepared, was a delight to see and the dry track proved exceptionally fast. Three track records and one field event record were broken. R. D. Gammack set up a new School record in the 440 yards (53.3 secs.), R. D. P. Griffith a new School record in the 880 yards (2 min. 8 secs.) and R. P. Sale (O.A.) broke the O.A. record for the Mile which he ran in 4 min. 47.2 secs. In the Javelin, the winning throw of A. G. B. King (O.A.) of 152 feet set up a new O.A. record which will take a lot of beating whilst I. J. Parsons in coming second in this event with a throw of 147 feet 7 inches established a new School record.

Details of our two other meetings, both of them Junior and Senior contests, are printed below. Against Southfield School on 23rd March and also against the City of Oxford School on 30th March, our seniors did very well and our Juniors did not disgrace themselves. Both meetings were held at home although not under such pleasant conditions as the O.A. meeting. The best individual performances were seen in the C.O.S. match where Gammack ran a good 440 yards in 55 secs. and M. J. Scott-Taggart a fine Mile in 4 min. 55.3 secs.

The season closed appropriately with a new venture. A team of fourteen seniors travelled to Birmingham on Thursday, 31st March, to compete in the newly launched Midland Public Schools' Athletic Meeting. Some twelve schools took part in a well run contest on the University track and we had our share of successes. Gammack did particularly well, winning his heat in the 440 yards in 55.9 secs. and afterwards the final in 54.4 secs. Griffith also ran well: second in his heat of the Half Mile, he was ultimately placed fourth in an exciting final. In the field events, Parsons came third in the Javelin with a throw of 145 feet and Stroud-Viney was placed sixth in the Shot.

During the season, Full Colours were awarded to M. J. Scott-Taggart whilst Half Colours were won by Spinks and Viney, K. W.

SENIOR MATCHES

v. Old Abingdonians (h), Sat., 19th March.

High Jump: 1. Lay P. J. (O.A.), 2. Scott-Taggart, M. J., 3. Spinks.
5 feet.

100 Yards: 1. Heavens (O.A.), 2. Kempinski, 3. Viney K. W. 10.9 secs.

Long Jump: 1. Aldworth (O.A.), 2. Nichols, 3. Older. 17ft. 9ins..

Shot (12lbs.): 1. King (O.A.), 2. Lay (O.A.), 3. Stroud Viney. 39ft. 10ins.

880 Yards: 1. Griffith, 2. Glassbrook, M. C. (O.A.), 3. Parsons.
2 min. 8 secs. (new School record).

440 Yards: 1. Gammack, 2. Heavens (O.A.), 3. Ashworth. 5.3.3 secs. (new School record).

Javelin: 1. King (O.A.), 2. Parsons, 3. Aldworth (O.A.). 152 ft. (a new O.A. record: Parsons' throw [147ft. 7ins.] was a new School record).

Mile: Sale (O.A.), 2. Scott-Taggart, 3. Jones, A. J. (O.A.). 4 min. 47.2 secs. (a new O.A. record).

Discus: 1. King (O.A.), 2. Carter, 3. Lay (O.A.). 137ft. 6ins.

Relay (6 x 220 yards): 1. School, 2. O.A.s. 2 mins. 31.3 secs.

Result: Old Abingdonians 47 pts. School 42 pts.

v. Southfield School (h), Wed., 23rd March.

High Jump: 1. Spinks, 2. Tombs (S.), 3. Scott-Taggart. 4t. 10ins.

100 Yards: 1. Viney, 2. Kempinski, 3. Phillips (S.). 10.9 secs.

880 Yards: 1. Griffith, 2. Parsons, 3. Dally (S.). 2 min. 16.7 secs.

Discus: 1. Carter, 2. Parsons, 3. Fenn (S.). 111ft. 55.2 secs.

440 Yards: 1. Gammack, 2. Ashworth, 3. Cunnington (S.). 55.2 secs.

Shot: 1. Clay (S.), 2. Stroud-Viney, 3. Carter. 38ft. 8½ins.

Javelin: 1. Bell (S.), 2. Fenn (S.), 3. Bush. 136ft. 7ins.

220 Yards: 1. Viney, 2. Phillips (S.), 3. Kempinski. 25.8 secs.

Mile: 1. Scott-Taggart, 2. Nichol, 3. Dally (S.). 5 min. 8.6 secs.

Long Jump: 1. Phillips (S.), 2. Nichols, 3. Youngman (S.). 18ft. 4½ins.

Relay (4 x 220 yards): 1. Abingdon, 2. Southfield. 1 min. 41.2 secs.

Result: Abingdon 83 pts. Southfield 42 pts.

v. City of Oxford School (h), Wed., 30th March.

100 Yards: 1. Viney, 2. Steley (C.O.S.), 3. Gammack. 11.5 secs.

880 Yards: 1. Griffith, 2. Steley (C.O.S.), 3. Parsons. 2 min. 8.9 secs.

Discus: 1. Carter, 2. Clarke (C.O.S.), 3. Combey (C.O.S.). 110ft. 9ins.

