

THE ABINGDONIAN

VOL. X. No. 12.

SEPTEMBER, 1956

Price 1/6d.

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CALENDAR, MICHAELMAS TERM, 1956

September

Thurs. 20 Term begins.

October

Wed. 3 1st XV v. D. O. Willis' XV (h).
 Tues. 9 Field Day—C.C.F. and Scouts.
 Sat. 13 1st XV v. Newbury Grammar School (h).
 Wed. 17 1st XV v. Reading School (h).
 Wed. 24 1st XV v. St. Edward's School 2nd XV (h).
 Sat. 27 1st XV v. Solihull School (h).
 Wed. 31 1st XV v. Radley College 2nd XV (a).

November

Fri. 2 Visit to Abingdon of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II.
 Half Term begins, 4 p.m.
 Wed. 7 School recommences after half-term
 1st XV v. Magdalen College School (a).
 Sat. 10 1st XV v. Bloxham School (a).
 Wed. 14 1st XV v. City of Oxford School (h).
 Sat. 17 1st XV v. R.G.S., High Wycombe (h).
 Wed. 21 1st XV v. Southfield School (a).
 Sat. 24 1st XV v. Windsor County School (a).
 Sun. 25 Confirmation Service, 3 p.m.
 Wed. 28 1st XV v. Oratory School (h).

December

Sat. 1 1st XV v. Old Abingdonians (h).
 Wed. 12 Inter-House Cross Country Races, 2 p.m.
 Thurs. 13 School Play, 'The Rivals', 7.30 p.m.
 Fri. 14 School Play, 'The Rivals', 7.30 p.m.
 Sat. 15 School Play, 'The Rivals', 7.30 p.m.
 Thurs. 20 Term ends, 10.15 a.m.

Lent Term begins Friday, 18th January, 1957

(Boarders return Thursday, 17th January)

Misericordias
Domini



in aeternum
cantabo

OFFICERS OF THE SCHOOL

September, 1956

SCHOOL PREFECTS

B. L. Smith (Head of School and Head of Dayboys)

J. C. Spinks (Head of School House)

G. F. Wastie (Head of Crescent House)

T. M. J. Kempinski (S)

J. T. Buckland (D)

B. E. Stacey (S)

S. C. Woodley (D)

N. K. Hammond (D)

N. J. H. Grant (D)

M. R. S. Broadway (S)

R. J. Paige (S)

B. D. Winkett (S)

J. B. Robbins (D)

L. J. Glenny (W)

H. C. Bowen (C)

M. G. Nichol (D)

HOUSE PREFECTS

School House—R. K. Le Voi, C. K. D. Copley, N. A. J. Antrobus,
A. J. Foden, R. S. Green, C. J. Marchbanks.

Crescent House—I. A. Oliver, I. J. Saywell, S. H. Freedman.

Waste Court—M. Q. King, W. W. Budden.

Larkhill—R. M. Kennedy, D. J. Meakins.

Dayboy—J. M. Mobbs, C. M. Dunman, B. Westbrook, P. M. D. Gray,
B. P. Kibble, R. B. Scott-Taggart, W. C. Broad, D. S. Gerrard,
M. R. H. Hill, C. Young, J. H. Thewlis, P. D. Exon.

Captain of Rugger—J. T. Buckland.

Secretary of Rugger—G. F. Wastie.

Captain of Cross-Country—H. C. Bowen.

Secretary of G.G.C.—T. M. J. Kempinski.

'The Abingdonian'

Editor—S. C. Woodley.

Assistant Editors—N. J. H. Grant, R. S. Green,
B. L. Smith.

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

EDITORIAL

This year marks the fourth centenary of the grant of the first Royal Charter to the Borough of Abingdon, by Queen Mary and King Philip. The Borough has very properly organised a varied and comprehensive programme of celebrations. These will culminate in the visit of Her Majesty the Queen on Friday, November 2nd, when she will reopen the County Hall which has been so carefully restored to its former glory. The School shares with the Town in lively expectation of this great day. We are especially glad to think that arrangements have been made for Her Majesty to drive along Park Road past the School on her arrival, so that those of us who are not part of the C.C.F. contingent lining the streets, or playing in the School Band in Ock Street, may offer her our own loyal greetings from the Upper Field.

It will not be by any means the first time that Abingdon has been graced by the royal presence. Previous visitors have ranged from Alfred the Great and Henry I ("almost an Old Boy") to Edward VII and the late King, George VI. Perhaps the boys of this School may take heart from the memorable visit of Edward the Confessor and Queen Edith, who were entertained at the Abbey in the eleventh century. The Queen was distressed to discover that nothing but bread was supplied for the supper of the novices, whom we may regard in some sense as the predecessors of the twentieth-century pupils of Abingdon School; and she gave the Abbot an estate in order that the boys could be fed on meat. The visit of the present Queen will be marked by the welcome, if less romantic, award of an extra day's holiday at half-term. But this will be by no means our only contribution to the Borough's celebrations, for Town and Gown are probably bound more closely today than ever before, and during the Summer Term, as will be seen from the later pages of this magazine, we have already played our full part in a wide variety of commemorative events.

Samuel Johnson assured us that 'patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel'; but without indulging in fulsome panegyric we can express our pride that we are being given the chance of showing our loyalty to her of whom

'May children of our children say
She wrought the people lasting good . . .
A thousand claims to reverence closed
In her as Mother, Wife and Queen'.

The School joins with the Town in proclaiming that 'Abingdon Welcomes her Queen'.

SCHOOL NOTES

We congratulate the Master of Pembroke College and Mrs. McCallum on the birth of a daughter (July 3rd).

It is with regret that we heard of the serious illness of Mr. Hugh Last which has compelled him to resign his office as Principal of Brasenose. Mr. Last was formerly, as Camden Professor of Ancient History, a member of the very select electoral college which appoints the Oxford representatives to our Governing Body. He was himself a Governor for a short time and he has always maintained his interest in the School.

In order to make the Governing Body even more representative, the Minister of Education was asked to approve an amendment to the Scheme of Government which would provide for two additional Governors, to be nominated respectively by the Abingdon Rural District Council and by the Council of the University of Reading. The complicated machinery involved has almost completed its work and we venture therefore to offer a warm welcome to our two new Governors, Mr. Howard Cornish, M.B.E., Chairman of the Rural District Council, and Professor J. M. R. Cormack, MA, Professor of Classics and Dean of of the Faculty of Letters at Reading University. Neither of these gentlemen is a stranger to the School—indeed we were glad to welcome them both to Founder's Day this year—and we hope that their official association with us will be long and happy.

We are grateful to Lord Glyn of Farnborough for a further act of kindness in sending us some tickets for Henley, which were put to very good use.

The Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban had the honour of attending the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Thursday, July 19th.

We were glad to hear that Mr. Ingham had made an excellent recovery after the operation which kept him away from school at the end of term; and we offer our thanks to Mr. Colin Wiggins (OA) who helped us during his absence. We were grateful, too, for the services of Mr. Michael Bateman (OA) who relaxed after Finals by 'standing-in' for Mr. Holloway.

We are sorry to bid farewell to Miss Bedingfield, who has become very much a part of the School during her two years' work as Administrative Assistant; and we welcome her successor, Miss Healey.

Our good wishes go, too, with our very near neighbour and friend, Rev. L. J. Hopkins, of the Trinity Manse, as he leaves Abingdon to take up his next ministry at Redditch.

During August Mr. Hillary once again played for Berkshire in the Minor Counties Cricket Championship—his highest score to the time of writing being a 64 against Buckinghamshire.

The School heard with distress of the sudden death on 14th July at the early age of 39, of Dr. J. O. W. Dick, a member of the School firm of doctors who was well-known to many of us. The Head of School and the Head of Boarders accompanied the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban to the Memorial Service in St. Nicolas' Church on 17th July. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Dick and to her four young children.

We are also sorry to hear during August of the death of Mr. S. J. Stevens, who had recently retired from his appointment as Headmaster of Cumnor School, and who for many years was a part-time instructor at the School.

We congratulate Mr. Potter on his marriage to Miss Angela Holmes, which took place at Oxford on 18th August.

Mr. Milton has become so much one of us since he came in January to fill the gap caused by the death of Mr. Toplis that it is with especial pleasure that we record that he has accepted the offer of permanent appointment to the staff.

And now we look forward to the arrival of another new master, Mr. John Blagden, in September, to strengthen still further our science side. Mr. Blagden secured his B.Sc. with first-class honours in Physics at the University of Capetown in December, 1952. Subsequently he migrated to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he obtained second-class honours in the National Sciences Tripos. He has just taken his Dip. Ed. after a term of teaching practice at the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe.

Three members of the staff have recently proceeded to the degree of M.A., Mr. Helliwell (Oxford) and Mr. Horrex and Mr. Williams (Cambridge).

As Director of the Edinburgh Festival, Mr. Robert Ponsonby, our some-time Acting Director of Music, has been much in the news: and received the minor apotheosis of a paragraph by Atticus in the Sunday Times.

Those who remember Mr. Geoffrey Tudor will be interested to learn of his appointment as Senior Lecturer in History and English at R.N.C., Dartmouth.

During the past term we have had the pleasure of welcoming an unusual number of interesting visitors. Our own HMI, Miss Deas, came to see us on May 30th, and was followed by a colleague, Lady Helen Asquith, on June 7th. A German schoolmaster, Herr Karl Osterholz, of Düsseldorf, spent a month with us at the beginning of the term (and thoroughly endeared himself to us). In July we entertained two French fourteen-year-olds, Jean-Marie Lot and Yves le

Menestrel, who worked with one of the third forms. Especial thanks are due to Mr. Sewry for providing hospitality for these three visitors.

From further afield came Mr. G. I. Oko, M.B.E., the head of a government department in Eastern Nigeria, who visited us on June 2nd; and two Russian educationalists who came round on June 22nd to see what an English boarding school was like—Mr. G. S. Soroka, Director of the Sverdlovsk Pedagogical Institute, and Mr. A. A. Marcassian, Director of the Moscow Research Institute of Physical Education and School Hygiene.

Later, on July 21st, we had an even more distinguished visitor in the person of Mr. Abdus Satter, Minister of Education in the Government of Pakistan, who was accompanied by Dr. M. Achmed, Educational Advisor to the Government of Pakistan, Dr. Imdad Hussein, Educational Attaché to the High Commissioner, and Mr. S. C. G. Bach, O.B.E., of the British Council. Which explains (what must have puzzled many passers-by) why the crescent of Pakistan flew proudly from the School flag-pole on that day.

We hope that all our overseas visitors have taken back with them pleasant memories of their visits to what we regard as a very English school.

We were very glad too to welcome another American preacher this term, Dr. Gerald E. Knoff, B.D., Ph.D., who spent the weekend of June 23/24 at the School House. He not only preached on the Sunday morning but more than held his own in a discussion with some of the senior boarders over supper. And later he renewed his connection with us by travelling back to the States in the Queen Mary with Peter Willis.

It may be recorded too that our Permanent American Link, Colonel Van Wagenen, whose duties have now taken him to a high-level post in Washington, has established contact there with the Willis family. The next step, we hope, will be for him to get posted to Grosvenor Square so that he can come down to see us at Abingdon.

It is always pleasant to say 'thank-you'. Let us then express, briefly but sincerely, our gratitude to the parents of two boys who have just left the School for substantial gifts of money which will be applied respectively to the purchase of a picture and of a Kymograph (which we are assured is a very swagger piece of apparatus indeed for the Biology Lab.): to last year's American preacher, Rev. Marcus Hall, for the quite unexpected gift of a surplice for the Chapel: to Major Buckley for the gift of a 1937 Coronation stool, some MCC tickets for the Test Match at Lords, and a handsome book for the library: to Dr. Fisher for sending over to us some Henley tickets: and to Mr. Watkiss who has given a large collection of records to the School Gramophone Library.

We are grateful too for two new cups. The one, presented by a very new Old Boy, will be an individual award, given each year for initiative, and will take its place with the Morland prize for all-round merit and the Ellis prize for character as a means of recognising qualities that go far beyond the class-room. The other, purchased with the profits of the Fourth Science Times, will be given, at the special request of the Editors of that admirable journal, for the best written work (preferably of a light character) produced during the year in Middle School.

The number of boys on the School Roll at the beginning of the Summer Term was 457 (Dayboys 278, School House 86, Crescent House 40, Waste Court 34, Larkhill 19).

As Mr. and Mrs. Janes leave for Oxford we offer them our renewed thanks for the hospitality they have provided in recent years for some part of our surplus boarders. We are indeed sorry that family commitment will prevent Mrs. Grundy too from continuing to harbour the odd boy at 'Park House' and we thank her very warmly for her many kindnesses to the School. At the same time we should like to say how grateful we are to Mr. and Mrs. Pulsford and to Mrs. Cogswell who are kindly giving us similar help from September.

Thanks too to those members of the visiting music staff who at some inconvenience came down to strengthen our orchestra for the Evening Entertainment on Founders Day; and to the sempiternal Mr. Bevir for his untiring efforts as Invigilator-in-Chief for the examinations.

We congratulate the following on Berkshire County Major Awards

- M. B. Culley (to Reading University)
- D. G. Dunkley (to Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge)
- M. B. Enser (to Pembroke College, Oxford)
- J. A. Howard (to Guy's Hospital)
- F. Jeal (to St. Catherine's Society, Oxford).
- P. O. Older (to Guy's Hospital)
- M. C. Rallings (to Guy's Hospital).

also W. N. R. Stevens on the award of a Kent County Higher Exhibition (to Pembroke College, Oxford); and
G. E. G. Brown on the award of an Oxfordshire County University Scholarship (to Reading University).

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

- J. P. G. Butt (Purton Stoke Preparatory School)
- A. G. D. Matson (New Park School, St. Andrew's).

The work of K. N. Haarhoff (Abingdon School) in the examination was commended.

On May 23rd a small party of senior boys attended the 'Mayor-Making' ceremony in the Guildhall, by kind invitation of the incoming Mayor, Councillor Stow,

On the following day a coach load of sixth formers visited the 'Times' Mobile Printing Unit at Radley. The party returned with much to talk about and with large numbers of the specially printed Abingdon School edition of 'The Times'.

As a 'follow-up' to this, a rather more select party visited the native haunts of 'The Times' on July 23rd, the eve of Excursion Day, and saw the first edition of the paper put to bed. A very enjoyable outing despite (or because of?) the lateness of the hour.

On May 31st Mr. Newby-Robson, of P.S.A.B., visited the School. Later on June 25th, Mr. Allen, of the Headmasters' Employment Committee, came down to talk to senior boys.

On June 4th Mr. Duncan West very kindly showed a party of fifth-formers round the new teaching block, then in process of construction.

Mr. Cooper took a small party of serious Artists (i.e., 'A' level candidates) up to London on June 19th to study the National Gallery.

Some six boys competed in the Berkshire AAA Championships on June 2nd and several secured places in events (M. J. Scott-Taggart was 2nd in the 440 yards and C. Young in the High Jump).

On June 26th the Staff played a match against the Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club. After some fine games the Staff finally lost by the close margin of $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$.

Representatives of the School had the privilege of attending the ceremony of the Presentation of Colours to the 1st Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment at Windsor by Her Majesty the Queen on July 21st. We were also represented at the Passing-out Parade at Sandhurst.

Thanks to the co-operation of the Unicorn Theatre Club, parties from the School attended several of their productions, including 'Candida', 'King Lear' and a programme of madrigals.

Our own Play-reading Society has been very active on Sunday evenings this term. Plays read have been 'Quiet Weekend'; 'The Lady's Not for Burning'; 'Mourning Becomes Electra'; 'Much Ado About Nothing'; and 'The Rivals'.

We congratulate S. C. Woodley and A. J. Gardner, who were appointed School Prefects on the last day of term in recognition of outstanding services as Captains of Cricket and Tennis respectively; and I. L. McLoughlin (Under-Officer in the Corps) who received similar recognition after the Corps Camp.

Congratulations also to A. E. Bush who brought back an unusually good report from a course at the Moray Firth Outward Bound Sea School; and shortly thereafter secured admission to Sandhurst by passing R.C.B.