440 Yards: 1. Gammack, 2. Ashworth, 3. Burnett (C.O.S.). 55 secs.

Shot: 1. Stroud-Viney, 2. Carter, 3. Ferriman (C.O.S.). 35ft. 8ins.

Javelin: 1. Combey (C.O.S.), 2. Viney 3. Parsons. 149ft. 7ins.

Mile: 1. Scott-Taggart, 2. Phipps (C.O.S.), 3. Nichols. 4 min. 55.3 secs.

Long Jump: 1. Tinney, 2. Steley (C.O.S.), 3. Nichols. 17ft. 6ins.

High Jump: 1. Spinks, 2. Phipps (C.O.S.), 3. Young. 5ft.

Relay (4 x 220 yards): 1. Abingdon, 2. City of Oxford. 1 min. 39.8 secs.

Result: Abingdon 79 pts. City of Oxford 40 pts.

JUNIOR MATCHES

v. Southfield School (h), Wed., 23rd March.

Long Jump: 1. Dopson (S.), 2. Scott-Taggart, R. B., 3. Hemming (S.). 16ft. 6ins.

100 Yards: 1. Bell (S.), 2. Dopson (S.), 3. Ford. 11.6 secs.

Discus: 1. Rawle (S.), 2. Paige, 3. Denton (S.). 111ft. 8ins.

880 Yards: 1. Kirk (S.), 2. Saywell, 3. Barlow (S.). 2 min. 21.3 secs.

Shot: 1. Iredale, 2. Cooksey (S.), 3. Hemming (S.). 33ft. 11½ins.

440 Yards: 1. Kirk (S.), 2. Scott-Taggart, R. B., 3. Cundy (S.). 62.5 secs.

220 Yards: 1. Dopson (S.), 2. Bell (S.), 3. Davis, P. R. 27.3 secs.

High Jump: 1. Cundy (S.), 2. Powell, 3. Watts (S.). 4ft. 7ins.

Relay (4 x 110 yards): 1. Southfield Sch., 2. Abingdon. 53 secs.

Result: Southfield School 71 pts. Abingdon 30 pts.

v. City of Oxford School (h), Wed., 30th March.

Long Jump: 1. Martin (C.O.S.), 2. Davies (C.O.S.), 3. Scott-Taggart, R. B. 17ft. 3½ins.

High Jump: 1. Davies (C.O.S.), 2. Currell (C.O.S.), 3. Powell. 4ft. 10ins.

100 Yards 'A': 1. Palmer (C.O.S.), 2. Martin (C.O.S.), 3. Scott-Taggart. 12 secs.

100 Yards 'B': 1. Ford, 2. Phipps (C.O.S.), 3. Powell. 12.5 secs.

Discus: 1. Simpson, 2. Kingston, 3. Summerfield (C.O.S.). 113ft. 6ins.

880 Yards: 1. Tate (C.O.S.), 2. Saywell, 3. Summerfield (C.O.S.). 2 min. 17.4 secs.

Shot: 1. Grace (C.O.S.), 2. P-Smith (C.O.S.), 3. Dunman. 31ft. 2½ins.

440 Yards: 1. Palmer (C.O.S.), 2. Martin (C.O.S.), 3. Scott-Taggart 58.7 secs.

Relay (4 x 110 yards): 1. City of Oxford Sch., 2. Abingdon. 51.4 secs.

Result: City of Oxford Sch. 70 pts. Abingdon 34 pts.

THE SCHOOL SPORTS

Sports Day was held on Saturday, 26th March. Unfortunately the day was cold and towards the end of the afternoon a steady rain fell. Nonetheless, spectators and competitors enjoyed a very good afternoon's sport.

Two records were broken. P. J. Ford beat the 100 yards (under 14) record by .3 seconds, whilst R. D. Gammack improved upon his own record of last year by running the 220 yards in 24.3 seconds.

The inter-House competition was again most exciting, there being a neck and neck struggle between Blacknall and Tesdale Houses throughout the afternoon. Tesdale House had previously won the Standards competition by 116 points to Blacknall's 114 points, but Blacknall proved the ultimate winner of the Ladies of Abingdon Cup by 210 points, Tesdale being 7 points behind. Reeves House gained 143 points and Bennett House 114 points.

The Challenge Cups were presented after the Sports by Mrs. Moore. The ceremony took place in the shelter of the trees in Waste Court and included the presentation of a new Cup, given by Mrs. Griffith for the Junior Mile.

Results

Leber Clarke Challenge Cup for Seniors—R. D. Gammack (18 points).
Hallard Challenge Cup for Juniors—R. B. Scott-Taggart (19 points).
The Ladies of Abingdon Challenge Cup—Blacknall House (210 points).

100 Yards:

(Under 12): 1. Hedges, 2. Stuart-Lyon, A. G. 3. Turnbull. 14.4 secs.

(Under 13): 1. Cross, 2. Milne, 3. Ganf. 13.3 secs.

(Under 14): 1. Ford, 2. Longworth, 3. Davis, P. R. 12.4 secs.

(record).

(Under 15): 1. Scott-Taggart, R. B., 2. Ford, 3. Powell. 12.4 secs.