It is encouraging to see how many boys have passed their music examinations with merit: especial mention should be made of A. J. Williams, who gained a Distinction in Grade IV (Violin).

The following boys were due to attend short Works Courses during the summer holidays:

M. J. Blythe—Lloyds Bank
M. R. Dawn—Vickers-Armstrong (Aircraft)
G. A. Gingell—Lloyds Bank
I. J. Glenny—Thames Board Mills
C. J. Marchbanks—Stanton Iron Works
S. L. Norris—British Railways (Signal Engineering)
D. J. Privett—Messrs. Joseph Lucas
G. D. Wright—Boots' Pure Drug Company

Apart from the Corps and Scout Camps, which are fully reported on a later page, C. J. Redknapp and R. A. N. Saunders attended and (as we gathered from their letters) thoroughly enjoyed an S.C.M. School-boys' Camp at Dolgelley.

Without trespassing (too much) on other preserves we should like to add our own tribute to the turnout of the Corps on Inspection Day. We gather that General Sir John Winterton was 'most impressed' by the Contingent.

And the performance of our tennis team in the Youll Cup calls aloud for special mention. There cannot be many schools that have won their way to the semi-final in their first year at Wimbledon—and then repeated the performance the following year under a different captain (and with their star player the captain of cricket).

The School Prefects of 1951, who presented the mulberry tree to the Prefects' Lawn to commemorate the Festival of Britain, will be interested to hear that it is now growing into a very shapely tree; and that this year for the first time it has borne what promises to be a small but luscious crop of fruit.

And on the matter of gardens, the main border along the school drive can never have looked more lovely than it did on Founder's Day, thanks to a wet summer (even a rain cloud has its silver lining) and to the efforts of the ground staff. The Jekyll Garden too and the Nun's Garden in Lacies Court had been given a thorough tidying-up by a party of public-spirited boys. Our thanks to them—and to the prefects who cleaned the stone-work of the Chapel.

The customary Boarders' Suppers were held on the last night of term, July 30th. Afterwards in School House (an innovation this) the prefects organised a highly entertaining programme of open-air, and not too serious, sports on Upper Field. But the Tug-of-War, in which the

Elderly Gentleman of the Staff, who had just got their challenge in first, defeated the Prefects was serious enough. Lighter relief was provided by a demonstration of fire fighting given by Christopher Wray's own fire-brigade.

Fortunately the sanctity of the Square was respected, so the pitch was in good condition for the Abingdon Cricket Week (August 5th—12th) which once again attracted a large concourse of spectators.

Old Boys with a few minutes to spare could spend them profitably by visiting the Roysse Room, which has recently been renovated and re-decorated. The School is grateful to the Council for the very great trouble that has been taken over the work. In its new guise the Room is much lighter, much more attractive.

The photographs in this issue are published by kind courtesy of Mr. Milligan, Photographer; Mr. James Russell, Photographer; Mr. Horrex; and Christopher Hiles.

The Editor acknowledges with thanks the receipt of magazines from the following schools (to 27th July): Chigwell; City of Oxford; Henley; King Alfred's Wantage; Magdalen College, Oxford; Pocklington; Reading; R.G.S., High Wycombe; St. Bartholomew's, Newbury; St. Edward's, Oxford; Southfield, Oxford; Stratford; Wallingford; Windsor. Also from Culham College, R.N.C. Dartmouth, R.N.E.C. Manadon, R.M.A. Sandhurst, and R.A.F. Cranwell.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL

(A note by the Headmaster)

Was it 1759 that was known as the *annus mirabilis* of British History? Certainly (if we may descend from the national to the local) the year 1956 might well claim a similar title as far as the development of the School is concerned. The main portion of the new Teaching block is now almost completed, and barring accidents it will be in use in September. We shall probably have to wait a little longer for the Colonnade Room, the construction of which was held up by a shortage of steel rods. Already it is possible to see how well the new block will fit in with the Science Block; and the façade of the School, as seen from Park Road, will be more impressive than ever. Function, however, is worth far more than appearance, and the addition of these extra class-rooms will do much to make our teaching easier and more efficient.

But this is not all. In the last issue of the magazine I discreetly mentioned the possibility of an extension to the Science Block. It is now common knowledge that a generous grant from the Industrial Fund for the Advancement of Scientific Education has enabled us not only to provide the General Science Laboratory in the New Teaching Block with proper equipment but also to undertake this further project. The Ministry has approved in principle of our plans and we are indeed

hoping that the contractors who are building the Teaching Block will be able to undertake the new extension as a 'follow-on' contract.

The plans provide for a new wing running North from the Science Block almost up to Royse's Lane. The extension will be on two floors and will comprise an Advanced Chemistry Laboratory and Preparation Room, an Advanced Physics Laboratory and Workshops, and a Demonstration Room. The enlarged science block will provide facilities for the teaching of science which few schools of our size can equal, let alone surpass; and we are deeply grateful to the industrial firms whose far-sighted benevolence has alone made it possible for us to tackle this further commitment. It may well be that when School reassembles in September work will already have begun on the site: and we are looking forward to having a formal opening ceremony of the two new blocks some time next year.

Parents who passed through the Main Entrance Hall on Founder's Day could see the shape of things to come represented in a large coloured sketch of the new buildings prepared by Mr. Wood, the Consultant Architect, and presented by him to the School. Thank-you, Mr. Wood!

Now for Pavilions. The 'R.B. Pavilion', now suitably inscribed, has already proved its worth. It does form an extraordinarily pleasant vantage point from which to survey Upper Field and it fits admirably against the background of the school buildings. The foundations of the larger pavilion on the War Memorial Field have been completed and we are now awaiting the erection of the superstructure. It is a little hard on the cricketers, whose need for this Pavilion has been so urgent, that it will be the rugger players and the athletes who have the pleasure of using it first; but we shall all be equally glad to see it finished—and equally grateful to the Old Boys.

There is a lot of work going on inside the buildings this holidays, too. The extra elbow-room provided by the new teaching block has enabled us to enlarge the administrative accommodation of the School by incorporating in it the present Wantage Room. It will certainly be a pleasant change for me personally to have plenty of room in which to swing, shall we say, a cat, without knocking over my own over-loaded IN tray. Later, when the Colonnade Room is available, it will be the turn of the staff, who will be able to over-flow from their over-crowded Common Room into the adjoining Tesdale Room.

Meanwhile the somewhat depressing Layng Room is being redecorated. So too is the Ward Room in School House and the Entrance Hall of Waste Court (some of the wall-paper there showed up rather badly in *Ut Proficiat!*). And the external decoration of the main school building is also on the list of holiday work.

Amid all these current projects we are not forgetting the other commitments that we shall have to undertake before very long—the construction of a new boarding house, and of new changing rooms and lavatories, and the repair of the Big School roof. But all these things will take time and it is a matter of priorities.

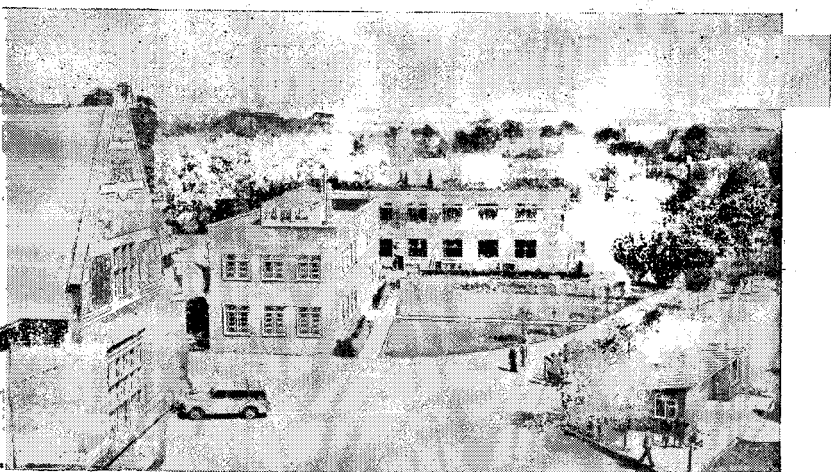
* * *

Quite apart from structural development, this coming term will see many changes in the School. We shall be introducing the secondary science stream, which I explained last time. The growth of the Sixth Form will make it necessary to divide the Lower Sixth into two—an Arts and a Science Form. The four athletic and social houses are being more clearly divided into senior and junior sections, each with its own housemaster, so that the pastoral supervision of the day-boy may be more thorough and more personal. Another innovation will be a school service, to be held shortly after the beginning of each term in St. Helen's Church (by kind permission of the Vicar). The first service will be at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 26th, when the Rev. G. E. Hubbard will preach. The whole object of this service is that it shall be a corporate offering of worship rather than a demonstration of choral virtuosity, and it will be kept very informal and domestic; but of course any parents who care to attend will be very welcome.

A subsidiary problem which has arisen out of the construction of the Teaching Block is that of nomenclature, for it is perhaps significant of the personal atmosphere we try to encourage at this School that we have always refused to number our form rooms. We observe the principle that rooms should not be called after the living, and this cuts out some very obvious names. The names of Wantage, Tesdale, Godwyn and Lempriere will be carried over from existing rooms to the new block. It is proposed to use also the names of Morland and Summers, to commemorate respectively a family which has long been closely connected with the School and a nineteenth century headmaster. For the little room in the Science Block that will now be available more generally for teaching purposes it seemed appropriate to look for an Old Boy with some scientific connections. Research revealed that at least four Old Boys have in the past received the coveted award of F.R.S. The most recent of them was Sir William Boxall (1800-1879), who was also Director of the National Gallery, and it is his name therefore that will be perpetuated in this way.



Founder's Day—Post-Prandial



July, 1956 (see page 573)

Lastly, may I congratulate very warmly those who were responsible for producing two contemporary journals which were on sale on Founder's Day? The *Literary Magazine* provided an excellent assortment of creative writing from all forms in the School. The special and final issue of *Fourth Science Times* was well up to the standard of its predecessors. It was funny (in parts very funny) without being offensive, which is more than we can say for most middle-school journalism. Whether I ever dare write another 'Parents Letter' after reading the parody of one therein, I don't know!

J.M.C.

FOUNDER'S DAY

The rain held off just long enough for us to enjoy a pleasant and dry day for Founder's Day on Saturday, 28th July. As by tradition, we began the celebrations with a service in St. Helen's Church, where the Lord Bishop of Reading gave the address. We were indebted to Mrs. Bevir for the wreath which the two senior prefects laid on the tomb of John Roysse. Soon after this the Choir gave an excellent rendering of Statham's anthem "Praise thou the Lord".

The main theme of the Bishop's address was that we should strive to practise the Four Fundamentals of life: the reading of the Bible, the Faith of the Church, the Sacraments of the Church, especially Communion, and private prayer. He said that it was very difficult to do this throughout life, as the older members of the congregation would have discovered, but he exhorted those who had life before them to maintain the Christian principles contained in these four essentials.

After the Prize Giving, which was of course the chief function of the day, the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban were "At Home" to a large number of parents and visitors on Upper Field. The Brass Band displayed its talents during tea, after which our guests were able to survey a large number of exhibitions as well as the Photographic Society's new film "Danger is Near", which entertained capacity audiences. The exhibitions included Art, Handicraft, Photography, C.C.F. and numerous scientific demonstrations.

The day ended with the second performance (the first was held on Friday, 27th July) of the Evening Entertainment, which was once again held in the Corn Exchange. A report of this appears elsewhere.

On the Sunday evening, the Headmaster preached at the traditional service according to the Cheyney Bequest. This was again held at St. Nicolas' Church, which has by now been restored, and was therefore able to hold a larger congregation than in recent years. In his sermon the Headmaster exhorted those who were leaving school to live up to

the difficult creed of Christianity, to realize the dignity of each man by seeing God in him, to accept the greater responsibility given to boys with a good start in life, and to remember the greater existence of the life to come.

PRIZE GIVING 1956

We were pleased to welcome the long-awaited Rt. Hon. Earl Winterton, P.C., to the Prize Giving this year. 'Long-awaited' for he was to have distributed the prizes last year, but owing to an unfortunate indisposition was not able to come down.

The Chairman of the Governors, Admiral Clifton-Brown, opened the proceedings with a short speech in which he stressed the good progress the school was making not only with academic work, but also with new improvements. It was, he said, the duty of the governors to supervise the innovations and to supply money, while the Headmaster and the Bursar could be relied upon to produce excellent plans. He particularly mentioned Lord Glyn who had been a great help in the negotiations which resulted in the award of a substantial grant from the Industrial Fund towards the building of new laboratories. He then asked the Headmaster to give his report.

First the Headmaster gave special thanks to Lord Winterton who, with an operation imminent, had not shunned the task of giving away the prizes. He pointed out that Lord Winterton had been elected to the House of Commons before he (the Headmaster) had been born! Then he embarked on his report, in which he reviewed the sporting and cultural activities of the past year, most of which are set down elsewhere in this magazine. He recognised that it was necessary to move with the times and provide good facilities for scientific instruction, but, he said, there was still much need for the Arts side, and all the scientists would receive a liberal education. The most important point that he made was that the Chapel still remained the centre of ALL activities, and new improvements were being continually made there. He then outlined some of his more cherished memories of the past year, mentioning the Prefects' dance, the way in which the Admiral read his lesson at the annual carol service, spending Easter at school, the continual flow of foreign visitors from all parts of the world, and others. He stressed the fact that the individual boy counted, and every boy, therefore, was a 'problem child'. "I believe in Abingdon," he said, and pointed out the importance of the school's independence although it played its part in the National System of Education. He concluded with thanks to all those who, behind the scenes, had worked so hard—particularly Mrs. Cobban, without whom, he said, he could not carry on.

After presenting the prizes, Lord Winterton good humouredly reminded the Headmaster that if ever he entered the House of Lords, he would not be allowed to make such a long speech, however good it was. He then practised what he had preached and delivered a short but valuable address in which he pointed out that if Britain, a small but highly populated country, was to have any prospects of success in the struggle for existence, she would have to sell her exports all over the world, to keep herself. She was able to do this, he said, on account of the high standard of hereditary skill inherent in the British man, who could hold his own particularly in commercial spheres; especially, he said, more scientists were needed. With all our faults, we had a strong reputation for integrity, tolerance and immense courage, together with a triple allegiance to God, Queen and Country. The school he concluded did much to foster this allegiance, and this would help the future of Britain.

The Headmaster then gave an informal vote of thanks in which he particularly mentioned the personal way in which Lord Winterton had distributed the prizes—addressing some small comment to most of the prize-winners as they came up. Also he especially thanked Mrs. Gray for arranging the flowers, which had transformed the appearance of the Corn Exchange.

After the customary cheers, the Chairman added his own word of thanks to Lord Winterton, and when the national anthem had been played the assembly dispersed.

THE ENDOWED PRIZES. The Morland Prize—M. J. Scott-Taggart; The Thomas Layng Reading Prize—A. J. Gardner; The Smith Chemistry Prizes—W. N. R. Stevens, H. C. Bowen, P. M. D. Gray, M. S. Bretscher, E. F. Lier; The Ball Science Prize—M. B. Culley, M. J. Scott-Taggart; The Bevan Essay Prize—S. C. Woodley; The Bevan Scripture Prizes—W. W. Budden, C. T. Denniford, R. B. Blackmore, D. F. Perkins, R. S. Haynes, R. H. M. Burridge.

THE SCHOOL PRIZES. The Headmaster's Prizes—P. O. Older, J. A. Howard; The Mayor's Prize for History Essay—M. J. Scott-Taggart; The Old Boys' Prize for English Essay—S. C. Woodley; The Old Boys' Prize for English Verse—M. J. Scott-Taggart; The Van Wagenen Essay Prize—C. S. Woodruff; The Ellis Prize for Character—M. C. Rallings; CCF Prizes—CSM McLoughlin, I. L., Sgt Robins, J. B.; Seamanship Prize—PO Cobley, C. K. D.; The Junior Reading Prize—R. T. Moll; The Music Prizes: Senior—M. Q. King, Junior—G. S. Howlett, Choral—I. W. Trenaman, R. A. Lucas, Brass—G. E. G. Brown; The Art Prizes—P. J. A. Fysh, D. J. Griffiths; The Handicraft Prizes—J. Fry, R. G. Lockton.