(Open): 1. Gammack, 2. Griffith, 3. Viney. 11.4 secs.

Long Jump:

(Under 15): 1. Scott-Taggart, 2. Longworth, 3. Doig. 15ft. 3ins.

(Open): 1. Tinney, 2. Nichols, 3. Gardner. 17ft. 1in.

Javelin: 1. Viney, 2. Parsons, 3. Spinks. 136ft. 5ins.**Shot:**(Under 16): 1. Brown, G. J. 2. Broad, W. C., 3. Iredale.
35ft. 5½ins.

(Open): 1. Stroud-Viney, 2. Carter, 3. Enser. 36ft. 10½ins.

220 Yards: 1. Gammack, 2. Ashworth, 3. Kempinski. 24.3 secs.
(record).**440 Yards:**

(Under 15): 1. Peedell, 2. Powell, 3. Davis, P. R. 64.4 secs.

(Open): 1. Gammack, 2. Ashworth, 3. Page, J. T. 59.1 secs.

High Jump:

(Under 15): 1. Doig, 2. Horrey, 3. Powell. 4ft. 5ins.

(Open): 1. Spinks, 2. Young, C., 3. Scott-Taggart, M. J.
5ft. 1in.**Discus:**

(Under 15): 1. Kingston, 2. Darroch, 3. Ford. 78 ft.

(Open): 1. Carter, 2. Bush, 3. Older. 115 ft. 7ins.

880 Yards:(Under 15): 1. Scott-Taggart, R. B., 2. Davis, P. R., 3. Sheard.
2 min. 27.7 secs.

(Open): 1. Griffith, 2. Gammack, 3. Parsons. 2 min. 12.3 secs.

Mile:(Under 15): 1. Scott-Taggart, R. B. and Russell (tie), 3. Sheard.
5 min. 47.5 secs.(Open): 1. Scott-Taggart, M. J., 2. Griffith, 3. Nichol.
5 min. 4.2 secs.**Relays (8 x 220 yards):****Junior:** 1. Tesdale Ho., 2. Reeves Ho., 3. Blacknall Ho.
4 min. 0.6 secs.**Senior:** 1. Blacknall Ho., 2. Tesdale Ho., 3. Bennett Ho.
3 min. 32.2 secs.

D.O.W.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

The Junior rugger programme was curtailed because of the weather, both Fifteens playing only two matches each. The 'Under 15' team played competently but without very much distinction, but the 'Under 14' side maintained its promise of the Michaelmas Term. This young side, many of whom will still be in the team next year, played very delightful football with a powerful thrust in the centre and good backing up by all.

Results of the School matches and the House matches were as follows:—

'UNDER 15' XV

v. City of Oxford School (a). Wed. 26th January.	Won	11—8
v. Reading School (a.), Sat., 5th February.	Lost	8—17

'UNDER 14' XV

v. City of Oxford School (a), Wed., 26th January.	Won	9—8
v. Radley College (h.), Wed., 2nd February.	Won	8—6

'UNDER 14' HOUSE MATCHES

The knock-out contest this term was not very interesting, there being too great a superiority in Bennett and Tesdale Houses. The preliminary round, therefore, saw Reeves well beaten (0—21) by Bennett, and Blacknall overwhelmed by Tesdale (0—46). The final, several times postponed because of frost, gave victory and the Bayley Cup to Tesdale who had little difficulty in defeating Bennett 21—0.

'UNDER 13' HOUSE LEAGUE

It was not possible to complete the League this season and the Candy Cup was awarded to the House with the most points at the end of term. This was Bennett House, very ably led by Ford, who were undefeated and gained a total of 6 points. The runner-up was Blacknall House, winner of two out of three matches, with 4 points. Reeves House gained 2 points whilst Tesdale, defeated in all three games, were bottom of the League.

D.O.W.

THE BOAT CLUB

This has been a remarkable term for the Boat Club. The enlarged premises on the new site have been in use and we have discovered the joys of working in comparatively spacious conditions. We have surrounded ourselves with fences—to keep the cows out, hedges and trees have been planted, and further fences put up to stop the cows eating them. We have grubbed up tree roots from the river bed, chopped

tree stumps, and had messy fun with creosote, tar, varnish and paint. We have also done some rowing.

The crews have—more or less—taken shape and much hard training has taken place. Prospects for the racing seem very fair.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Hope-Simpson of Queens' College, Cambridge for coaching the 2nd IV. His enthusiasm and help have been much appreciated and we hope that he will visit us again one day.

The final notable event of the term was the funeral pyre of the 'Radley'. A fitting end for a boat which lost so few races during her twenty-six years' service

R.G.M.

TENNIS

Thanks to the energy of Mr. Gray, tennis has in recent years become something far more than a mere elegant social accomplishment. It is now possible for a limited number of senior boys to play tennis as an alternative to rowing or cricket. We have already shown that we can meet comparable schools in matches on equal terms, and this year we shall for the first time be entering for the Youll Cup at Wimbledon. This development has been recognised by the General Games Committee which recently approved the award of tennis colours. Recipients will not have the right to wear the standard full colour tie, but they will have a special pocket badge for the blazer, of approved design.

COMBINED CADET FORCE

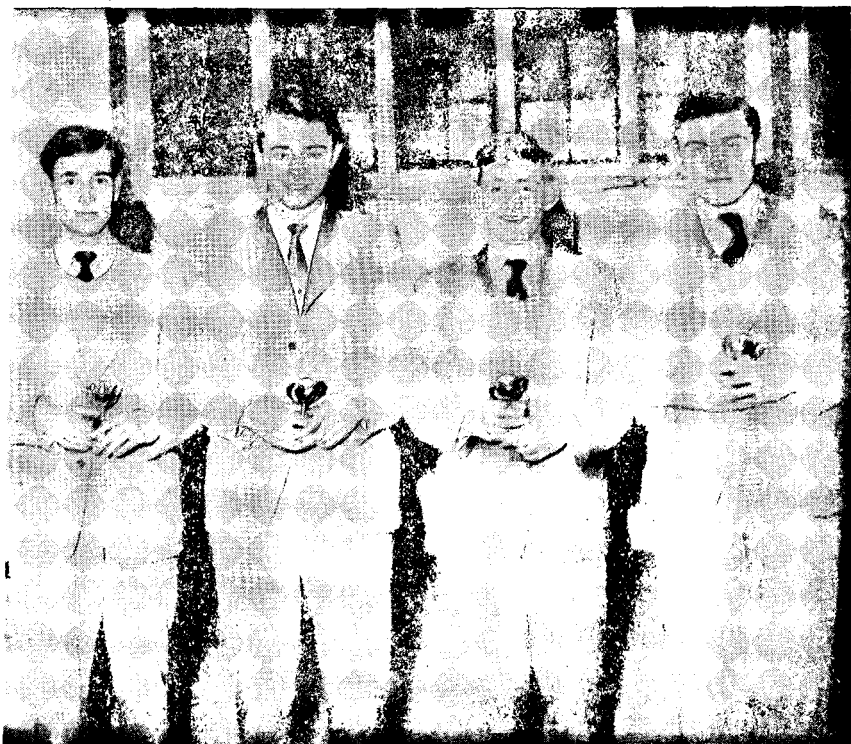
In spite of bitter weather during most of the term, we have followed smoothly and uneventfully the course that is laid down for the Lent Term: preparation at all levels for the examinations—Cert 'A', R.E. and R.A.—with which the Summer Term opens. Once again, there will be more than 100 candidates for Certificate 'A' but with a shift of emphasis: candidates for Part 1 are twice as many as those for Part 2. The Corps, in fact, is somewhat bottom-heavy at the moment; and it is more than ever the duty of a Part 2 candidate not to miss his opportunity. The prospects of promotion for the successful candidates who subsequently attend camp are obviously good. Moreover, on a broad view, there is the fact that it will be difficult to maintain the establishment of our specialist sections unless we have a high percentage of passes.

These Sections have in the course of the term increased by one, a small group of Photographic Interpreters. The course in this subject, which is of the greatest importance to-day in all the Services, is being run for us by the Joint School of Photo. Interpretation at Nuneham Courtenay, to whose C.O. we are most grateful. Courses of this nature are run at Oxford and Cambridge, but we believe Abingdon is the only

School engaged in this work. The handful of specialists on the course, besides having an instructive and pleasant time now, stand to benefit from it materially during their National Service. A boy trained in P.I., having once secured a commission in whatever arm of the Service, can apply for a vacancy on a Long Course at the School. After this, he will be "in the racket" for the rest of his military life.

A word, too, about the Signal Section—one of renewed commiseration and apology. Though we have been visited spasmodically by several Instructors, we have failed again to secure regularly the services of any one of them. It is hoped, though, that we are now within sight of a permanent and satisfactory solution.

Another small matter left over from last term was the bringing home of the Cups awarded individually to the winning team in the Abingdon and District .22 League. This was duly attended to on the evening of 11th March when the School IV—Sgt. Bush (captain), Bdr. Howard,



THE SHOOTING TEAM A.B. W. St. A. R. Dady, Bdr. J. A. Howard,
Sgt. A. E. Bush (Capt.), A.B. J. R. Packer.

A.B.'s Dady and Packer, J. R.—having headed 'A' League without the loss of a point, defeated by 47 the winners of 'B' League, A Coy, Home Guard. This is the second year in succession that we have won the League, but in all humility we must place it on record that our score of 331 out of 400 was the lowest we had recorded in the competition. Let us add, too, that after the shoot by the first pairs, there was a difference of only one point between the sides. Shooting for the opposition then was our own Instructor, C.S.M. Wiblin, who, after registering four bulls for his sighting shots, obtained the lowest score he has recorded since the early days of his service. The underlying reason for this is, and must remain, a matter between the Sergeant-Major and his Maker. Suffice it to add that, in the event, the School would have won in any case.