THE CRICKET PRIZES. The Lake Bat—S. C. Woodley; The Fletcher Cup—A. E. Bush; The Henderson Prizes—R. J. Trenaman, W. J. Phipps.

THE TENNIS CHALLENGE CUP—S. C. Woodley

THE FORM PRIZES. Sixth Form (Upper): Classics—D. G. Dunkley, B. D. Winkett, History—N. J. H. Grant, Modern Languages—T. M. J. Kempinski, Mathematics—B. P. Kibble, Physics—C. Hiles, Biology—M. B. Enser; Sixth Form (Lower): Classics—M. G. Nichol, History and Geography—W. W. Budden, Mathematics—N. A. C. Antrobus, Biology—C. M. Dunman; Sixth Form (General)—G. A. Gingell; Form 5 Arts—J. A. Sheard, C. T. Denniford; Form 5 Science—I. J. Kirby, J. H. Thewlis; Form 5 General—J. Grosvenor; Form 4 Arts—R. B. Blackmore, P. J. D. Anderson; Form 4 Science—B. M. Lifson, D. S. Lees; Form 4 General—R. A. N. Bolton, A. M. Hedges; Form 3A—G. Sheppard, K. N. Haarhoff, T. A. Libby; Form 3X—W. G. Marchbanks; R. J. C. Bampton; Form 3Y—A. J. C. Lansdown, R. W. J. Bampton; Form 2X—A. C. Bowker, P. L. Hedges; Form 2Y—C. G. Purnell, R. C. Luker; Form 1X—K. W. R. Dixon, L. A. Edwards; Form 1Y—D. C. Pollard, P. J. Leather.

AN EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

We thank yet again Mr. Griffin and his many helpers for the evening's entertainment presented in the Corn Exchange on the evenings of 27th July and 28th July.

We are indebted to Mr. H. E. John for a critique of the performance which we print below.

"In the past I have experienced some of the trials and difficulties of presenting an Evening Entertainment or School Concert. Nothing in the course of the School year caused so many heartaches or headaches. Visits of H.M.I.'s or other notabilities; examinations—internal or external; problems of staffing, accommodation, or School Meals; or any of the other many annual events, could be handled and disposed of without undue worry.

But the School Concert! Last moment panic of lines unlearned; costumes unfinished; jobs for everyone to do, and no one with time enough to do them properly; hectic rehearsals when nothing would go right; all combine to cause that harried and harrassed look that so many members of the teaching profession seem to wear near the end of July. Such memories have made me appreciative of other Schools' efforts, and not too severely critical of end of year shows that have probably been put together somewhat hurriedly in the short period between end of examinations and end of term.

I have been fortunate enough to see every play and performance presented during the last four years by Abingdon School. "Trial by Jury" in 1952 set the standard of what to expect, and every performance since has reached the same high standard. They have all been finished, polished shows that really entertained.

On Friday, 27th July, however, I went home feeling a little disappointed. It might have been the weather—thunder in the air and the thermometer in the eighties—or it might have been me or my liver. There were imperfections that had irritated and defects that had jarred, and a feeling that I had seen all the acts before. A day or two later, however, those thoughts had faded and I could look back with happy memories on a show that contained a number of very good features.

I know of no School the size of Abingdon, which can boast of a School Orchestra and Brass Band comparable with the very fine combination of instrumentalists to which we listened on Friday night. After a rather ragged start in the first part of the Overture, the Orchestra settled down to a very good performance, in which all sections did very well.

The Brass Band, in opening the second half of the programme, played beautifully. Music in the School must be in a healthy condition with players of such ability. This contention is borne out too in the delightful singing of the choir at the end of the rather long programme. One realises the difficulties of training boys of this age, with voices breaking and interest in singing beginning to wane, but the fine way in which boys whose voices have settled down managed the tenor and bass parts, I thought very creditable. The singing of the group of Madrigals, too, pleased me tremendously. This surely was not something hurriedly concocted in a short time, so perfect was the blend and ensemble.

Most folk have, I suppose, favourite poets and poems. To listen with enjoyment to the recitation of a piece of verse of which one is fond, means that the reciter has to interpret the poem in the way in which the listener imagines the words should sound. T. S. Eliot's "Cats" are among the many poems I particularly like. I must confess that I was disappointed in all three pieces. On the other hand, the Choral Verse Speaking was just as I thought it should be. The knell-like tones of "Full Fathom Five", and the full vowels and rolling 'r's' in "The War Song of Dinas Vawr" gave me great pleasure.

I wonder if I am typical of the majority of the audience in having forgotten all the little Greek I ever knew and most of the Latin, nor do I know any German. These items I should perhaps not criticise at all, but I must admit that the lively movement and obvious enjoyment of all the cast in "The Birds", and the fine acting in the extract from "Faust", overcame the language difficulties. (Someone slipped up in the latter, Stone's Ginger Wine in a Leipzig Beer Cellar !!!) An obvious thought about this part of the programme—Latin, Greek, German, Italian from the Stalemates, and even some very good Welsh accent in "The War Song", visitors from any part of the world could find a welcome at Abingdon School!

Light relief provided by the Stalemates was excellent. Spinks and Trenaman were very much happier here than in "Bastien and Bastienne". I much enjoyed the singing of Lucas in this operetta.

So much has been written of Mr. Horrex in the past, that it would be hard to find anything new to say about his brilliance and versatility. I remember Michael Redgrave in his schoolmastering days at Cranleigh being the outstanding personality in various plays I saw performed there. Good as he was then, and famous as he now is, he did not give anything like as much pleasure as Mr. Horrex has done in this year's show, and in the Entertainments of 1954 and 1955.

It might appear that I have been severely critical of this year's show, but that is only because I have come to expect something out of the ordinary from Abingdon School. The efforts of all, performers and producers, were much appreciated by the large audience, and for my part, I hope I may be able to see many more of your Evening Entertainments."

H.E.J.

VALETE ET SALVETE

Valete—left 4th April, 1956

Form 4 Arts—R. M. Carter, A. C. Everard.

Form 4 General—P. Butherway, E. H. A. Norman.

Form 3X—F. J. Hatcher (left 9th February).

Form 1X—L. Hatcher (left 8th February).

Salvete—came 1st May, 1956

Form 2X—R. B. B. Houghton

EXAMINATION

Results at the 'Advanced' level of the recent General Certificate of Education are appended. The total number of subject-passes at this level (82) is once more one-third as great again as in the previous year. Distinctions, marked with an asterisk, have gone up from 8 to 18. Warm congratulations to M. B. Enser, T. M. J. Kempinski, B. P. Kibble and S. C. Woodley, who were all awarded State Scholarships, and also to W. N. R. Stevens, who was put on the reserve list. Altogether a very pleasing result and by far our best to date.

The number of subject-passes at 'Ordinary' level amounted to some 320. This, though just below last year's record, remains very satisfactory.

Four Subjects: P. M. D. Gray (Pure M*, App M*, Ph*, Ch*); W. N. R. Stevens (Pure M, App M, Ph, Ch*).

Three Subjects: H. C. Bowen (Pure-and-App M, Ph, Ch*); R. D. Broad (Ch, Bot, Zoo); M. R. S. Broadway (Pure M, App M, Ph); G. E. G. Brown (G, L, AH); M. B. Culley (Ch, Bot, Zoo*); D. G. Dunkley (G, L, AH); M. B. Enser (Ch, Bot*, Zoo*); J. M. Iredale (E, L, F); F. Jeal (Ch, Bot, Zoo); B. P. Kibble (Pure M*, App M, Ph*); D. J. Lanham (E, L, F); C. J. Marchbanks (Ch*, Bot, Zoo); B. L. Smith (Ch, Bot, Zoo); B. E. Stacey (Ch, Bot, Zoo); G. R. F. Wastie (Ch, Bot, Zoo*); B. D. Winkett (G, L, AH).

Two Subjects: A. G. Caswell (E, H); W. St. A. R. Dady (E, A); P. J. A. Fysh (E, A); A. J. Gardner (E, A); D. S. Gerrard (E*, H); N. J. H. Grant (E, H); N. K. Hammond (E, H); C. Hiles (Pure-and-App M, Ph); T. M. J. Kempinski (F*, Ger*); R. W. Westcott (Pure M, App M); W. C. J. White (Ch, Zoo); S. C. Woodley (E*, H);

One Subject: W. W. Budden (Geog*); J. A. Howard (Ph); I. L. McLoughlin (Ph); P. O. Older (Ph); M. C. Rallings (Ph); C. S. Woodruff (H).

CHAPEL NOTES

The Lord Bishop of Oxford will conduct a Service of Confirmation in the School Chapel at 3 p.m. on the second Sunday in Advent (December 9th). This year preliminary classes have been held during the Summer Term so as to allow time for more thorough preparation.

On May 5th a party of boys attended the Diocesan Youth Festival at Oxford, and many more subsequently became members of the newly-formed Diocesan Youth Guild, which we hope will be successful in its object of linking together those young people throughout the Diocese who are trying to live as loyal members of the Church.

Empire Youth Sunday was celebrated on 13th May with the customary united service in St. Helen's Church. Although our own contingent was rather smaller than usual, their turn-out was extraordinarily good.

On 19th June a special service was held in St. Nicolas' Church, which was relayed to an overflow congregation in the Church Hall, to commemorate the restoration of the Church after the disastrous fire of three years ago. All sections of the School were represented at the service and senior prefects acted as sidesmen and helped afterwards with the tea in the Abbey Grounds. Old Boys with memories of the gloomy and elongated chancel will have a pleasant surprise when they revisit the Church and see how the East end of it has been transformed. We are glad to think that the School contributed to the restoration fund both officially and unofficially, and that the restoration of the mural tablet to the Rev. Thomas Woods ("Flogging Tom") was made the first call upon the contribution from the Old Abingdonian Club.

The following Sunday, 16th June ("Old Boys' Sunday") the lessons were read by a senior Old Boy, Mr. George Sturrock, the newly-installed President of the Old Abingdonian Club, and by a very junior one, Peter Simmonds, of R.N.C. Dartmouth; and the Choir sang Tombling's anthem "All from the Sun's Uprise". Other anthems sung during the term at Matins were—

June 24th—"Praise thou the Lord" (Statham).

July 1st—"Rejoice in the Lord Alway" (Purcell).

In addition, on the evening of 24th June, the normal evening prayers were replaced by full Evensong (Wood in C Minor) with the anthem "How Goodly are Thy Tents" by Ouseley.

The collection taken at the Founder's Day Service in St. Helen's Church amounted to £24 7s. 6d., and was equally divided between Dr. Barnardo's Homes and St. Helen's Church Funds. The collection taken at St. Nicolas' Church on the following evening, which amounted to over £4, was given to the Church Restoration Fund, which had previously benefitted by a Chapel collection of £4 11s. 8d.

Other collections devoted to outside charities were as follows:

National Lifeboat Institution	...	...	£5 11 0
Colonial and Continental Clerical Society	...	...	£3 14 0
S.P.C.K.		...	£3 3 0
British Council of Churches	...	...	£4 12 0
Church of England Children's Society	...	...	£5 0 0
Historic Churches Preservation Trust	...	...	£2 12 6

The sum of 15/- from the Alms Box was sent to the C.M.S.

We were very sorry that Mr. Ingham was not able to preach for us but we hope to hear him next term. Other visiting preachers will include—

October 28th—Sir John Wolfenden, C.B.E. (Vice-Chancellor of Reading University).

November 18th—Rt. Rev. J. C. H. How, D.D. (former Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church).

November 25th—Rev. Ronald Lunt, M.C. (Chief Master of King Edward's School Birmingham).

The extension of the staging to the East end of the Chapel has been a great improvement. We are glad to record also that the new Chapel Notice Board is now in position in Chapel corridor, and very fine it

looks too. It will look even better when we get the strip lighting over it. Meanwhile our sincere thanks to Mr. Coleman for the time and labour he has devoted to making this board.

A notable event occurred in Lacies Court on 8th July, when the inaugural meeting of the Chapel Council took place. The function of the Council is to provide a link between that somewhat select body, the Chapel Committee, and the general congregation, so that by two-way discussion matters of policy can be explained to representatives of the whole School, and conversely suggestions and ideas can more easily seep up from the School to those who are in a position to take action upon them. Certainly the stimulating discussion that took place on this occasion promises well for the future of the Council. In addition to its primary function the Council will have the right to elect one member to the Chapel Committee; and B. D. Winkett was selected for appointment.

Lastly, we acknowledge with deep gratitude a most unusual gift to the Chapel, and one that we shall value greatly. When Mr. Ross-Barker retired for the first time from the School in 1905, he was presented by the Common Room with an inscribed silver salver. This he bequeathed to Mr. Rudd, who has very kindly announced his intention of giving it to the Chapel, where it will serve as a reminder of two masters each of whom was associated with the Chapel from its earliest days.

CRICKET

We began the season with a young and largely inexperienced side, containing not one old Full Colour. A fine victory against Newbury got us off to a good start, and we won our first four matches. An unfortunate loss against Reading, however, disturbed the side, which was less successful in the second half of the season. But after poor displays against Abingdon C.C. and High Wycombe, we finished well by defeating the Old Boys in a most enjoyable two-innings match. Our record of six wins and two draws in twelve matches in fact constitutes the best season since 1946.

This year competition for places in the 1st XI has been keen, and consequently emphasis could be placed on fielding ability when the team was selected. The fielding has on the whole been excellent, despite a spate of dropped catches at Wantage and Reading. Regular fielding practices have shown their effect in the number of fine catches that have given encouragement to the bowlers. The bowling itself has been strong, although our pace bowlers sometimes failed to fulfil expectations. The slow bowling was particularly good, especially when Thistlewood was discovered as the ideal complement to Trenaman.



Thistlewood, A. W., D. C. B. Milton, Esq., Westbrook, B., Em
A. E. Bush, M. C. Rallings, S. C. Wo
Phinns. W. L. Lier (S



C., A. A. Hillary, Esq., Hill, M. R. H.,
renaman,

It was a long time before we managed to find a settled opening pair for the batting, but eventually Spinks and Trenaman emerged to give us a forceful start on several occasions, especially when they hit 39 runs in the first 17 minutes of our innings against High Wycombe. But Wycombe also "saw another sight": the inability of our middle batting to succeed when the established batsmen failed. This was a factor which has hindered us on a number of occasions for the middle of the order started early and continued to number 10. It played attractively at times, but lacked power in attack or solidity in defence. Nevertheless we achieved the respectable total of 125 in half of our matches, and were only once dismissed by a school side.

But perhaps the most pleasing feature of the season has been the excellent spirit of the side, which greatly increased the enjoyment of matches. With eight of our young team staying on, including the Captain, we look forward to a good season next year. The new Secretary is J. C. Spinks.

The Second XI have been quite successful, and have kept several individual members of the First XI on their toes to retain their places. Penney's score of 73 against Wantage, before he graduated to the First XI, is noteworthy, and he and Morris were the most consistent run-getters. The side has never been short of bowlers, of whom Emmett, Davies and Fitzsimons were the best. Wastie has been a very good captain, as well as a useful all-rounder.

The Under 16 XI had a rather disappointing season. Potentially a very good side they failed on several occasions to do themselves justice, largely through overawed and nervous batting when facing a large score. This must be attributed partly to their youth, as eight of the side were under 15. Among the best matches were those against Oratory, when fine batting by Anderson, Ford and Baldwin just failed to realise their score; against the City of Oxford, when a hurricane fifty by Ford enabled us to pass our opponents score of 102 in just over an hour; and against Bloxham when early batting failures called forth a very dogged last wicket stand of over twenty minutes to force a draw. Anderson, a quiet but sensible captain, and Ford between them scored three of the eight fifties achieved by School batsmen this year, while other good innings were played by Longworth, Baldwin, Peedell, Hamilton and Utin (a late comer to the team but a promising one). Longworth, Ford, Smith and Baldwin were the mainstays of the bowling.

The fielding was generally competent, though it could have been keener sometimes, and the throwing was not always accurate. The prospect for next year is a bright one, and with the best of the Under 14 coming up, the Under 16 should be a good side.

There was much competition for a place in the Under 14 team this year, and it was good to see so many batsmen making strokes and so many all-rounders in the side. There were slow bowlers in abundance, but the problem of finding accurate opening bowlers was never fully solved. Neilan, as Captain, has handled his side thoughtfully and firmly. The wicketkeeping of Nurton deserves special mention, and the fielding has gradually become more formidable.

Scores were low this year in the Senior House Matches, in the Final of which Blacknall beat Bennett by 4 wickets to take the Cup for the fifth time in six years. The Junior House Competition necessitated two replays before Bennett and Tesdale got through to meet in the Final, where Tesdale won easily by 9 wickets.

The House League Competition again aroused much enthusiasm and, at any rate in the Junior Section, a higher general standard of play than in the last few years. In the Junior League, Blacknall "A" just pipped Bennett "A"; while the Senior League was won by Reeves.

This season we have been able to use the excellent little "R.B." pavilion on Upper Field, and watch with interest the work being done on what will be the more imposing structure on the War Memorial Field. The square on the latter ground remains in as lovely condition as ever, largely thanks to the work of Mr. Hillary and M. C. Rallings, who have given up so much of their time to the laborious task of preparing the pitches. We are extremely grateful to them, and to all those who have helped the cricket in a number of unsung ways, such as by umpiring and scoring in matches and House matches.

FIRST XI CHARACTERS

S. C. WOODLEY (Captain; Colours 1956). A splendid all-rounder, who has made the best use of himself, both as batsman and bowler. His batting has an unusual stamp of maturity and concentration, and he has three fifties to his credit. He has bowled his off-cutters effectively, though inclined to pitch the ball a little short. As Captain he has engendered a pleasant spirit, and handled his bowlers well; perhaps a little inclined to fuss over minute field changes while leaving the big gap open. (A.A.H.).

M. C. RALLINGS (Secretary; Colours 1956). A much improved wicketkeeper, whose cheerful and energetic work has helped the whole side's fielding. A very useful bat, who has played the role of sheet anchor or rapid scorer to order, though still handicapped by a distinct leg-side bias. An extremely efficient and enthusiastic Secretary.

A. E. BUSH (Colours 1956). A fine attacking bat, sadly missed for most of the season. He always plays his strokes with considerable power, and has played some excellent forcing innings. A good fielder, with a very strong and accurate throw.

I. J. GLENNY (Colours 1956). Essentially a defensive batsman, and not yet willing enough to use his wide range of strokes. He has played one fine innings this season, and will play many more once he adopts the old maxim that attack is often the best means of defence. A much improved fielder, and a safe catch.

R. J. TRENAMAN (Colours 1956). An outstanding left-arm bowler, who has taken 41 wickets this season. An attacking left-hand bat, who scores freely all round the wicket, and who could with a little more concentration convert his usual fifteen into fifty. An excellent and intelligent fielder.

SPINKS, J. C. (Half-Colours 1955). Has developed into an aggressive and very useful opening bat, particularly strong on the leg side, but he must try to be a little more discreet against the slow bowling. An able bowler and a good fielder.

WESTBROOK, B. (Half-Colours 1956). At cover point he has been the steadiest fielder in the side, but his batting has been a little disappointing. He can hit the ball hard, but he is too often out through not putting his foot to the ball, or through loss of concentration.

THISTLEWOOD, A. W. (Half-Colours 1956). A very promising young all-rounder. He is a stylish bat, who is developing some powerful strokes, and he has done particularly well with his skilfully flighted off-breaks. A good fielder, though he could improve his throwing.

PHIPPS, W. J. (Half-Colours 1956). A talented young batsman, who has done well to hold his place in the side throughout the season. He has style and determination, and his strokes are beginning to gain power. He has gained valuable experience and his fielding has been excellent, especially close to the wicket.

PENNEY, P. J. (Half-Colours 1956). An attractive stroke-player, lacking as yet a sound defence, and the ability to concentrate for long enough against sustained accurate bowling. A fine fielder, with an accurate and powerful throw.

EMMETT, D. C. J. (Half-Colours 1956). A much improved fast bowler, who on his day can be very effective. He is still too prone to bowl off the wicket, and must try to cut out his all too frequent no-balls. An improved batsman and fielder, and a very keen player.

HILL, M. R. H. A steady and hard-working opening bowler, who lacks penetration at the moment. He has made himself into a safe fielder, and his batting is improving. He is one of the keenest members of the side in every way.

Also played: Davies, P. G. (4 times); Fitzsimons, P. (3 times).

FIRST XI MATCHES

v. Newbury Grammar School (a). Sat., 12th May. Won.

This was a very satisfactory start to the season, especially with so young and inexperienced a side. Hill and Trenaman bowled particularly accurately, and were well supported in the field. Only Sewter, the Newbury Captain, looked at ease, and the duel between him and Trenaman was most interesting.

The School innings began slowly and disastrously against some accurate opening bowling, and we were 11 for 3 when Bush joined Glenny. These two quickened the rate of scoring with some nicely placed drives, and, needing 80 runs in 60 minutes, they added 76 before Glenny was run out, after a well-judged and fluent innings. Rallings made the winning hit with four minutes to spare, and Bush looking very comfortably set.

Newbury 91 (Sewter 37 :Trenaman 5 for 33).

Abingdon 93 for 4 (Glenny 50: Bush 32 n.o.).

v. King Alfred's School, Wantage (a). Wed., 16th May. Won.

The School batting was a little disappointing, and lacking in enterprise, though Phipps played a sterling innings, and Trenaman was just beginning to hit the ball nicely when the innings was declared closed. The Wantage bowling was steady, but not really hostile, and more advantage might have been taken of the loose balls that were bowled.

Wantage, after a very bad start, showed a fine fighting spirit, and their Captain, Hobbs, batted particularly well. The finish was extremely exciting, though it might have been less so had the School held their catches. With ten minutes to spare, the last wicket fell to a good catch at cover, Westbrook's third of the match.

Abingdon 109 for 7 dec. (Phipps 30).

Wantage 108 (Hobbs 44: Spinks 4 for 29).

v. St. Edward's 2nd XI (h). Wed., 23rd May. Won.

The School were off to a shaky start, but Woodley and Westbrook added 46 for the third wicket and Woodley and Bush 49 for the fourth. Woodley's 57, scored in 65 minutes, was a sound and entertaining innings. When the declaration came, Bush and Rallings were pushing the score along well, in spite of some excellent fielding by the opposition.

St. Edward's started very convincingly, and continued to score freely throughout, even though wickets were falling steadily. Emmett, though somewhat handicapped by a spate of no-balls, bowled consistently and Trenaman proved an admirable foil at the other end.

Abingdon 133 for 4 dec. (Woodley 57; Bush 34 n.o.).

St. Edward's 2nd XI 87 (Emmett 6 for 40; Trenaman 3 for 21).

v. Parents (h). Sat., 26th May. Won.

Runs were difficult to get, and the School did reasonably well to reach three figures against an accurate parental attack, aided by a somewhat eccentric wicket. The Parents fared even worse, mainly at the hands of Trenaman, backed up by really excellent fielding. It was unanimously agreed that next year's match should be played on the Memorial Field.

Abingdon 100 (Mr. Hurd 5 for 26; Major Bush 4 for 41).
Parents 62 (Trenaman 5 for 12).

v. Reading School (a). Wed., 30th May. Lost.

The School batting looked sound but rather slow, and in spite of a good start by Glenny and Westbrook, who put on 49 for the first wicket, and an attractive innings by Woodley, the declaration had to come without enough runs on the board. Reading attacked from the start, but had a couple of catches been held they might well have been in difficulty. As it was they passed our score with two minutes to spare.

Abingdon 126 for 7 dec.
Reading 127 for 7 (Arnold 44).

v. Oratory School (h). Sat., 2nd June. Drawn.

Another bad start again produced a slow rate of scoring, and the middle batsmen had to bear the brunt of the run scoring. Spinks, Trenaman, and in particular Woodley, batted well. A necessarily late declaration set Oratory a race against the clock, and at one stage they looked like achieving victory. Once again Trenaman came to the rescue, and halted their run getting, but they successfully played out time, a difficult chance having been missed off the last ball but one.

Abingdon 107 for 7 dec. (Woodley 54).
Oratory 89 for 9 (Trenaman 4 for 28; Woodley 3 for 26).

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

The B.G.'s brought a very strong side this year, and the School did quite well to dismiss as many of them as they did. It was pleasant to entertain the County Captain, G. R. Langdale, and he batted in his usual enterprising style, as in fact, did most of the opposition. Hill scored a notable triumph when he dismissed an old friend and prolific run-scorer, Cdr. Waites, first ball, and the slow bowlers acquitted themselves well while gaining valuable experience against aggressive batting.

The School, left with plenty of time, failed to find their batting form, in spite of good knocks by Spinks and Trenaman. Their performance was quite good, but the batting appeared to lack real purpose.

Berkshire Gentlemen 190 for 7 dec. (A. A. Hillary 66;
G. R. Langdale 34; Trenaman 3 for 60; Thistlewood 3 for 38).
Abingdon 125 (Spinks 41).

v. City of Oxford High School (a). Sat., 23rd June. Drawn.

This was a disappointing game, because the School twice allowed the opposition batting to dominate the game completely. They went from 21 to 109 before the second wicket fell, and then numbers seven and eight were allowed to add 50 runs in 25 minutes. All credit, though, to the Oxford batsmen for taking their opportunities, and batting with such enterprise.

A bad start was once again redeemed by some sensible batting, but all hope of going for a win was lost because of the need for digging in at a stage when runs should have been coming freely. Westbrook played his best innings of the season and was well supported by Rallings and Trenaman.

City of Oxford High School 187 for 7 dec. (Farr 69: Trenaman 4 for 52).

Abingdon 116 for 6 (Westbrook 39 n.o.).

v. The Masters (h). Sat., 30th June. Won.

The School batted first, and achieved a respectable total, against some moderately inoffensive bowling. Only Mr. Mortimer's left-arm slows appeared to trouble them to any great extent, and Woodley looked like mastering him when he played over a good ball from Mr. Coleman. Spinks and Glenny produced some pleasant strokes in support, and the Masters were faced with a difficult enough task. At one stage they looked like making a very near thing of it, when Messrs. Hillary and Helliwell added 54 for the fifth wicket, but the School side reasserted itself. Once that partnership was broken, things moved rapidly to an inevitable conclusion, in spite of a gallant rear-guard action, in which Mr. Holloway and Mr. Cooper featured. A very pleasant game.

Abingdon 154 for 9 dec. (Woodley 42: Glenny 30: Spinks 28: R. G. Mortimer 5 for 49).

The Masters 123 (A. A. Hillary 81: Trenaman 4 for 28).

v. Abingdon Town (h). Sat., 7th July. Lost.

This was the School's worst batting performance of the season, and was doubly disappointing because they had kept the Town's scoring down to unusually reasonable proportions by good bowling and fielding. F. Nelson was the only batsman to offer noteworthy resistance, and his was a fine innings. For the School, Spinks bowled in most hostile fashion. The School batsmen set about their task with apparent confidence, but it was the old story of not using their feet against slow bowling, and they succumbed with little dignity to bowling that was never really hostile. A valuable lesson, which ones hopes they will remember.

Abingdon Cricket Club 143 for 7 dec. (F. Nelson 74 n.o.: Spinks 4 for 54).

Abingdon School 79 (G. Harcourt 5 for 40).

v. R.G.S., High Wycombe (a). Wed., 18th July. Lost

The game was curtailed by very heavy rain after the first over had been bowled. In fact, we were extremely lucky to have any cricket at all. It was very difficult for both batsmen and bowlers to stand up, and the handicap of a wet ball proved too much for the School bowlers. This does not detract from the enterprising and calm batting of the High Wycombe players. Set a very fair target, but with the ball now perhaps a little drier for the bowlers, the School started well, and had 37 on the board for no wickets within 17 minutes. From then on, however, disaster followed disaster, and, obsessed with the idea that runs must be scored quickly, the rest of the side committed suicide. Their intentions were honourable, but they adopted a rather unintelligent method of attempting to carry them out. High Wycombe must, of course, share the credit, and they bowled and fielded well, but their task was made a little easy for them.

R.G.S. High Wycombe 110 for 3 dec.

Abingdon 77 (Briden 7 for 28).

v. Old Abingdonians (h). Sat., 21st July. Won.

For the first time for many years, a full day's cricket was possible, and a very enjoyable day it proved to be. The Old Boys' first innings rested on the fourth wicket partnership of N. A. Carter and B. C. Jakeman. Thistlewood bowled very accurately and varied his flight most successfully. The School easily passed the Old Boys' total, and Woodley and Bush both played very attractive cricket, but they failed to take the fullest advantage of their opportunity to pile on the runs.

In the second innings the Old Boys were again outed very cheaply, and the School only had to make 45 to achieve victory. This they did, rather laboriously, for the loss of five wickets, and while they certainly kept the game alive until almost the last minute, they might well have won more convincingly. Woodley was again, appropriately enough, the architect of victory, and this was a fitting conclusion to an encouraging season.

Old Abingdonians 93 (Jakeman 30: Thistlewood 4 for 42) and 87.

Abingdon 137 (Woodley 55: Spinks 29: Bush 21: B. A. Whiteford 5 for 31) and 45 for 5.

SECOND XI

Final team: Wastie (capt.), Emmett, Davies, P. G., Fitzsimons, Morris, Kennedy, Howard, J. A., Dimond, Wond, Woodward and Candy.

Also played: Simpson, Walker, Anderson.

Match Results (our scores first)

- v. Newbury Grammar School (h). Drawn. 57 for 4; 117 for 7 dec.
- v. Radley College 3rd XI (a). Lost. 41; 43 for 1.
- v. Reading School "B" (h). Won. 52 for 2; 51.
- v. King Alfred's School, Wantage (a). Won. 130 for 4 dec; 76.
- v. City of Oxford School (a). Won. 128; 47.
- v. R.G.S., High Wycombe (a). Lost. 43; 44 for 3.

UNDER 16 XI

Final team: Anderson (capt.), Ford, Longworth, Baldwin, Peedell, Smith, R. B., Hamilton, Campbell, Tuck, Utin and Perry.

Also played: Yarkoff, Rhys, Morgan, T. I., Neilan, Nurton, Stanley, Wyatt.

Match Results

- ("A" XI) v. Newbury Grammar School (h). Lost. 95; 96 for 3.
- v. City of Oxford School (h). Won. 103 for 7; 100.
- v. Oxford Schools' Cricket Association (h). Lost. 48; 150 for 5
- v. St. Edward's School (a). Lost. 51; 153 for 4 dec. [dec.
- v. Reading School (a). Drawn. 134 for 9 dec., 82 for 6.
- v. Oratory School (a). Drawn. 131 for 4; 152 for 8 dec.
- v. Bloxham School (h). Drawn. 35 for 9; 79.
- (Under 15 XI) v. Leighton Park School (h). Won. 113; 53.

UNDER 14 XI

Final team: Neilan (capt.), Cross, Nurton, M. D. Goodwin, Bingham, Evans, D. R. M., Whitton, Ganf, Riddick, Parker and Gosling.

Also played: Houghton, Nelson, Crockford, Merriman; (only for the "A" XI) Bampton, R. J. C., Martin, I. A. D., Brice, Weir, Rosevear, Veysey.

Match Results

- v. Newbury Grammar School (a). Lost. 56; 58 for 4.
- v. St. Edward's School (h). Lost. 40; 214 for 7 dec.
- v. Radley College (a). Lost. 100 for 3 dec.; 103 for 6.
- v. City of Oxford School (h). Won. 95 for 9 dec.; 94.
- v. Bloxham School (h). Lost. 88; 89 for 7.
- "A" XI v. Colonel Bryceson's (h). Won. 105 for 4 dec.; 60.

S.C.W.

As a postscript to the Cricket Notes it may be added that S. C. Woodley played three times for the Oxfordshire Colts during the holidays, scoring in all 98 runs in low-scoring games,

ROWING

Despite the fact that the Boat Club has not won any 'pots' this year, the season has been satisfactory and indeed stimulating. Numbers have again increased, and there was keen competition for places in the racing crews. The chief difficulties are caused by lack of weight and the comparative youth of aspirants for the 1st IV, deficiencies which should solve themselves next year. There was some extremely good racing, and the 2nd and 3rd IV's were faster than we have seen for some years.