Field Day was held on 24th March in fine but stormy weather in the area of Ewelme and Chalgrove. Under-Officer Jones had worked out a competent scheme, which included Platoon exercises and patrolling to contact and culminated in a major battle in the afternoon. All ranks were well briefed on the exercise which, as regards the timing of its several phases, was most successful. Less satisfactory were some of the minor tactics seen by umpires. Delusions of long standing are with us still—the notion that a commander can best defend ground by scattering his troops about it in penny packets, the mania for uncontrollable pincer movements, reluctance to display sufficient caution on patrol. It was a good day, however, and—negatively at least—an instructive one. The R.A. Section, owing to the collapse of a 'plot' to visit Larkhill in company with the Section from Sherborne, had to be content with a Command Post exercise which they operated independently. The Sappers were the guests again of 32 Assault Regt. R.E. at Perham Down, while the P.I. Course had an excellent day going round J.S.P.I.

In the Easter holiday there will be the usual burst of military activity. A party of 30 cadets, including this year's probable Bisley shots, visits the Small Arms School, Royal Marines from 17th to 23rd April. To the Commandant of the School, to Major Sackett, R.E., who after three years of volunteer service in training the R.E. Section will be handing over in the Summer, and to O.C., Oxford University O.T.C. we renew our grateful thanks for their continued help. Thanks also to a student master of our own, Lt. Hope-Simpson, whose regular and energetic help on all parades this term has been most valuable and valued.

During the term the following promotions were made:

To be Under-Officer: C.S.M. Jones, D. A.

To be Sgt.: L/Sgt. Dunkley, L/Sgt. Packer, R. E. J., L/Sgt. Oldér,
L/Sgt. Swainston, L/Sgt. Viney, K. W.

S.C.P.

ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

There have been few excitements this term, but we have made progress and several examinations have been passed. Congratulations to P. J. Simmonds, M. K. C. Grigsby and A. M. Smith on passing for Petty Officer, and to D. J. Meakins, P. J. Walker and A. G. Stevens on passing the first part of the A.B. exam. Congratulations also to the two naval members of the shooting four, W. St. A. R. Dady and J. R. Packer who helped to carry off the Abingdon and District .22 League Cup.

Field Day took us down to Gosport, where we were the guests of our Parent Establishment, H.M.S. Siskin. Unfortunately, a high wind prevented our becoming helicopter-borne, but an interesting and enjoyable day was spent looking round the station. We are very grateful to Lieutenant-Commander N. J. Parker, D.S.C., R.N., for arranging it all for us, and also for undertaking the long journey to Abingdon to examine our Petty Officer Candidates.

The following promotions were made this term:—

To Petty Officer: P. J. Simmonds.

To Leading Seaman: A. M. Smith, D. J. Langton, C. K. D. Cobley.

L.C.J.G.

SCOUT TROOP

We have been most fortunate in having the company of Mr. Peter Lovely this term, and we look forward to his coming to camp with us in the summer. His past experience as a policeman should keep us well in check!

Mr. Hasnip is to be congratulated on receiving his warrant as Assistant Scout Master from the District Commissioner.

Four of the Troop passed a first aid course sponsored by the 30th North Berks., for whose hospitality we are most grateful. Field Day was spent at Youldbury, and a useful programme of training was carried out. Next term we hope to polish off more of the second class training in preparation for camp.

M.N.W.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

We are very grateful to the following for Leaving Books: R. P. Clewley (*Pleasures of Music*), K. H. S. Prentice (*Short Stories of Somerset Maugham*) and H. G. Williams (*Fairbairn Rowing*). Our thanks go too to Rev. T. M. Layng, O.A. for four bound volumes of the Abingdonian and a much valued copy of Preston's St. Nicolas;

to J. McPherson, O.A. for copies of the Iraq Petroleum Company's Journal; to W. H. Stevens, O.A. for the Journal of the Royal Empire Society; and to the Proprietors of Illustrated London News for a copy of the handsome Winston Churchill Record Number.

Rebinding continues steadily and our old friend the Encyclopaedia Britannica will soon be available for reference again.

G.F.W.

SCHOOL SOCIETIES

ROYSSSE SOCIETY NOTES

The Society welcomed three new members this term, T. C. Glücklich, J. A. Nichols and J. J. Swainston. At the first meeting D. M. P. Jones read a paper on 'Julius Caesar', in which he traced the course of the great man's career. He dwelt on the military aspect of his life at some length and then attempted an analysis of his greatness. Subsequent discussion questioned Caesar's motives and methods most strongly but agreed that he had had more effect on World History than any other man.

J. M. Pulsford read the next paper, on 'Emanuel Swedenborg'. In it he gave an account of the life of the Swedish scientist and mystic, and then dealt with his theological doctrines. He went into the peculiarities of Swedenborg's life at some length in an attempt to prove the sincerity of his dogma. Discussion centred around the veracity of Swedenborg's proposals, and although his doctrines were stoutly defended by the author the society on the whole remained unconvinced.

At the last meeting of the term M. K. C. Grigsby read a most interesting and characteristically well informed paper entitled "The Art of Film". The author discussed the production of films and showed how he thought that film making was a creative art. Subsequent discussion was vigorous and ranged from the decline in film going to the claim of the cinema to be an art-form.

Once again we thank the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban for their hospitality throughout the term.

R.M.M.