The most important development, and one which will delight the hearts of all O.A.'s, is that we now have two eights, a clinker and a shell, presented anonymously by Old Boys. These will be a tremendous help as practice boats and we hope next year to enter an eight experimentally at a regatta or two. A trial crew has already shown considerable promise.

As always our especial thanks must be expressed to John Bury, O.A., for helping us in so many ways: his cheerful enthusiasm and generosity encourage crews and coaches alike. Our anonymous benefactors we shall endeavour to thank by deeds since we cannot tell them personally of our gratitude.

Finally a word of appreciation to our opponents for the excellent racing we have enjoyed this season both privately and in regattas, and our congratulations to our old friends of King's School, Worcester, whose splendid crew won the Public Schools' Fours at Marlow, their third victory since the war.

Crews

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
M. R. S. Broadway	A. J. Foden	B. E. Stacey	G. E. G. Brown
R. J. Paige	J. H. Thewlis	I. A. Oliver	M. R. Dawn
J. M. Iredale	R. K. Le Voi	C. K. D. Cobléy	N. A. J. Antrobus
B. L. Smith	D. J. Meakins	A. J. Costley	A. T. Aitchison
M. G. Chambers	N. W. Pridham	R. G. Havelock	K. A. Clark

W. St. A. R. Dady, one of our best oarsmen, unfortunately had to withdraw from the 1st IV very early in the term owing to injury.

FIRST IV CHARACTERS

Bow. M. R. S. BROADWAY. (Secretary. Colours 1956). He has been a consistently neat and hard-working oarsman, although his lack of weight has told on him sometimes towards the finish of a race. A very efficient and helpful Secretary.

2. R. J. PAIGE. (Colours 1956). A cheerful and reliable oarsman who made up for lack of weight with skilful rowing and an indomitable spirit.

3. J. M. IREDALE (Colours 1956). A powerful and much improved oarsman who backed up Stroke well despite the occasional loss of self-confidence.

Stroke. B. L. SMITH. (Captain. Colours 1956). A powerful oarsman who gradually improved a rather clumsy style. He showed good judgement as Stroke and drove himself and the crew hard. As Captain of Boats he has done much to foster the enthusiasm of the juniors.

Cox. M. G. CHAMBERS. (Colours 1955 and 1956). His steering was much improved, and his cheerfulness and experience were a great help to the crew.

FIRST IV RACES

May 9th v. Culham College (h). Won easily. 3 mins. 17.6 secs.

Conditions were bad, with rain and a strong cross-wind.

May 12th v. Prince Henry's G.S., Evesham (a). Won by 1 length.

Conditions were not very good. The School went ahead early in the race and held their lead to the finish. In this race A. J. Foden rowed at 'Bow' and M. R. S. Broadway at '3'.

May 19th v. Sir William Borlase's School, Marlow (h). Won by 3ft. 3 mins. 26.7 secs.

An exciting race in good conditions. The crew had not settled down at this stage after reorganisation.

May 21st. Whit Monday. Reading Clinker Regatta. Public Schools' Fours.

Conditions were good, with hot sunshine and little wind. Pleasure craft unfortunately added much to the hazards of the Course despite the efforts of the officials.

The first race was against Reading Bluecoat School whom we defeated easily.

In the second race the School were leading Reading School by a length when the latter unfortunately were obstructed.

In the final the School were defeated by Pangbourne Nautical College by a length.

May 30th v. Reading School (h). Lost by 3 ft. 3 mins. 27 secs.

Despite a lead of almost a length at the half distance, the School were passed when Reading put in a very powerful spurt at the end of the course. Conditions were good.

June 2nd v. King's School, Worcester (a). Lost by 4 lengths.

The School rowed steadily, but were no match for their heavier and more polished opponents.

June 9th. Wallingford Regatta. Junior Fours.

The School were defeated in the first heat by the Queen's College, Oxford, by 4 lengths. The College went on to win the event.

June 16th v. O.A.'s. Won by 3 lengths.

The race was rowed downstream over the long course. The School rowed well against gallant opposition.

June 27th. Marlow Regatta. Public Schools' Fours.

The race was rowed against King's School, Gloucester and Eastbourne College.

The School lost to Eastbourne by 4 feet after a very strenuous race in which the lead changed hands several times. King's School were third.

SECOND FOUR RACES

- v. Prince Henry's G.S. (a). Won by a canvas.
- v. Sir William Borlase's (h). Won by 2 lengths. 3 mins. 29.6 secs.
- v. Reading School (h). Won by $\frac{3}{4}$ length. 3 mins. 29.4 secs.
- v. King's School, Worcester (a). Lost by 3 lengths after an obstruction.
- v. O.A.'s. Won by 3 lengths.

Reading Clinker Regatta. Maiden Fours.

- Race 1 v. Reading University. Won by a canvas.
- Race 2 v. Reading School. Lost by $\frac{1}{2}$ length.

Wallingford Regatta. Maiden Fours.

- Race 1 v. Wallingford R.C. Lost by 2 lengths.
- Wallingford R.C. went on to win the event.

THIRD FOUR RACES

- v. Sir William Borlase's (h). Won by 2 lengths. 3 mins. 39 secs.
 - v. Reading School (h). Won by 4 lengths. 3 mins. 29.6 secs.
 - v. King's School Worcester (a). Lost by $\frac{1}{2}$ length.
- A heavy and powerful crew who rowed with great determination.

FOURTH FOUR RACES

- v. Reading School. Won by $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths. 3 mins. 41 secs.
 - v. King's School, Worcester. Lost by $1\frac{1}{4}$ lengths.
- A heavy though clumsy crew, full of enthusiasm.

Boat Club Regatta

This was held on Wednesday, 18th July, having been postponed on the 16th owing to heavy rain, on Wilsham Reach,

Senior House Fours. The Bennett Cup.

Bennett beat Tesdale by a canvas.

Day Boys and Boarders. The Pierpoint Cup.

The Day Boys won by a canvas.

Junior Pairs. The Morrell Cup.

Bennett beat Reeves.

Senior Sculls. The Mayor's Trophy.

B. L. Smith beat G. E. G. Brown by 4 lengths.

The prizes were distributed by Miss Bedingfield to whom the Club offers its thanks and best wishes.

R.G.M.

TENNIS

This has been an enjoyable, though experimental, year, and most of our matches have been very close. It was unfortunate that our third pair were too often outclassed, although they steadily improved and finished well by beating all 3 pairs of the O.A. team.

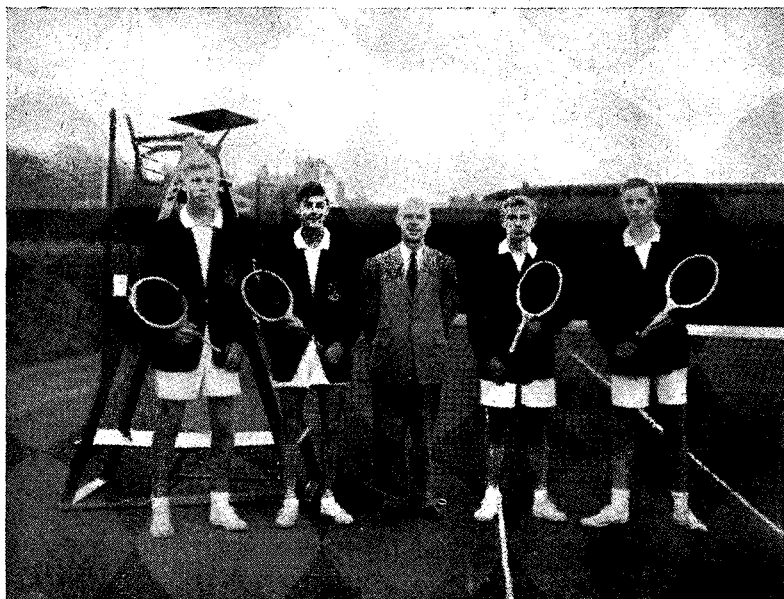
We again played in the Youll Cup, a report of which appears hereafter, and also for the first time in the Glanvill Cup, where we defeated Pangbourne Nautical College but lost to Reading School.

The courts, especially the North one, have played well and it has been a pleasure to play on grass in the fine weather. The hard court is still a great "stand by", and we are pleased to hear that it is to receive extensive renovation.

We are again very grateful to Mr. R. J. Lay of Radley College for his coaching and we are sure that his Thursday afternoon visits have benefitted many of our sixteen full-time players.

This year we received a record number of entries for the Buckley Cup, 40 in all. The eight seeds were held over to the 3rd round, where two of them lost, but eventually the top four seeds reached the Semi-finals. In the final S. C. Woodley beat A. J. Gardner 8—6, 6—1.

Finally we warmly congratulate Norman and Trenaman (I. W.) on the award of their Colours; and Norman and Buckland on their election as next year's captain and secretary respectively.



Wimbledon, 1956

TENNIS CHARACTERS

A. J. GARDNER (Captain, Colours 1955). As captain he has taken a keen interest in the juniors and has done much to encourage the game. As a player he still lacks a good drive on either wing; but his deep lobs, placed smashes, miraculous returns and lion-hearted determination have often carried the day.

(H.M.G.)

WOODLEY, S. C. Cricketer, badminton player and Youll Cup tennis player par excellence! Thank you, Stephen!

C. S. WOODRUFF (Secretary, Colours 1955). A steady player who has been particularly useful as a doubles partner (playing with Trenaman). His ground strokes and placing are much better but his volleying still lacks the all-important punch. His serving improved throughout the season, and was at its best in the Youll Cup.

(H.M.G.)

N. G. C. NORMAN (Colours 1956). A very powerful player who needs to be rather more thoughtful and less impetuous. He must concentrate on placing as well as hard hitting, and also needs to master

the technique of the smash. A strong service; but he must follow it up to the net. His many winning strokes, for instance his forceful forehand drive and backhand volley, could enable him to reach a very high standard in lawn tennis, as his excellent play in the Youll Cup showed.

L. W. TRENAMAN (Colours 1956). A keen and cheerful player who tries hard. Has a strong forehand, but needs to keep the racket head up to develop a more powerful stroke. His unusual service is sometimes good, but would improve if it were to be made more orthodox. His volleying has improved, but his backhand has often proved a weakness.

WATKISS, P.M. The most improved member of the side, whose keenness has helped him to develop some excellent net play. For his ground strokes he must not stand so square to the net, and needs more top-spin on his drives. With his enthusiasm and obvious enjoyment of the game he is likely to become a useful player.

BUCKLAND, J. T. Has a fast first service and his ground strokes can be very hard and well placed, but he must learn to keep his racket head up in order to prevent the spoon shot which so often lets him down. With a tighter grip and neater footwork his net-play will improve. Teaming with Watkiss as third pair he has played some hard and well-fought matches.

Also played (two matches): P. M. D. Gray.

Match Results

16th May v. Magdalen College School (a). Lost 2—7.

19th May (Glanvill Cup) v. Pangbourne Nautical College (a).
Won 2—1.

19th May (Glanvill Cup) v. Reading School (a). Lost 1—2.

23rd May v. Radley College (a). Lost 2—5.

30th May v. Reading School (a). Lost 4—5.

2nd June v. Berkhamsted School (h). Lost 3—6.

30th June v. Pangbourne Nautical College (h). Won 5—4.

7th July v. Leighton Park School (h). Lost 4—5.

18th July v. R.G.S., High Wycombe (a). Draw 4—4.

21st July v. Old Abingdonians (h). Won 9—0.

2nd/Junior VI

One fixture was arranged, against Magdalen College School, and although we lost $3\frac{1}{2}$ — $5\frac{1}{2}$ it proved very enjoyable and a worthwhile introduction to match play for next season's "possibles". The team was: 1st pair: P. M. Watkiss and P. M. D. Gray; 2nd pair: I. J. Kirby and T. P. N. Greader; 3rd pair: P. E. Perry and S. M. Womar.

A.J.G.

Youll Cup Competition

This year we were without John Nichols and our expectations were very modest. In the event our four players rose wonderfully to the occasion and produced the best tennis seen this term—apparently drawing inspiration from the Wimbledon atmosphere.

Notable achievements were firstly the defeat of Cheltenham's 1st pair by our 2nd pair, which involved a long struggle only clinched after 7 set points in the 2nd set; and 4 match points in the 3rd set. Secondly the defeat of the Felsted 1st pair by our 1st pair; this being the very same Felsted pair that had proved too strong for Nichols and Woodley last year (Nichols then retrieved the situation by winning his single). In the quarter final against Eastbourne scores were level; so Woodley had to play a single, which he won convincingly 6—0; 6—4. Thus for the second year running—this time out of a field of 65 Public Schools—we reached the semi-final.

Summary of results and some selected scores:

- v. King's Bruton, Won 3—0.
- v. Cheltenham, won 3—1.
- v. Felsted, won 3—0.
- v. Eastbourne, won 2—1.
- v. Westminster (semi-final), lost 1—3.

Final—Westminster beat Stowe 3—2.

Abingdon 1st pair v. Cheltenham 1st pair, won 5—7, 6—1, 6—2.

Abingdon 2nd pair v. Cheltenham 1st pair, won 2—6, 9—7, 7—5.

Abingdon 1st pair v. Felsted 1st pair, won 7—5, 2—6, 6—4.

Abingdon 2nd pair v. Eastbourne 2nd pair, won 9—7, 6—3.

Abingdon 2nd pair v. Westminster 2nd pair, won 3—6, 6—4, 6—4.

Our team: A. J. Gardner (Capt.), N. G. C. Norman, C. S. Woodruff, S. C. Woodley. Woodley and Woodruff played as 1st pair in the first two matches; Woodley and Norman in the remaining matches.

H.M.G.

SWIMMING

Swimming continued throughout the Summer Term, unhindered by the bad weather. The Term saw an increase in life-saving activity, and at the tests held in Oxford we gained 6 Bronze Medallions and 1 Bronze Cross. But outstanding was the achievement of C. J. D. Wray, who gained a distinction on his Silver Medallion. We were fortunate in the weather for the Swimming sports, which were again held at the Municipal Pool. These occurred on 25th July, a momentary interlude in the rush of Founder's Day Celebrations. Individually, Kibble must be congratulated on some splendid swimming, and, more generally, Tesdale on again winning the Green Cup. We should like to thank Miss Bedingfield for presenting the prizes.

The results were:

House points: Tesdale 53; Reeves 44; Bennett 19; Blacknall 14.

Open free-style, 10 lengths (Record: Becker, 1955—4 mins. 22.6 secs.):

1. Kibble; 2. Becker; 3. Foden. 3 mins. 51 secs. (new record).

Open free-style, 4 lengths (Record: Scott-Taggart, 1954—1 min. 20.1 secs.):

1. Kibble; 2. Kandiah; 3. Harrington. 1 min. 17 secs. (new record).

Open breast-stroke, 10 lengths (Record: Smith, P. A. 1955—4 mins. 22.9 secs.):

1. Smith, P. A.; 2. Wray; 3. Foden. 4 mins. 23.2 secs.

Open breast-stroke, 4 lengths (Record: Scott-Taggart, 1954—1 min. 32.6 secs.):

1. Clark; 2. Wray, 3. Le Voi. 1 min. 33.4 secs.).

Open back-stroke, 4 lengths (Record: Scott-Taggart, 1955—1 min. 45 secs.):

1. Smith, B. L.; 2. Becker; 3. Gray. 1 min. 43.6 secs. (new record).

Open diving:

1. Scott-Taggart, M. J., 2. Wray, 3. Kibble.

Obstacle Race:

1. equal Kempinski, Gardner, A. J., Saywell.