TURNOR SOCIETY

Our speakers this term have all talked to us about a country or part of a country and it has been most interesting to compare the various ways of life in these different parts of the globe.

The first meeting was given to a full audience by Mr. C. T. Pertwee who spoke on "Northern Ireland". This really was an excellent lecture in which we were told much about the life of Ulster as well as something about its geography and politics. I feel sure that most of us are still

wondering how Mr. Pertwee managed to tell us so much in the limited time available.

At our second meeting, Mr. Hope-Simpson gave us a delightful talk about a visit that he and his brother made to Greece. He described the many places to which he went, and he illustrated his talk with many fine photographs of ruined temples and buildings. What was of particular interest were the glimpses, some of them amusing, which Mr. Hope-Simpson gave of Greek life and customs.

Our final meeting took an unconventional form. Mr. Duro Oluyemi of Nigeria and Mr. Swinton of Australia gave short talks about their home countries and then bravely faced a barrage of questions from the audience. In this way, we were able to learn much about conditions and standards of living in these two widely separated countries of the Commonwealth.

J.M.P.

DEBATING SOCIETY

The Society had a very successful Lent Term, and held four meetings, all of which were well attended. At the first meeting it discussed the relative implications of the foreign policies of the great powers; and decided by a comfortable majority, that any threat to world peace that existed came from the East rather than from the West. The main speakers were N. K. Hammond, D. S. Gerrard, C. S. Woodruff and N. J. H. Grant.

B. P. Kibble, seconded by I. T. S. Ashworth proposed at the second meeting "That this house deplores the influx of immigrants into this country". It was opposed by J. J. Swainston, seconded by J. R. Pratt. In spite of fine speaking by the proposers, the debate proved to be one-sided, and the motion was defeated by an overwhelming majority.

The third meeting was devoted to "Any Questions"; the members of the panel were:— C. M. Dunman, D. S. Gerrard, N. K. Hammond and S. C. Woodley. The team stood up excellently to the bombardment of questions from the well-attended house, and spoke with assured competence.

The fourth meeting proved to be the most successful of the session. A mock election was held, and there were six candidates:— N. K. Hammond (Conservative), who was elected with 48 votes; S. C. Woodley (Liberal) 31 votes; D. S. Gerrard (Autocratic Anti-Constitutional Plebiscitary Party) 31 votes; J. M. Mobbs (Progressive Tory) 7 votes; C. M. Dunman (Communist) 6; C. S. Woodruff (Socialist) 5 votes.

Before the meeting, all the candidates had issued pamphlets describing their policies, and these had aroused much excitement, which was later

heightened by the variety of dress worn by the speakers at the election itself. There was a record attendance of over 130 members. The candidates tried to put forward serious policies, but some of them had a rough passage from the electorate! It is hope that the younger members of the society will some day emulate the high standard of speaking set at this meeting.

C.S.W.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

The Lent Term started well with an illustrated talk by Dr. D. O'Connor of the A.E.R.E. on "Industrial and Scientific Research in Australia", in which he described some of the ways in which Australia is helping the progress of scientific knowledge today.

Later Mr. C. D. Bingham of Culham College gave an interesting account of "The Ecology of Sherbourne Brook", in which he surveyed the different plant and animal life to be found in the brook.

At the "Conversazione" we were honoured by the presence of the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban. Many members helped to make this a most interesting and instructive meeting, and the Society is grateful to those masters who lent their laboratories and took a lively interest.

During the term there were two film-shows. At the first "A Glimpse of Metrovich" and "Farming Review No.1" were shown, and at the second "Hygiene on the Farm" and "New Detergents" were shown and aroused considerable interest.

R.W.W.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Filming has again been the chief activity this term and technicians have found their spare time very limited. We have filmed nearly 45 minutes of screen-time to date, and there are now few scenes involving interior lighting left to do—henceforward we hope to rely chiefly on the sun!

We have a certain licence as regards choice of rooms and sets since we are portraying the life of a boy at any Public School. We have, for example, filmed the University Entrance Examinations in Big School; whilst our boarding-house will consist of parts of School House, Larkhill and Waste Court. Although the production is mainly confined to the School, it will also be taking us to Oxford and Marlow and into the town of Abingdon.

We have not yet printed any of the film, but Glenny will be editing it during the holidays and we look forward, rather anxiously, to seeing some of the film at the beginning of the Summer Term. G. E. G. Campbell-Dykes (Still Photographer) has taken many pictures of the

A.S.P.S. in action and these have proved both interesting and entertaining.

The loss of "Ut Proficias" in the post, together with the sound recording of "Thanks A Million", has increased our financial worries enormously and gives us much additional work in re-recording. Nevertheless, the new version of "Thanks a Million", re-edited and with a fresh sound track, should be ready for this year's Arts Festival at Slough.

We congratulate J. M. Pulsford on his appointment as Secretary of the Film Society. I understand that he has a full programme of films—for film appreciation—and a variety of lectures arranged for the Summer Term. Members are also being encouraged to enter prints for a circulating portfolio, for which we hope that the brighter weather will produce some good entries.

M.K.C.G.