Under 16 free-style, 4 lengths (Record: Kibble, 1955—1 min. 24.2 secs.):

1. Kingston; 2. Scragg, 3. Wyatt. 1 min. 28.1 secs.

Under 16 breast-stroke, 4 lengths (Record: Clark, 1955—1 min. 37.9 secs.):

1. Dillabough; 2. Dawn; 3. Wyatt. 1 min. 42.5 secs.

Under 16 back-stroke, 2 lengths (Record: Smith, B. L., 1953—47 secs.):

1. Kingston; 2. Dawn; 3. Rhys. 52 secs.

Under 14 free-style, 2 lengths (Record: Kingston, 1954—38.3 secs.):

1. Rosevear; 2. Dalton; 3. Houghton. 45.8 secs.

Under 14 breast-stroke, 2 lengths (Record: Smith, P. A., 1953—51.6 secs.):

1. Ganf, 2. Moss; 3. Pollard. 54.4 secs.

Beginners' Race:

1. Cable; 2. Carter; 3. Ellaway.

Junior Relay:

1. Reeves; 2. Tesdale; 3. Bennett.

Senior Relay:

1. Reeves; 2. Tesdale; 3. Bennett.

M.J.S.-T.

THE QUATERCENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The Fourth Centenary celebrations inaugurated in May to commemorate the granting in 1556 of the first Charter to the Borough of Abingdon, were already in full swing at the close of the Summer Term. In retrospect, it is pleasing to note how considerable a part the School played during the term in the festivities.

Activities began, so far as we were concerned, with a Scouts' Week. A Camp and Rally was held in the Abbey Meadow and a Gang Show presented in the Corn Exchange on 2nd June. The School Troop as well as a number of our boys whose scouting is done with local troops took part in this most successful venture which was in no way marred by rain on the Sunday and the partially cooked potatoes alleged to have been eaten by the School scouts. Next by way of variety came the Schools' Country Dancing, held in the Abbey Grounds on the evening of Thursday, 7th June. In this, we had some ten boys who joined with an equal number of girls from St. Helen's School to give a very good display which they enjoyed as much as the spectators.

Perhaps our most spectacular contribution was in the Historical Procession and Pageant on Saturday, 9th June. Against the carefully prepared setting in the Albert Park, we mimed the refoundation of the

School by John Royse in 1563; and Thomas Godwyn, 17th century headmaster, composing his famous Roman History in 1614. Next came an Inter-Schools' Sports Meeting on the evening of 28th June. This was an excellent device for bringing all local schools, whatever their grading, into athletic competition. Our own Waste Court Field was turned into an admirable sports arena and despite the threat of rain a very enjoyable meeting was held. We ourselves were mainly concerned with competing against Radley College in the senior events. Honours were fairly even but perhaps it is worth recording M. J. Scott-Taggart's win in the 100 yards and 440 yards and Kempinski's in the 220 yards.

There followed two further events for which the School provided hospitality. A Sunday cricket match between the Mayor's Eleven and Abingdon Cricket Club was played on 1st July on the War Memorial Field, whilst on the evening on 5th July, the Royal Berkshire Regiment carried out the old and interesting ceremony of Beating the Retreat on Lower Field. Two days later, on 7th July, a Veteran Car Club Rally in the Albert Park surrounded the School grounds with a collection of gaily coloured and remarkably efficient automobiles from bygone days. The allegation that certain cars belonging to the Staff were on parade is, however, quite untrue.

And finally, after the end of term, Abingdon Cricket Week was again held on Upper Field and attracted large number of Borough citizens.

A glance at the official programme would seem to indicate that the Michaelmas Term will be as full and interesting, although we do not anticipate that it will make quite so many demands upon the School.

EXCURSION DAY

Tuesday, 24th July saw the whole School scattered to the four corners of the immediate kingdom. Over twenty different parties went out on schemes as varied as a "30 hour initiative test" and a walk along the Ridgeway.

London was visited by several groups: some of the middle school saw the beauties of Hampton Court, others the Palace of Westminster; while some seniors watched 'The Times' being put into print and revelled in reading tomorrow's issue, others tried to unravel the intricacies of a T. S. Eliot play. Outside the metropolis, chocolate making near Bristol and biscuit making at Reading not only interested the mind but tickled the palate also. A small party visited Eton and were regally entertained by Major Buckley.

Locally, visits were made to Blenheim Palace and Dorchester Abbey and to several Public Utility Services. A tour of a farm had several budding farmers fascinated by the latest mechanical methods and gadgets.

The 'initiative test' for a dozen pairs of selected boys perhaps deserves less summary treatment. Briefly the idea was that each pair set off at 1.30 p.m. on Monday, 23rd July, with instructions to achieve some specified objective, and produce a log of their journey, by the evening of the following day. The objective might be the signature of somebody living as far afield as Exeter or Stamford, or it might be something rather more tangible such as a real Bakewell tart (from Bakewell) or a stick of seaside rock from each of two resorts in two different counties. Some of the objectives were rather more subtle. To produce two bottles of water from two different rivers Avon (or is it River Avons?) called for—and got—some nice map-work beforehand. It was the water-carriers, Buckland and Wastie, who won the first prize: they arrived home as early as 6.40 on the Tuesday morning. Perhaps the trickiest of all objectives was a current tram ticket, but Older and Emmett triumphantly produced this (from a Liverpool late night tram) by 9.15 a.m.

There were of course some obvious rules of the game (expenditure limited to 2s. 6d., no train jumping, no breaking of the law of the land, no cadging for food, no family motor-cars, and so on). There was, too, a certain element of risk attached to the whole thing. But it was a risk that both parents and School thought was worth taking, and in the event the experiment was an outstanding success. The boys enjoyed what in many cases must have been an incredibly uncomfortable night. Some of them may have learned as a result how to look after themselves a little better.

A very limited number of copies of the official 'write-up' of the exercise is available on application to the Headmaster.

It only remains to thank all those whose kind co-operation helped to make these trips possible—from those who gave up valuable time to conduct parties around, to those strangers who helped boys along the road with lifts in their cars.

M.N.W.

COMBINED CADET FORCE

The term has included all the traditional features, the first being Field Day on Tuesday, 13th May. In the Summer the day is a field one only for the recruits, and for some specialists: for the remainder, the time is used in country more tactical than is available "at home", for a last revision prior to examinations for Cert. A and R.A. Classification. The value of this training was again shown in the Cert. A results: 100% passes (64) in Part 1 and 47 out of 50 in Part 2. The Examining Board was provided entirely by the 1st Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regt. We may well feel that their judgement of us was sound, and take credit for such good results. At the same time it must be recognised that there is still an element of the freakish in the decisions of some Boards: two of

our failures, who were very near the pass mark, had a further attempt six weeks later with another School. They failed again, and so did a majority of the "home" candidates. Our self-congratulations, then, needs to be tempered with thankfulness that things went well for us.

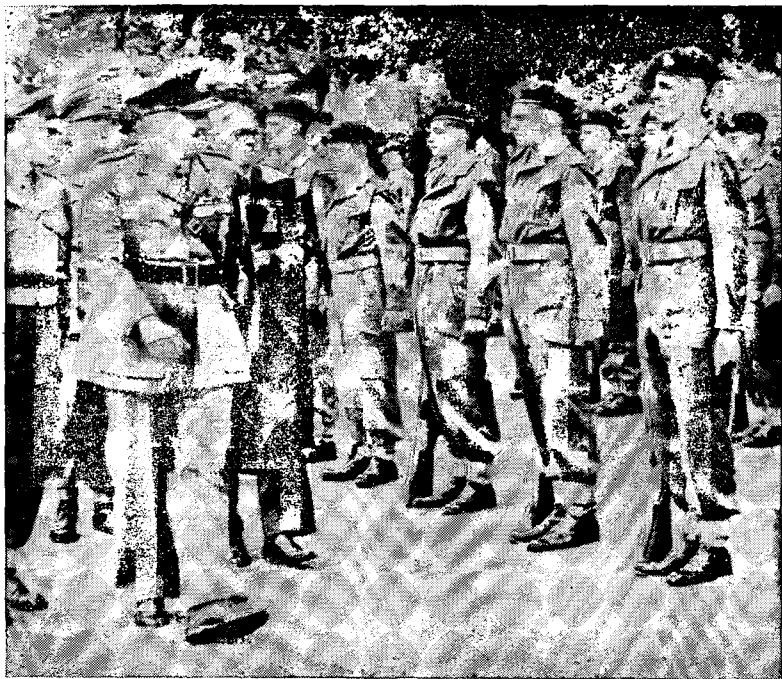
A second point arises from our results: though more than 100 Cadets passed, only one reached the high distinction mark of 85%, and this in Part I. Below this level, there is only the Pass mark. As a result there is nothing to distinguish the "good 2nd class Honours" Cadet from the one who only just reached the pass mark. The disparity is often considerable, and it is felt that an intermediate grading in the Cert. A exam. would serve to mark this difference.

The R.A. Section, in their quite severe tests, had a satisfactory day, 8 passing Part I, 5 Part 2.

Summer 1956 has (to date in mid-August) produced, we think, two brief spells of hot weather—the first at the end of May, when the Parade and March Past on Empire Youth Sunday took place in hot sunshine such as we now recall with wistfulness. Our band this year played "second fiddle" to the larger one from Radley, but we had the satisfaction of marching behind it on the way to the Church. Our contingent lived up well to our reputation for smart turn-out and good marching on these parades.

The second heat-wave also came to bless a Corps occasion—the visit to Bisley for the Ashburton and other competitions. Alas, we failed—at any rate, collectively—to express our gratitude in the tangible form of the reasonable score that lay within our capacity. Our total of 469 was nearly 20 points lower than the one we might have made; it was, also, our lowest to date at Bisley. It does seem that we shall not do ourselves justice until an VIII can be found who will master their nerves on the 200 yards firing point. Every year this has been our undoing; a limited recovery at 500 yards brings only cold comfort. Happily there were two good individual performances, by C.Q.M.S. Hiles of the VIII, who scored 65, and by Ford in the Cadet Pair, who registered 66. Thus, for the first time, we had two boys in the Schools' Hundred placed respectively 55th and 45th. Our warm congratulations to them provoke inevitably the reflection that, if a Cadet of 14, a shottist of 2 months' experience, can register 34 at his first attempt at Bisley, and in the opening shoot of the day, it is pitiful indeed to see others, more experienced, and with at least one Bisley behind them, register 26's—and worse!

For the Annual Inspection, too, the weather was kind. Not indeed hot, but for this we were grateful enough: the torrid heat last year made the occasion somewhat exacting. The parade was held on Friday,



20th July. It was taken by Major General Sir John Winterton, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.B.E., who was accompanied by Lt.-Col. W. A. Seymour, R.E., O.C. School of Military Survey, Lt.-Col. T. H. Knapp, O.C. O.U.O.T.C., Commander P. A. Crow, V.R.D., R.N.V.R., who conducted the detailed inspection of the R.N Section, and Major G. B. Whitworth, K.O.Y.L.I., G3 Cadets at Salisbury Plain District. Sqd.-Ldr. Cruikshank, O.B.E., M.A., R.A.F., O.C. Joint School of Photo Interpretation, was unfortunately unable to attend. The ceremonial inspection and March Past were well up to the standard of recent years; and General Winterton, in his speech after the parade, congratulated all ranks on their turn-out and bearing. Over the last few years, money has been spent in equipping the Band with adequate instruments; this year, for the first time, we were able to spend some (or rather, a considerable amount!) on their dress. There was a sense of property, as well as pride, in the Drum-Major's bold and skilful handling of his new Mace. As a result, it took the eye besides providing marching music, and earned special commendation from the General. On the training side, we had this year to forego some colour: the Navy has ceased to be waterborne, as its whaler is no longer river-worthy; and the R.E. Section, because the necessary equipment could not be

secured, were unable to display their skill at launching a tracked raft on the river. Instead, they constructed an aerial ropeway—less spectacular, but equally valuable training. The R.A. Section put on a comprehensive show of their activities, including a miniature range on which much work had been done by Sgt. Fysh. The more basic training for Cert. A was carried out competently; the General was particularly impressed by the practical nature of this, and by the competence of the N.C.O. instructors. Another good show . . .

For the lucky few, term ended with two colourful events—a visit to the private grounds of Windsor Castle, where the Queen, who also spoke to Sgt. Nichol, presented new colours to the 1st Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regt., and a visit to Sandhurst, where Princess Margaret took the Sovereign's Parade.

Once more we offer humble and hearty thanks to those helpers from outside—mentioned already in these Notes—with whose assistance our Specialist training would indeed be hampered; and particularly, at this moment of looking-forward to a new term, to Col. Knapp, whose promise of regular assistance will enable us to revive the Signal Section, this time on a firm footing. J.S.P.I., it may be, will be unable to give further instruction in P.I. We shall miss this unique addition to our specialist training, but we fully appreciate the difficulties, and we are most grateful to Sqdn.-Ldr. Cruikshank and to his staff for all their help.

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

to be Under-Officer: C.S.M. McLouglin, I.L.

to be C.Q.M.S. (Valedictory): Sgt. Hiles, C., Sgt. Gardner, A. J.

to be L/Sgt.: Bdr, Fysh, P. J. A., Cpl. Woodruff, C. S.

to be Cpl.: L/Cpl. Stevens, W. N. R.

to be Bdr.: L/Bdr. Westbrook, B.

CAMP, 1956

A contingent of 5 officers and 68 O.R.'s attended Camp at Bulford Fields, on Salisbury Plain, from 31st July to 8th August. The figure of 68 was low by recent standards. Our Camping strength in 1955 was 102, and this year recruiting was, frankly, disappointing. At one stage, we could muster only 50 odd. The Bush Telegraph reports that the thought of the Plain was a deterrent—"mile upon mile of nothing". In fact, this was far from being the case. The Camp is sited within a mile of Bulford Garrison, and a capacious cinema which put on a show of quite fantastic length is within easy walking distance. There was too an excellent brick-built N.A.A.F.I. in the Camp itself, where egg and chips cost 11d. only. The town of Amesbury is only 3 miles

away. In the event, such were the attractions that lay within easy reach, that the buses which had been laid on for recreational trips to Salisbury were only moderately patronised. The time will come (though not in '57!) when we shall go to Bulford Fields again, and these facts are recorded so that no-one, in '58 or later, shall again be put off by mention of the Plain . . .

The success of any Camp depends on three factors: food, weather, and the effectiveness of arrangements for training. As regards the first the Cadets did very well for quality and quantity were alike excellent. A happy circumstance, in a Camp which was otherwise beset by difficulties.

Weather was bad, in that for much of the time it was wet intermittently and cold continuously. But here again we were lucky. Except on the first day, when a policy of masterly inactivity followed by training films kept all but the officers dry, we had no soaking on training. Twice we were back in Camp only a few minutes before the heavens opened. And, at Bulford, when they open, they do open, and no mistake.

On the training side, Bulford '56 will go down in Corps history as Nasser's Camp. All the usual 'frills' had been planned by our original sponsor unit, the 1st Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regt., including a demonstration of a Coy. in attack, but as it happened the Duke's were taken away from us, in the course of that very wet first day, and replaced by 39th Heavy Regt., R.A. Nor was this an end of the difficulties: there were changes almost continuously among the Gunner personnel, and most of the Young Officers attached to the Camp, including our own, were posted to Cyprus over the week-end. The outcome of all this was that all plans on the training side had to be abandoned; for the first time we saw no demonstrations, other than Ambassador V, given on the first day by the School of Artillery at Larkhill. The new recruits to Camp—the bulk of our Contingent—were probably happy enough, as they knew not what they were missing; for the old hands, however, it was a definite lack—not to be blamed on the 39th, but on Col. Nasser!

We managed to get in rather more shooting than is usual at Camp, by sacrificing the Night Op. to an extra afternoon on the range. The rifles taken to Camp all belonged to the recent "issue", and dated back to World War I. That there was nothing wrong with some of them at any rate was amply shown when a certain young shottist—who shall be nameless!—registered a possible at his first shoot. All ranks, recruits included, had at the least a useful "blooding" with 303. All available ammunition was exhausted, and some valuable pointers gained for the future.

The testing time between Reveille and first parade seemed this year to be less of a test than usually. To this happy circumstance, several factors contributed: because parades were not laid on by higher authority, there was not the usual tearing rush: because kits were laid out inside tents, there was not the usual "excitement" over lengths of string and straight lines for the lay-out: because tent commanders got on with the job, there was little delay, in spite of some queuing for breakfast: because, we think, U.O. McLoughlin was keeping a watchful and persistent eye on things, all went well.