MUSIC SOCIETY

During the Lent Term the most outstanding meeting was again the recital in the Heylyn Room at which we welcomed John Anderson (Horn) and David Cawthra (Piano). Their programme consisted of "Villanelle" by Paul Dukas; Impromptu in A flat and the Scherzo in B minor by Chopin; "Hunter's Moon" by Vinter and the second Horn Concerto by Mozart. The ample scope provided by such a varied programme was used to the full by both artists and we are most grateful to them.

Another interesting meeting was the recital for organ and brass in the Chapel. For the brass Dr. Blainey played Purcell's Trumpet Voluntary—with a Bach trumpet—and Mozart's fourth Horn Concerto, and for the organ the Secretary played Cesar Franck's Chorale in A minor. Towards the end of the term the Society saw the film "A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra", from which even the most learned members gleaned some knowledge!

The remaining five record programmes, which were presented by Mr. H. H. Fowler, who introduced us to Mahler's "Song of the Earth", by our vice-president, by A. E. Bush, M. B. Culley and the Secretary, were on the whole successful.

R.E.J.P.

JOINT CLUB

The three meetings this term were somewhat varied. At the first, we were entertained by St. Helen's to a "reels" evening", which was great success, though we displayed more vigour than skill!

For the second meeting, we tried to introduce that elusive, cultural side to our activities advertised in the School Calendar. We attended the lecture given by Lt.Col. F. Spencer Chapman, D.S.O., M.A., in the Gymnasium, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Afterwards we moved over to Lacies Court for refreshments.

At the last meeting, everyone was asked to come along prepared either to play a record or to entertain in some way or other. The result was a veritable hotchpotch: items ranged from Brahms to Humphrey Lyttleton, from The Toy Symphony to The Stately Homes of England. Thus our activities this term were brought to a jumbled, but successful conclusion. We now look forward to next term's tennis party and sausage-prodding on Cumnor Hurst.

D.A.J.

HOLIDAY CLUB

During the Christmas Holidays, the Club's activities were limited to three table-tennis matches, two of which were won, while the other was drawn.

The scores were:—

Radley Boys' Club 2—A.S.H.C. 3

Milton Youth Club 1—A.S.H.C. 4

Church Youth Club 3—A.S.H.C. 3

For the three matches we were entertained excellently by our hosts, and because we are unable to return this hospitality on our own ground, we should like to take this opportunity of thanking them.

We should also like to thank the Headmaster for kindly giving us permission to use the Gymnasium.

D.A.J.

BRASS BAND

The Band this term has had no official engagements, but practices have continued in the usual earnest manner. R. D. P. Griffith has been more than useful, both as a cornet player and as instructor. But it is to Mr. Clack that we owe the greatest debt. He comes and goes "like a ship in the night", and many boys would not recognise him if they met him in the street. But they do hear the results of his patient and competent instruction, and therefore his name has "become a byword", and all are full of admiration for all he does.

E.H.F.S.

HOLIDAY AFLOAT

Eleven boys and three masters decided to risk their lives and the weather during the holidays sailing on Windermere. Both risks proved justifiable: a few got a wetting, but not from rain.

We had chartered four boats: three sailing yachts with engines, and one cruiser with half an engine. On these we slept, cooked, ate and washed up (some of us), and explored the shores and reefs of the lake. The exploration started at 4.45 a.m. on the first morning (the rising hour, happily, became progressively later), and reached its climax when we ran aground, heavily loaded, at 11.15 p.m. on a very dark night. During the interval, despite the light winds and hot sunshine, most of us learnt how to sail. We had several scrambles on the hills, and one full day's walking, when we met Mr. Alston and climbed the Langdale Pikes from Dungeon Ghyll, descending by Easedale Tarn and Grasmere.

We returned home with a much more favourable opinion of the Lakes' weather than we had expected. The Lakes themselves were all that we had hoped.

G.M.H.

O.A. NOTES*Marriages*

BARRETT—KERRY. On 11th April, 1955, at Christ Church Reading, David Roger Barrett (1946) to Miss Mollie Kerry of Reading.

BROWN—HAMILTON. On 19th February, 1955, at St. Barnabas' Church, Orange, N.S.W., Gordon Harry Brown (1947) to Joan Hamilton.

HICKS—DALE. In October, 1954, Philip Hicks (1941) to June Dale of Didcot.

LACEY—HOWARD. On 1st January, 1955, at St. Helen's Church, Abingdon, Frederick William John Lacey (1948) to Pamela Howard.

Death

THATCHER. On 6th March, 1955, suddenly in London, Stanley Frank Thatcher (1925—30) of Mayfield, Binley, near Andover, aged 42.

We were grieved to hear of the untimely death of Stanley Thatcher. At School he was a good athlete, gained his Athletic Colours and played for the 1st XV. On leaving School he first took up accountancy but later joined his brother-in-law in an agricultural holding. During the last war he served in the R.A.S.C.

We congratulate David Wheaton (1948) on his engagement to Miss Joy Forrer: and also upon his success in winning the College Hebrew Prize at Oak Hill Theological College, where he combines the responsibility of Classical Tutor with the labour of working for his B.D.