Nasser's Camp, then, had its troubles, but these we believe were largely unnoticed by the rank and file, who contrived to get much pleasure out of it. Let this be an encouragement to all those who this year fancied that Camp was a poor "do".

A contingent of 13 O.R.'s, under Bdr. Westbrook, also attended R.A. Camp at the School of Artillery. Billeted in Officers' quarters, they lived like lords by comparison with the rest of us; but much serious training was done also, leading up to practice in firing the guns and in OP work. This Specialist Camp is an excellent thing, and one hopes that comparable arrangements for R.E. Sections may be made within a year or so.

S.C.P.

R.N. Section

After the Certificate "A" results at the beginning of term we received more candidates for membership than the Section could absorb, and we were reluctantly compelled to turn some of them down. From the R.N. point of view, this is a very healthy position, as not only will the standard required of new entries be higher, but competition for the higher rates will be keener, and the result should be a general raising of standards all round.

Field Day was spent at Chatham, where we spent an interesting, though all too short, day looking at the Anti-submarine and Diving departments.

Our good friend Commander P. A. Crow was the naval representative on the panel of Inspecting Officers, when the contingent was inspected by Major General Sir John Winterton, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E. The section acquitted itself well on this occasion, though perhaps the marching was not quite up to the highest standards. As usual, the instruction after the march past was carried out by senior cadets, and, all deserve commendation for the way it was done. It was particularly pleasant to see the model harbour, constructed under the guidance of S/Lt. Cooper, in use.

It is rather sad to record that the whaler has finally been condemned as unfit for further water service, and has now been removed from the river to a temporary home in Waste Court Field. It will continue to be used as a dry land boat for instructional purposes.

Several members of the Section are going on various courses during the holidays, though others have been disappointed in not being able to go. Their turn will come, as long as they persevere in making applications.

We bade farewell to several experienced and valued members at the end of term, among them P. O. Langton, the senior cadet, who has given much valuable service during his term of office. We wish them all good fortune for the future.

Summer Camp

For our annual training this year we went to H.M.S. Raleigh at Torpoint—the first time we have ever been to a shore station, or "stone frigate". It proved to be quite up to the usual standard of interest, and we had a most enjoyable week. Several visits had been arranged for us to nearby establishments, where we saw guns firing at an aircraft, Asdics and Anti-submarine weapons. The sailing picnic arranged for the weekend was slightly marred by the fact that the wind was light and variable on the way out to Pier Cellars, so that it took us a very long time to reach our destination, and that on the way back next day there was so little wind that we had to pull most of the way, quite a lot of the time in pouring rain. The final item in the week was an assault course in which a certain amount of amusement was caused by attempts to cross a stream by a rope. All crossed successfully, one or two arrived rather damper than they started. We are very grateful to the Captain and those responsible for the programme for the very smooth way in which everything was carried out.

It is rather a pity to have to say that the second week's training which five cadets were to have spent at Harwich had to be cancelled.

L.C.J.G.

SCOUTS

Field day this term broke away from precedent by being held on a Saturday. This was to coincide with the Local Association's camp held in Abbey Meadow as the Scouts' part in the Quater-centenary celebrations. We achieved notoriety as the only Troop to have potatoes for tea.

Summer camp was sited at Wooburn Green, Buckinghamshire. Despite a good deal of rain and wind, a most enjoyable camp was held, and, bearing in mind the conditions, the standard of cooking was high.

Much training was accomplished, and, of the fourteen scouts who attended, only three have not yet reached second class standard. We can at last look forward to a future when more advanced training is a very real possibility.

M.N.W.

LIBRARY

The past year has seen much reorganisation in the Library. Mr. Helliwell and the assistant librarians have worked very hard entering, checking and discarding books and the rebinding programme is now nearly completed. In this connection we must commend some very good amateur work done by P. A. North and P. M. C. Hampson and there are possibilities of extending this activity. The result of all this work is that the shelves present a much improved appearance and the issuing system is working better—but not yet perfectly.

There have been notable additions in all sections during the year, particularly in the English and Divinity sections. We thank Mr. Rudd again for the *Geographical Journal* and W. H. Stevens, O.A. for *United Empire*, and are grateful to the various organisations concerned for the receipt of *Endeavour*, *Progress*, *Iron and Steel*, *Handley Page* and *Esso Magazine*.

G.F.D.

SCHOOL SOCIETIES

ROYSSSE SOCIETY

The first meeting of the term was held in the Headmaster's Drawing-room at 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 16th May. G. E. G. Brown read a long and amusing paper entitled "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle". The author dealt thoroughly with the life and writings of Conan Doyle and the Society spent much time discussing the extraordinary appeal of his Sherlock Holmes stories. Opinion was, however, divided over the claim that the Sherlock Holmes stories should be accorded the status of English Classics. We were very pleased to welcome Herr Osterholtz, a visiting German schoolmaster, as our guest for the evening.

For our second meeting, the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban kindly invited us to be their guests at a performance of *Iolanthe* at the New Theatre, Oxford, on the 14th June. On return to school, the resident members prepared supper for the other members. The performance was enjoyed by all, and we are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Cobban for a most agreeable evening.

At the beginning of our last meeting, held on 4th July, the Headmaster welcomed a new member, B. D. Winkett. The Society then

heard a paper entitled "Reconstruction" presented by D. G. Dunkley. The author dwelt interestingly on the history and present state of the British Railways and gave clearly his own views upon its reconstruction. Rail safety and the question of rail versus road transport figured prominently in the evening discussion.

The Society once again wishes to express its gratitude to the Headmaster for his kindness and hospitality throughout the year; with a special word of thanks to Mrs. Cobban and Miss Mander for our unfailingly excellent refreshment.

J.A.H.

TURNOR SOCIETY

Owing to the G.C.E. examinations and busy end of term, it was again possible to hold only two meetings during the Summer Term.

The first of these meetings was held on Friday, 18th May, when Mr. George Dimond came to tell us more about Kenya, picking up the threads where he had left them when he visited us in the Lent Term. This lecture was not only interesting but most enlightening since Mr. Dimond explained to us the main causes of the Mau-Mau troubles and gave us his own views on what the future held for Kenya.

On 8th June, Mr. D. O. Willis talked to the Society on 'Russia'. A large audience heard him explain firstly the origins of the Russian peoples and their language, and afterwards give an account of Russian history from the 7th century to modern times. Finally, Mr. Willis outlined the results of this historical development in present day Soviet policy and in the national characteristics of the people.

We look forward to what we hope will be a more active programme next term.

I.L.McL.

DEBATING SOCIETY

The term's proceedings deserve to be recorded for their entertainment rather than for their dialectic value. At the first meeting N. J. H. Grant and D. S. Gerrard proposed the motion that "a new moral code is necessary in this immoral age". The generous terms of moral freedom advocated by the proposition were repudiated by the opposition, B. D. Winkett and T. M. J. Kempinski, who forecast a "return to the trees". The motion was defeated.

At the second meeting, the House was asked to approve of automation. P. M. D. Gray, proposing, emphasised the ultimately beneficial effects of its application. B. P. Kibble, opposing, asserted that automation would destroy the initiative of the individual. S. L. Norris and

C. S. Woodruff seconded the proposition and opposition respectively, with their customary ability. The motion was carried by 28 votes to 6.

The third meeting was a Hat Debate. Extemporaneous speeches were given with remarkable proficiency on such subjects of wide interest as "Apartheid" and "The Drains of East Hackney".

At the last meeting, a select audience attended a debate on the motion that "this House is U". D. S. Gerrard and A. J. Gardner, proposing, felicitously observed the refinement of the gathering, but B. D. Winkett and C. S. Woodruff, opposing, stressed the vulgarity of those present and scorned their pretensions to U-ness. Many refused to commit themselves and the motion was defeated by 7 votes to 4.

It is to be hoped that junior members will be less reticent in the forthcoming term.

D.S.G.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

During the Summer Term it was only found possible to hold two meetings, at which films were shown.

At the first meeting, two films, "Linesman over the Thames" and "The Skylon" were projected. 'Linesman over the Thames', showed a huge power cable slung across the Thames at London being renewed, after having been damaged by enemy activity during the war. The next film showed how the Skylon was erected at the South Bank site in preparation for the exhibition during the Festival of Britain.

At the next meeting two films on Radar were shown. These demonstrated how despite very dense fog a large vessel could cross the Channel in complete safety. The film also gave an impression of the use of radar in the event of future war.

Next term the programme is planned to include a lecture by Dr. G. Sanders (O.A.), and we should like to wish success to a wing of Science that is breaking away to form the Field Club. This will exist chiefly to sponsor expeditions to study birdwatching, archaeology, campanology and suchlike interests.

R.W.W.

LITERARY SOCIETY

The Society's first full term has been a very successful one. We began with a visit to Culham College, where Mr. C. C. Woodley played a number of records of poetry readings. The readers varied from John Gielgud to Dylan Thomas, and probably the most successful reading of the evening was of parts of Edith Sitwell's 'Façade'.

At the next meeting, M. J. Scott-Taggart read a paper called 'De Gustibus', in which he discussed the principles of Literary Criticism, with special reference to I. A. Richard's book of that name.

On 13th July we were doubly privileged when the Headmaster was the host at a talk given by the well-known poet and literary critic, Mr. John Betjeman. Mr. Betjeman read us some of his poems and pursued a number of digressions arising out of them. This was in every way a delightful and stimulating evening, and we would like to thank the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban for their generous hospitality.

On Excursion Day the Society, with additions, attended a performance of T. S. Eliot's play 'The Family Reunion' at the Phoenix Theatre, London. Paul Scofield and Dame Sybil Thorndyke led an excellent cast, and the play reached considerable heights.

The final meeting of the term was a business one at which T. M. J. Kempinski and S. C. Woodley were elected Chairman and Secretary respectively for the coming year.

S.C.W.

MUSIC SOCIETY

The term was as busy as ever. The choir sang several anthems, listed in the Chapel Notes and, at the Evening Entertainment, Gilbert and Sullivan's "Try we lifelong", Gordon Jacobs' arrangement of "Begone, dull care", and Mozart's opera 'Bastien et Bastienne', in which the soloists were R. A. Lucas, J. C. Spinks and I. W. Trenaman. The choir also took part in an enjoyable programme of music, conducted by John Russell, called "400 years of song", and given by the schools of Abingdon.

The brass band which played on Inspection Day and on Empire Youth Sunday, also performed at the Evening Entertainment, where the orchestra gave a spirited rendering of Mozart's "Titus" overture and a delightful one of the fifth symphony in D by William Boyce.

Gramophone programmes included works by Bartók, Fauré and Sibelius. Perhaps most stimulating of the term's whole activities were three lectures and recitals arranged mainly by Mrs. Kitching and the vice-president, to whom we are most grateful.

The first was a highly amusing, interesting and edifying lecture-recital by Mr. Gerald Moore to members of St. Helen's School, Our Lady's Convent and this School. "The Accompanist Speaks" will long be remembered by all. We are grateful to a friend of the School, Major A. J. Jackson, for the following comment upon this lecture recital:

"Mr. Moore set himself a multiple task, to describe in detail the true relationship between singer and accompanist, to comment on the

nature and construction of some selected great songs, and to blend the whole into a source of interest and amusement for his audience.

In delivering such a discourse there is a particular pitfall which too often traps the unwary. It is of course a tendency to lapse into technical jargon likely to be understood only by a specialist audience. Needless to say, Mr. Moore's approach to what amounted to a most instructive lesson in an aspect of musical appreciation too frequently neglected, proved to be a witty and altogether appealing partnership between an excellent speaker and his piano, whose evident success was amply applauded and richly deserved".

Later the Fry-Kirby Trio played a well-balanced and enlightening programme of string trio music, and while we were unlucky in that John Anderson and David Cawthra could not visit us, Mr. John Varley stepped nobly into the breach and played Beethoven, Chopin and Verdi-Liszt to us. We are very grateful to all these people and we thank them very warmly.

M.Q.K.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The new film, 'Danger is Near', had its first showings on Founder's Day, having been completed two days before. Over forty hours' work was put into the editing and sound tracking alone. We are very grateful to those visitors who contributed so generously to our collection on Founder's Day.

The filming of the New Block has been continued throughout the term, and this film will be shown when the Block is opened.

An exhibition was held in the Pembroke Room on Founder's Day, the main feature being photographs of the Veteran Car Rally in Abingdon. During the Quatercentenary celebrations, the Society also made a ten minute film of the Historical Pageant.

On Excursion Day, some members of the Society were to have visited the Bray Film Studios, but unfortunately this had to be cancelled.

Next year a magazine film will be made of school events during the year, including the Queen's visit in November.

C.H.

JOINT CLUB

Three meetings were held this term and although they did not all take the form originally intended everyone seemed to enjoy them.

The first meeting was a Tennis Party held at St. Helen's and after the boys had proved that for most of them tennis was not their strong point, they attempted to redeem themselves in the Dance which followed.

The next meeting, originally planned as a boating party, turned out to be a Treasure Hunt, which in its turn became an informal conducted tour of Abingdon School. The prize at the end was handed to Miss Janice Branson and William Dady, but eaten by everybody.

The last meeting was a 'Sausage Picnic' on Cumnor Hurst, during which all fires were lighted by the boys, with but one gross, I should say, of matches and a mixture of fried sausages and grass was enjoyed by all. The ride back home, however, was not quite as acceptable.

As a final note may I wish the best of luck to all future members of the club and I hope they enjoy themselves as much as I have.

P.O.O.

HOLIDAY CLUB

The sporting activities of the club over the past few months have ranged far and wide—there have been soccer, cricket and table-tennis fixtures, although there has been some criticism that the social side has been neglected. In the Brooks Cup we defeated the Abingdon Colts Cricket Club by 5 wickets in the semi-final of the competition, and will now meet Cumnor Boys' Brigade in the final.

During the Summer Holidays, in addition to the Brooks Cup Match, there is also a cricket fixture against Boars Hill Cricket Club, and a tennis match against Wootton Lawn Tennis Club.

Finally on behalf of the Club, I should like to wish Mr. Ingham, our sponsor, a speedy recovery from his operation, so that once more he may take over his duties. The Club is not quite the same without him!

C.S.W.

A Note on the Photographs on page 531

The upper photograph, taken after lunch on Founder's Day, shows (l. to r.) Mr. Alston, Lady Winterton, Lord Winterton, Admiral and Mrs. Clifton-Brown, the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban, and the Bishop of Reading.

The lower photograph, when compared with the similar photograph on page 505 of our last issue, shows the progress that has been made with the New Teaching Block. The 'R.B.' Pavilion is to be seen in the right-hand corner. The new Science Extension will run north from the left-hand corner of the Science Block.

O.A. NOTES

BIRTHS

TERRY, on 9th August, 1956, at Singapore, to the wife of Bryan Terry (1950), a daughter, Belinda Anne.

MARRIAGES

BEASLEY-LEACH. On 9th June, at Trinity Methodist Church, Abingdon, John W. H. Beasley (1949) of 21 Victoria Road, Abingdon to Una Catherine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Leach of 12 Park Crescent.

CAMPION-MORTIMER. On 26th May, at Trinity Methodist Church, Abingdon, Frederick N. T. Campion (1937) to Doreen R. Mortimer.

DUNKLEY-STOW. On 12th May, at St. Clement's Church, Oxford, Walter John Dunkley (1947) to Marion Gladys Stow.

MILNE-MORRISON. On 10th March, 1956, at the Church of St. Simon Zelotes, Knightsbridge, C. B. F. (Colin) Milne (1953) to Miss Jocelyn Davenport Morrison.

PUNTER-CASTLE. On 9th June, at the Methodist Church, Brighton, Eric J. F. Punter (1933) to Jacqueline A. Castle.

RANDALL-CULLEY. On 2nd April at Sutton Courtenay Parish Church, Donald H. Randall (1947) to Miss Culley.

RICH-SIMMONS. On 28th July, at St. Nicholas' Church, Uphill, Weston-super-Mare, John B. Rich (1947) to Gillian Rae Simmons.

WINTER-INNESS. On 21st April, at St. Helen's Church, Abingdon, John A. Winter (1950) to Miss M. J. A. Inness.