Rev. T. M. Layng, C.B.E., M.C. (1906) has resigned the benefice of Kemble near Cirencester and will be settling at Cheltenham.

The latest book by Sir Michael Bruce (1910) 'Tramp Royal', covers most of the episodes of an adventurous life. Written in an engaging style it ranges from South Africa to South America, to Europe before, during and after the war and closes on Canadian soil. It may be news to some to read of his intimate connection with British films, behind the scenes, rather than on the screen like his brother Nigel.

Colin Rowan (1937) continues to display unusual versatility. While continuing his astronomical work on the staff of the Royal Society and as an extra-mural lecturer for London University, he has contrived to take his M.Sc. degree in the History and Philosophy of Science. He is now aiming at a Ph.D., but meanwhile he has been admitted to the office of Reader in the Church with a license to officiate in the extensive Diocese of Southwark.

H. A. Lunghi (1939) has been seconded from the Foreign Office to the B.B.C. His principal work is preparing material and data on Russian affairs for the use of broadcasters and others.

Jim McPherson (1933) has now spent many years at Homs, Syria, with the Iraq Petroleum Company, which has expanded rapidly since the war. He seems well content, with cricket, tennis and golf providing relaxation.

M. H. Venables (1950) has accepted a teaching post at Leighton Park. We congratulate him on his engagement to Miss Juliet Wigley.

K. A. Fathers (1949) has left Cables & Wireless and taken a post with Thomas Hedley, the soap firm.

C. A. Full (1952) is working with J. & P. Coats of Paisley.

Nigel Ares (1944) is working in London as a Commercial Artist.

David Carter (1951) was a member of the three-man team representing Otoko Young Farmers Club, which recently won the cup presented for the best Y.F.C. Debating team in the whole of New Zealand.

B. K. Hill (1954) is an apprentice with Martin Baker Aircraft Co., at Denham, Bucks.

Kenneth Prentice (1954) is a student at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Geoffrey Martin (1937) who gave early evidence of his artistic talent in the short time he was at the School has been working on design sequences for the 'Animal Farm' film with the Halas-Batchelor production unit.

Alec Milligan (1949) after completing his course at Culham College has been teaching at Boxhill C. of E. School, Abingdon.

We apologise for some omissions in our last issue.

J. B. Rich (1947) at Bristol University gained his B.Sc. Special, 2nd Class Hons. (Div. 1) in Physics.

R. J. Taylor and M. J. Wareham (1951) are still in residence at Reading University doing their 3rd year post-graduate course.

Services

Cmdr. (E) J. C. H. Kortright (1932) is stationed at R.N. Air Station, Abbotswick, Nr. Paisley.

F. B. Glenny (1919) has returned to the Army, and is now Capt. R.A.P.C. at Stockbridge, Hants.

2nd Lieuts. Hugh Leach and Brian Leech, after passing out from Sandhurst, are both in B.A.O.R. with different regiments of R. Tank Corps.

D. M. Jones (1953) is at H.Q. Wessex Bde. Exeter for potential Officer training.

R. J. Hines and R. P. Clewley are both in R.A.O.C. Michael Ralfe is with the Gunners at Oswestry, where he has found himself in the same lines as R. H. Redknap, T. R. Lay and J. P. Turck (1950).

Old Abingdonian Club

The third post-war London Dinner of the Club was held on Friday, 4th March at Simpson's in the Strand. Once again arrangements were in the hands of Stanley Paige, to whom the Club is greatly indebted, and some 56 members attended. The decade 1920—30 was represented by no less than 18 members, but it was good to see so many very young Old Boys present as well as eight past or present members of the Staff.

T. E. Gardiner, President of the Club presided, and after the loyal Toast proposed the toast of the School, to which the Headmaster replied with a brief survey but sufficient to show that the School was in a very flourishing state. Mr. Bevir proposed the Club and in the process gave some startling revelations of his youthful excursions into drama. Hugh Insley-Fox replied with brevity and wit and the company then had time to circulate for a while before dispersing after a most enjoyable evening.

The Old Abingdonian Trust Fund

To the tributes to R.B. recorded elsewhere, the Trustees must add their particular testimony of gratitude. When the Fund was inaugurated in 1937 R.B. was elected Treasurer and for the next 15 years devoted untold time and trouble to its welfare and development. He nursed it in its infancy and kept it going during the difficult war years and it is largely thanks to him that the Fund is now in such a condition that it can play a really useful part in promoting the interests of the School. As a crowning proof of his devotion to the Fund he bequeathed to it in his will a handsome legacy.

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of Covenanted Subscriptions from N. Duncan, T. E. Gardiner, J. Knowles and K. Mills.

Terms of Subscription

The Life Membership Subscription to the Old Abingdonian Club, which covers all the privileges of the Club but does not include receipt of the Magazine is Three Guineas.

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

'The Abingdonian'

Old Boys and others can obtain the Magazine in three ways:

1. *By Banker's Order (minimum 7/6) payable to the Old Abingdonian Trust Fund. Forms of Covenant which will nearly double the value of all subscriptions to the Fund of 10/- and over, will gladly be supplied.*
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