DEATHS

HOLLOWAY. On 24th May, the result of an accident, Eric Ronald Holloway (1946-51) aged 21.

WIGGINS. On 13th June, at Cheriton, Radley Road, Abingdon, Harry Chamberlain Wiggins (1912-16), aged 55.

Eric Holloway, who lived at Keeper's Cottage, Appleton was a costing clerk at Pressed Steel Co., Oxford. Through no fault of his own he was fatally injured in a road accident, and we offer our sincere sympathy to his parents and brother James, who was also at the School.

Harry C. Wiggins, third of seven brothers who were at the School between 1915 and 1935, and father of Brian (1950) joined the staff

of Morland's Brewery when he left School and had almost completed 40 years service with the firm. During the last war he served in the Upper Thames Patrol of the Home Guard and his sudden death at a comparatively early age came as a great shock to his many friends.

As recorded elsewhere, the new pavilion on Upper Field has been completed and in use during the current season. The carved oak plaque affixed to the front of the building reads as follows: This pavilion was built with the help of a legacy from *Edmund John Perrott Ross Barker 1869-1955* and stands as a memorial to his services to the School for thirty-one years as Assistant Master and as Warden of Waste Court.

School Group photographs dating from 1920 are being framed and hung in the hall-corridors of the new block. The only deficiencies are 1922 and 1945, and we shall be very grateful if any O.A. can fill the gap.

Old Boys who enjoyed their round of golf at Frilford Heath in pre-war days will be glad to learn that the Captaincy of the Club during the past year has been in the capable hands of Sydney Cullen (1900).

Michael Cullen (1945) of the Lever Organisation is now stationed in Belfast, his tenth posting in 5 years, and rather more congenial than Glasgow.

A. F. R. Fisher (1931) has been appointed Head of the Horticulture Dept. at the College of Further Education, Isle of Ely.

Jasper Rose (1942) now married and a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, has been seconded as Lecturer at the University College of S. Staffordshire.

Dr. E. S. N. Hazel (1942) has been assisting temporarily in a practice at Lymington. He is now permanently in partnership with two other Doctors at Boroughbridge, Yorks. Dr. D. E. P. Jones (1944) is at the Oxford Eye Hospital.

We were very glad to see L. S. Mathias (1904) in good spirits on Old Boys' Day, and later in the term were visited by Mr. C. O. Wright, (whose grandson is now at the School) still bearing his years lightly.

A. L. (Colin) Leigh (1941) has changed firms and is now a partner with Alexander MacLeanan Trundell & Co., in charge of the Mombassa office. At the time of writing he was busily engaged in making a garden from bush land round his new house still under construction. Incidentally he posed a question which two other O.A.'s have asked in recent months, 'Why are young men apparently reluctant to explore the promising openings available both in Africa and further east?'

J. A. Penning (1949) is taking a course at the School of Navigation, Southampton University. He had the misfortune to fracture a leg in a motorcycle accident while on his way to Abingdon for O.A. Day. We are glad to hear that he is mending well.

H. R. Lansdown (1927) is with the National Coal Board, Northern Division at Morpeth.

J. P. Mosdell (1939) with Barclay's Bank D.C.O. has been promoted chief accountant at the Khartoum Branch. We also gather from the Bank's Journal that 'Miss Khartoum' for both 1955 and 1956 have been members of the Staff of his branch. Verb. sap.

John Emmett (1932) has been on leave from Malaya as also Martin Ogle (1929) with his family. Edgar Rice (1928) has also visited Abingdon on what may be his last home leave from the Veterinary Service in Kenya.

Michael Aplin (1948) with Wise & Co., Inc., Manila, hopes to be home next April. He manages to get some cricket, rugger and hockey with British teams there, but the opposition is rather restricted.

G. A. Wood (1929) is now farming again and his address is Ceoma Lodge Farm, Box 536, Nakuru, Kenya.

Bryan Perry (1947) has been appointed Branch Manager for Sims Darby & Co. at Serambam after six months in Sarawak. He is married and has one daughter. He is also a water polo enthusiast.

Neville Horwood (1944) is at Stevenage with D.S.I.R. engaged on problems of water pollution.

David Ridout (1950) has joined Prudential Assurance and is at their Taunton branch.

K. A. Fathers (1949) married and a father, has returned to Abingdon and is working with Nuffield Exports.

Barry Whiteford (1953) has obtained a post with Esso Petroleum Co.

Sidney Linnegar (1954) now serving in the R.A.P.C. at Devizes, has found time to exhibit his gladioli at the annual show of the National Gladioli Society and was one of the very few competitors to be 'highly commended' in the competition for the Blue Riband of the show, the Blake International Trophy.

Michael Grigsby (1954) was in the thick of things at the opening of the new I.T.V. Centre in Manchester and has been very busily engaged in Outside Broadcast Features ever since.

Michael Sale (1954) another film technician, is working at documentary studios in Maidenhead.

Patrick Stroud-Viney (1954) is spending some months with Nielsen's, Marketing Research experts, in Oxford.

Ronald Grey (1943) who has been practicing as a barrister in London for some years, is now in Cyprus with the Legal Branch of the Colonial Service. His brother Aubrey (1941) is managing the family business in Southampton.

Keith Donkin (1941) who is now with A.E.R.E. at Aldermaston, Reading, was recently involved in a serious motor accident near Abingdon. We offer him our sympathy and best wishes.

Michael Bateman (1951) has secured an appointment with the Westminster Press, and is starting his training as a Journalist at Durham.

Geoffrey Slack (1955) now an engineering apprentice with Vickers Armstrong, Weybridge, was selected as one of their two representatives at the Apprentices' Conference, held at Keble College, Oxford early in September; and has been awarded a Works General Industrial Scholarship which will enable him to follow a degree course either at London or at Durham.

Jeffrey Heavens (1954) whom we congratulate on his recent engagement, has obtained his Diploma in Hotel Management at the Westminster Technical College, and is now doing his National Service appropriately in the Army Catering Corps.

Michael Candy (1952) has now left the bank in Ottawa and is studying Electronics with a view to employment in the U.S.A.-Canadian radar system.

The Services

Cmdr. J. C. Kortright (1932) is stationed at R.N. Air Station, Abbotsinch. His son joins the School in September.

T. O. Inwood (1951) is in H.M.S. Undine at Malta where Lt. A. W. Riggott (1950) is A.D.C. to the G.O.C. Both have represented their services at hockey against the R.A.F.

Capt. L. Lacey Johnson (1944) left for Cyprus recently where he hopes to be joined by his family as soon as quarters are available.

Capt. J. M. Leftwich (1942), 3rd Carabineers, is now home from B.A.O.R., with a War Office posting.

2nd Lt. D. S. Lloyd (1954) is in R.E.M.E. and meditates making his career in the Army.

Barry Roberts (1955) after negotiating the R.C.B. has had the bad luck to suffer from such obstinate knee trouble that he may be declared medically unfit. He has our sympathy in his disappointment.

Richard Taylor (1951) is an Officer Cadet at 6 Flying Training School, Tern Hill, Salop.

I. J. Parsons (1955) is at R.A.F. School of P.T. at St. Athan. He hopes to go to Loughborough College at the end of his service.

G. E. G. Campbell-Dykes (1955) has been at Wilmslow R.A.F. Station.

We congratulate P/O John Nichols (1955) on the good show he put up against Wilson, the Davis Cup player, in the R.A.F. Tennis Championship.

2nd Lt. Philip Kemp (1954) is back from Malaya for his return to civilian life.

Peter Downer (1953) is going to the Isle of Man for his Officer Training Course.

Tony Maxwell (1955) is with 1st Glosters at Aden, where he will doubtless encounter John Ivatts. He has been representing the battalion at both hockey and cricket.

The latest news of the O.A. Contingent in R. Berks is that after the strenuous ceremonial preparations at Windsor, where new colours were presented to the regiment by H.M. the Queen, they were suddenly ordered to the Mediterranean.

2nd Lt. Clyde Aylin (1952), Neil Darroch (1952) who was just due for release, Trevor Walker and Jim Page are now in Malta. David Free (1952) was left behind as an impending candidate, while John Blinman has already been demobbed.

Graham Dunn (1952) is in R.A.S.C. at Aldershot, apparently flourishing and much increased in stature.

OLD ABINGDONIAN CLUB

Old Boys' Day, held on Saturday, 16th June, was unfortunate in the weather which caused the cancellation of the cricket and tennis matches. However a good gathering of Old Boys was entertained during the afternoon either at the river, where two good O.A. crews lost creditably to the School 1st and 2nd IV's, or by a showing of the School film 'No tumbled house', followed by tea in the Gymnasium.

The Annual General Meeting of the Club, of which details are given below, was well attended, and in the evening some 100 members and

guests enjoyed the Dinner in the Council Chamber, organised as efficiently as ever by Duncan West. The President, C. C. Woodley was supported by the Mayor of Abingdon, Mr. C. G. Stow, the Chairman of the Governors, Admiral Clifton-Brown, the Headmaster and W. M. Grundy. Among the guests were several Governors and the two senior prefects Paul Older and John Howard.

After the loyal toast and the toast of John Royse had been formally honoured the President proposed the health of the School with which he coupled the name of the Headmaster. In his reply, Mr. Cobban summarised the achievements of the School in work and games during the past year, and discussed the current projects for the expansion of the School buildings. He concluded by proposing the health of the Old Abingdonian Club and more particularly to the President Elect.

In response George Sturrock spoke in forthright terms about the obligations of the Old Boys to help the School; and then proposed the final toast, of the Visitors. The Mayor replied, saying how much he appreciated the close links between town and School, and expressed his own gratitude to the Club. After Paul Older, Head of the School, had thanked the Club for its hospitality on behalf of himself and the Head of School House, the formal proceedings ended with the installation of the new President.

Once more we must record the gratitude of the Club to Mrs. Bevir for the beautiful table decorations.

A large number of Old Boys attended morning service in the School Chapel on the following day, when the lessons were read by the new President and Cadet Peter Simmonds, R.N. After the service the visitors were entertained to coffee by Mrs. Cobban in School House, a happy epilogue to the celebrations.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1956

The Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Pembroke Room at 5.45 p.m., 16th June, 1956.

The President Mr. C. C. Woodley, B.A., was in the chair and forty-six members were present. Apologies were received from Messrs. H. Insley-Fox and R. F. Jackson.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed with nothing arising.
2. The Secretary reported another successful year. The membership of the Club had increased by forty throughout the year and it was hoped that this figure would be about the average increase for some years. The social functions were successful and enjoyed as always. The Secretary's report was adopted.

3. The Sports Secretary reported a good year in all respects and expressed a wish that he should seek retirement being somewhat out of date with athletic members. The report was adopted with the appreciation of the whole Club to Mr. Aldworth for the great work he has done in this field and the hope that he would continue to assist his successor.

4. The Treasurer's report which is appended in the minute book gave a balance of £322 14s. 11d. on the receipts and payments account for the year 1955-56. With due thanks to the Treasurer and the Auditor the report was adopted.

5. *New Pavilions.* The President gave the meeting a comprehensive report on the Pavilion situation—the main points being that the Pavilion on Upper Field was now in use and could be seen by all. The Pavilion on the War Memorial Field should be completed by the beginning of next term and should be paid for by the O.A.T.F. in about three years. It must also be recorded that the Club are very much indebted to Mr. Duncan West for his, literally, years of work on these two Pavilions and very grateful thanks go to him.

6. The following officers were elected for 1956-57:

President—G. S. Sturrock.

Vice-President—J. M. Cobban.

President-Elect—J. O. Bury.

Hon. Sec.—N. J. Holmes.

Ass. Secs.—J. Hooke, D. B. West.

Hon. Treas.—W. Bevir.

Sports Sec.—J. T. Cullen.

Ass. Sports Sec.—E. N. Aldworth.

London Sec.—S. A. Paige.

Re-elected Committee Members—J. B. E. Alston, R. E. Eason, K. Donkin.

Also elected—J. A. D. Cox, J. Westall.

7. Grateful thanks were expressed to all members of the Club who, in their own way, contribute to its success and to Mrs. Bevir for the work she does on any occasion.

There being no other business the President thanked the members for their support during the past year and declared the meeting closed.

N.B.—The Annual Dance will be held in the Council Chambers, Abingdon, on Saturday, 1st December, at 8 p.m.

Old Boys' Day, 1957—Saturday, 15th June.

OLD ABINGDONIAN TRUST FUND

We publish below the Accounts of the Fund for the year ending 31st March, 1956, and once again have to thank R. W. Snell for his good offices in auditing them. The balance sheet reveals the steady growth of income, but next year we shall see the full benefit of the new Covenants, which we are very pleased to say have more than doubled in number and value since June 1955. On the other hand, since the accounts were made up £266 has been paid out for the R.B. Pavilion on Upper Field, and the oak plaque recording the School's indebtedness to Mr. Ross Barker. The general opinion is that the architects have produced a very fitting and attractive building.

Work is proceeding fast with the War Memorial Field Pavilion which should be completed by the end of August and it is hoped that this will give equal satisfaction.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions received since our last issue: Renewed Covenants from E. P. Rice, G. F. Rice and E. F. Parks; Covenants from J. A. D. Cox, R. A. Langford, J. M. Leftwich, J. A. Penning, C. G. Stow and R. J. Taylor; Donations from J. C. Kortright and D. C. W. Lewis.

Cash Account for year ending 31st March, 1956

Receipts			Payments		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balances in hand	1.4.55		School Mag. Expenses	27	19 0
Cash at Bank	22	10 2	Printing and Envelopes		
Cash in Trustee S.B.	395	14 10	for Appeal	16	3 1
Cash in hand	1	1 0	Stamps on Covenants	2	5 10
			Postages and Stationery	3	3 5
	419	6 0	Balances in hand	31.18.1	
Donations and Subs.	247	6 0	Cash at		
Bequest by E. J. P.			Bank	43	18 1
Ross Barker	250	0 0	Cash at		
Inland Rev. Refund			Trustee		
of I.T.	58	17 4	S.B.	896	9 7
Trustee S.B. Interest	11	17 5			
				940	7 8
			Less due to		
			Treas.	2	12 3
	£987	6 9		937	15 5
				£987	6 9

G. F. Duxbury,
Hon. Treas.

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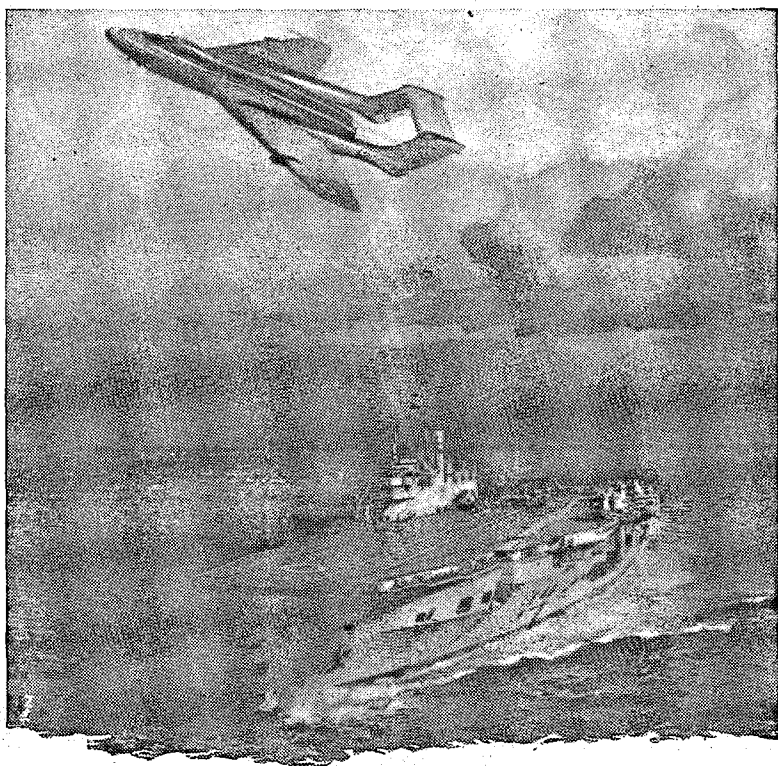
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For full details of the new 12-year Commission on the Supplementary List write to:

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